The Postal Stationery of the Orange Free State
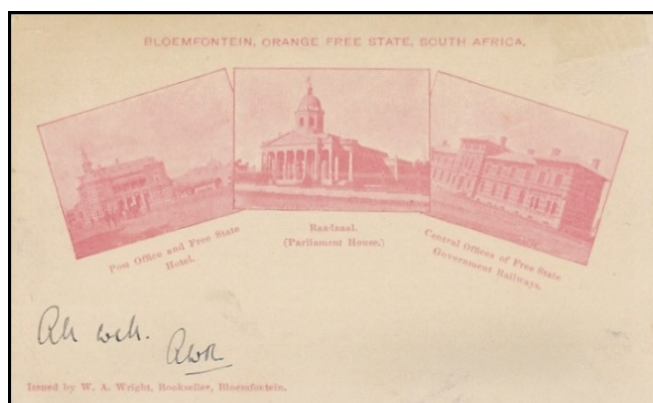
Presentation to the Royal Philatelic Society London

Michael Smith FRPSL   **23rd February 2017**

The Orange Free State Study Circle

The Study Circle was founded in 1953 to further the study of all aspects of OFS and ORC philately and to publish the results.

www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk

For more information or to join the Society please contact the Membership Secretary:

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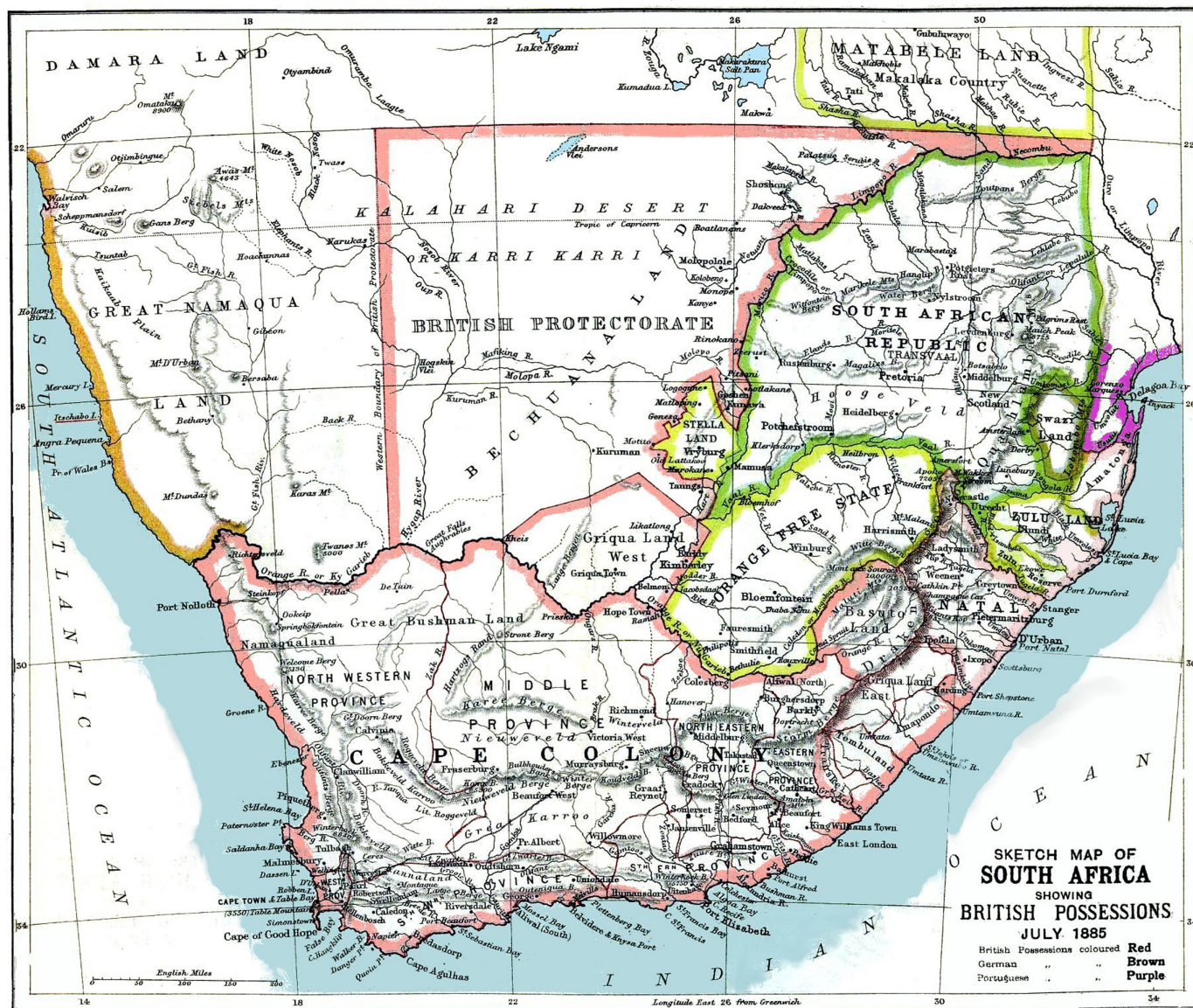Subscription for one year (January to December) is:

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Scottish Geographical Magazine, 1885.

Introduction

The independent boer republic of the Orange Free State (O.F.S.) came into existence in 1854 when the British administration withdrew from the area and the Orange River Sovereignty ceased to exist. The O.F.S. issued its first postage stamps in 1868, but postal stationery was not introduced until 1884. The basic stamps and stationery were printed by De La Rue in London. However, when supplies ran short or postage rates changed, the short-term need was met by surcharging stamps and postal stationery of other values or the local printing of postal stationery cards.

The Anglo-Boer War began on the 11th October 1899 and after early setbacks, the British under Lord Roberts advanced into the O.F.S., entering Bloemfontein on the 13th March 1900. The Republican issues were declared invalid, although they continued to be used in unoccupied areas. The stocks found in the treasury were revalidated by overprinting them V.R.I. (Victoria Regina Imperatrix). On the 28th May 1900, with much of the central area of the O.F.S. in British hands, it was formally annexed to the British Crown and renamed the Orange River Colony (O.R.C.). In 1910 the O.R.C. became part of the Union of South Africa.

Despite being a long "dead" country, the O.F.S. really does offer the philatelist some interesting challenges!

Why I collect O.F.S. Postal Stationery?

When I joined the O.F.S. Study Circle I was rather surprised to be offered the three "Buckley & Marriott" handbooks providing details of the settings for almost all of the postage and revenue stamp issues. The postal stationery sections of these handbooks however seemed to be quite basic despite the complexity of the issues, in particular the local printings, so this is the area where I decided to specialise.

In my opinion postal stationery, in particular postal cards, offer everything to the philatelist. You can study the traditional aspects (design and production), you can study the postal history aspects (postal rates, routes and markings) and finally you can study the message for the historical and social aspects. Hopefully, through this display, I will persuade those of you who have not already "seen the light", why the study and exhibiting of Postal Stationery is so rewarding.

The Display

I have previously displayed small parts of my collection at 'No. 41' as part of the '50th Anniversary' display by the Orange Free State Study Circle in 2003 and as a member of the team that presented 'Postal Stationery Uncovered' to 'the Royal' in 2013, but this is my first solo display.

The late Dr. Kenneth Pennycuick RDP gave a display to 'the Royal' in 1958, based upon an important series of articles in the London Philatelist (1956-1958) on the locally printed postal cards entitled the 'Orange Free State Stamped Post Cards'. Part I focused on the design of the cards and Part II on their use. This was the last time that a display to 'the Royal' was dedicated to the Postal Stationery of the O.F.S. The display was described in 'The Royal Philatelic Society London 1869-1969' as an excursion into a neglected branch of philately! It is now almost 60 years since this presentation and it is time once again for the members of 'the Royal' to take an excursion.

The material displayed here today is taken from my exhibit 'The Postal Stationery of the Orange Free State', which has been under constant development for more than 30 years. It was first shown nationally at Stampex in 1996. In more recent times this exhibit has received FIP Large Gold medals, with special prizes at both Indonesia 2012 and Brasiliana 2013. It was also part of the British team entry at the '7 Nations Challenge' in Malmo, Sweden in 2014.

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Background

A postal convention between the O.F.S. and the Cape of Good Hope came into effect on the 1st October 1883.

Under the terms of the convention, one penny postal cards could be forwarded from the Cape to the O.F.S. free of further charge and vice versa. The agreement was not a problem for the Cape as they had already issued one penny cards for internal use.

Earliest Recorded use of a Cape Postal Card to the O.F.S. – 16th October 1883

The O.F.S. had no postal cards available, and the printing of these became a priority.

Postal Stationery Issues of the Republican Period

The Postal Stationery issued by the O.F.S. during the Republican Period (1884-1900) can be divided into two distinct groups:

1.   London Printed Issues

     De La Rue & Co., London

2.   Locally Printed Issues

   C. Borckenhagen & Co., Bloemfontein

This display has been arranged in accordance with these groups, to best reflect the development of the printings and settings, rather than the traditional approach of a chronological treatment of each value.

Specific efforts have been made to ensure that the relationship between the London printed and locally printed issues is explained and to demonstrate the usage of these cards, with supplementary frankings and unusual destinations included throughout the display.

One Penny Postal Cards

One Penny Orange Postal Cards were first printed by De La Rue & Co., in London from electrotype plates in late 1883 to meet the needs of the postal convention between the O.F.S. and the Cape of Good Hope. The design follows very closely that of the first British Postal Cards, also printed by De La Rue.

Unfortunately, no archival material relating to the evolution of the design is known to exist. It is clear however that the postage stamp dies were used in the production of the plates, together with the Coat of Arms from the revenue stamps (minus the flags).
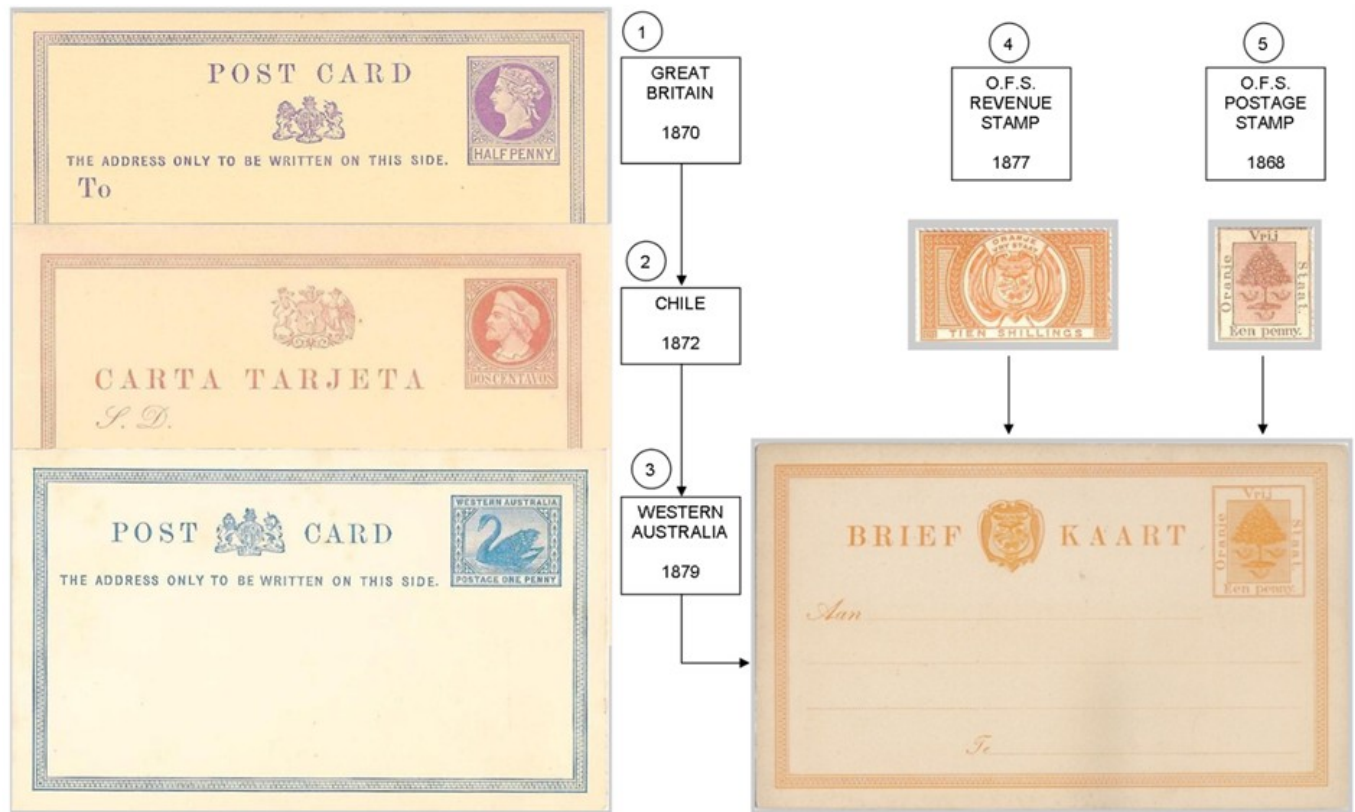
Halfpenny Postal Cards

The internal rate was reduced to a halfpenny in 1891, the initial demand being met by surcharging London printed One Penny Orange Postal Cards locally. The London printed Halfpenny Carmine Postal Cards were not issued until 1898, following the South African Postal Union.

View Cards

The first view cards appeared in 1899, these recently discovered cards are primitive private productions on the reverse of One Penny Orange Postal Cards printed using the cyanotype process and are known as the "Springfontein Blues". These were followed by 2 types of multi-view cards, with the colours matching the value of the card (either Halfpenny Carmine or One Penny Orange).

Reply-Paid Postal Cards

Reply-Paid Postal Cards were produced to satisfy the requirements of membership of the South African Postal Union and the U.P.U, effective from the 1st January 1898.

Introduction of Postal Cards 1884

The O.F.S. Postmaster General's Report for 1884, states that the One Penny Orange Postal Cards were available from late February 1884. Their use was initially limited to internal destinations and to the Cape of Good Hope.

Earliest Recorded Use

First Printing:

Internal use from Hoopstad (27) to Reddersburg

1st March 1884

First Printing:

Bloemfontein to Cape Town, C.G.H.

10th March 1884

Earliest Recorded Use to the Cape

Used to Stellaland

First Printing:

Boshof (8) to Vryburg, Stellaland via Kimberley, C.G.H.

22nd August 1884

Only recorded mail going into Stellaland prior to the Warren Expedition from any origin

The use of these cards was extended to destinations in the Z.A.R. and Natal in 1885.

Postal Cards to Overseas Destinations   Up to 1892

Prior to 1892, there was no overseas postcard service available. Postal Cards could only be sent to overseas destinations if they were uprated to the Letter Rate. All such usages are rare.

Postal Cards sent at Letter Rates

Second Printing:

Senekal to Germany
3rd September 1891

Only Recorded Example sent at short lived 5d Letter Rate to Europe (1891 - Sept. 1892)

Added 5 x 1d brown adhesives - Value of card not included as part of payment

First Printing:

Bloemfontein (1) to Germany
4th December 1887

One of Two Recorded Examples sent at 7½d Letter Rate to Europe (1887-1890)

Cape 2½d Accountancy Mark indicating payment due to British P.O.

Postcard Service to Great Britain

The Second Printing (1889) of these cards were current when the first overseas postcard service was introduced.
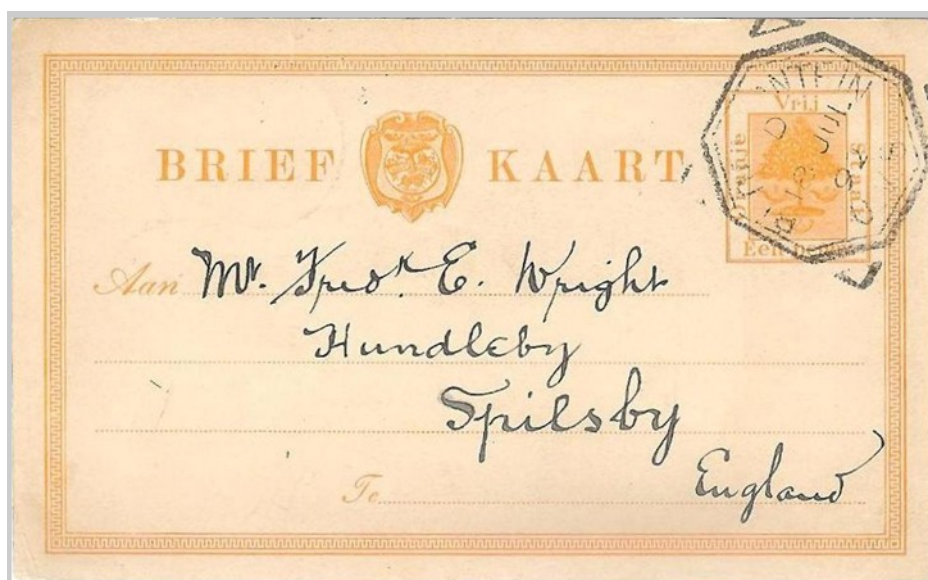
This was the one penny rate to Great Britain which came into effect on the 1st July 1892.

A threehalfpence rate to other overseas destinations followed in September 1892.

Second Printing:

Bloemfontein to England
18th July 1892

Earliest Recorded Example

How the O.F.S. dealt with De La Rue

Unlike the British Colonies, who dealt with De La Rue via the Crown Agents, the O.F.S. as an independent republic dealt with De La Rue directly in the form of the O.F.S. Consul General in London. At the time the first Postal Cards were ordered, this was Philip J. Blyth.

The Lady Hill Presentation Card

This card is believed to be one of three unmarked 'specimens' from the Second Printing of the One Penny Orange Postal Card sent to Blyth by De La Rue in 1889.

Reverse of Postal Card presented to Lady Hill by the O.F.S. Consul General

Initial contact with the U.P.U.   1890

345 unmarked 'Specimens' of the Second Printing were sent to the U.P.U. for distribution in January 1890, some 8 Years before the O.F.S. joined the U.P.U.

*Previously unrecorded 'Specimen' of the Second Printing
from the U.P.U. archives in Berne*

Further printings of the One Penny Orange Postal Card were made in 1892 (Third Printing) and 1899 (Fourth Printing).

Halfpenny Surcharge on One Penny Orange 1891

The internal postcard rate was reduced to a halfpenny in August 1891. The initial demand was met by surcharging an unknown number of One Penny Orange Postal Cards from the second printing in the orange-yellow shade.

Essay

Essay for Surcharge - One of Two Recorded Examples

Issued

The surcharge was almost certainly applied by Borckenhagen & Co., in Bloemfontein.

Used to Swaziland

Only recorded use of an O.F.S. Postal Card to Swaziland during the Republican Period

The postal system of Swaziland was operated by the Z.A.R. under a concession granted by the Swazi King from July 1892 until February 1895 and it appears that the 1d rate to the Z.A.R. also applied to Swaziland.

Vrede (X) to Bremersdorp, Swazieland - 20th September 1892
Uprated to 1d rate using $^1/_2$d Chestnut adhesive
(Ex Talbot Cox)

It was not until early 1897 that De La Rue were called upon to produce any further issues.

Halfpenny Carmine Postal Cards 1898

There were twelve local printings at the halfpenny rate before a De La Rue printed card was finally issued.

The requirement for a London Printed Postal Card followed the formation of the South African Postal Union (S.A.P.U.) on the 1st January 1898. This mandated a uniform halfpenny postcard rate across South Africa.

Published and Unclaimed at Bloemfontein

Used locally at Bloemfontein

13th September 1899

Manuscript 'Not Known' with scarce ONAFGEHAALD EN, GEPUBLICEERD - G.P.K. BLOEMFONTEIN' (Unclaimed and Published)

Outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War

The Anglo-Boer War began on the 11th October 1899, following the rejection by the British Government, of the Boer Ultimatum.

Mail in Transit:
Wepener to Cape Town, C.G.H.

10th October 1899

Last Mail to get through - Transit Time 4 days

Mail Service Suspended:
Jagersfontein to Port Elizabeth, C.G.H., taxed '1d' on redirection to Sea Point

14th October 1899

Transit Time 96 days

Mail for destinations other than the Z.A.R. was subject to censoring at Bloemfontein. Initially indicated by a blue crayon mark.

The recently discovered "Springfontein Blues" are the earliest known O.F.S. view cards. They were produced by Reverend Christoph Sandrock, of the Berlin Missionary Society, in Springfontein. These cards were prepared using the cyanotype process directly on to the reverse of De La Rue One Penny Orange Postal Cards. This process was also used to print the Mafeking siege stamps in 1900.
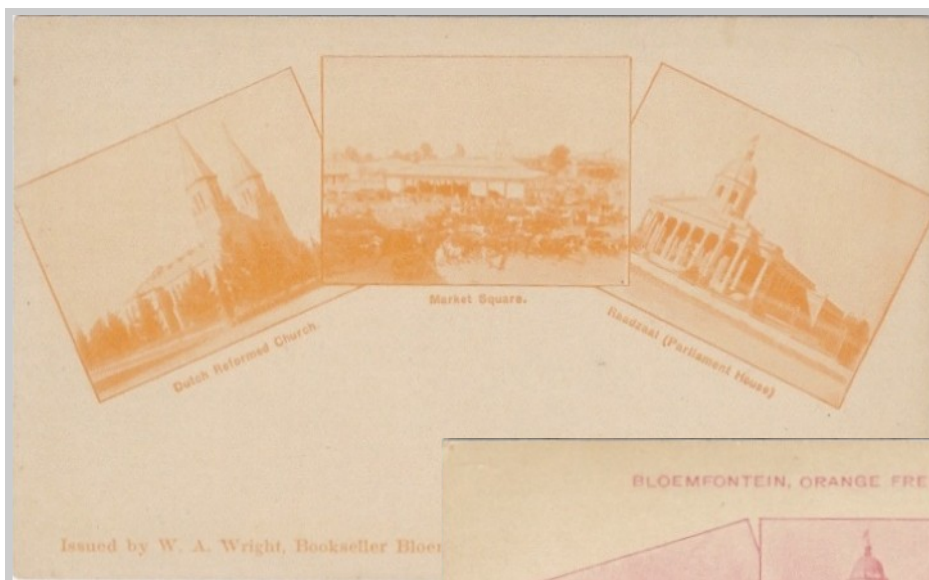
"Springfontein Blue"

2 of the 3 known examples are included in the display.

Springfontein R.O.
to Germany
17th April 1899

Published by W.A. Wright, Bloemfontein

These views were printed on the reverse of the single De La Rue postal cards, the colour of the views matching the colour of the card itself.
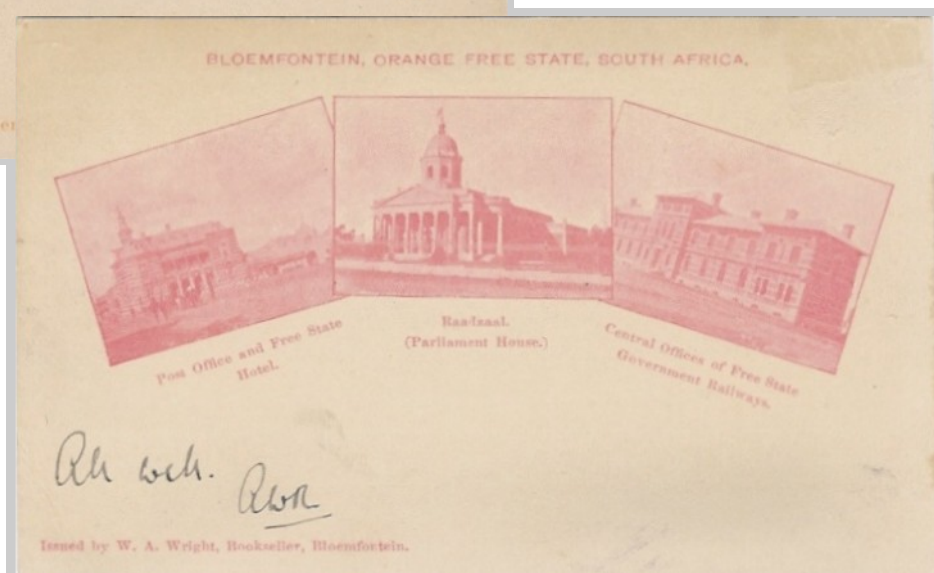
Type 1 - June 1899

No Heading and Larger Views

One Penny Orange

Type 2 - September 1899

With Heading and Smaller Views

Halfpenny Carmine

All 4 variants of these cards are included in the display. All are rare, with the Type 2 cards being particularly difficult.

Reply-Paid Postal Cards

The negotiations for the supply of Reply-Paid Postal Cards went hand in hand with those for the supply of the O.F.S. Postal Notes (Postal Orders), over which there was much discussion regarding the use of the Dutch language and this appears to have influenced the design of these cards.
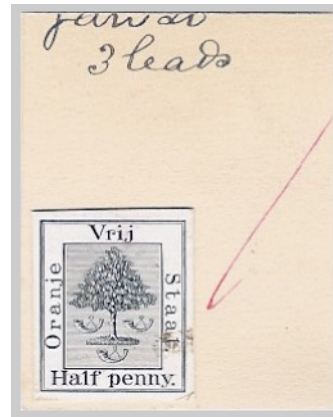
"Half" or "Halve"

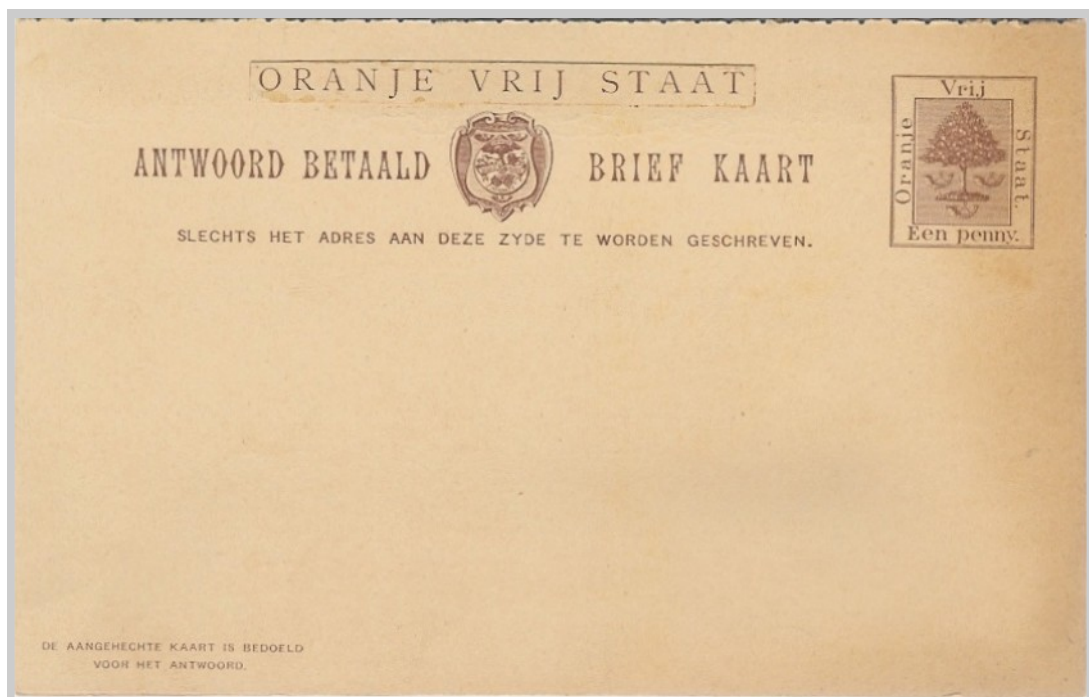*Die Proof for Halfpenny Reply-Paid Card*

The change of spelling from 'Half' to 'Halve' found on the Issued Postal Cards must have been made on the lead.

This proof of the Halfpenny was in De La Rue's Works Proof Register.

No proof of the One Penny has been recorded.

"VRY" or "VRIJ"

Essay for One Penny Reply-Paid Postal Card with ORANJE VRIJ STAAT' pasted over 'ORANJE VRY STAAT' on both halves (Ex De La Rue Collection)

Reply-Paid Postal Cards were introduced in late 1897. Halfpenny + Halfpenny Green Postal Cards to meet the requirements of the South African Postal Union and One Penny + One Penny Brown Postal Cards to meet the requirements of U.P.U. membership from 1st January 1898.

One Penny Brown Reply-Half used back to the O.F.S. from Germany

Reply-half used from Brandenburg, Germany to Winburg, O.F.S. - 9th September 1899

Halfpenny Green Stopped by Censor during the Anglo-Boer War

Harrismith to Pietermaritzburg, Natal - 11th February 1900
Northern route via Pretoria and Delagoa Bay - Uprated using 1/2d Orange-Yellow adhesive
'STOPPED BY CENSOR - RETURN TO SENDER' applied in Durban

Colour & Language Scheme

De La Rue were keen to promote the use of fugitive inks as a security feature to their customers. Unfortunately, they were struggling at this time to produce a convincing match to the U.P.U. colour standard, hence the 'Imitation Vermilion' used for the One Penny Reply-Paid cards is described as brown by philatelists.

Ink Recipe for the One Penny Brown Reply-Paid Postal Card

De La Rue Ink Recipe No. 964 - 'Imitation Vermilion' (Ex Bezuidenhout)

Current Issues in 1898 - 1900

The conflicting influences of the Cape of Good Hope/U.P.U. and the Z.A.R., which was promoting a Southern Africa colour scheme, meant that by 1898, postage stamps, single postal cards and reply-paid postal cards of the same value were all printed in different colours.

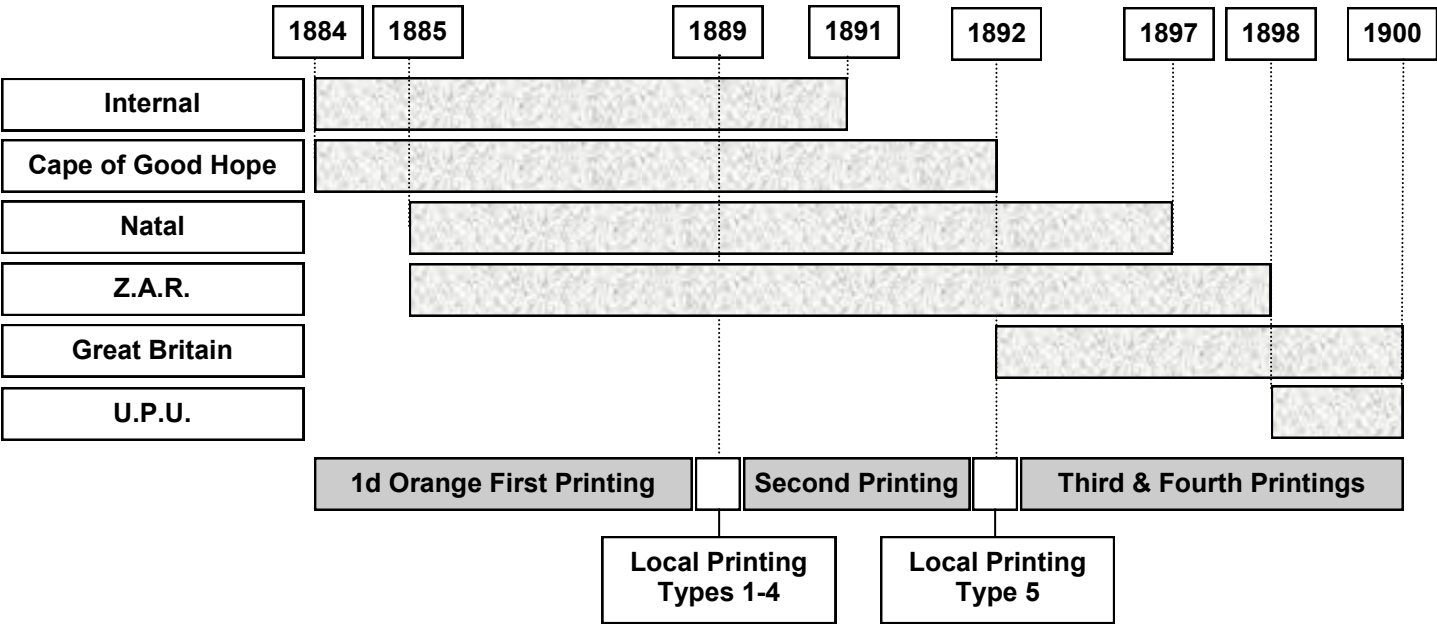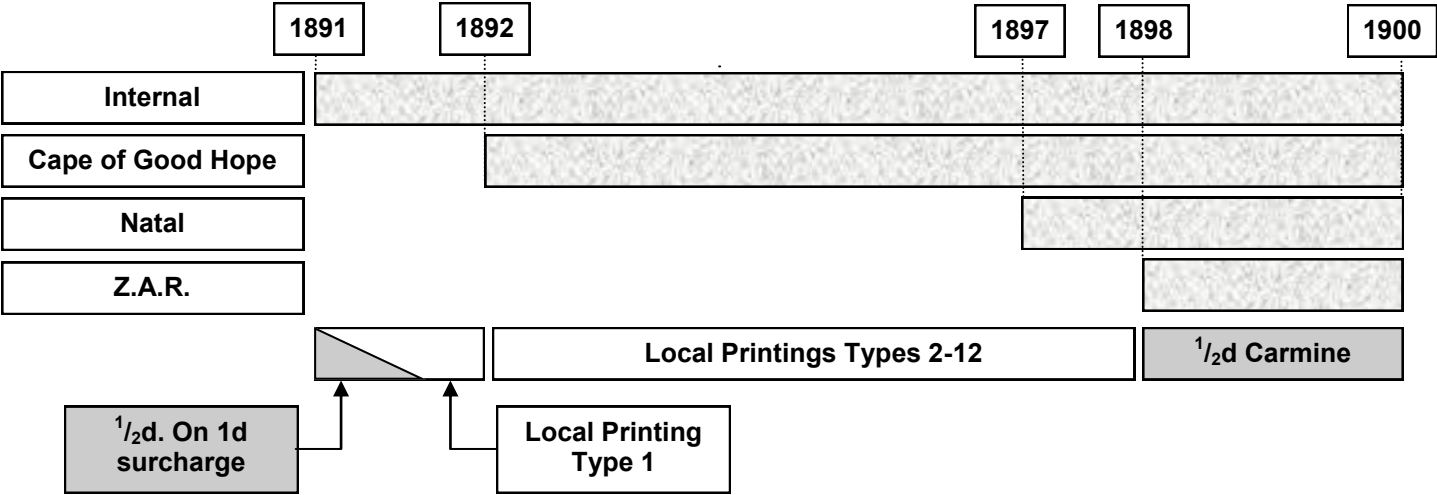| Postage Stamps		Single Postal Cards		Reply-Paid Postal Cards	
Orange-Yellow	Purple	Carmine	Orange	Green	Brown
English 'Half'	Dutch 'Een'	English 'Half'	Dutch 'Een'	Dutch 'Halve'	Dutch 'Een'

The different colour schemes combined with the inconsistent use of the English and Dutch languages meant that by the end of the Republic, complete confusion reigned!

Postal Rates and the relationship between the London and the Locally Printed Issues

One Penny Issues

	1884	1885		1889	1891	1892	1897	1898	1900

Internal

Cape of Good Hope

Natal

Z.A.R.

Great Britain

U.P.U.

1d Orange First Printing		Second Printing		Third & Fourth Printings

Local Printing Types 1-4

Local Printing Type 5

Halfpenny Issues

	1891	1892	1897	1898	1900

Internal

Cape of Good Hope

Natal

Z.A.R.

	Local Printings Types 2-12	$^1/_2$d Carmine

$^1/_2$d. On 1d surcharge

Local Printing Type 1

Threehalfpence Issues

	1892	1898	1900

Overseas

Non-UPU

Local Printings Types 1-7
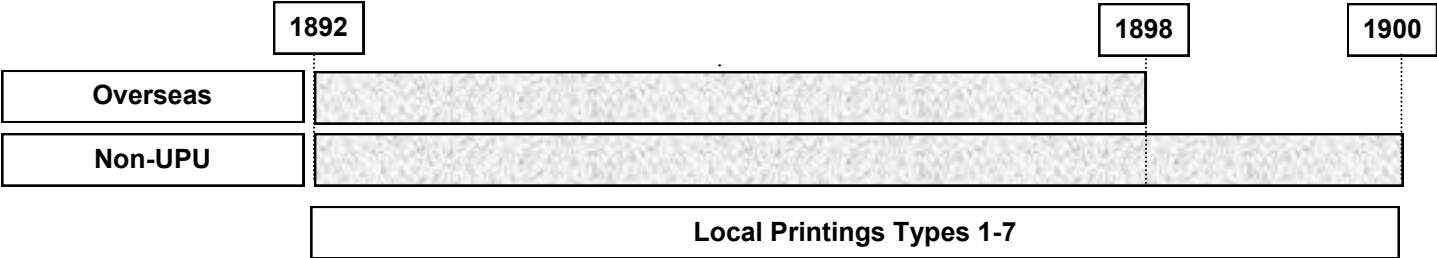
The OFS Newspaper Company

A prospectus for the formation of the Orange Free State Newspaper Co. Ltd. was issued on the 1st of April 1874, with the object of publishing a weekly newspaper in both English and Dutch, undertaking commercial printing and establishing a stationery and book shop. A meeting of shareholders was called, a directorate chosen and presses and plant ordered from England. Mr. F. Schermbrucker was appointed Editor and Manager and the first edition of 'The Express and Orange Free State Advertiser' appeared in March 1875.

W.W. Collins says in his 'Free Statia' that several of the shareholders did not approve of the somewhat intolerant and one sided Political tone the 'Express' had assumed and decided to dispose of their shares at much less than cost price. He goes on to say that the purchaser of the shares was Carl Borckenhagen, who, in the first instance, was engaged as a Clerk in the concern, and who took over the management after Mr. Schermbrucker left the Town, and it was not long before he became the owner of the Company's entire Plant and Stock-in-trade, and continued the paper on his own account.
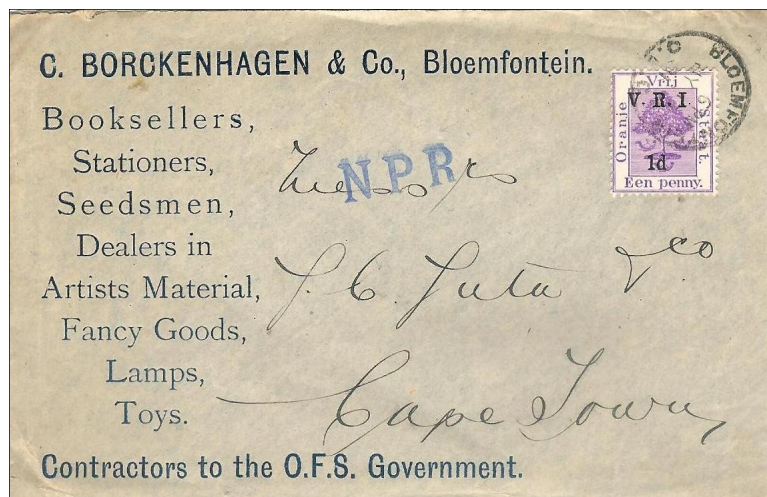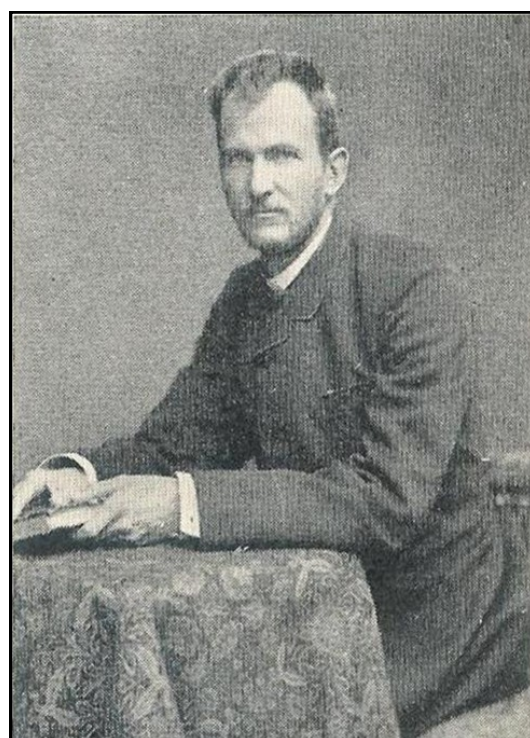
Carl Borckenhagen

When Borckenhagen became the Editor on the 1st May 1877, he was unacquainted with newspaper work, very young and without a thorough knowledge of the languages of the country. However, he built up the newspaper into the biggest and most influential in the country and the company owned the finest printing establishment where Government publications were printed.

Collins offers the following description of his activities:

Mr. B. being a gentleman of an adventurous spirit, and withal of indomitable perseverance, it was not long, after acquiring the business, before he converted his venture into a profitable undertaking, and he succeeded after strenuous efforts in securing the Government tender for printing the Government Gazette, and all the other Government printing work, including the supply of Government stationery, book-binding work, etc., etc.

Martin Boon in his 'History of the O.F.S.' offered a somewhat different assessment of how Borckenhagen became the Government Printer:

I refer my readers to the public papers of the years 1880 to 1883. These things occurred with the full knowledge of the Dutch Thunderer, or properly speaking the Express liar paper..... owned by a German, who secured by flattery and sycophancy a contract for three years printing.

Borckenhagen's Political Influence

The National Biography states that *It is difficult to over-estimate his influence as the confident of President Reitz and his successor President Steyn. He was frequently referred to as the **maker of presidents** and it is said that he did much to pave the way into the presidential residence for his friend Steyn.*

Borckenhagen died suddenly on the 5th February 1898, after a short illness with apoplexy and was buried the following day in the old Bloemfontein cemetery in Rhodes Avenue, where President Reitz spoke at the graveside.

Locally Printed Issues

Printing of Postal Stationery

Between 1889 and 1897 Borckenhagen & Co. produced a complex series of Postal Cards from no less than seventeen short-lived settings.

These issues are frequently referred to as 'provisionals'. However, this is only really true of the One Penny Postal Cards, which were issued when supplies of De La Rue printed Postal Cards were exhausted and fresh supplies had not arrived from London. The Halfpenny and Threehalfpence Postal Cards were produced locally, because the demand did not warrant the expense of a London printed issue.

'Postcard Stamps'

The method of production used for the locally printed postal stationery cards was unique to the O.F.S. A postage stamp was affixed at the top centre of a blank card, which was then printed with the entire design to create a form of 'formula' Postal Card. The entire design was typeset and the cards were printed singly on a hand press. This use of the postage stamps as an integral part of these Postal Cards has led to the stamps being listed in Stanley Gibbons 'Part 1' catalogue under the heading of 'Postcard Stamps'. So, if you cannot bring yourself to enjoy these items as stationery, you can enjoy them as postage stamps. The listing is however hard to use, rather limited and incomplete!

Settings

The individual settings can be identified from examination of the following elements of the design:
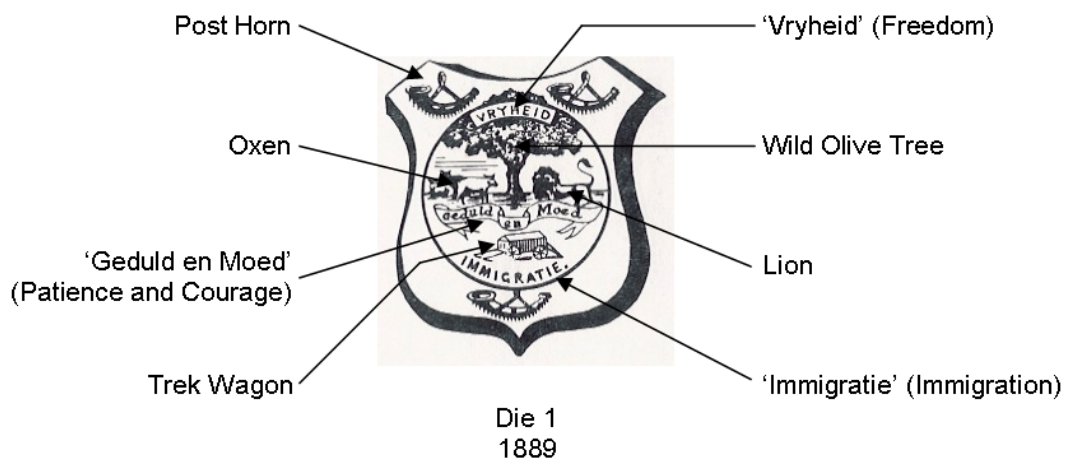

No official records relating to these issues are known to exist, so the dates quoted are those derived from used examples. The evidence from used examples is that almost all of these issues were short-lived and the numbers printed very small.

Summary of the Settings

Exhibit Section	Settings	Arms Die	Period of Use	¹/₂d	1d	1¹/₂d
2.1	1 - 4	1 & 2	1889		Types 1 - 4	
2.2	5	2	1891	Type 1		
2.3	6	3	1892	Types 2A - 2D	Types 5A - 5D	
2.4	7 - 10	2	1892-1893	Types 3 - 4		Types 1 - 3
2.5	11 - 14	4	1894 - 1895	Types 5 - 7A		Types 4 - 4A
2.6	15 - 16	5	1895 - 1897	Types 8 - 11		Types 5 - 7
2.7	17	4	1897	Type 12		

Arms Dies

Five different dies were used:

Post Horn — 'Vryheid' (Freedom) — Oxen — Wild Olive Tree — 'Geduld en Moed' (Patience and Courage) — Lion — Trek Wagon — 'Immigratie' (Immigration)

Die 1
1889

Die 2	Die 3	Die 4	Die 5
1889 - 1893	1892	1894 - 1897	1895 - 1897

Characteristics of the Arms Dies

	Die 1	Die 2	Die 3	Die 4	Die 5
Flags	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Circle Dia.	Single 15mm	Single 13mm	Double 13mm	Single 14.5mm	Double 15mm
Lion	No Ears	No Ears	No Ears	Erect Ears	No Ears
Oxen	1 Standing 2 Lying	3 Standing 1 Lying	2 Standing 1 Lying	3 Standing 1 Lying	2 Standing 2 Lying

These settings were used to print One Penny Postal Cards when supplies of the De La Rue cards were exhausted. They were intended for use internally and to the Cape, Natal and Z.A.R. All cards in used condition are rare.

Setting 1 - One Penny Type 1 - February 1889

Differs from all other settings in that Die 1 was used and the address lines were made up of short dashes.

Small Size Card

Only Recorded Unused Example (Ex Broekman and Bezuidenhout)

1st State:
Loop to 'T' of 'Te' normal

Large Size Card

Only Recorded Unused Example

2nd State:
No Loop to 'T' of 'Te'

Unlike the subsequent settings, un-used cards are rarer than used ones.

Used Internally

Small Size Card

1 of 5 Recorded Used Examples (Ex Koch)

2nd State:
No Loop to 'T' of 'Te'

Bloemfontein to Smithfield
26th March 1889

Setting 2 - One Penny Type 2

Arms Die 2 introduced. New setting of address made up of dots.

Rosy-Granite Stock - March 1889

Adhesive Stamp Inverted

Only Recorded Example on complete card

Bethulie to Bloemfontein - 23rd November 1889 (All postal markings on reverse)

The adhesive stamp was placed sideways on all 'bordered cards'. The top of the adhesive being placed to the left, so that the word 'Staat' appeared at the top of the card. In the inverted example, the word 'Oranje' is at the top of the card.

White Stock - August 1889

Schoemansdrift to Port Elizabeth, C.G.H. - 19th April 1890 (Ex Van Heerden)

The scarcest of the 'bordered cards' in used condition with only 2 Examples Recorded

Setting 3 - One Penny Type 3

Address and Border re-set. 'BRIEF KAART' re-set with "RT" of "KAART" close and oval stop.

Rosy-Granite Stock - April 1889

Bloemfontein to Bethulie - 30th June 1889 (Ex Van Heerden)

5 Used Examples Recorded

White & Rosy-White Stock - May 1889

Rosy-White Stock - Earliest Recorded Use
Bloemfontein to Smithfield - 28th May 1889

7 Used Examples Recorded on either White or Rosy-White Stock

Setting 4 - One Penny Type 4

Address and Border re-set. 'BRIEF KAART' re-set with round stop.

Grey Stock - June 1889

Koffijfontein to
Cape Town, C.G.H.
23rd October 1889

Blue-Granite Stock - July 1889

Bloemfontein to
Cape Town, C.G.H.
10th August 1889

(Ex Raay)

White Stock - July 1889

Bethlehem to
Bethulie
10th October 1889

A fresh supply of De La Rue one penny postal cards were received in late 1889 and the need for locally printed postal cards ceased.

No subsequent settings incorporated a border.

Setting 5 1891

A new setting with ruled address lines and no border. 'BRIEF KAART' was re-set from same font, but without a stop. This setting was only used to print Type 1 Halfpenny Postal Cards, following the reduction of the internal rate in August 1891.

Halfpenny Type 1: Underpaid to the Z.A.R.

Jagersfontein (O) to Johannesburg, Z.A.R. 23rd Dec. 1892

Underpaid by $^{1}/_{2}$d, Taxed 1d (Double Deficiency)

'DEBIT' accountancy mark, 'GEPUBLICEERD' (Published) and 'ONAFGEHAALD' (Unclaimed) applied on arrival in Johannesburg.

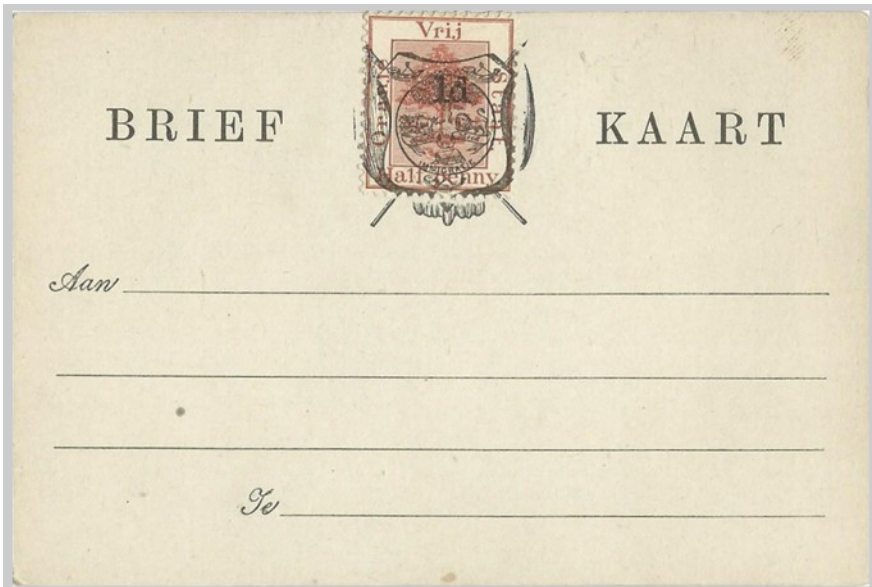From setting 5 onwards, the adhesive stamp was placed vertically.

Adhesive Stamp Inverted

Only Recorded Example

Unadopted Essay for One Penny Card

When the 2nd Printing of De La Rue printed One Penny Postal Cards were exhausted early in 1892, Essays were prepared for a provisional locally printed issue. The essay involved a '1d' surcharge on the Type 1 Halfpenny Postal Card from setting 5.

The essay breaks the 'golden rule' of surcharging in that it raises the value of the card and because surcharges are much easier to forge than stamps, the practice is frowned upon. In the end, it was decided to use the existing 3d Blue adhesive stamps with a '1d' surcharge on cards printed using setting 6 to meet the need for a provisional One Penny Postal Card.

Arms Die 3 was only used for this setting. All cards have 'BRIEF KAART' re-set from same font as setting 5, but with a stop. There were four distinct settings of the address, made up of dots, giving rise to four sub-settings 6A-6D. All four were used to print both values. Halfpenny Types 2A-2D and One Penny Types 5A-5D. The cards differ only in the adhesive stamps used, the $^1/_2$d Chestnut of 1882 and the 1d on 3d Blue of 1891.

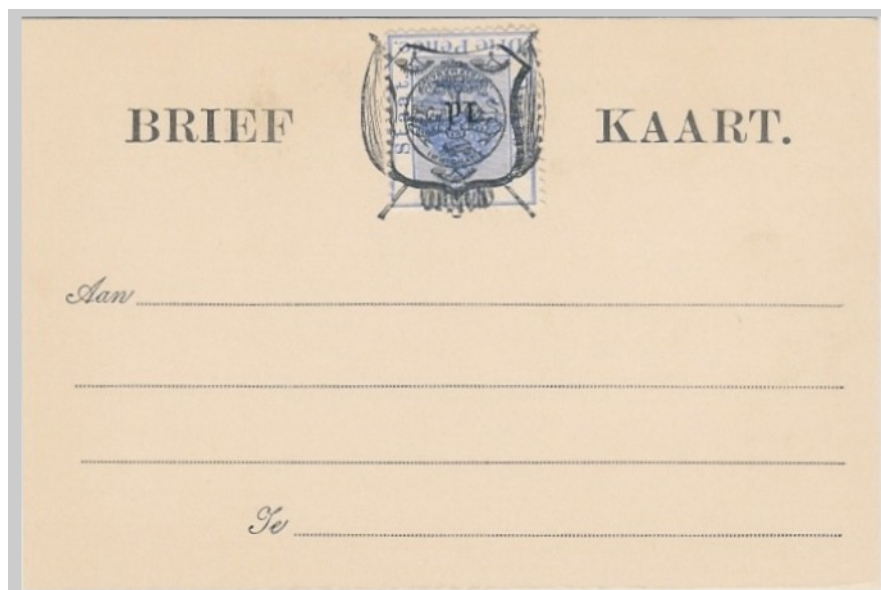## Sub-Setting 6B - One Penny Type 5B

Plated Variety: One Penny with Raised "1" - No. 19 in left panes

The third setting of this 1d surcharge was used for these cards and this comprised 120 units across two panes of 60, so each plated variety is only found on 1 in every 120 cards.

Sub-Setting 6D - One Penny Type 5D

Adhesive Stamp Inverted

2 Examples Recorded

Since the surcharge was part of the basic adhesive stamp, examples with the 'Adhesive Stamp Inverted' variety have the surcharge inverted relative to the arms. The 5 inverted examples recorded, include one example 'off card' and 2 examples each of sub-settings 6C and 6D. 3 of the 5 are included in the display.

Arms Die 2 was brought back into use. 'BRIEF KAART' is from a new bolder font. Settings 7 and 10 were used for Threehalfpence Postal Cards and incorporated 'ORANJE VRIJSTAAT.' as they were intended for overseas destinations. Settings 8 and 9 were used for the Halfpenny Postal Cards, so do not have the country name, but do have ruled address lines. Halfpenny Postal Cards used $^{1}/_{2}$d Chestnut adhesives and Threehalfpence Postal Cards incorporated a surcharge on 2d Mauve or 3d Blue adhesives.

Setting 9 Proof

1 of 2 Recorded Examples, both are in the display

These recently discovered cards without adhesives affixed prior to printing are believed to be proofs taken during the course of the print- ing to monitor wear of the setting. They clearly show the damage to the flagpole at top right of Arms Die 2 that is constant throughout this setting and setting 10.

Setting 10: Threehalfpence Type 3

Adhesive Stamp Inverted

1 of 7 Recorded Examples, 4 of which are in the display

These cards were printed one at a time, so the 'Adhesive Inverted' error occurs randomly throughout the printing of these cards.

Basutoland to Palestine

*Written at Hermon, Basutoland 6th April 1894*

Probably carried privately and then posted at Wepener, O.F.S. to Jerusalem, Palestine

Arms Die 4 introduced. Address lines restored, but loop to 'T' of 'Te' is now missing.

Setting 11: Halfpenny Type 5

*Card with ornate printing on the reverse for use by the Bank of Africa Ltd. signed by the manager of the Bloemfontein Branch, **Arthur Tolkien**.*
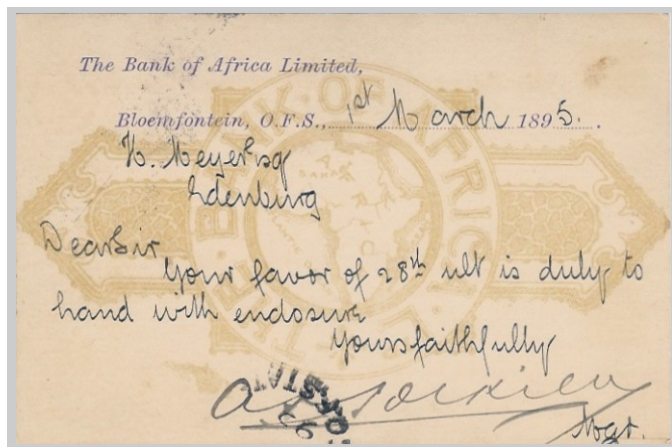
*Arthur Tolkien was the father of **John Ronald Reuel Tolkein**, the renowned author of the 'Lord of the Rings', who was born in Bloemfontein in 1892. Arthur himself died in Bloemfontein in February 1896 less than a year after this card was written and shortly after his family had returned to England.*

Bloemfontein to Edenburg - 2nd March 1895 (Reduced)

These cards are eagerly sought by Tolkein enthusiasts, as evidence of his short time in Bloemfontein.

Setting 12: "News of the World" - Error of Die

Adhesive Stamp Inverted

Only Recorded Example on Complete Card
Used locally at Bloemfontein - 10th November 1894

The 'News of the World' Die was the 'trademark' of the 'Express' Newspaper, also printed by Borckenhagen. Between settings 11 and 13, Arms Die 4 was removed from the forme, presumably for cleaning, and the 'News of the World' Die was inserted in error. The display includes 3 of the 5 known examples of this error on complete card, including this example with 'Adhesive Inverted'.

Settings 11, 12 and 13 were used for Halfpenny Postal Cards only. Setting 14 was used to print both Halfpenny and Threehalfpence Postal Cards. All settings incorporated address lines and none, not even the Threehalfpence Postal Cards, incorporated the country name. The Threehalfpence Postal Cards also incorporated a surcharge of "$1\frac{1}{2}$d." applied in red in a separate operation to the 2d Mauve adhesive used.

Setting 13: Halfpenny Type 6

Card with set-off on reverse commercially used by the the O.F.S. Newspaper Co (C. Borckenhagen), the printers of these cards

Bloemfontein to Reddersburg
8th December 1894

Only Recorded Example
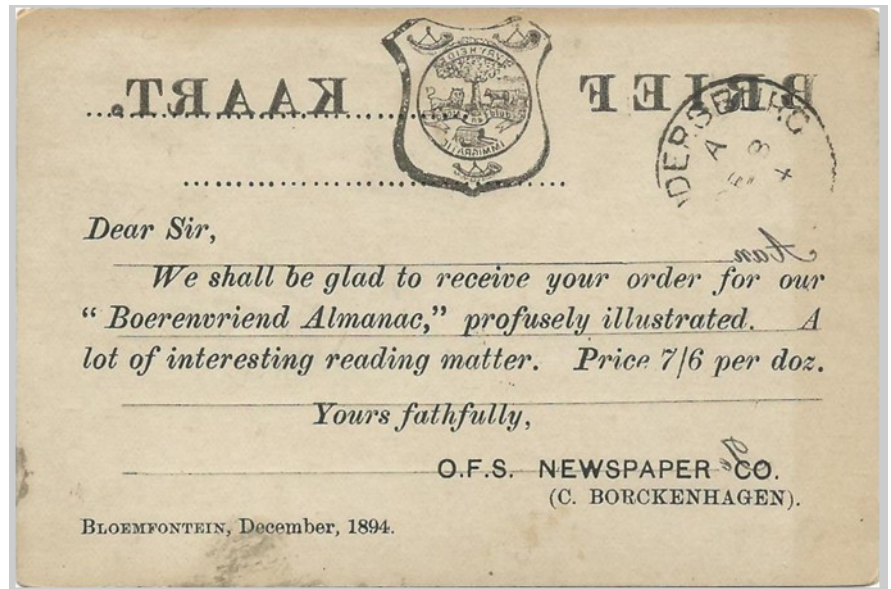
Setting 14: Threehalfpence Type 4

Essay for Surcharge

1 of 2 Recorded Examples

The surcharge on the essay is much smaller than that on the issued cards and is completely ineffective. Even the much larger surcharge on the issued cards has little impact.

Damaged "K"

1 of 4 Recorded Examples

The majority of the threehalfpence cards were printed before the 'K' of 'KAART' was damaged. A small number of threehalfpence cards were then printed with the damaged 'K' as were the majority of halfpenny cards.

Arms Die 5 introduced for an entirely new group of settings. 'BRIEF KAART.' is only 85mm and address lines have a small 'Aan' and 'Te'. Setting 15 initially incorporated a surcharge above the Arms Die, giving rise to sub-settings 15A and 15B. 15A was used for Halfpenny Postal Cards and 15B was used for Threehalfpence Postal Cards. For sub-setting 15C the surcharge was removed and the setting adjusted to print higher on the card.

Sub-Setting 15B - Threehalfpence Type 5: Mistakenly Taxed

1st State: Kroonstad to Norway - 12th July 1897 (Ex Hart)
Mistakenly taxed as underpaid letter - 2 x 4 Ore Norwegian Dues added
Only recorded example of a locally printed Threehalfpence card bearing postage due stamps

Sub-Setting 15C - Halfpenny Type 9

"Double Dies"

Reitz to Durban, Natal - 7th August 1896 (Ex Batten)
Added $^1/_2$d Adhesive from another Type 9 card to make up 1d rate.
Not accepted as a validate method of up-rating and taxed $^1/_2$d.

Only Recorded Example

Setting 16 has 'BRIEF' without the serif to 'B' retained, but 'R' of 'BRIEF' and 'T' of 'KAART' replaced. Subsetting 16A was only used for Halfpenny Postal Cards and did not include a surcharge. 16B was used for Threehalfpence cards and incorporated a surcharge of '1½'. The 'd' being added in a separate operation using a handstamp. The subsequent setting 16C surcharge incorporated a 'd.' in addition to the '1½'.

Sub-Setting 16A - Halfpenny Type 10: 19 Post Offices in 19 Days

Sent from Heilbron as a curiosity.
Postmarked at 19 O.F.S. Post Offices between the 25th September and the 14th October 1896.

During the course of its journey, one rather unsympathetic postmaster has added in red the comment
'Does your mother know that you're out?

Sub-Setting 16B - Threehalfpence Type 6: Used to Bolivia

"d" added using handstamp

Ladybrand to Bolivia - 8th November 1897

Examples correctly used are very scarce, since the rate to U.P.U. member countries
was reduced to one penny on the 1 January 1898 when the O.F.S. joined the U.P.U.

Arms Die 4 (Blunt) brought back into use and 'BRIEF KAART' was re-set with 'B' normal and 'T' with rounded corners. There was a new setting of the address with no tail to 'T' of 'Te'. This setting was only used to print the Type 12 Halfpenny Postal Cards. These were the last locally printed postal cards and were superseded by the issue of London printed cards in August 1898.

Halfpenny Type 12: Underpaid to Austria

Winburg to Austria - 17th May 1897
Threehalfpence rate underpaid by 1d, but only Taxed 1d.
Austrian 5k and 3k Dues Added. Manuscript 'inconnu' (Not Known).
Insufficient Address Label affixed and manuscript 'Retour' (Return).

Halfpenny Type 12: Underpaid to the Z.A.R.

Thaba 'nchu to Johannesburg, Z.A.R. - 23rd September 1897 (Ex Pennycuick and Van Heerden)
Underpaid by ¹/₂d, Taxed 1d (Double Defficiency)
Scarce O.F.S. boxed 'TE BETALEN' (to pay) and manuscript '1d' (probably applied in transit
at Bloemfontein) and '1d.' in circle and 'DEBIT' accountancy mark applied in Johannesburg

Michael Smith

Mike began collecting stamps at the age of 6 under the guidance of his late mother. He purchased his first 'Penny Black' at the age of 8 and has continued to collect ever since. He started collecting O.F.S. stamps and postal stationery at the age of 18 and joined the O.F.S. Study Circle shortly afterwards. Mike settled on the O.F.S as an area to focus on due to some South African ancestry and having reviewed his 'Part 1', there seemed to be plenty of opportunities for study. His research into O.F.S. stationery was recognized by the Académie Européenne de Philatélie with the award of the Robert Françon Memorial Prize in 2000. His interests have since widened to include the postal stationery of the rest of Pre-Union South Africa (Cape of Good Hope, Natal and Transvaal) and he also has a number of small sideline collections.

Mike is a member of numerous specialist societies including the Postal Stationery Society, of which he is a past Chairman, and the Orange Free State Study Circle of which he is Chairman. He joined 'the Royal' in 1999 and became a Fellow in 2013. He has been exhibiting his O.F.S. stationery collections internationally since 1998. A National Judge since 2006 and an F.I.P. Postal Stationery Judge since 2010, he is a regular member of Stampex juries and was a member of the juries at the London 2010, Australia 2013 and London 2015 Internationals. He has been the U.K. delegate to the F.I.P. Postal Stationery Commission since 2008 and is currently the F.E.P.A. member of the Commission Bureau. He is also the FIP Commissions Coordinator for the A.B.P.S. Exhibitions and International Committee.

Mike began his working career with a civil engineering consultancy and later became a land surveyor, qualifying as a Chartered Surveyor in 1992. During his studies for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Final examinations he was exposed to the early digital mapping systems which would later evolve into what are now known as Geographic Information Systems (G.I.S.). Ever since these early days he has been actively involved in the use and management of G.I.S. and has gone on to qualify as a Chartered Geographer and is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. He is currently a Senior Manager with an I.T. company in Surrey that specialises in cloud hosted G.I.S. based upon open source technologies.

Mike is married to his wife Clare and they have two grown-up children, Victoria and Alexander.

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