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South Africa: Orange Free State/Orange River Colony: postmarks

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African Studies Centre Leiden

African Postal Heritage

APH Paper Nr 14, part 2

Ton Dietz

ORANGE FREE STATE/ORANGE RIVER COLONY: POSTMARKS

Version January 2017

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). 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

Egypt postage stamp 1914:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4b/Post_Stamp_Egypt.jpg

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Part 2

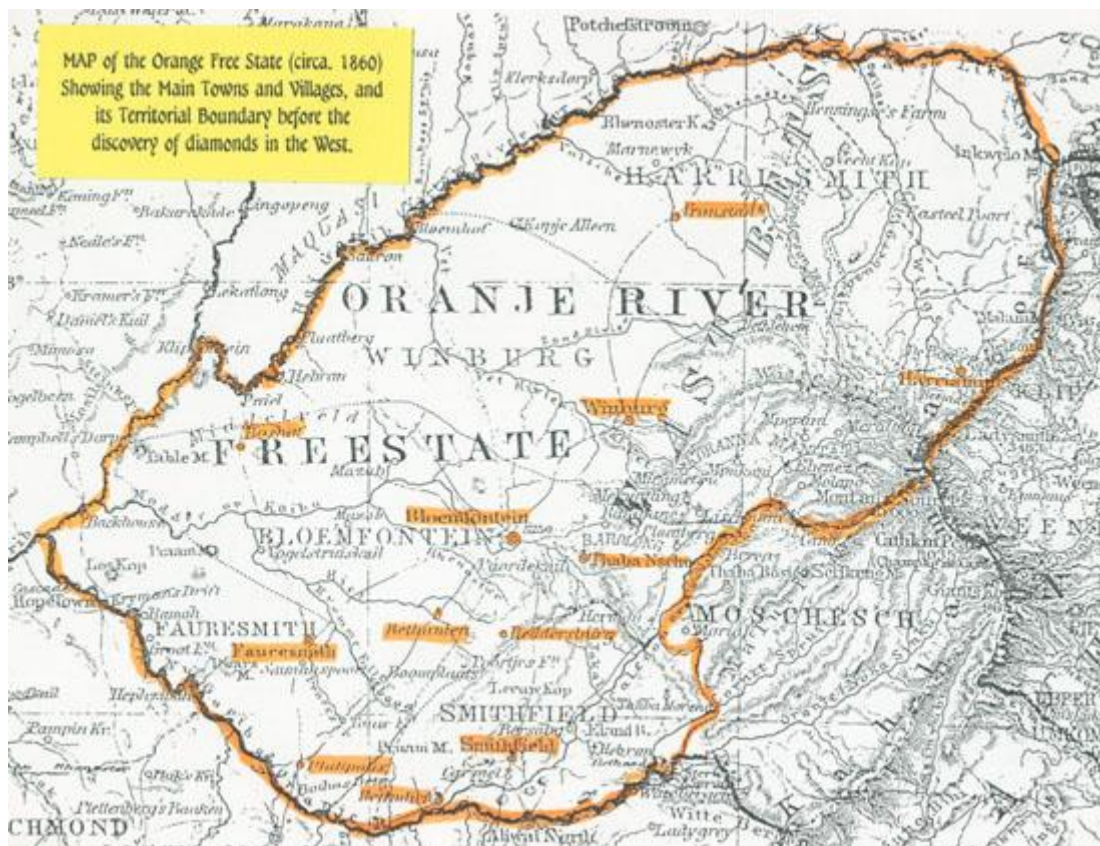
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SOUTH AFRICA

Postal history and postage stamps of Orange Free State/ Orange River Colony

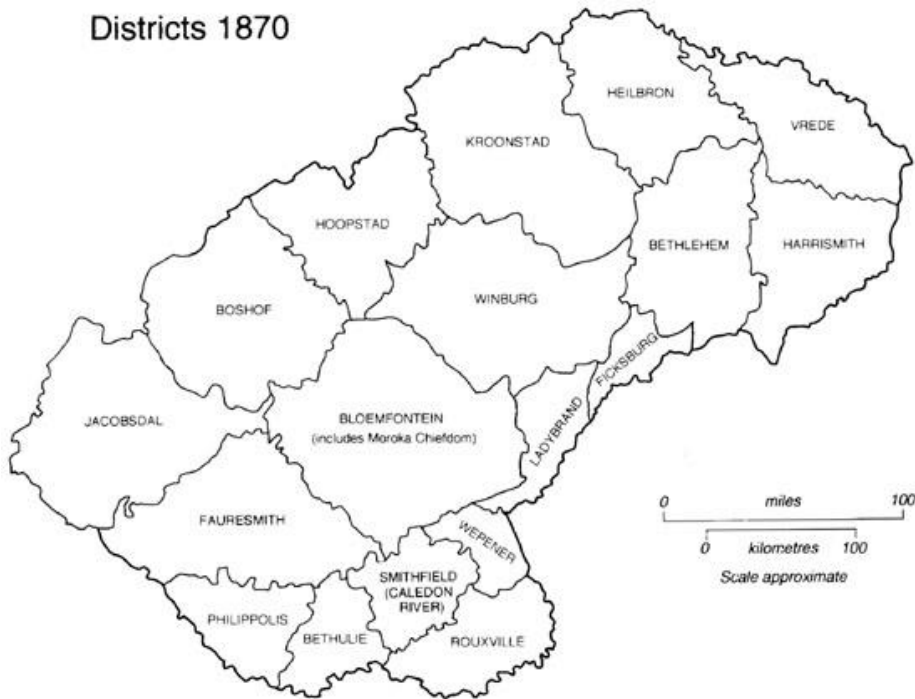
Ton Dietz, African Studies Centre Leiden, January 2017

Postmarks



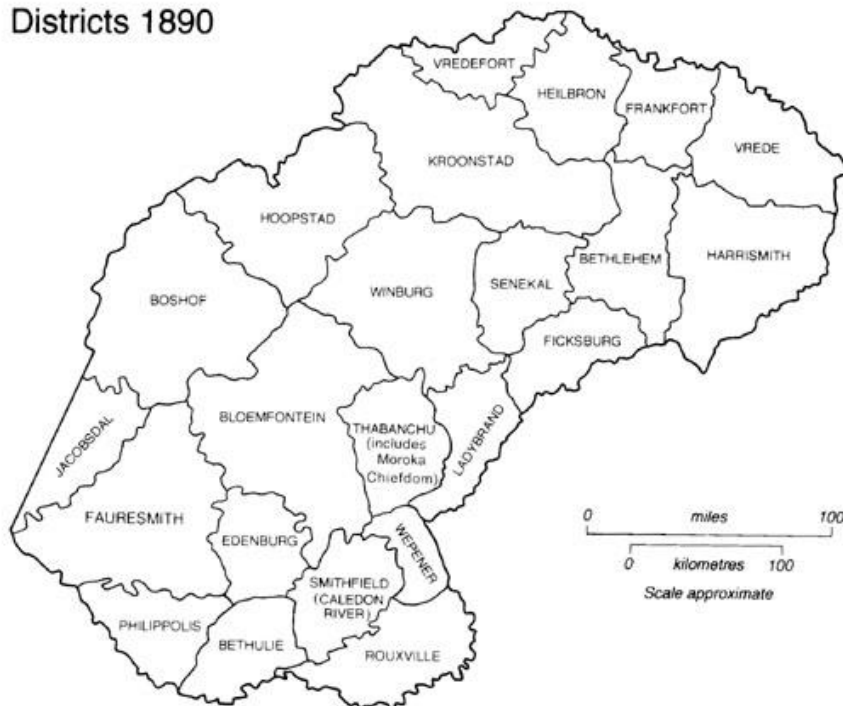
<http://www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk/images/a%20PHGeog%201.550.jpg>

Districts 1870



<http://www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk/images/a%20PHGeog%202.550.jpg>

Districts 1890



<http://www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk/images/a%20PHGeog%203.550.jpg>

In: <http://pbbooks.com/cr44.htm>>>>

British Commonwealth Postmarks

ORANGE FREE STATE 1868 – 1900

- Abrahmskraal D
- Bethlehem 11 28s15 28e15
- Bethulie 7 30s32 25e59
- Bloemfontein 1 BE 29s12 26e07
- Boomplaats 26s14 29e52
- Boshof 8 28s34 25e04
- Bothaville 27s23 26e37
- Brandfort 16 20 28s47 26e30
- Bultfontein 26 28s20 26e05
- Bushmanskop O
- Caledon River
- Clocolan 1 29s00 27e30
- DePut M
- Dewetsdorp Y 29s33 26e34
- Dreifontein 28s41 27e36
- Edenburg 14 29s45 25e56
- Fauresmith 4 29s42 25e21
- Fouriesburg 28s38 28e14
- Ficksburg 18 28s57 27e50
- Frankfort 25 27s17 28e30
- Harrismith 3 28s18 29e03
- Heilbron 24 27s21 27e58
- Heuningspruit 27s26 27e28
- Holfontein 48 29s20 27e02
- Hoopsdal
- Hoopstad 27 27s54 25e58
- Jacobsdal 29s13 24e41
- Jagersfontein 9 29s44 25e29
- PAK Kaffir River
- Kings Hill
- Klipfontein
- Koffyfontein 29s20 25e00
- Kommissiepoort 22s19 27e16
- Kroonstad 6 27s46 27e12
- Ladybrand 17 21 29s19 27e25
- Langlaagte 29s53 26e07
- PK Lindley 27s56 27e57
- Luckhoff 29s44 24e43
- Odendaals Rust 27s48 26e45

- Paardeberg Drift 28s59 25e05
- Paradys 29s04 26e49
- Parijs 26s56 27e26
- Petrusburg 29s08 25e27
- Philippolis 10 30s19 25e13
- Ramdam 29s20 24e35
- Reddersburg 19 29s38 26e07
- Rouxville 12 30s29 26e46
- Sannah's Post 29s08 26e32
- Schoemanschrift
- Senekal 29 28s30 27e32
- Smaldeel 31s01 26e00
- Smithfield 5 30s09 26e30
- Springfontein 30s19 25e36
- Thaba 'Nchu 29s17 26e52
- Titiespan
- Ventersburg 21 28s09 27e08
- Ventersburg Road
- Viljoens Drift 26s44 27e55
- Vrede X 27s30 29e06
- Vredefort 27s02 27e20
- Wepener 29s46 27e00
- Winburg 2 28s37 27e00
- Winburg Road
- Zand River 13
- Zastron K 30s18 27e07
- Zwartkopjes 29s56 25e28

ORANGE RIVER COLONY 1900 - 1910

- Abrahamskraal (Alton) D 29s08 25e41
- Albertina (Swinburne Rail)
- Allandale 28s50 27e07
- Aloepoort
- Ararat (Clarens) 28s30 28e29
- Arbeids Kolonie (Goede Moed) 30s33 26e26
- Ascent 27s12 29e03
- Austin's Post 29s32 25e49
- Bain's Vlei
- Bankfontein 29s39 26e03
- Barrow Hill

- Barton Mills
- Beginseldam
- Bernhardina 27s53 28e40
- Bethany (Bethany Village) 29s35 25e56
- Bethany Siding (Wurasoord)
- Bethlehem 11 28s15 28e15
- Bethulie 7 30s32 25e59
- Bethulie Bridge
- Beverley
- Bezuidenhouts Drift
- Bissiesfontein
- Blaauwboschfontein
- Blaubank
- Blauwheuvel
- Blesbokfontein 29s32 25e44
- Bloemfontein 1 BE 29s12 26e07
- Bluegumboom
- Boesmanskop
- Bont Rand
- Bontebokskraal
- Bonthoeken
- Boom River
- Boomplaats ? 26s14 29e52
- Bordeaux 27s29 28e33?
- Boschdraai
- Boschfontein
- Boschjespruit
- Boschrand Rail 27s45 27e10
- Boschvarkfontein (Luipaardskop)
- Boshof 8 28s34 25e04
- Bothaville 27s23 26e37
- Brakdam
- Brakfontein (Vergezicht)
- Brakkranz (Christina, Mont Pelaan) 27s53 29e38
- Branddrift
- Brandfort 16 20 28s47 26e30
- Brandwater
- Bultfontein 26 28s20 26e05
- Bushmanskop O
- Caledon River
- Carlton
- Cheddar
- Chicago

- Cijferfontein 28s31 26e17?
- Cilliers Hoogte
- Clocolan 1 29s00 27e30
- Coalbrook 26s50 27e51
- Commando Siding
- Commissiepoort
- Constantia 29s35 26e33
- Constantia Drift
- Cornelia 27s13 28e52
- Cornelisriverbridge
- Cornetspruit 30s16 27e17
- Cyphergat
- Daggafontein
- Damsvlei
- Danielsrust 27s58 28e33
- Davelsrust
- De Bad
- De Brug 29s08 25e48
- De Kuile
- De Molen 27s45 28e24?
- De Werf 29s01 25e04
- Dealesville 28s40 35e37
- Delaware 27s43 29e41?
- DePut M
- Dewetsdorp Y 29s33 26e34
- Diepfontein
- Don-Don
- Donkerpoort 30s32 25e30
- Doornfontein
- Doornkloof
- Doornpan 29s07 25e39
- Douglas Valley
- Dover 27s02 27e46
- Draaihoek
- Dreifontein 28s41 27e36
- Dreikop
- Droogefontein
- Du Plooy's Rust 28s14 27e35
- Dundas
- Dupreezlager
- Edenburg 14 29s45 25e56
- Edenville 27e37 27e34
- Eeensgevonden 28s33 26e36?

- Egypte 29s09 27e57
- Eintracht
- Eksteen (Cillierspost)
- Elands River (Aberfeldy) 28s12 28e50
- Elim
- Emmaus
- Emms
- Essex (Ngdana)
- Esterhoven
- Excelsior 28s56 27e06
- Fairy's Post
- Fauresmith 4 29s42 25e21
- Ferreira 29s13 26e10
- Fouriesburg 28s38 28e14
- Ficksburg 18 28s57 27e50
- Flyfontein
- Fonteinriet (Witroosboom)
- Frankfort 25 27s17 28e30
- Frere Brug
- Geduldfontein (Prinsloo's Request)
- Gelderland
- Generaal's Nek (Brindisi Road)
- Geneva Station 27s50 27e08
- Georgina
- Glen 28s58 26e21
- Gottenburg 27s06 27e53
- Grandstable 27s43 26e23?
- Groenfontein
- Groot Rietgat
- Groothoek
- Groothof (Groenvlakte)
- Grootkraal
- Gruisdrift
- Gruisfontein (River Prospect)
- Gumtree 28s51 27e43
- Haagenstad
- Haaksch
- Hamilton Rail (Trompsburg Sta.)
- Hammonia 28s43 27e49
- Harrismith 3 28s18 29e03
- Heckla
- Heilbron 24 27s21 27e58
- Helpmekaar (Steunmekaar)

- Helvetia 29s52 26e34
- Hibernia 28s33 27e40
- Hobhouse 29s31 27e08
- Holfontein 48 29s20 27e02
- Holspruit 27s30 29e07?
- Homerule
- Hoopsdal
- Hoopstad 27 27s54 25e58
- Iceland (Glenrock) 29s33 27e05
- Immigrant 29s07 25e36
- Inland Sea
- Inzicht
- Ireland
- Itala
- Jackhalsdans
- Jackhalskraal 28s21 26e40?
- Jacobsdal 29s13 24e41
- Jagersfontein 9 29s44 25e29
- Jammerberg Drift (Jammersdrift)
- Jantjesfontein (Elstow Siding)
- Jordaan 27s31 27e21?
- Kaalfontein
- Kaalkop
- Kaallaagte 28s08 28e01?
- Kaalspruit 29s15 26e10
- Kaal Valley 27s58 26e44?
- Kadie
- Kafferskop 28s32 28e07?
- Kaffir River
- Kaffirstad
- Kalkfontein
- Kalkoen's Krantz
- Kalkuil (Odendaals Rust) 27s48 26e45
- Karba
- Karee 28s49 26e24
- Kareepan
- Karreespruit (Kalkpan)
- Kassel
- Keerom Oost
- Kestell 28s19 28e38
- Kildare
- Kincora (Tweedegeluk)
- King's Hill

- Klarwater
- Klein Zuurfontein
- Kleinplaats
- Klerkspruit
- Klipdrift (Stonedrift)
- Klipfontein (Erfdeel)
- Klipnek
- Klippan
- Klipplaat (St. Clet)
- Koedoesrand
- Koffyfontein 29s20 25e00
- Koffiekuil (Luckoff) 29s44 24e47
- Koksfontein
- Kolkje
- Kommandodrift 27s30 26e14
- Kommissiepoort 22s19 27e16
- Komspruit
- Kopje Alleen
- Kopjes (St. Clair)
- Koudekraal
- Kransdraai
- Kransfontein 28s07 28e33
- Kromellenboog's Drift
- Kromspruit
- Kroonstad 6 27s46 27e12
- Krugers 29s55 25e50
- Krugersdrift
- Kruidfontein
- Kwaggapoort
- Kwaggaspruit
- Lace Diamant Mijn (crown Mine)
- Ladybrand 17 21 29s19 27e25
- Lake Warden
- Landplaats
- Langewacht
- Langhoek 27s34 29e19
- Langlaagte 29s53 26e07
- Langspruit
- Le Souvenir
- Leniesfontein (Sophiesrust)
- Leeuw River Mills
- Leeuwbank (Parketon) 27s01 28e24
- Leeuwpan

- Leeuwvlei
- Libertas 28s11 27e44
- Lijnfontein
- Lindequesdrif
- Lindiquesfontein (Reitzburg)
- Lindley 27s56 27e57
- Lindley Road 28s01 27e52
- Lombaardsdrift
- Lourensrust 27s14 29e04?
- Lovat
- Lowlands
- Lubben
- Luckhoff 29s44 24e43
- Lusthoff (Galloway, Sacsonia)
- Mahemskuil
- Majoorsdrift
- Malan's Post 28s01 28e04
- Marksfontein
- Marquard 28s54 27e28
- Marseilles 29s10 27e17
- Meadows 29s30 26e41
- Memel 27s43 29e30
- Middelfontein (Trompsburg) 30s01 25e46
- Mimosa
- Modderpoort
- Molendraai
- Monaro
- Monastery
- Monument Road Extension - Bloemfontein
- Mooifontein (Kruispad)
- Mooiplaats
- Mosterdhoek
- Muirton
- Mullerspas
- Mushroom Valley
- Mushroom Valley's Nek
- Naauwpoort
- Naauwpoort's Nek
- Nelsrust
- New Elands
- New York
- Newmarket (Outlook)
- Nooitgedacht

- Nooitgedacht (Wegdraai)
- Northfield Farm
- Novo
- Odendaals Rust
- Olifantsfontein
- Olijfberg
- Olivierspost 27s38 28e08?
- Ongegund
- Ongelukspan
- Oorlogspoort
- Oosthuizen's Siding
- Op de Banken
- Oranjepan
- Osfontein
- Oudebergfontein
- Paardeberg Drift ? 28s59 25e05
- Paljasfontein
- Palmyra
- Panfontein
- Paradijs 29s04 26e49
- Parijs 26s56 27e26
- Parma
- Paul Roux 28s18 27e59
- Petrus
- Petrus Steyn 27s38 28e08
- Petrusburg 29s08 25e27
- Philadelphia (Port Allen)
- Philippolis 10 30s19 25e13
- Plessis (Honingspruit, Heuning-) 27s26 27e28
- Pniel 28s33 24e32
- Priors 30s24 25e37?
- Providence (Klein Zuurfontein)
- Quaggashoek 28s27 25e56?
- Quaggapoort (Beginsel)
- Ramdam ? 29s20 24e35
- Ramsbottompost
- Randsjeslaagte
- Reddersburg 19 29s38 26e07
- Reitz 27s53 28e31
- Reitzburg 27s01 27e13
- Retiefs Nek
- Revelstoke
- Rietfontein

- Rietgat
- Rietkuil 27s35 29e03
- Rietpoort (Spes Bona) 27s06 27e06
- Rietput (Strydenburg) 29s57 23e39
- Rietspruit 28s25 27e17
- Rietvallei
- Riviera 27s03 28e11
- Robertsdrift 26s59 28e58
- Robertsrust 29s31 26e50
- Rockwood
- Roodebult
- Roodekrantz (Hillside)
- Roodepoort
- Roodewal 27s15 27e32?
- Rooikop
- Rosendal 28s30 27e55
- Rouxville 12 30s29 26e46
- Ruigtefontein
- Rustfontein (Gertruida)
- Rustpan
- Saldery's Poort
- Salt Pan 28s43 26e04
- Sand River (Rexford, Paul Roux)
- Sannah's Post (Waterworks) 29s08 26e32
- Sauer (Slabberts) 28s25 28e10
- Schaapplats
- Schoemanschrift
- Schoemansdrift
- Schuttendraai Rail (Gumtree) 28s51 27e42
- Scotland
- Scotland West (Landskroon) 27s43 26e41?
- Sechoaro
- Senekal 29 28s30 27e32
- Senekal's Rest
- Sepani Siding
- Serfontein 27s20 27e30?
- Sinks Post
- Smaldeel 31s01 26e00
- Smithfield 5 30s09 26e30
- Spitskop
- Springfield
- Springfield (Winterton)
- Springfontein 30s19 25e36

- Steenpan 26s51 27e52
- Steynspruit
- Steynsrus 27s58 27e33
- Stijldrift 27s21 29e30
- Stillewoning
- Stonybroke (Altona)
- Susanna
- Tafelkop 27s20 28e55
- Talsen 28s01 25e22
- Tampasfontein
- Tarragona
- Tempe (Brandhof)
- Terlapsfontein
- Tevredenheid
- Thaba 'Nchu 29s17 26e52
- Thabapakhoe
- Thabapatchos (Thaba Phatshwa) 29s17 27e06
- Theron 28s19 26e45
- Theunissen 28s30 26e41
- Tienfontein Nek
- Tierbank
- Tierton
- Tiger River 28s07 28e33?
- Titiespan
- Toba
- Tocado
- Trommel
- Tweefontein (Levensbron) w?
- Tweeling 27s38 28e31
- Tweespruit 29s11 27e01
- Twistdam Farm
- Twistnietmeer
- Uitdraaipad
- Uithoek
- Uitzicht
- Vaal River (Viljoens Drift) 26s44 27e55
- Vaalbank (Theron's Post)
- Vaalspruit (Mentzburg)
- Vaalwal
- Van der Merwe's Dam
- Van der Merwe's Fontein
- Van Dyk's Kraal
- Van Puttensvlei

- Van Reenen's Pass
- Van Tonder
- Varkfontein
- Veldtshoek
- Ventersburg 21 28s09 27e08
- Ventersburg Road 27s58 27e02
- Vet River 28s28 26e41
- Victor
- Vierfontein 27s04 26e44
- Viljoens
- Villiers
- Vinies Siding
- Virginia
- Voorspored
- Vrede X 27s30 29e06
- Vredefort 27s02 27e20
- Vredefort Road (Greenlands Rail)
- Waaihoek
- Wagenmaker's Vlei
- Walker's Post (Orangia)
- Watervaal
- Welgegegen
- Welkom
- Wepener 29s46 27e00
- Westminister
- Wildebeestespruit
- Willoughby
- Wilson's Post 27s37 28e36
- Winburg 2 28s37 27e00
- Winburg Road
- Winberg - Aansluiting
- Winkeldrift
- Witzieshoek
- Wolvehoek 26s54 27e49
- Wolvespruit
- Wonderfontein
- Woodside (Roadside) 27s31 28e52
- Woolwich
- Zaaiplaats
- Zamenkomst
- Zand River 13
- Zandfontein (Lemoenboom)
- Zastron K 30s18 27e07

- Zeekoevlei
- Zevenfontein
- Zoutpan
- Zuringkrantz
- Zwartkop (Stonewall)
- Zwartkopjes 29s56 25e28

Bloemfontein

[>>](http://www.pelteret.co.za/pdf/philately/stamps_of_the_oranje_vrij_staat.pdf)

“ Pelteret R M. Letter to the Editor - Defining the 1880 Hospital Tax Hand-stamped surcharge. Orange Free State Bulletin : 1999:176; 2775 With the aid of computer scanning techniques, and using three different specimens of the Een Shilling revenue over-stamped, the surcharge – which was probably applied using a rubber stamp – was defined more accurately than ever before. This revenue stamp is scarce; its historical origin remains unknown. 3 ADDENDUM to the above article : Saturday, 15 November 2003 The idea of an hospital in Bloemfontein was first mooted in 1872. A sickroom was established on 7th August 1876 and was serviced by the Sisterhood of St. Michael’s and All Angels. Public subscriptions were called for and a sum of £100 raised within months. In 1877, President J H Brand and Bishop A W Webb laid the foundation stone of the St. George’s Cottage Hospital and Convalescent Home. It was opened later in June 1877 on erf 21 - corner of St. George’s Street and Monument Road – and managed by Sr. Henrietta Stockdale (the first nurse to be registered in South Africa), Sr. Louisa from Dublin and the Misses Longlands and Potts. Following a petition to the Volksraad in 1882 requesting support, monies were granted annually until 1886. The Sisterhood withdrew from serving the hospital in 1904 and the hospital was closed in 1908. Though no direct proof has been uncovered, it seems likely that the 1880 Hospital Tax stamp was used as a method to raise funds for St. George’s Hospital, in the same manner as has been the case over decades in many other countries. References : 1. The Stamps of the Orange Free State : Part 1, The Republican Era 1854 – 1900; 241-242 . Buckley GD & Marriott, WB. Publ. The Orange Free State Study Circle. 1966 2. A History of Medical Services in the Orange Free State. De Villiers, DP. South African Medical Journal 1944:303-308 3. Register an Geneeskundigen en Drogisten van die O.V.S. Republiek. 1863”



<http://www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk/images/a%20PHsabw5.jpg>: "An attempt to use the invalidated stamps in Bloemfontein just after the occupation."



<http://www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk/images/a%20PHsabw6.jpg>: "And another attempt using a Cape of Good Hope stamp one day later. In each case the tax was cancelled on arrival at destination."

Boshoff



<http://www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk/images/a%20PHsabw3.jpg>: "Registered to England from Boshof 12th October 1900 with stamps overprinted "V.R.I." and value."



<http://www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk/images/a%20PHedward%203.550.jpg> : "Posted Late at Boshof 31 October 1910"

Kleinood



<http://www.michael-hamilton.com/images/CGH44085.jpg>

Kroonstad



<http://www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk/images/a%20PHsabw2.jpg> : "A prisoner of war cover with an oval British censor mark from Kroonstad 25th June 1900".

Luckhoff



<http://www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk/images/a%20PHsabw1.jpg> : "A Boer cover with an oval Boer censor mark from Luckhoff 4th February 1900."

Rouxville



<http://www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk/images/An%20OFS.CG%20cover%20from%20Rouxville%20to%20Frankfurt,%20Germany,%203rd%20June%201878.550.jpg> "An OFS/CGH combination cover from Rouxville to Frankfurt, Germany, 3rd June 1878"

Senekal



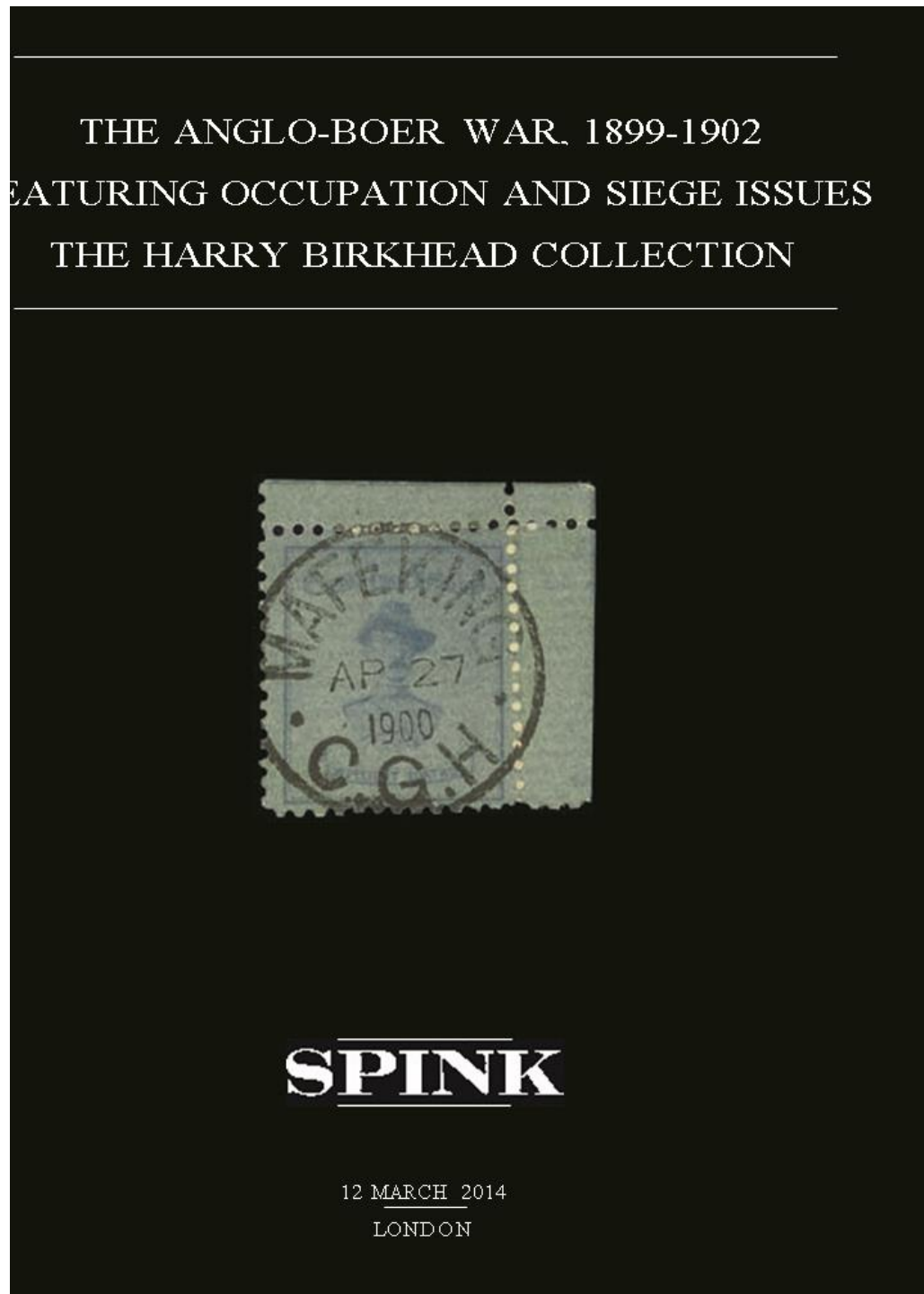
<http://www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk/images/a%20PHedward%204.550.jpg> : “An unclaimed letter from Senekal to Transvaal”

Smithfield



<http://www.michael-hamilton.com/images/ORCuNTL.TVL57322.jpg>: “SMITHFIELD, Orange River Colony postmark on NTL, TVL stamps combination. dated 2 NOV 11 on TVL KE7 ½d (SG.273a) and NTL KE7 1d (SG.148) combination piece. This postmark on just the NTL 1d would be exceptionally rare, but to have the TVL ½d as well is quite extraordinary. I currently record interprovincial use of TVL at 328 different CGH offices and TVL used ORC at 80 different offices, but for NTL used ORC only 14 different offices “

Annex: Spink auction 2014 on Anglo-Boer War in Orange Free State



See: https://www.spink.com/files/lotMain/14018/14018_387_1.jpg

Commando Brief O.V.S. and others



2: “Boer Forces. 1900 (30 Mar.) unstamped envelope to Bethlehem, O.F.S., marked “Veldt dienst” and showing a fine strike of the very rare “P.K. Gn Burger Lâgér,/30 Mart. 1900” handstamp in violet (one of only three recorded examples), the reverse endorsed “Am not sure if I haven’t addressed some of your letters to Heilbron” and with Johannesburg (1.4) and Bethlehem (4.4) c.d.s.; also large

piece bearing 1d. (3) cancelled by "Gnl Burger Lgr./13 Mart. 1900" handstamp in violet (the earliest recorded date of use and only example recorded cancelling adhesives) with a further strike alongside and superb boxed "STOPPED By CENSOR/RETuRN TO SENDER" handstamp. Photo. Note: General Burger's lager was at Mpuke Pass west of Glencoe. He was positioned here in the Biggarsberg Mountains after the Boer retreat from Ladysmith. PROVENANCE: Bill Hart, June 1993".

3: "Boer Forces. 1900 (21 Apr.) postcard to Germany, bearing 1d. rose-red and green cancelled by a light strike of the very rare "P.K./FOuRIE'S Lâgér/21 April 1900" handstamp in violet (one of only three examples recorded and the only example recorded cancelling a stamp), taxed with octagonal-framed "T/15/CENTIMES" handstamp and also showing Pretoria (24.4) and Stralsuna (27.5) c.d.s. The only recorded item of taxed mail from Mpuke Pass. Photo. Note: General Burger requested leave at the end of March 1900. Commandant Fourie was promoted to General to replace him. PROVENANCE: Bill Hart, June 1993".

4: "Boer Forces Mail - contd. German Corps. 1900 (25 Jan.) "Veld Dienst" envelope from Dewetsdorp to a Leon Zeilder under Commandant Viljoen on the Tugela River front, bearing O.F.S. 1d. tied by c.d.s. and showing a fine strike of the "Veld-Post./G.F.FLEISCHER,/DuITSCH& JOHANNESBuRG/COMMANDOS." datestamp for 1 February, Bloemfontein and Hoofdlager (1.2) c.d.s. on reverse; the envelope with a couple of faults at upper left though a fine example of ingoing mail to the main battle front. Photo".

5: "Boer forces. German Corps. 1900 (18 May) unstamped "Veld Dienst" envelope to P.O. Hibernia showing a superb strike of the "JOHANNESBuRG COMMANDO/VELDPOSTMEESTER/G.F. Fleischer." "cogwheel" oval cachet in violet, Volksrust (18.5) and Johannesburg (19.5) c.d.s. on reverse, some foxing otherwise fine, and (25 May) damaged "Velddienst" envelope to Jeppesdorp with a fine strike of the cachet in blue-violet. A rare handstamp with only eight examples recorded, and an interesting pair illustrating the first and last dates known. Photo. PROVENANCE: Bill Hart, June 1993 for first. Kenneth Griffith, March 2003 for first Boer WarCentenary Sale, October 1999 for second."

8: "COMMANDO BRIEF MILITARY FRANK STAMPS. Covers. 1899 (24 Oct.) envelope from Modder River to Bloemfontein, bearing a marginal example (some foxing around perfs.) placed inverted and cancelled with broken circle datestamp, Jacobsdal c.d.s. (26.10) below, despatch and arrival (30.10) c.d.s. on reverse. Photo."

9: "COMMANDO BRIEF MILITARY FRANK STAMPS. Covers. 1899 (31 Oct.) envelope (some foxing) from Modder River to Brandfort, the label neatly cancelled with despatch c.d.s. (broken circle type) and additionally with Jacobsdal c.d.s. (2.11) in transit, arrival c.d.s. (6.11) on reverse. Photo."

10: "COMMANDO BRIEF MILITARY FRANK STAMPS. Covers . 1899 (13 Nov.) envelope (small imperfections) to Bloemfontein, showing Commanding Officer's endorsement largely covered over by the label cancelled by Spytfontein c.d.s. and with Jacobsdal transit c.d.s. at upper right, arrival c.d.s. (14.11) on reverse. Photo".

Wepener

Spink Auction 2014: WEPENER. The town was under siege by the Boers from 9 to 24 April 1900.... Stormberg Junction was vacated by the Boers on 7 March. These commandos now under General de

Wet besieged Wepener one month later.... General de Wet continued attacking the colonial troops until 25 April when Gen. Louis Botha ordered him to retire due the overwhelming numbers of British troops that were approaching.... British casualties were moved to Mafeteng immediately after the siege for treatment there. Losses were: British 28 killed and 141 wounded: Boer killed 5 and wounded 13”.



Nrs 309, 311-313: see Cape of Good Hope, part 2: Vrijburg

Nr 317: "1900 (18 Apr.) Transvaal 1d. "battlefield" card, uprated with O.F.S. 1d. purple, originally written in pencil some ten days earlier, then copied in ink, headed "Lager by Wepener" and entering the postal system at Winburg, Leiden arrival c.d.s. (21.5). A fascinating card and the only recorded Boer correspondence from the siege. Photo. Note: The writer reveals that he is using his knee as a desk and stating that the enemy had already been surrounded for 10 days".

Nr 318: "Nr 1900 (27 Apr.) unstamped envelope from Trooper Cairns "On Active Service G Squadron Brabants Horse" to England, showing Mafeteng (3.5) and London Paid c.d.s. (25.5) at right, Aliwal North (5.5) and Alnwich (26.5) c.d.s. on reverse. Photo. Note: Brabant's Horse were positioned to the north of the town on and around Observation Hill".

Nr 319: "1900 (28 Apr.) unstamped envelope (complete with letter) "On Active Service" from a soldier to his daughters at Mount Frere, Griqualand East, showing Mafeteng c.d.s. on face, arrival c.d.s. on reverse, the letter and envelope on C.M.R. crested paper with the letter dated one day after relief and carried on the one safe route via Basutoland to North-East Transkei. Photo. Note: General de Wet continued attacking the colonial troops until 25 April when Gen. Louis Botha ordered him to retire due the overwhelming numbers of British troops that were approaching".

Nr 320: "1900 (3 May) soldier's envelope (traces of creasing and soiled on reverse) to London, marked "Stamps not procurable" and showing fine Mafeteng c.d.s. alongside London Paid c.d.s. (25.5) with further London c.d.s. on reverse. Photo."