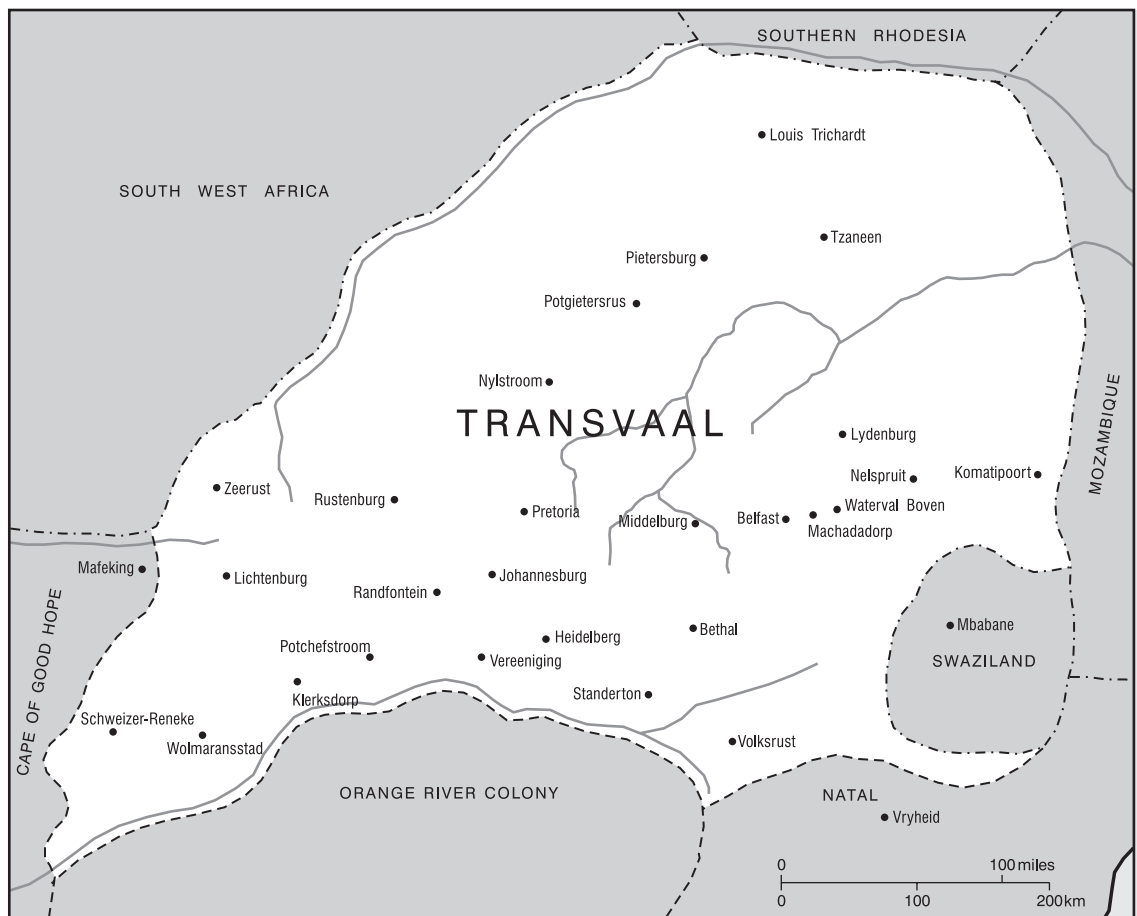


TRANSVAAL



The Transvaal.

25

Postage and Revenue Stamps

Preamble

When the British forces occupied the Transvaal (previously called the South African Republic) and set up civilian postal services, they resorted to the temporary measure of overprinting the stamps of the former Republic with the letters V.R.I., and subsequently E.R.I. after King Edward VII succeeded Queen Victoria. There was, however, every intention to proceed with developing and printing appropriate stamps for the new colony as soon as possible.

Following on from the initial development covered in Chapter 20, the Transvaal postage stamp and revenue stamp development continued together. However, despite a single correspondence usually covering them both, they have been treated separately, with this chapter covering only the dual-purpose postage and revenue stamps. The issue of revenue-only and the issue of postage-only stamps are handled in subsequent chapters.

Development

On 27 February 1901, just a few weeks after the death of Queen Victoria, Alfred Milner, Governor and High Commissioner of the new colony of the Transvaal, wrote to the Crown Agents. The letter reads in part:

I approve the designs returned herewith, marked B and C, subject to the necessary alteration of the key plate required by the demise of the Crown. I presume you will take steps to obtain a suitable representation of the King's head for the key plate. Doubtless the words 'Postage and Revenue' will show up more clearly on the stamp than they do in the hand-drawn specimen B.

The designs referred to are the Victorian designs covered in Chapter 20.

The letter continues:

The extra expense involved in printing the half-penny and penny stamps from a key plate is so small that I should prefer to have them printed on that system. The design M showing the effect of printing from one plate is not satisfactory.

I am not in a position, until after consultation with the new Treasurer and Postmaster General, to say what duties will be required. It seems desirable to limit the number of these as far as possible; but the following will certainly be wanted: ½d,

1d, 2d, 2½d, 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 5/-, 10/-, £1, £5, £10 and £25; and I would recommend that the designs be prepared, and the work put in hand, forthwith. The plan of distinguishing Transvaal stamps by duty tablets in each of the four corners should be adopted throughout.

This was to distinguish the Transvaal stamps from those of the Orange River Colony.

On 19 March 1901, The Crown Agents forwarded Milner's letter to De La Rue, and asked them to proceed with the 'overprint' (frame) plates. De La Rue responded the next day confirming the plan to go ahead with the frame plates, and suggesting the stamps for 5s and upwards should be printed in the larger revenue size. This was approved by the Crown Agents on 22 March 1901.

On 18 April 1901 the Crown Agents advised De La Rue that they had received a telegram from the High Commissioner (Sir Alfred Milner) requesting modifications to the stamp proposals. These were to have stamps above the 10s denomination as revenue-only stamps, and stamps for 2s 6d, 5s, and 10s in two sizes, the small size as postage-only stamps, and the same denominations in the large size as revenue-only stamps. Stamps below the 2s 6d were to remain as dual purpose postage and revenue stamps.

De La Rue responded the same day, advising:

As we informed you verbally, the King has commanded that a crown is to be incorporated in the border of all stamps bearing his effigy. We will consequently modify the designs to meet this requirement and also to meet the telegraphic instructions from the High Commissioner.

De La Rue submitted the design on 9 May 1901, and enclosed a photograph of the Victorian one originally approved by the High Commissioner for comparison. The design, as described in the Robson Lowe Auction Catalogue¹ was:

Queen Victoria photographic essay of the Transvaal 1d with Southern Nigeria head with tracing paper lay-over with head of King Edward with surrounds and hand painted frame dots, crown and stars, 'Postage', 'Revenue' and 'Transvaal'.

This was approved on 10 May 1901. A month later De La Rue was asked to provide a date for completion of the plates, and responded:

We are afraid that at the present moment it is impossible to give you a date for completion of the plates, for the King has deputed Mr. Fuchs to pass the engraving of the head, and we regret to say that he is rather hanging matters up.

Emil Fuchs had done the portrait of King Edward VII that the King chose as the one to be used on the stamps of the Empire. He must have been holding up De La Rue's progress for all the new stamp issues of the entire British Empire!

Eventually on 1 October 1901 De La Rue submitted Appendix sheets for selection of colours for the different denominations. Appendix A (Colour Plate 7) was for the postage and revenue as well as the postage-only stamps. As instructed, these colour proposals all had the central vignette of the King's head in doubly fugitive black ink. De La Rue included Appendix C (Appendix B was for revenue stamps) where the vignette was in varying colours, which De La Rue felt may be more desirable. Appendix C had 15 colour combinations for postage and revenue stamps, and 10 for the higher value postage-only stamps, as alternatives for the Crown Agents to select from.

¹ Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lot 933.

The Crown Agents responded on 7 October 1901, returning both Appendices A and C, and requesting De La Rue to submit a combination of colours that they thought would give the best results. The Crown Agents asked De La Rue to return Appendix A with the new proposals. This was done on 9 October, when De La Rue submitted Appendix E with their ideas of what would give the best results (Appendix D was for revenue stamps). The Crown Agents replied on 16 October approving all the colours as proposed on Appendix A for the postage and revenue stamps, ignoring the ones submitted by De La Rue, supposedly giving the best results!

The next relevant correspondence is a letter from Lord Milner (whose title had been changed from Governor and High Commissioner to Administrator of the Transvaal) of 5 April 1902. He asks to discontinue the 1s and 2s postage and revenue stamps, and replace these with two separate stamps, the small size for postage only, and the large size for revenue only. The letter continues:

I would propose that stamps of the denominations of threepence and fourpence should be added to the combined postage and revenue issues. These stamps were not included in the original order, but the Postmaster General has made frequent representations that stamps of these denominations are in constant demand, more especially the four-penny stamp, which represents the fee on registered letters.

This was passed on to De La Rue on 10 May, and they responded on 12 May, giving the cost of the new plates.

Then on 16 May 1902 De La Rue suggested the colours that had been the ones used for the 1s and 2s postage and revenue stamps which would now be discontinued, could be used for the new 3d and 4d stamps. This was approved on 20 May. Rather an unusual step, considering that 4d and 2s stamps would be in circulation with exactly the same colours (along with 3d and 1s stamps also with identical colours).

The next development took place 8 April 1905, when the Crown Agents wrote to the Colonial Office, pointing out that Milner had decided that the cost of printing the ½d and 1d postage and revenue stamps in two colours was so little more than the cost of using a single colour, that they should be printed in two colours. They diplomatically suggested that the actual costs had been greater than may have been contemplated, and proposed that this should be reconsidered. Costs were provided in the letter.

The letter then went on to point out that:

... the principle object in printing stamps in two colours is to permit one portion of the stamp to be printed in doubly fugitive ink so that the revenue may not be defrauded by pen marks being removed when used for revenue purposes. The only colours which can be obtained in doubly fugitive ink are Green, Purple and Black.

If doubly fugitive ink is used and only one colour is employed it is necessary in order to comply with the recommendation of the Postal Union Congress that 1d stamps should be printed as they are for many Colonies in purple on red paper. This would, however, produce an appearance very similar to the existing 10/- revenue stamp in use in the Transvaal.

It was in fact a 10s postage stamp, not a revenue stamp that they were referring to.

The letter continued:

The Imperial and Indian Governments long ago decided that the danger of ½d and 1d stamps being cleaned after pen cancellation was so small that ordinary green and red (i.e. not from doubly fugitive ink) could safely be used. This policy has been adopted by the Orange River Colony, Cape of Good Hope and Natal.

The Colonial Office agreed, and the Crown Agents then advised De La Rue that it had been decided to print the ½d and 1d in one colour in future, and that the necessary dies and plates should be prepared. They also advised that:

It is most important that the stamps should be clearly distinguished from those of the other South African Colonies, and also from the English and Indian stamps. The border does not seem to admit of any distinguishing design, but if there is some difference of colour the existing arrangement of numerals etc. on the stamp will no doubt give it a character of its own.

De La Rue submitted an Appendix sheet that bore no designated letter on 3 May 1905. The proposed stamps were printed in doubly fugitive ink. The 1d proposed was to be printed on red paper, which, as anticipated by the Crown Agents, would require a change in the colour of the existing 10s denomination, and proposals for this formed part of the Appendix (Fig. 25.7).

The Crown Agents had obviously not made their views, as expressed to the Colonial Office on 8 April, clear to De La Rue. The Crown Agents then wrote to De La Rue on 5 May, saying 'It is not intended that the new ½d and 1d stamps should be produced in doubly fugitive ink.' On 8 May De La Rue submitted a new colour proposals marked Appendix B printed in singly fugitive red and green ink. These were approved on 18 May 1905.

The 22 September 1908 requisition requested that the 2½d denomination be printed in the single colour of blue. This was to match the single colour ½d and 1d stamps in conforming to the international convention of green for the stamp prepaying the international printed paper rate, red for the international postcard rate, and blue for the international letter rate. The new single colour blue stamps were invoiced in November 1908.

The requisition submitted to De La Rue on 27 May 1909 had marked against the 2d 'single colour printing'. De La Rue responded the next day saying: 'We shall be glad to receive your instructions as to the colour in which the 2d Postage and Revenue stamps are to be printed.' Then on 5 June 1909, the Crown Agents responded saying: 'Unless you are aware of any reason to the contrary the colour of the 2d stamp should not be changed.' On the 7 June De La Rue pointed out the note on the requisition requiring a single colour printing. The Crown Agents responded on 18 June, simply saying that the 2d stamp is to follow the new colour scheme. No further explanation or apology for the confusion caused was offered.

The new colour scheme referred to was the proposed Universal Colour Scheme, however this had the 2d denomination in purple and carmine, not just one colour. The alternative colour proposed in the Scheme for the 2d was carmine and grey. De La Rue acknowledged, and proceeded with the printing, using the predominant colour only. Somehow, the Agent General for the Transvaal was involved, and De La Rue used the alternative 2d colour in the Scheme, so printed the Transvaal 2d in grey.

On 29 September 1909, the Crown Agents wrote to De La Rue:

The Agent General's instructions with regard to the colour of the 2d stamps were given under misapprehension. The whole of the recent printing will therefore be destroyed.

This was done, but a number of the 413 stamps overprinted SPECIMEN had already been distributed, and these have survived. There is also, however, a copy in the Mosely Collection in the British Library without the specimen overprint. This is the only recorded copy without such an overprint. The stamps were then printed again in singly fugitive purple.

Material from the De La Rue Records

There are three main categories of material. That from the Striking and Work Books, which were De La Rue's internal work records. That from the file records, which were the various die proofs in their various states. That from the Correspondence Books, which were the proposals sent to the Colony for selection and approval. The Correspondence Book material was often prepared in duplicate, one copy being retained, while the other was sent to the Crown Agents, or the Transvaal Agent General.

Striking and Work Books The Striking Book items were single copies of die proofs stuck into the Book, with the work instructions written alongside, often dated, sometimes with both the date the job was placed into the work programme, and the date it was completed. Once the job had been completed the die proof usually had a red line ruled across it, designating that the job was now done, and had been written up in the Private Day Book. These are among the more scarce items, as there was only one copy in existence for each plate made. They are usually cut down, to not take too much space on the Striking Book page (Fig. 25.1).

These items were all auctioned by Robson Lowe in 1976.² The proofs of the dies used to make up the plates and their manuscript dates and markings were as follows:

- Head plate: 'Sept 6, 240 leads and 6 extra' in black and 'Transvaal' in red (Fig. 25.2).
- ½d border plate: 'Aug 9, 240 leads and 2 extra' in black and 'Dec 31st 01' in red.
- 1d border plate: 'Aug 2, 240 leads and 2 extra' in black.
- 2d border plate: 'Aug 10, 240 leads and 2 extra' in black.
- 2½d border plate: 'Aug 16, 240 leads and 2 extra' in black.
- 6d border plate: 'Aug 19 240 leads and 2 extra' in black and 'Dec 31st 01' in red.
- 1s border plate: 'Aug 21, 240 leads and 2 extra' in black.
- 2s border plate: 'Aug 23, 240 leads and 2 extra' in black and 'Dec 31st 01' in red.

Notes:

- 1 All the die proofs have a red diagonal line across the piece.
- 2 The date of 31 December 1901 was the date the job had been completed.
- 3 In 1903 two denominations were added, 3d and 4d.



Fig. 25.1 Striking Book die proof for 2d dated August 10 (1901) with instructions to strike 240 leads plus 2 extra.

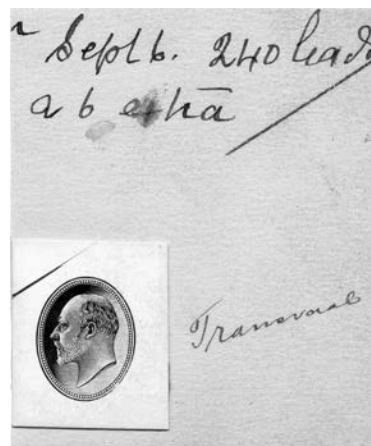


Fig. 25.2 Striking Book die proof for the Head plate, with instructions to strike 240 leads and 6 extra and manuscript notation 'Transvaal'.

² Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lots 935 to 939.

- 3d border plate: 'July 16' in black.
 4d border plate: 'July 17' in black.

Notes:

- 1 These are together on a single piece (Fig. 25.3), with a common note in black across the top: '240 leads and 2 extra from each die'.
- 2 There is a red diagonal line across the piece.

The next set of die proofs were from the dies used to make the single plate printing of the whole design for the single colour stamps. Their manuscript dates and markings were as follows:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d plate: 'June 29, 240 leads and 6 extra' in black and 'Aug 23. 05' in red.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d plate: 'Mar 8, 240 leads' in black and 'No. 2 May 4th 11' in red.
 1d plate: 'July 5, 240 leads and 6 extra' in black and 'Aug 23. 05' in red.
 1d plate: 'June 18, 240 leads and 6 extra' in black and 'No. 2 Aug 15. 07' in red.
 1d plate: 'Mar 10, 240 leads' in black and 'No. 3 June 1st 11' in red
 1d plate: 'Jan 9, 240 leads' in black and 'No. 4 No charge to replace No. 3 cracked' in red.

Note: All have a red diagonal line across the piece.

The second plate of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, and the third and fourth plates of the 1d were produced after the Transvaal had been incorporated into the Union of South Africa, and stamps were needed for use across the entire country until such time as the new South Africa stamps were issued. The stamps produced from these plates are therefore technically South African, rather than Transvaal stamps.

The De La Rue Collection also contained two cut down die proofs. These are dated and initialled. The title of the page that was in the De La Rue Collection was 'Transvaal 1902–09 Issues. Approved die proofs for two and single workings of 1d and $\frac{1}{2}$ d values.' The 1d proof has the approval date as 20 June 1901. This is marked as 'Two workings', meaning it was made from a head and a border die. It appears to be the representative approved proof for all the bicolour printings. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d die proof has the approval date of 21 June 1905, and is headed 'Single Printing'. This was made from a single die for the single colour stamps. It appears to be the representative approved proof for all the single colour printings. It is not known whether similar cut down, dated and approved die proofs exist for other values. If so, they were not part of the De La Rue Collection.

File Records These were die proofs normally on the standard De La Rue glazed card (92 mm wide and 60 mm high). They usually showed the state of the die (BEFORE HARDENING, AFTER HARDENING, or AFTER STRIKING. No BEFORE STRIKING states are known on these Transvaal proofs), and the date the proof was made. The die state was usually hand stamped in black, and the date either in black or blue. These were sometimes initialled, and some had some other information noted in manuscript as well. The number of proofs taken in each state and on each date seems to vary, but in all cases only a few were made (Fig. 25.4).

Proofs of each die used for making up the first plate would have been pulled in all the three states. Then for subsequent plates the same hardened die would have been

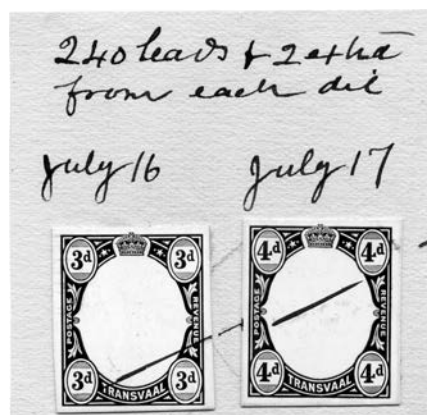


Fig. 25.3 Striking Book die proofs for the 3d and 4d denominations, with instructions to strike 240 leads and 2 extra from each die.

used, so only the AFTER STRIKING state proofs would be pulled, and perhaps some in the BEFORE STRIKING state as well, but none of these have been seen. So at least three different die proofs would have been made for each duty value. For the single colour complete dies, one extra for the later plate of the ½d, and three extra for the three later plates of the 1d.

Unlike the other three South African colonies, very few of these die proofs have become available. Either not many were retained (but that does not seem logical when compared to the similar die proofs available for all the denominations of the other colonies), or they were destroyed. These items may be survivors from the De La Rue records that were partially destroyed in the fire of 29 December 1940.

It is probable that other die proofs have survived, but only those die proofs actually noted are listed below.

For the stamps in two colours:

- King's Head vignette, BEFORE HARDENING, dated 28 Aug 01
- King's Head vignette, AFTER HARDENING, dated 29 Aug 01, initialled
- King's Head vignette, AFTER STRIKING, dated 6 Sep 01, initialled (Fig. 25.4)
- 2s Frame only, dated 23 Aug 01 (die state omitted) (Fig. 25.5)
- 2s 6d Frame only, dated Aug 15 in manuscript (die state omitted)

For the single coloured stamps:

- King's Head vignette with entire frame blank, dated 14 Jun 07
- ½d Complete design, BEFORE HARDENING, dated 21 Jun 05
- ½d Complete design, AFTER HARDENING, dated 23 Jun 05, initialled
- ½d Complete design, AFTER STRIKING, dated 28 Jun 05, initialled
- ½d Complete design, AFTER STRIKING, dated 14 Mar 11, initialled
- 1d Complete design, BEFORE HARDENING, dated 21 Jun 05
- 1d Complete design, AFTER HARDENING, dated 28 Jun 05, initialled
- 1d Complete design, AFTER STRIKING, dated 17 Jun 07, initialled (Fig. 25.6)
- 1d Complete design, AFTER STRIKING, dated 14 Mar 11, initialled

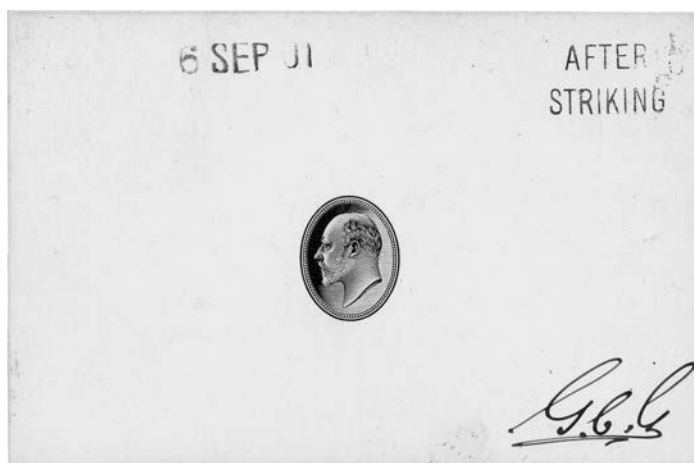


Fig. 25.4 Die proof of King's Head vignette in AFTER STRIKING state.

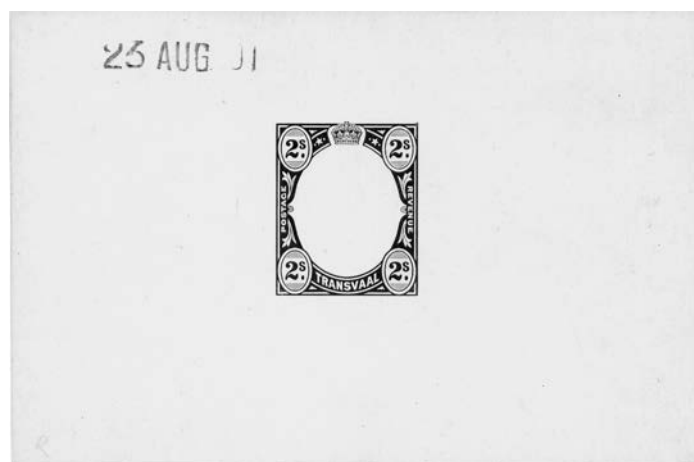


Fig. 25.5 Die proof of 2s border with die state omitted.

De La Rue also usually kept file copies of the issued stamps, stuck into a file book. These were part of the De La Rue reference collection, but their present whereabouts are not known. They also kept file copies of the issued stamps handstamped SPECIMEN, these have been noted, and are covered in Chapter 32, along with the other specimen stamps.

Ink Recipe Books The pages from the recipe book have been recorded for all denominations except the single colour 2d and 2½d denominations, so it is probable that they too are still in existence.

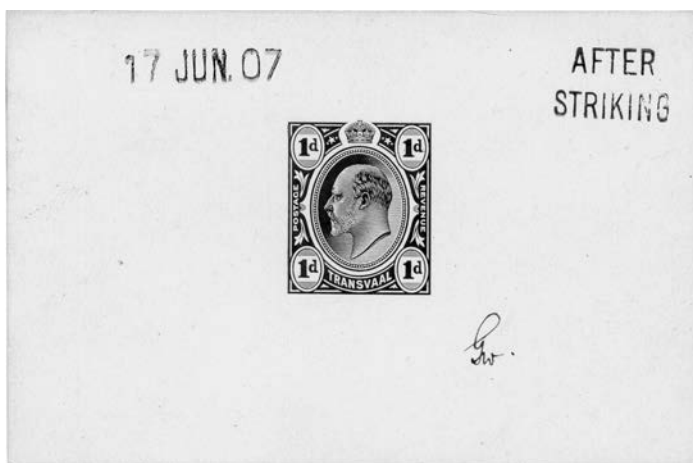


Fig. 25.6 Die proof of 1d AFTER STRIKING.

Correspondence Books These items were the stamp designs that De La Rue prepared. There were also a number of colour proposals involved in the form of Appendix sheets. Not all of the designs and colour proposals may have survived. Whatever is known about the material is noted.

9 May 1901

Photographic copy of the Victorian design B with a tracing paper overlay of the effigy of King Edward, crown, the words TRANSVAAL, POSTAGE and REVENUE hand-painted in white and red on the tracing paper. This was offered in the Robson Lowe Auction of 1976.³

1 October 1901

Two Appendix sheets marked A and C (B and D were for revenue stamps). Appendix sheet A (Colour Plate 7) had the proposed colours for all the dual purpose stamps, ½d to 2s. All the seven values are depicted using 1d denominations (the three higher value postage-only stamp colour proposals are also on the same Appendix). Appendix C had 15 alternative colours for the dual purpose stamps, again all depicted on the 1d stamp. (It also included ten alternative colours for the higher value postage-only stamps). This Appendix has been cut up and dispersed. Appendix A was offered intact in the Robson Lowe auction of 1976,⁴ and some items from Appendix C (that had been cut up) were also offered.

9 October 1901

At the request of the Crown Agents Appendix E was provided with what De La Rue considered the most suitable colour combinations for each denomination. It was similar to Appendix A in layout, having colour proposals for each of the seven dual purpose postage and revenue stamps with the suggested denomination written alongside. All being depicted by 1d denomination stamps. (It again included proposals for the three higher value postage-only stamps.) This Appendix too has been cut up and dispersed, parts of which appeared in the Robson Lowe auction of 1976.

³ Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lot 933.

⁴ Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lot 940.

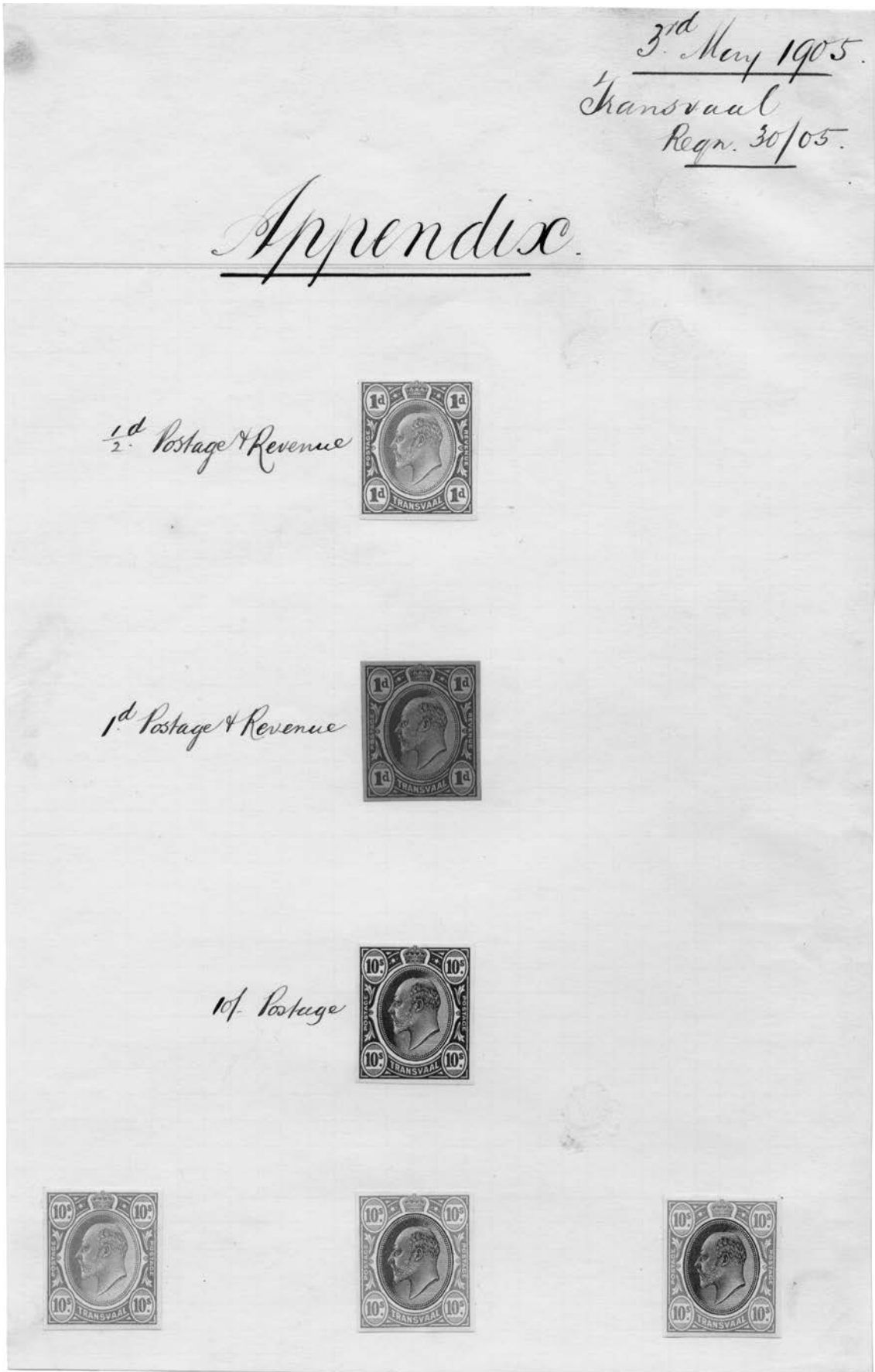


Fig. 25.7 Appendix Sheet with colour proposal for the single colour ½d and 1d stamps.

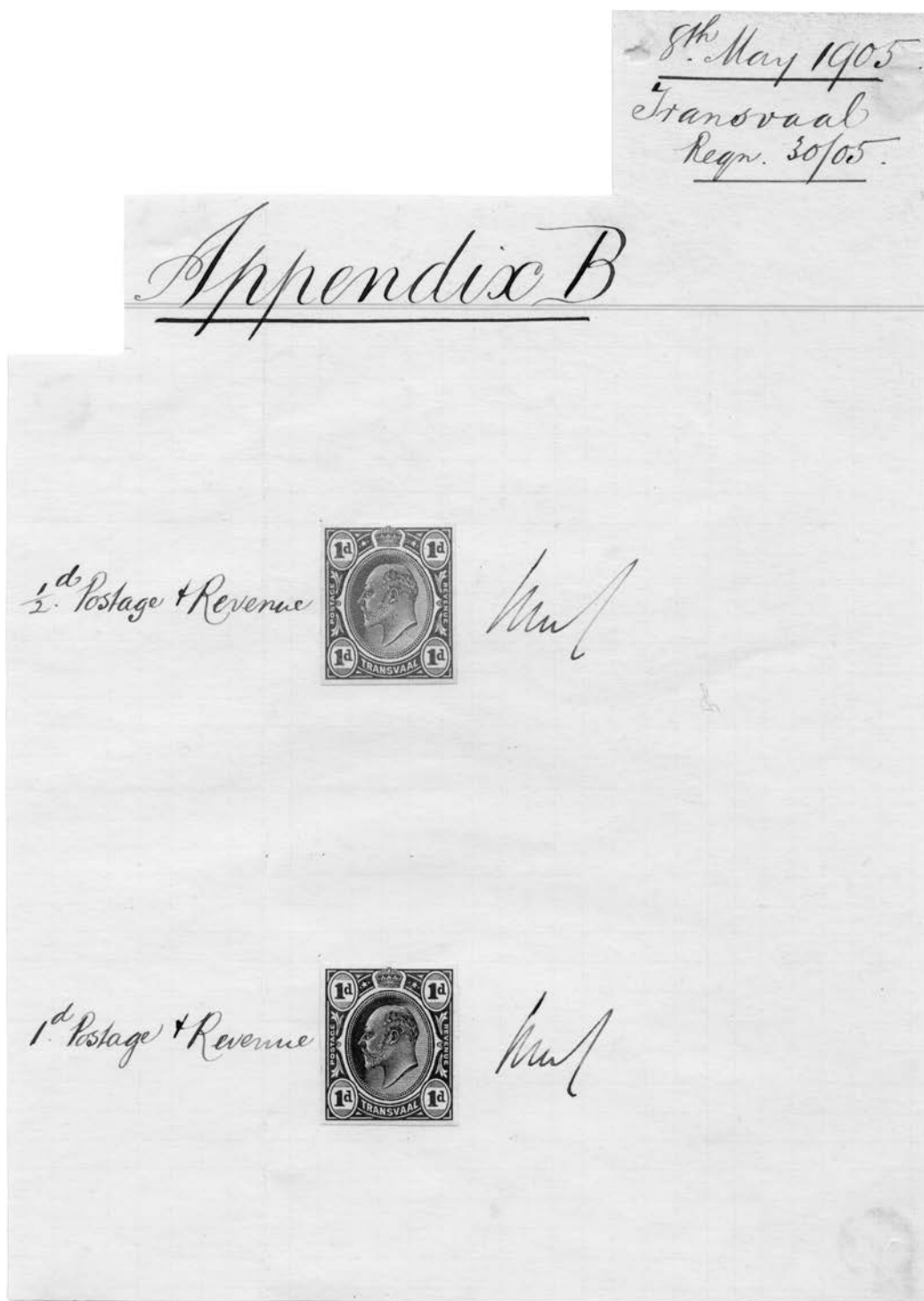


Fig. 25.8 Appendix B with the accepted colour proposal for the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d stamps.

3 May 1905

The $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d stamps were to be printed in one instead of two colours, and an Appendix sheet (Fig. 25.7) without a designated letter was produced with proposed colours for each value in doubly fugitive ink. (The 1d proposed would be too similar to the existing 10s

postage-only stamp, so the Appendix sheet also included a new colour proposal for the 10s postage stamp, as well as three other alternatives for the 10s.) This Appendix sheet was offered relatively intact at the Robson Lowe auction in 1976.⁵

8 May 1905

Appendix B (Fig. 25.8) was submitted, as the Crown Agents were not happy with the colours on the Appendix sheet of 3 May 1905. It consisted of only one ½d and 1d colour proposal, and was initialled and approved. It formed the other part of lot 975 on the Robson Lowe auction of 1976.

A number of colour proofs other than those on the Appendix sheets were also retained. It is not clear how many, or even if they were complete sets. These imperforate colour trials are on gummed paper with the Crown CA watermark.

The Printing Requisitions

The term Indent was often used by the Colony for their printing orders, but the Crown Agents and De La Rue used the term Requisition, so for consistency, the term Requisition has been adopted throughout this section. Many requisitions were for stamps and also other postal items (like postal stationery), but only the dual purpose postage and revenue stamps on any requisition are mentioned in this section. Consequently, the same requisition may be referred to in another chapter, for the relevant items to that particular chapter. The Colony had a system of numbering their requisitions (or indents) that went to the Crown Agents, however, the Crown Agents used their own numbering system when placing the requisition with De La Rue. This is the one used here, showing a number and the year, as in the first one below, number 90 of the year 1900 shown as 90/00.

Requisition No. 90/00 was dated 31 December 1900 and subsequently expanded to include the 3d and 4d denominations. It was for the following numbers of stamps:

½d	5,250,000	4d	480,000
1d	18,000,000	6d	1,032,000
2d	1,530,000	1s	1,032,000
2½d	510,000	2s	132,000
3d	480,000		

The ½d printing was broken into two parts, the 1d into five parts, and the 2s into two parts. The different parts were printed at different times and invoiced separately. For each denomination, 722 stamps were overprinted SPECIMEN for UPU distribution.

Requisition No. 118/02 was dated 30 October 1902, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

½d	2,529,840	4d	45,360
1d	31,335,600	6d	670,080
2½d	389,040		

Again the ½d printing was broken into two parts, and the 1d into nine parts, with the different parts being printed at different times and invoiced separately.

Requisition No. 60/03 was dated 9 July 1903, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

⁵ Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, part of lot 975.

½d	6,000,000	3d	480,000
1d	30,960,000	4d	390,000
2d	600,000	6d	1,800,000
2½d	660,000		

The 1d printing was broken into five parts, with the different parts being printed at different times and invoiced separately.

Requisition No. 83/04 was dated 21 September 1904 for the ½d and 18 October 1904 for the 2½d, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

½d	5,440,000	2½d	500,000
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The ½d printing was broken into two parts, with the different parts being printed at different times and invoiced separately.

Requisition No. 30/05 was dated 3 April 1905, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

½d	6,000,000	2½d	150,000
1d	19,200,000	6d	900,000

This was for the new single colour ½d and 1d, each of which also had 727 stamps over-printed SPECIMEN for UPU distribution. The ½d printing was broken into three parts and the 1d into seven parts, with the different parts being printed and invoiced separately.

Requisition No. 86/05 was dated 22 September 1905, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

½d	7,080,000	3d	240,000
1d	28,320,000	4d	480,000
2d	600,000	6d	1,200,000
2½d	600,000		

Again the ½d printing was broken into two parts, and the 1d into six parts, with the different parts being printed and invoiced separately.

Requisition No. 59/06 was dated 4 July 1906, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

½d	6,480,000	3d	480,000
1d	26,400,000	4d	480,000
2d	600,000	6d	360,000
2½d	720,000		

The ½d printing was broken into three parts, and the 1d into five parts, with the different parts being printed and invoiced separately.

Requisition No. 5/07 was dated 24 January 1907, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

½d	6,000,000
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The ½d printing was broken into two parts, with the different parts being printed and invoiced separately.

Requisition No. 36/07 was dated 4 June 1907, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

½d	6,000,000	3d	720,000
1d	24,000,000	4d	600,000
2d	360,000	6d	600,000
2½d	360,000		

The ½d printing was broken into three parts, and the 1d into nine parts, with the different parts being printed and invoiced separately.

Requisition No. 75/08 was dated 21 September 1908, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

½d	7,000,000	3d	600,000
1d	24,000,000	4d	360,000
2d	600,000	6d	480,000
2½d	360,000		

The 2½d was for the new single colour printing, which also had 413 stamps overprinted SPECIMEN for UPU distribution. The ½d printing was broken into five parts, and the 1d into ten parts, with the different parts being printed and invoiced separately.

Requisition No. 41/09 was dated 27 May 1909, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

½d	7,000,000	2½d	240,000
1d	36,000,000	6d	480,000
2d	240,000		

The 2d was for the new single colour printing, which also had 413 stamps overprinted SPECIMEN for UPU distribution. However, it was printed in grey (instead of purple), and all the printing had to be destroyed, with only some of the specimen overprinted copies, and one copy in the Mosely Collection in the British Library that has not been overprinted SPECIMEN, surviving. The 2d reprinted in the right single colour was also done under this Requisition on 29 September, but this time there were 416 stamps overprinted SPECIMEN for UPU distribution. The ½d printing was broken into three parts, and the 1d into ten parts, with the different parts being printed and invoiced separately.

Requisition No. 29/10 was dated 8 April 1910, and was for the following number of stamps:

½d	6,000,000	3d	150,000
1d	12,000,000	4d	360,000
2d	480,000	6d	480,000

The ½d printing was broken into four parts, and the 1d into three parts, with the different parts being printed and invoiced separately. The 1d was now being printed using a new 480-set plate.

Requisition No. 52/10 was dated 3 June 1910, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

2½d	360,000
-----	---------

This was the first requisition for Transvaal postage and revenue stamps after the Transvaal was incorporated into the Union of South Africa on 31 May 1910, so these are technically South African stamps.

Requisition No. 1475 was dated 22 February 1911, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

½d	60,000,000	3d	3,600,000
1d	76,800,000	4d	600,000
2d	3,600,000	6d	1,200,000

The requisition number is now a Union of South Africa number. These stamps were ordered in larger than normal numbers, as they were intended to be provisional stamps for all of South Africa until such time as the new South African stamps could be issued. The ½d printing was broken into twelve parts, and the 1d into fourteen parts, with the different parts being printed and invoiced separately.

Requisition No. 2681 was dated 14 September 1911, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1d	36,000,000	6d	1,200,000
4d	600,000		

The 1d printing was broken into six parts, with the different parts being printed and invoiced separately.

Requisition No. 3301 was dated 3 January 1912, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

½d	43,500,000	4d	3,000,000
1d	106,500,000	6d	4,250,000
2d	1,500,000		

The ½d printing was broken into seven parts, and the 1d into eleven parts, with the different parts being printed and invoiced separately.

Requisition No. 5222 was dated 23 December 1912, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

3d	1,500,000
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These numbers exclude all ½d and 1d stamps required for the stamp booklets, as these are covered separately.

De La Rue tended to produce a few more sheets than were actually ordered, and then ship and invoice the full printing, so the number printed was usually a little above that on the requisition. The exact number printed and shipped is available in the De La Rue Private Day Books, but this has not been recorded here.

The Stamps

In summary, the stamps were issued 1 April 1902, with the 3d and 4d issued on 17 December 1902. The 1s and 2s denominations became obsolete on 31 January 1903, as the separate stamps for postage only and revenue only came into service on 1 February 1903. They were all printed in sheets of 240 stamps (4 panes of 60 stamps, in 10 rows of 6 stamps per pane). The 1d plate was, however increased to 480-set in 1910.

Initially they were printed on paper with the watermark Crown CA, and then from 1904 the watermark was changed to Multiple Crown CA. The ½d, 1d and 2½d denominations are known with the Crown CA watermark inverted. The ½d, 4d and 6d are known with the Multiple Crown CA watermark inverted, while on the ½d it is also known inverted and reversed. Among the single colour stamps, the ½d and the 1d are known with the Multiple Crown CA watermark inverted. The 1d is also with the unusual watermark of the Cabled Anchor of the Cape of Good Hope. The 1d is also known printed in aniline ink.

Some of the 1904–09 printings with the Multiple Crown CA watermark, are printed on chalk surfaced paper. These are the 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d and 6d denominations. The perforation of the stamps was 14. There is, however, a single imperforate 3d in the Royal Philatelic Collection. No other imperforate bicoloured dual purpose postage and revenue stamps have presently been recorded. However, also in the Royal Philatelic Collection, there is an imperforate monocoloured 2½d and an imperforate postage-only 1s. Nothing is known about the origin of these stamps. The colours of the various denominations were:

½d	black and bluish green	4d	black and brown
1d	black and carmine	6d	black and orange-brown
2d	black and purple	1s	black and sage green
2½d	black and blue	2s	black and brown
3d	black and sage-green		

The centre vignette of the head of King Edward VII varied in shade from a brownish black to grey to black.

The 3d and 4d denominations only being printed when the 1s and 2s dual purpose postage and revenue stamps were being replaced by separate postage-only and revenue-only stamps, so the now obsolete colours of the 1s and 2s were used for the new 3d and 4d denomination.

An article in the *South African Philatelist* of June 1951 reports a 3d denomination with a doubling of the letters in 'Transvaal' as well as 'Postage' and 'Revenue'. The conclusion drawn was that it might be due to 'flapping of the paper as it came off the plate.' On examining this particular stamp from the Hunt Collection (along with another pair of 3d with the same effect), it appears that the double is more of a 'ghost' impression. It is doubtful that this variety is worthy of any special listing.

Later the four low values were changed to single colours. The ½d and 1d were issued on 18 September 1905, and the 2½d at the end of 1908, and the 2d in 1909. There is an imperforate 2½d monocolour in the Royal Philatelic Collection. No other imperforate monocolour dual purpose postage and revenue stamps have presently been recorded. Nothing is known of the origin of this stamp.

The colours of the various denominations were:

½d	green	2d	purple
1d	scarlet	2½d	bright blue

Several printings of each were made, resulting in shades of each duty. The single colour 1d, being the most printed, required four different plates, the single colour ½d required two different plates, while all the others required only a single plate. The stamps from the second plate of the ½d value were printed in 1911. The stamps from the second plate of the 1d were printed in 1907, and the third plate in 1911. Stamps from the fourth plate of the 1d value were issued soon after those of the third plate (in 1912), as this plate cracked, and had to be replaced.

As per the requisitions, several printings of most of the stamps in two colours were made:

½d	4 Printings, using 1 plate	4d	11 Printings, using 1 plate
1d	3 Printings, using 1 plate	6d	13 Printings, using 1 plate
2d	6 Printings, using 1 plate	1s	1 Printing, using 1 plate
2½d	8 Printings, using 1 plate	2s	1 Printing, using 1 plate
3d	9 Printings, using 1 plate		

The single colour stamps also had a number of printings:

½d	10 Printings, using 2 different plates
1d	10 Printings, using 4 different plates
2d	4 Printings, using 1 plate
2½d	3 Printings, using 1 plate

Some of the requisition quantities for the ½d and 1d were rather large, and were printed in parts. These are sometimes counted as different printings. Here only each requisition as a whole is considered as a separate printing. The 2s denomination had only one relatively small printing of 132,000. Much of the usage would have been for revenue purposes, making it a relatively difficult stamp to find either unused or postally used.

Coil Stamps

These are all technically Union of South Africa stamps, as the coil stamp introduction only took place in 1911. Initially three machines were installed in Pretoria, Johannesburg and Cape Town. Stamps were torn along their perforations to form strips and joined to make strips of 1,200 stamps to be rolled and inserted into machines. These were then cut at top and bottom by the dispensing machine, so only the top and bottom show the neat guillotine cut. Transvaal ½d, 1d, and 2d stamps of the 1908–09 issue were so used, along with ½d Cape of Good Hope and 2d Orange River Colony stamps.

The one exception to this method was the Transvaal 1d coils prepared in early 1912. The South African authorities decided to have the vending machine company prepare the coils. Consequently 5,000 sheets of 240 stamps each were supplied by De La Rue from the printing completed in April 1912 (Requisition No. 3301) were sent directly to British Electric Automatic Machines Ltd to be made up into coils. These are easily distinguishable from the other coil stamps as they are also guillotined on the sides (as well as top and bottom by the vending machine). A strip of three of these stamps are known with a leader that is inscribed in red 'Union of South Africa 1,200 1d Postage Stamps. Value &5'.

26

Postage Stamps

Preamble

This chapter covers the stamps that were intended exclusively for postal use. These are inscribed with the word POSTAGE on both sides, while the dual purpose postage and revenue were inscribed POSTAGE on the left and REVENUE on the right. The dual purpose postage and revenue stamps were covered in the previous chapter, and stamp booklets are covered in the next chapter.

Development

In the letter of 27 February 1901, from Sir Alfred Milner, Governor and High Commissioner of the new colony of the Transvaal, (referred to in the previous chapter), it was implied that all denominations of stamps would be dual purpose postage and revenue stamps.

On 18 April 1901 the Crown Agents advised De La Rue that they had received a telegram from the High Commissioner (Sir Alfred Milner) requesting modifications to the stamp proposals. These were to have stamps above the 10s denomination as revenue-only stamps, and stamps for 2s 6d, 5s, and 10s in two sizes, the small size as postage-only stamps, and the same denominations in the large size as revenue-only stamps. Stamps below the 2s 6d were to remain as dual purpose postage and revenue stamps. The design of the postage-only stamps was to be the same as the postage and revenue stamps.

On 1 October 1901 De La Rue submitted Appendix sheets for selection of colours for the different denominations. Appendix A (Colour Plate 7) was for the postage and revenue as well as the postage-only stamps. As instructed these colour proposals all had the central vignette of the King's head in doubly fugitive black ink. De La Rue included Appendix C (Appendix B was for revenue stamps) where the vignette was in varying colours, which De La Rue felt may be more desirable. Appendix C had 15 colour combinations for postage and revenue stamps and 10 for the higher value postage-only stamps as alternatives for the Crown Agents to select from. All the colour proposals for the postage-only stamps were made utilising the 2s 6d denomination die.

The Crown Agents responded on 7 October 1901, returning both Appendices A and C, and requesting De La Rue to submit a combination of colours that they thought would give the best results. The Crown Agents asked De La Rue to return Appendix A with the new proposals. This was done on 9 October, when De La Rue submitted Appendix E with their ideas of what would give the best results (Appendix D was for revenue stamps). The Crown

Agents replied on 16 October approving the colours as proposed on Appendix A for the 5s and 10s denomination stamps, and the colours as proposed on Appendix E for the 2s 6d denomination stamp.

The next relevant correspondence is a letter from Lord Milner (whose title had been changed from Governor and High Commissioner to Administrator of the Transvaal) of 5 April 1902. He asks to discontinue the 1s and 2s postage and revenue stamps, and replace these with two separate stamps, the small size for postage only, and the large size for revenue only. This was passed on to De La Rue on 10 May, and they responded on 12 May, giving the cost of the new plates.

On 26 August 1902 the Crown Agents wrote to De La Rue requesting colour proposals for new £1 and £5 postage stamps. On 3 September De La Rue provided an Appendix sheet (without a designating letter) with proposed colours for the new £1 and £5 postage stamps. The Appendix sheet also offered an additional ten colour combinations as alternatives for the Crown Agents to choose from. On 5 September the Crown Agents approved the proposed colours for the £5, and chose one of the ten alternative colours for the £1 stamp. Manufacture of dies and plates went ahead, but when it came to invoicing the cost of producing them, the Crown Agents questioned why a plate of 240 had been made, as the quantities would not justify such a large plate. De La Rue explained that the common central vignette head plate was 240, so the frame plates needed to match that. In the debate that followed, De La Rue promised a special price for the printing of these stamps as a compromise.

Material from the De La Rue Records

Chapters 2 and 3 provide the necessary background explanation of the material from the De La Rue Records. With the material now dispersed, it is worth attempting to record what is still believed to be in existence.

The Correspondence Book material was often prepared in duplicate, one copy being retained, while the other was sent to the Crown Agents, or the Transvaal Agent General.

Striking and Work Books The Striking Book items were single copies of die proofs stuck into the Book, with the work instructions written alongside, often dated, sometimes with both the date the job was placed into the work programme, and the date it was completed. Once the job had been completed the die proof usually had a red line ruled across it, designating that the job was now done, and had been written up in the Private Day Book. These are among the more scarce items, as there was only one copy in existence for each plate made. They are usually cut down, to not take too much space on the Striking Book page (Fig. 26.1).

These items were all auctioned by Robson Lowe in 1976.¹ The Head plate was a common one used for all the small size postage and revenue stamps as well as the postage-only stamps (Fig. 25.2). This is listed in the previous chapter on dual purpose postage and

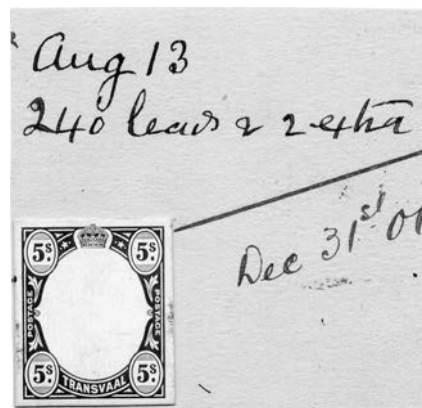


Fig. 26.1 Striking Book die proof for 5s dated August 13 (1901) with instructions to strike 240 leads plus 2 extra, and the completion date if 31 December 1901.

¹ Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lots 935 and 936.

revenue stamps, and is not repeated here. The proofs of the dies used to make up the frame plates and their manuscript dates and markings were as follows:

Initially there were only three postage-only denominations.

- 2s 6d border plate: 'Aug 15, 240 leads and 2 extra' in black.
- 5s border plate: 'Aug 13, 240 leads and 2 extra' in black and 'Dec 31st 01 in red.
- 10s border plate: 'Aug 6, 240 leads and 2 extra' in black.

Notes:

- 1 All the die proofs have a red diagonal line across the piece.
- 2 The date of 31 December 1901 was the date the job had been completed.

In 1903 two denominations were added, these were the 1s and 2s, which replaced the dual purpose postage and revenue stamps of the same denominations.

- 1s border plate: 'July 12' in black.
- 2s border plate: 'July 15' in black.

Notes:

- 1 These are together on a single piece (Fig. 26.2), with a common note in black across the top: '240 leads and 2 extra from each die'.
- 2 There is a red diagonal line across the piece, and the completion date of 'Sep 9. 02' also in red.

Later in 1903 two additional high denominations were added.

- £1 border plate
- £5 border plate

Notes:

- 1 These are together on a single piece (Fig. 26.3), with a common note in black across the top 'Oct 10 240 leads each and 2 extra'.
- 2 It also has a red diagonal line across the piece, and 'Nov 14 02' in red.

The De La Rue Collection contained no postage-only dated and initialled cut down die proofs similar to those for the dual purpose postage and revenue die proofs. It is not known whether such die proofs exist for these postage-only denominations. If so, they were not part of the De La Rue Collection.

File Records These were die proofs normally on the standard De La Rue glazed card (92 mm wide and 60 mm high). They usually showed the state of the die (BEFORE HARDENING, AFTER HARDENING, or AFTER STRIKING. No BEFORE STRIKING states are known on these Transvaal

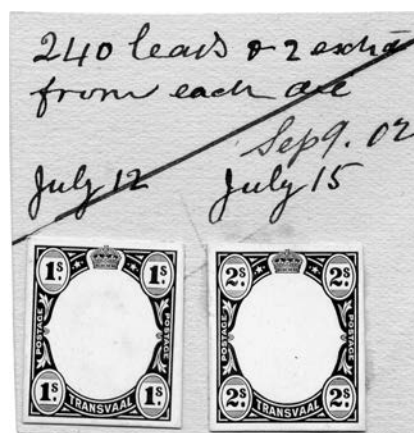


Fig. 26.2 Striking Book die proofs for the 1s and 2s denominations, with instructions to strike 240 leads and 2 extra from each die.



Fig. 26.3 Striking Book die proofs for the £1 and £5 denominations with instructions to strike 240 leads and two extra from each die.

proofs), and the date the proof was made. The die state was usually hand stamped in black, and the date either in black or blue. These were sometimes initialled, and some had some other information noted in manuscript as well. The number of proofs taken in each state and on each date seems to vary, but in all cases only a few were made. In the case of the postage-only Transvaal stamps the only one so far recorded is for the 2s 6d frame, and unusually it has only a pencil manuscript date 'Aug 15' (Fig. 26.4)

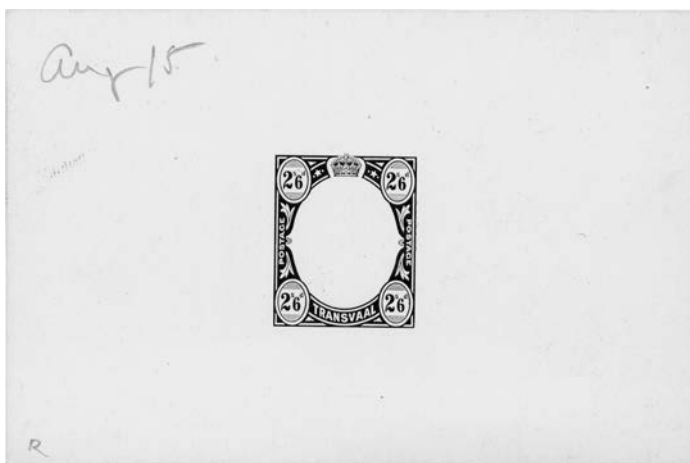


Fig. 26.4 Die proof of 2s 6d border with die state omitted.

Proofs of each die used for making up the first plate would usually have been pulled in all the three states. So at least three different die proofs would have been made for each duty value. Unlike the other three South African colonies, practically no Transvaal die proofs have become available. Either not many were retained (but that does not seem logical when compared to the similar die proofs available for all the denominations of the other colonies), or they were destroyed. The few items may be survivors from the De La Rue records that were partially destroyed in the fire of 29 December 1940.

De La Rue also usually kept file copies of the issued stamps, stuck into a file book. These were part of the De La Rue reference collection, but their present whereabouts are not known. They also kept file copies of the issued stamps handstamped SPECIMEN, these have been noted, and are covered in Chapter 32 with the other specimen stamps.

Ink Recipe Books Pages from the recipe book have been recorded for the 1s, 2s, 2s 6d, 5s and 10s denominations. It is therefore probable that they also still exist for the £1 and £5 denominations.

Correspondence Books These items were the stamp designs that De La Rue prepared. There were also a number of colour proposals involved in the form of Appendix sheets. Not all of the designs and colour proposals may have survived. The Correspondence Book material was often prepared in duplicate, one copy being retained, while the other was sent to the Crown Agents, or the Transvaal Agent General.

Whatever is known about the material is noted.

9 May 1901

Photographic copy of the Victorian design B with a tracing paper overlay of the effigy of King Edward, crown, the words Transvaal, Postage and Revenue handpainted in white and red on the tracing paper. This was offered in the Robson Lowe Auction of 1976.² This was the same design that was used for the postage-only stamps, with the word REVENUE replaced by the word POSTAGE on the right side of the stamp.

1 October 1901

Two Appendix sheets marked A and C (B and D were for revenue stamps). Appendix sheet A (Colour Plate 7) had the proposed colours for the initial three postage-only stamps,

² Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lot 933.

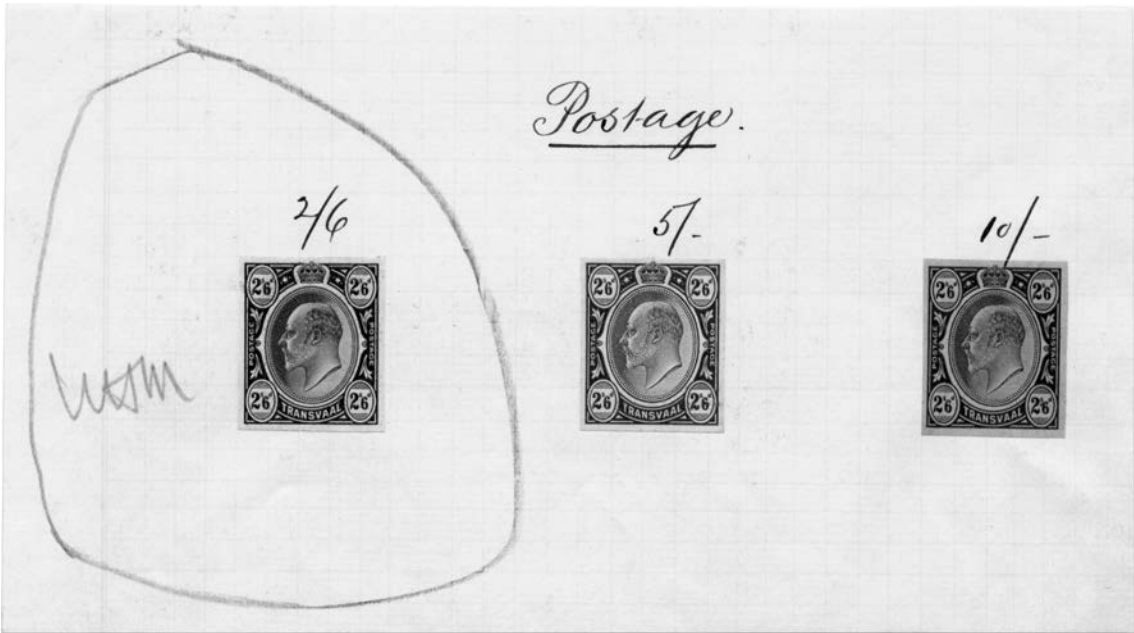


Fig. 26.5 Surviving section of Appendix E showing colour proposals for the three postage-only stamps (reduced).

2s 6d to 10s. All the three values are depicted using 2s 6d denominations (the seven lower value postage and revenue stamp colour proposals are on the same Appendix). Appendix C had 10 alternative colours for the postage-only stamps, again all depicted on the 2s 6d stamp. (It also included 15 alternative colours for the lower value postage and revenue stamps). This Appendix has been cut up and dispersed. Appendix A was offered intact in the Robson Lowe auction of 1976,³ and some items from Appendix C (that had been cut up) were also offered.

9 October 1901

At the request of the Crown Agents Appendix E was provided with what De La Rue considered the most suitable colour combinations for each denomination. It was similar to Appendix A in layout, having colour proposals for each of the three postage stamps with the suggested denomination written alongside. All being depicted by 2s 6d denomination stamps. (It again also included proposals for the seven lower value postage and revenue stamps). This Appendix too has been cut up and dispersed, parts of which appeared in the Robson Lowe auction of 1976. However the three postage-only proposals have survived on a single piece (Fig. 26.5).

3 September 1902

An Appendix sheet without a letter designation with colours proposed for the £1 and £5 denominations. It also included ten alternative colours for the Crown Agents to choose from should they not like the proposed colours. The proposed colours for the £5 were approved, and the approved colours for the £1 was chosen from one of the alternative colours provided. The Appendix sheet has been cut up and dispersed, parts of which appeared in the Robson Lowe auction of 1976.⁴

³ Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lot 940.

⁴ Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lots 959 to 964, 971 and 972.

3 May 1905

The ½d and 1d stamps were to be printed in one instead of two colours, and an Appendix sheet (Fig. 25.7) without a designated letter was produced in with proposed colours for each value in doubly fugitive ink. (The 1d proposed would be too similar to the existing 10s postage-only stamp, so the Appendix sheet included a new colour proposal for the 10s postage stamp, and three other alternatives for the 10s). This Appendix sheet was offered relatively intact at the Robson Lowe auction in 1976.⁵

A number of colour proofs other than those on the Appendix sheets were also retained. It is not clear how many, or even if they were complete sets. These imperforate colour trials are on gummed paper with the Crown CA watermark.

The Printing Requisitions

The term Indent was often used by the Colony for their printing orders, but the Crown Agents and De La Rue used the term Requisition, so for consistency, the term Requisition has been adopted throughout this section. Many requisitions were for stamps and also other postal items (like postal stationery), but only the postage-only stamps on any requisition are mentioned in this section. Consequently, the same requisition may be referred to in another chapter, for the relevant items to that particular chapter. The Colony had a system of numbering their requisitions (or indents) that went to the Crown Agents, however, the Crown Agents used their own numbering system when placing the requisition with De La Rue. This is the one used here, showing a number and the year, as in the first one below, number 90 of the year 1900 shown as 90/00.

Requisition No. 90/00 was dated 31 December 1900 and was for the following numbers of stamps:

2s 6d	54,000	10s	240,000
5s	24,000		

For each denomination, 722 stamps were overprinted SPECIMEN for UPU distribution.

Requisition No. 88/02 was dated 2 September 1902, and was for the following number of stamps:

2s 6d	180,000	£1	18,000
5s	120,000	£5	3,600

For the new £1 and £5 denominations, 722 stamps were overprinted SPECIMEN for UPU distribution.

Requisition No. 118/02 was dated 30 October 1902, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1s	163,680	10s	80,400
2s	39,600	£1	48,240
2s 6d	208,800	£5	3,840

The requisition was marked as being for 1903.

Requisition No. 60/03 was dated 9 July 1903, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

⁵ Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, part of lot 975.

1S	1,920,000	10S	40,000
2S	300,000	£1	20,000
2S 6d	240,000	£5	15,000
5S	12,000		

Requisition No. 101/03 was dated 20 November 1903, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

2S 6d	75,000	10S	68,500
5S	99,000	£1	106,000

Requisition No. 83/04 was dated 21 September 1904, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1S	1,000,000
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Requisition No. 30/05 was dated 3 April 1905, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1S	180,000	2S	65,000
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Requisition No. 86/05 was dated 22 September 1905, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1S	1,440,000	10S	60,000
2S	240,000		

The 2s and 10s denominations were requested in sheets of 60, so De La Rue divided the sheets into this size. This was a service that De La Rue was paid for doing.

Requisition No. 59/06 was dated 4 July 1906, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1S	840,000	£1	25,000
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Both denominations were asked for in sheets of 60, so again De La Rue divided up the sheets and charged for doing so.

Requisition No. 36/07 was dated 4 June 1907, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1S	1,200,000	10S	120,000
5S	120,000	£1	60,000

The 5s, 10s and £1 denominations were requested in sheets of 60, so De La Rue divided the sheets and were paid for doing so.

Requisition No. 75/08 was dated 21 September 1908, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1S	600,000	2S 6d	240,000
2S	240,000		

The 2s and 2s 6d denominations were again requested in sheets of 60.

Requisition No. 41/09 was dated 27 May 1909, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1S	600,000	£1	24,000
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The £1 denomination was again requested in sheets of 60.

Requisition No. 29/10 was dated 8 April 1910, and was for the following number of stamps:

1S	1,200,000	£1	72,000
10S	12,000		

The £1 denomination was requested in sheets of 120.

Requisition No. 1475 was dated 22 February 1911, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1S	4,200,000	2S 6d	120,000
2S	270,000	£1	180,000

The requisition number is now a Union of South Africa number. These stamps were ordered in larger than normal numbers, as they were intended to be provisional stamps for all of South Africa until such time as the new South African stamps could be issued. The 1S printing was broken into two parts, with the different parts being printed and invoiced separately.

Requisition No. 2681 was dated 14 September 1911, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1S	1,200,000	10S	240,000
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Requisition No. 3301 was dated 3 January 1912, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1S	6,500,000	5S	360,000
2S	250,000	£1	60,000
2S 6d	120,000		

De La Rue tended to produce a few more sheets than were actually ordered, and then ship and invoice the full printing, so the number printed was usually a little above that on the requisition. The exact number printed and shipped is available in the De La Rue Private Day Books, but this has not been recorded here.

The Stamps

In summary, the 2S 6d, 5S and 10S denomination stamps were issued 1 April 1902, with the 1S and 2S being issued on 1 February 1903, and the £1 and £5 on 1 March 1903. They were all printed in sheets of 240 stamps (4 panes of 60 stamps, in 10 rows of 6 stamps per pane).

Initially they were printed on paper with the watermark Crown CA, and then from 1904 the watermark was changed to Multiple Crown CA. The £1 denomination of the 1904–09 printings with the Multiple Crown CA watermark, are known printed on chalk surfaced paper. The perforation of the stamps was 14. There is, however, a 10S stamp in the Royal Philatelic Collection which is imperforate. No other imperforate postage-only stamps have been recorded. However, also in the Royal Philatelic Collection, there is an imperforate bicoloured 3d and also an imperforate monocolour 2½d dual purpose postage and revenue stamp. Nothing is presently known about the origin of these stamps.

The colours of the various denominations were:

1S	black and red-brown	2S 6d	magenta and black
2S	black and yellow	5S	black and purple on yellow paper

10s	black and purple on red paper	£5	orange-brown and violet
£1	green and violet		

The centre vignette of the head of King Edward VII varied in shade from a brownish black to grey to black.

Several printings of each were made, resulting in shades of each duty. All denominations required only a single plate. As per the requisitions, several printings of most of the stamps in were made:

1s	13 Printings	10s	8 Printings
2s	7 Printings	£1	10 Printings
2s 6d	8 Printings	£5	3 Printings
5s	6 Printings		

One of the requisition quantities for the 1s was printed in parts. This may sometimes be counted as two printings. Here only the requisition as a whole is considered as a separate printing.

Forgeries

A forgery exists of the £5 denomination. The differences between the genuine stamp and the forgery are numerous, however, the forgery does have a good likeness to the genuine stamp. The forgery can be detected by the colours, having the orange centre too reddish and the frame is nearer dull purple than the violet it should be. In addition, the forgery has the crown rather too heavy, and the jewels in the crown are indistinct, the King's forehead is too white, and the shading in the value tablets is more uneven. Perhaps the easiest way to tell the forgery are the small ornaments on the inside of the frame just under the 'T' of POSTAGE, which are malformed and look more like a solid blob rather than an ornament.

No other denominations are known to have been forged.

27

Postage Stamp Booklets

Preamble

The Transvaal was the first of the South African colonies to have stamp booklets printed and issued. The Transvaal went through the process, and effectively established the format and pricing involved. This included not going to the expense of having a special plate made for the booklets, but printing the stamps on the usual plate. This required that half the booklets would have to be stapled at the left, and the other half at the right, to enable the pane margins to be used for the staples (The six stamps in each row would be split, with left hand side three going to a left stapled booklet, and the right hand side three going to a right stapled booklet).

Development

The first mention of the booklets in the De La Rue Correspondence Books was on 15 February 1905, when the Crown Agents sent instructions as to what should be printed on the booklet covers. They also enquired regarding the cost of printing booklets of 30 stamps, since these were not included in the price list issued by De La Rue. The Crown Agents needed the pricing information 'for communication with the Colonial Government'. Included was an order 300,000 1d stamps. 'To be bound in 10,000 Books of 30 Stamps. Enamelled Cover like English. Banded in 10s parcels.'

De La Rue responded the next day, advising that the:

... price for an order of 10,000 books containing 30 stamps, with the covers printed both inside and out, the books to be packed in parcels of 40, would be 25s 3d per 1,000 books, exclusive of the cost of the stamps, and if the covers were enamelled like the English the price would be 26s 6d per 1,000 books.

They went on to say that the price per 1,000 books would drop to 15s if the Transvaal would order 100,000 booklets. De La Rue continued:

We retain the instructions as to the printing of the covers, and will return them to you in the course of a day or two with a specimen cover.

The Crown Agents responded the same day, confirming that the stamp booklets were intended to be similar in every respect to the English ones.

On 21 February 1905 De La Rue sent an Appendix sheet to the Crown Agents with 'proofs of the covers on enamelled paper like the English. For the front cover we send you

alternative proofs.' The Appendix sheet with these proofs for the front cover has survived. De La Rue also confirmed that they were returning 'the instructions received from the Colony for the printing of the covers.' On 6 March the Crown Agents returned the Appendix sheet, having marked which cover design they had decided upon.

Then on 31 March, the Crown Agents advised that they had received a telegram from the Government of the Transvaal requesting changes to the inside covers. These were changing the list of colonies and territories for which South African postage rates applied, and also changing the postage rates for commercial papers and for samples for places abroad.

On 3 April 1905 De La Rue replied:

We beg to enclose a proof embodying the required alterations, and we shall be glad to hear whether it is correct. The covers of the books are already printed, and we shall therefore have to charge the Transvaal Government £8 for the covers now thrown out of use.

On 6 April the Crown Agents confirmed that the information on the inside of the booklet covers was correct. The printing then proceeded with this first issue of the Transvaal booklet, which was priced at 2s 7d. This was made up of 2s 6d for the 30 1d stamps, and 1d to cover the cost of the booklet.

The requisition for the second printing was received by De La Rue on 22 July 1905, along with a note from the Crown Agents advising that a telegram from the Transvaal Government asked for a modification of the information on the outer back cover for the new printing. This was regarding the inland telegram rate.

On the 26 July De La Rue sent a specimen of the cover alterations requested, and advised that the charge for the alteration of the printing plate would be 12s. The alteration was approved by the Crown Agents the same day.

The third order was received on 3 July 1906, and again required an alteration to the information on the outside back cover of the booklet. This time expanding the information on postal orders, and adding a separate note at the bottom of the cover advising that more detailed information could be obtained from the Post Office Guide. There was also an enquiry regarding why some of the books were stapled on the left, and others on the right.

De La Rue replied on 4 July, advising: 'We enclose a proof of the stamp books, corrected as requested.' In response to the question as to the side of the stapling or binding of the booklets, De La Rue explained:

We would remind you that half the books of necessity have to be the reverse way, unless indeed you wish to bind them all the same way, in which case the heads would be upside down in half the quantity. We shall be glad to receive your instructions on this point.

On 10 September, the Crown Agents forwarded a letter from the Government of the Transvaal to the effect that stamp books should continue to bound as before. Just in case this was not quite clear, De La Rue responded the next day.

Letter returned herewith from the Assistant Colonial Secretary, stating that the Colony is not prepared to incur the expense of a special plate for the printing of stamps for Stamp Books, and that these latter may therefore be bound as heretofore.

The Transvaal Government must have forgotten the reason for the choice of alternate left and right binding in the first place.

The fourth order was received on 4 June 1907, and again required changes to the cover information, but this time to the inside front cover, and the inside of the back and the

outside of the back cover. This involved alteration to the parcels section inside the front cover, alteration of the heading for postage rates abroad inside the back cover, and modifying the postal order and the telegram information, and dropping the reference to the Post Office Guide on the outside of the back cover.

The fifth order for the booklets was received 21 September 1908, and this time it was the front cover that was to be changed. This was because it had been decided to also include ½d stamps in the booklet. The selling price was to be reduced to 2s 6d, and now it would have 24 1d stamps and 10 ½d, with 1d to cover the cost of the booklet. The new front cover was to reflect these changes. The back cover, and the insides of both front and back covers were left blank.

De La Rue responded on 22 September, advising that there would be a cost of £1 for the cancelling plate (like the NOT FOR USE plate used for Natal) for cancelling two ½d stamps. A proof for the new cover was enclosed, and De La Rue promised delivery of the new books in three months.

The ‘Not For Use’ plate was initially ordered, but later cancelled. A note in the De La Rue Work Book shows the order for the ‘Temporary overprint plate to obliterate stamps “Not for use” ruled through, and a note in the margin reads: ‘Feb 17th 09. The covers printed 24 1d & 10 ½d. The Colony will tear out 2 ½d stamps from each book.’ The Gibbons catalogue states that in some instances this did not occur. I have a booklet cover with the word ‘Ten’ crossed out, and a pencilled ‘12’ written alongside, so perhaps the 1d premium for the printing of the booklet was abandoned to clear stocks some time after the Transvaal was incorporated into the Union of South Africa.

The last order for booklets was placed on 27 May 1909. No changes were required to any of the cover components, or any other part of the booklet this time. This means that there are five different types of booklets. Each of the first four printings make up different types, with printings five and six making up the fifth type. The differences between each type are illustrated at the end of the chapter under the section headed **The Booklets**.

Material from the De La Records

Striking and Work Books The Striking Book items were single copies of die proofs stuck into the Book, with the work instructions written alongside, often dated, sometimes with both the date the job was placed into the work programme, and the date it was completed. Since no new dies were made for the Transvaal booklets, no striking book die proofs or entries were made. The same applies to the File records, as with no new dies, no new die proofs were made for the File records.

Correspondence Books These items were the booklet designs that De La Rue prepared.

21 February 1905

Appendix sheet with two alternative proofs of the front cover on enamelled paper, and one proof of the back cover, and also proofs of the inside of both front and back covers. What has survived is the Appendix sheet, and also an alternative proof for the front and back cover (Fig. 27.1). This is not the one from the Appendix sheet, but a similar one kept in the De La Rue records. The manuscript note on the side of the inside covers ‘Cover already printed’. This was because the Transvaal Government wanted to make some changes.

This Appendix was offered in the Robson Lowe sale of 1976.¹ It was described as: ‘Essay and proof (Marked as “decided on by Mr Mercer” below) of the front cover of the 2s 7d

1 Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lot 982.

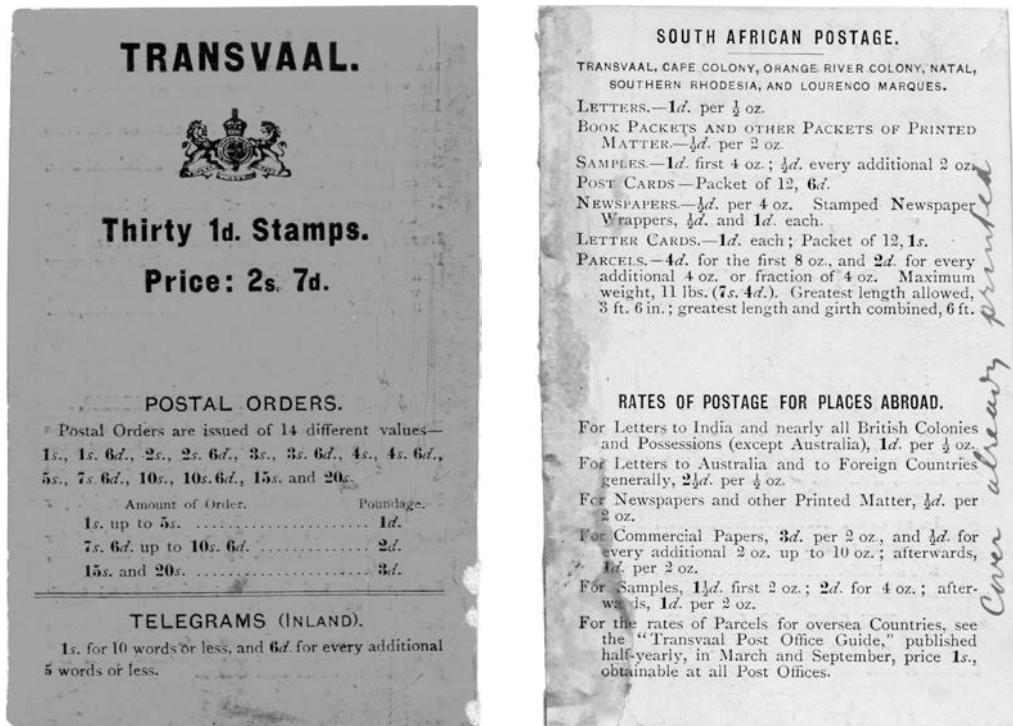


Fig. 27.1 Proofs of the outside and inside covers for the first booklets.

booklet, proof of the back cover and the two inside pages, two creased, all affixed to sheet labelled "Appendix" and dated "21st February 1905".

3 April 1905

Proof of the inside covers with the changes made as requested by the Transvaal Government. These were, for the inside front cover, changing the territories for which the South African postage rates applied from 'Transvaal, Cape Colony, Orange River Colony, Natal, Southern Rhodesia, and Lourenco Marques' to 'Transvaal, Cape Colony, Natal, Orange River Colony, Rhodesia, Bechuanaland Protectorate, and Province of Mozambique'. For inside the back cover, changing the rates of postage for places abroad, the changes were in the rates for Commercial Papers, and in the rates for Samples.

26 July 1905

Proof of the outside back cover with the requested alterations to the inland telegram rate. This cover proof has not been seen, and may not have survived.

4 July 1906

Proof of the outside back cover with the requested alterations to postal order information, and adding a note to the effect that more detailed information could be obtained from the Post Office Guide. This cover proof has not been seen, and may not have survived.

4 June 1907

Proof of the inside front cover with alterations to the parcels section, proof of the inside back cover with alterations to the heading, and proof of the outside back cover with alterations to the postal order and telegram information, and also dropping the reference to the Post Office Guide. These cover proofs have not been seen and may not have survived.

21 September 1908

Proof of the front cover with alterations to the selling price and the number and denomination of stamps it contained. This has survived, and was offered in the Robson Lowe sale of 1976.²

The De La Rue Collection also contained an exploded specimen booklet from 1908, with the stamp pages handstamped as specimens. This is covered in Chapter 32 on Transvaal specimen stamps.

The Printing Requisitions

The term Indent was often used by the Colony for their printing orders, but the Crown Agents and De La Rue used the term Requisition, so for consistency, the term Requisition has been adopted throughout this section. Many requisitions were for stamps and also other postal items (like postal stationery), but only the stamp booklets on any requisition are mentioned in this section. Consequently, the same requisition may be referred to in another chapter, for the relevant items to that particular chapter. The Colony had a system of numbering their requisitions (or indents) that went to the Crown Agents, however, the Crown Agents used their own numbering system when placing the requisition with De La Rue. This is the one used here, showing a number and the year, as in the first one below, number 13 of the year 1905 shown as 13/05.

Requisition No. 13/05 was dated 3 April 1905, and was for 10,000 booklets with five pages of six 1d stamps. These were the 1d stamps printed in two colours. A total of 10,365 booklets were supplied.

Requisition No. 70/05 was dated 26 July 1905, and was for 50,000 booklets with five pages of six 1d stamps. These and all subsequent booklets printed were for the single colour 1d (and later also ½d) stamps. The total supplied is a little unclear, as the De La Rue Work Book shows that 51,860 booklets were supplied, but the De La Rue Private Day Books show that 51,680 booklets were invoiced. It is likely that the error occurred in the transcribing the number from the Work Book to the Private Day Book, so the Work Book is probably the correct number.

Requisition No. 59/06 was dated 4 July 1906, and was for 7,000 booklets with five pages of six 1d stamps. A total of 7,160 booklets were supplied.

Requisition No. 36/07 was dated 4 June 1907, and was for 25,000 booklets with five pages of six 1d stamps. A total of 25,870 booklets were supplied.

Requisition No. 75/08 was dated 21 September 1908, and was for 25,000 booklets with four pages of six 1d stamps and two pages of ½d stamps. A total of 25,870 booklets were supplied, by chance, exactly the same number as the previous Requisition.

Requisition No. 41/09 was dated 27 May 1909, and was for 20,000 booklets with four pages of six 1d stamps and two pages of ½d stamps. A total of 20,680 booklets were supplied.

The Booklets

In summary, the first issue of the Transvaal booklets consisted of 30 1d stamps with blank interleaves between the five pages of six stamps, and were priced at 2s 7d, the extra 1d being to offset the cost of the booklet. These were described in the newspaper the *South African News* of 27 June 1905, which concluded by saying ‘The little flat book can be

² Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lot 984.

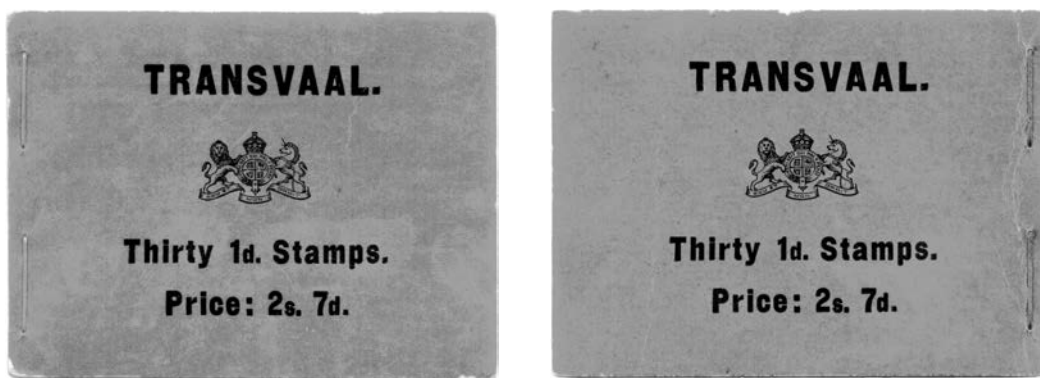


Fig. 27.2 Booklets stapled both left and right.

slipped into the waistcoat pocket and will undoubtedly prove a great convenience to the public'. These were to be issued (according the Johannesburg newspaper, *The Rand Daily Mail* of 22 June 1905) on 1 July 1905. Half the booklets were stapled at the left, and half stapled at the right (Fig. 27.2).

There were six different printings (as noted by the requisitions). The first five all have distinguishing features, with the sixth printing being a repeat of the fifth one. The booklets would have been issued as follows:

- First printing, 1 July 1905 (Type 1)
- Second printing, late 1905 (Type 2)

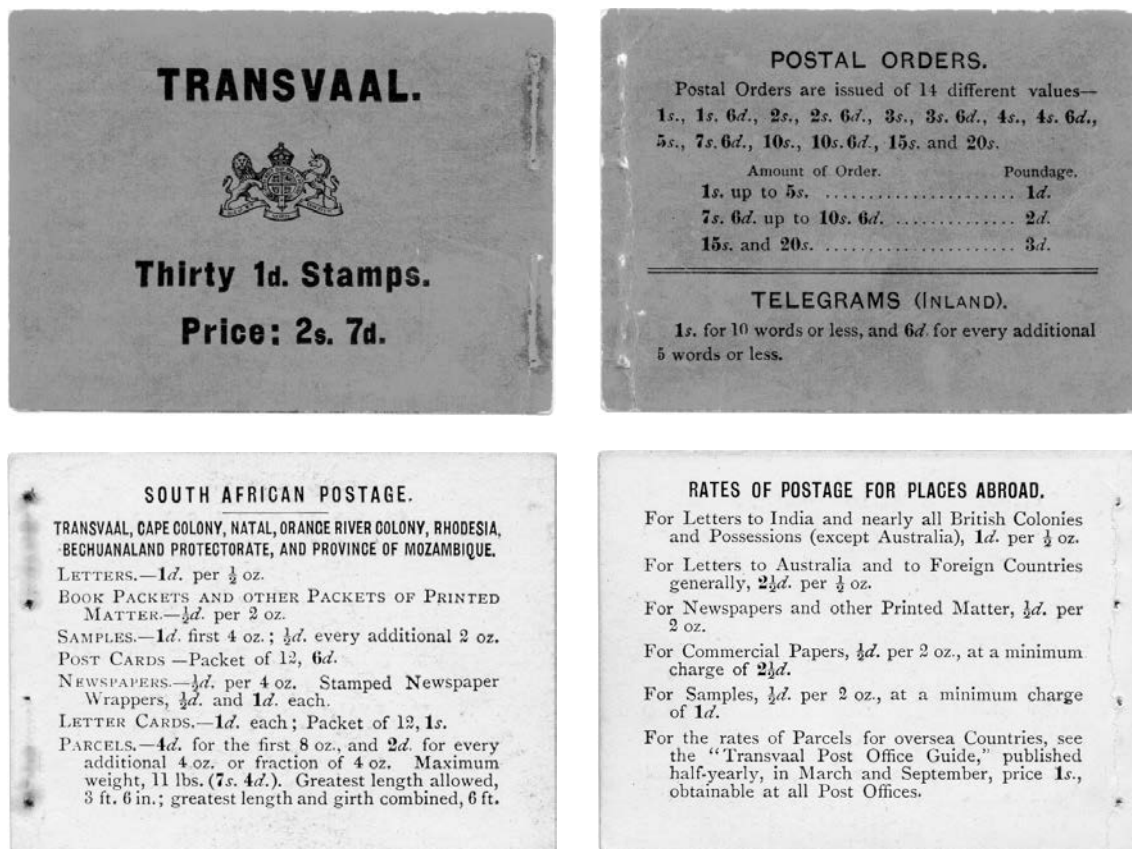


Fig. 27.3 Enlarged inner and outer covers of booklet type 1.

- Third printing, late 1906 (Type 3)
- Fourth printing, late 1907 (Type 4)
- Fifth printing, early 1909 (Type 5)
- Sixth printing, late 1909 (Type 5)

The Stanley Gibbons Catalogue lists only types 1, 2 and 5, as these are the ones containing different types of stamps. Types 3 and 4 contain similar stamps to Type 2, but have amendments made to the information on the covers. The South African Colour Catalogue has listed each printing as a type, though there is no way presently known to distinguish between any booklets from printings five and six. Very few booklets have survived, so not much material is available for comparison.

The Booklet Types

Type 1 Contained 30 (five pages of six) 1d postage and revenue stamps in the two colours of black and carmine. The outer covers were a deep enamelled red colour, and the inner covers were white. Printing was all in black. The inner and outer covers are illustrated (Fig. 27.3).

Type 2 This time the 30 1d stamps were the single colour scarlet stamps. The only other change was to the outside back cover, where the telegram rate was amended to 1d per word (Fig. 27.4).

Type 3 This was the same as type 2, except for the outside back cover was again amended. This time it was the postal order information, and adding a note to the effect that more detailed information could be obtained from the Post Office Guide (Fig. 27.5).

Type 4 This was the same as type 3, with amendments to the inside front cover (alterations to the parcels section), the inside back cover (alterations to the heading), and the outside back cover (alterations to the postal order and telegram information). Also dropping the reference to the Post Office Guide (Fig. 27.6).

Type 5 This was a completely different booklet. It consisted of 24 single colour scarlet 1d stamps (four pages of six stamps), and 12 single colour green ½d stamps, two of which were to be removed by the postal authorities before sale. The front cover was changed to reflect the changed contents (Fig. 27.7). The inside front, inside back, and the outside back covers were all blank.

Most surviving complete and part booklets are Type 1. This is rather surprising given that it was the first printing, and only 10,365 were supplied. Only type 3 was supplied in smaller quantities (7,160), while the other three types were supplied in quantities in excess of 25,000 (Type 4), 45,000 (Type 5),

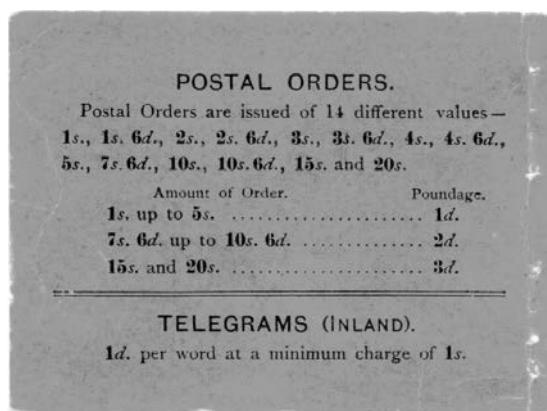


Fig. 27.4 Enlarged outer back cover of booklet type 2.



Fig. 27.5 Enlarged proof of outer back cover of booklet type 3.

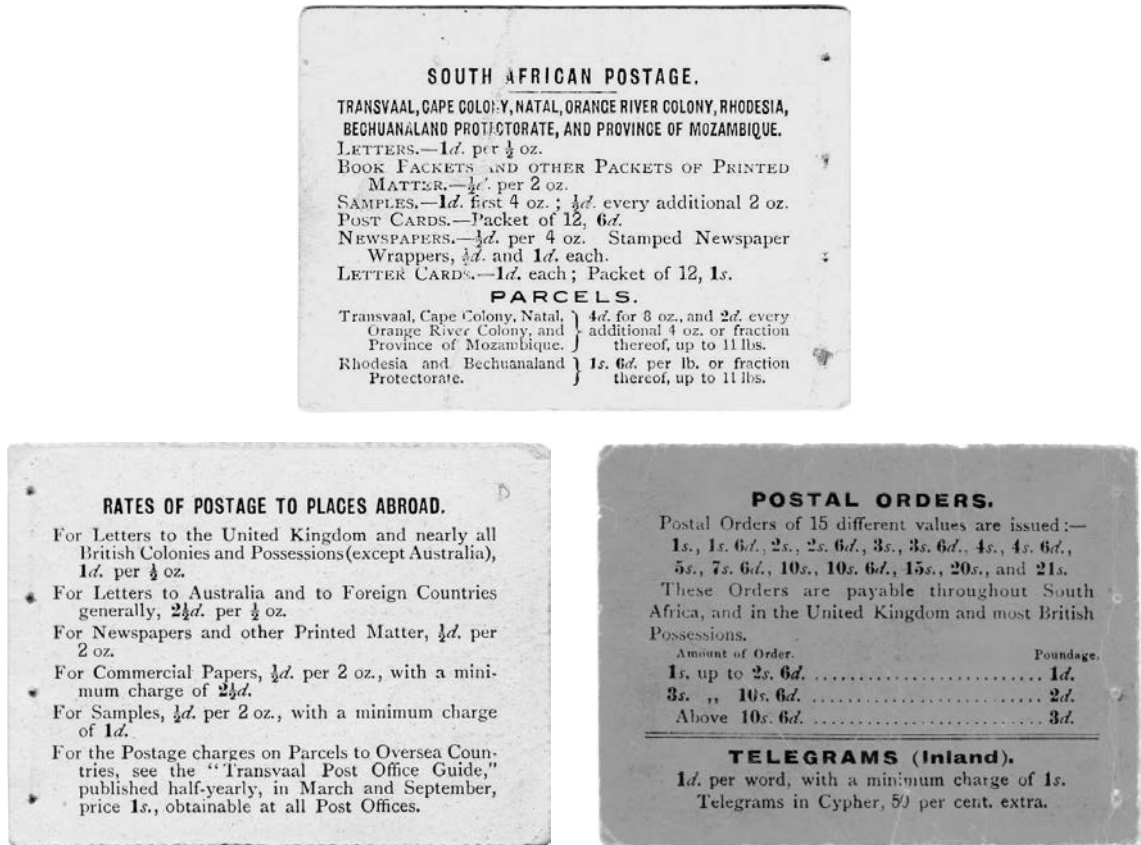


Fig. 27.6 Enlarged inner covers and outer back cover of booklet type 4.

and 50,000 (Type 2). Perhaps part of the stock was forgotten and only put on the market at the time of the formation of the Union of South Africa.

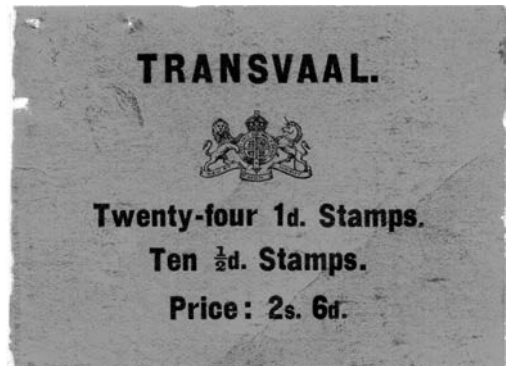


Fig. 27.7 Front cover of booklet type 5.

28

Postage Due Stamps

Preamble

The Transvaal was the only South African colony to make use of postage due stamps. These were only issued in 1907, and then continued in use after the formation of the Union of South Africa in 1910.

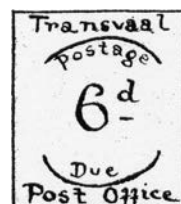
Development

The first communication on record regarding postage due stamps was a letter of 11 January 1906 from the Postmaster General of the Transvaal to the Secretary of the Transvaal Treasury. This letter refers to the difficulty that postage administrations had in accounting for surcharges collected from the public for under-franked mail. The Postmaster General goes on to explain that many countries in the Universal Postal Union had adopted a system of special stamps bearing the words Postage Due with the appropriate value, which were to be applied by the post office, and the amount collected on delivery of the under-franked item.

The letter explains that considerable administration cost savings would be made by the adoption of such a system for the Transvaal, and two examples of Tasmanian postage due stamps were enclosed for 'inspection and return'. The Postmaster General proposed that the postage due stamps for the Transvaal should all be printed in red, and he enclosed a sketch (Fig. 28.1) of what he thought may be appropriate. He also explained that it would be advisable to wait until after the upcoming Universal Postal Union Conference in Rome before deciding on denominations and quantities, in case some postage rates were altered at the Conference.

The Colonial Treasurer supported the idea, and asked for a final proposal after the Rome Conference. This the Postmaster General did on 9 August 1906.¹ He requested that the Distributor of Stamps be authorised to indent for the following postage due stamps:

Fig. 28.1
Postmaster General's
sketch for the
proposed Postage
Due stamps.



¹ Chilton, Tony. 'The Postage Due Stamps of the Transvaal', *The Transvaal Philatelist*, Vol. 19 No. 3, August 1984, p. 54.

½d	100,000	5d	200,000
1d	500,000	6d	200,000
2d	1,000,000	1s	50,000
3d	200,000		

The letter continued:

The changes in Postage decided upon at the Rome Conference have been duly considered in fixing upon these numbers and values. A watermark should run through the stamps which should be printed in red to the pattern, roughly, given in my minute of 11th January, with perhaps a little scroll ornamentation in the spaces between the printing. I should be glad if specimen stamps could be obtained for my inspection before the whole are printed.

On 18 August 1906 an indent for the proposed quantities was made, and it was forwarded to the Crown Agents after signature of the Postmaster General. The Crown Agents passed on the indent (now called a requisition in the Crown Agents system) to De La Rue on 17 September.

The response from De La Rue on 25 September confirmed the numbers of stamps required, then continued: 'We enclose a design for the required stamp, which we trust will meet your approval.' (Fig. 28.2).

The most economical way of producing these stamps will be to have a separate plate for the 2d, of which large quantities are required, and a key plate and overprint plates for the other duties. The cost of the dies and plates would be:-

2d die	£18
240-set plate	£20
Key die	£15
120-set key plate	£15
Six temporary overprint plates at £3.3/- each	

There was no need for De La Rue to engrave the overprint dies, as they would utilize the same standard dies used for other colonies. This obviously helped keep the costs down.

De La Rue's response continues by giving the overall costs of printing the stamps ordered, and noting that a specimen of each denomination was to be submitted before printing the order. They commented that: 'This of course means that a colour scheme is to be submitted, which shall be done.' The requisition had clearly been for all stamps to be in red, so a colour scheme was not called for, however, it would seem that De La Rue were not convinced that the red stamps would be the most appropriate.

The design proposal was returned by the Crown Agents on 27 September, with the note:

We return herewith the design for the 'Postage Due' stamps required by the Government of the Transvaal, which has been approved. A colour scheme should be submitted in due course.

It appears that the Crown Agents too had overlooked the fact that the Transvaal Government had requested that the stamps all be printed in red.

With the approval of the design proposal, preparation of dies and plates was started. Then, nearly two months later, on 22 November 1906, De La Rue wrote to the Crown Agents advising:

On Appendix A hereto we beg to hand you specimens of the Postage Due stamps, all printed in red, and on Appendix B a colour scheme, in case the

Colony should decide to have the stamps printed in varying colours. (Fig. 28.3 and Fig. 28.4)

These were then sent to the Transvaal for approval.

On 31 December 1906 the Transvaal Postmaster General approved the colour scheme on appendix B ‘provided that the printing in various colours does not cause a considerable increase in cost over that of the all red series.’ De La Rue confirmed that there was no additional cost for the stamps to be printed in various colours. Appendix B was formally approved by the Crown Agents on behalf of the Transvaal Government on 28 January 1907, and printing proceeded accordingly. De La Rue had been right, the various colours of postage due stamps was preferred to the issue of all stamps in red.

Material from the De La Rue Records

Chapters 2 and 3 provide the necessary background explanation of the material from the De La Rue Records. With the material now dispersed, it is worth attempting to record what is still believed to be in existence.

Correspondence Books

25 September 1906

Hand painted design proposal depicting a ½d postage due stamp in deep red and Chinese white, with perforations painted in. On a card 91 mm wide and 114 mm high, with manuscript date at top right, and marked as approved, initialled and dated 27 September 1906 in manuscript at the bottom, and two short blue diagonal crayon lines across the centre (Fig. 28.2). The Robson Lowe Auction of 1976² refers to a ‘photographic proof of the ½d affixed to a large card dated “SEPT 25th 1906”.’ This could be the same item, but incorrectly described, although it is more likely to be the photographic copy kept for the De La Rue records. If it was the photographic copy, its present whereabouts are unknown.

22 November 1906

Appendix A with all seven values imperforate and printed only in red, and Appendix B

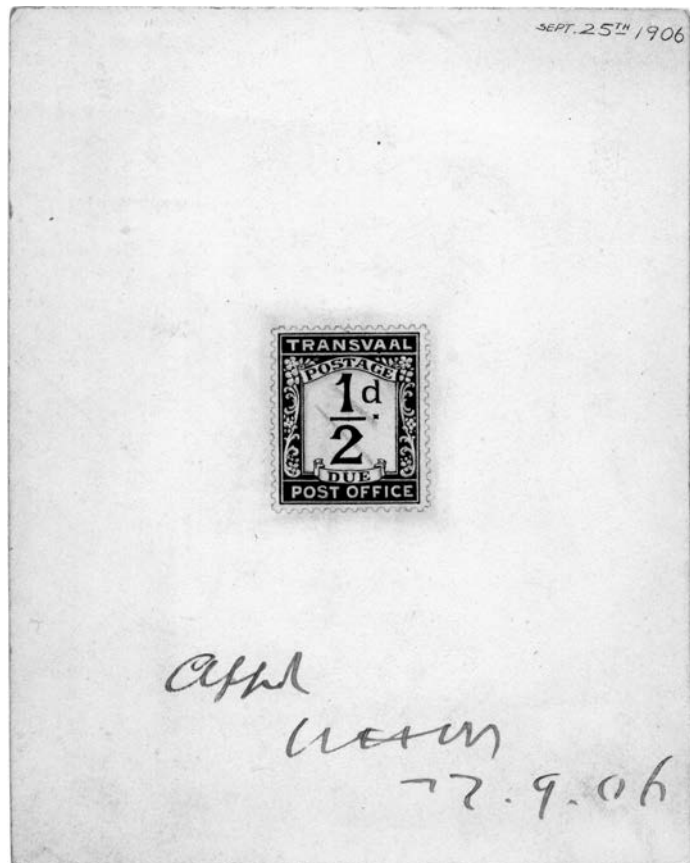


Fig. 28.2 Approved hand painted design proposal for the postage due stamps.

² Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lot 989.

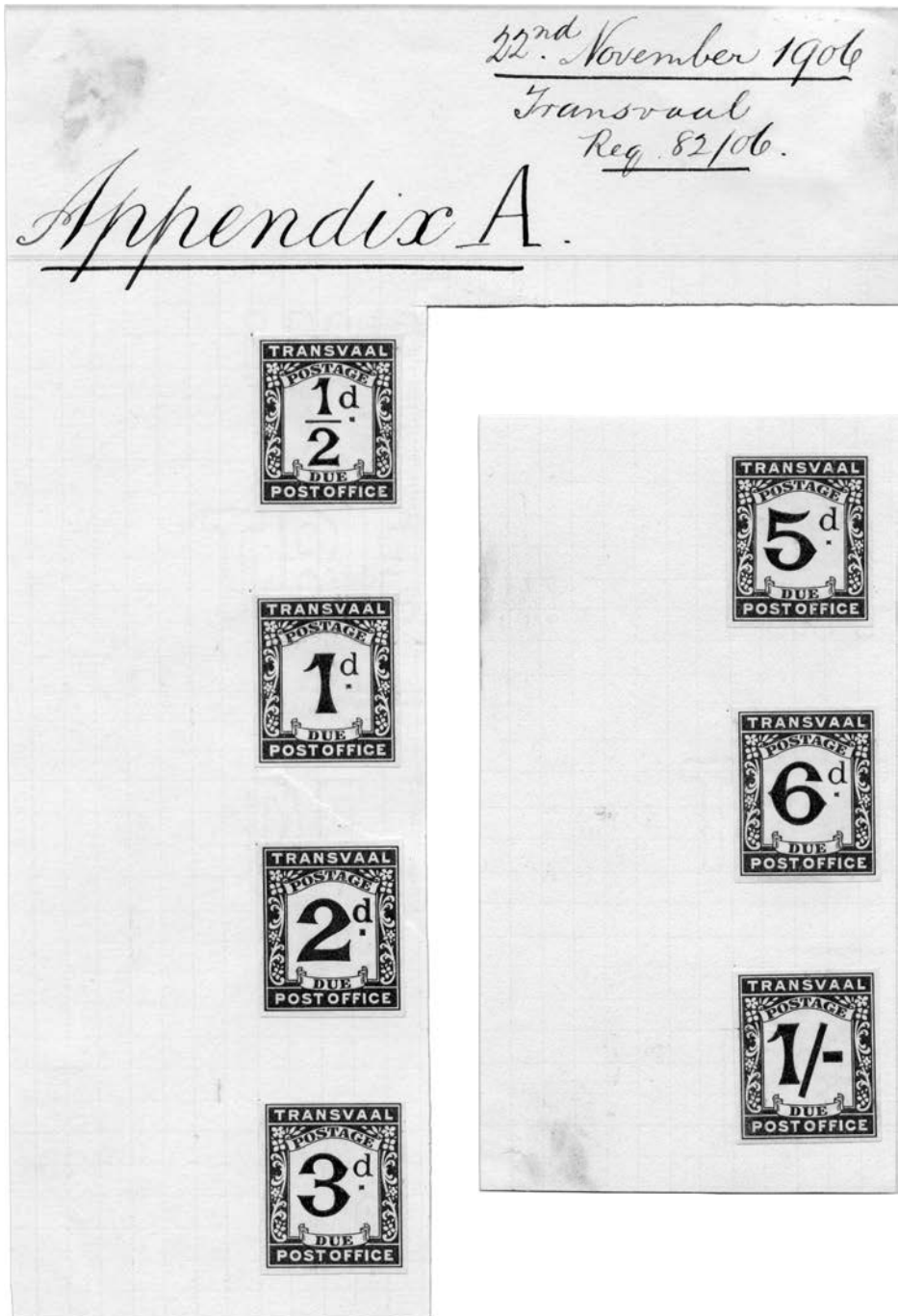


Fig. 28.3 Appendix Sheet A, showing all postage due stamps in red as proposed by the Transvaal Government.

with the seven values imperforate and printed in the issued colours. Both are dated at the top right, and are marked 'Transvaal Req 82/06'. Appendix B is also approved and dated at the bottom. All information on the sheets is written in manuscript (Fig. 28.3 and Fig. 28.4). These two items were also part of the same lot on the Robson Lowe Auction of

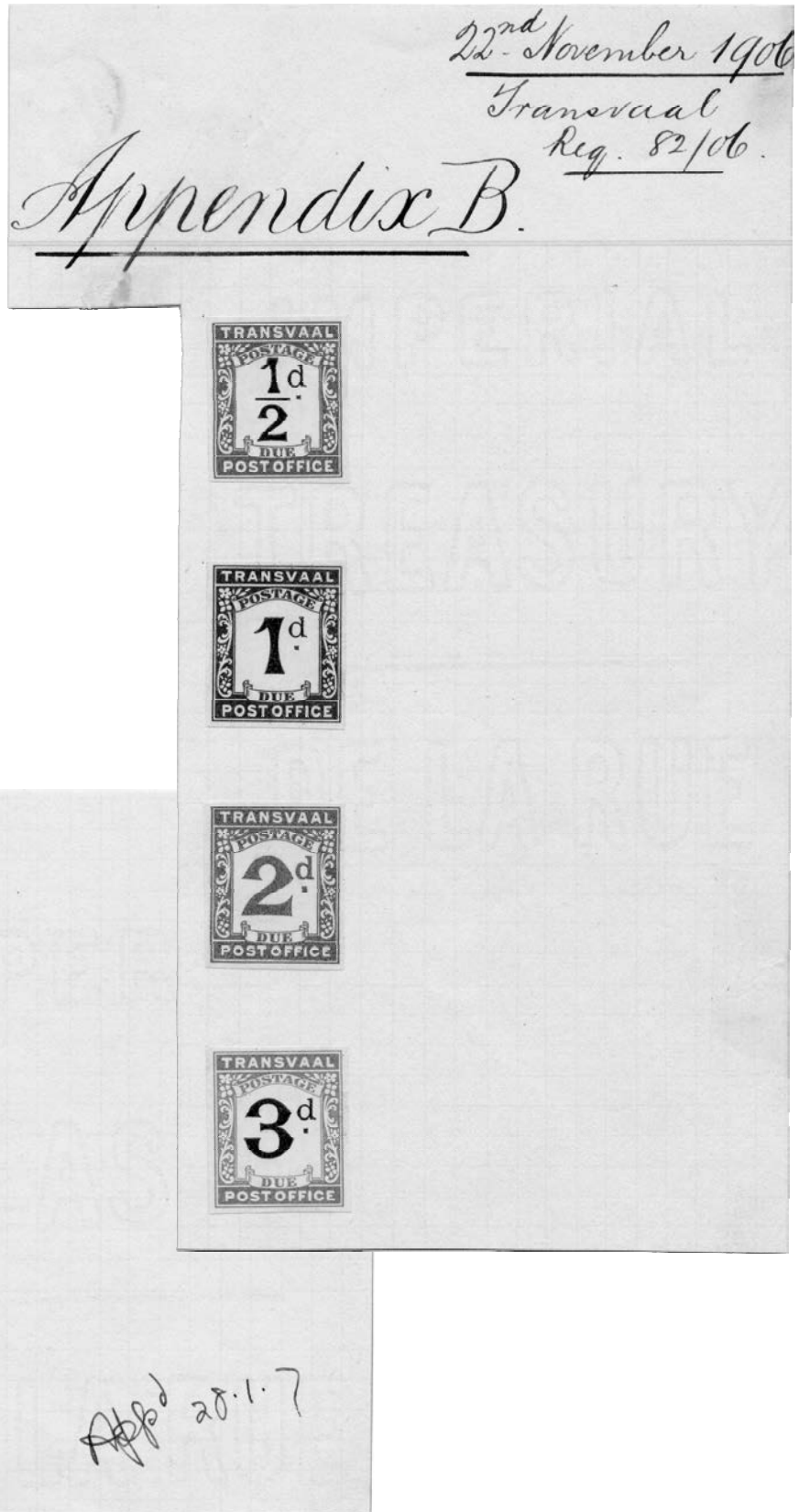


Fig. 28.4 Appendix Sheet B showing the approved colours.

1976.³ They have both been trimmed, but all the relevant information has been retained. Another complete imperforate set of the values printed in red on gummed, watermarked paper also exists, and there is also a similar set in the issued colours.

The De La Rue records also contained file samples of each denomination, as well as a reference set handstamped SPECIMEN. These specimens are covered in Chapter 32 on Transvaal specimens.

Striking and Work Books

There were just the two items, the frame with the blank centre used for all except the 2d denomination, and the complete proof of the 2d. These were auctioned by Robson Lowe in 1976.⁴ The proofs of the dies used to make up the plates and their manuscript dates and markings were as follows:



Fig. 28.5 The two die proofs for the postage due stamps.

Complete 2d plate: 'Nov 7, 240 leads & 6 extra' in black and 'Dec 28 06' in red.

Frame plate: 'Nov 8, 120 leads & 6 extra' in black and 'Dec 28 06' in red.

Note: Both die proofs have a red diagonal line across the piece.

File Records Again, the same two items as in the Striking Books, the complete 2d die proof and the frame die proof (Fig. 28.5). It is probable that other proofs have survived for these two dies, but only those actually noted are listed below.

2d Complete design, BEFORE HARDENING in black, dated 2 Nov. 06 in blue.

Frame only design, BEFORE HARDENING in black and 1 Nov. 06 in blue.

There must have been similar proofs taken in the AFTER HARDENING and AFTER STRIKING states, but these have not been seen. In general, very few of these die proofs have become available. Either not many were retained (but that does not seem logical when compared to the similar die proofs available for all the denominations of the other colonies), or they were destroyed. These items may be survivors from the De La Rue records that were partially destroyed in the fire of 29 December 1940.

³ Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lot 989.

⁴ Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lots 987 and 988.

Ink Recipe Books None of the Ink Recipe book pages have been seen for the postage due stamps. Since those of the other South African colonies, and the other Transvaal stamps and stationery have mostly been seen, it is probable that the Transvaal postage due ink recipe pages have also survived.

The Printing Requisitions

The term Indent was often used by the Colony for their printing orders, but the Crown Agents and De La Rue used the term Requisition, so for consistency, the term Requisition has been adopted throughout this section. Many requisitions were for stamps and also other postal items (like postal stationery), but only the postage due stamps on any requisition are mentioned in this section. Consequently, the same requisition may be referred to in another chapter, for the relevant items to that particular chapter. The Colony had a system of numbering their requisitions (or indents) that went to the Crown Agents, however, the Crown Agents used their own numbering system when placing the requisition with De La Rue. This is the one used here, showing a number and the year, as in the first one below, number 82 of the year 1906 shown as 82/06.

Requisition No. 82/06 was dated 28 September 1906, and was for the following number of stamps:

½d	100,000	5d	200,000
1d	500,000	6d	200,000
2d	1,000,000	1s	50,000
3d	200,000		

Requisition No. 78/08 was dated 21 September 1908, and was for the following number of stamps:

½d	120,000	1d	180,000
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This was the last requisition during the Transvaal colonial period. The next printing was done after the Transvaal had been incorporated into the Union of South Africa, and the Union of South Africa requisition numbering system was used.

Requisition No. 1583 was dated 13 March 1911, and was for the following number of stamps:

1d	180,000	2d	180,000
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Requisition No. 2542 was dated 19 August 1911, and was for the following number of stamps:

½d	240,000	2d	750,000
1d	500,000		

Requisition No. 3486 was dated 8 February 1912, and was for the following number of stamps:

½d	500,000	2d	1,500,000
1d	1,250,000		

The Stamps

The stamps were issued on 1 July 1907. The official Department of Posts and Telegraphs Notice in the Government Gazette was No. 712 of 1907, and reads as follows:

Introduction of Postage Due Labels

The subjoined Notice, issued by the Postmaster General, is hereby published for general information.'

It is under the name of James R. Leisk, Secretary to the Treasury, and is dated 26 June 1907. The subjoined Notice from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs reads as follows:

Alteration in Method of Collection of Unpaid Postage

It is hereby notified for general information that from 1st of July Postage Due Labels will be used by this Department for bringing to account all surcharges collected on unpaid and insufficiently paid correspondence.

Members of the public are requested not to accept delivery of such correspondence unless Postage Due Labels of the amount of the surcharge are affixed to the article in exchange for the cash paid, and cancelled by the delivering officer.

Postage Due Labels will be used for this purpose only. They will not be sold to the public, and they are not valid for the prepayment of postage.

This was issued under the name of J. Frank Brown, Postmaster General, and dated Johannesburg, 24 June 1907.

The stamps were printed on paper watermarked Multiple Crown CA. At this point no inverted or reversed watermarks have been reported. The 2d denomination was printed in sheets of 240 stamps (four panes of 60 stamps, in 10 rows of 6 stamps per pane) in a single colour in a single step process. All other denominations were printed in sheets of 120 stamps (two panes of 60 stamps) in two colours in a two step process. For the first requisition, De La Rue cut the sheets into panes of 60 for all denominations before shipment, but for the subsequent requisitions, the sheets were delivered as printed.

The colours of the various denominations were:

½d	black and blue-green	5d	black and violet
1d	black and scarlet	6d	black and red-brown
2d	brown-orange	1s	scarlet and black
3d	black and blue		

The need for the higher denominations was over estimated, so the initial printing proved to be more than adequate for the needs of the Transvaal, and even for the initial needs of the new Union of South Africa. The lower denominations had several printings, but no denominations ever required a second printing plate to be made. As per the requisitions, the following number of printings were made:

½d	4 printings	5d	1 printing
1d	5 printings	6d	1 printing
2d	4 printings	1s	1 printing
3d	1 printing		

Although no specimen stamps would need to be distributed, it seems that at least some of the neighbouring countries were sent copies for their reference. These are covered along with other specimen stamps of the Transvaal in Chapter 32.

As can be seen from the requisitions, most of the low denomination printing was actually for use in the new Union of South Africa until such time as the issue of Union postage due stamps. At the time of the formation of the Union of South Africa on 31 May 1910, the Transvaal was the only one of the four colonies forming the Union that had introduced postage due stamps. The postage and revenue stamps of the four former colonies (now provinces) became usable throughout the country from August 1910, but the system of collecting postal charges for unpaid or insufficiently prepaid postage initially remained unchanged in each of the four provinces.

It was a year later, on 1 September 1911 that the Acting Postmaster General wrote to the Secretary of Finance on the subject. In part he wrote:

The 'postage due' stamp system which was introduced in the Transvaal on 1st July 1907 has given complete satisfaction and it is proposed to extend the system to all Provinces of the Union from 1st November next.

The Controller and the Auditor General agreed. The Transvaal postage due stamps then remained in use until, and sometimes beyond, the issue of the first Union postage dues at the end of 1914 and the beginning of 1915.

There were still a considerable amount of 5d and 6d denominations in stock, and these were used up to provide postage due stamps for South West Africa. Initially postage due stamps of South Africa were used, so it is possible that all the denominations may have been used at some time in the Territory. However, from the beginning of 1923 both postage as well as postage due stamps were overprinted for specific use in South West Africa. This was when the surplus Transvaal 5d and 6d postage due stamps were overprinted for service in South West Africa.

There were ultimately three types of overprint, English and Dutch on alternate stamps, and latterly English and Afrikaans on alternate stamps. There were also various settings of the overprints involved, and a number of overprint errors like missing letter "T" and missing full stops. These are detailed in the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue.

Only one flaw of some significance is recorded. It is on the bottom right stamp of the right hand pane of the 5d denomination, where the 'd' of '5d' appears as an inverted 'p'.

29

Postage Stamp Usage

Preamble

Apart from the one intended usage to prepay for postage in the Transvaal, the postage stamps were sometimes adapted for special uses. These were being needle punctured, stencil cut or overprinted for official railway use, and overprinted for Customs Duty use. All the lower value stamp issues were also intended for the dual purpose of both postage and also for revenue use. The 1d was also used on Post Office Savings Bank deposit forms.

Prepayment of Postage

This was one of the primary purposes of the Edwardian dual purpose postage and revenue stamp issue, and it was the primary purpose of the postage-only stamp issue.

The postage rates of the time were similar to those in the other South African Colonies. In 1902, destinations were charged in four general categories, the first being Southern Africa (including Mozambique, but excluding the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Rhodesia), the second for Bechuanaland Protectorate and Rhodesia, the third being the United Kingdom and most other British Possessions, and the fourth being other Countries, which included Australia. It is interesting to note that New Zealand was specifically included in the British Possessions rates, while Australia was excluded. The rates that applied were as shown in Table 29.1

At the beginning of 1903, rates to Rhodesia had been split into three categories. Southern Rhodesia had the letter rate reduced to 1d per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz (the same as the rest of Southern Africa), while all other rates remained unchanged. North Eastern Rhodesia now had a 4d per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz letter rate, 2d post card rate, and no allowance for reply paid postcards. Newspapers were 1d per 2oz, and books and printed papers were 2d per 2oz, no allowance for commercial papers, and samples at 4d per 4oz. North Western Rhodesia had similar rates to those of North Eastern Rhodesia, with the exception of the post card rate being 1d, and the book and printed paper rate being 1d per 2oz. Parcel rates remained unchanged.

In 1905, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and all of Rhodesia had the same rates as the rest of Southern Africa, with the exception of the parcel rates, which remained unchanged at the 1s 6d per lb rate. The commercial paper rate for all overseas destinations was reduced to $\frac{1}{2}$ d per 2oz, with a minimum charge of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.

In 1906 all sample rates, both Southern Africa and overseas rates were made $\frac{1}{2}$ d for 2oz, with a minimum charge of 1d.

Mail Type	Southern Africa excluding Bechuanaland and Rhodesia	Bechuanaland Protectorate and Rhodesia	UK and British Possessions, excluding Australia	Australia and Foreign Countries
Letters	1d per ½oz	2d per ½oz	1d per ½oz	2½d per ½oz
Postcards, Single	½d each	1d each	1d each	1d each
Postcards, Reply paid	1d each	2d each	2d each	2d each
Newspapers	½d per 4oz	½d per 4oz	1d per 2oz	½d per 2oz
Books and Printed Papers	½d per 2oz	½d per 2oz	1d per 2oz,	1d per 2oz,
Commercial Papers	½d per 2oz	½d per 2oz	3d for first 2oz, ½d for each additional 2oz up to 10oz, and 1d per 2oz beyond 10oz	3d for first 2oz, ½d for each additional 2oz up to 10oz, and 1d per 2oz beyond 10oz
Sample Packets	1d for first 4oz, ½d for each additional 2oz	1d for first 4oz, ½d for each additional 2oz	1½d for 2oz, 2d for 4oz, and 1d for each additional 2oz	1½d for 2oz, 2d for 4oz, and 1d for each additional 2oz
Parcels	4d for 8oz, and 2d for every additional 4oz or part thereof up to 11lbs	1s 6d per lb, or part thereof up to 11 lbs	1s per lb or part thereof up to 11 lbs	Various, depending on destination

Table 29.1 Postage Rates.

By 1910, the Transvaal had changed the parcel rates to 2d for every 4oz or part thereof within the Colony. All parcel rates remained unchanged for destinations outside the Transvaal. However, special parcel rates for agricultural products were introduced, but these only applied within the Colony.

The **Registration** fee was 4d. An acknowledgement of delivery of a registered mail item could be obtained by paying an additional fee. This required payment at the time of registration of an acknowledgement fee of 2½d.

A **Late Fee** was payable on mail handed in at the post offices after the time fixed for the closing of the mail. This late fee was paid using additional postage stamps affixed to the late mail (Fig. 29.1). The inland late fee rate for letters was 1d if the mail was posted less than 15 minutes after the mail closing time. This fee was 3d for registered mail or parcels. The late fee for foreign mail was 6d if posted within an hour of the closing of the box, and for registered mail or parcels was 6d for posting within a half hour of closing of the box.

Unpaid or insufficiently prepaid mail would be charged at double the deficiency, so that any unstamped mail would end up costing double the normal rate. The Transvaal did not initially have any postage due stamps, so the amount would initially have been collected in cash.

The Transvaal also offered a **Railway Letter** service. By 1910 it included 'All railway stations in the Transvaal, Natal, Orange River Colony, and the Province of Mozambique.'¹ In part, the Railway Letter regulations for 1910 were:²

¹ *Transvaal Post Office Guide* No. 16, Johannesburg: General Post Office, March 1910, p. 77.

² *Transvaal Post Office Guide* No. 16, Johannesburg: General Post Office, March 1910, p. 77 and p. 78.

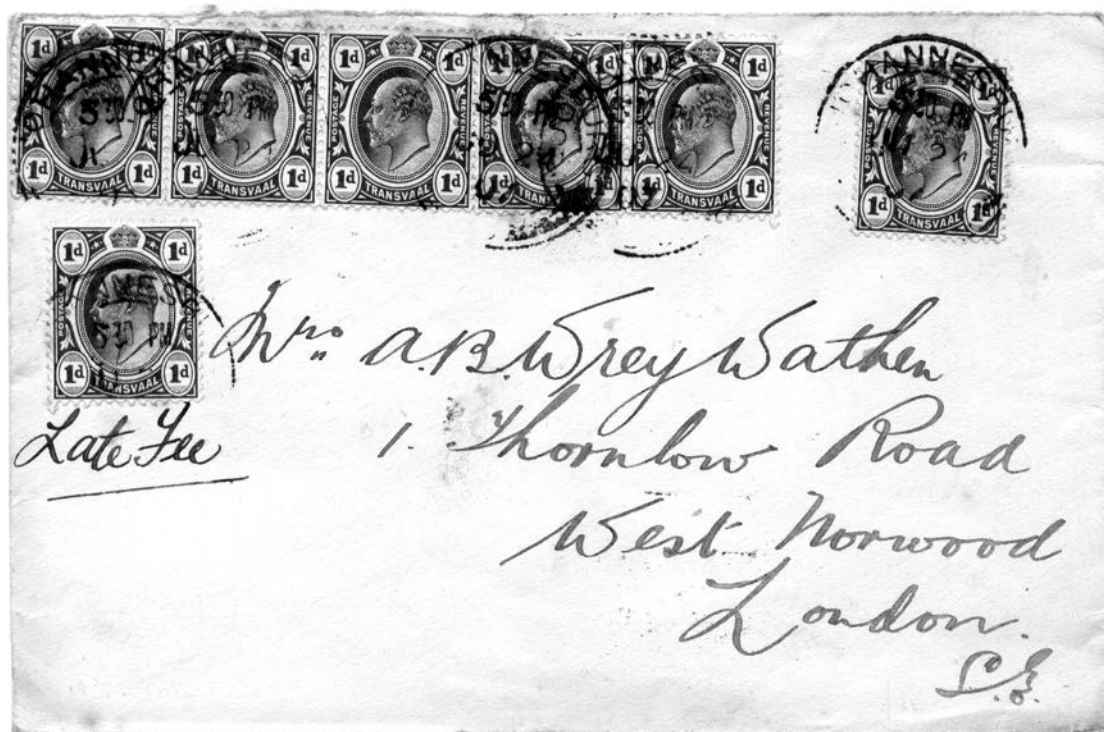


Fig. 29.1 Cover showing payment of Late Fee of 6d.

Letters having postage stamps affixed to them of the value of the postage payable under the General Regulations of the Post Office, and additional stamps to the value of 1d may be accepted at any Transvaal Railway Station for conveyance by the next available passenger or 'mixed' train to the place of their destination, or to the railway station nearest thereto, or situated most conveniently for the transfer of the letters to the ordinary postal channel. They will be conveyed from Station to Station by the guards of trains in 'Railway Letter Envelopes' supplied by the Postal Department.

On arrival at the Station, such letters will be transferred to the nearest Post Office or Post Office Letter-Box or uniformed officer of the Postal Department for delivery in due course of post.

The Station Master, or other Officer appointed by the General Manager of the Railway at the Station of acceptance will cancel the stamps on Railway letters by means of a date stamp at places where one is in use, and where there is not a datestamp, by means of pen and ink in the following manner:

An illustration shows the outline of a stamp defaced by three lines drawn horizontally across the stamp.

This helped the rural community that may not have had a post office anywhere near their place of abode, but either had nearby, or had cause to visit regularly, a railway station.

The general **postal regulations** allowed for letters up to a maximum size of 24 inches in length, 12 inches in width, and 12 inches in depth. Quite a size for a letter! There does not seem to be a maximum weight for letters. Newspapers and books had the same maximum dimensions, and could not exceed 7 lbs weight. None of the dimension and weight restrictions applied to mail sent to or from Government Offices. Parcels could be a maximum of

3 feet 6 inches in length, and the combined length and girth could not exceed 6 feet. The maximum parcel weight was 11 lbs.

Post Office Savings Bank

In 1908 the Transvaal introduced the use of postage stamps for the Post Office Savings Bank. A note to the Postmaster General from the Secretary to the Treasury of 16 April 1908 reads:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your Minute of the 14 instant regarding the introduction of an arrangement whereby twelve penny postage stamps affixed to a special form are accepted as a deposit of one shilling in the Post Office Savings Bank, the contents of which have been noted and approved.

Not much more is known about the scheme, other than it did come into effect (Fig. 29.2).

Railway Use

Some Transvaal stamps were also needle punctured, stencil cut, or overprinted for official railway use. These are covered in Chapter 33, which gives a short overview of Edwardian stamps of all four colonies that were used for railway service.

Overprinted for Other Use

The dual purpose postage and revenue stamps of the Transvaal were also pressed into revenue service. Various denominations were handstamped or overprinted for Customs Duty, these are covered in Chapter 34.

TRANSVAAL POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK. 1892-						
TRANSVAAL POSTSPAARBANK.						
Name of Depositor Naam van Inlegger		<i>J. H. Botter is huus toe E. van der Merwe Botter</i>				
Postage Stamps for a Deposit of One Shilling. Post Zegels voor een Inlage van een Shilling.						
12 PENNY STAMPS TO BE AFFIXED BELOW. 12 PENNY POSTZEGELS HIERONDER TE WORDEN GEPLAKT.						
						DEPOSITOR'S BOOK. SPAARBANK BOEK. Office of Issue Kantoor van Uitgifte <i>J. H.</i> No. of Book } <i>4744</i> No. van Boek }
						
						Date Stamp of Post Office receiving the Postage Stamps. Datum Stempel van Kantoor waar de Postzegels in onvangst worden genomen.
For instructions see back. Voor bepalingen zie ommezijde.						

Fig. 29.2 Post Office Savings Bank deposit form with twelve 1d denomination stamps affixed (reduced).

30

Revenue Stamps

Preamble

When the British forces occupied the Transvaal (previously called the South African Republic) and set up civilian government services, they resorted to the temporary measure of overprinting the revenue stamps of the former Republic with the letters V.R.I., and subsequently overprinting some Cape of Good Hope revenue stamps TRANSVAAL as a further temporary measure. There was, however, every intention to proceed with developing and printing appropriate stamps for the new colony as soon as possible.

Following on from the initial development covered in Chapter 20, the Transvaal postage stamp and revenue stamp development continued together. However, despite a single correspondence usually covering them both, they have been treated separately, with this chapter covering only the revenue stamps. The issue of dual purpose postage and revenue stamps and the issue of postage-only stamps are handled in preceding chapters.

Development

On 27 February 1901, just a few weeks after the death of Queen Victoria, Alfred Milner, Governor and High Commissioner of the new colony of the Transvaal, wrote to the Crown Agents. The letter reads in part:

I approve the designs returned herewith, marked B and C, subject to the necessary alteration of the key plate required by the demise of the Crown. I presume you will take steps to obtain a suitable representation of the King's head for the key plate.

The designs referred to are the Victorian designs covered in Chapter 20.

The letter continues:

I am not in a position, until after consultation with the new Treasurer and Postmaster General, to say what duties will be required. It seems desirable to limit the number of these as far as possible; but the following will certainly be wanted: ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 5/-, 10/-, £1, £5, £10 and £25; and I would recommend that the designs be prepared, and the work put in hand, forthwith. The plan of distinguishing Transvaal stamps by duty tablets in each of the four corners should be adopted throughout.

On 19 March 1901, The Crown Agents forwarded Milner's letter to De La Rue, and asked them to proceed with the 'overprint' (frame) plates. De La Rue responded the next day confirming the plan to go ahead with the frame plates, and suggesting the stamps for 5s and upwards should be printed in the larger revenue size. This was approved by the Crown Agents on 22 March 1901.

On 18 April 1901 the Crown Agents advised De La Rue that they had received a telegram from the High Commissioner (Sir Alfred Milner) requesting modifications to the stamp proposals. These were to have stamps above the 10s denomination as revenue-only stamps, and stamps for 2s 6d, 5s, and 10s in two sizes, the small size as postage-only stamps, and the same denominations in the large size as revenue-only stamps. Stamps below the 2s 6d were to remain as dual purpose postage and revenue stamps.

De La Rue responded the same day, advising:

As we informed you verbally, the King has commanded that a crown is to be incorporated in the border of all stamps bearing his effigy. We will consequently modify the designs to meet this requirement and also to meet the telegraphic instructions from the High Commissioner.

De La Rue submitted the design on 9 May 1901, and enclosed a photograph of the Victorian one originally approved by the High Commissioner for comparison. The design, as described (along with the postage and revenue stamp design) in the 1976 Robson Lowe Auction Catalogue¹ was:

Queen Victoria photographic essay of the Transvaal 1d with Southern Nigeria head with tracing paper lay-over with head of King Edward with surrounds and hand painted frame dots, crown and stars, 'Postage', 'Revenue' and 'Transvaal' and a similar essay for the £10 Revenue but only ornamental frame, crown and 'Revenue' hand painted.

This was approved on 10 May 1901. A month later De La Rue was asked to provide a date for completion of the plates, and responded:

We are afraid that at the present moment it is impossible to give you a date for completion of the plates, for the King has deputed Mr. Fuchs to pass the engraving of the head, and we regret to say that he is rather hanging matters up.

Emil Fuchs had done the portrait of King Edward VII that the King chose as the one to be used on the stamps of the Empire. He must have been holding up De La Rue's progress for all the new stamp issues of the whole British Empire!

On 1 October 1901 De La Rue submitted Appendix sheets for selection of colours for the different denominations. Appendix B (Colour Plate 8) was for revenue stamps. As instructed these colour proposals all had the central vignette of the King's head in doubly fugitive black ink. De La Rue included Appendix D (Appendix A and Appendix C were for postage stamps) where the vignette was in varying colours, which De La Rue felt may be more desirable.

The Crown Agents responded on 7 October 1901, returning both Appendices B and D, and requesting De La Rue to submit a combination of colours that they thought would give the best results. The Crown Agents asked De La Rue to return Appendix B with the new proposals. This was done on 9 October, when De La Rue submitted Appendix F with their ideas of what would give the best results (Appendix E was for postage stamps). The

¹ Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lot 933.

Crown Agents replied on 16 October approving all the colours as proposed on Appendix B for the revenue stamps, except the 5s, for which one of the colours proposed on Appendix F was approved.

The next relevant correspondence is a letter from Lord Milner (whose title had been changed from Governor and High Commissioner to Administrator of the Transvaal) of 5 April 1902. He asks to discontinue the 1s and 2s postage and revenue stamps, and replace these with two separate stamps, the small size for postage only, and the large size for revenue only. This was passed on to De La Rue on 10 May, and they responded on 12 May, giving the cost of the new plates.

Material from the De La Rue Records

Chapters 2 and 3 provide the necessary background explanation of the material from the De La Rue Records. With the material now dispersed, it is worth attempting to record what is still believed to be in existence.

Correspondence Books These items were the stamp designs that De La Rue prepared. There were also a number of colour proposals involved in the form of Appendix sheets. Not all of the designs and colour proposals may have survived. Whatever is known about the material is noted.

9 May 1901

Photographic copy of the Victorian design C with a tracing paper overlay of the effigy of King Edward, with crown, ornamental frame and the word REVENUE handpainted in white, black and red on the tracing paper. This was offered in the Robson Lowe Auction of 1976.²

1 October 1901

Two Appendix sheets marked B and D (A and C were for postage stamps). Appendix sheet B (Colour plate 8) had the proposed colours for all the revenue stamps, 2s 6d to £25. All the seven values are depicted using 2s 6d denominations. Appendix D is believed to have had seven alternative colours for the revenue stamps, again all depicted on the 2s 6d stamp. This Appendix has been cut up and dispersed. Appendix B was offered intact in the Robson Lowe auction of 1976,³ and some items from Appendix D (that had been cut up) were also offered.⁴

9 October 1901

At the request of the Crown Agents Appendix F was provided with what De La Rue considered the most suitable colour combinations for each denomination. (Appendix E was for postage stamps). It was similar to Appendix B in layout, having colour proposals for each of the revenue stamps with the suggested denomination written alongside. All being depicted by 2s 6d denomination stamps. This Appendix also appeared in the Robson Lowe auction of 1976.⁵

A number of colour proofs other than those on the Appendix sheets were also retained. It is not clear how many, or even if they were complete sets. These imperforate colour trials are on gummed paper with the Crown CC watermark.

2 Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lot 933.

3 Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lot 1008.

4 Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lots 1010 to 1014.

5 Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lot 1009.

Striking and Work Books The Striking Book items were single copies of die proofs stuck into the Book, with the work instructions written alongside, often dated, sometimes with both the date the job was placed into the work programme, and the date it was completed. Once the job had been completed the die proof usually had a red line ruled across it, designating that the job was now done, and had been written up in the Private Day Book. These are among the more scarce items, as there was only one copy in existence for each plate made. They are usually cut down, to not take too much space on the Striking Book page (Fig. 30.1).

These items were all auctioned by Robson Lowe in 1976.⁶ The proofs of the dies used to make up the plates and their manuscript dates and markings were as follows:

Head plate: 'Sept 3, 60 leads and 6 extra' in black and 'Dec 31st 01 Transvaal' in red (Fig. 30.2).

Head plate: 'May 26, 60 leads, Transvaal' in black and 'Sep 9. 02' in red.

1s & 2s border plate on a single piece: '120 leads and 2 extra from each' in black, and 'July 10' above 1s and 'July 11' above 2s, both in black, and 'Sep 9 02' in red above 2s (Fig. 30.3).

2s 6d border plate: 'Aug 7, 120 leads and 2 extra' in black.

5s border plate: 'Aug 6, 120 leads and 2 extra' in black.

10s border plate: 'Aug 3, 120 leads and 2 extra' in black, and 'Dec 31st 01 in red.

£1 border plate: 'Aug 2, 120 leads and 2 extra' in black.

£5 border plate: 'Aug 1 120 leads and 2 extra' in black.

£10 border plate: 'June 22, 120 leads and 2 extra' in black.

£25 border plate: 'July 3, 120 leads and 2 extra' in black and 'Dec 31st 01' in red.

Notes:

- 1 All the die proofs have a red diagonal line across the piece.
- 2 The dates of 31 December 1901 and 9 September 1902 were the dates the jobs had been completed.



Fig. 30.1 Striking Book die proof for 2s 6d dated August 7 (1901) with instructions to strike 120 leads plus 2 extra.

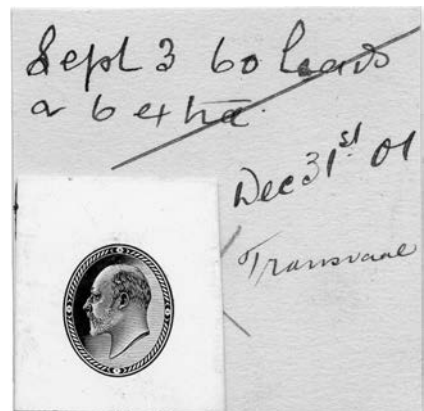


Fig. 30.2 Striking Book die proof for the Head plate, with instructions to strike 60 leads and 6 extra and manuscript notation 'Transvaal'.

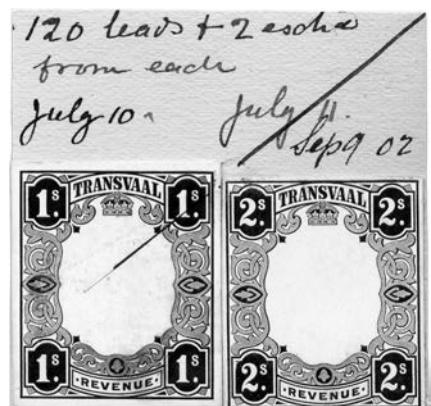


Fig. 30.3 Striking Book die proofs for the 1s and 2s denominations, with instructions to strike 120 leads and 2 extra from each die.

6 Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lots 1005 and 1006.

The De La Rue Collection also contained two other cut down die proofs. These were also offered in the 1976 Robson Lowe auction.⁷ The first is a die proof on a glazed card (42 mm wide and 47 mm high) of the King's Head vignette with uncleared surrounds, and is not dated (Fig. 30.4). The second is a 1s border die proof on a glazed card (61 mm wide and 45 mm high), and is dated '4.7.02' in pencil. It is not known whether similar cut down die proofs exist for other values. If so, they were not part of the De La Rue Collection.

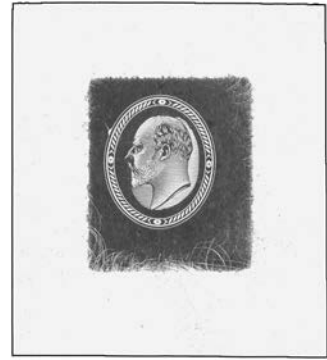


Fig. 30.4 Die proof of the King's Head vignette with uncleared surrounds.

File Records These were die proofs normally on the standard De La Rue glazed card (92 mm wide and 60 mm high). They usually showed the state of the die (BEFORE HARDENING, AFTER HARDENING, or AFTER STRIKING), and the date the proof was made. None of these have been noted so far. These items may have been lost when the De La Rue records that were partially destroyed in the bombing and subsequent fire of 29 December 1940.

De La Rue also usually kept file copies of the issued stamps, stuck into a file book. These were part of the De La Rue reference collection, but their present whereabouts are not known, and they too may not have survived. They also kept file copies of the issued stamps handstamped SPECIMEN, these have been noted, and are covered in Chapter 32 with the other specimen stamps.

Ink Recipe Books Pages from the recipe books have been recorded for all the denominations.

The Printing Requisitions

The term Indent was often used by the Colony for their printing orders, but the Crown Agents and De La Rue used the term Requisition, so for consistency, the term Requisition has been adopted throughout this section. Many requisitions were for stamps and also other postal items (like postal stationery), but only the revenue stamps on any requisition are mentioned in this section. Consequently, the same requisition may be referred to in another chapter, for the relevant items to that particular chapter. The Colony had a system of numbering their requisitions (or indents) that went to the Crown Agents, however, the Crown Agents used their own numbering system when placing the requisition with De La Rue. This is the one used here, showing a number and the year, as in the first one below, number 90 of the year 1900 shown as 90/00.

Requisition No. 90/00 was dated 31 December 1900 and was for the following numbers of stamps:

2s 6d	60,000	£5	3,000
5s	66,000	£10	2,400
10s	36,000	£25	1,200
£1	84,000		

Requisition 90/00 was expanded on 8 February 1902 to print the following number of additional revenue stamps:

⁷ Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lots 1004 and 1007.

2s 6d	510,000	£1	264,000
5s	510,000	£5	36,000
10s	264,000	£25	3,600

A note in the Work Book reads 'A sheet of 2/6 head wrong way up returned from Colony, we supplied a good sheet to replace it Jan 27th 03'. This was found and returned, but at some time at least one other 2s 6d sheet and 5s sheet were not.

Requisition 90/00 was again expanded on 15 May 1902 to print the following number of the new 1s and 2s revenue stamps:

1s	720,000	2s	120,000
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Requisition No. 118/02 was dated 30 October 1902, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1s	155,880	2s	37,680
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Requisition No. 60/03 was dated 9 July 1903, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

2s	184,200
----	---------

Requisition No. 30/05 was dated 3 April 1905, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1s	165,000
----	---------

Requisition No. 86/05 was dated 22 September 1905, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1s	420,000	£10	2,000
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To be provided in sheets of 60, so De La Rue split the sheets of 120.

Requisition No. 60/06 was dated 4 July 1906, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1s	180,000	5s	60,000
2s	60,000	£1	60,000

To be supplied in sheets of 60.

Requisition No. 35/07 was dated 4 June 1907, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1s	300,000	£1	60,000
2s	60,000	£25	8,000
2s 6d	60,000		

To be supplied in sheets of 60.

Requisition No. 76/08 was dated 21 September 1908, and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1s	300,000	5s	180,000
2s	120,000	£1	60,000
2s 6d	120,000		

To be supplied in sheets of 60.

in 1911. This was the only denomination so overprinted. The overprint was in black, whereas all the other stamps overprinted for penalty use at the time were on Cape of Good Hope revenue stamps, and were overprinted in red. The penalty rates are included in Appendix 5 at the end of the book.

Embossed Revenue Stamps

After the British forces had occupied the former Boer Republics, they had to attend to the business of government. Along with the proposals for adhesive postage and revenue stamps of the two new colonies, De La Rue provided design proposals for embossed revenue stamps. The initial submission included design proposals for both the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal. Designs A to D were for the Transvaal postage stamps and revenue stamps, designs E to H were the equivalent designs for the Orange River Colony. Designs I and J were for Transvaal embossed revenue stamps, and designs K and L were for Orange River Colony embossed revenue stamps. These designs were provided along with De La Rue's letter of 28 November 1900.

This was in response to a letter from the Crown Agents of 23 November 1900, requesting an estimate for machinery to emboss cheques with a 1d duty, and also one for embossing higher values. Proposals for suitable stamps were also requested. The Crown Agents advised that each Colony should have different designs. They also requested alternative estimates for plain and colour embossing, as well as for hand and power presses. They stated that the estimates should only include the press, as 'driving shafting and machinery would be provided in the Colonies'. Presumably the mining industry had spawned a competent engineering capability.

De La Rue's response of 28 November 1900 that included the design proposals, commented that for the various duties of embossing dies required, 'distinction is made by varying the shapes and designs'. They explained that the cost of the dies would be the same for plain or colour embossing, but that a different class of press was required.

The costs quoted for each die 'engraved with crown and pierced for plugs' was £7 10s, and date plugs were 10s extra each. Presses for plain embossing cost £18 each, and for colour embossing £90 19s 5d. 'Steam Cameo Embossing Machines, such as we use at our factory for embossing envelopes' were £285 each.

They mentioned that Britain used date plugs, but most of the colonies did not, as it was less costly without the date plugs. De La Rue provided explanations as to the virtues of the different pieces of equipment, going to some length explaining recommended security and operating procedures.

Design I was for the 1d cheque stamps (Fig. 30.7). The Correspondence Book has the manuscript notation 'Mr. Muller 23/8/01'. Design J was a larger size design showing a 3d stamp duty as an example (Fig. 30.8). The designs are hand painted in white on a red-orange background. Both of these items were offered in the Robson Lowe auction of 1976.⁸ Queen Victoria's death in January 1901, resulted in most of the previous stamp proposals being reviewed, as the original proposals included an effigy of the monarch, however, these designs for embossed revenue stamps did not, so, could proceed unhindered by the selection of which effigy of King Edward VII would be used on the stamps. However, no further action was taken for some time.

The embossed revenue stamps are next referred to in Milner's letter of 27 February 1901 to the Colonial Office, where Milner writes:

8 Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lots 1018 and 1019.



Fig. 30.7 Design proposal for 1d cheque stamp



Fig. 30.8 Design proposal for embossed revenue stamps

I should prefer to leave it an open question for the present whether or not to use embossed stamps for revenue purposes; but they will be required for cheques, and the design 'T' appears suitable. Two hand presses for colour embossing, with date plugs should be supplied for the Transvaal.

The two hand presses and cheque dies were ordered on 23 March 1901. Two more of each were ordered on 5 February 1902. Then on 22 September 1905, a power cameo embossing machine and two more 1d cheque dies were ordered from De La Rue. The last Transvaal 1d cheque die order was for three dies, Star A, Star B and Star C, and was placed on 4 March 1910. These may have been intended for use in the other parts of the Union of South Africa, which was to be formed on 31 May 1910. The 1d cheque stamps remained the only embossed stamps used in the Transvaal for regular revenue duty. Some were introduced especially for Labour Passports. These are covered later in Chapter 31 on Pass Stamps.

There are impressions of various Transvaal dies in black that are believed to have been made in about 1936 by the Government Printer in Pretoria, along with impressions of all other dies in their possession at the time.

Revenue Stamp Usage

Until recently, there has been little interest in the collection of revenue stamps. As a result, much potentially interesting material was discarded. What often tended to survive, were the higher value stamps, as these were usually used on things like title deeds and other documents that it was necessary to preserve for reasons other than for the revenue stamps. Consequently, the low value stamps with the most common usage, are often the more difficult to find, as these were usually discarded when the document was no longer needed.

Payment of Fiscal Duties and Fees

This was the intended purposes of the Edwardian revenue stamps, as it was for the embossed cheque stamps. These stamps were used for a wide range of fees and duties. Many of these were graduated according to the size of financial transaction involved, type of license applied for, and numerous other yardsticks. Even a general overview of all of these is rather complex. So, this has been included in Appendix 4 at the end of the book, as a summary of the main stamp duties and fees. In summarising these sometimes lengthy regulations, some clarity is lost, but it does provide a reference that covers most situations.

The basic law in force in Transvaal during the Edwardian period was Proclamation No. 12 of 1902, which was the 'Proclamation to Amend the Law Relating to Stamp Duties', and was the most recent significant consolidation and amendment to the stamp duties and fees in the Colony. Some further amendments were made during the Edwardian period.

As per the requisitions, several printings were made of some denominations:

1s	11 printings	£1	4 printings
2s	7 printings	£5	1 printing
2s 6d	4 printings	£10	2 printings
5s	3 printings	£25	2 printings
10s	1 printing		

Although the first requisition (No. 90/00) was entered and printed in two parts, each requisition as a whole is considered as a different printing in the above listing.

Both the 2s 6d and the 5s are known with the inverted head printing error (Fig. 30.5). The 5s appears to be more scarce than the 2s 6d, so it is possible that two sheets of the 2s 6d with the inverted head may have been inadvertently distributed, and only one of the 5s.



Fig. 30.5 The 2s 6d and the 5s denominations with the inverted head error.

Overprinted for Other Uses

Transvaal revenue stamps were overprinted for use in neighbouring territories. These are covered in Chapter 36. Transvaal revenue stamps were also overprinted for telegraphic use, and one denomination was overprinted PENALTY for use as a Penalty stamp. Those dual purpose postage and revenue stamps overprinted for Customs Duty are covered in Chapter 34 along with other similar stamps from the other territories. Pass stamps are covered in the following chapter.

Telegraph stamps Some Transvaal revenue stamps had a handstamped overprint applied with the words TRANSVAAL TELEGRAPHS. Only the 10s, £1 and £5 values received the handstamp. The date and the numbers so handstamped is not known, but those with legible Army Telegraphs cancellations are in July and August 1902, so it would seem that their time of use was the second half of 1902.

There were two types of handstamps. Type 1 has the T of TRANSVAAL to the right of the T of TELEGRAPHS, and usually has damage to both T's and the S (Fig. 30.6). The 10s, £1 and £5 are all known with handstamp type 1. Type 2 has the T of TRANSVAAL to the left of the T of TELEGRAPHS, with no damage to any of the letters (Fig. 30.6). Only the 10s and the £1 denominations are known with the type 2 handstamp.

Telegraph Stamp Forgery There is also a forgery of the overprint done by Fournier. Fortunately the letters are thinner and much neater, making the forgery easy to detect (Fig. 30.6). The forged overprint is only known on the £5 denomination, usually on cleaned fiscally used stamps.

Penalty Stamp After the introduction of Penalty stamps to pay the penalty imposed for late payment of stamp duties, the 2s 6d stamp was overprinted PENALTY by the Government Printer in Pretoria



Fig. 30.6 Transvaal Telegraph handstamped overprints, with type 1 on the left, type 2 in the centre, and the forgery on the right.

31

Pass Stamps

Preamble

Prior to the British occupation of the Transvaal, a system of labour identification passports was introduced to control the movement of African labourers. It required the employer to register native labour that he employed with the Labour Passport Office for a fee of 1s, paid using a pass stamp. In addition the employer paid a further 2s fee for each month that he employed each labourer (Fig. 31.1). Travelling passes for African labour also required a fee of 1s. The system was continued by the British. Firstly using stamps of the former South African Republic suitably overprinted, then subsequently overprinting the Edwardian stamps for the purpose. Later embossed stamps were introduced.

The Overprinted Edwardian Stamps

The first mention of these stamps in the De La Rue Correspondence Books is dated 2 December 1901. It is note from the Crown Agents and reads:

We forward you letters from the Colonial Office dated 28 and 29 ultimo with enclosures, from which you will see that 132,000 1/- and 500,000 2/- stamps are required overprinted very distinctly with the word 'Pass'.

We request you to send us specimens of the overprint you would propose and inform us how soon the stamps can be delivered. The quantities will be additional to the stamps already in hand.

The letters from the Colonial Office are not in the Correspondence Books.

As usual, De La Rue was quick to respond, and on 4 December, sent an Appendix with specimens for selection. Two days later the Appendix sheet was returned with the right hand stamps approved and initialled (Fig. 31.2). On 14 January 1902, the requested quantities of 2s stamps were increased to 1,500,000.

A further order on 25 July 1902 requested 240,000 1s stamps overprinted PASS, and De La Rue enquired whether they should use the new shilling postage or new shilling revenue plate for the base stamps. Previously the 1s and 2s stamps had been dual purpose postage and revenue stamps, so there was no question of which should be used. Now that the stamps were two different stamps, the question arose, as the postage stamps were the size used for the Labour Identification Passports, but they were intended for postage only. The new revenue stamps were too large, but they were the stamps for revenue payments. On

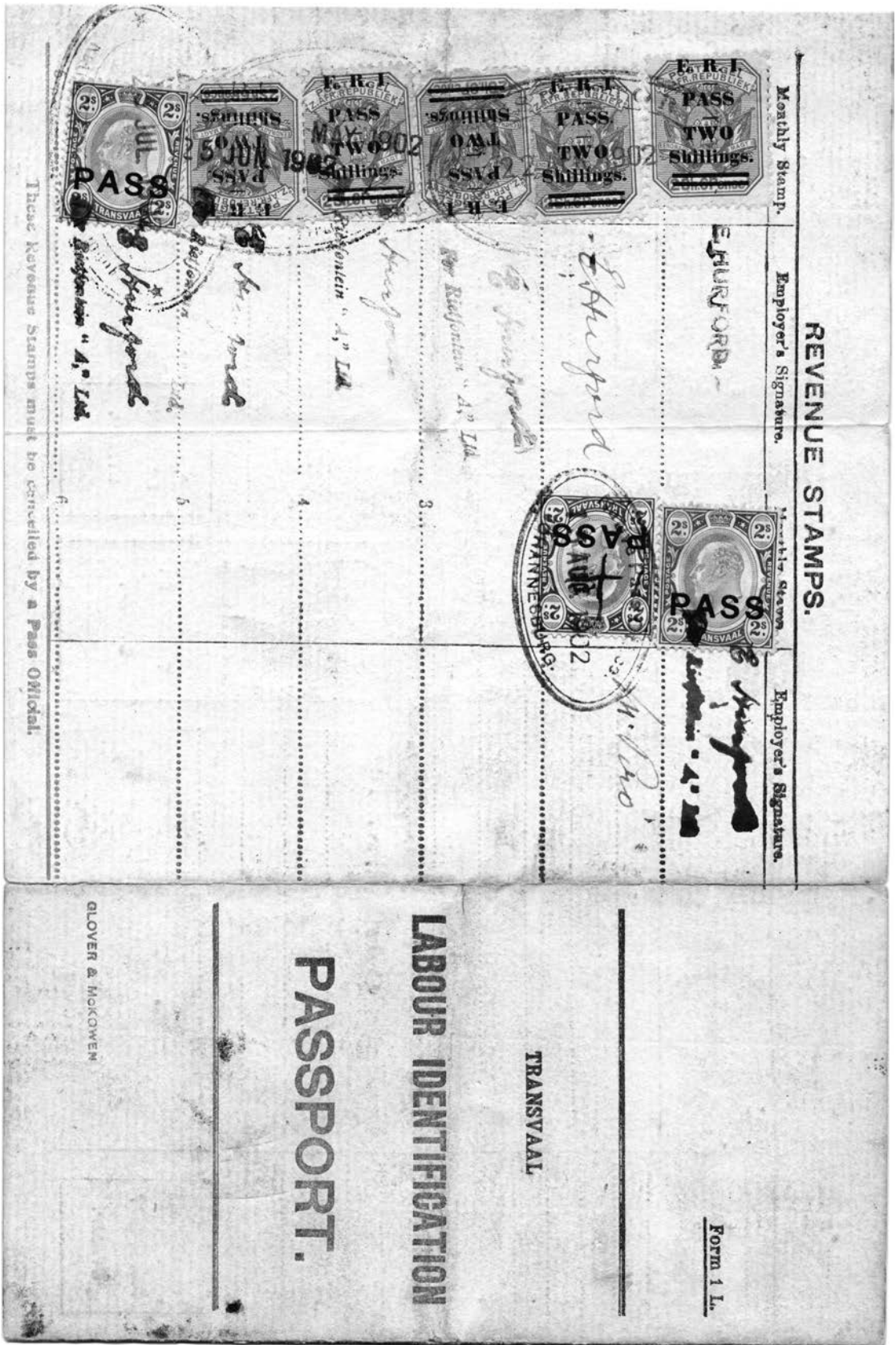


Fig. 31.1 Labour Identification Passport (folded) showing the use of both the overprinted Republican stamps and the overprinted Edwardian stamps.

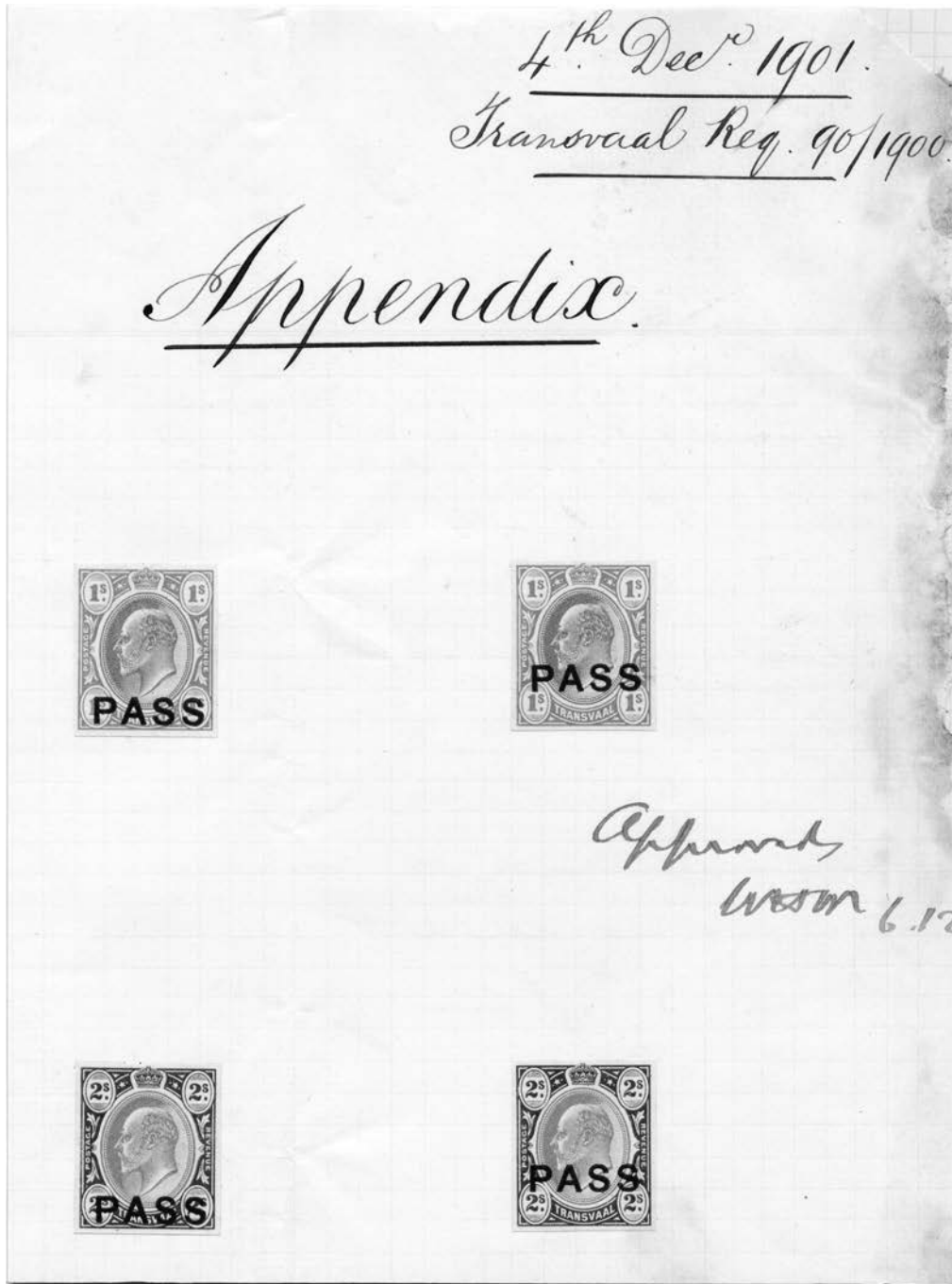


Fig. 31.2 Appendix Sheet for the small size Pass stamps.

30 July the Crown Agents advised that it was the new 1s revenue stamp that should be overprinted. De La Rue responded with a specimen of an overprinted stamp the next day. They do not mention in their correspondence that it was mounted on an Appendix sheet, but the De La Rue Collection contained such an Appendix sheet, initialed by Sir William Mercer of the Crown Agents, so presumably the specimen referred to is the same one mounted on the Appendix sheet (Fig. 31.3).

An order was entered in July 1903 which included a 2s revenue stamp to be overprinted PASS, but this part of the order was cancelled before printing. The reasons for this are not known.

Material from the De La Rue Records

Chapters 2 and 3 provide the necessary background explanation of the material from the De La Rue Records. With the material now dispersed, it is worth attempting to record what is still believed to be in existence.

Correspondence Books These items were the overprint proposals that De La Rue prepared. The two Appendix sheets (Fig. 31.2 and Fig. 31.3) are the key items. In addition there are the reference specimens from the De La Rue Collection, the 1s Revenue stamp is not, however, overprinted with the word SPECIMEN. The Specimens are covered in

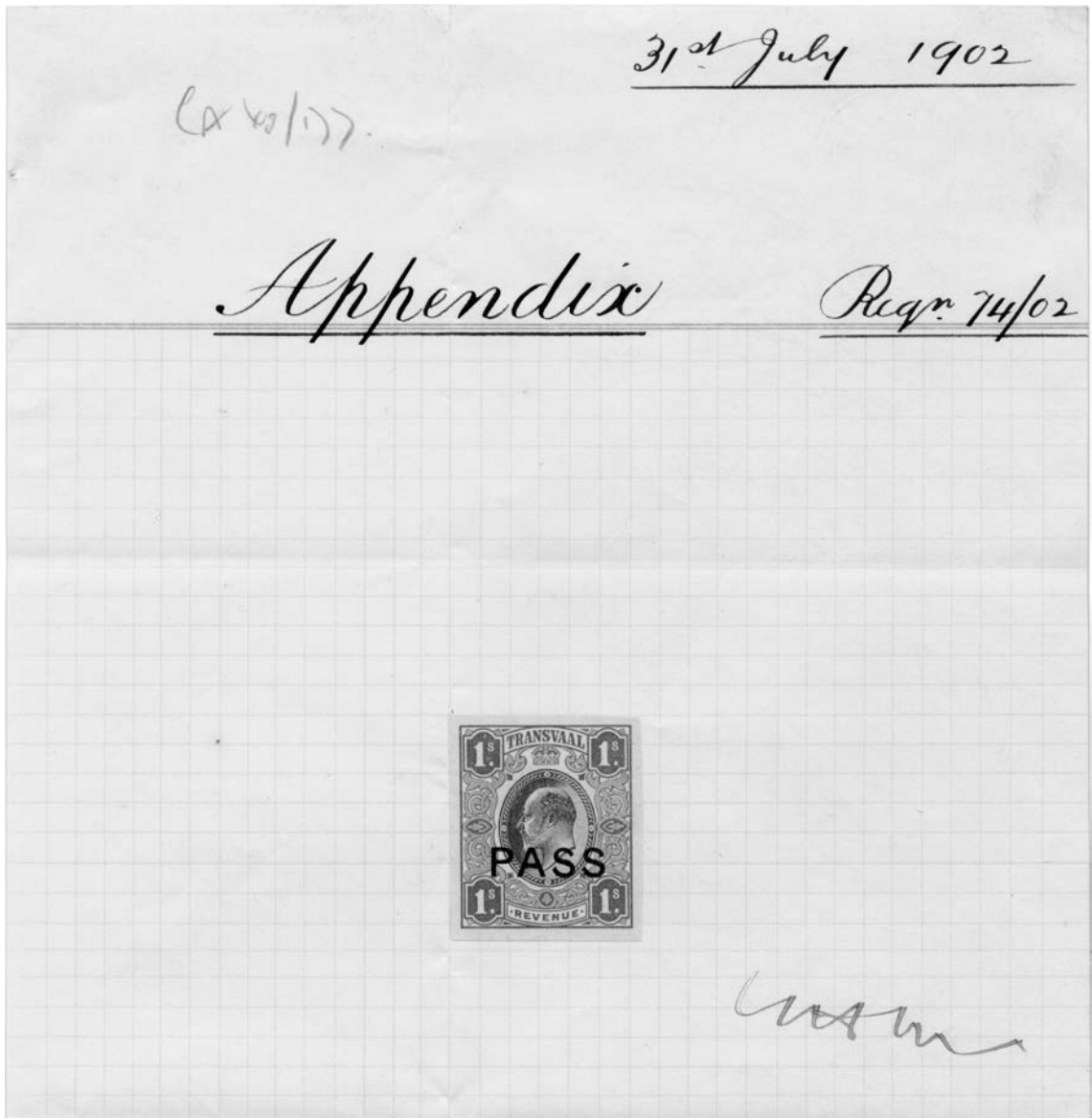


Fig. 31.3 Appendix Sheet for the 1s Revenue stamp overprinted PASS (reduced).

Chapter 32, along with all the other Transvaal specimen stamps. All these items were part of the Robson Lowe sale in 1976.¹

There is no material from the Striking or Work Books, or from the File Records.

The Printing Requisitions

The term Indent was often used by the Colony for their printing orders, but the Crown Agents and De La Rue used the term Requisition, so for consistency, the term Requisition has been adopted throughout this section. Many requisitions were for stamps and also other postal items (like postal stationery), but only the Pass stamps on any requisition are mentioned in this section. Consequently, the same requisition may be referred to in another chapter, for the relevant items to that particular chapter. The Colony had a system of numbering their requisitions (or indents) that went to the Crown Agents, however, the Crown Agents used their own numbering system when placing the requisition with De La Rue. This is the one used here, showing a number and the year, as in the first one below, number 90 of the year 1900 shown as 90/00.

Requisition No. 90/00 was dated 31 December 1900 and was for the following numbers of stamps:

1S	132,000	2S	1,530,000
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These were overprinted on the dual purpose postage and revenue stamps.

Requisition No. 74/02 was dated 25 July 1902 and was for the following number of stamps:

1S	240,000
----	---------

These were overprinted on the new 1s revenue stamp.

Requisition No. 33/03 was dated 2 May 1903 and was for the following number of stamps:

1S	240,000
----	---------

The requisition was originally for postage stamps to be overprinted, but was revised to have revenue stamps overprinted.

Requisition No. 60/03 was dated 9 July 1903 and was for the following number of stamps:

1S	674,400
----	---------

This requisition originally also included 891,420 2s stamps, but this part of the order was cancelled on 20 July 1903.

The Stamps

In summary, the initial denominations were issued on 1 April 1902, with the 1s revenue stamp being issued on 1 February 1903. The 1s and 2s postage and revenue stamps were printed in sheets of 240 (4 panes of 60, in 10 rows of 6 per pane), while the 1s revenue stamp was printed in sheets of 120 stamps (2 panes of 60 stamps, in 5 rows of 12 per pane).

¹ Robson Lowe auction catalogue, *Africa in Switzerland*, Basle 26–27 September 1976, lots 1016 and 1017.

The perforation of all the stamps was 14. These stamps were printed on paper with the Crown CC watermark. As per the requisitions, the number of printings made were:

1s postage and revenue	1 printing
2s postage and revenue	1 printing
1s revenue	3 printings

Embossed Pass Stamps

On 12 April 1905 with Requisition 35/05 the Crown Agents requested designs for embossed stamps, and on 18 April De La Rue responded with hand painted designs in red and Chinese white for the two required embossing dies for the 1s and 2s Pass stamps (Fig. 31.4).

The plan was to have De La Rue use the embossing dies to emboss the Pass documents that they would also supply. Their quote for the printing of these documents casts some light on the document types then in use, so it is worth recording:



Fig. 31.4 Design proposals for embossing dies from De La Rue.

We beg to enclose designs for the two required embossing dies for the 1s and 2s Native Passes. Our charge for each die would be £4, and we could supply the Passes at the following rates:

Native Monthly Passes, embossed with 2s stamp, bound in books of 200, each book numbered from 1 to 200 on counterfoil and pass, with a certificate attached to cover, 1s per book.

Passports 'Mines', embossed with 1s stamp, bound in books of 250, each book numbered from 1 to 250, a certificate to be affixed to each cover, 3s 6d per book.

Passports 'Other Employers', embossed with 1s stamp, bound in books of 250, each book numbered from 1 to 250, a certificate to be attached to each cover, 3s 6d per book.

Travelling Passes, embossed with a 1s stamp, bound in books of 250, numbered consecutively from 1 to 500,000 on counterfoil and pass, with certificate on cover, 1s 8d per book.

Adhesive Travelling Slips, embossed with 1s stamp, bound in books of 200, each book numbered from 1 to 200 on counterfoil and slip, with certificate on cover, 1s 3d per book.

Coloured Labourers Passes, embossed with a 1s stamp, bound in books of 500, numbered consecutively from 1 to 80,000 on counterfoil and pass, with certificate on cover, 3s 8d per book.

We enclose a specimen of the Native Monthly Passes and Coloured Labourers Passes for approval. The latter shows the paper we should use for the other kinds of passes, but of course being in the coloured paper required.

The letter continues, giving possible delivery details.

This De La Rue response was based on Transvaal Indent No. 64/16 to the Crown Agents (which was part of Requisition 35/05), which detailed the number of passes required. From this we see the relative importance of the main centres from a labour point of view. The number of passes required are listed in Table 31.1.

Areas	Quantity of Native Monthly Passes	Quantity of Passports for Mines	Quantity of Passports for Other Employers
Johannesburg	865,000	40,000	80,000
Krugersdorp	350,000	60,500	12,500
Germiston	300,000	20,000	8,000
Boksburg	200,000	16,000	7,000
Pretoria	70,000	8,000	2,500
Middelburg	53,000	3,500	1,000
Springs	40,000	3,000	1,500
Heidelberg	34,000	3,000	1,500
Klerksdorp	24,000	2,250	2,250
Vereeniging	17,000	750	1,000
Government Service	60,000		10,000

Table 31.1 Pass requirements by towns and government service.

The Travelling Passes, Adhesive Travelling Slips and Coloured Labourers Passes were not allocated to any specific areas.

Nothing more appears in the De La Rue Correspondence Books, and nothing at all in the Work Books, so it would seem that De La Rue did not get the order for making the embossing dies or for printing the required books of passes. At that time the printing of colonial material was still dominated by De La Rue, so it is possible that this printing was then undertaken by the Transvaal Government Printer in Pretoria, rather than some other overseas specialist printing firm.

The embossed stamps used were similar to those proposed by De La Rue (Fig. 31.5), which were in turn based on a sketch provided by the Transvaal Treasury, along with Indent No. 64/16 of 1905.

A later version of the embossed Pass stamps dropped the words NATIVE PASS (Fig. 31.6). In this case the 1s was of a smaller diameter, while the 2s remained the same size as the previous pass stamp. These had always been seen struck in a red-orange colour, but a 2s value is known in green, and a 3s of similar size in blue. The reason for these different colours is not known, but it is possible that different documents may have had different coloured embossed stamps to make it easier to distinguish one from another.

A number of other dies existed, as a few copies of a number of different impressions of Transvaal Native Pass stamps were made by the Government Printer in 1936.



Fig. 31.5 The embossed stamps used on the various passes.



Fig. 31.6 Later embossed stamps without the words NATIVE PASS.

32

Specimen Stamps

Preamble

The Transvaal (the South African Republic as it was then called) joined the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1893. Two types of De La Rue specimen overprints were used on the Transvaal stamps of the Edwardian period, Samuel¹ type D9 and D12. A local specimen handstamp, as well as the De La Rue specimen handstamp also occur, as well as some Receiving Authority specimen markings. There are even some forged Specimen overprints.

Postage Stamp Specimens

This section includes the dual purpose postage and revenue stamps.

UPU Specimens De La Rue overprinted the UPU specimens. The Samuel type D12 overprints (Fig. 32.1) appeared on all the 1902–03 Edwardian issue denominations, both the dual purpose postage and revenue, as well as the postage-only stamps, that is from the ½d to the £5 values. The single colour stamps of 1905–09 (including the unissued 2d grey stamp), also have this overprint. The 1907 postage due stamps were distributed without the specimen overprint.



Fig. 32.1 Examples of overprint type D12.

Samuel² states that the D12 overprint was produced from a 60-set plate (6 × 10). There is a characteristic broken 'M' in 'SPECIMEN', the position of which is believed to be row 7 stamp 5. Theoretically all the denominations overprinted with type D12 will have this broken 'M' variety, so far the ½d, 1d, 3d, 4d and 2s POSTAGE-REVENUE stamps and the 5s POSTAGE-POSTAGE have been noted. The type D12 overprint is at the bottom of the stamp.

All specimen overprints noted of the 2½d grey-black and blue of 1902 are on stamps that have the watermark Crown CA inverted.

The UPU Circulars show that the specimen stamps of the initial issue were distributed to UPU members by the UPU as they became available. The ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 6d, 1s 2s, 2s 6d,

1 Samuel, Marcus. *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857–1948*, London: The Royal Philatelic Society, 1976.

2 Samuel, Marcus. *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857–1948*, London: The Royal Philatelic Society, 1976, p. 43.

5s and 10s POSTAGE-REVENUE stamps were distributed on 24 January 1902, the 3d and 4d POSTAGE-REVENUE stamps along with the 1s and 2s postage-only stamps were distributed on 7 October 1902. Then on 18 December 1902, the £1 and £5 postage-only stamps were distributed. Later, the single colour ½d and 1d were distributed on 6 September 1905, the unoverprinted postage due set of 7 stamps was distributed on 4 September 1907. The 2d grey, which was the incorrect colour was distributed on 25 September 1909, and the replacement correct colour, purple, was distributed on 9 November 1909. The single colour bright blue 2½d of 1909 appears in the UPU collection, but does not seem to have a UPU Circular on record showing its date of distribution.

Other De La Rue Specimens These all came from the De La Rue records. They were the Samuel type D9. These are the POSTAGE-REVENUE 6d, the postage-only £1, one in black and also one in red. The £5 only has one in red. Samuel does not mention either of the copies struck in red. There are also a 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d (two copies), 2s and 10s in the Royal Philatelic Collection. In addition the postage due set (½d to 1s) were also all handstamped with type D9 (Fig. 32.2).

The later issue of Transvaal booklets in 1908, had four pages of six 1d stamps, and two pages of six ½d stamps. The De La Rue records contained an exploded booklet with each stamp of each page of six handstamped SPECIMEN type D9.



Fig. 32.2 Postage due examples with handstamp type D9.

Presentation Specimens A presentation specimen set was handstamped type SA5 (Fig. 32.3). This consisted of the 1902–03 issue 3d, 4d and 6d dual purpose stamps, the 1s to £1 postage-only stamps (no £5), the 1905–09 issue ½d, 1d, 2d and 2½d. This set was presented to the Royal Empire Society in about 1910. As far as can be ascertained, only one set was made. Each of the other three South African Colonies also presented similar sets of both postage and revenue stamps to the Society.

Receiving Authority Specimens The Cape Colony had its own specimen handstamp, which Samuel refers to as type SA1.³ This was used by the Cape Colony Post Office for their own record of stamps issued. A set of Transvaal stamps are known with this handstamp. The set consists of the 1902–03 issue 3d, 4d and 6d dual purpose stamps, the 1s to 2s 6d, and the 10s and £1 postage-only stamps (no 5s or £5), and the 1905–09 issue ½d, 1d, 2d and 2½d. A mixture of red and purple ink has been used for the strikes, with red being the predominant colour, and where a red stamp exists, like the 1d, purple ink was used. Since it appears that two ink pads were in use, some of the strikes look more like a maroon mix of the two.

All values from ½d to £5 are known with the Portuguese ‘Ultramar’ handstamp applied to specimens sent out to the Portuguese colonies. This includes the postage-only as well as the postage and revenue 1s and 2s, and also both the mono and bicoloured low value

3 Samuel, Marcus. *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857–1948*, London: The Royal Philatelic Society, 1976, p. 226.

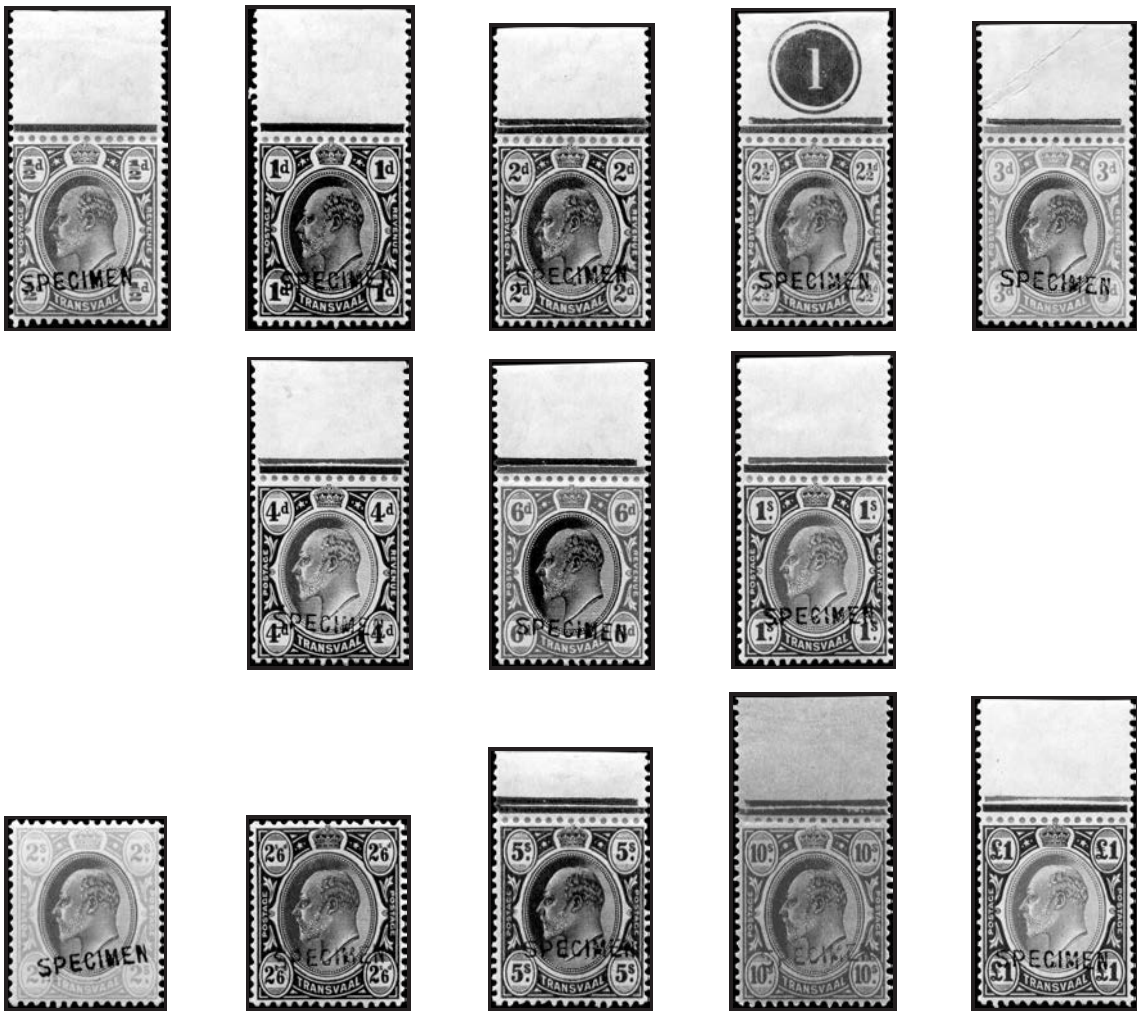


Fig. 32.3 Examples of the SA5 handstamp.

stamps. The ‘Ultramar’ handstamp applied in addition to the De La Rue SPECIMEN overprint. The Madagascar postal archives, and therefore presumably the other national postal archives too, included both the incorrect grey 2d that was never issued, and the replacement 2d purple.

More interesting are some receiving authority specimens on the postage due stamps. There was no real need to distribute postage due stamps to other countries, as they should generally just be for domestic use. However, the Transvaal authorities did provide copies that were not overprinted SPECIMEN by De La Rue, but were distributed via the UPU. Some receiving authority specimens for neighbouring territories have been noted. These are 1d and 1s postage due with the Samuel Rhodesian type R4⁴ handstamp. There is a set of postage dues in the South African Post Office Museum in Pretoria with the Cape specimen handstamp (type SA1 again), the handstamp being almost vertical. The Portuguese colonies also received copies, as the Portuguese ‘Ultramar’ hand stamp is also known on all seven denominations. This handstamp was usually applied in Lisbon prior to sending specimens to the Portuguese Colonies. Also the Madagascar Post Office Archives contained a page with five copies of each

4 Samuel, Marcus. *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857–1948*, London: The Royal Philatelic Society, 1976, p. 198.

of the postage due denominations handstamped in red with the archive cancellation (along with postage stamps that did have the UPU specimen overprint).

The Pretoria Post Office Museum also has a number of Transvaal Edwardian stamps handstamped CANCELLED diagonally in purple. On display they had the 2d, 2½d, 3d and 10s, and in their files I found the £5 and the postage dues. There may also be other denominations with this handstamp.

Forged Specimen Handstamps The 1905–09 ½d to 2½d monocoloured stamps are known with a forged specimen handstamp. There may also be other denominations with this forged handstamp. The origin of these crude forgeries is unknown.



Fig. 32.4 Set of specimen stamps presented to the Royal Empire Society.

Revenue Stamp Specimens

The only presently recorded specimen stamps of the Edwardian revenues are a set of De La Rue reference specimens, and the set presented to the Royal Empire Society. The De La Rue specimens consist of the values from 2s 6d to £25, overprinted SPECIMEN with Samuel⁵ type D12. The 1s and 2s denominations are overprinted in red with type D9.

The complete set presented to the Royal Empire Society were handstamped SPECIMEN, Samuel⁶ type SA5 (Fig. 32.4). They are believed to have been presented in 1910, at the time of the Royal Empire Society visit to South Africa. As far as can be ascertained, only one set was made. This was done for each of the four South African Colonies, with both a set of revenue and of postage stamps being presented.

5 Samuel, Marcus. *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857–1948*, London: The Royal Philatelic Society, 1976.

6 Samuel, Marcus. *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857–1948*, London: The Royal Philatelic Society, 1976.

