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African Studies Centre Leiden

# African Postal Heritage

APH Paper Nr 13, part 4

Ton Dietz

ZUID-AFRIKAANSCH REPUBLIEK/TRANSVAAL: BOER WAR 1899-1902;  
BOER FORCES

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## Introduction

Postage stamps and related objects are miniature communication tools, and they tell a story about cultural and political identities and about artistic forms of identity expressions. They are part of the world's material heritage, and part of history. Ever more of this postal heritage becomes available online, published by stamp collectors' organizations, auction houses, commercial stamp shops, online catalogues, and individual collectors. Virtually collecting postage stamps and postal history has recently become a possibility. These working papers about Africa are examples of what can be done. But they are work-in-progress! Everyone who would like to contribute, by sending corrections, additions, and new area studies can do so by sending an email message to the APH editor: Ton Dietz ([dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl)). You are welcome!

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Illustrations cover page:

ASC Leiden postage stamp Nederland (2011): ©African Studies Centre Leiden

Cape of Good Hope postage stamp 1853:

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/7c/Cape\\_Triangular\\_Postage\\_Stamp.jpg/400px-Cape\\_Triangular\\_Postage\\_Stamp.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/7c/Cape_Triangular_Postage_Stamp.jpg/400px-Cape_Triangular_Postage_Stamp.jpg)

Egypt postage stamp 1914:

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4b/Post\\_Stamp\\_Egypt.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4b/Post_Stamp_Egypt.jpg)



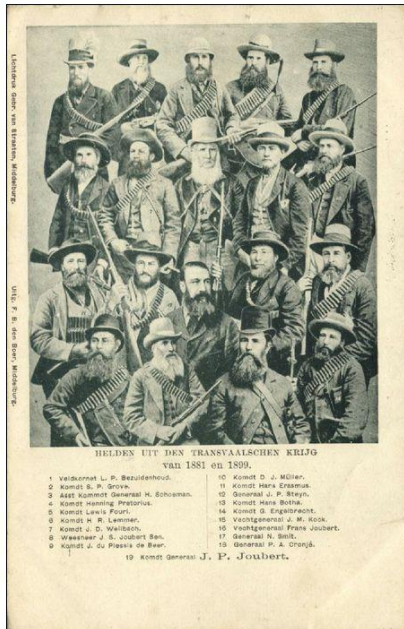
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## ZUID AFRIKAANSCH REPUBLIEK/TRANSVAAL

### THE ANGLO-BOER WAR OF 1899-1902:

### POSTAGE STAMPS ISSUED BY THE BOER MILITARY ADMINISTRATION



[http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img\\_large/auction/000/299/541/406\\_001.jpg](http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/299/541/406_001.jpg) : “BOER WAR, Boer Heroes of the Transvaal Wars of 1881 and 1899 (1899)”

### Boer occupation of Vrijburg in Cape of Good Hope 1899 (24-29 November)

Michel: “Besetzungs-Ausgaben der Transvaal-Regierung in zeitweise besetzten Kapegebiet” (Michel Katalog p. 936).

½ p : ½ p

Not yet included

M1I grün 10 mm

M1II grün 12 mm

1p : 1p

Not yet included

M2I karmin 10 mm

M2II karmin 12 mm

2p: 6p



<http://stampauctionnetwork.com/Y/1042/3427.jpg>: CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, Vryburg, 1899, 2p on 6p Violet (N3, SG 3). Unhinged but with small spot on gum, exceedingly bright and fresh, a Fine example of this rare stamp, ex Dale-Lichtenstein (as part of a pair)”

<http://stampauctionnetwork.com/f/61/143.jpg>: “S.G. #3, 1899 "2 Pence/Z.A.R." Vryburg surcharge on 6p Mauve, used single with bold "Vryburg/2 DE 99" c.d.s., fresh color and very fine; all of the stamps of this value were printed in the tall 12mm setting

M3II lila 12 mm

2 ½ p : 2 ½ p



<http://stampauctionnetwork.com/Y/1042/3428.jpg>: “CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, Vryburg, 1899, 2-1/2p on 1-1/2p Ultramarine (N4, SG 4). Original gum, fresh color, faint gum crease at right, Fine, a very scarce stamp”.

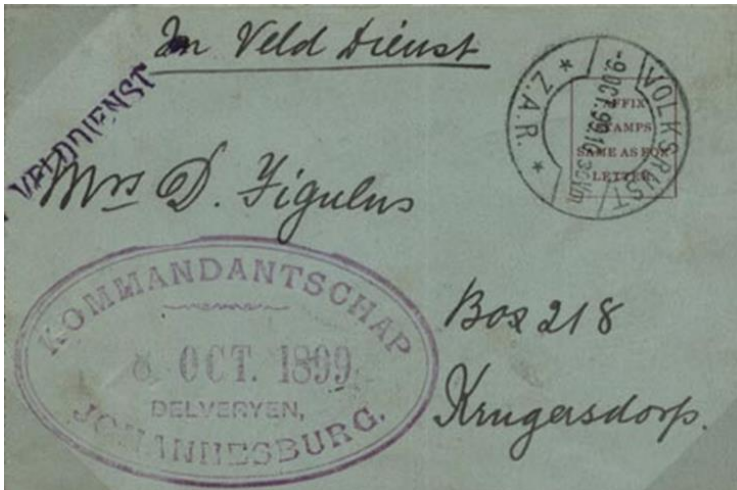
<http://stampauctionnetwork.com/f/61/144.jpg>: “S.G. #4, 1899 "2 1/2p/Z.A.R." Vryburg surcharge on 2 1/2p Blue, well centered single tied to piece by "Vryburg/25 NO 99" c.d.s., bright color, very fine”.

M4I ultramarin 10 mm

M4II ultramarin 12 mm

The Boers left the city of Vrijburg on 7/5/1900

### ZAR Veldpost 1899/1900



[http://fep.up.pt/docentes/cpimenta/lazer/WebFilatelicamente/public\\_html/r106/pictures/revista106\\_7\\_12.jpg](http://fep.up.pt/docentes/cpimenta/lazer/WebFilatelicamente/public_html/r106/pictures/revista106_7_12.jpg): "Mobilization and invasion of Natal by Boer Commandos: «Velddienst» (On Active Service) letter card from a member of the Boer Johannesburg Commando, postmarked at Volksrust on 9 October 1899. Delivery of ultimatum to the British government took place on the same date."

### Charlestown



<http://www.rhodesia.co.za/Images/large/T259.jpg>: "1899 (December), Anglo-Boer War (ZAR invasion of Natal) unaddressed cover bearing ZAR 1d (SG 206) tied by superb CHARLESTOWN, / 16 DEC. 1899 / Z.A.R. oval datestamp struck in violet. Pretoria (20 Dec) backstamp. Flap with embossed arms of 'The Kings Royal Rifles'. Unusual."



[http://fep.up.pt/docentes/cpimenta/lazer/WebFilatelicamente/public\\_html/r106/pictures/revista106\\_7\\_13.jpg](http://fep.up.pt/docentes/cpimenta/lazer/WebFilatelicamente/public_html/r106/pictures/revista106_7_13.jpg): "Occupation of Natal by Boer forces: cover from Charlestown (Natal) to a member of the Johannesburg Commando near Colenso, franked 1 penny, cancelled with Charlestown oval date stamp dated 18 January 1900, and postmarked on arrival by the Field Postmaster of the Boer forces in Natal."

## Elandslaagte



<http://www.chrisrainey.com/images/5344.jpg>: "1900 envelope to Zwolle, Holland franked Z.A.R. 2d & 3d adhesives tied scarce violet oval "ELANDGSLAAGTE" d/s '24 JAN 1900', 'Z.A.R.' removed at base. Receiving c.d.s. on the reverse."





<http://www.chrisrainey.com/images/3407.jpg> : "BOER WAR (TRANSVAAL). 1900 envelope addressed to Johannesburg. Franked 1/2d O.V.S. and 1/2d Transvaal adhesives tied oval "ELANDSLAAGTE" d/s '8 FEB 1900' struck in violet with "Z.A.R." removed."

**Ingogo**



<http://www.rhodesia.co.za/Images/large/T1485.jpg>: "1900 (February), Anglo-Boer War (ZAR Invasion of Natal) stampless cover addressed to "p/o en gogo staze / Natal" (a novel phonetic interpretation of 'Ingogo Station'). The reverse with originating three-line P K / NewCastle. / 16. Feb 1900 struck in blue (type M.M.1.11), partly overstruck by HOOFDLAAGER (15 Feb 1900) double circle datestamp and with superb INGOGO / 16 FEB. 1900 oval (type M.M.3.2) struck in purple across flap. A charming cover and a wonderful combination of markings."

## Newcastle



<http://i245.photobucket.com/albums/gg67/neilansell/Natal%20001.jpg>



<http://www.chrisrainey.com/images/5911.jpg> : "1900 envelope addressed to Johannesburg franked 1d adhesive, tied violet three-line "Veldpost, Z.A.R./NewCastle/3 April 1900". Receiving c.d.s. on the reverse."



<http://www.rhodesia.co.za/Images/large/T811.jpg>: “

ZAR FLAG c1900 / Anglo-Boer War?, colour picture postcard (not postal stationery) with undivided back. The viewside featuring the colours of the ZAR flag with unusually spelt title 'TRANSWAAL'. Also with ZAR coat-of-arms and a lady in circle with what appears to be a rifle. Unusual.”



<http://www.rhodesia.co.za/Images/large/T1462.jpg>: "PRESIDENT KRUGER 1900 (14th June), picture postcard titled 'Greetings from the Transvaal' with image of President Kruger printed in sepia in a vertical oval. With publisher's imprint 'E. O. Meyers & Co, Pretoria, S.A.R.' and 'No. 3, price 3d.' Addressed to Switzerland, franked with a 2½d (SG 219) tied by Middelburg (15 June) datestamp. Machadodorp (16 June) transit and Fribourg (20 July) arrival datestamps all on the reverse."



[http://fep.up.pt/docentes/cpimenta/lazer/WebFilatelicamente/public\\_html/r106/pictures/revista106\\_7\\_09.jpg](http://fep.up.pt/docentes/cpimenta/lazer/WebFilatelicamente/public_html/r106/pictures/revista106_7_09.jpg): "Essays, bearing the bust of President Kruger. The printing of the stamps was stopped by the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War on 11 October 1899."

"THE ANGLO-BOER WAR. Britain had prepared for the war, which was now inevitable, and both the ZAR and the Orange Free State mobilized for war with England. The battle plan of the two Republics was a pre-emptive strike against Natal before any further British reinforcements could arrive; by 10 October 1899 the Boer army had assembled the largest body of mounted riflemen ever assembled in Africa, at Sandpruit, twenty km from the frontier. After two and three-quarter years the war came to an end on 31 May 1902. The cost to Britain for its 500.000 soldiers deployed in South Africa had

been 200 million Pounds Sterling and it was one of the bloodiest wars with at least 22000 British, 6000 Boer and 12000 African casualties; furthermore, 28000 women and children perished.”

### 1900 Support cinderellas



<http://www.rhodesia.co.za/Images/large/T1125.jpg>: “c1900 Spanish? Anglo-Boer War propaganda / sympathy labels printed on on coloured papers. Each bearing a likeness of Paul Kruger inscribed around "GLORIA / PARA LOS BOERS/ Á KRÜGER / EL TRANSWAAL" and "LONG TOM" below a drawing of the gun. One with faults, otherwise fine. Unusual.”



<http://www.stevedrewett.com/images/1717.jpg>: “TRANSVAAL - 1900 (circa) real photo postcard depicting 'After the Battle'. 1900 (circa) real unused photographic picture postcard depicting 'After The Battle/Na De Slag' and depicting dead bodies and horses on ground with medical and soldiers around. A superb Boer War card.”



<http://www.stevedrewett.com/images/1715.jpg>: "TRANSVAAL - 1900 (circa) real photo picture postcard depicting 16 Boer troops. 1900 (circa) real photographic unused picture postcard depicting a troop of 16 Boers in line on horseback. A lovely card."



<http://www.stevedrewett.com/images/2268.jpg>

<http://www.stevedrewett.com/images/2268-1.jpg>: "TRANSVAAL - 1900 (circa) German BOER WAR character postcard unused. 1900 circa German postcard depicting two British soldiers looking over the Transvaal border at a farmer. Headed 'Der Boerenkrieg/Komm Se Rein/In Die Gute Stube' (no. 6061). Printed in blue. A fine Boer War character card."

## Machadodorp 1900



[http://images.delcampe.com/img\\_large/auction/000/242/060/138\\_001.jpg](http://images.delcampe.com/img_large/auction/000/242/060/138_001.jpg)



<http://www.forpostalhistory.com/images/1904.jpg>

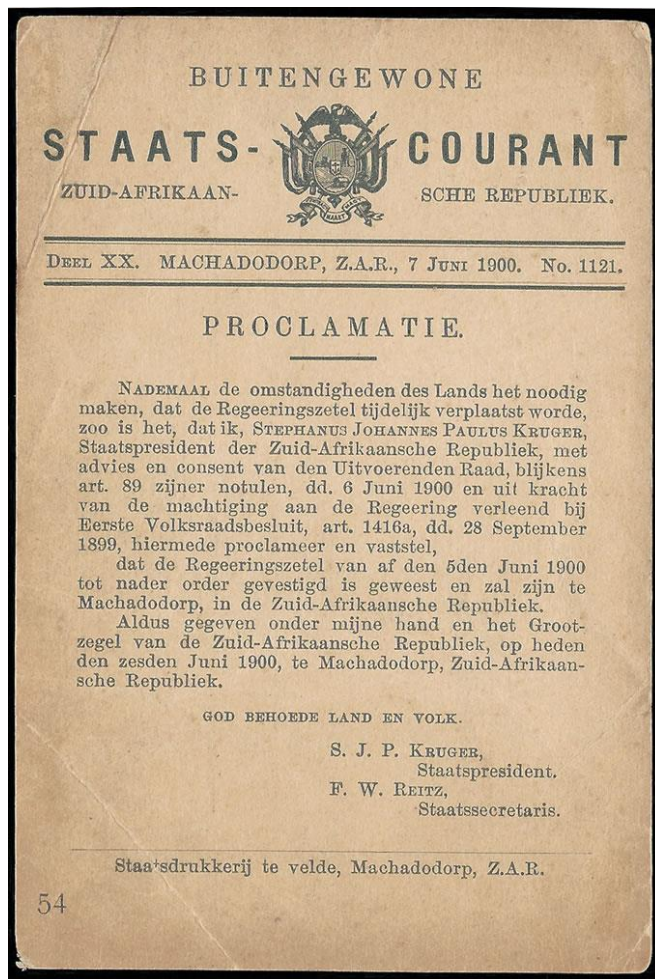




<http://www.forpostalhistory.com/images/2905.jpg>: "1900 Boer War. 1900 "Machadodorp" 1d postal card, locally addressed and cancelled COMATIEPOORT 16 SEP 00. No message but an unusual cancellation for this card. These cards were printed by the Government Printer in Machadodorp after the fall of Pretoria and when the Boer Government was retreating east."



<http://www.filat.ch/images/pictures/fdts6cw.jpg>: "TRANSVAAL 1900 KRUGER MACHADODORP PROCLAMATION CARD"



[http://www.filat.ch/images/pictures/fdts6cw\\_1.jpg](http://www.filat.ch/images/pictures/fdts6cw_1.jpg)



<http://www.stamps.org.za/images/BookMachadodorp.jpg>

## 1901 Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek in Pietersburg

According to Michel and Yvert: Three different versions of "Postzegel"



Filat\_ch

www.delcampe.net

[http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img\\_large/auction/000/386/908/020\\_001.jpg](http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/386/908/020_001.jpg) : "TRANSVAAL PIETERSBURG 1901 ZOUTPANSBERG WACHTER UNIQUE PROOF"



<http://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/QOYAAOSw8w1X6VV6/s-l1600.jpg>



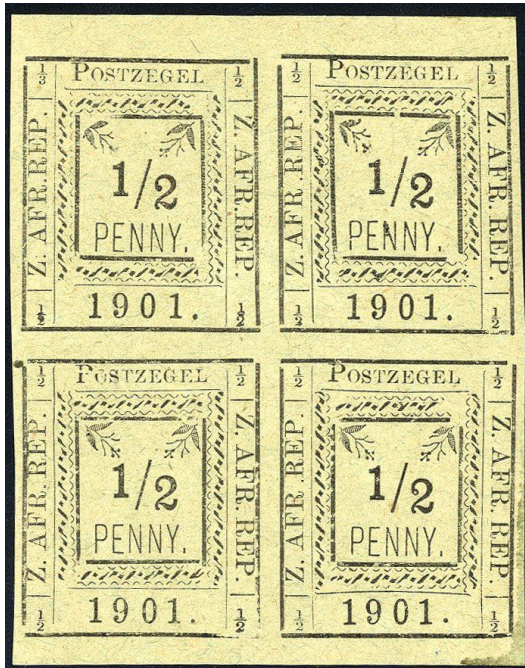
<http://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/QngAAOSw8w1X6VWC/s-l1600.jpg>

$\frac{1}{2}$  p

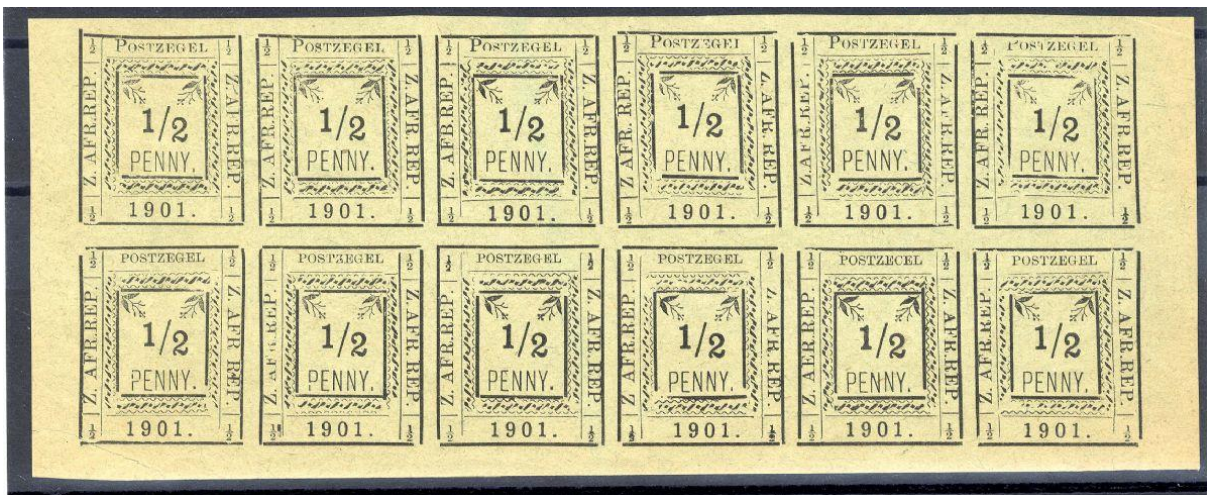


<http://www.rhodesia.co.za/Images/large/TP16.jpg>: "1901 Perf 11½, ½d black on green (type P2) with controller's initials in red. Horizontal pair [R3/5-6], the left stamp showing 'central figures ½ level' and the right stamp 'No stop after right AFR'. Very fine mint. SG 23d, 23e"

M57A schwarz : grün 11.5 (3 April); Y142 vert



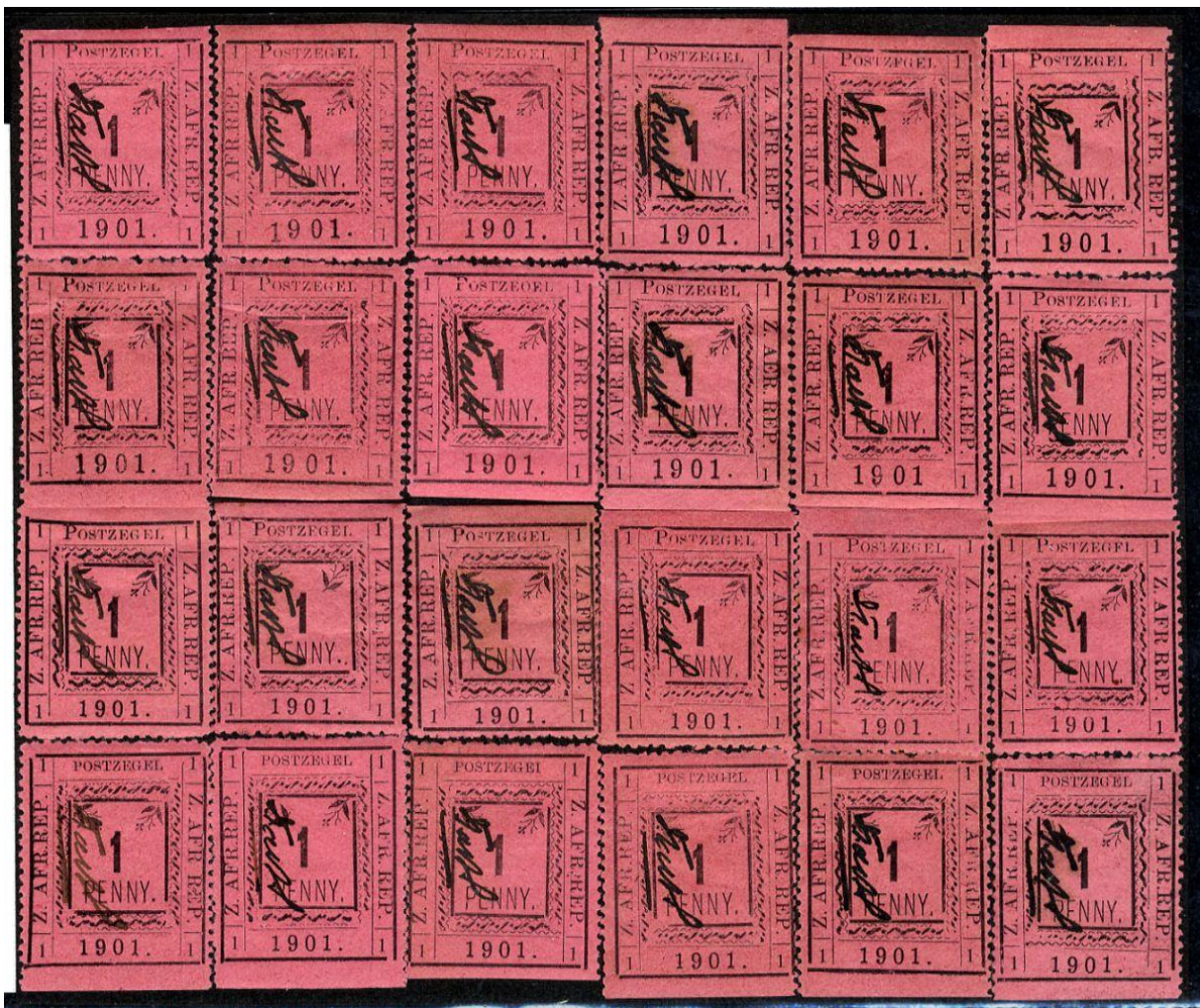
<http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200707/1230.jpg> : "1901 Pietersburg Issue, First Printing, 1/2p black on green, Controller's initials omitted, imperf. block of four (pos.1/3-4,2/3-4), showing "1/3" instead of 1/2 variety at upper left, top stamps hinged, bottom stamps n.h., v.f. (SG 1e; catalogue value for hinged singles)"



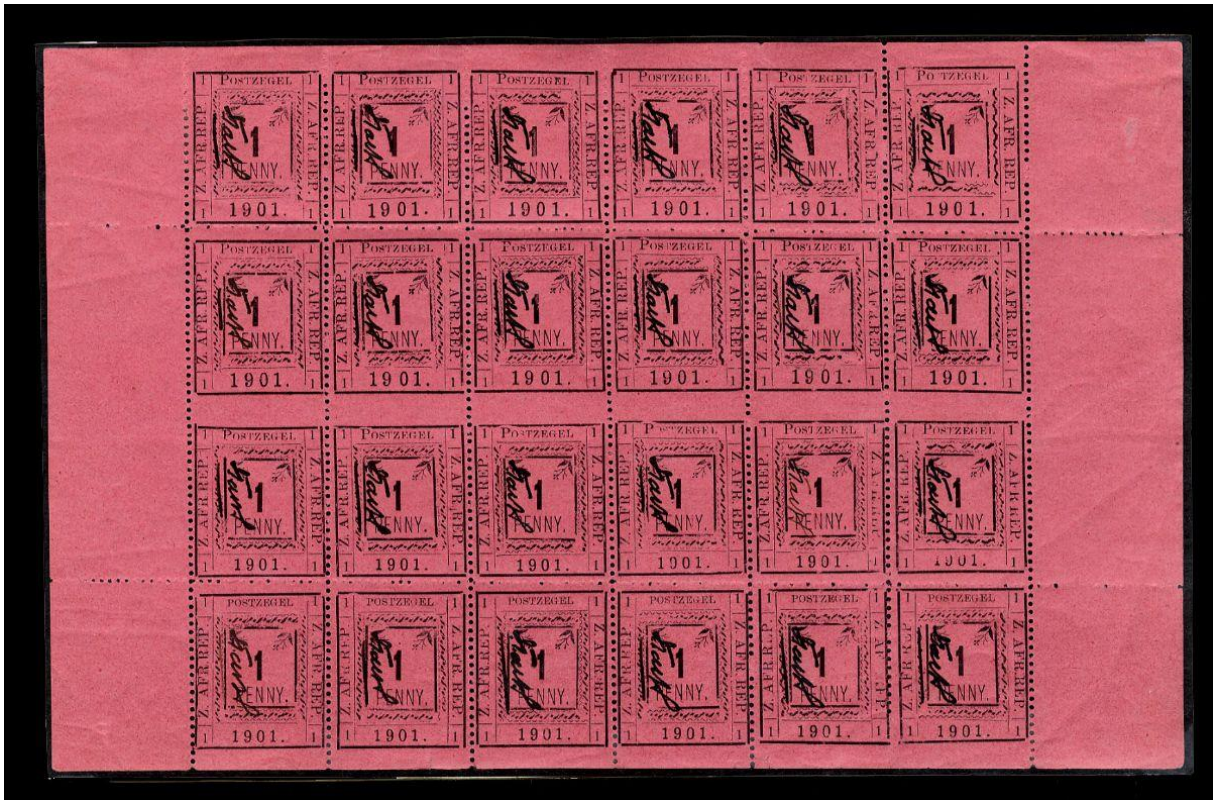
<http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200707/1231.jpg> : "1901 Pietersburg Issue, Second Printing, 1/2p black on green, Controller's initials omitted, imperf. pane of 12 from rows 3-4, showing several varieties (including "AFB", missing periods, etc.), four stamps hinged, balance n.h., fine-v.f. (SG 2-3; catalogue value does not include premium for varieties and is for hinged singles)"

Idem M57 B □; not in Yvert

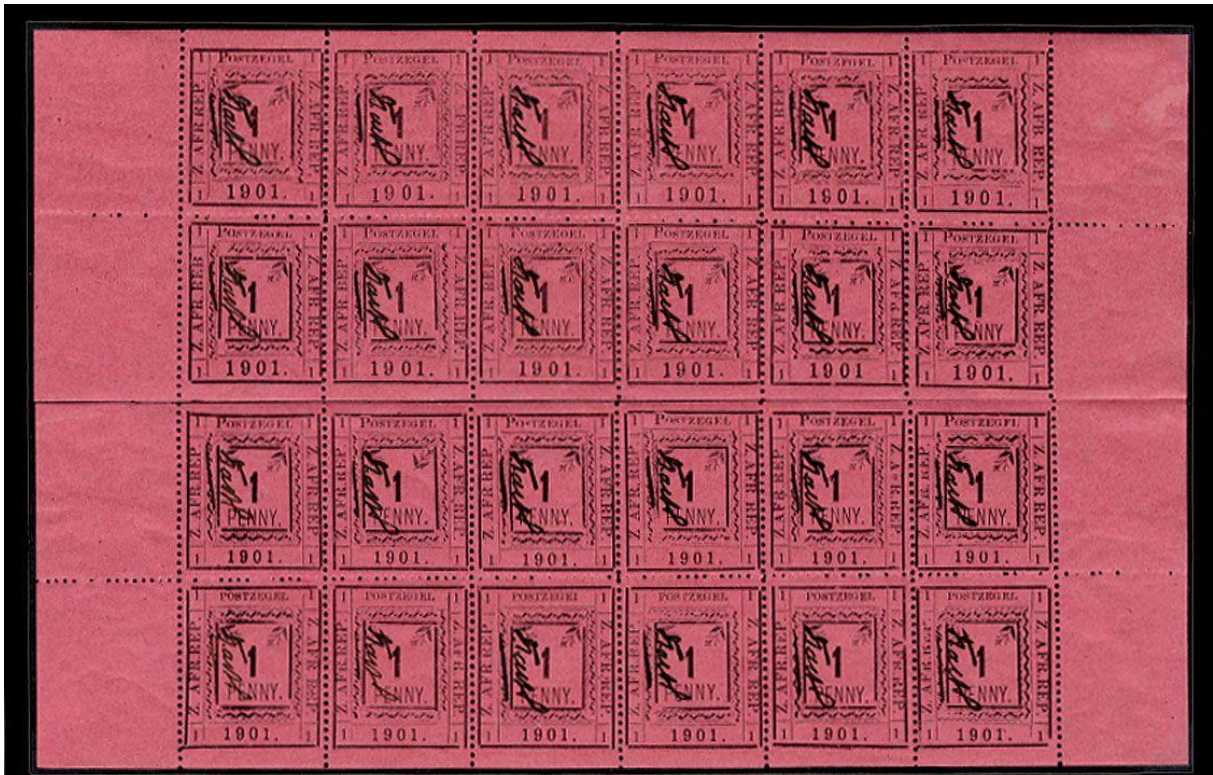
1p



<http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200707/1233.jpg> : "1901 Pietersburg Issue, First Printing, 1p black on rose, complete reconstruction of 24, showing all listed varieties including misspellings, missing bars, missing periods, etc., hinged, fine-v.f. (SG25-27)"



<http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200707/1243.jpg>: "1901 Pietersburg Issue, Second Printing, 1p black on rose, perforated sheet of 24, rows 2-3 imperf. horizontally, still showing a few varieties which were still not corrected from the First Printing, including dropped first "1" in "1901" (pos.1/2), few stamps hinged, balance n.h., fine-v.f. (SG 25-27,25n)"

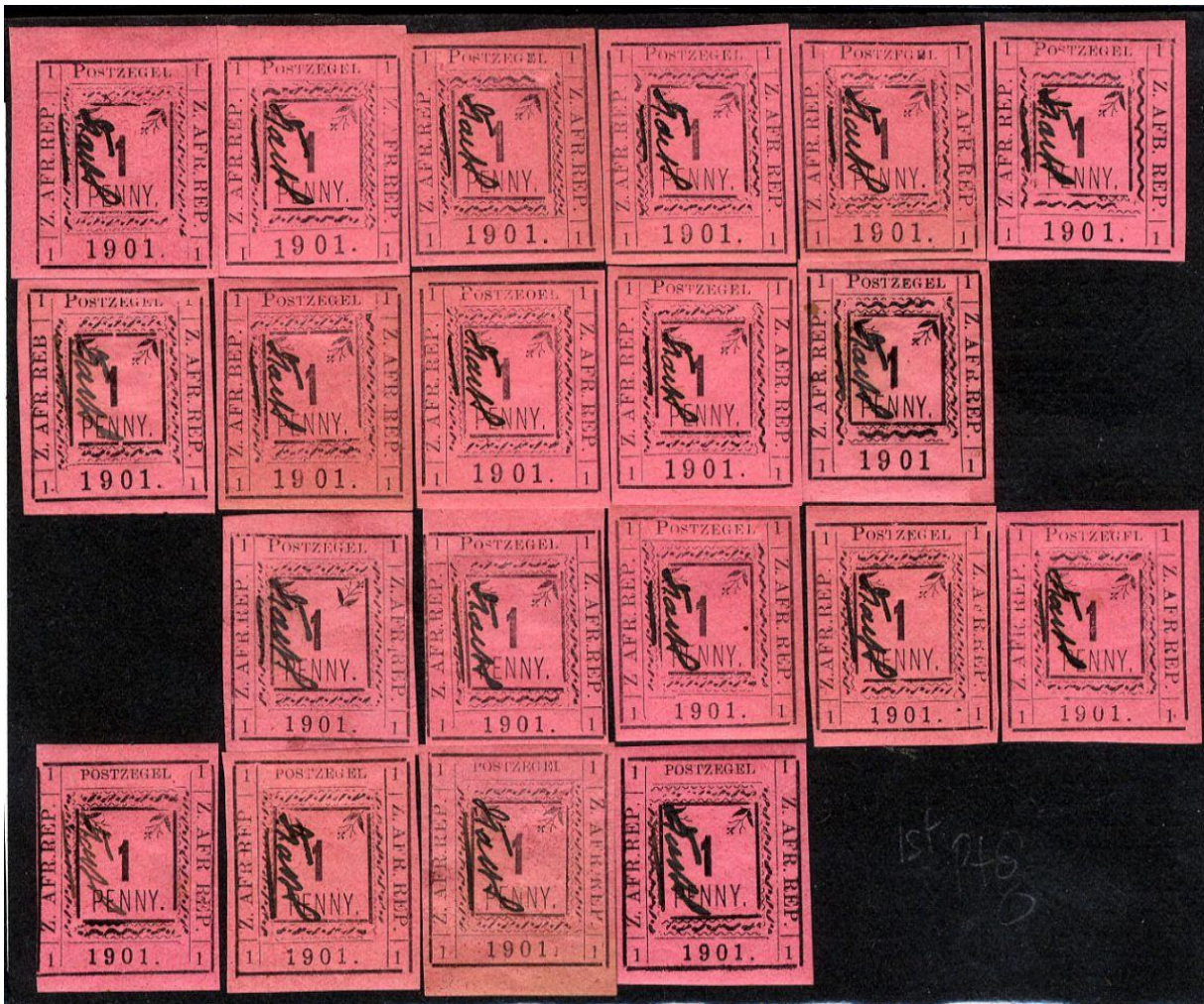


<http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200707/1244.jpg>: "1901 Pietersburg Issue, First Printing, 1p black on rose, complete reconstruction of 24, showing all listed varieties including misspellings, missing bars, missing periods, etc., hinged, fine-v.f. (SG 25-27)"

M58A schwarz: rosa 11.5 (20 March); Y143 rose



<http://zenius.kalneciai.lt/africa/south/transvaal/pietersburg.jpg>





<http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200707/1232.jpg>: "1901 Pietersburg Issue, First Printing, 1p black on rose, partial reconstruction of 20 (missing 2/6,3/1 and 4/5-6), showing all varieties, hinged, fine-v.f. (SG 4-6)"

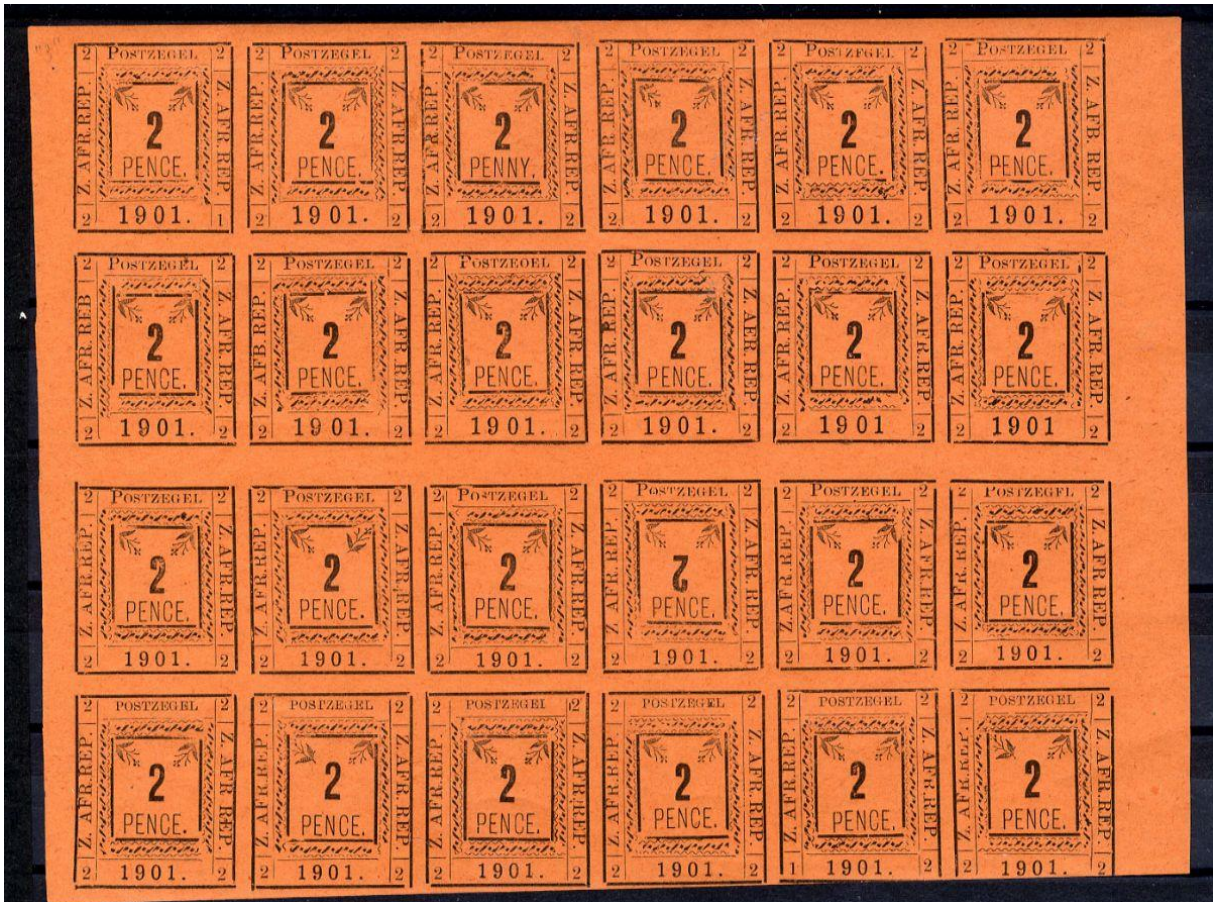
Idem B □; not in Yvert

2p



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/South-African-Republic/Postage-stamps/O5-s.jpg>

M59A Schwarz auf orange 11.5 (3 April); Y144 brun-orange



<http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200707/1234.jpg>: "1901 Pietersburg Issue, First Printing, 2p black on orange, unsigned proof sheet of 24, showing all listed varieties including misspellings, missing bars, missing periods, inverted "2" (pos.3/4), inverted "Sprays" (Pos.3/2,4/2), few stamps hinged, balance n.h., vertical crease through middle stamps and margins cut in at lower right, otherwise v.f., a great lot for a specialist and a glimpse of some of the difficulties in the printing process (SG 7-9; catalogue value for stamps and all varieties)"

Idem B □; not in Yvert

4p



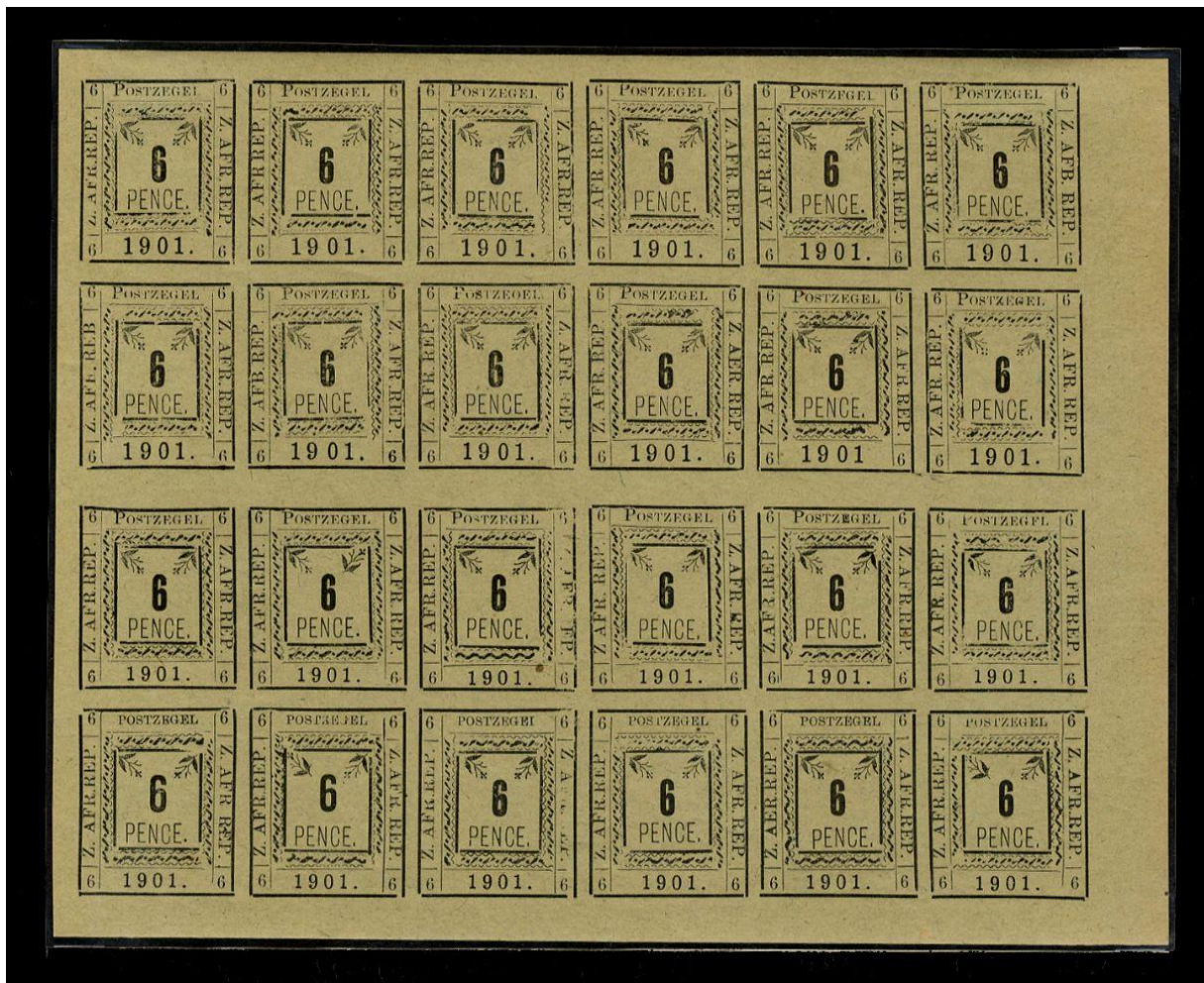
[http://catalogue.klaseboer.com/vol1/html/s\\_afr/tran71.jpg](http://catalogue.klaseboer.com/vol1/html/s_afr/tran71.jpg)



<http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200707/1235.jpg>: "1901 Pietersburg, 4p black, dull blue paper, First Printing, complete unsigned imperf. sheet of 24, mounted on page with all varieties identified, corner stamps hinged, balance n.h., v.f. and rare sheet (SG 10-12; catalogue value is for signed stamps)"

M60B schwarz auf blau (3 April); Y145 bleu

6p



<http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200707/1237.jpg>: "1901 Pietersburg Issue, Second Printing, 6p black on green, imperf. unsigned proof sheet of 24, with all varieties noted, few stamps hinged, balance n.h., v.f. lot, useful for plating studies (SG 13-15; catalogue value for stamps)"



<http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200707/1239.jpg>: "1901 Pietersburg, 6p black, green paper, First Printing, imperf. reconstructed sheet of 24, containing 18 varieties, all noted on accompanying page, most stamps hinged, fine-v.f. and rare sheet (SG 13-15)"

M61B schwarz auf grün(3 April); Y146 vert

1 Sh



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/South-African-Republic/Postage-stamps/O2-s.jpg>

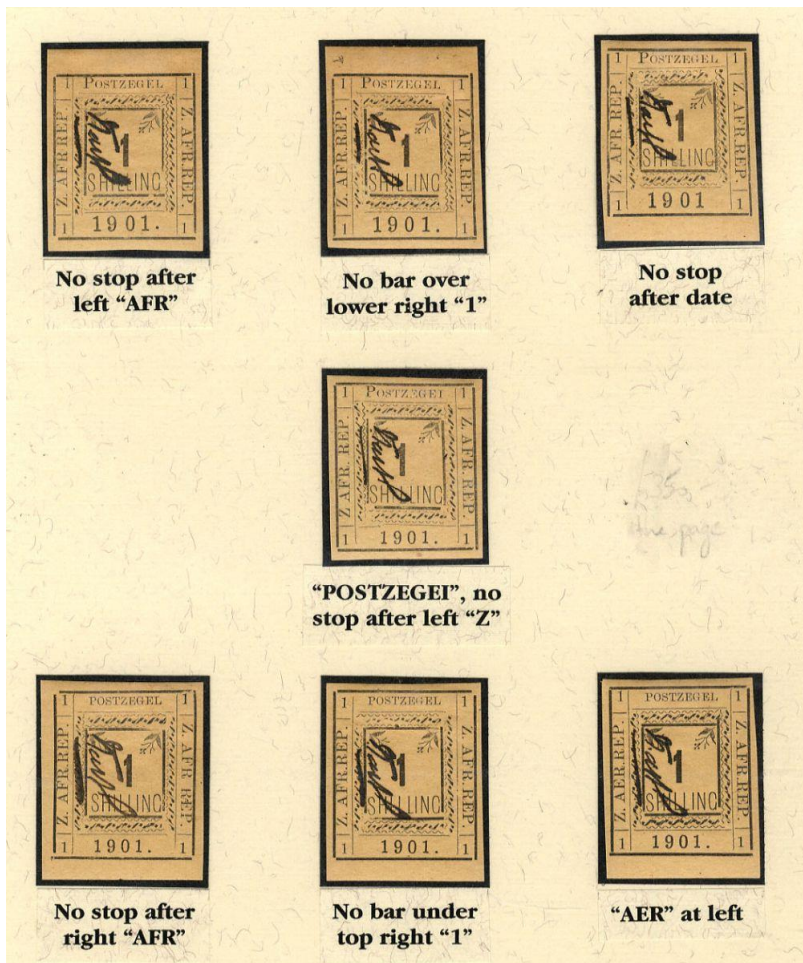
<http://www.hellenicaworld.com/Stamps/Literature/FredMelville/en/images/illus-044a.jpg>



<http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200707/1240.jpg>: "1901 Pietersburg, 1sh black, yellow paper, First Printing, imperf. reconstructed sheet of 24, containing 7 varieties, all noted on accompanying page, most stamps hinged, fine-v.f. and rare sheet (SG 16-18)"



<http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200707/1242.jpg>: "1901 Pietersburg Issue, First Printing, 1sh black on yellow, partial reconstruction of 22 (missing 4/5-6), with all varieties identified, favor cancels, few with slight staining, fine-v.f. (SG 16-18)"



<http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200707/1241.jpg>

M62B schwarz auf gelb (3 April); Y147 jaune

Pietersburg was occupied by British forces April 9, 1901





<http://www.chrisrainey.com/images/2782.jpg> : "BOER WAR. 1902 Taxed G.B. 1d lettercard with additional 1d & overprinted Transvaal 1/2d adhesive tied "PIETERSBURG" c.d.s. '16 AUG 02' The 1d lilac has a central thumb print. addressed to Switzerland. The card is headed 'Elim Hospital' The tax has been cancelled."

1901, January, Kaalfontein



<http://www.chrisrainey.com/images/4123.jpg> : "BOER WAR 1901 4d registered stationery envelope overprinted 'V.R.I.' (Size G) addressed to Cape Town. On the front 1d adhesive tied "POST OFFICE KAALFONTEIN" triple oval d/s '23 JAN 1901" struck in violet"

**Annex: Spink Auction 2014 Anglo-Boer War**

(see: [https://www.spink.com/files/lotMain/14018/14018\\_387\\_1.jpg](https://www.spink.com/files/lotMain/14018/14018_387_1.jpg)).



Nr 64: "MACHADODORP POSTCARDS. 1900 (10 Aug.) 1d. red card to Major Sangmeister of B.M.R. (Natal Force) at Nooitgedacht, neatly cancelled by double-ring datestamp and with manuscript "Gezien W Haynes Censor" in lower left corner; scarce with few cards doing local postal duty and little mail recorded to and from the temporary P.O.W. camp. Also an unused example and "Proclamation" cards (2), one 1/2d. with added 1/2d adhesive, the other a 1d., both cancelled though unaddressed. Photo".

Nr 70: "1900 (22 Aug.) envelope from Barberton "Via Beira" to Rhodesia, bearing 1d. rose-red and green (4) and showing manuscript "Gezien" and oval-framed "Publieke Aanklagers/Kantoor,/Barberton, Z.A.R." datestamp in purple, the reverse with Waterval Onder (24.8), Lourenco Marques Ambulente (25.8), Beira (30.8), Salisbury (3.9) and Bulawayo (6.9) c.d.s. Photo".



68

Nr 68 : "Pietersburg. 1901 (2 May) envelope addressed in pencil to "Gen. Louis Botha" at Ermelo, bearing imperforate 1d., 2d., 4d. (gum stains), 6d. and 1/- all neatly cancelled and tied by Ermelo double-ring datestamps in blue. A colourful souvenir franking, legacy of Justice N.J. De Wet who was secretary to Gen. Botha. Rare with only one other such franking known. Photo. PROVENANCE: Boer War Centenary Sale, October 1999".

Ermelo and Carolina: "ERMELO AND CAROLINA LOCAL POST STAMPS. Albert Kuit was in charge of the Hoofd Lager Postal Administration from the invasion of Natal in October 1899. In June 1900 he moved from Volksrust to Ermelo ahead of the British advance. As Pietersburg was occupied the postal administration, with a small stock of stamps, moved to Ermelo. These stamps were soon depleted. Stamps were then made on various coloured



Nr 75: "Type III, double frame lines with Arms handstamped at centre".

Nr 71: "1/2d. grey-green, 1d. orange and 2d. blue unused, the first and last with some gum; 1d. a little soiled, 2d. with a corner crease. Photo".

Nr 72: "1/2d. grey-green and 1/- yellow-orange, both cancelled by Paul Pietersdorp intaglio seal handstamp; the 1/2d. with faults, the 1/- tied on piece"

Nr 73: "1d. with typewriter ribbon in blue on white paper, unused; light crease in one corner. The sole example recorded by the owner. Photo".

Nr 74: "1d. orange, 3d. blue and 1/- orange-yellow, all unused with some gum. Photo".

Nr 75: "1d. blue initialled "JM" and 1/- yellow, both unused with large part gum; the 1/- not previously recorded. Also 2d. and 6d. labels from the bogus set produced E.G. Carter in 1910. Photo".

"PRISONER OF WAR MAIL"

(illustrations see below)

Nr 76: "Mail from British P.O.W.'s in Pretoria. 1899-1900 envelopes (8) from Major J.H. Munn to his mother or sister in England, three unstamped and offered complete with letters, each showing "Arms/COMMANDANT GENERAL" datestamp in black or purple with one taxed and charged 1d. due on arrival, the other five each bearing 21/2d. blue and green with Pretoria c.d.s., four with Mud Hall Camp circular or boxed Gezien cachets in blue or violet. Photo".

Nr 78: "1900 (9 Feb.) envelope (opened-out) from Lt. G. Smyth Osbourne to London and redirected to Brighton, showing fine "Arms/COMMANDANT GENERAL" datestamp in purple, Pretoria (9.2), London Paid (29.2) and Kensington (29.2) c.d.s., all on face, Brighton c.d.s. (30.3) on reverse. Photo".

Nr 79: "1900 (9 Feb.) envelope to London, showing fine "Arms/COMMANDANT GENERAL" datestamp in purple, Pretoria (9.2) and London Paid (29.3) c.d.s.; light fold clear of the Arms datestamp. Photo".

Nr 81: "1900 (3 May) unstamped envelope (no flap) to Major Hobbs of the West Coast Regiment at Pretoria (captured at Willow Grange on 23 November), showing ovalframed "CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE S.A.R./PRETORIA" ovalframed arms cachet with "MAY 3 Re'd" date below, and circular "GEZIEN/CENSOR" datestamp (6.5), both superb in violet. Photo".

Nr 85: "Mail from British P.O.W.'s in Waterval. 1900 (15 May.) envelope to England, showing fancy-framed "BRIEVEN CENSuur/Waterval Krijgsgevangenis" handstamp in purple

and bearing 21/2d. on 1/cancelled at Pretoria in transit, Lourenco Marques Ambulante (17.5)  
and King's Lynn (26.6) c.d.s. on reverse. Photo".

