



## The Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town

Founded 1911

Website: [www.rpsct.org](http://www.rpsct.org)

*The RPSCT meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month at the Athenaeum  
154 Campground Rd, Newlands*

*This RPSCT Newsletter is late (for which the scribe begs forgiveness). It contains accounts of meetings held between 22 May and 10 July 2017. The RPSCT has had great exhibits at every meeting, and at a few, they have been world class. Emil Buhrmann's CGH: The rectangular period and Gerhard Kamfer's: The Road to Democracy fit this bill and follow on from Barry Fletcher's Colombian Airmails and Betty Swart's Anna Smith Collection*

### *New publication available on the web*

The Barred Oval Numeral Cancellers of the Cape of Good Hope from 1863 – 1963, by David Mordant

Of the approximately 1431 BONCs thought to have been issued, 787 (or 55%) have been positively allocated to post offices. A further 420 (or 29%) have been identified as having been used on Cape of Good Hope stamps and 224 (or 16%) remain totally unidentified. Thus 45% of all of the numerals have still not been allocated to specific post offices. Much of the research and hunting remains to be done and findings revealed!! David Mordant's new listing has been published as an Occasional Electronic Paper by the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa (PSGSA) on the society website. David Mordant and the PSGSA have granted users the right to print a copy for own usage

<http://www.psgsa.org>

### *The Market Place: an innovation at Society Meetings*

The Society now encourages members who wish to dispose of unwanted material to other society members to put this up on the boards in "the Market Place" at society meetings. The following rules will apply. Members may submit up to 3 items they wish to sell at each general meeting. This facility is not open to non-members. Members and visitors may buy from the Market Place. The item(s) will be displayed on the Market Place, with Name of seller; and either "FOR SALE AT R...." ; or "PRICE NEGOTIABLE". All transactions will be between vendor and purchaser. The RPSCT will neither guarantee nor be held accountable for condition or genuineness.

No levy will be charged by the Society. **IMPORTANT:** Transactions may only take place before the meeting starts or after it ends; no trading during the meeting (No trading during breaks during a meeting.) No trading or exchanging of any material whether from the Market Place or not will be allowed during meetings.

## *Accounts of recent meetings*

### 22 May 2017: Emil Buhrmann: CGH: The rectangular period



The 1/- green of 1864

Emil Buhrmann's CGH rectangular period has a track record of international large gold medals and Grand Prix International<sup>1</sup> awards. His display at the Royal<sup>2</sup> on 22 May 2017 did not disappoint, and – as always with Emil – had something new and spectacular! The display was replete with artist's essays, proofs and archival material. Items that excited this reviewer included:

- An 1868 cover, described by Emil as among the more important Cape items: The Cape Post Office had expected the letter rate to increase to 6d and as a result had cancelled the quarterly order for 4d [rectangular] stamps. But the rate increase did not happen. To alleviate the resulting shortage of 4d stamps the Post Office released a small quantity of 4d triangular stamps, which had been withdrawn in 1865, still held in the treasury. The cover, from Swellendam [8 December 1868] to Holland was franked with three, De la Rue 4d steel-blue triangulars (SG 19c) and two 1d rose red rectangulars (SG 23a) paying the 1s 2d letter rate. The cover had the expected accountancy markings!
- A page of the 1868 4d provisional: the same shortage led the Cape to surcharge stocks of the 6d (SG25a) for the 4d rate. The overprinting of these provisionals was done locally by Saul Solomon & Co. Among the items Emil showed was a new, major find, a surcharge 1.4mm high vs the normal 1.8mm. The "expected"

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<sup>1</sup> The display as it was at the time of winning the Grand Prix at Melbourne may be viewed at the following website: <http://www.traditionalphilately.dk/exhibits/examples-of-exhibitions/cape-of-good-hope/>

<sup>2</sup> Two previous RPSCT displays by Emil, in 2010 and 2014 (the latter was the CGH last ten years exhibit) won the Royal Cup for the best display of the year

varieties were of course also shown! So we saw: a pair with watermark inverted; the “fonr” for “four” error; the “peuce” for “pence” error; and the “fonr” error was also shown used on cover paying the 4d rate from Port Elizabeth to Willowmore in December 1869!

- The studies of the “3” overprints;
- An *accumulation* (*I stopped counting at ten!*) of combination covers (the use of OFS or Transvaal stamps in combination with Cape stamps when the Cape stamps were required to pay the postage from the Cape on letters originating in the OFS or the Transvaal);
- The Stellaland combination cover, with the “*Twee*” 2d surcharge on 4d Stellaland provisional (SG6) in combination with two Cape 1d stamps;
- Warren expedition covers;
- A large multiple of 48 of the 1/-, paying the maximum parcel rate, (48/- or £2 postage); and
- A “Diggers Republic” cover.

The display of the Victorian period was followed by an epilogue: frames of the rectangulars in the Edwardian period. Here we saw a fine range of material (including archival material) and an [Incomplete] Cape booklet (fewer than 5 are known complete)

Danie Scheepers, in moving the vote of thanks, paid tribute to an astonishing display, launched by what he termed a perfect example of an introductory page and comprising carefully chosen rarities and wonderful development of the exhibit. (The introductory page is reproduced as an appendix to this newsletter.)

## 12 June 2017: Gerhard Kamffer: The Road to Democracy

Gerhard Kamffer presented his Open Class exhibit, *The Road to Democracy*<sup>3</sup> by special invitation.

This was a master class in exhibiting, taking full advantage of the scope provided by the “Open Class”. The exhibit boasts important philatelic material, very important historic and historical documents, and a fascinating range of documents, pamphlets and revenue stamps (from early documents on segregation land appropriation to National

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<sup>3</sup> This exhibit has won the Grand Prix at a South African exhibition and has been shown internationally.

Party stuff to travel documents used by liberation forces) that illuminate South Africa's tortured past. The philatelic material alone was worth the viewing; when the social, political and historical was added, the exhibit showed the way to go.

Many had seen this at the Cape Town national in 2015 (where the important letter from prisoner N R Mandela to the then Chief Minister of the Transkei, K D Matanzima made such an impact) but Gerhard has since added much including a letter from Chief Albert Luthuli, posted from Oslo on the occasion of his Nobel Peace prize award, and two seemingly innocuous letters<sup>4</sup> from a law firm to clients – innocuous until once notes that the firm was that of OR Tambo & NR Mandela, and that one is signed by one partner and the other by the other partner!!!!

President Mary Rogers presented Gerhard with the Society's plaque on behalf of the members present.

## 26 June 2017: All members thematic evening

This all members' evening was full of ... well everything:

- Brian Fenemore showed overprinted British aerogrammes (reminding us that the term entered UPU lore at the Brussels Congress of 1951) and included those for the Gulf states until they became postally independent.
- David Watts showed a collection of WWII 1940 Christmas cards produced in East Africa, among which were were 20, unit-specific cards;
- Malcom Murphy showed Union Castle cards including an 1898 card believed to be the earliest known Union Castle card. Many of his cards were scare and some rare.
- Victor Millard showed (a) stamps for the Chinese Lunar New Year, explaining the 60-year cycle of Chinese "new year" festivals and how this "movable feast" is calculated and (b) a WOW! series of philatelic curiosities, from the RSA 2010 World Cup stamps, seed stamps (that can be planted), scented stamps (South Africa's issue) scratch-patch stamps (again a South African issue!) and the weird and wonderful from Hong Kong;

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<sup>4</sup> These letters have – as was custom until recently – the initial of the person who typed them, RM. Ruth Mompoti was PA to the firm for several years.

- David Sinclair restored some sense of normalcy (?) with his study of the Blue Train issues of 1997/1998: four issues (two of which were “corporate m/sheets”), two papers, two methods of perforation, and two errors combine to make this a stamp worth some study, summed up by David as showing the Eastgate stamps as the only Hutchinson spelling without security perf and the Harmer’s as the only source of the Beaufort West stamps without security perfs and with the detail in David’s table as follows:

Issue	Issue date	Date on stamp	Phosphor	Security Perf	Hutchinson error (no “t”)	Northern Transvaal error	Northern Province correct	Beaufort West
Sheet issue	1.8.1997	1997	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes		
Booklet pane	2.11.98	1998	1 band RHS of stamp	No			Yes	
Harmer’s m/sheet	8.10.1997	1997	Yes	No				yes
Eastgate m/sheet	1.11.1997	1997	yes	No	Yes			

## 10 July 2017: An evening for dealers

**Dealers were invited to (a) show items they don’t wish to sell; (b) bring stock; and (c) talk about their stamps**

*Aubrey Katzeff* was first to talk and told us how he had acquired 450 kg (yes 450 kg) of FDCs that included over 60 kg of South African FDCs and how he had succeeded in disposing of this! Ex Africa aliquid semper novi, indeed!

*Michael Wigmore* showed a small exhibit of forgeries including a study of the Transvaal £5 forgeries (the genuine, printed by Enschede & Sons in deep green is a difficult and expensive stamp) mint, and with VRI and ERI fake overprints. He spoke of his 40 years in the stamp trade and some of his experiences in the Expert Committee.

*David Wolpe* quoted the late Douglas Roth as advising him: “Don’t ever sell anything you do not wish to buy back” and rued the days he had sold some material and was

never given the opportunity to buy it back. He showed several items related to segregation in the postal service, pre-1948.

*Ron Allen* part time dealer and stamp collector told us how he balanced these sometimes-conflicting roles.

*Volker Jansen* told us of his 21 years in South Africa and showed stamps and postal history of the Cape, of six Scandinavian countries and of Germany.

*Ken Joseph*, raconteur and dealer, told the fascinating story of Anglo Boer war material he had bought relating to Van Renens, and the long and surprising story of how he had connected with a descendant, the "7-foot-tall Johan" better known to many as the South African discus thrower who broke the world record with a throw of 68.48 m in 1975 at Stellenbosch (and to some as an artist). Ken is preparing this story for publication.

*Marilyn & Martin Crawford* who sell for the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital Trust explained how people donated "all sorts of stuff" to them.

*Henk de Lange* rounded off the evening with an amusing talk and a fine display of material. Among the items not for sale was a used copy of the King's Head 2d deep plum shade (SACC 5c) and a CJ Rhodes item!

17 October 2017

## CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

### The Hope Rectangular during the Victorian Period

In June 1862, the Cape Government was advised that perforated stamps would lead to the discontinuation of the triangular format. Mr Charles Bell prepared a new design and this was placed with Messrs. De la Rue who retained the Hope idea. Rectangular stamps were placed on sale in January 1864. After Queen Victoria's death in 1900 the Hope design was replaced by a new Edwardian series in 1902.

#### Objective of the Exhibit

The exhibit studies the development and usage of the Hope rectangular stamps in the Cape and other territories that required Cape postage.

#### Relevance

Rectangular stamps were the first issued stamps for the three British Colonies: Griqualand West, Basutoland and served as forerunners for British Bechuanaland. These issues are the most under researched era of Southern African philately. The non- existence of sufficient multiples has made it impossible to plate the first 8 provisional surcharges. More 2,700 woodblock "error of colour" stamps were printed. In contrast, many surcharges exist in considerably lesser quantities.

#### New Finds and Research

The exhibit contains extensive new information and own research was done on printing and printing quantities. Many major plate repairs never documented before are shown and original work on font types of provisional surcharges, are documented for the first time.

#### Highlights

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Re-issue of 4d triangular stamps to augment shortages 1868	17
Missionary letter from Ovamboland SWA via Walvis Bay to Finland discharged with Cape stamps	82
OFS and ZAR Combination covers (Pages 15, 25, 26, 28, 33, 34. 37, 43, 44, 48)	

#### Condensed overview

#### Chapter

1. The first issues of 1864, 1865 and the first provisional overprint
2. Original dies are modified and the introduction of two new values
3. The Penny provisional to cater for stock shortages
4. The making of the 3d value and a ½ d provisional stamps
5. The Watermark is changed to Crown CA 1882-1884 and A new 2d value is brought into use
6. The Watermark is altered to cabled anchor 1888-1895 and A 2½ Pence value sees the light March 1891
7. Colour changes to conform to UPU rules are made in the last Hope sitting stamps
8. New Hope standing designs are created
9. Boer war Provisionals

#### Major Reference Sources

1. Aston, John "The De la Rue History of British and Foreign stamps 1855 to 1901"
2. Allis, Gilbert J "Cape of Good Hope: its postal history and postage stamps" (1930)
3. Own published research notes and manuscript on the Cape Rectangulars