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Cover: From the 1977 Rhodesia Christmas issue.

Above: Courtesy of Peter Hickman, a candidate cover for the proposed Memoir on Early Matabeleland Mails or for the Memoir on Postmarks on Admirals. A REGISTERED BULAWAYO (A) (DC) postmark dated 12 APR 1921 addressed to South Africa.
Editorial

In the southern hemisphere where I work and live, now is the time of our annual examinations. For me living within a university setting, it is more than just the assessment of students. It is a time for reflection and planning. Reflection is probably the most important form of examination. So with the jacarandas coming into full bloom outside my window, I thought I might indulge in some RSC reflection from an editor’s perspective. (I suppose that the jacarandas and flamboyants are also flowering in Durban, Pretoria, Livingstone, Harare and Bulawayo.)

On a daily basis, I am the recipient of numerous communications concerning matters to do with the Rhodesian Study Circle. Most of these come in the form of emails, many with large attachments. Despite all of the advantages of the email, I occasionally receive a letter in the proper mail and this brings special delight.

James Ryan from Canada, Buster Schemper from Harare, Malcolm Murphy from Cape Town, Bill O’Connell from the Isle of Man (who is very pleased that he now has a mint copy of all the 3d Double Head printings for his reference collection), and Stephen Reah-Johnson from Ohio, are amongst those who prefer a letter through the mail. A reflection on some of this correspondence provides an insight into the workings of the Journal and also some hints of what is promised for 2012.

A regular correspondent is our President, Alan Drysdall. He is working away at a monumental memoir on early Bulawayo mails with help from a number of members including Jennifer Barry, Andrew Wilson, Andrew Wilkie, John Berridge, Sean Burke, Phil Stevenson, Adrain de Bourbon and Dave Morton. Another memoir on the way, under the guidance of Bob Gibbs, Stephen Reah-Johnson, Jennifer Barry and Sean Burke, on markposts on the BSAC Admiral issue, has attracted input from almost twenty members. Reports on the progress of these memoirs are to be found in this Journal. I have also seen a remarkable and ever growing number of emails, many with large attachments. Despite all of these memoirs are to be found in this Journal. I have also seen a remarkable and ever growing number of emails, many with large attachments. Despite all of these, the Circle is the time of our annual examinations. For me living within a university setting, it is more than just the assessment of students. It is a time for reflection and planning. Reflection is probably the most important form of examination. So with the jacarandas coming into full bloom outside my window, I thought I might indulge in some RSC reflection from an editor’s perspective. (I suppose that the jacarandas and flamboyants are also flowering in Durban, Pretoria, Livingstone, Harare and Bulawayo.)

Looking ahead to 2012, I am pleased to report good progress with respected to the planned new listings for the BSAC Admiral issue. Stephen Reah-Johnson, Derek Lambert, Andrew Wilson, Dave Morton, Arnold Berman, Adrian de Bourbon and Colin Hoffman are in the vanguard of this research. We anticipate publishing the fruits of their labours in editions of the 2012 Journal. Bob Looker has more on the ½d Double Head in the pipeline and there are a number of articles brewing in various other areas.

Behind the scenes, Alan Drysdall (President and Memoir’s Co-coordinator), Keith Harrop as Journal Manager, Richard Barnett as Membership Secretary, Anita McCullough as RSC Secretary, Vice Chairman Mark Thomas, Brian Coop (Publications), Peter Hickman (Librarian), Geoff Brakspear (Auctioneer), and Cliff Wheatley (Packet), ensure that the Circle wheels go round smoothly. Also working away are Ron Roberts, George Stewart and Colin and Mike Hoffman on maintaining the website. (Plans are evolving for a new-look website in 2012.) And behind it all, is the remarkable work performed by the Chairman Colin Hoffman, who contributes in so many areas. We are indeed very fortunate that so many members are willing to assist and participate in the operations and publications.
We cannot, however, take anything for granted. From time to time we are faced with publishing obituaries. (A small detour: I came across a delightful obituary the other day which described the person’s schooling thus: ..went to Shrewsbury as ‘new scum’ at 13. The school offered no science, no art, little music and was governed by an ethos that seemed to be a mixture of the Rule of St Benedict, the court of Louis XIV and the regime of HM Prisons.) We are an aging group and it is important that we retain and attract members. I believe that it is all of our responsibility to share our good fortune (philately and membership of the RSC) with potential members. It is a case of informing, inviting, welcoming and affirming. That is all our challenge for 2012. In 2011, our membership stands as:

- UK 196
- South Africa 50
- USA 26
- Australia 25
- Europe 23
- Canada 17
- Zimbabwe 16
- Rest of World 8
- New Zealand 6

This is fairly healthy for a specialist society, but we do need regular ‘injections’ of new blood. This often brings with it fresh insight and new directions, or sometimes a chance to travel down a well trodden, but always magical, road. Let us challenge ourselves by increasing membership by 3% in 2012. So go out and spread the news!

Congratulations are due to that venerable diplomat and veteran of Rhodesian philately, Harry Birkhead, who turned eighty this year and to Brian Trotter who was elected President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. Another RSC member, Gary Brown has just been elected Vice-President of the RPSV.

Christmas is with us again, so may it be a time of much happiness and great blessings to you and your families.

SAB

Memoirs for Sale

- Memoir 1. The Sitwell Correspondence, Bechuanaland Protectorate and Mashonaland Postage Rates 1890-92 - A. Drysdall and J. Catterall (£5 surface mail plus £3 airmail)
- Memoir 3. The Rhodesian Study Circle – Our History - A Drysdall and C M Hoffman (free by surface mail to new members; £5 by airmail)
- Memoir 6. The Early Postal History of Central Africa; Two Important Correspondences (£15 surface mail plus £5 for airmail)
- Memoir 7. The KGVI Stamps of N. Rhodesia – A Drysdall, I Lane & J Cheston (£15 surface mail plus £5 for airmail)
- Memoir 8. The Postal Stationery of the British South Africa Company 1880-1924 - C Wheatley, K Hanman, C Hoffman, I Johnstone and edited by A Drysdall (£10 for surface mail plus £3 for airmail)
- Memoir 9. Early Gold Mining in Southern Rhodesia – Mining Regulations and Revenue Documents of the British South Africa Company 1890-1922 – C. Cooksey (£10 for surface mail plus £3 for airmail)
- Memoir 11. The Dies and Plates for the Early Stamp Issues of Northern Rhodesia and Highlights of the Collections of the Livingstone Museum by A.R. Drysdall (£10 for surface mail plus £3 for airmail)
- Memoir 12. Surcharge Mail and the Postage Due Stamps of Northern Rhodesia 1924-64 – A.R. Drysdall and O. Peetoom (£12 for surface mail plus £3 for airmail)
- Memoir 13. The Postal History of North-Eastern Rhodesia – Alan Drysdall and Anita McCullough (£18 surface mail plus £5 for airmail)
- Memoir 14. The ‘Large Falls’ stamps of Southern Rhodesia – Alan Drysdall. (£12 surface mail plus £3 for airmail)
- Memoir 15. The Early Postal History of Barotseland; the Role of the Paris Missionaries in N.W. Rhodesia – Sean Burke, Alan Drysdall and Paul Peggie. (£20 surface mail plus £5 for airmail)
- Memoir 16. Postmarks on the 1910-1913 Double-head issue and their rarity – Sean Burke, Stephen Reah-Johnson and Jenifer Barry (£18 surface mail plus £5 for airmail)
- Memoir 17. The Postal History of Southern Rhodesia during World War II – Christopher J. Cooksey and Keith Harrop (£20 surface mail plus £5 for airmail)
- Memoir 18. Cross-Border Mail via Northern Rhodesia – Alan Drysdall and Paul Peggie (£14 surface mail plus £3 for airmail)
ANNUAL CONFERENCE and AGM 2012.

27th, 28th and 29th April 2012 at the Falstaff Hotel Leamington Spa - Conference rate £60 per person for dinner bed and breakfast. Bookings please through Mark Thomas

LONDON 2011

London meetings are at The Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 61Y and commence at 1pm (unless there is a workshop or combined societies meeting) and last until 5pm. A full day joint meeting, starting at 10.30am, with the Forces Postal Society is scheduled for 8th October, 2011, at the Union Jack Club.

The nearest tube stations to RPSL: Baker Street, Regent’s Park or Great Portland Street. Devonshire Place runs parallel to Harley Street, just off Marylebone High Street. To gain entry, you will need to ring the bell, and sign in and out. All welcome - contact Mark Thomas (details as above).

MANCHESTER 2011

At the offices of Kuit Steinart Levy, 3 St. Mary’s Parsonage, Manchester (behind Kendal Milne) at 1.30 p.m. Contact Keith Harrop Keith writes to all who usually attend Manchester meeting to finalise subject and get details of contributions expected.

SOUTH WEST 2011 Dave Trathen

SCOTLAND 2011 Gordon Shepherd

AUSTRALIA 2011

- South Australia Ray Cocks
- Queensland
- Victoria Sean Burke
- Western Australia Ken Moore
- NSW Neville Mitchell

CANADA 2011 Alan Hanks

NEW ZEALAND 2011 George Stewart

NORTH AMERICA 2011 Bill Wallace Colin Fraser

SOUTH AFRICA 2011

- Kwa Zulu Natal Anne Southwood
- Gauteng Eryl Worton
- Cape Adrian de Bourbon

ZIMBABWE 2011 Ian Johnstone

Visit the RSC website at www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk
Members List Update

Please notify all changes of address, etc to the It is appreciated that some members will have a need for the latest membership list and copies can be supplied on request from Richard. The list can be supplied in Lotus, Wordperfect, Word or Excel software.

New Members:

Mr G.M. Smith, 7

Change of Address:

Mr D.N. Bird,
Mr B.H. Coop,

Mr W.E. Meiss,
Mr K.B. Struthers,
Mr I. MacDonald,

Change of E-mail Address/Telephone Number

Mr R. Layzell,
Mr S. Reah-Johnson,
Mr B. Schemper,
Mr E.B. Worton,
Mr R. Kantor,

Above: From a real photograph postcard posted from Salisbury in 1907. It is of the Police Camp at Goromonzi. Inset: Part of the rear of a BSAP envelope.
Dr Thomas S Osdene – reflections

Dr Thomas S Osdene (originally Oesterreicher) FRPSL died on Friday, 12th August 2011. He was born in Prague in 1927, immigrated to the UK just before the Nazi onslaught, graduated with first class honours in chemistry from the University of London, where he also completed his doctorate at the Institute of Cancer Research. He moved to the USA in 1955 for a post-doctoral fellowship in chemistry at Princeton University. He spoke English with an accent that was a curious mixture of British and Virginia drawl; but his sense of humour was Czech: dry with a whimsical flair for the absurd.

His interest in stamps must have started at an early age. By 1972 he had become a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of London and amassed an extensive collection of the British Empire, all aspects with emphasis on used stamps. In the early 1980s he decided to focus on Double Heads and made contact with specialists in the RSC. He developed a special fondness for the 5d Double Head for reasons perhaps best explained by Mark Thomas. At one time his favourite 5d subject was the fanciful “Felton Green”. (An illustration of the stamp and a darker variant appear in the Victoria Stamp Auction catalogue of his Double Head collection, lots 270 and 271; he was aware that both were almost certainly veterans of oxidation and/or chemical exposure.) In a more serious vein he became particularly obsessed with the 5d hook printing S.G. 143a, having (at the time of his sale) one mint, the only known pair, one of two examples on piece, and thirty-nine additional used examples. However, beyond a passing interest in postmarks, he never studied these stamps; the motivation for having so many must have been a desire to repeat the thrill of the first acquisition. (On a fair number of occasions he was heard to remark: stamp collecting is cheaper than psychotherapy.) He did once reveal an intention to introduce into the ‘single sheet competition’ a page covered with S.G. 143a’s but at the centre, set off by arrows pointing it, an S.G. 141a, declared in bold letters to be ‘the rare stamp’! (Would this have won the single sheet competition?) His Double Head collection was, in fact, very extensive and, when sold, filled an entire auction catalogue. (Victoria Stamp Company, Public Auction No 12, May 12th, 2001, where the catalogue was a co-operative effort between Alan MacGregor and Phoebe MacGillivray, and in itself a contribution to the Double Head Literature.) The collection realized almost $300,000. Rhodesia was but one of Osdene’s specialised philatelic interests; he had also first class collections of St. Vincent, of Nauru (where an obsession with the rare 10/- seahorse (S.G. 18) proved to be a mercifully lesser version of the S.G. 143a affliction), of the large key types of Bermuda, Nyasaland and Leeward Islands, of the Falkland Islands, Barbados, Great Britain Seahorses, etc.

In time his interest in stamps diminished (though it never disappeared) and he began to collect electric fans (initially, it was ostensibly the collection of his son, Stefan, but as it outgrew first Stefan’s bedroom, then the basement and was fast encroaching on much of the family’s living areas, he resorted to buying another building to house the ever-growing collection!), then other domestic electrical devices ranging from (working) vintage light bulbs, toasters to a remarkable assemblage of German cigar lighters from the 1920’s to 1930’s, some of which were risqué. The collection of fans alone is probably worth more than were the stamps; three particularly fine rare fans had just been bought for $100,000. There were scores of perhaps well over 100 fans in his house, with most, if not all, in working order (as is befitting the high standards of a true collector), but despite the soporific humidity and heat of Richmond, none were deployed for their intended purpose, as the house had been appointed with central air conditioning from a time well before the start of the fan collecting.

As the collection expanded to include larger objects, such as stoves, a warehouse was demanded and a storefront was acquired to accommodate the overflow which was soon organized into a sort of museum of early electrical artefacts. A fire destroyed the displays, but not long afterwards, the space was filled again with new displays of other material from the vast holdings. Amongst these, and looking very much like an abstract sculpture, was a massive conglomerate of melted concrete and fragments of domestic objects. (The extraordinary high temperatures of the fire had ‘blended’ things together.) The conception of this last display manifests three aspects of Tom’s personality: aesthetic, absurdist, and scientist!

Osdene published one article in the RSCJ; this dealt most eruditely with sorting out some misconceptions about paper shrinkage in an article by another writer that had appeared previously (RSCJ 158/102-103). The sale of his collection itself was reviewed in RSCJ 158/137-139.

Stephen Reah-Johnson

I first met Tom in about 1986, having been introduced to him by Stephen Reah-Johnson during a visit to the US. Tom and I got on well together and it was not long before I was his unofficial London philatelic agent. I would view auctions and bid on his behalf, including the famous Gibbs sale in 1987. Although Tom was able to attend in person, he still preferred me to bid for him as he was worried he may get carried away!

Tom was an extremely hospitable and generous man and I have fond memories of my frequent stays as guest of the family in Richmond. I was still resident in London at that time, and I got to see Tom quite frequently during many of his business trips to London. Apart from stamps, we shared a love of good food and wine! I think Tom would be the first to call himself an enthusiastic collector rather than a philatelist. He was an inveterate collector and greatly enjoyed the thrill of the hunt. One of my standing orders while in London was to hunt down and acquire every 5d SG 143a possible – something we
were reasonably successful at!

Tom was very supportive of me at an early stage of my career, something I will always be grateful for. I shall greatly miss his company and his Czech / British dry sense of humour.

Alan MacGregor

A biographical note on Dick Pollitt - a personal perspective

I first met Dick Pollitt in 1984, through David Zaayer, and visited him almost yearly for the fifteen or so years that he lived in France, in the cornucopia that is Gascony. (He told me that they – he and his wife Rosemarie – had chosen Gascony because they preferred the treasures of the countryside to “society”, which would have been the focus in England). His knowledge of and enthusiasm for the place, its history, its people, the riches of its land, its fauna and flora and its cuisine was exhaustive and inexhaustible. No less keen was his knowledge of and enthusiasm for Rhodesia, where, after serving as an artillery officer in the Italian campaign of the 1939-1945 war, he ran a tobacco farm near Mazoe for more than twenty-five years. (He told many stories of his days there, and of family vacations to Mozambique, which cumulatively gave the hearer the impression of actually having lived in that time and place.)

He brought the same mind-set to philately. His thinking was independent from prevailing views; his focus was on the Double Head “5555 plate” rather than “LG”, “MG”, “SG”, etc. and he seems to have never really embraced the idea that 10 or 12 head plates were involved in printing the Double Head Stamps. In the late 1980’s he became my philatelic mentor and introduced me to the encyclopaedic volume of all aspects of stamp making by L. and N. Williams (Fundamentals of Philately), to James Baxter’s book on line-engraved printing, to A. J. Sefi, Easton and others. It was a major step forward to have some appreciation of the intricacies and problems involved in the making of stamps. In short, he saw me through the transition of stamp collector to philatelist without my realising that such a distinction exists until after the transition had already been made. He (and Colin Hoffman) then suggested to me taking up writing, which I did. The first attempts were dreadful and need to be corrected. He encouraged me to persevere and, indeed, with time things got somewhat better. He was never an acquisitive collector laying up treasures (at least never in the time when I knew him) but always interested in the story that things had to tell, in the mystery of their nature. I am sure his most treasured philatelic possession was the Waterlow’s printer’s file copies of the Double Heads, over which he puzzled tirelessly, looking for solutions. I feel fortunate to have been honoured by his friendship.

Stephen Reah-Johnson

1. Bulawayo postmarks

Bill O’Connell has supplied these two interesting scans. The first is of a possibly ‘new’ Bulawayo postmark or is it just a BULAWYO/RHODESIA (SC) with a clogged bottom? The second is of a British Bechuanaland stamp with a manuscript Bulawayo with an indecipherable date.

2. Postcard Auction in Cape Town - 2012

Adrian de Bourbon writes: Lynne Greef died recently in Cape Town. She was a long-standing member of the Postcard Society of Southern Africa and frequently attended meetings of the Rhodesian Study Circle, including the 60th anniversary. She had an extensive collection of Rhodesian postcards, mainly Southern Rhodesian views, issued by various publishers from the early 1900s into the 1950s. These postcards will be auctioned in February or March 2012 by the Postcard Society of Southern Africa, in Cape Town. Should you wish to receive the text of the postal/live auction by e-mail, followed by a complimentary hard copy listing with many illustrations, by post, please advise Brian Fenemore, e-mail bfenemore@telkomsa.net, who will arrange matters with Malcolm Murphy of the Postcard Society who is dealing with the collection.

3. On rarity!

Julian Schamroth writes through us possibly to Stephen Reah-Johnson: In March 2011, you first drew attention to the ‘Inverted 2’ that occurs on the 3d Double Head. At that time, you mentioned that only two examples of this variety were known. Yet within two or three months of publication, you wrote that six examples were now known!

You have also written that the large blob on the 1d Admiral (on Plate 1 position 22, Pane D) “… is rare, being only one stamp in 240. The rarity is so much more when one realizes that there were two more plates of the 1d.” Only since reading that article, have I been on the lookout for the variety, and am now the proud owner of several examples.
Lastly, about 10 years ago it was thought that only about ten mint examples of 5d SG143a existed. Yet today, almost 20 have been recorded.

The bottom line is that only when one is aware of the presence of a rare item, do we look for it. Or in the words of a somewhat famous quote: You see what you look for. You recognise what you know.

With this in mind, would it not be possible for an expert such as yourself (possibly in collaboration with others) to write up an article (Memoir?) listing the 5 rarest Double Heads for each denomination (½d to £1). This would be quite a mammoth undertaking, involving some 90 stamps and possibly 90 images.

The resultant article would serve several purposes:
• it would form an important reference work;
• it would lead to an increased awareness of these rarities which would result in more of these items being identified;
• it would create some consensus on which on can base ‘rarity’, ‘collectability’, and ‘value’.

4. Certificate of Posting

Sean Burke writes and asks about a Certificate of Posting as he has just purchased this example from eBay. Are they fairly common and when did they come into use?

Rod Kantor responds from Perth, Western Australia, with this description (copied) and two further examples.

5. Army Signals Handstamp.

Colin Spong writes: I am a collector of wartime Madagascar and have a letter - shown below- addressed to the General Manager of the Rhodesian Railways with a Army Signals Handstamp. It was countersigned by a Colonel Paymaster to the Financial Adviser to the East African Forces as well as other signatures. It appeared to be either a temporary envelope on an official form. I know that the Northern Rhodesia Regiment 2nd, 3rd & 4th battalions were in Diego Suarez, Madagascar from 14.8.1942 until approximately 1943/4. I am seeking any further information to help identify this cover.

6. East Midlands and East Anglia Philatelic Federation

Anita McCullough writes: Gilbert Smith, who takes up the role of President of the East Midlands and East Anglia Philatelic Federation in November, contacted us
to say that their annual convention will be held in Arbury, two miles from Cambridge, UK, on 14 April 2012. With some excellent displays to look forward to and no fewer than 22 dealers taking stands, this promises to be a rewarding destination for RSC members in the vicinity. Contact Gilbert on 01778 392646 for further details.

7. A conversation - Northern Rhodesian postmarks on the 4d Double Head; earliest Northern Rhodesian postmarks on a Double Head and related questions.

In the compilation of Memoir 16 (Postmarks on the 1910-1913 ‘Double-head’ issue and their rarity), the question of the extreme rarity of finding a Northern Rhodesian postmark on the 4d Double Head was again explored. Four such examples from the collections of Andrew Wilson (LIVINGSTONE STATION), Arnie Brickman (LIVINGSTONE), Paul Peggie (FEIRA) and Derek Lambert (LEALUI) came to light in this exercise.

Andrew Wilson in his excellent article: Backwards and Forwards (RSCJ 238/32), comments that the earliest Northern Rhodesia usage on a Double Head in his collection is 10th December, 1910, but believes, from examining his collection of some 1,870 1d Double Heads and around 1,050 ½d Double Heads, that the issue was not distributed in Northern Rhodesia until late September or early October, 1911, and all the other earlier dates were on stamps that had been carried across the border. He further adds: If true, it is likely that few examples of Long Gash printings will exist used in Northern Rhodesia. This raises one area of future research: which printings of each value were issued in Northern Rhodesia, and what others are known used there?

Arnie Brickman has asked whether there are many examples of the 8d and 10d Double Head used in Northern Rhodesia. He also reports: I now have information (and scans) on 2 more examples of 4d’s used in NR. One appears to be a copy of SG138 with a Livingstone 23 March 1911 cancel. This does not have a full cancel and attribution is based on features of the cancel. I am uncertain of this attribution but perhaps someone with more experience can comment. The second item is a 4d with Abercorn 3 Jun 13. I have a scan of the latter. It’s obviously a later usage. This stamp was in a lot offered on eBay 1-2 weeks ago.

Paul Peggie writes on the subject thus: My FEIRA part cancel (see above) is a RSC ‘E’, these are normally used in 1915-16. This stamp could have been used later than this date. In reviewing his collection Paul reports the following earliest usage in Northern Rhodesia:

Thus Paul reflects, I have, apart from the lone 3d (SG 135) - shown above, no postmarks on a value from 2d and above used in 1911 in Northern Rhodesia. He also adds: I have not seen the 8d, or 3/ used in Northern Rhodesia.

Furthermore, returning to the 4d, he has not seen a VICTORIA FALLS postmark on this value. (There was one - 8 JUN 1911 – in the collection of the late Norman Levin)

A quick reflective glance at the collection of the late Norman Levin before its sale shows the following 1911 Northern Rhodesia postmarks:

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**LIVINGSTONE** 12 JUL 1911

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shades would tend to confirm this position.

On looking through my limited postmark collection whilst I note values to 2/- I do not have any 6d or 10d values so Arnie Brickman is right to seek out any which may exist.

And later: I have looked up the Spink catalogue of my Double Head sale on 10 Nov 1999. Lot 3306 was a Regd cover from Livingstone 26 AUG 1913 with 4d Large Arms and 6d DH - the RPS cert states incorrectly that the 6d does not belong. This is an excellent illustration of the 4d Large Arms still being in use in 1913 along with a 6d DH which tends to indicate that there were still stocks of 4d Arms (probably large and small) almost two years post the Double Head issue.

Bob Gibbs emails: I can’t be of much use to you on NR DH 4ds as my postmarks are almost entirely 1ds - however, I took a quick look in my NR book which is in alphabetical order and quickly found a Broken Hill DC dated 8 DEC 1910.

Back to Andrew Wilson: the question of when stamps arrived in NR is interesting for earlier issues as well. You may recall the Mpika covers that Alan Drysdall has written about of 23 August 1909 which I believe marks the arrival of the 1909 issue at Mpika. Maybe it is also indicative of when the stamps arrived in NR.

We do know that from some date NR had to indent separately for stamps - the failure to order 1 ½ d stamps in 1917 shows that the practice started before then. But when? The file sheets of the Admiral series seem to me to show that NR was always behind SR in ordering, which resulted in some small print runs - for example, I believe that printings VIII and X were done wholly for NR.

The idea that only the ½ d and 1d DHs were issued in NR during 1911 is interesting and needs further exploration. I attach a scan of a philatelic cover - see below - from Livingstone from 1912 that I showed at the DH Centenary celebrations. I hope the write up is self-explanatory. This cover shows that for many values earlier issues were still being sold. I believe that the reason that no 4d DHs were issued in NR is the vast quantities of the Small Arms that they still had in stock. (I have a pair of Admiral 4d Die I used in Livingstone in 1924, 11 years after they were printed. I wonder whether a few early Admirals were issued in NR but not later ones for this reason.) Certainly, there are a number of covers emanating from NR after 1911 to suggest this is the case. What other values were not issued I do not know.

This cover addressed locally with a set of 14 values to the £1 (excluding 1d, 2d, 10d and 3/– values then current), from 5 different issues. The stamps probably represent the stamps then being sold over the counter in Livingstone. The absence of the 1d or 2d may be due to these values being used separately on a letter or postcard, and it is possible that the 10d and 3/– values were not in stock at the time. At a guess, the recipient wanted to obtain a used set for himself or a relative in the U.K., and whilst the 1d and 2d would be used on a postcard and letter to the U.K., it was felt safer to send the rest of the values c/o a friend locally rather than trust them to the overseas mail.

The cover – shown below – demonstrates why it can be difficult to find Double Heads on covers with more than one stamp without other issues being included: even two years after the issue of the Double Heads, only 5 values are Double Heads! Stamps on the cover are:

1896 issue: 8d, 2/–, 2/6d
1897 issue: 4d
1898 issue: 5/–, 10/–1909 issue: 2 ½d, 7/6d, £1
1910 issue: ½d (RJL3), 3d (SG 136, pos 43), 5d (SG 142), 6d (RSC ‘F’), 1/– (SG 152)

[Image of a philatelic cover from Livingstone, 1912, with a set of 14 values to £1, excluding 1d, 2d, 10d, and 3/– values then current, from 5 different issues. The stamps represent the stamps then being sold over the counter in Livingstone. The absence of the 1d or 2d may be due to these values being used separately on a letter or postcard, and it is possible that the 10d and 3/– values were not in stock at the time. At a guess, the recipient wanted to obtain a used set for himself or a relative in the U.K., and whilst the 1d and 2d would be used on a postcard and letter to the U.K., it was felt safer to send the rest of the values c/o a friend locally rather than trust them to the overseas mail.]
Paul Peggie goes on: In my collection of NR Double heads I have had a Livingstone Station cancel [ex Clay]; for some reason I have not looked at the date - 20 Nov 1911. This stamp (SG 152a) has small part of corner missing and this may be why I have overlooked it. (I notice another two SG 152a stamps used in NR on the Deverell and McGregor website.) What is most interesting with the Long Gash NR cancel in 1911 - they seem to follow the sequence of printing and known date of usage, as in SR. Paul then presents an analysis of his NR postmarks on the ½ d Double Head:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>RJL Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broken Hill</td>
<td>15 Dec 1912</td>
<td>RJL1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broken Hill</td>
<td>13 Dec 1913</td>
<td>RJL5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bwanamkubwa</td>
<td>11 Jul 1912</td>
<td>RJL3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chilanga</td>
<td>24 Nov 1912</td>
<td>RJL1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chilanga (pair)</td>
<td>25 Sep 1913</td>
<td>RJL3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choma (pair)</td>
<td>22 Mar 1912</td>
<td>RJL1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Rosebery</td>
<td>(Barred Oval ‘859’)</td>
<td>RJL1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Rosebery</td>
<td>(Barred Oval ‘859’)</td>
<td>RJL1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Rosebery</td>
<td>3 Feb 1913</td>
<td>RJL3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kafue</td>
<td>13 Aug</td>
<td>RJL3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalomo</td>
<td>18 Apr 1912</td>
<td>RJL3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalomo</td>
<td>31 Mar 1916</td>
<td>RJL3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansanshi</td>
<td>8 Oct 1912</td>
<td>RJL3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasama</td>
<td>11 Nov 1916</td>
<td>RJL3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kawambwa</td>
<td>14 Apr 1913</td>
<td>RJL3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8 May 1911</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lealui</td>
<td>18 Jan 1912</td>
<td>RJL1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lealui</td>
<td>9 Jan 1913</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingstone</td>
<td>2 Jul 1911</td>
<td>RJL3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingstone</td>
<td>1 Aug 1911</td>
<td>RJL3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingstone</td>
<td>16 Dec 1911</td>
<td>RJL3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingstone</td>
<td>15 Jun 1912</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingstone</td>
<td>26 Oct 1912</td>
<td>RJL3</td>
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<td>10 Dec 1912</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingstone</td>
<td>12 Dec 1912</td>
<td>RJL3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingstone</td>
<td>22 Nov 1913</td>
<td>RJL1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ndola</td>
<td>26 ? 1916</td>
<td>RJL3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shesheke</td>
<td>5 Jun 1911</td>
<td>RJL3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some musings: the ½d Double Head was only officially distributed in NR possibly in 1912 – possibly a lot of ½d Small Arms still in stock?; RJL3 seems to be the predominant shade; when did the ½ d Admiral postmarks start to appear in NR?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abercorn</td>
<td>17 Aug 1912</td>
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<td>26 Apr 1913</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bwanamkubwa</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bwanamkubwa</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bwanamkubwa</td>
<td>with indistinct dates.</td>
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<td>7 Nov 1913</td>
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<td>Chipongwe</td>
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<td>Serenje</td>
<td>11 ? ?</td>
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<td>Shesheke</td>
<td>8 Jan 1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shesheke</td>
<td>12 Jan 1914</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some conclusions on the 1d: The earliest date is Livingstone 14 Dec 1910. There is also a number of cancels in the first half of 1911. The majority end in 1913: this may coincide with the introduction of the Admirals in late 1913? More thoughts coming!
1. BATOKA - Early and late cancellations (RSCJ 240/94)

Otto Peetoom makes this contribution: Just to put the cat amongst the pigeons, I have a February 1941 date that is six years earlier than 1947. Also on the type 10, I have codes B and C; are there any other codes known? The December 57 is quite a late date.

2. Southern Rhodesian 3d Falls stamp used in Egypt (RSCJ 240/106)

Keith Harrop comments: The use of Southern Rhodesian stamps is well recorded by F.W. Benians in his book *Egypt Postage Prepaid Military Datestamps 1941-1947* published by the National Philatelic Society in 1978. ISBN 0 906291 00 3. He records use of the 1935-41 2d and 3d Falls as well as the 1937 K.G. VI Definitives 1/2d, 1d, 1 ½ d, 4d, 9d, and 10d, all with EPP date stamps.

In *Memoir 17*, page 7, Christopher Cooksey and I illustrate use of S.R. stamps on mail from Egypt. Fig 13 on page 7 shows usage of the 1937 1/- value, unrecorded by Benians. I have at least one example of the 3d Falls stamp used on an *On My Honour* envelope posted from EPP 61 on 29 Oct 1942. The Air Mail Letter Cards Sandra Weaver describes sound of interest. Perhaps she may provide more information.

Sandra replied with this scan and the comment that: it was sent by Gnr G J Tonkin to Miss M Mossop during the period 1943-1945. He was in the 3rd / 17th Rhodesian Battery in the 1st / 6th Field regiment, SAA of the Union Defence Forces in the Middle East Forces serving in Egypt. George later married Minnie and when Minnie was downsizing she passed correspondence onto me. Sadly I do not have much more information on the two people than that as they have both passed away.

3. Memoir 17

Again from Keith Harrop: Since publishing Memoir 17 additional information has come to light regarding the handover from Army to R.A.F of Salisbury M, page 56. An envelope with a Salisbury M cancellation of 22 Aug 1940, Type PMK23 has come to light. On the reverse of the envelope is a rectangular, boxed cachet reading "PAY ACCOUNTS SECTION / No.25 E.F.T.S. / 22 AUG 1940 / ROYAL AIR FORCE / BELVEDERE. SALISBURY”. POC 223 of 1.11.40 records that Salisbury M became Belvedere but gives no actual date of the handover. Clearly from the cachet on the reverse of the envelope the R.A.F. were in situ on 22 Aug.

4. The Vandoros Double Head Covers (RSCJ 237/173 and RSCJ 240/97)

Don Napier has supplied us with the ‘sister’ cover to that in the possession of John Knight. Again, all the stamps are Position 2—see inset!
5. McNeil of Abercorn (RSCJ238/38 and RSCJ 140/160)

Paul Peggie has submitted these two ‘McNeil’ 1903 cards in response to the various articles on this postmaster, telegraphist, photographer and caricaturist from N.E. Rhodesia. McNeil has written on the second card: German headquarters on Nyasa. The ‘Wissman’ on which I came up the lake in 99 at anchor in the bay.

Anita McCullough responds: The Xmas card to the A.T.T. Co is one I have not seen before (I am aware of three examples). This one is not addressed in McNeil's hand, so shows how his cards were appropriated (successful marketing!) by others in the territory – a nice example of that. The other is great because it shows what was for ages the ‘missing No.12’ in the ‘set of 12’ - you'll have to refer to Memoir 13 for the details and the image - but it is splendid that this one is in a fellow member's hands. The only other one I have viewed is in the collection of a Scottish museum. Great stuff!

John Shawley confirms: I have come across a November 1897 BCA Gazette reference to the German Government Steamer Hermann von Wissmann restarting regular Fort Johnstone to Langenburg trips up the Lake.

6. More Barotseland Mission Mail - Lealui to Pretoria to Beira and an interesting incoming cover (Memoir 15)

Paul Peggie has submitted this recently acquired HG 13 from the Rev. Adolphe Jalla to his brother the Rev. Louis, which followed him around the country. Adolphe Jalla wrote the card on 6 Jan 1904. The cancels are Lealui 9 JA 04, Livingstone 1 FE 04, Bulawayo 6 FEB 04, Pretoria 12 FEB 04 and Beira 26 FEB 04.

Early in 1904, the Rev. Coillard was invited to preside over an important missionary conferences in Johannesburg and in Livingstonia [Lake Nyasa] and Bihe. Coillard had to refuse the invitations due issues with Willie Mokalapa [Ethiopian church leader and former Basuto] who was causing problems with the Barotse. It is possible that Louis Jalla took his place and had attended the Johannesburg meeting and was heading for Livingstonia. The card was re-directed to Beira and must have found Jalla en route to Livingstonia?
In a similar vein, Peter Hickman has this unusual piece of incoming mission mail to the Reverend Luis Jalla which has an interesting label affixed to the rear of the cover—see below, front and back.

7. Was the £1 “Error” not the first Double Head £1 printed? (RSCJ 240/128-131)

Stephen Reah-Johnson adds: Amongst the various bureaucratic papers of the BSAC is a thing called the stamp registry, an accounting mechanism which records all shipments received before the stamps are sent out to post offices and fiscal services, the resources are measured in units of 60 stamps, which was the size of all definitive stamp sheets up to the time of the Double Heads, which were, of course, in sheets of either 50 or 100. There is an entry for 8/10/1910 for a shipment for a whole series of stamps through to the 10/-, including an 8d, which must be for the Double Heads as before there was only a 7½d; these entries consist of peculiar figures that look like, but are not, fractions: e.g. 1d “4166/40”, which actually mean 4166 units of 60 plus 40 stamps, which works out as 250,000 stamps or 2500 sheets of 100. (These must have been SG 125 which were the only 1d used in November. A later supply entered 21/10/1910 is for “8333/20” 1d stamps which figures as 5000 sheets of 100 and which must be SG 123.)

The £1 column is left blank until 28/10/1910 (still before the first day of issue for the Double Heads) where we see the peculiar entry “4/10” meaning 250 stamps, which would be 5 sheets of 50. As there were ten sheets of the £1 “Error”, the registry entry could not be a reference to them, and they would not have been entered into the registry anyway if they were to be sent back. If this is not the missing £1 printing, what is it? The current speculation is that all five sheets went to the fiscal offices, in which case there would have been no need for (U.P.U.) ‘SPECIMEN’ examples and where, far from the public gaze, their aesthetic failings (the colours being too dark and sombre) would have no bearing. If the new “Error” £1 colours had been accepted, it is these stamps that would have been ‘fiscals in the wrong colours’: probably of doubtful philatelic status, but great curiosities. Q.E.D?

P.S. At some point we aim to publish the entire statistical contents of the Salisbury stamp registry which ends in 1922. It is a complex subject, as we still do not know whether or not there were separate stamp registries for Livingstone or earlier at Fort Jameson and Kalomo, and if so, when they operated.

8. Taxed Double Head Cover (RSCJ 240/100)

Hugh Amoore writes from Cape Town concerning this cover: The outgoing taxing Official (Salisbury or was this Cape Town) has taxed this ‘T 30c’ (centimes) for a deficiency of 1½d doubled to 3d. The 1912 US conversion rate was 5¢ (US) = 25 centimes (UPU – the Latin monetary union centime was the centime used in 1912), so 30 centimes results in a fine of 6¢ (US).


Hugh Amoore comments with regard to Keith Harrop’s article on the above subject: He quotes the 1897 rule; the wording in Article 11(1) of the Rome Convention, which was the applicable rule until 1922 (when the Madrid Convention of 1920 became effective), was identical. The critical phrase is the last: tels que les timbres-poste dit commémoratifs d’une validité transitoré (my emphasis). Was the temporary validity not the key? Many European commemoratives had a limited period of validity (see for example the Netherlands TB semi-postals of 1906). The three illustrated covers may be taxed for different reasons: that from Salisbury on 12.10.{19}12 is endorsed in manuscript 2/20 (indicating two rates, and 20 centimes to pay) and has been correctly taxed 2d by the UK taxing officer {2D/I.S/S}. The second cover may have even a more interesting explanation. Again it has been endorsed in the top left hand corner 2/ (indicating 2 rates) and again on this basis taxed 2d by the UK taxing officer. I suspect that this fine was paid prior to this letter being re-addressed and re-posted. But the third cover (Livingstone to Perth) defies an explanation. However, I do not think it was taxed because the double head was considered invalid; a postal official who considered that it was invalid (as a temporary validity
commemorative) would have also known to mark it to show that it is invalid.

The South African 1910 2½ d (SG 1, 4 Nov 1910) was a commemorative, but was not temporarily valid (it was demonetized on 31 Dec 1972) and designed for and often used to pay the first step weight international letter rate. Incidentally, the words in the 1897 UPU Convention, and retained in 1907, were replaced in Madrid convention by: or by means of impressions of stamping machines, official adapted and working under the immediate control of the Administration.

Keith Harrop replies: I read with interest Hugh's comments but am not yet convinced that he is correct. His main point appears to be the translation and interpretation of the wording used in Article 11 (1) of the Rome Convention. I agree his translation but not his interpretation. Perhaps I am missing something but to me he fails to explain why the covers were taxed.

In my interpretation the U.P.U. are saying that commemorative stamps can only be used on the internal mail of the country of issue and not on overseas mail. The question is: what was a commemorative stamp. Was it issued for a specific purpose and/or of temporary validity?

In the book The Philatelic & Postal History Treasures of the National Archives of Zimbabwe by Landau, Johnstone and Hoffman they cover this subject on pages 73 - 76 quoting official letters and documents. On page 73, King George V consented to the issue of a special stamp bearing the portrait of His Majesty and Her Majesty .... His Majesty has, however, not been pleased to approve the proposal that His portrait should be engraved on the permanent issue of the Company's stamps, his desire being that the privilege now accorded to be limited to the commemorative issue, until it is exhausted, with a maximum period of two years.

Following the issue of the 1905 ‘Falls’ set, the B.S.A. Company were aware of the postal limitation of Commemorative stamps. In a letter dated 22 October 1910, the Company assures the Colonial Office that these stamps although issued on the occasion of the visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught to Rhodesia would form the current issue of the Company's stamps for the whole of Rhodesia and before the lapse of the two years referred to by the Colonial Office the permission of His Majesty the King will be sought to continue the stamps...... Despite the King's time stipulation of two years the Company hoped He would consent to extending this period. On November 9 1910 Colin Duff (a BSAC Official) sent a telegram from London to the PMG Southern Rhodesia stating that the Double Heads are only a commemorative issue of temporary validity. To which the PMG responds by quoting the letter of October 22 and sent a draft of the Departmental Notice announcing the issue, for inclusion in the Gazette.

The original Draft Notice is interesting in that it contains the reference to the issue being coincident with the entry into SR of HRH Duke of Connaught and they (the stamps) are available internationally as well as for internal correspondence. On receipt of this draft the Administrator's office strikes through these words in blue pencil and informs the PMG His Honour does not wish any reference to be made to the Royal Visit and also wishes the last paragraph omitted....

You can draw your own conclusions as to why it was desired that these words should be removed. Obviously the Company was concerned as to the choice of wording to be used in what was to be Postal Notice No. 28 of 1910. Finally, the stamps were issued, but were they commemoratives or not? How would overseas Postal Administrations view them?

Mail bearing these stamps begins to arrive in London; the British Post Office asks the question: are they commemoratives? It is at this point that we must speculate. Based on Colin Duff’s telegram of November 9th there is uncertainty as to the answer. What is the British Post Office to do; should they delay the mail whilst the powers that be try and decide, how long will that take? No, I suggest they took the easiest way, let the politicians argue, meanwhile we will deliver the mail, we treat the stamp as a commemorative and therefore invalid and Tax the recipient. Once agreement has been reached we will implement it. But I suspect agreement was not reached quickly. Did the British Post Office consider that stamps that were to be issued for possibly only two years were therefore commemoratives? Remember the King had placed a restriction on the length of time that the stamps would remain on sale, as late as June 1912 the Duke of Abercorn, representing the Company, was asking Downing Street to seek permission from the King for an extension to the two years stipulated by the Him.

Returning to Hugh's comments; the tax mark on the second cover, dated May 18th 1913, may have been struck through after the tax has been paid and to prevent an attempt to collect it again once the letter was re-directed. He refers to the penciled numbers 2 over 20 as the 2 indicating 2 rates and 20 centimes. I agree the 20 refers to centimes and the 2 rates as being two rates of 1d i.e. double the deficiency with 2d being the sterling equivalent of 20 centimes. The penciled 2 on the cover dated May 18th 1913 may refer to 2 rates i.e. 2d.

So there we are. Hopefully we will receive more yet on the subject.
10. Registered “R” ex Gwelo (RSCJ 240/92 and RSCJ 202/7)

Andrew Wilson writes: you discuss the Registration handstamps used at Gwelo. I am puzzled. It has long been my understanding that the large R was used at Gwelo which would make the small one the oddity, and vitiate Alan's comments. My authority is a sheet I bought many years ago containing four examples, two in a pair, and one on piece with a further stamp postmarked Gwelo Sep 2 99. (shown here) The sheet had been written up neatly many years before with the statement: home made postmark made and used in Gwelo.

Jenifer Barry comments: In RSCJ 203 of June 2002 - Danny Swart showed a Gwelo Registered with Large ‘R' - dated AP 19 / 98 on a registered cover to England. My cover has both the large and small ‘R'! I have attached same. Jon (Barry) had put a note on the album page: small ‘R’ added en route, via Cape Town to London - of course that could have been anywhere. This is a beautiful cover with three separate strikes for GWELO. My cover is dated SP 22 / 98.

Alan Drysdall concludes: This looks like the clincher. Danny Swart's cover is addressed to Salisbury and would not have gone anywhere near Bulawayo. If we have covers - as we do - originating from Gwelo addressed to or via Bulawayo and Salisbury showing the large 'R' cancelling part of the franking, then the 'R' could only have been struck in Gwelo as that is all the two covers have in common.

11. Postmarks on Admirals – a Memoir in the making (RSCJ 240/95)

The combined forces of Stephen Reah-Johnson, Bob Gibbs, Jenifer Barry and Sean Burke have started gathering data for this proposed Memoir. Since the publication of the intention to proceed with this venture in the 2011 September Journal, a number of members have submitted lists of their holdings or have indicated a desire to be part of this venture; they include Tony Banks, Colin Nethersole, Peter Maslanka, Tony Jelley, Jim Lays, Allan MacLaren, Arnold Brickman, Arnold Berman, Julian Schamroth, Hal Hoyte, Paul Peggie, Dave Morton, Tony and den Linden, Norm Hart, and David Spivack. It is not too late to join in this project. It is planned to gather data until mid 2012 and then prepare a Memoir, similar to Memoir 16 (Postmarks on Double-heads), in time for the centenary of the issue of the BSAC Admirals.

Some interesting postmarks have already come to light. Some are shown below:
12. Ian Smith mail - unknown mark on cover (RSCJ 240/92-93)

Bob Carr has responded to David Lee on this matter. He has two similar covers from Europe in his collection addressed to Ian Smith both having a similar red ‘cancel’ on the cover although the signature/initals are different.


Congratulations are due to RSC Secretary, Anita McCullough who featured in the June edition of Stamp Magazine and to authors Alan Drysdall, Anita (again) and Paul Peggie, for the excellent reviews, in the September edition of The London Philatelist, of Memoir 13, The Postal History of North-Eastern Rhodesia, and Memoir 18, Cross-Border Mail via Northern Rhodesia. And, Memoir 13 was also awarded a Large Vermeil at the South African National Exhibition in Cape Town in October, 2011 in the Literature Class - more congratulations to Alan and Anita!
14. The Bulawayo Memoir - progress report (RSCJ 240/95)

Alan Drysdall writes: Progress regarding the memoir describing the postal history of Bulawayo, which is the major part of the postal history of Matabeleland, continues, more or less on schedule with the aim of publishing prior to the meeting in Leamington in April, 2012. As always an extensive group of members have contributed information and illustrations, but this is the group that is always involved with these publications and we would like to hear from others. You may only have a cover or two or a postmark you think unusual but let me know about it and he can decide whether or not it adds to the story. It would also be nice to see an illustration or two attributed to a member or members who do not normally feature in memoirs. You cannot collect the BSA period without having something from Bulawayo, which after the railway reached there and was extended north to Livingstone and linked to Salisbury - and via Salisbury to Beira – became the hub of a communications network. Bulawayo from a postal history point of view was more important than Salisbury at this time. And then of course there are those aspects of Rhodesian postal history that are unique to Bulawayo – the Mafeking runner post, the occupation of Matabeleland, the rebellion and the Boer War campaign based on Bulawayo that was intended to relieve Mafeking. The later years of the BSA Co.’s administration were less hectic, but there were nevertheless some important developments – the TPOs for example. If you think you may be able to help, Alan would be delighted to hear from you.

Above from the Memoir: An Ethiopian postal stationery card that must rank as one of the most exotic items of incoming mail ever received in Bulawayo. It is addressed to Marshall Hole, then Secretary to the Administrator of Matabeleland, and was sent by a friend or colleague on leave. It was posted in Addis Ababa – note the datestamp inscribed in Amharic – and since it was addressed overseas had to be forwarded via the port of Djibouti, which at this time was acting as the office of exchange for such mail. Ethiopia was not a member of the UPU and payment of the overseas rate had therefore to be receipted with a Somali Coast stamp – the appropriate postcard rate was 10c – which might well have been affixed by the French post office in Addis Ababa if the card was transferred to that office. There is, however, some uncertainty as to when the French office opened – the earliest recorded datestamp is dated 1903 – but prior to that the Consulate may have handled overseas mail. (The Somali Coast stamp was affixed over the Ethiopian stamp printed on the card after it had been cancelled. It is imperforate but has simulated perforations printed in the margins.) The stamp was not cancelled until the card reached Djibouti. The territory originally known as the French Colony of Obock was renamed the Protectorate of Djibouti in 1893 and the Protectorat de la Côte de Somalis in 1896, the name Djibouti was then used only for the port. The adhesive is inscribed ‘Protectorat de la Côte de Somalis’ above the vignette and ‘Djibouti’ below it. The railway that eventually linked Djibouti with Addis Ababa was started in 1897, and in 1899 when this card was posted the last part of the route from Addis to the coast may well have been by train. (For various reasons construction of the line was not completed until 1917.)

The datestamp at top-centre inscribed in Amharic is set at ‘13 10 98’. The Somali Coast / Djibouti datestamp cancelling the adhesive is dated December 1899, the day being in the form of two digits, the first of which is a ‘1’ and the second possibly a ‘4’, i.e. ‘14 / DEC / 89’. Why and by whom the message was annotated to suggest that the card reached Djibouti on the 13th December, 1899 (recorded incorrectly as ‘13: XII: XCI’ is not obvious, but the annotation could only have been written in Djibouti. The Somali Coast / Djibouti datestamp struck on the reverse is dated ‘20 / DEC / 99’, probably the date the card was forwarded. Other datestamps record a route via the port of Moçambique (‘25. JAN. 00’), Zanzibar (‘27 / DEC / 99’), Beira (‘27 JAN. 00’) and Salisbury (‘FE 13 / 00’). The Bulawayo datestamp records receipt on ‘17.FEB. 00’. The transit time from Addis Ababa totalled 127 days – approximately four months – and from Djibouti, 66 days

Acknowledgement

I am indebted to Ian Burgess of the Southampton and District Philatelic Society who provided most of the information relating to the postal history Djibouti.

15. Registered Letter (RSCJ 240/92)

Patrick Moore, a new member from Bonn who has spent a good 40 years as a journalist and stamp collector in the Central and East European areas writes: With respect to the question from Jenifer Barry, the letter is addressed to the "Redaktion der Oesterreichischen Briefmarkenzeitung," or Editors of the Austrian Stamp Magazine (or Newspaper). The backstamps are for Wien (Vienna) XIX, which presumably is the district of the city, and for Bestellt, which means delivered.

As Mr. Drysdall points out, quality penmanship was highly valued in Central Europe in those days, particularly among officials and other educated people in the Habsburg Monarchy. The sender’s name is probably Anton Dvoracek (also spelled Dvoracek), which is a common family name of Czech origin that can also be found in present-day Austria. In Habsburg times, many young Czech men and women sought their fortune in Vienna and other Austrian cities, and a glance through today’s Vienna telephone book will reveal the many Czech family names of their descendants.
16. More on the Ian Smith Cover (RSCJ 240/92)

Patrick Moore continues: The An (Ian Smith) simply means To. It is standard usage in addressing letters in German, especially in more formal situations. I found it ironic that the stamp on the letter was a definitive depicting West German President Gustav Heinemann (1969-1974), who was a left-wing Social Democrat and for whom UDI must have been anathema. Heinemann was the third and last West German president to be depicted on stamps during his lifetime. His successor, Walter Scheel, discontinued the practice, which Scheel's successors did not revive.

17. Covers from Albania (RSCJ 240/105)

And more from Patrick Moore: The article on the Zimbabwe meeting notes remarks by Dr. Mavros on letters to Rhodesia from Albania in the 1970s. Could Dr. Mavros or anyone else shed some light on the sender(s) of the covers? The letters might be ordinary correspondence between emigrants and their families, since Albania is a poor country with a long tradition of emigration. But my curiosity was activated by a more tantalising possibility, namely that the correspondence could have had to do with the trade in chromium. Some of my professional colleagues used to speculate in the 1970s that if South Africa and Rhodesia could have struck a quiet, under-the-table deal with the communist USSR and Albania, the four of them could have controlled chromium prices nicely!

18. Memoir 16 - postmarks on Double Heads

This topic is never ending. Stephen Reah-Johnson has submitted some very rare cancels - a couple unrecorded on a Double Head. Shown here is a VICTORIA (SC) {without MASHONALAND} OC 3/12; a BUSHTICK (DC) with ‘blank’ 9 JAN 1911; a CHATSWORTH (DC) with date unclear, and lastly a confusing ENTERPRISE which we will leave to others for comment. These stamps came from the late Dick Pollitt’s collection.

Well over 100 copies of Memoir 16 have already sold to date

19. More on Memoir 13 - Postal History of North Eastern Rhodesia

The Reverend Alan J Roy writes to the authors Alan Drysdall and Anita McCullough:

I have now had a close read of Memoir 13 and congratulate you on the quality and detail of the work you have done on it. I marvel at how you have found some of the very recherché material. May I make one or two small observations:

1. P 67 Dr Chisholm was a Scottish missionary at Mwenzo and came under the Livingstonia Mission. Up to 1900 that was run by the Free Church of Scotland which became the United Free Church of Scotland when the Free Church and United Presbyterian Churches united in Scotland. (In 1929 they united with the Church of Scotland as "Church of Scotland")

2. P 9 and P 81: Table 1 and Table 4, Kombole This was an LMS Mission station, known to the Church as Kambole. It still had a missionary minister in the first half of the 1960's and is now a Church centre of the United Church of Zambia. But I do not know whether it ever had a Postal Agency.

3. P 83 Serenje should have note "currently open at a different site". The original Boma was close to the Court of Chief Serenje and took its name from that. (A Bemba or Lala speaker would distinguish the two simply by preposition - to Serenje (boma) is ku Serenje; to Serenje Court is kwa Serenje) Present day Serenje is some 45 miles west, two miles north off the Great North Road. We lived there for over 6 years.

4. P 82 Mbereshi. There is a museum and archive under the Mbeleshi Development Foundation, P O Box 710483, Mansa.

5. Figure 118 (P 115) I have in my collection a very similar parcel label sent by Mr Waterall on the same day - August 8th, 1910 containing 25 otter skins, Parcel Bill No 15/4, No of rates prepaid 11 (9x8d; 1x1/2), also with the BCA Inland Postage label Gross weight of parcel 11 lbs (the mail runners must have been cursing if there were 8 such parcels in all!)

6. P 64 On Saturday past I gave a photocopy of the Mwenzo Mission house - there were other - illustrated to Revd Alasdair Morton who served at Mwenzo for the first half of the 1960's and who lived in that house. He was delighted, having never seen a picture of the house with its verandahs. The verandahs were gone by the time he lived there. I have stayed in the other main single storey mission house.

Many thanks for your endeavours. I greatly enjoy the fruits.
Reports of Meetings

Cape Town - Saturday 13 August 2011 at Main House, Rustenberg Estate, Stellenbosch

Topic: Rhodesia 1964 - 1980

Attendance (13): Henk de Lange, Danny Swart RDPSA, Jenifer Barry, Simon Barlow, Alan MacGregor, Brian Fenemore, Malcolm Murphy, Bill Hallatt, David Sinclair, David Morton, Keith Brodovcky, Adrian de Bourbon and guest Chris Stewart (from Malaysia)

Apologies: David Crocker RDPSA, Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, Sean Cunningham, John Carter, Mike Hill, Colin Hunt, Andy Kreigler, Barry Smith, Sam Smith

Henk welcomed all present and thanked Simon and Roseanne Barlow for making their house available for the meeting, and for providing teas and lunch. He also welcomed Bill Hallatt back from his operation, and wished Andy Keigler a full recovery from his recent health issue. He welcomed Chris Stewart, visiting Cape Town from Penang in Malaysia.

Adrian recorded the recent death of Lynne Greef and those present observed a moment of silence in her memory. Malcolm Murphy was asked by Lynne to dispose of her postcard collection and the first part will be auctioned by the Postcard Society of Cape Town in December. The more modern Rhodesia postcards will be sold at a later date.

Dave Morton brought greetings to the meeting from Jim Lays in the USA.

Adrian mentioned that he had met up with Christopher Cooksey, Derek Lambert and Otto Peetoom at the recent York Stamp Fair.

Danny Swart has a draft of the intended memoir on the Cross Border Mail of Northern Rhodesia. He read the definition of “cross border” in the memoir and all agreed that no lawyer could have produced such a comprehensive definition!

Buster Schempter in Zimbabwe was looking for a first day cover of the 1940 BSAC Golden Jubilee issue with the cave flaw on the 3d value. Can anyone help?

Otto Peetoom is writing up the issues of Southern Rhodesia in the period of George V and George VI. He is looking for assistance with printers marks (vertical in particular) on the 1924 definitive issue, sheet numbers commencing with a zero on the 1931 Field Marshall issue and large multiples of the 1935 Silver Jubilee issue. Members were asked to communicate directly with Otto.

The new exercise by Sean Burke and Jenifer Barry to catalogue the date stamps (postmarks) on the 1913 issue was discussed and members are encouraged to search their collections and provide details of the offices used on that issue.

Adrian reported that he had been in contact with George Stewart concerning the Tobacco Tax stamps mentioned by Phil Nodder at the London meeting of 22 January 2011 (RSCJ 238/24). George and Adrian agree with Phil that these are probably recent forgeries.

The Byrom Legacy documents are being collected by David Crocker and will be delivered to Jenifer Barry for her to look at the postmark listings, see last meeting minutes (RSCJ 240).

Alan MacGregor referred to the British Central Africa revenue stamps brought to the July 2010 meeting by Mike Deverell (see RSCJ 237/167). He showed a £25 cancelled at Blantyre which is the first known used copy of the stamp.

Rhodesia 1964 - 1980

Henk de Lange showed a picture of Ian Smith which Smith had signed as well as a signed copy by 38 Members of Parliament of the ratification of the 1965 Constitution. He also displayed the brochure prepared for the 1965 Independence issue. David Sinclair queried why the stamp was only available on 8 December 1965 and not 11 November 1965. Adrian said that the date of UDI was kept secret until that morning.
Danny Swart showed various examples of the surcharged mail from Rhodesia to the UK after UDI.

Jenifer Barry brought the collection Jon had made of the post office strikes with the word Rhodesia and thereafter with the word Rhodesia removed. This collection was circulated at the meeting.

Chris Stewart showed a Bechuanaland cover addressed to Major Frank Johnson in 1895 with a mixed franking from a cross border re-directory fee.

Brian Fenemore spoke of the history of the Tati Concession and showed maps of the area together with the set of revenue stamps.

Bill Hallatt had a display of covers with the ‘S’ removed from the postmark after the change of the name of the country to Rhodesia in October 1964. He also showed an unrecorded 1969 skeleton postmark of Mahusekwa, as well as the postmarks of the Showgrounds, Shabalabala and Sauerstown.

Dave Morton has a large piece from a parcel sent in 1951 by Haddon & Sly in Salisbury to Blantyre by parcel post. He also showed a postcard of Stanley Avenue, with the Haddon & Sly Building pre-war.

Keith Brodovcky showed some International Reply Coupons, as well as a large collection of Post Office stationery such as telegram forms, certificates of posting and international money orders.

Finally Adrian de Bourbon circulated an album with the imprint, cylinder and sheet number blocks of the various printings of the Mardon definitive issues from 1966 to 1969.

The meeting closed at 1230 and all adjourned to lunch and wine with Simon and Roseanne.

Melbourne – 17th September, 2011 at Newman College, University of Melbourne

Present at this gathering were Don Napier (who turned 82 the next day), John Shawley, Richard Breckon, Gary Brown, Paul Peggie and Sean Burke. Apologies were received from Tony van der Linden, Peter Wright and Ronnie Winchester, and greetings were received from Ray Cocks.

The highlight of the meeting was the six pages of Rhodesia from the Australia Post UPU Collection which had been brought to the meeting by Richard Breckon. Richard is the Team Leader, Philatelic Archives, Australia Post. Specimens of all the BSAC issues, wonderfully fresh in colour, along with mint KGV Southern Rhodesia issues, were available for inspection. It was a rare treat for all.

Thereafter, John Shawley showed some interesting items of BCA postal history and postmarks and read a few interesting and amusing excerpts from the British Central Africa Gazette. Paul Peggie also provided several items of early Northern Rhodesia and BCA postal history – some of which is reported elsewhere in this Journal. He also presented a number of Admirals on cover including this cover from Salisbury in 1923—shown below.

Don Napier brought along a number of items of postal history centred around early airmails in the Rhodesias and a full sheet of the 3d RSC ‘B’ Double Head—see inside back cover.

Gary Brown displayed a couple of examples of incoming airmletters to Rhodesia where usage of a commercial nature is rarely found. He added that
the Southern African Postal Commission allowed for internal airmail rates between South Africa and the British Colonies of SWA, Northern and Southern Rhodesia; Nyasaland and the two Portuguese Colonies of Angola and Mozambique. Shown below is one of these airletters – addressed to Kitwe in Northern Rhodesia in June 1960.

Sean Burke displayed his six page exhibit entitled: *A philatelic window into the times, the people and the places in British South Africa (Rhodesia) 1900-1924.* This exhibit was destined for the South African Nationals in Cape Town in October, 2011. Sean also showed several recent acquisitions including the cover (shown below) from Troutbeck Inn to Chattanooga, Tennessee., with a 2/6 Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Kariba commemorative.

**Zimbabwe - 17th September 2011**

Ten members and one spouse met at the home of Wilfried Schrader, in Highlands, Harare.

Colin Richards' work on Zimbabwean flaws was handed over to Sandra Weaver, who will liaise with Geoff Brakspear to see if it has anything that should be included in the new edition of the *Zimbabwe Colour Catalogue*. Someone is still required to take Colin's files to the UK for inclusion in the RSC Library. It is now hoped that Rod Finneghan will address a meeting of the Mashonaland Philatelic Society on "Hut Tax Tokens", with RSC members being invited to attend. This will show the way forward to integrate research on the Token aspect with that on Hut Tax's later aspect - in which stamps were used instead of Tokens.

The theme of the meeting and thus the displays were on anything beginning with "M".

**Colin Nethersole:** Colin went the whole hog, as his introduction showed: *MAVROS my mentor makes MAKUKUPEN MAKUKEKUPEN matter more.*

*Maintaining my membership, memorizing more material, manufacturing marks mountains MATOPOS, MOUNT DARWIN, MOUNT SELINDA, MOUNT HAMPDEN, MELSETTER, MELSETTER, miraculously maintaining marginal minds, mapping meandering MALUNDI RIVER, MANZIM'NYAMA milestones mixing: MACHEKE, MAKHA, MAKOWRIES, [and all the other "M" offices he was exhibiting].*

- There was much applause at this stage, followed by admiration for some beautiful material such as: MAKHA on a block of ten 2/- Admirals
- MACHEKE S/C - very rare in itself, and with the added attraction of the entire date inverted
- MARANDELLA'S MASHONALAND S/C
- MATESI on 1905 Falls
- MATOKOS S/C, pen-dated
- MTOKO D/C in violet
- M'REWAS on 1905 Falls
- MATOPPOS D/C.

Colin also had a section of "Mines" postmarks including ANTENIOR MINE on Double Head; AYRSHIRE MINE on 1905 Falls; CHIN MINE on Double Head; and JOKER MINE.

**Dr Plato Mavros:** Colin's mentor showed rarities such as MALENJE; MARSHLANDS; MATOPOS T/C in blue; MUTUHWHA, that obscure place, 1954; MOUNT SELINDA S/C on Southern Rhodesia Admirals on cover, 1926; and MNENE on a registered cover, 1954.

**Dr Clive Levy:** Mardons 5/- trial printing, mint; Mounted Pioneer (1943) with Damaged Ear flaw in pair with normal, mint; MARULA TANK on 1d Silver Jubilee, 1935.
Joan Soriano: Military Mail: an EA APO (East African Forces Army Post Office) registered cover from Northern Rhodesia to Salisbury, 1944. The APO number was 52, and the canceller had also been applied to the registered mail label as its office of origin. The date section of the canceller itself showed it to be of the Northern Rhodesian pattern used in the 1940s, so it had evidently been manufactured there or at any rate by the manufacturers of the normal (civilian) NR cancellers. Joan said that there is still uncertainty as to whether the relevant unit (part of the Northern Rhodesia Regiment) was based in Broken Hill or Lusaka at that time. The sender, however, gave a Lusaka Box number. The cover had a military Censor mark, and had reached Salisbury via Lusaka and Bulawayo Station. Strangely, it had taken four days to get from Bulawayo Station to Salisbury. Joan noted that this was an interesting cover, and that more research was needed on it.

Sandy Weaver: Zimbabwe registered labels of places beginning with "M".

John Liebenberg: Not an "M" subject as such, just an item of interest: the BSAC 10d surcharge of 1909 fiscally used together with a 4d "Rhodesia" overprint, on piece. The authority on Rhodesian revenues and fiscally-used, Norman Mewett, had never come across the 10d so used and noted this fact in his catalogue, so it is evidently very rare indeed. John's example is in perfect condition, a lovely and remarkable item.

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION, CAPE TOWN 13-15 OCTOBER 2011

The annual South African Exhibition was held in Cape Town. Eight Study Circle members - Emil Bührmann (who was Jury Chairman), Colin Hoffman RDPSA, Harry Birkhead RDPSA, Hugh Amoore RDPSA, Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, Ross Wood, Henk de Lange and Andrew Fischer - were members of the Jury.

Six exhibits dealing with Rhodesian philately were entered, all by members of the Study Circle. The results of the Rhodesian exhibits were:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Exhibit Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Keith Brodovsky</td>
<td>The Kings of Southern Rhodesia: 1924-1953 (Traditional 5 frames)</td>
<td>Vermeil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sean Burke</td>
<td>Rhodesia - The BSA Co Years 1990-1924 (Open Class 5 frames)</td>
<td>Vermeil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adrian de Bourbon</td>
<td>The Revenue Stamps and Documents of Rhodesia 1891-1980 (Revenues 5 frames)</td>
<td>Large Gold</td>
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<td>Grand Prix</td>
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<td>Adrian de Bourbon</td>
<td>The Airgraphs of Southern Rhodesia (1 frame)</td>
<td>Vermeil</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Morton</td>
<td>The BSAC 1913 - 1924 Admirals Series (Traditional 7 frames)</td>
<td>Gold</td>
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|                           |                                                                                     | Royal Medallion
|                           |                                                                                     | Rhodesia Trophy |
| Alan Drysdall and Anita McCullough | The Postal History of North-Eastern Rhodesia (Literature)                       | Large Vermeil  |
In addition, a six other members put up exhibits dealing with other countries. They won two Gold medals, a Large Vermeil and five Vermeils, plus 3 trophies.

Shown above - three of the four winners of the new Rhodesia Award presented by the RSC – Patrick Flanagan (2009), Colin Hoffman (2007) and David Morton (2011)

And shown again above - Adrian de Bourbon with the Grand Prix trophy presented by Des Hyland – Hon Life President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town. (No doubt this well deserved award would have eased the pain of the loss of South Africa to the Australains in the quarter-finals of the Rugby World Cup - Editor.)

A meeting of the Study Circle was held at the exhibition venue on Saturday, 15 October 2011, at which we were honoured to have Colin Hoffman present. Also present were ten members from Cape Town, three from Johannesburg, one from KwaZulu Natal and one from Zimbabwe, as well as Ross Wood from Western Australia.

Colin welcomed all present and said how pleased he was to be in Cape Town. He congratulated all the medal winners for their success.

Jennifer Barry reported on her examination of the Derek Byrom material and on the current project to list the known postmarks on the Admiral stamps of 1913-1924.

Bill Hallatt showed a postcard by Raphael Tuck and Sons of the two steel arches, yet to be joined. The last bolts were inserted by Jimmy Chalmers, who later related to Bob Wollacott, an RSC member, that it was a stinking hot day and when he first crawled out to put the bolts in the bolt holes were way out of line. By late afternoon the temperature was dropping; the wind changed and blew spray over the bridge. The steel contracted; the bolt holes became aligned and the bolts fitted perfectly. Bill also showed a postcard posted in Bulawayo on 3 June 1947 signed by Edith Evans (one of the British Theatre greats), Gwen Ffrangcon Davies, Marda Vanne (a South African actress) and other theatre luminaries.

Dave Morton put up a display of the First and the Second Provisional issue of the BSAC.

Adrian de Bourbon showed a mint copy of the emergency air letter (H&G 2) with the reference 51-5829.

Patrick Flanagan put up a magnificent set of copies of the 1931 proof material from Bradbury Wilkinson.

Mike Hill had a display of postmarks of Southern Rhodesia from the George VI period, and Keith Brodovcky showed examples of post office stationery from his extensive collection.

Tony Evans updated the meeting on the branch in KwaZulu-Natal and Plato Mavros - shown below brought news and greetings from Zimbabwe.

In all, an interesting and varied meeting.
A review of two Rhodesian collections and three auctions (Spink and Sotheby’s)

Stephen Reah-Johnson

Two major collections of BSAC material have come up this year at auction so far (September): the Pollitt collection (at Spink in two sales – Spring (May 5 and 6) and Summer (July 12 and 13) and the (Empire-wide) collection of Lord Steinberg (at Sotheby’s 6, 7 and 8 September); what do these tell us about the state of the philatelic market in general and trends within BSAC philately in particular? The two collections could not be more different in character: Lord Steinberg (a relative newcomer on the scene, going back perhaps ten years) was obviously in pursuit of gems in blocks of four or more (the top items in the colonial portion of the sale – an imprint block of the KG VI British Solomon Islands 2½d imperforate between sold for £60,000 and lot 1118 – a 1927 Newfoundland “de Pinedo” airmail overprint in a unique block of four sold for £168,000) whereas Dick Pollitt, a passionate student for fifty or sixty years or more, was focussed on what the material itself had to say, almost indifferent to condition. How did the world at large react?

First, it is singularly remarkable that a beautiful (and positional) block of 15 ½d’s – lot number 1268 in Steinberg in superb condition and a similar block of 24 (lot No. 1268 also in Steinberg) went unsold whilst there was war over all the grubby ½d blocks in Pollitt, with lot number 737 reaching £520 hammer (£450-£500 estimate) in competitive bidding. (All these stamps were sweated, worn, washed, grubby and deteriorated). What can account for this? In fact, all Pollitt ½d lots sold whilst 6 in 10 in Lord Steinberg’s didn’t. Looking at the latter, however, one ½d lot (No. 1277) went for £1,140, way beyond its estimate at £200-250. The reason? This was, (despite descriptions) the enigmatic Looker plate 4 (RJ L 11 or 12) as described in lot No. 1280. (There had been confusion here at Sotheby’s. The ½d guru himself was at the sale and must have sorted things out).

This was the only Double Head in the Lord Steinberg sale to realise over estimate. It is very strange that Sotheby lots 1275 and 1276 (imperf ½d blocks) did not sell – the only explanation can be that the estimates (of £20,000 to £22,000 and £15,000 to £18,000 respectively) were irrational. (It seems, by the way that the two blocks are different shades and possibly from different sheets in view of RJL’s article in the June 2011 RSCJ). Whilst still on the monocolours, why was there a war over Pollitt lots 741 and 742 (est. £300-400, and £200-300) which went for £650 and £500 respectively? In Steinberg, a 1d. block of 18 that was estimated for more (£450 - 500) but actually realised less, £468. It must be that there are a fair number of collectors today who are interested in studying their stamps and not just looking at them; nearly every single one of the punched hole file copies (87 lots out of 93) sold, usually within 40% of estimates. (The grubbiest end pieces were grouped together in lot 785 and estimated at £500-1,000, but realised £1,600. This was, I recall, Pollitt’s work book and meant to be used in conjunction with contact photos of the full file sheets, which were made by Robson Lowe in the 1970’s and distributed to eight major Double Head collectors at the time. Hopefully, the photos were included in the lot). These stamps – printer’s file copies – are almost totally devoid of aesthetic merit, many being faded and some worm eaten, but they are invaluable for plate study and were seminal in unravelling the mystery of the relationship between the plates. Two lots of the file copies went for enough beyond estimates to merit special mention; both were blocks of £1 RSC ‘G’. In sale 1, pos. 12-13-17-18 (lot 600) realised £800 as against estimates of £400 to £500. In sale 2, a pair – pos. 5 and 10 – went for £420 against estimates of £200 to £250.

In the second Pollitt sale there were many cases where stamps of good appearance, but defective, were gathered together and sold in group lots (e.g. lot 656 (2d), lot 661 (3d), lot 665 (4d), lot 674 (6d), lot 681 (1/-). These invariably realised over-estimate. The acme was lot number 730 estimate £500-1,000, which sold at £4,500. (This lot contained values to the £1 mint and used, neatly arranged in a stock book, most accompanied by notes on printings, flaws, etc. ... ideal for the student to study). It would have been interesting to offer these attractive, but less than perfect, items individually to see what sort of market there is in such things, as they could facilitate building a lovely-looking collection without drastic expense.

There were, as chance would have it, a handful of scarce or rare items in perfectly sound condition and these did rather well. In the Spring sale, highlights were lot No.
464 (vertical strip of four NG 5d’s) est. £800 -1,000 sold at £1,800; lot 527, a short gash 7/6d (S.G. 162), est. £1200-1,500, sold at £2,000; lot 549 6d. RSC ‘D’ imperf. 15 x 15 sold at its top estimate of £1,800; and a vertical pair of the 6d. roulette (est. £1,500-1,800) sold at £3,800. In the Summer sale, there was another short gash 7/6d. (This was described as RSC ‘G’;) which sold at £2,400, against estimate of £1,200-1,500. The rarity of some these exotic 7/6d’s is now finally being appreciated.

Apart from the Double Heads, there were two remarkable realisations in the Pollitt sale comprising material (other than Double Heads) from the Rhodesias; both old and new: lot 646 (estimate £200-300) sold for £1,300, and lot 787 (estimate £250-300) sold for £1,700 – undoubtedly theses collections contained some modern rarities.

As this article and the Spink catalogues are likely to be the main surviving accounts of the Pollitt collection, it must be added that there were other fine rarities when the collection was at its height in the 1980’s, but which were gradually sold off to help with living expenses, most notably a superb unmouted mint example of the 2/ - RSC ‘A’, a block of four of the 6d. roulette; an error of colour £1, and various other items.

Back to the Lord Steinberg sale, in the Double Heads almost all lots that sold with one exception and the remarkable ½d block mentioned above (lot No. 1277) were sold at or (more usually) below the lower estimate, around 80% of estimate or so. With the Admirals – some of the Admirals – it was a very different story, which reveals an increasingly sophisticated demand: lot 1395 – a rare die II 6d. printing was estimated £400-450, but sold at £840; likewise lot 1357 (3/- die II block) went for £910 (est. £450-500); lot 1400 a lovely (and scarce) Die. II £1 in a block of four was est. £1,500-1,800, but realised £2,640; lot 1405 (the still unlisted die IIIA 3d in a block of four) was est. £1,500-1,800 but sold for £3,600; lot 1407 a block of 20 die IIIB 6d, went for £1,800 but est. £400-450; and lot 1415 (a die IIIB £1 in block of four) sold at £2,880 against estimate of £1,000-1,200). In general the Admirals sold at or slightly above the higher estimates. There were, in this writer’s opinion, two great bargains in the sale; lot 1385 (Die. 1 6d, p.14 in a block) sold at £504 (est. £600-700) – this item in a block is possibly unique. The other is lot 1406 the 6d. Die II error in a block of nine, with eight with “normal” 6d. Die IIIB’s – a magnificent exhibition piece – sold at £3,120; just over the upper estimate £2,500-3,000.

Despite the disappearance of Lord Steinberg and Sir Gawain Baillie from the scene, and the apparent partial withdrawal of Lord Vestey, there are still unknown major players. The exceedingly rare Admiral imperf.- between pieces in the Baillie sale (lots 915, 923, 931, 933, 982 1011 and 1012) all sold at £10,000 or more and went to parts unknown. It is possible – all these being multiples - that Lord Steinberg was the under-bidder.

There has been a third sale this year that merits mention because of two items: the Harmer-Schau firm (from San Francisco) sold a newly-discovered mint 5d S.G 143a (lot No. 914) for $12,500, (which is £8,300 approximately), again something of a bargain; and lot No. 938 - a horizontal strip of 6 ½d Admirals imperf. vertically between (one of the two known) which sold at $4,299, or about £3,000. It was noted correctly that there was no example of the full strip in Sotheby’s sale of the R.M. Gibbs collection in 1988.

In summary, interest in the Double Heads continues apace and appears to be growing more analytical. The Admirals have awakened and are attracting sophisticated buyers; the limits of this movement are only beginning to be explored and there is much upward potential. The high end Double Heads seem to have stabilised and will probably hold their value but the days of dramatic yearly increases in value for them may be over, barring the odd new discovery.

Auction Supplement - Pollitt Sales: File Copy Corrigenda

For those who wish to use the catalogues of these sales for reference and those who may have obtained lots in those sales, it needs to be noted that there were various allocation errors which we aim to correct herewith:

Sale 1

- Lot No. 566 is S.G. 128, not RSC ‘D’.
- Lot 569 is S.G. 128 again; not ‘D’ and not from the TE plate. (In fact, the 2d RSC ‘D’ does not appear anywhere in the file copies).
- Lot No. 574 is the 3d S.G. 173a, TE; not RSC ‘G’ and not NG. (The 3d RSC ‘G’ does not appear in the file copies.)
- Lot No. 589 is the 1/- S.G. 152, MG; not RSC ‘E’, not TE. (There is no TE 1/- in the file copies).
- Lot No. 590 is the 1/- RSC ‘Fi’, NG I and printing 10, not 9. (There is no NG II 1/- and no “Vanishing heads” 1/- in the file copies).
- Lot No, 592 is printing 10, not 9. (2/- ‘C’)
- Lot No.612 in printing 10, not 9. (£1 ‘G’)

Sale 2

- Lot No. 750 and lot No. 751 are S.G. 128 and LG; not RSC ‘D’; not TE. (As noted above the 2d. RSC ‘D’ does not figure in the file copies and on Lot No. 751 we can see the LG. pos. 25 LKC flaw in the illustration on page 117).
- Lot No. 782 and 783 are correctly described but are also listed: S.G. 163.
- Lot No. 784 is printing 10, not 9. (£1 RSC ’G’).
eBay Watch

From time to time we have reviewed some of the major Rhodesian auctions in the Journal. In the same spirit we illustrate here some recent eBay sales. Some may find this selection interesting.

- ‘Bank of Africa’ postcard with Bulawayo postmark - £114
- Barred Diamond ‘D’ on 2/6 Double Head (SG 155a) - £395
- 1d Double Head with LUWINGU (DC) postmark - £144
- 1964 Northern Rhodesia Air Letter - £9.50
- Fiscal cancel on piece – SG 178 and 176 - £211
- Unused postcard, that looks like a variation of an E. Peters published card – ‘Landing Hippo, above Livingstone’ - £28
- Fiscal cancel on piece - £114
- £1 Perf 15 Double Head on piece (fiscal) - £167
- 1d Double Head with BATTLEFIELDS (SK) postmark - £47
- Rhodesia and Nyasaland 1959 Error in Cylinder Block - £410
Hargreaves and Fort Young

Alan Drysdall

Fort Young

The covers illustrated as Figures 1 and 2 are addressed to E.G. Parker, c/o the North Charterland Exporation Co., Mpeseni’s Country, British Central Africa. Mpeseni’s country was the area centred on Fort Jameson in the south-east of North-eastern Rhodesia. Fort Young, the administrative headquarters of the North Charterland Exploration Co., was south of Fort Jameson. The letters were posted a week apart on the 8th and 15th November, 1901. They were backstamped at Chinde on the 18th and 30th December and in Fort Jameson on the 20th and 30th January, 1902. (The year is inverted in the Chinde datestamps reading ‘10’ rather than ‘01’.) The transit times from the UK to Fort Jameson were therefore 73 and 76 days. There is unfortunately no Fort Young receiving mark.

Figure 1 A cover addressed to Fort Young in N.E. Rhodesia posted in Balham, London, on the 8th November, 1901, and forwarded via Chinde (‘DE18 / 10), ‘10’ for ‘01’, and Fort Jameson (20.12.1902)

There are no backstamps to prove how the letters were forwarded from the UK. They were, however, probably despatched via Cape Town and Durban, and the coastal route north from there, rather than the German East Africa Line service to Lourenço Marques via the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal. It is probably significant that both letters were posted only a day or two before a Union Castle sailing from Southampton, the Briton on the 9th November and the Dunottar Castle on the 18th. From Chinde they would have been forwarded through British Central Africa (later Nyasaland and now Malawi) and probably via Kota Kota on Lake Nyasa across the border to Fort Jameson. This was the normal route for mail from the UK addressed to North-eastern Rhodesia at this time (Drysdall, 2006; Drysdall and McCollough, 2011)

Figure 2 Another cover addressed to Fort Young posted in Balham, London, on the 15th November, 1901, and forwarded via Chinde (‘DE 30 / 10’), ‘10’ for ‘01’, and Fort Jameson (30.12.1902)
A daily Fort Jameson–Fort Young mail service is listed in the BSA Co.’s report to shareholders for the years 1898 to 1900 – the distance is quoted as 12 miles – but is not included in the mail routes listed in the report for 1900–02. (Fletcher Jones quotes the distance as 14 miles, Otto Beringer’s 1907 map published with Memoir 13 and Marshall Hole’s 1926 map show it to be approximately 16 miles.) Fort Young must have been a short-lived postal agency rather than a post office, with a North Charterland Exploration Co. employee acting as postmaster. The office did have a datestamp, but only one strike has ever been recorded.

The North Charterland Exploration Company

Although the BSA Co. regarded itself as the sole owner of the mineral rights over the entire area north of the Zambesi, this was disputed by Carl Wiese, who claimed that he had received concessions of land and mineral rights from, among others, Chief Mpeseni of the Angoni. Wiese had been negotiating with chiefs in the area north of Tete for some years, but when the international boundary was redefined as a result of the 1891 agreement between Britain and Portugal, the area in which he was interested was divided between the two colonial powers, the northern portion lying along and within the southern boundary of N.E. Rhodesia. The Mozambique Gold Land & Concession Co. was floated in London in 1893, with Wiese’s concessions as their chief asset. The British Government refused to recognise the concessions, apparently on the advice of Harry Johnston who regarded the Angoni, an offshoot of the Zulus who still indulged in the customs of their forefathers and regularly raided the neighbouring tribes, as invaders. However, to avoid a lengthy and costly legal dispute the BSA Co. agreed to grant the Mozambique Co. both land and minerals rights over an area of 10,000 sq. miles on condition that a new company was formed in which the BSA Co. had a substantial interest. The North Charterland Exploration Co. was registered on the 18th May, 1895, and immediately announced a reward of £10,000 for anyone discovering a new goldfield within its domain. (The mineral rights held by the North Charterland Exploration Co. did not include precious stones, oil and fossilised substances, i.e. coal and other fossil fuels; these rights were retained by the BSA Co.)

Bancroft and Guernsey (1961, p.54–5) describe subsequent events as follows:

In June 1896, an expedition of fifteen Europeans, led by R.G. Wharton, arrived to investigate mining and agricultural possibilities within the area [North Charterland]. Wharton assumed unwarranted powers of administration which caused friction not only with the British authorities and the British South Africa Company but also with Mpeseni and his Angoni warriors. (The uprising was led by Mpeseni’s eldest son Singu (or Nsingu) rather than Mpeseni himself.) In December, 1897, the Angoni had assumed such a threatening attitude that British troops with artillery left Nyasaland [BCA] for the centre of the disturbance. Fortunately, they arrived, on January 17, 1898, in time to disperse about 10,000 savages who had surrounded four prospectors [including Wiese] established in a post, then named Loangwena [Fort Young], about 50 miles west of Fort Jameson. Within three months the Angoni learned that their warriors were no match for white men with rifles and artillery.

The location of Fort Young with respect to Fort Jameson is apparently incorrect but may refer to an earlier temporary site of Fort Jameson.

Hargreaves

The cover illustrated as Figure 3 was almost certainly sent by E.G. Parker, the addressee of the covers shown as Figures 1 and 2 and is probably addressed to his mother. (The addressee could of course have been his wife, but in Edwardian times a woman usually used her husband’s initials.) The franking receipting payment of the 4d-per-half-ounce letter rate to the UK was cancelled with an incomplete strike in purple of an unframed three line handstamp in the form ‘Hargreaves, / N. E Rhodesia / Sep. – 25 - 01’. However, the strike is incomplete and the exact form of the datestamp and the date are to some extent speculative and based on other strikes (Figure 4). The date, however, accords with the date when the letter reached Fort Jameson, ‘2–SEP. 01’. According to the list of mail routes in the BSA Co.’s report to shareholders for 1900–02 the runners were allowed five days for the Petauke – Fort Jameson leg; an extra three days for the mail from Hargreaves would be more than adequate. However, we do not know if the mail left Hargreaves immediately after – or more likely, the morning after – this letter was posted, and neither is it known if the runners left Petauke the morning after the arrival of the mail from Hargreaves. If, as Chaplin reports (see below), Hargreaves was on the mail route between Petauke and Serenje this adds an additional complication as the mail for Fort Jameson would not be sent from Hargreaves before the mail from Serenje arrived.

A backstamp and the annotation on the face of the cover record that the letter was received on the 15th November, 1901. It could have been carried from Durban and Cape Town by the Carisbrook Castle, but that would only have been possible if mail was taken off the ship by tender before she docked on the 16th November.

Hargreaves was the most westerly of the trading posts of the North Charterland Exploration Co. Its location, close to the east bank of the ‘Loangwa’ River, west-southwest of Fort Jameson, where the route west from Fort Jameson crossed the Luangwa River, is shown on the map in the BSA Co’s Report to Shareholders for the years 1900–1902.
(Drys dall, 2011). Selby’s and Marshall Hole’s maps show “Hargreaves (Chutika)” about 20 miles west of the original site of Petauke, and again close to the east bank of the Luangwa (Selby, 1902; Marshall Hole, 1926). Wright’s map shows Hargreaves (Chutika) in the same position (Wright, 2001, Map 1). Chaplin describes the site in an account of the old forts of the Eastern Province (Chaplin, 1961, p. 467). 

A fort was established by the North Charterland Exploration Company at Katipa, being close to the confluence of the Mvuvye River with the Luangwa. The site had been that of a village of the Chikunda chief Chutika. The name of Fort Hargreaves was derived from a director of the Company. The post was still in existence in 1902 and a cart-road existed from the [Old] Petauke Boma, the distance being given in an early district notebook as twenty-two miles, one furlong, six chains.

Lane-Poole (1952, p. 72) records that:

The boma at Petauke was built about 1901, by, I believe Jimmy Nisbet... The site was chosen principally because the Petauke stream, which meanders in its tortuous course to the Luangwa (the verb Kupeta means to wind, or to bend), alone in the district flowed with water throughout the year. The site was also convenient, because it was midway between the Sasare Mine and Fort Hargreaves, the only places occupied by Europeans, and on the route from Broken Hill to Fort Jameson, along which, every week, some thirty mailmen carried a 40 lb. load of parcels at the pace of thirty miles a day for a wage of four shillings a month.

Lane-Poole was wrong to imply that the Broken Hill – Fort Jameson route was important in 1901. There was then no such route, and it only became important in 1906, from which date most of N.E. Rhodesia’s mail was forwarded and received from Broken Hill. (The railhead reached Broken Hill in January 1906.)

The site was first occupied by Henry Scott Thorneycroft – after whom the subspecies of giraffe of the Luangwa Valley is named – before the turn of the century (Chaplin, 1961, p. 467). Chirupula Stephenson recorded that the first letter he received after he had begun building his boma at Mkushi River was brought by a runner sent by Thorneycroft, whom he described as the North Charterland agent at Fort Hargreaves (Stephenson, 1937, p. 121). It is evident from the Fletcher Jones correspondence that Hargreaves had a datestamp that was on at least three occasions struck as a transit mark on incoming mail (see Memoirs 6 and 13), and was of the same type as one then in use at Petauke. Both datestamps could well have been made up with rubber type from a ‘John Bull’ printing kit. Of the three previously known strikes of the Hargreaves datestamp, the date is decipherable in two as ‘July - 1 - 01’; the clearest example is illustrated as Figure 4. (The third strike is dated June or July 1901.) Hargreaves must have been a post office, probably only open for a short time c1899–1902, and with an agent – Thorneycroft – rather than a BSA Co. employee acting as postmaster.

E.G. Parker

E.G. Parker remains something of a mystery. He is likely to have been an employee of the North Charterland
Exploration Co., but he is not listed by Sampson as in Northern Rhodesia at the turn of the century.

Acknowledgement

I am indebted to Spinks and to David Parsons in particular for the scans on which this article is based.

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The researches of the late Arthur Pratt

Christopher J. Cooksey

Arthur Pratt died in 2006; his obituary appeared in the December 2006 Journal of the RSC (no. 221). This concluded with the statement “It is hoped that his writings will be made available to the Study Circle”. Almost five years have elapsed and his work has laid hidden on a large collection of about 100 3.5inch computer discs, written in a format that no-one could apparently access. Far from being a computer “wiz kid”, I felt that my rather basic knowledge and the availability of some fairly old computers and software might do the trick and thus offered to attempt to salvage Arthur’s work. It quickly became apparent that Arthur had worked in the “Dark Ages” as far as computers were concerned but on searching for possible solutions on the Internet, I discovered a company in the USA which could apparently convert any disc into a more modern format. A sample batch was loaded into their on-line program and within a couple of minutes I received back (at modest cost) the files in Word 2007 format. The files only needed a small amount of work to make them presentable. Funding was then obtained from the RSC for a full scale project. The only problem then was deciding which discs to convert and which was the most recent version as each file had several backup versions.

It had been Arthur’s intention to produce an Airmail section of the RSC Handbook. The project has now been completed to the extent that a CD of his work has been produced. Aerophilatelic specialists may in the future decide to use the contents of the disc to produce one or more Memoirs on the subject but meanwhile the disc is offered to Members at the price of £10 including UK postage or £12 for worldwide airmail. (See enclosed Flyer). The disc contains 442 pages of text and illustrations of 45 First Flight covers.

An outline of the contents of the disc is given below.

Northern Rhodesia Air Mail Rates 1931-50. A very comprehensive listing of rates for letters, postcards and aerogrammes arranged chronologically by destination continent (There are a few surprises regarding the continent in which certain countries have been placed). Although the title indicates rates to 1950, the data only extended to 1940. Apparently part of Arthur’s unfinished work. It was decided to extend Arthur’s work as he intended and therefore Postal Notices published in The Northern Rhodesia Government Gazette up to 1950 (available on advance order from the British Library) have been consulted. In order to differentiate Arthur’s work from mine, my additions have been made in green. There is little consistency in the countries included in each Postal Notice and it must be assumed that an omission does not indicate that the rate remained unchanged. The huge range of rates in the early war years are amazing and far more extensive than previously published in the Journal. Some Postal Notices repeat the existing rates for certain countries; the text follows this practice. The rates, post 1945,
are not as extensive and it is likely that others existed, perhaps published in Post Office Guides. (21 pages).

**Southern Rhodesia Air Mail Rates 1931-50.** A similar detailed listing as for N. Rhodesia The effective date and relative Postal Notice (or other source) are quoted in all instances. It was decided to check the rates between 1939 and 1950 from Postal Notices; a few additions have been made in green. (24 pages).

**Southern Rhodesia Air Mail Rates 1965-73.** Full details from “Post and Telegraph Regulations 1965” and details of subsequent amendments extracted from Rhodesian Government Notices. (14 pages).

**Federation Rates October 1959.** There was a gap in Arthur’s extracted rates between 1951 and 1964; as a Post Office Guide for 1959 was available it was decided to include the relative pages for postage rates. (2 pages).

**Southern Rhodesia Air Mail Routes and Timetables.** This is written as Section X of the RSC Handbook (with an Index of both Route Numbers and Places). The United Kingdom South Africa route to 1938 is covered in great detail in addition to details of other African routes in operation to 1938. After 1938 details are broken down into 11 different routes. Arrival and departure times for each transit airport are given and where known the relative Postal Notice. (83 pages).

**Postal Notices.** Transcriptions of all Postal Notices, Post Office Circulars, Departmental Circulars, Notices issued to Staff at the Bulawayo Post Office and other Notices relating to S. Rhodesia used in compiling the above. This file starts with a listing of all Postal Notices that Arthur consulted between 1932 and 1950 with an indication of those relating to Airmail Rates. This listing is presented as it would be in Appendix 1 to Section X of the Handbook. Postal Notices for Northern Rhodesia referred to in paragraph 1 above are not included. (61 pages).

**Nyasaland Air Mail Service.** This section is handled in a different manner to the Rhodesias. There are paragraphs on a large number of the 1934 First Regular Air Mail Services to a variety of destinations. The number of items carried is often given as are details of transit marks applied to known covers. The relevant postal rate is often but not always quoted. This section does not cover any subsequent Nyasaland First Flights. (8 pages).

**The AeroField 1937-83.** Extracts from the AreoField relating to information published on the Rhodesias and other African flight information. “Offers for Sale” of Rhodesian Flight covers are included. (127 pages).

**Arthur’s Collection.** A detailed listing of all (?) the airmail covers in Arthur’s collection to 1994. The list includes incoming flights and the detail includes sender, date, origin, destination, transit marks and franking details. Outgoing flights are arranged by departure airport. (28 pages).

**Aerophilatelic Literature.** Arthur’s very detailed listing of all Airmail Literature which he had intended to have included in the handbook. (74 pages). Rhodesian Flight covers are included. (127 pages).

**Arthur’s Collection.** A detailed listing of all (?) the airmail covers in Arthur’s collection to 1994. The list includes incoming flights and the detail includes sender, date, origin, destination, transit marks and franking details. Outgoing flights are arranged by departure airport. (28 pages).

**Aerophilatelic Literature.** Arthur’s very detailed listing of all Airmail Literature which he had intended to have included in the handbook. (74 pages).

**Cover Illustrations.** It was decided to add a little colour to the contents of the disc and illustrations of a range of First Flight covers, many from Arthur’s collection with a few additions are included. These illustrations are from the collections of Keith Harrop and Christopher Cooksey. (45 covers).
CIGARETTE SURTAX 1937-1953 AND
THE ‘EXCISE’ OVERPRINTS

Adrian de Bourbon

The first report of the ‘Excise’ overprint on three values of the King George VI definitive issue was from information given by HA Saunders FRPS(L) in RSCJ 3/5 of December 1948. These overprints formed the basis of two articles by George Stewart in 2008 in RSCJ 226/27-30 and 228/105-107. The issue I raise is whether these were official overprints or simply an internal accounting matter within one or more cigarette manufacturers or perhaps retailers, similar to the perfins of Umtali Municipality, Haddon & Sly and Lennon Limited.

The surtax

I start at 1937 because in that year the Customs and Excise Tariff Act 1937 replaced all pre-existing legislation on the issue of customs and excise duties. The imposition of duties and surtax on cigarettes went back many years, but that legislation is not relevant to the present matter. The new Act came into force on 18 May 1937.

In 1937 there were two types of fiscal measures relevant to cigarettes. In terms of the Second Schedule to the Customs and Excise Tariff Act 1937 an excise duty was imposed on cigarettes manufactured in Southern Rhodesia. In 1937 the rate for such duty was set at 6d per pound. In terms of section 14 of the Act the rate of customs duty on imported cigarettes was the same rate as the excise duty stipulated in the Second Schedule.

The second measure was a surtax on cigarettes specified in the then Fourth Schedule of the Customs and Excise Tariff Act 1937 – it became the Third Schedule in the 1939 Revised Edition of the Statutes, and the Act became the Customs and Excise Tariff Act [Chapter 127].

This Schedule was amended or repealed and substituted in 1938, 1940, 1942, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1952, on each occasion as a result of fiscal measures announced by the Minister of Finance in the Budget Speech for that year. During the Federal period the responsibility for collecting the duties and surtax fell on the Federal Government, and so does not need to be discussed here. The amendments to the surtax between 1937 and 1952 can be summarised in the following tables:

A. Surtax on low cost cigarettes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On all cigarettes manufactured in the Colony or imported into the Colony and delivered for consumption</th>
<th>1937</th>
<th>1938</th>
<th>1946</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In packets, irrespective of weight, retailing for not more than 1d, per packet</td>
<td>¼d</td>
<td>¾d</td>
<td>⅛d</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1950 the base price figure was increased to 2d and the surtax to ¾d per packet.

B. Surtax on other cigarettes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On all cigarettes manufactured in Southern Rhodesia or imported into Southern Rhodesia and delivered for consumption</th>
<th>1937</th>
<th>1940</th>
<th>1942</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In packets or containers, for every half-ounce net weight or fraction thereof</td>
<td>1d</td>
<td>1½d</td>
<td>2d</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On all cigarettes manufactured in the Colony or imported into the Colony and delivered for consumption</th>
<th>1945</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes weighing not more than 2½lbs per thousand, in packets of tens or twenties, for every 10 cigarettes</td>
<td>2d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes weighing not more than 2½lbs per thousand, in packets of fifties, for every 50 cigarettes</td>
<td>8d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes weighing more than 2½lbs but not more than 3lb 2oz per thousand, for every 10 cigarettes</td>
<td>2d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes weighing more than 3lb 2oz per thousand, for every 10 cigarettes</td>
<td>4d</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C. Surtax on tobacco:

In 1950 a surtax was introduced on tobacco, which is mentioned here for the sake of completeness and could be relevant to the recently offered ‘Tobacco Tax’ stamps, see RSCJ 238/24.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On all cigarettes manufactured in the Colony or imported into the Colony and delivered for consumption</th>
<th>1947</th>
<th>1948</th>
<th>1949</th>
<th>1950</th>
<th>1952</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes weighing not more than 3lb 2oz per thousand, for every 10 cigarettes</td>
<td>2d</td>
<td>3d</td>
<td>5d</td>
<td>3d</td>
<td>3d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes weighing more than 3lb 2oz per thousand cigarettes, for every 10 cigarettes</td>
<td>4d</td>
<td>6d</td>
<td>9d</td>
<td>6d</td>
<td>6d</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Regulations

In the Government Gazette of 2 June 1939, the Customs and Excise Regulations 1939 were published in General Notice 228 of 1939. Section 102 of the Regulations required the surtax on cigarettes to be paid by means of stamps affixed by paste, glue or gum to the container of the cigarettes in such a manner as would necessitate the destruction of the stamp when the container was opened. In terms of section 106 the stamps required to be fixed to the containers on cigarettes could be purchased at any Customs house.

These Regulations were repealed and replaced by General Notice 127 of 1949 on 18 February 1949, without any change to the substance of what is set out above. These provisions of the 1939 Regulations were repealed by the Tobacco Excise and Surtax Management Regulations 1950, published in the Government Gazette of 19 April 1950 (being Budget day) in General Notice 387 of 1950. The significant change made in the new Regulations was that instead of referring to the use of ‘stamps’, the terminology used became ‘stamp label’. These stamp labels were to be purchased at any Customs house.

In the same issue of the Government Gazette, in General Notice 385 of 1950, notice was given that the difference between the surtax in force prior to 19 April 1950 and that which came into force on 19 April 1950 was to be refunded in cash at any Customs house.

The labels

Labels marked with the words ‘CIGARETTE TAX’ had been used throughout the BSAC period and in Southern Rhodesia. A total of 14 different labels for the Southern Rhodesia period are now recorded, ranging in value from ½d to 1s3d. These are (with thanks to Otto Peetoom):

| ½d | brown |
| ¾d | dull blue |
| 1d | green |
| 2d | pink (or perhaps red) |
| 4d | orange |
| 5d | light blue |
| 5d | ultramarine |
| 6d | orange |
| 6d | grey (or grey-brown) |
| 6¼d | red |
| 7½d | blue |
| 8d | green |
| 10d | brown |
| 1s3d | pale brown |
In addition, there are two known specimen labels of Southern Rhodesia, marked ‘CANCELLED’ in black, bearing the value of 1/10d, printed in mauve or vermillion. These bore the inscription ‘CIGARETTE SURTAX DUTY’. They were probably printed in response to the change of surtax on low cost cigarettes in 1946, but there is no evidence of their usage.

The labels used later during the period of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland also bore the inscription ‘CIGARETTE SURTAX DUTY’.

Although the labels in Southern Rhodesia bore the inscription ‘CIGARETTE TAX’, the labels were applicable to the surtax, rather than to either custom duty or excise duty. This is clear not only from the Regulations mentioned above, but also from the two letters of 1940 quoted by George Stewart at RSCJ 226/28 which both concerned cigarette surtax stamps – as they were then called, later to be termed stamp labels. The labels had no relevance to customs duty which would have been paid on entry into Southern Rhodesia, nor to excise duty which was paid separately at the point of manufacture.

The stamps

George Stewart identifies (RSCJ 228/107) four different values of the then current definitive set that have been seen with some form of overprint. These are the ½d, 1d and 4d of the George VI definitive set of November 1937 and the 2d Large Falls (Postage and Revenue) first introduced in 1935. He identifies the use of a number of rubber stamps, some with the word ‘EXCISE’ in capital letters, others with a capital ‘E’ in either a circle or a square, as being the form of the overprint. The size of the lettering of the word ‘EXCISE’ varies. He identifies the letter ‘E’ reversed within a square, but that could be because the stamping was done upside down. Finally, the overprinting was done in either violet or red ink. All the overprints were done with the use of a rubber stamp; no examples are known where the overprint was actually printed onto the stamp.

George Stewart illustrates a block of 18 of the 1d value overprinted in violet provided to him by David Crocker. The block clearly shows an element of laziness in the stamping. The rubberstamp was inked and then used until the word could hardly be seen, and then inked again and used. An examination of various samples shows an inconsistent standard of inking on the overprints.

Background

In his RSCJ 228/106 article George Stewart quotes the information from Mr Saunders set out at RSCJ 3/5 that ‘in the
Rhodesian Budget of 1942, a tax was imposed on cigarettes and vendors had to affix a ½d stamp to a packet of ten and a 1d stamp to a packet of twenty. Mr Saunders also stated that in 1947 the tax was increased and the 2d ‘Large Falls’ stamps were overprinted.

I do not think this information should be taken as being correct.

Firstly, this was not a new tax in 1942, merely an increase in the existing duties and surtax. Secondly, no mention is made of packets of 50 cigarettes, the most popular packets, which are mentioned in The Rhodesia Herald article quoted by George Stewart as being increased in cost by a total of 3d per box; this increase related to both duties and surtax. Thirdly, no mention is made of the manufacturers, who had the primary obligation to place stamps on packets of cigarettes. Fourthly, no mention is made of the changes in 1945, which in fact were more significant than those of 1942 because the basis of the surtax became the number of cigarettes in different sizes of packets, not their weight. In 1947 there was simply a rationalisation of the 1945 changes.

Nor do I agree that the 1942 budget ‘was a shocker’, (RSCJ 228/105), certainly not in the context of the surtax on cigarettes.

In his Budget Speech on 28 April 1942, Max Danziger, the Minister of Finance, announced an increase in the excise duty on cigarettes as well as an increase in the surtax from 1½d to 2d for every one-half ounce. The excise duty on tobacco in cigarettes was increased from 6d per pound to 1s per pound. The increase in excise duty was brought into effect immediately, but the Minister stated that in order to allow manufacturers and retailers time ‘to affix the new stamps’ to the packets of cigarettes in stock, the increased surtax would only take effect on 5 May 1942. To give statutory effect to this, General Notice 227 of 1942 was published on 1 May 1942, and the increase was subsequently confirmed by the Customs and Excise Tariff Amendment Act 1942 (Act 5 of 1942). But the Minister did not explain what he meant by ‘the new stamps’. The obligation to show the surtax by a ‘stamp’ did not fall solely on vendors, but on the manufacturers primarily, and on vendors for existing unsold stocks only.

As a generalisation, a packet of 10 cigarettes weighed less than ½ an ounce, a packet of 20 between a ½ and 1 ounce, and a packet of 50 would be 2 ounces. Packets of 30 only came on the market at a much later date. So the increased surtax on 5 May 1942 on the various packets would have been ½d, 1d and 2d respectively. So far as a packet of 50 cigarettes was priced, the total 8d surtax per packet was confirmed by the changes in 1945.

In the Budget Speech of 29 April 1947, Edgar Whitehead, the then Minister of Finance, reported to the Legislative Assembly the acceptance by the Government of the White Paper proposal to rationalise surtax on cigarettes, and change the basis of the surtax to a charge of 2d per 10 cigarettes, thus making the surtax on a packet of 50 (the most popular packet at the time) 10d rather than 8d as it had been under the previous system. This increase was confirmed by the Customs and Excise Amendment Act 1947 (Act 9 of 1947). Edgar Whitehead made no mention of stamps in his Budget Speech.

When the surtax was decreased as announced in the Budget of April 1950, the Governor suspended the existing surtax to the extent of 2d for every 10 cigarettes which weighed less than 3lb 2oz per thousand and 3d where the cigarettes weighed more, see General Notice 386 of 1950 dated 19 April 1950, to enable time for the new legislation to be passed. As set out above the difference was refundable in cash, no doubt with a requirement of proof of payment of the higher surtax.

The issue

The stamps which were overprinted were all valid for both postage and revenue purposes. Therefore, there was no need for an overprint to use such a stamp to represent a shortage in any revenue duty.

Mewett: Rhodesia/Nyasaland Fiscals 1892-1980 gives no date for the issue or use of the overprints. Barefoot: British Commonwealth Revenues (2008 edition) gives the unhelpful date of ‘c1937’. Barefoot states that these ‘may have been an administrative control precancel, for stamps required for general fiscal use by the Excise Dept, rather than a specific appropriation for a particular type of tax’. The source of that comment is not given. No other use of the overprinted stamps has been suggested other than the surtax on cigarettes.

The only dates which can be given with any certainty are 21 November 1942 and 6 December 1942, being the dates the overprinted stamps are known postally used from Cranborne post office, see RSCJ 228/106. It would be interesting to find out if there were any cigarette manufacturers or large suppliers who used Cranborne Post Office as their normal place of posting. Of course, these two postings were six to seven months after it is claimed the stamps were produced to pay the new surtax.
The payment was in respect of a surtax not excise duty. These two fiscal measures fell under different accounts as is clearly stated in the two Budget Speeches mentioned. The method of collection was different. As the point of sale of the surtax stamps or labels was the various Customs houses in Southern Rhodesia that distinction would have been well-known. There can be little doubt that the sale of ‘stamps’ for use on cigarette packets was accounted for separately as a surtax to monies received for custom or excise duty.

Whether done during the war in 1942 or after the war in 1947, the standard of the overprint fell far short of what could be expected from an official overprint. Furthermore, the use of at least four if not more rubberstamps to effect the overprint would not constitute good practice within the civil service. Most importantly, in my view it is extremely unlikely that the Department of Customs would have rubber stamps with simply the letter ‘E’ in a circle or square for use for official purposes. Certainly the suggestion by George Stewart (RSCJ 228/106) that the use of the letter ‘E’ was to stop people defrauding the system seems improbable.

It should also be borne in mind that changes to the rate of the surtax between 1937 and 1952 were almost an annual occurrence. It was not something peculiar to 1942 or 1947. If the administrative procedure to deal with each such increase was to use special stamps sold only from Customs houses, there can be little doubt that a more efficient and accountable system would have been put in place for that purpose than overprinted stamps bearing the word or connotation ‘excise’. The simplest available system was the use of the current ‘postage and revenue’ stamps available from the Post Offices. Although that would distort the revenue account for the collection of the surtax, it was a far more convenient and practical system than a hand stamped overprint on the very same stamps which would have had to be purchased by the Department of Customs from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, and then distributed to, sold by and accounted for at each Customs house.

I have examined the Government Gazettes for the relevant periods and can find no mention of the overprinting of the stamps to meet the shortfall in the surtax. The only mention of ‘new stamps’ is in the Budget Speech of 28 April 1942. But of course these were not new stamps, but – at best - merely existing stamps being overprinted.

In my view it can be accepted that the Government of Southern Rhodesia was thorough in publishing in the Government Gazette its official actions. In particular, almost every edition of the Gazette contained notices from the Department of Customs and frequently contained Postal Notices. The fact that in April 1950 specific notice was given as to how a refund of surtax was to be made is indicative of this administrative efficiency. The absence of any official notice of the overstamping to pay any increase in surtax is a strong indicator that such overstamping was not an official act of the Government.

There does not appear to be any official statement or correspondence concerning the overprinting of the four stamps. This is highly unusual if the matter was dealt with officially within at least two Government departments. Although I have not had access to the National Archives of Zimbabwe, it is fair to infer from the statement by George Stewart (RSCJ 226/27) that ‘(t)wo documents have come to light in the National Archives’ that there are in fact no other documents in the National Archives on the subject. If the overstamping was an official exercise, there would be official requisitions from Customs to the Post Office for stamps, and that could well have been mentioned in reports by either the Treasury or the Postmaster General. In addition, there might well have been official orders for rubber stamps for each of the Customs houses (perhaps as many as eight at the time). There is no evidence of which I am aware of the use by Customs of a rubber stamp with the word ‘EXCISE’ or the letter ‘E’ for any official purposes.

Next, there are the practical considerations. It was the duty of the manufacturers of cigarettes to fix the label on each packet denoting the surtax as part of the packaging process. The manufacturer would usually have access to a Customs house to purchase the necessary stamps or labels. On the other hand, a retailer in Que Que or Odzi would find access to a Customs house extremely difficult if he had to buy in the one week ‘window’ specially prepared overprinted stamps before he could sell any of his existing stock of cigarettes following the Budget speech. From a practical point of view he would either use any existing stocks of stamps (whether kept for receipt purposes as suggested by George Stewart or otherwise) or buy the necessary stamps from his local post office. Particularly during the War it would have been impractical to handle the matter in any other way. So the use of multiples of stamps on any one packet would be unlikely to have been done other than for souvenir or collecting purposes.

Conclusion

There can be no doubt that the overprinting is of the nature of a precancel, just as the perfins done by commercial companies were precancels. But there is no evidence whatsoever that the precanceling was done as an official act. Equally it has to be conceded that there are sufficient examples to accept that the overprinted stamps were in fact primarily used on cigarette packets to pay the increases in surtax. I have yet to see the use of the stamps for that
purpose without the overprint. Stamps had to be placed on the packets of cigarettes in such a manner as to ensure their destruction when the packets were opened, so examples of proper use will be few and far between. Stamps simply stuck on a packet and not destroyed on opening take this debate nowhere.

All these factors lead me to doubt that the overprints for excise purposes on the four definitive stamps were done officially or on behalf of the Government. In my view everything points to the overprinting being done within a private organisation (probably one or more manufacturers or large vendors of cigarettes) for internal accounting purposes. The overprinted stamps were undoubtedly used on packets of cigarettes to indicate payment of the surtax, but the ‘official payment’ was the stamp itself - valid for revenue purposes - and not the overprint.

Indeed, George Stewart hints at this conclusion in his first article, RSCJ 226/29, when he states that ‘these are the only known commercial overprints made from the 1937 definitive issue’ (my emphasis).

Therefore, the question has to be posed ‘Should these overprints be recognised as separate and official revenue stamps of Southern Rhodesia?’ In my view, the answer must be no. I believe that the stamps bearing the overprint should not be regarded as separate official revenue stamps of Southern Rhodesia, and should be expunged from the revenue catalogues.

**ADS REGISTRATION LABELS**

*Part 3*

A study by Geoff Breakspear

In 1982 new type of ADS label was introduced by the Union Avenue post office, these labels, in addition to, the registration number had a date. The only other post office with dated labels was Harare. The registration number continued in a five digit format, but where the number is less than 9999 an asterisk is shown for the first digit. Like the normal label a ‘0’ is used for numbers less than 999. In addition there were three units before the decimal point in the value on the label, all other labels had two. The format of the date is a two digit day with a hyphen if within the first nine days of the month; the month is shown with two letters; and the year is two digits but is shown vertically.

![Example of the date line of the dated label (enlarged)](image)

Where could the change come from? It is probably best to go back to the receipt section of the registration form P61, on this form is the printed receipt handed to the customer, on this is the date as shown above. Here is an example:

![Example of a receipt, with number enlarged.](image)

This tied example clearly shows that registered article 10820 from Harare post office, shows the dated label, with the usual print out on a label now shown on the receipt. The probable reason for having the dated print out on the receipt was so that the postal clerk did not have to postmark it, which has had to happen on the above receipt.

The last element of the dated label print out is the part in the far right hand side. In all receipts seen where the date is printed there is an “XF”, which probably indicated that this was the receipted section. On the dated ADS labels there is either an “ST” or an asterisk “*”, the “ST” is only seen on labels that had a value, whilst those reading...
00.00 value there was an asterisk.

The earliest use of the dated label at Union Avenue post office is recorded for 29th April 1982. The label shows the original post office name with the excised country name and counter number. Only two covers with this type of dated label is within the research material and three separate labels. These labels are dated for April, July and August 1982.

As mentioned above Union Avenue changed the format of the label with the post office and country names centred. This change appeared to start in October 1982, and continued to the last recorded date in July 1986. This is the commonest label for Union Avenue post office, although it is not prolific.

Harare

In 1988 similar dated labels started to appear from Harare post office, with the first reported dated 29th July 1988. The use of the dated labels continued for about 18 months with the last recorded date 11 January 1990. As discussed above it is probable that the dated labels came from one of the Harare ADS machines, with the other producing the regular label. Both machines appear to have been taken out of service in early 1990. There are however two queried labels. The first had a date of 2nd October 1986, which is about 2 years before any other recorded label. However if the ‘6’ was inverted, the label would read 2nd October 1989, which would also tie in with the registration number sequencing.

The second unusual label has no date, but it could be that only the A of April or August was printed without the year. But what is also odd about the label is that on the far right side is the letter “TL”, which has not been seen on any other dated label.

Harare typical

Harare dated

Harare unexplained

Papers

In colour the papers used vary in shade from white to cream, it is only under the UV lamp that one can see the whiter papers are fluorescent. However no particular period has emerged as to when the fluorescent paper was used, both paper types appear to have used throughout the period that ADS labels were used.

Most labels are about 50 mm wide, varying between 49 and 51 mm. However from time to time a wider paper is found measuring 58 mm. Again there is no consistency with the use of this wider paper. It was noted however that the wider paper was better for the dated labels as it was able to have the whole bottom line printed on it, where the typical sized appear often lost the end lettering. I can only speculate how this happened, but suggest that the rolls of gummed paper came from a larger roll that was cut up. The rolls were probably slightly wider than a precise 50 mm multiple, leaving the last smaller roll some 8mm wider. This could explain why the wider label regularly appears throughout the period of use.

Inks

The inks vary in colour from black to violet with many colours between. I suggest that the inks used were the same as could be purchased for ink pads used in the rubberstamp cachets. Like the stamp pads the inks were used up and from time to time the pads replenished. This
can certainly be seen in the grouping of large numbers of labels, where the impression goes from been very clear to over-inked down to almost illegible before being re-inked.

**Use of stamps and labels**

In the article written by A E J Smith for Magnify is clearly stated that “Part payment of stamps on a registered item, plus adhesive machine slip for an amount, is not acceptable.” This policy appears to have been largely carried out. Only one example of a cover has come to light where there has been a postage stamp (in this case a Frama label) and an amount on the ADS label with a value. In this case it would appear that the postage was paid with the Frama label and the registration fee on the ADS label.

In addition, I have found one label that does not appear to tie in with the cost of registered post, being the postage fee plus the registration fee. This is a label from Harare with a value of $1.10, which is the registration fee for the period from 27 March 1987 to 28 March 1991 for an article of between 20 and 100 grams. With this weight the full charge should have been $1.20, $1.30 or $1.40. I can only speculate that the postage was paid in stamps to the value of 10c, 20c or 30c.

One other cover posted to Jersey - shown below right - has also been found which bears stamps and a value on the ADS label. But the cover is not all it appears. The stamps appear to have been applied after the cover was postmarked with the registration label having a value of $1.15, to this was added 4 x 5c 1985 definitive stamps. I suggest that this cover was probably posted on 28 July 1987, in which event the correct postage with registration fee for up to 10 grams was 35c postage plus $1.00 registration fee. It is possible that the postal clerk realised that the registration label was underpaid, and then charged the additional 20c with stamps, and the stamps cancelled.

**Conclusion**

With the amount of material available to me, I think this is about as comprehensive a study as one can get on this subject. If anyone wishes to study the subject further I more than happy to loan the material and analysis to them.

**Acknowledgements**

- Peter O’Keefe who collated information following appeals in the RSC Journal in 1996.
- Cecil Russell, Geoff Walters and Dave Trathen for use of their material in illustrating some of the aspects of this subject
- People who supplied information to Peter O’Keefe and myself, including Derrick Byrom, Eryl Worton, R G Myers, Keith Harrop, Keith Hanman, Hall Hoyte, George Stewart, Syd Chick, Shirley Pollard, Bernd Aberer, Bek Petersen, Tom Casey, Roy Orrin, Nehendhra Morar and Jefferson Ritson
- David Sutherland, owner of Commercial Careers College, for retaining so much philatelic material for local study

**References**

1. Letter written by the Chief Philatelic Officer, A.E.J. Smith, contained in Magnify, July 1974
2. Long article found at www.answers.com/topics/anker-bv on Anker Data Systems
4. Flyer produced by the PTC in early 1974 to advise customers of upcoming changes. The flyer was double sided with the same information in the English version with either Shona or Ndebele on the reverse.
5. RSC Journal No 177 (March 1996) page 21 and 179 (September 1996) page 113

{This concludes the publication of this study.}
Some early B.C.A and B.S.A.C. connections and a tale of Cloete and Blenkiron

Paul Peggie and John Shawley

A recent visit to Ebay and some reading and internet research has brought to light some interesting postal history (including two ‘proving’ covers) which once again highlight links between the B.C.A. Administration and the BSAC. From 1891 until 1894, the B.S.A.C. paid a subsidy to the BCA to assist with law and order in areas north of the Zambesi. An agreement between the B.S.A.C. and the British Foreign Office, signed by Rhodes in November, 1894, gave the B.S.A.C. full responsibility for the country west of the B.C.A. Protectorate not later than 30 June, 1895. Thus this effectively ended BCA administration in Northern Rhodesia and also B.S.A.C. subsidies to the B.C.A.

The postal stationery card above comes from J. E. Blenkiron, a B.C.A. official, and is addressed to S. V. Cloete c/o the BSAC in Cape Town. The card is cancelled with a barred oval numeral 863 for Zomba with an indistinct datestamp (ZOMBA B.C.A. DE 6), transit cancels at BLANTYRE DE 8/ 94, TSHINDE DE 19/ 94 and travelling by the Aberdeen line or Union line ship via DURBAN DE 28/ 94 to arrive in CAPE TOWN 2 JA 95.

Blenkiron is listed as a Mining Engineer in the B.C.A. (from the Durham Mining Museum records) and is shown in the photograph right from the Society of Malawi. The caption to the photograph reads: Afternoon tea at the old Residency. Left to right: R.C.F. Greville (afterwards Maugham), Acting Secretary to the Administration, H.C. MacDonald, J.E. Blenkiron, S. Fletcher, F.O. Bowhill, and unidentified passing guest. These together with H. Woodward, Storekeeper, W. Mallock, Postmaster, J. MacClounie, Gardener and Naturalist, comprised the entire European population of Zomba at the end of 1894, together with, of course, (sir) Alfred Sharpe who was acting as H.M. Commissioner and Consul General.

Cloete was an inspector with the B.S.A.C. audit department and sometime Magistrate at Somerset West in the Cape. He came from the Cloete family who at one time owned the historic farms of Groot Constantia and Kirstenbosch.

This card complements two other items of postal history in our collections. Firstly – shown below – a cheque stamp cover addressed to Blenkiron in Zomba (Store View Cottage) from Fort Johnston JY 21/ 98.

Secondly, and shown over, another card to Cloete in the Cape, this time from PORT HERALD SP 20/ 94 and a barred oval numeral ‘852’ (Port Herald), with a DURBAN transit cancel of OC 19/ 94 and a CAPE TOWN arrival cancel of OC 23/ 94.
A well-travelled cover

Alan Drysdall

Auctioneers have a limited vocabulary and any cover with more than the usual number of datestamps, which has usually been re-addressed, is likely to be described as ‘well-travelled’. Illustrated, courtesy of Bill O’Connell, is an exceptional example by any standard. Moreover as it was originally addressed to ‘North E. Rhodesia’ and was forwarded to or via at least five offices in the Belgian Congo it qualifies, admittedly as a very unusual example, of cross-border mail.

The letter was sent as printed matter in an unsealed envelope headed ‘Drucksache’ (printed matter) addressed to Molilo in ‘North E. Rhodesia’. (N.E. Rhodesia had in fact ceased to exist, N.E. and N.W. Rhodesia having amalgamated as Northern Rhodesia in 1911.) Payment of the postage was receipted with a 5 pfennig German stamp cancelled to record that the letter was posted in Berlin on the 16th June, 1912. There was evidently uncertainty as to where Molilo was, hence the number of offices the letter was sent to. If Molilo was a shortened version of Katima Molilo (today spelt Mulilo), then this was indeed a comedy of errors. Katimo Mulilo is sited in the Caprivi strip on the south bank of the Zambezi opposite Sesheke. It was therefore part of German S.W. Africa at the time this letter was sent. A number of missions are
represented in the area including the Holy Family Catholic Mission. (Katima Mulilo is now the site of a bridge across the Zambezi.) It would certainly have been feasible to have addressed a letter via N.W. Rhodesia, but this letter is addressed to N.E. Rhodesia and that may have been the cause of the problem. The datestamps, etc., record the following route.

- **Berlin ‘16.6.12’** Posted as printed matter in an unsealed envelope addressed to ‘Molilo / North E. Rhodesia’.
- **Broken Hill ‘11. JULY. 1912’** Most incoming overseas and South African mail was at this time forwarded from Cape Town via Broken Hill and distributed from there (see Memoir 13).
- **Fort Rosebery ‘JY 26 / 12’ (in violet)** The route from Broken Hill is likely to have been via Ndola (by rail) and then by runner post across the Congo ‘pedicle’ to Fort Rosebery.
- **Abercorn ‘4. AUG. 12’** Received in Abercorn. Kasama ‘AU 5 / 12’ Annotated *Inconnu a Kasama* (unknown at Kasama) and returned to Abercorn.
- **Abercorn ‘16. AUG. 12’** Reposted in Abercorn, and datestamp struck on the face of the cover to record this. The word ‘Mulilo’ may have been struck through at this time.
- **Broken Hill ‘5. SEP. 1912’** Abercorn must have returned the letter to Broken Hill as undeliverable. The backstamp presumably records the date it was received there.
- **Fort Jameson ‘29. SEP.12’** Nobody seems to have known where Mulilo was, but Broken Hill evidently thought it might be in what later became the Eastern Province and sent the letter to Fort Jameson. It was probably in Fort Jameson that the cover was annotated ‘Try Congo’ in red ink. The normal route from Fort Jameson at this time would have been via Kasama and across Lake Mweru (see Memoir 13), and this may well have been the route followed as the next datestamp in the sequence is Pweto. (Pweto was an administrative centre and mission station on the northern shore of Lake Mweru on Congo side of the border.)
- **Pweto ‘5 / NOVE / 191(2)’** It was after the Pweto datestamp was struck that the flap of the envelope was stuck down.
- **Albertville ‘7 / DEC / 13’** Albertville (now Kalemie) is near the centre of the western shore of Lake Tanganyika. There may have been an overland route from Pweto to Albertville, but an alternative would have been to return the letter to N. Rhodesia (Sumbu or Abercorn) and send it by lake steamer, but one would expect transit datestamps recording this. From Albertville the letter was apparently forwarded to Kasindi.
- **Kasindi ‘7 / FEVR / 1913’** Unclaimed and annotated ‘Inconnu a Kasindi’. Kasindi lies between Lake Edward and Ruwenzori, close to the border with Uganda. It was only open for two years and Hal Hoyte has commented that it is a rare datestamp. The annotation suggesting that the letter should be forwarded to “Beni District du Kivu” was probably written in Kasindi. Beni is situated between Lakes Edward and Albert, west of Ruwenzori, and is also in Kivu Province.
- **Kasindi ‘23 / JUIN / 1913’** The letter was presumably returned to Kasindi on this date.
- **Kasindi ‘? / JUIN./ 1913’** The significance of this datestamp is not immediately apparent, but it was probably intended to record when the letter was forwarded from Kasindi.
- **Irumi ‘21 / JULI / 1913’** The letter was forwarded to Irumi, but was again returned. Irumi (now Irumu) is 120 km. NNW of Beni in what was Haute Zaire Province.
- **Kasindi ‘31 / JULI / 1913’** Kasindi evidently again forwarded the letter via Irumi, probably having struck one of the ‘REBUT’ handstamps to make it clear that it should be returned to the sender.
- **Irumi ‘13 / AUOT / 1913’ and ‘14 / AUOT / 1913’** These two Irumi datestamps are evidently transit marks, presumably recording when the letter was received and when it was forwarded.
- **Elizabethville ‘7 / OCT / ?’** It was this office that was probably responsible for the unframed handstamp reading ‘RETOUR A L’EXPEDITEUR’, and the annotation *Retour / Berlin* written in blue crayon.

The annotation in pencil at top-left would have been written in Berlin to provide the postman with a delivery address for a returned – and exceptionally well-travelled – letter.

**Acknowledgements**

The datestamps on this cover were originally listed by Bill O’Connell and Hal Hoyte provided information concerning the Congo post offices. I have of course made use of this input, which I am pleased to acknowledge.
Following upon the response to my article in the June RSCJ (239/86-87), I have now been able to identify 10 different Types of backing used by Ellis Allen in the production of his postcards. For my own convenience, I have designated them Type A through to Type J. It is not known if the postcards were published in this sequence - other than using the dates of postal usage as a rough guide. Included herewith are illustrations of the 10 Types of backing together with a brief description to help with identification. (More detailed information can be found on the RSC PPF website).

UNDIVIDED BACKS

(Figures numbered 1,2,3 & 4 in my original article correspond with Types A,B,C & D).

**TYPE A** - 'POST CARD' is printed in light brown ink as is the instruction immediately below: The Address To Be Written on this side.

**TYPE B** - 'POST CARD' is printed in black ink as is the instruction immediately below: The Address Only To Be Written Here.

**TYPE C** - 'POST CARD' is printed in black ink as is the fine single line and instruction immediately below: The Address To Be Written On This Side.

**TYPE D** - 'POST CARD' is printed in red ink as is the parallel lines and instruction immediately below: The Address Only To Be Written On This Side.

**TYPE E** - 'POST CARD' is printed in black ink as is the instruction immediately below: The Address To Be Written On This Side (note: Different font used to that of Type C)

DIVIDED BACKS

(Figure number 5 in my original article corresponds with Type J).

**TYPE F** - 'POST CARD' is printed in light brown ink as are the instructions and the dividing line. The respective instructions to the left and to the right of the dividing line read: This Space May Now Be Used For Inland Communications./ The Address Only To Be Written Here.

**TYPE G** - 'POST CARD' is printed in light brown ink as is the instruction to the right of the dividing line: The Address Only Here. There is no instruction printed to the left of the dividing line. The publisher's imprint (Ellis Allen, Box 204, Bulawayo) appears vertically to the extreme left of the dividing line.

**TYPE H** - 'POST CARD' is printed in black ink as are the instructions and the dividing line. The respective instructions to the left and to the right of the dividing line read: Communication./ Address Only Here.

**TYPE I** - 'RHODESIAN POST CARD' is printed in black ink as is the instruction to the right of the dividing line: The Address Only To Be Written Here. There is no instruction printed to the left of the dividing line.
TYPE J - The word 'RHODESIAN' now appears above 'POST CARD' which are printed in black ink as is the instruction to the right of the dividing line: The Address To Be Written Here. There is no instruction printed to the left of the dividing line. {Footnote to Type J. The postcard shown in my original article - Market Day On The Square, Bulawayo (Figure 5) has now been recorded with an UNDIVIDED BACK (Type E). My thanks to Malcolm Murphy for sending me a photocopy of this postcard.}

HOTEL NEAR BULAWAYO.

Why the publisher of this postcard, Geo. C. Brown of Bulawayo, did not include the name of the hotel may never be known! The caption simply reads: HOTEL NEAR BULAWAYO. Fortunately, the person who originally purchased the postcard thought fit to write the following comments on the reverse: A typical view of the flat uninteresting country. Known as Forest Vale. A favourite spot for pleasant afternoon outings. Went here on a trolley. A search of the internet placed Forest Vale about 5 miles north of Bulawayo. There was a hotel in the area which was known as the Forest Vale Hotel. The proprietor was a Mr. N. Platnauer who, in addition, was a Journalist and Newsagent & Stationer. The Bulawayo Directory (1895-1896) listed an N. Platnauer as being a Newsagent at (stand) 234, Abercorn Street East, Bulawayo. It is not known when the hotel was built but it had certainly opened by 1903 as a separate source of information records: At that time, 1903-6, there was a hotel at the foot of the Forest Vale kopje run by a Mr. Klempner ... Given Mr. Platnauer's other business interests, perhaps Mr. Klempner was employed as manager of the hotel? The postcard has a divided back and was printed in Saxony. Although not postally used, it would have been published circa 1909.

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN

I have over 35 years' experience working in the National Archives of Zimbabwe and specialise in:

- postal history and philately
- family history
- biographical searches
- medal recipients 1890s-1940s

On receipt of a query I provide an assessment of the possibilities and estimate of cost.

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The full sheet of RSC ‘B’ courtesy of Don Napier with Position 2 inset.
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