

# De Nummis



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## **The National Numismatic Society of South Africa**

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# CONTENTS

Foreword .. <i>Peter Wilson</i>	4
Editorial .. <i>Ken Bezuidenhout and Hugh Glen</i>	5
The Veldpond and its notorious "High A" forgery — some notes and curious questions ... <i>Peter Wilson</i>	6
Famous Marks Gold Tickey ... <i>J.C. Vlok</i>	9
Some observations on ZAR Medallions ... <i>Henk Loots</i>	11
Just what are tokens? ... <i>Alan Jacobs</i>	16
The Johannesburg Vrywilligers Medal ... <i>Peter Wilson</i>	20
A collection of Wanderers Club membership badges .. <i>Hugh Glen</i>	24
Telately — a complimentary hobby ... <i>Dawie Schwartz</i>	32
A fascinating new ZAR medallion series presently in the making ... <i>Peter Wilson</i>	46
Setting the Time ... <i>Louis Josselowitz and Hugh Glen</i>	47
Notes on trade dollars of the Indo-Pacific region .. <i>Hugh Glen</i>	51
D.T. Batty: Numismatist Extraordinaire ... <i>Neville Harden</i>	55
Marshall Hole Emergency Fiscal (Currency) Cards.... <i>Dr Heinz Wirz</i>	58

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## Maggie gets coined

LONDON — Britain's new £1 coin is being called a Maggie — "because it is hard, has rough edges and pretends to be a sovereign", Lord Wallace has told peers.

His remark raised laughter in the Lords at question time, when the government confirmed that plastic £1 (R1.75) notes would not be introduced as an alternative to the paper notes which it intends to withdraw.

Lord Molson urged the retention of the note because of the inconvenience of the coin.

*The Star, January 1984.*

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## FOREWORD

It was during the latter half of 2001 that the Committee of the National Numismatic Society (formerly the Transvaal Numismatic Society) decided to commemorate the centenary of the minting of the last and probably most famous of all of the ZAR coinage series, the **Veld Pond** during the year 2002 by publishing a long overdue *De Nummis* journal.

Whilst your Society has been directly involved in the publication of several journals under the banner of the *Association of South African Numismatic Societies* during the 1980s and 1990s, this is the first *De Nummis* published since no. 4 in 1971.

Previous issues of *De Nummis* have earned a well deserved reputation for being publications of numismatic excellence, and I am sure that this journal will provide every numismatist with hours of fascinating reading. A range of excellent articles has been written and assembled on a cross-section of topics covering ZAR coins and medallions, trade dollars, early British copper coinage, tokens, military medals, phone cards and the amazing story of the "Transvaal Chronometer"! This journal reveals the interest, fascination and wonder of many years of involvement in the world's most noble hobby by the authors and contributors.

There is no doubt that modern numismatics is experiencing times of difficulty, but it is an established fact that classic numismatics, involving items of quality and genuine rarity, continues to attract high levels of interest, a happy situation that has persisted since the first coins were struck. The South African numismatic scene is fairly depressed at present. We face times of uncertainty, we are facing economic hardship, our currency has depreciated, and quantities of our "national numismatic stock" have found their way overseas. Despite this, economic cycles change, and there is a growing international interest in our country's very colourful numismatic heritage.

Mankind's instinct to collect will prevail!

Peter Wilson  
President, National Numismatic Society  
June 2002



## Editorial Introduction

Ken Bezuidenhout and Hugh Glen

One of the main joys of classical numismatics is the light a numismatic study may shed on the history of the community which issued the items studied. With that in mind, we offer studies of Indopacific trade dollars and membership tokens of a Johannesburg sporting club, now a major feature of the city's social life. Questions underlying both of these studies revolve around "why were they issued", "what can they tell us about the issuing bodies", and "were they successful (and why)". Although the inclusion of an article about a watch in a journal may seem idiosyncratic at best, it fits well with this approach, and also addresses these three questions. Here the answers shed light on the social history of what was soon to become the ZAR, celebrated by this issue of the journal.

The editorial committee notes with interest Mr Jacobs's suggestions in his article. Unfortunately a dedicated publication of any kind costs a large and rapidly increasing sum of money to produce. That is why *De Nummis* only appears on average once in ten years — rather a long time to wait for a response to an entry in a letters column! Possibly we should see how technophilic or technophobic the numismatic community is, and look into setting up an internet newsgroup for local collectors, leaving journals such as this to record matters of longer-term value when funds permit.

A journal such as this is not and cannot be produced by one person, or even a three-man committee, without help. We are indebted to our contributors for sharing their knowledge first with us and more importantly with the wider numismatic community. We also take pleasure in thanking Mrs Emsie du Plessis (National Botanical Institute, Pretoria) for proofreading this journal and keeping our English under control, and Brian Hern for seeing the result through the press.



# The Veldpond and its notorious “High A” forgery

## — some notes and curious questions

Peter Wilson

There has been so much written about this very beautiful coin and the remarkable circumstances surrounding its minting. The Veldpond of the Anglo-Boer War is probably one of the world’s most famous “siege pieces” or “money of necessity”. The Veldpond is a hauntingly lovely coin, imperfect in its striking and finish, yet it has a lustre and beauty that have attracted numismatists from all over the world.

### Background

Towards the close of the Anglo-Boer War coined gold had become very scarce. To a considerable extent the Boer forces in the field were dependent on local tribal people for their food supplies. These people were not willing to accept the then current inconvertible bank notes. They demanded gold coin.

The government in the field still possessed a small quantity of gold in the form of bars. General Ben Viljoen, who was in command of the Boer forces in the Pilgrims Rest area also had the gold plates of the mines in that region scraped, while gold was obtained from the alluvial diggings in the vicinity as well. An appreciable quantity was accumulated, of which Gen. Viljoen was able to dispose of some in exchange for “pounds with the horse on” (British sovereigns), preferred by the local tribal people. After General Viljoen’s capture at Lydenburg, General C.H. Muller decided that ways and means had to be devised of turning the remaining gold to better use. General Muller, after obtaining the approval of the government, established the “Staatsmunt te Velde” under the chairmanship of Field-Cornet A. Pienaar. Mr P.J. Kloppers was appointed as “Hoofd van de Staatsmunt te Velde”.

Mr Kloppers, who had been giving thought to the matter, at first had an idea merely to refine the gold, rolling it out, cutting it up into small square pieces for issue to local burghers in exchange for gold coins (redeemable for gold coin after the war). As an inducement, it was intended to make these pieces of slightly higher gold bullion content than the pounds. After much consideration and debate, it was decided to produce a round gold disc onto which a suitable design could be impressed, hence the birth of the **Veldpond**. Machinery belonging to the Transvaal Gold Mining Estates Ltd. of Pilgrims Rest was co-opted into use as a makeshift mint. Dies were cut by hand, problems in annealing the gold were overcome, and the result was “a thing of beauty” — 986 stunning Veldponde of virtually pure gold!

When peace was declared on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1902, there was still some uncoined gold remaining, and minting operations were continued until 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> June, when only five shillings’ worth of gold was left unused. This small piece of gold was given to Mr Kloppers, and has apparently remained in the possession of his family ever since. The one pair of dies used throughout the minting process was handed to General Muller. There is no record of the whereabouts of the dies today. One wonders what happened to them —

- ! are they stored in a dusty State archive?
- ! were they destroyed?
- ! were they handed to the British?
- ! were they taken back to England?



## The "High A" Veldpond Forgery

The genuine Veldpond has always traded at a premium to its intrinsic gold content or its face value. The premium today is in fact very substantial. Demand for quality pieces is high, and the sad fact is that many Veldponde were mounted into jewellery because of their unusual beauty and romantic circumstances of minting.

It is understandable that the Veldpond would be the target of forgers. Several well-made forgeries have been identified, and Eli Levine's book *The Coinage and Counterfeits of the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek* gives an excellent, detailed account of these counterfeits.

One of the best known Veldpond forgeries is the "High A" or "M" counterfeit. This forgery was produced in a shop situated in Rissik Street, Johannesburg, during 1903 by a Mr Meister who had immigrated to South Africa. When the police raided Meister's premises as a result of a tip-off, they could not find the forged dies, which were vital evidence. The one place they omitted to check was the minting apparatus itself! It was rumoured that Meister was at one time an engraver in the Philadelphia Mint in the U.S.A., and that he was deported by Lord Kitchener for his illegal activities in Johannesburg. The High A forgery has as its most distinguishing feature the "A" of ZAR being disproportionately long, much higher than the "A" on the genuine coin. The various forgeries of the Veldpond in themselves form a fascinating area of collecting!

### Some curious questions

Richard J. Ford of Detroit, U.S.A., was a major collector of South African coins. He assembled a very significant collection of the highest quality of our coins, from the Griquatown series of 1814 right through to the Republic of South Africa transitional decimal series of 1961 — 1964. His ZAR and George V material (including the proof sets) was superb. This substantial collection was auctioned jointly by Spink & Son and A.H. Baldwin of London, and City Coins of Cape Town, on 31 May 1985. A magnificent glossy colour brochure including many mouthwatering pictures was produced. Dr Frank Mitchell of Cape Town authored the "provenance" on the coins in this auction at the request of Douglas Liddell, Managing Director of Spinks. Dr Mitchell at that time was acknowledged as the doyen of South African numismatics. I quote from a section of this provenance:-

"I have never seen a better shilling of 1893. The 1892 single shaft Pond is exceptionally good for the issue. The 1894 half Pond is a lovely coin. **I covet the blank half pond, and the lead impression of the Veldpond!**"

A short time ago I was able to add this lead impression of the veldpond to my collection, acquiring it from one of South Africa's top collectors, who bought the piece at the Ford auction. Imagine my surprise when I identified the piece as a lead impression of the "High A" forgery!

My question revolves around the following points:-

1. The piece had been acquired and owned by Richard J. Ford, who owned the most celebrated collection of South African coins.
2. This collection was put up for auction by three of the world's most respected numismatic dealing houses.
3. This lead impression was "coveted" by the doyen of South African numismatics.
4. This piece was acquired at auction, and owned for some 15 years, by one of South Africa's top collectors.





*Correct size*



*Enlargement*

My question is quite simple: Why did none of this unquestionably knowledgeable group of people realise that they were handling a lead impression of one of our most celebrated counterfeits — the High A Veldpond forgery?

Some time ago I acquired Dr Bob Morris's collection of Veldpond forgeries. Included was a High A forgery. This piece is engraved

"To my friend F.A. Ashton  
Ben Viljoen



12—8—03"

My questions are:-

- ! Is Ben Viljoen the General that commanded the Boer forces in the Pilgrims Rest area? Usage of shortened first names was not common during the Boer War era, but General Viljoen was commonly known as Ben.
- ! Why was a forged Veldpond given as a gift in 1903 by what could have been a famous Boer General?

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# Famous Marks Tickey is in the News again

J.C. Vlok

(First published in the *Pretoria News* on 1 June 1965; reproduced by permission of the editor.)

The outstanding Rissik Collection of South African Republic coins, recently acquired by the Transvaal Provincial Administration and soon to be displayed in the new Provincial Building, includes two of the world-famous Marks gold tickeys. What has happened to the others? The fascinating story of these rare coins is well worth recalling.

A Pretoria man, Mr Jim M. Potts, was fortunate enough to receive four of these tickeys — as a gift and as a bequest.

Sammy Marks, that remarkable industrialist and financier, was a friend of President Kruger. In the late 1890s, he asked the President's permission to "borrow" the State Mint for a day. The request was granted and Marks used the occasion to have gold tickeys struck — 214 of them, according to Mr Potts.

## Too heavy

It was Marks's idea to have the coins made into a girdle for his wife, Miriam Marks. She, however, although appreciative of her husband's generosity, pointed out to him a practical difficulty. If the coins were to be linked together, she said, they would make the girdle excessively heavy and unsuitable for wearing.

Marks, obviously disappointed, went off with his bag of gold tickeys to Mr Potts's father, who was manager and general factotum at Zwartkoppies, Marks's farm a dozen miles [19 km] out of Pretoria. He told him to put the coins away in a safe for safekeeping.

This was done. Then, from time to time, when distinguished people visited the farm, Marks would ask Potts to show the tickeys to the visitors.

After Marks's death his widow gave most of the tickeys to relatives and friends. She did not, however, forget the Potts family. To Mr Potts, senior, she gave a pair of cuff-links made from the tickeys. Mr Potts's brothers and sisters received a tickey each, but Jimmy Potts, who had been a favourite of her husband, was given two coins.

The years went by and the value of these gold tickeys to collectors increased until they were fetching R300 apiece. This definitely brought them into the category of rare coins and they were much sought after.

## High Prices

Mr Jimmy Potts's stock of gold tickeys was doubled when his father died and bequeathed to him in his will the pair of cuff-links that he had been given by Mrs Marks.

Mr Potts fared better than his brothers with his rare coins. One brother was robbed of his tickey in a burglary and the other lost his.

Eventually Mr Potts was approached and asked whether he would not consider selling one of his tickeys. He agreed to sell — and this one little coin changed hands for R400. He found a



ready market for the remaining tickey, selling it ultimately for R450.

One of the most remarkable and unexpected consequences of the minting of these gold tickeys and their subsequent sale at high prices was the attention they attracted from counterfeiters.

In Italy an imitation Marks tickey was made by counterfeiters who were obviously skilled craftsmen. So convincingly like the original was this copy that only an expert or a competent collector could tell the difference between the two.

Such, however, are the oddities of collecting that, at the time when Mr Potts sold his tickey for R450, the Italian counterfeiters were actually selling, as such, at as much as R70 each.

First published in the *Pretoria News* on 1 June 1965; reproduced by permission of the editor..



Correct size, genuine coin.



Enlarged

Choice pieces have been sold at R100 000 in recent times

(Caution, there are many forgeries of this coin  
I estimate in excess of 12 varieties - BH)



## Some Observations on Z.A.R. Medallions

Henk Loots

One of four authoritative publications dealing with Boer War related Medallions is "Commemorative Medals of the Z.A.R.", compiled in 1958 by Anna H Smith, Curator of the Africana Museum, Johannesburg. This was not illustrated, being published long before the days of computers, scanners and digital cameras! It had a wider scope than the title implied, covering items depicting Pres Steyn of the O.F.S, numerous items of British origin as well as post-1902 items connected with Pres Kruger.

I have been actively collecting Orders, Decorations, Medals and Medallions for more than 30 years and I still regularly add to my knowledge of various aspects of this very wide field of interest. As such, I would like to share with my fellow-enthusiasts some observations on five of the items catalogued more than forty years ago in 1958. For ease of reference I have used numbers allocated to the items in the 1958 catalogue.

### AM 4 : Opening of State Mint, Pretoria, 1892.

All available literature mentions that 25 examples of this 30 mm dia. piece (the size and weight of a one penny coin) were struck. The obverse has the figure of "Fortuna" surrounded by the legend "Glück auf Transvaal". The reverse has the legend "Erste / Prägung / auf den / Münz- / Maschinen / 1892" surrounded by a laurel wreath.

I quote from an article on this medallion by E A Hohmann, published in the September 1957 Newsletter of the SA Numismatic Society :

".....I have in my possession two specimens thereof, and whilst the obverses are identical the reverses are slightly different. True, the differences are minute : *a slightly different grouping of the leaves in the wreath and different numbers of berries.....*

Is it not strange that with a total of only 25 pieces struck it should have been necessary to employ two reverse dies? Did the first die crack, causing O Schultz hurriedly to prepare another, as a result of which the small differences came about? ....."

I have illustrated the two reverse dies, showing the "minute" differences referred to above.





### AM 14 : Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee, 1897 .

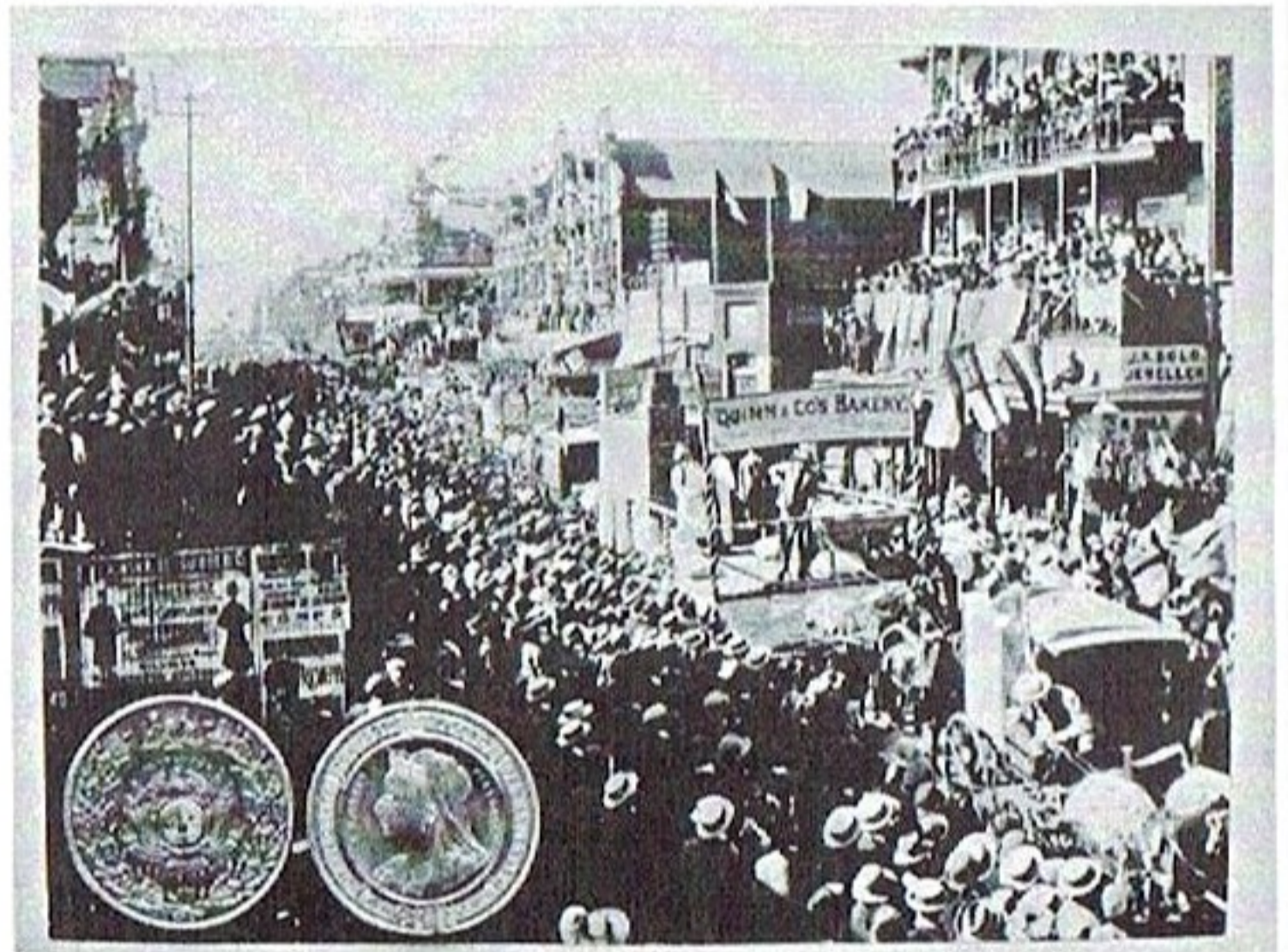
This 39 mm dia. medallion was commercially issued to coincide with the festivities in Johannesburg to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> year of Queen Victoria's reign on 22 June 1897. Every



building in Johannesburg along the route of the nearly three-mile long procession sported flags and banners. The procession was headed by a troop of the Transvaal Mounted Police (ZARP's), followed by 2000 school children, Zulu "Mine Boys", numerous floats from local merchants, a five-stamp mill and cyanide plant and hundreds of miners and mine

officials. It ended at the Wanderers with speeches, "Native" war dances and the singing of "God save the Queen". The events were organised by the "Queen's Record Reign Committee" who sent a gold plaque to Her Majesty, while the Muslim Community sent an ornate casket containing an address.

This is a most unusual medallion in so far as the Royal Coat of Arms and the ZAR Coat of Arms appear together on the reverse : two years later the two countries were at war with each other!



The item is usually found in White Metal, but I have a Gilt example. It is slightly thinner and weighs 24.6 gm compared with the 27.7 gm of the WM one.

### AM 39 & 40 : Peace Medal by Fuchs, 1900.

This is one of the better-known medallions of the Boer War period and features in most collections. Occasionally, examples are found which are named to men who were killed in action in South Africa and it is possible that the item was marketed as a "Next-of-Kin Memorial Medal".

The obverse depicts an armed female figure, sheathing a sword, against a background view of a harbour with shipping and marching troops. The reverse depicts a winged female figure kneeling beside a fallen soldier. The legend is described under AM 39 as : "To the Memory of those who gave their lives for Queen and Country. South African Campaign 1899-1900".



AM 39 is listed in silver and bronze with a diameter of 70 mm (2 ¾ inches) and AM 40, also in silver and bronze, but with a diameter of 52 mm (2 inches).



The Africana Museum cataloguer noted: "Ferrer (II, 330) remarks that there are two varieties, but gives no details. He may be merely referring to the difference in size or metals".

I am sure that what Ferrer actually referred to was a second legend on the reverse, viz. "To the Memory of those who gave their lives for **King** and Country. South African Campaign 1899-1902)". In addition, there is also a third size recorded: 44 mm (1 ¾ inches) diameter.

This, in effect, means that a collector needs 12 examples to complete a set: 2 Monarchs, 2 metals and 3 sizes!! To date I have managed to acquire 10 of the varieties, with a 70 mm silver "King" and a 44 mm bronze "Queen" still eluding me.

#### **AM 72 : Portsmouth Presentation, 1900.**

This is an attractive 26 mm dia. silver medallion with light and dark blue enamel finish. The obverse depicts the arms of Portsmouth, surrounded by the legend "Borough of Portsmouth", while the reverse has an engraved legend: "Naval Brigade" and "South Africa 1899-1900 / North China 1900"

Portsmouth is an important naval port and dockyard and in the 1958 Catalogue it was presumed that the medallion was presented "when the men returned". This assumption was quite correct. In the book "The Commission of HMS Terrible" by G Crowe it is mentioned that Miss Dupree, the daughter of the Mayor of Portsmouth, made a presentation of a "silver souvenir" (inscribed as noted above) to Captain Scott, the officers and men of HMS Terrible. The occasion was a banquet held in Portsmouth on 23 September 1901.

The men from HMS Terrible saw Boer War service between mid-October 1899 and the end of March 1900. HMS Terrible then proceeded to China where crew members took part in the operations leading to the Relief of Peking (June-August 1900). This ended the "Boxer Rebellion", as this China War was commonly referred to.

The dates on the medallion presented to the "Terribles" in September 1901 are therefore correct, but there is an anomaly: the three examples in my collection as well as the one illustrated by Hibbard<sup>1</sup> have the hall mark for Birmingham **1902**. Two of them were



acquired as single specimens, and the third one came in a medal group that included a Queen's South Africa medal and a China War medal to a sailor from the *Terrible*.

There are two other reverses known. I have an example with "South Africa 1900-1901" : the copy in my collection as well as the example illustrated by Hibbard<sup>2</sup> has the hallmark for Birmingham 1900. This poses another anomaly in that the hallmark predates the legend on the medallion I have not yet seen the "North China 1900" reverse.



#### AM 132 : St Helena Prisoner-of-War, 1900.

This rather crudely made 45 mm dia medallion is recorded in cardboard covered with copper or white metal.

The obverse depicts the ZAR coat of arms above a bust of Kruger and two standing female figures. The reverse has a view of St Helena, the date 1900 and the legend "Ter Gedachtenis aan de Boeren Krygsgevangenen"<sup>3</sup>



The Africana Museum Catalogue states that a French prisoner-of-war, J L le Franc, who was in Gen Piet Cronje's Commando when they surrendered at Paardeberg on 27 Feb 1900, made this medallion on St Helena. An example in white metal was presented to President Kruger in Marseilles in November 1900 and other examples were brought back to South Africa by Boer PoW's returning home after the war.

I have identified two different obverse designs for this item :

**Obverse 1 :** The centrepiece of the ZAR coat of arms as well as the six draped flags show pronounced cross-hatching. I have two examples of these, weighing 30.4 gm and 30.7 gm respectively. Both sound "hollow" when tapped and clearly show signs of the way in



which the one-piece obverse and rim was “folded” over the cardboard core and the circular piece of copper that forms the reverse



**Obverse 1**



**Obverse 2**

**Obverse 2 :** As above, but the central medallion and the flags are completely smooth. I have one example in copper, weighing 26.9 gm. I also have an example in white metal that seems to be solid, lacking a cardboard core. It weighs 33.1 gm and could be a casting or even a struck piece. It is also slightly thinner than the copper varieties.

Rumour has it that only 20 examples of this medallion were made and that they were destroyed after being bought up by a Cape Parliamentarian. This, however, seems unlikely in view of the number known to have survived. Alternatively, there may have been subsequent “mintings” to satisfy demand. If that is the case, one could go into the provenance of the examples held in various museums and thus possibly establish the characteristics of the “original” issue.

I would appreciate receiving feed-back from other collectors on the various points mentioned above. Information on similar aspects of other ZAR medallions would also be of great interest.

<sup>1</sup> *M G Hibbard : Boer War Tribute Medals, p62 & 63*

<sup>2</sup> *Do.*

<sup>3</sup> *“In memory of the Boer Prisoners-of-War”*



## Just what are tokens?

A H G J

As a schoolboy with a passion for collecting, I had my parents well trained. They knew, if only for the sake of peace in the home, that any visitor crossing their threshold had to be interrogated. At some stage or another in the conversation THE question had to be put, and this naturally was "Do you have any coins?". Happy the day when there was a positive response! And the remoter the country, the greater the joy. Anything and everything was greedily amassed. A few years down the line one came to realize that an in-depth collection of one country held more interest than bits and pieces from everywhere. And in those flag-waving days of Empire there was never a doubt that the chosen country had to be England. Happy days! The dollar cost four-bob, and the pound was a pound (later to become two Rand).

Time passed (as time has a way of doing!) And the pound no longer cost us two Rand. The death-knell had sounded for collectors of modest means. Even given the full glorious sweep of the British series, there was little or nothing left that was affordable. But the need to collect was deep-rooted, and one cast around for fresh fields to conquer — humbler fields. Oddly enough, the solution was easily found.

There on one's doorstep lay the answer — our Cinderella series, as Dr Theron used to call them — South African tokens! He also used to say "No roadmaps here to guide you — uncharted territory lies ahead". So far from being a deterrent, this was the challenge I needed. I was, after all, fresh from the mazes and mine-fields of the British hammered series.

And so I came to these ugly ducklings of South African numismatics.

But there was a problem. When visitors crossed my threshold, there was no-one left to put THE question on my behalf — I had to do it myself. "Tell me, I don't suppose that by any chance you have any old South African tokens lying around, do you?" I don't have to tell you that almost without exception the response is "Tokens? What are tokens?" And then one tries to explain in simple terms that can readily be understood. But this is not easy (just try it!), especially since the man-in-the-street is not as intelligent as we collectors are.

So what then are TOKENS?

The word, it seems, is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word *tacen*, a sign or symbol. In her preface to Mrs Maynard's listing of the tokens in the collection of the Africana Museum (dare one ask what has become of them?), Anna Smith quotes the Oxford English Dictionary definition: "a stamped piece of metal, often having the general appearance of a coin, issued as a medium of exchange by a private person or a company, who engage to take it back at its nominal value, giving goods or legal currency for it".

In her article for ASANS Journal no. 3 on Natal tokens, writer Gillian Berning elaborates on this. "Apart from the token's obvious use as a medium of exchange, they were also used to advertise and promote companies; to encourage trade at a particular store by locking the customer into a discount system, and perhaps at their most exploitative they were used to lock wage labour into a system of cyclical dependency." From her article we learn that because the system was so easily abused the Government of the day took steps to abolish the use of tokens. In 1928 metal tokens were made illegal, and this accounts for the composition type tokens that the main users thereafter resorted to before tokens were finally made illegal in 1949.

In their book on the trade tokens of Strachan & Co. the joint authors, Prof. Graham and Scot



Hanson detail the various classes into which tokens fall, and as this book is not readily available to students of South African tokens I trust I may be allowed to incorporate their observations into this brief chat on tokens. They tell us that "strictly speaking, most of the world's coins are tokens, for they do not have the full intrinsic value they represent and are really symbols. However, the commonly accepted numismatic definition of a token is a piece of metal or plastic, resembling a coin in size, shape and type, but issued privately, usually without Government authority, for use as a substitute for the official coinage. Generally it is a pledge to be redeemed either in goods to the value it represents or in corresponding coin of the realm.

"Since the majority of British and South African tokens were issued in times of acute shortage of small-denomination state-issued coin, there seemed to be little effort in the literature to recognize the many other purposes for which tokens were (and are) issued, and to classify tokens accordingly. We feel that certain classes of tokens have greater numismatic merit than others, and feel that the following basis for classification may be useful.

(1) **TRADE TOKENS** are *bona-fide* private coins issued by traders in times of acute shortage of state-issued coin to enable normal trading activities to proceed. The token is a pledge redeemable in goods or coin of the state — i.e. either in small coin when available, or in available coin of larger denominations if redeemed to equivalent face value. There is no element of coercion or inducement for customers to use a particular trade outlet.

(2) **BARTER TOKENS** are issued by a trader to pay for goods (usually agricultural products) with the agreement that they be redeemed in goods to an equivalent value at the trader's own outlets. The transaction is therefore one of barter, with the tokens playing a role of convenience, allowing the seller to receive his goods at a rate of time convenient to himself. Trade tokens often change slowly and subtly into barter tokens, as evidenced by the continued circulation of former trade tokens when the need for their use has passed.

(3) **MONOPOLY TOKENS** are issued by traders to their employees to pay part or all of their wages without the employees' option to elect payment in official coinage only. The trader ensures that his employees obtain at least some of their requirements from his own outlets, so that he effectively holds a monopoly on these commodities. Here again there is often a shift in emphasis, and what were intended as trade or barter tokens have been used in this manner. Closely related to the monopoly token is the credit token.

(4) **CREDIT TOKENS** are issued to employees so that they can purchase goods to the equivalent face value from a specified supplier, the tokens to be redeemed when the employee receives his salary.

(Monopoly and credit tokens were seen as unfair practices, especially when issued to underprivileged employees, and generated opposition to tokens in general, leading to their ultimate abolition.)

(5) **DISCOUNT TOKENS** were issued by traders as a discount in cash transactions, and could be used in partial or full payment in later transactions. The purpose was to induce the customer to return to a particular trader.

(6) **CANTEEN TOKENS** are really meal tickets, to enable an employee to purchase food of his choice in a company canteen up to a specified amount.



(7) **STAFF TOKENS** are issued to employees so they can buy at a discount from the firm's own stocks. Instead of keeping accounts of all discount purchases, the firm sells its staff a supply of tokens at a discount rate, and the employees then use them as normal money at the (greater) face value.

(8) **PRISON TOKENS** (which are particularly common in the United States) are issued to prisoners and are used like money in prison shops. The purpose is to limit a prisoner's spending to a specified level by rendering useless any outside money the prisoner may acquire.

(9) **COMMODITY TOKENS**, like milk tokens, are sold by a supplier of a given commodity to alleviate regularly occurring small-change and security problems in small transactions. These are closely related to

(10) **COUPON TOKENS** which are issued by a supplier of services (e.g. bus companies) to avoid handling inconvenient amounts of small change in difficult circumstances.

(11) **MACHINE TOKENS** are provided by the owners of slot machines which were made to accept coin sizes incompatible with available coinage."

At first reading the foregoing would appear to cover the full range of our South African issues. However, on reflection, one should perhaps give thought to including a category for **ADVERTISING TOKENS**. These, granted, are a relatively new phenomenon, and one can also argue that **SOLICITING TOKENS**, or brothel tokens as they are more commonly called, deserve a separate category, the feeling being that the five or six ladies in question had no real need to **ADVERTISE** their wares! Then of course for those of us who include the full sweep of the southern African series, there are those Rhodesian Hut Tax tokens. My feeling is that in this instance the word "token" is a misnomer. What we loosely refer to as hut tax tokens are really receipts acknowledging the payment by the Mashona and Matabele of their annual hut tax dues.

What then does that leave us with? (Or perhaps we should say: with what does that leave us!) Tool checks, labour checks, tickets and passes. At times the boundaries tend to be a bit fuzzy, and it's up to each of us to decide just where to draw the line. My own feeling is that having boundaries, even by definition, restricts one, and we should always leave ourselves an opening to explore additional paths in that fascinating "uncharted territory".

Dr Theron, to whom we all owe so much, was wont to say "If anybody is fond of history — and that is what numismatics is all about — then let him collect tokens, and he will start something that will keep him busy for the rest of his life".

For this I can vouch. Like smoking, tokens can become addictive. Given so much as half a chance, don't be surprised if your mild, passing or even condescending interest ends up luring you deep into that uncharted territory. All the jaded numismatist need realize is that here, patiently waiting, is a new and affordable challenge — the sort that we as collectors just yearn for. You have been warned!

In conclusion, just a thought. In the twenty-odd years since Dr Theron's pioneering work was published, many new tokens have come to light, and more has been learned about some of the old ones. The information needs on the one hand to be preserved, and on the other to be



publicised. It should not be the preserve of the select few dedicated dealers and collectors. At present, for the most part, it is only by word of mouth that we come to learn of new developments, new finds and further interesting facts associated with the issuers. Not only do we as collectors need this information to be published in a suitable journal at regular intervals, but we also need a forum where matters of specific interest to token collectors can be discussed; where new discoveries can be shared; where perhaps duplicates could be exchanged or auctioned, and where one can share thoughts on those problematic issues, known to be South African, but sadly listed as "unknown". And on the score of "rarity" (which is of interest to every collector), wouldn't it be grand to get confirmation that, for example, there are definitely less than say six known specimens of a certain issue, or even whether a piece regarded as unique is truly so? A national register of the scarcer tokens (whilst preserving the anonymity of the owner) becomes a definite possibility, and armed with this information, compilers of price lists can offer more than mere "guesstimates".

It is understood that a new illustrated Price List and Token Identifier for our series is in the course of preparation. Whilst this should stimulate interest tremendously, it cannot be expected that the compilers will be able to incorporate any of the new facts that might have come to light concerning the issuers. It is after all the economic and social history behind the issues that adds to their fascination, and this cries out to be preserved by being published.

Our coin clubs, bless them, do not seem to realize that there are people out there who collect tokens! Isn't it time for our needs to be catered for by an independent Token Society similar to those overseas? The question is naturally whether there are sufficient collectors of tokens to warrant such a venture. I believe there may well be. Perhaps the Editor of this magazine will include a "Letters" section from readers, and if he does, it will be interesting to see the response from token collectors.



**Webb & Pretorius, Market Agents at the Pretoria Market.**

It is supposed that the 3 overstamp refers to the 3/- charged as a deposit for a basket.

The token is in red/brown fibre and is previously unrecorded.

It is thought that this token was struck at the South African Mint.

One of many tokens first described in the new  
Hern's Handbook on Southern African Tokens.

*Should you have Tokens that you think are unrecorded, and you wish to have them included in this new handbook, kindly contact Brian Hern at Fax (011) 787-6958*



## The Johannesburg Vrijwilligers Corps and its elusive Campaign Medal

Peter Wilson

The whole history of the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek is laced with the most incredible background of military events and happenings. The Anglo-Boer War stands out in history as one of the most significant conflicts that the mighty British Empire was ever drawn into, requiring the application of its huge resources to vanquish two tiny republics. The determined fighting spirit of the burghers of the two republics proved to be a tough obstacle to British political aspirations.

It was against the background of the ongoing and escalating political scene that volunteer military units were formed in the ZAR. The discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand in 1886 had resulted in a huge influx of foreigners into the Transvaal Republic (Z.A.R.) This caused much unhappiness at government level in the Republic due to the demand for citizen rights by the gold diggers, which in turn opened the door to political exploitation and intrigue by the British. The first Vrijwilliger Corps units in the Z.A. Republiek were formed in 1891 in Pretoria and Potchefstroom. During that year the regulations governing volunteer units in the Cape and Natal colonies were used to structure the law relating to volunteer units, which was eventually promulgated as Act no. 17 of 25 August 1894. The Johannesburg Vrijwilliger Corps was formed during September of 1894.

S.H. van Diggelen was appointed Commandant of the Corps with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. During the Corps' initial stages in early 1895 it included a cavalry division comprising of 14 officers and 70 men, and an infantry division comprising of 15 officers and 65 men. By March 1896 the Corps' nominal strength had been raised to 45 officers, and 600 men in the infantry division plus 200 men in the cavalry division. The Corps also comprised of a field-telegraphy division, and an ambulance division including seven doctors and a pharmacist. An interesting point of note is that Commandant S.H. (Staas Hubertus) van Diggelen's certificate of appointment was signed by President Paul Kruger only on 25 March 1896. A debated issue at that time was whether the Corps would be allowed to recruit "persons who were not naturalised". Despite not gaining official approval for this, Van Diggelen in fact recruited many non-citizens into the corps, including many in his officer complement.

The uniforms worn by the Corps comprised of a full dress tunic of black Melton cloth. The six breast loops and the edging of the tunic, cuffs and collar were of dark blue silk braid. Trousers were of the same black material with dark blue silk double braid along the outer seam. At the bottom of the leg was a strap passing below the arch of the boot. The cavalry wore breeches of the same pattern with black field boots for mounted parades. The field kit comprised of a light cord uniform, edge-braided in black, with field boots and a slouch hat. The cavalry carried a sword and wore a bandolier.

The Corps earned a varied reputation among the people of Johannesburg. Unfortunately during the first year or two of its existence the indiscriminate recruitment of many undesirable individuals, mostly emanating from continental Europe, resulted in the Vrijwilligers falling into popular disfavour. The Corps was very much in the public eye and parades by both infantry and cavalry drew harsh criticism from both press and public alike. In consequence of this, stringent action was taken and men not meeting standards were removed. The *Johannesburg*



*Weekly Times* reported on 23 January 1897 that "the composition of the force as a whole is vastly superior to what it was a year ago, and the efficiency and general bearing of the men is steadily improving. In the ranks are to be found many old soldiers who formerly served in various Continental armies and have experienced the hardships of European warfare".

The Johannesburg Vrijwilligers Corps was officially involved in two military actions during its short life (1894 to 1899), which were in addition to the Corps' general presence and duties as a militia in and around Johannesburg and its adjacent goldfields.

The first of the actions in which the Corps participated was the infamous Jameson Raid. In late 1895 political unrest was escalating in the Transvaal (ZAR), particularly in Johannesburg. At the end of December 1895 all military units in the ZAR were put on alert. The *Standard and Diggers News* reported the following on 1 January 1896: "The Johannesburg Volunteers [the Vrijwilligers Corps] met on Von Brandis Square yesterday afternoon and are holding themselves in readiness to preserve law and order". On 2 January 1896 the ill-fated attempted raid occurred and Jameson surrendered at Doornkop, south-west of Johannesburg. Whilst the Corps took no part in the actual action, Commandant van Diggelen and the Cavalry Division were tasked with escorting Jameson and some of his "raiders" to Pretoria, arriving shortly after 09h00 at the prison. The balance of Jameson's force of some 600 men were escorted to Pretoria and were held 'on the commonage for the present'. By this time arrests of the Reform Committee had been made and an escort of Johannesburg Vrijwilligers conducted the prisoners to gaol in Pretoria. The Corps had proved its military worth and must have considerably assisted the Republican government in maintaining law and order in Johannesburg.

The second action involving the Corps took place in 1898. At that time Swaziland was administered by the Government of the Z.A.R. During April 1898 the Chief Induna Mbaba was treacherously murdered at Zomboti, the seat of the Swazis. The Paramount Chief, Bunu, was "called to account for the said deed". He promptly fled to British Zululand with his followers. After considerable negotiations at diplomatic level, Bunu and his followers were taken to the border and handed over to a strong military escort sent by the ZAR Government. This escort included the Cavalry of the Johannesburg Vrijwilliger Corps, commanded by Major B.A. Hall. The Paramount Chief was temporarily relieved of his position as chief of the Swazi nation. After an enquiry in September 1898 Bunu was sentenced to a fine of 500 Pounds Sterling, and was reinstated.

## **The Johannesburg Vrijwilliger Corps Medals**

Two medals were struck for the Corps by Begeer of Utrecht, Holland, now known as N.V. Ateliers voor Edelsmeed en Penningkunst. Both medals show the mint mark "Begeer", and are both very rare, with few known today.

The first medal was minted in 1896, and was most probably a regimental medal, possibly for shooting, riding, tent-pegging or drill. This medal was made of bronze and had a diameter of 32 mm. The obverse had an open wreath, half oak half laurel, around the lettering "Johannesburg Vrijwilliger Corps 1896" in four lines. The reverse had a simple open laurel wreath, the area within the wreath being blank for an inscription.

The second and more important medal was awarded to members of the Corps who participated in actions and/or expeditions in which the Corps was involved. This medal was struck in 1899 by Begeer of Utrecht, Holland. It was designed by W. Achtenhagen, and was made only in bronze. A description of the medal follows:-

Diameter : 47 mm.



Suspension	: ring through knob
Ribbon	: green, red, white and blue in equal widths. The ribbon was especially woven in Holland, with a width of 39mm.
Bars: two:	- Jameson Inval en Revolutie te Johannesburg 1895-1896 (8.3mm high). - Swazieland Expeditie 1898. (7mm high).
Obverse	: Oval shield with coat of arms of the Z.A.R. surrounded by flags and surmounted by an eagle facing right, with "Eendrag maakt magt" on a scroll. Legend - "Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek" around lower half.
Reverse	: In centre an oval with words "Johannesburg Vrijwilliger Corps" in three lines, superimposed upon a parchment - like scroll with the edges turned inwards and surrounded by sprigs of laurel and small flower at the top. Legend - around above "Commandant v.h. Corps Luitnt Kol: S.H. van Diggelen", and at the foot "1894-1899". Hallmark - "Begeer" and "Utrecht", on either side of the dates.
Weight	: 48.42 grams, without suspender.
Naming	: The medals are unnamed.

In view of the fairly extensive nature of the Johannesburg Vrijwilliger Corps during its short but colorful history, I find it strange that this medal is indeed a rarity. Mr D.R. Forsyth(1959)in his excellent article states the following:

The Africana Museum, Johannesburg, has two of these medals, one with both bars, one with no. 1 only. The Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, has one with both bars. A fourth medal with both bars is in Dr. F.K. Mitchell's collection. In addition a few specimens of the medal without knob, ring, ribbon or bars are known - one in the Krugerhuis Museum, one in Lt. Col. Knobel's collection, one recently sold in Johannesburg and one believed to be in Germany.

These comments by Mr Forsyth certainly indicate the rarity of this medal.

Mr Forsyth communicated with the Begeer Mint (now N.V. Ateliers) in Utrecht, Holland, during 1957, in connection with this medal. They confirmed having struck the medal in 1899, but were unable to confirm the number minted, or who had initiated the order. From various writings and documents on the subject, I believe it is clear that Lt. Col. Van Diggelen himself initiated the order. N.V. Ateliers offered (via the South African Embassy) to mint restrikes. This offer was taken up and the following restrikes were minted during 1958, as stated by Mr Forsyth:-

Two specimens of approximately half weight, one of which is in the possession of Mr B.L. Cairncross of George; the other is with Mr Tromp van Diggelen of Kalk Bay. Six exact weight (48.42 grams) medals engraved "Struck 1958" are at present in the hands of the following:

1. Africana Museum, Johannesburg.
2. South African National War Museum, Johannesburg
3. Dr F.K. Mitchell, Cape Town
4. Mr B.L. Cairncross, George
5. and 6. Mr D.R. Forsyth, Florida, Transvaal.

Since this striking in December 1958, N.V. Ateliers agreed to donate the original dies to the Africana Museum, Johannesburg. These dies arrived safely on 31 March 1959.



The Johannesburg Vrijwilligers Corps was officially disbanded on 1 January 1899, only months before the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War. Many former members of the Corps served with the Johannesburg Commando during the Anglo-Boer War, experiencing heavy action particularly in the Battle of Elandsplaagte. Lt. Col. Van Diggelen was in England when war broke out on 11 October 1899, and he was unable to return to participate.

## References

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MARSHALL-HOLE, H. *The Jameson Raid*.

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# A collection of Wanderers Club membership badges

by H.F. Glen

## Abstract

This paper describes a collection of Wanderers Club membership badges stretching from 1904 to 1948. Some notes on the relevance of these badges to the history of the Club and to the social history of Johannesburg are given. As far as is known this is the first published attempt at a catalogue of these badges.

## Introduction

The Wanderers Club has been a major feature of the social life of Johannesburg since it was founded, in 1898. This paper is, therefore, a contribution to the chronicling of the details of Johannesburg social history. The history of the Wanderers' Club from its inception to the mid-1960's has been ably treated by Gutsche (1966), and any attempt here to cover the same ground would be quite superfluous.

The original Wanderers' Club ground was in Braamfontein, north of the railway line and west of the present Joubert Park. This site became untenable for a variety of reasons as Johannesburg grew. The most important of these was that as the site was next to Park Station, it was the logical place for the station to expand into, and in consequence was expropriated shortly after the Second World War. In 1949 the Club moved to its present home in Illovo.

The Club device of a charioteer was suggested by Arthur Ruben, a prominent gymnast and member of the General Committee, and was approved on 1 September 1910. Logically, therefore, the 1911 membership badge should be the first one to use this design, but it is unfortunately missing from the set described here.

As far as is known this is the first attempt at a published catalogue of these badges. One hopes that this paper will stimulate interest in collecting them, and make possible the production of a complete catalogue in the not too far distant future.

Sanderson was 15 when the first badge was issued. This, and the fact that the family had only recently moved to Johannesburg, which was still recovering from the Anglo-Boer War, makes it unlikely that he would have been a member of the Wanderers Club before this date. Therefore, all that can usefully be said about the date of introduction of these badges is that it was in or before 1904. I distinctly recall my mother and grandmother wearing similar badges to tennis some 60 years later, but neither mother nor I can recall when the badges were done away with.

## Sources of badges

The first group of badges was issued to the author's great-uncle, Harold John Sanderson, and runs from 1904 to 1938. A group of two badges originally belonging to my great-aunt, Edith Tredgold, allows the comparison of gentlemen's and ladies' badges of the same year. The third group of ten badges belonged to my father, and runs from 1933 to 1958, with many gaps.



Another, post-war, group in the family possession (though sadly untraced at the time of writing), belongs to my mother. I hope to report on this group in a future number of the *Journal*.

I am informed that similar badges are to be seen from time to time in the stock of numismatic dealers. At the time of writing I had not yet seen any which could be used to fill the gaps in this account.

## The badges

### 1. Harold Sanderson and Edith Tredgold

1904. Bronze; Wanderers' Club monogram, T in red enamel, W in yellow and C in black, with an unenamelled motto "The Wanderers Club 1904" superimposed. The reverse bears two stamps, "Lavine Bros / Jewellers / Johannesburg", curved to fit the shoulder (reverse of the word "The" on the motto, and the number 61 in about the centre. The overall shape is an irregular, pierced rectangle 23 × 18,5 mm in greatest dimensions, and suspension is by a ring.

1905. Bronze, circular, 24 mm in diameter. Centre, a red enamelled field with the letters TWC in script, surrounded by a yellow enamelled ring, this in turn surrounded by a black enamelled ring bearing the legend "The Wanderers Club" in the top three quarters, and the date 1905 below. Outside the circle are four bronze arabesques, the top one of which bears the suspension ring. Reverse: At the top, a stamp with the legend "Henry Simpson / Joubert St / Johannesburg"; in the central depression, the number 1264; curved to fit the bottom third of the outer margin the word JUNIOR.

1906. For this year there are two badges. Each is suspended from a ring.

1. A brass ellipse 33 × 24 mm, in a decorative frame (at the top, a crown, with conventional drapes in the upper part of the sides); in the top half the TWC monogram in the same colours as in 1904; just below the centre the word JUNIOR in black, below this the date 1906 in yellow. The reverse bears the number 56, evidently stamped with two dies as the figures are neither on the same horizontal line nor in precisely the same orientation.

2. A 12-pointed star 25 mm in diameter; in the centre a yellow circle bearing the date 1906, surrounded by a black ring with the legend "C Wanderers C Club"; the points of the star are black, yellow and red enamel in each quadrant. The reverse bears the number 237, evidently punched with the same set of dies as used on the other badge.

1907. Again there are two badges, with the same suspension as before.

1. A decorated diamond shape 18,5 mm on a side, in brass, with a red enamelled centre bearing the TWC monogram; this surrounded by a black ring with the legend "! Junior 1907"; the four points of the diamond with red enamelled trefoils. Reverse: the number 150, uniform in style with the 1906 badges.

2. An approximately circular brass badge almost 24 mm in diameter bearing on it a red quatrefoil, in the centre of which is the TWC monogram in black, with broad brass edges. In each "leaf" of the quatrefoil, beginning on the left ("west", if it is seen as a compass rose), one digit of the date 1907. Reverse: the number 145, uniform with the preceding.

1908. An elongate, decorated quatrefoil 23 × 28 mm, bearing the TWC monogram in "early English" script; the outer area of background is in red enamel, the area enclosed in the monogram yellow, and the letter W black; on the lower yellow area the date 1908 in brass. Reverse: centre, the number 512 stamped as individual digits but not uniform with those of 1906—7; below, Henry Simpson's stamp (see 1905).



1909. A 14-petalled "flower" 25 mm in diameter; in the centre a red enamelled circle bisected by a broad yellow scroll bearing the date 1909, and surrounded by a black ring with the legend "! The Wanderers Club", starting and ending at the bottom centre; the 14 petals are alternately red enamel and brass with a central boss. Reverse: the number 492, centre, and at the bottom a stamp reading "Henry Simpson / Royal Arcade Buildings / Pritchard St / Johannesburg" in straight lines.

1910. Irregular, approximately circular, gilt brass, 26 mm in diameter; "Wanderers Club" on a red enamel ribbon, evidently intended to be black on the reverse, "1910" on a black stretch, "Johannesburg" in black on a brass stretch; at the top near the suspension ring an eight-petalled "flower"; two opposite red petals, two opposite black petals, the rest yellow, centre brass. Reverse: two stamps, the number 707 in the centre and "H. Lewis / 106 Mount S / London, W" below.

1911. Missing.

1912. Irregular, approximately shield-shaped, brass, max. 29 × 28 mm. On the sides and top, an ornate red-enamel scroll with the inscription "The / Wanderers / Club" on brass; curved around the bottom point the date 1912 on a black enamel background. On the central shield the charioteer motif in black on a plain brass background. Reverse: Two stamps, the number 405 in the centre and "B.M. Cotton & Co. / Johannesburg" below.

1913. Lozenge shaped, brass and enamel, 35 × 25 mm. On a central black enamel ellipse, the charioteer in brass; above on a yellow enamel triangle, the first part of the date "19", surrounded by a red enamel arch inscribed "The Wanderers"; below on similar backgrounds "13" and "Club". Reverse: the number 547, incuse at top and in relief, centre, "HENOCHSBERG'S LTD. / Anglo-Austrian / Corner / JOHANNESBURG".

1914. Round, bronze, 21 mm in diameter. On a central disc, a brass insert with the charioteer motif, the chariot and rope horizon in red enamel, charioteer and horses in black; on a ring supported by four arms (i.e. separated by cut-outs from the disc) the inscription "! The Wanderers Club ! / 1914", in relief, starting at about 7 o'clock. Reverse: centre, the number 573 incuse, in the lower part of the outer ring "Henochsbergs Ltd. Jewellers".

1915. A horizontal ellipse, bronze, 27 × 18 mm. On a central disc, presumably the same insert as for 1914 (missing); the outer band with relief inscription is separated from the disc by a red enamel cross on a white enamel field. The inscription, starting from the lower left quadrant, is divided into four by the arms of the cross "The / Wanderers / Club / 1915". Reverse: as for 1914, but with number 403.

1916. A vertical ellipse, bronze, 27 × 18 mm. Very similar to 1914 and 1915, with the same central disc; the cross un-enamelled, the field pierced, the inscription unchanged except for the date 1916. Reverse: centre, number 335 incuse, lower part of the outer ring "Vaughtons Ltd. / Birmingham" in two lines, relief.

1917, 1918. Both missing.

1919. A horizontal ellipse, bronze, 24,5 × 18 mm. In the centre, the date 1919, outer digits 4 mm high inner digits 7 mm; around this a garter bearing the inscription "The Wanderers' Club"; buckle and belt-end with two holes at the foot; suspension by a ring. Reverse: the number 649 incuse; digits 6 mm high.

1920. Round, bronze, 23 mm in diameter. Centre, an ornate shield bearing the date 1920 in relief; surrounded by a "stippled" ring with the legend ", , , The , Wanderers , Club , , " starting and ending at 6 o'clock. Reverse: the number 939, incuse.

1921. Irregular lozenge, bronze, max. 33 × 20 mm. Within an olive wreath, the charioteer, bronze below, sky-blue above; two red enamel scrolls separated by an inverted bronze horse-



shoe above, left scroll with "Wanderers", right with "! Club !"; bottom centre, a white panel with the date 1921. Reverse: centre, the number 757 incuse; below, "Fattorini & Sons/ Bradford", raised.

1922. Irregular hexagon, gilt brass, max. 29 × 26 mm. Centre, the charioteer in gilt brass, surrounded by an off-centre black enamel elliptical ring with "! The Wanderers Club ! / 1922", on a red enamel ground with a vertical lined underpattern and gilt rays inside the ring and arabesques outside. Reverse: centre, the number 680; below, "H. Jenkins / & Sons L.T.D. / Birm"; all incuse.

1923. Missing.

1924. Pointed ellipse, gilt brass, 30 × 22 mm. Below centre, the charioteer in gilt on a black enamel circle; the rest all gilt on a red enamel ground; immediately above the circle, the date 1924 in an irregular triangle, outside this "The Wanderers Club"; below the circle, an inverted fleur-de-lys. Reverse: centre, the number 438; below "Frank Baker & Sons LTD / B'ham Eng."; all incuse. A brass chain with terminal T-piece for attachment to a buttonhole is attached by a removable ring to the suspension ring.

1925. Irregular ellipse, gilt brass, max. 32,5 × 22 mm. Centre, the charioteer in gilt on an irregular black enamel ground, surrounded by a gilt area of irregular, decorative shape, inside an elliptical red enamel band; upper half, the words "The Wanderers", lower left, "Club", lower right, "1925"; four spaces between this band and the central piece pierced. Reverse: centre, the number 475; below, "B&P"; both incuse.

1926. Irregular ellipse, gilt brass, max. 29 × 28 mm. Below centre, the charioteer in gilt relief on an elliptical ground, surrounded by a red enamel garter with the club name; above, the date 1926 in red enamel on an approximately rectangular gilt ground; top, a black enamel ribbon without legend. Reverse: in 4 lines near the base, the numerals much larger than the rest, "423 / H. Jenkins / & Sons LTD / Birm"; all incuse. (the collection contains a second copy of this badge, no. 921)

1927. Round, gilt brass, 29,5 mm in diameter. Centre, a gilt quatrefoil with the charioteer in relief on a stipple-textured background, surrounded by a red enamel field; on this from 7 o'clock to 5 o'clock, a black band with "! The Wanderers Club !"; between the ends of this, a gilt panel with the date 1927. Reverse: in 4 lines near the base, the numerals much larger than the rest, "446 / H. Jenkins / & Sons LTD / Birm"; all incuse. A knotted loop of plain red braid is threaded through the suspension ring.

1928. Irregular pentagon, gilt brass, max. 32 × 28 mm. Centre, a gilt irregular hexagon with the charioteer on a stipple-textured background, surrounded by a black enamel field; above, a red enamel ribbon with "The / Wanderers / Club" in gilt; below, a rectangular red panel with decorative edges and the date 1928 in gilt. Reverse: in 4 lines near the base, the numerals much larger than the rest, "554 / H. Jenkins / & Sons LTD / Birm"; all incuse.

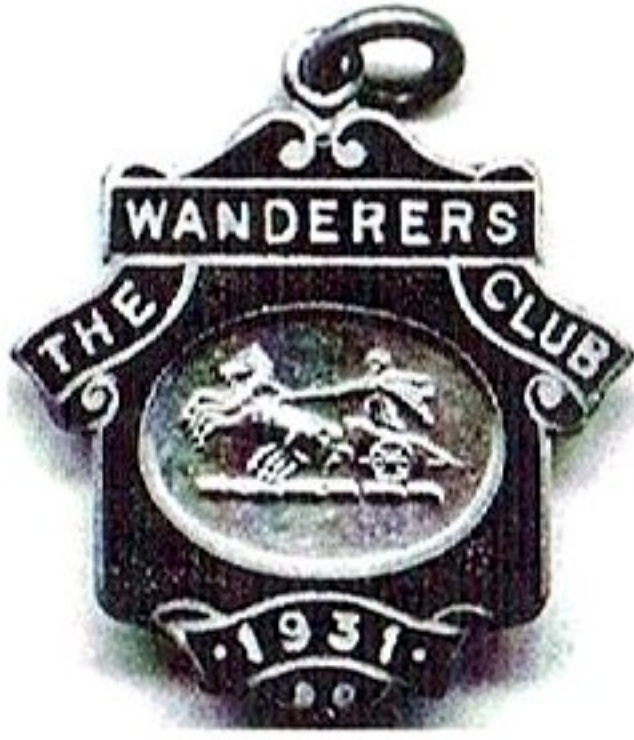
1929. Square, gilt brass, 24,5 mm square. Centre, a gilt quatrefoil with the charioteer on a plain background, surrounded by a black enamel field; on this a red stipple-textured ring with "The Wanderers Club +!+ " in gilt; in each corner one digit of the date in gilt on a red line-texture trefoil. Reverse: slightly above centre, "H. Jenkins / & Sons LTD / Birm."; at base the number 450; all incuse.

1930. Round with a decorative border, gilt brass, max. 30,5 × 29,5 mm. Centre, an irregular gilt shape with the charioteer on a plain background, surrounded by a narrow black enamel field, this surrounded by a red enamel ring, broken at the sides by a black ribbon with two digits of the date on each side; above, "Wanderers", below, "! Club !"; a black coronet at each corner, a gilt fleur-de-lys at the bottom, at the top a red label "The", connected to the ring by a



narrow black band, all on a gilt surround. Reverse: in 4 lines near the base, the numerals much larger than the rest, "440 / H. Jenkins / & Sons LTD / Birm"; all incuse.

1931. Irregular rectangle, gilt brass, max. 30 × 30 mm. Centre, the charioteer in gilt on an ellipse; field outside the ellipse red enamel; top, in gilt on a black enamel "ribbon" extending beyond the outline of the rectangle, "The / Wanderers / Club"; bottom, on a similar band, "! 1931 !"; field below this band black. Reverse: in 4 lines near the base, the numerals much larger than the rest, "544 / H. Jenkins / & Sons LTD / Birm"; all incuse.



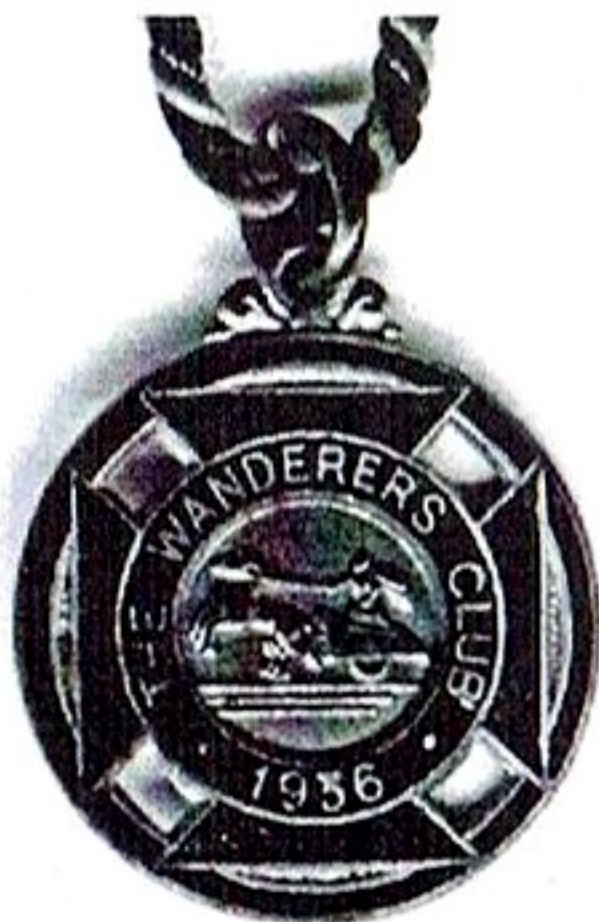
1932. Irregular ellipse, gilt brass, max. 28,5 × 27 mm. Centre, the charioteer in gilt on a decorated rectangle with curved top, outer field black enamel with gilt arabesques; above, on a red enamel "ribbon", "The / Wanderers / Club", below, on a red enamel circle in gilt, the date 1932. Reverse: in three lines near the top, "The / Goldsmiths' Alliance / Johannesburg"; near the bottom, the number 419; all incuse.

1933. Irregular, between circular and shield-shaped, gilt brass, max. 30 × 34 mm. Centre, the charioteer, gilt, on an ellipse; unusually the gilt ground has a cloth-like texture; surrounding this a red enamel ellipse with the legend "+ ! The Wanderers Club !" starting at the bottom; outer ground black enamel with red details, and the date numerals in corners, starting in the "north-west". Reverse: above centre, the number 295; at the base in three lines, "H. Jenkins / & Sons LTD / Birm."; all incuse.

1934. Round, gilt brass, 21 mm diam. Centre, the charioteer on a gilt disc, attached to the outer ring by four legs at the cardinal points; outer ring, top 3/4 red enamel, with "The Wanderers Club" in gilt, lower quarter black enamel with the date 1934. Reverse: centre, the number 557, incuse. This and the 1920 badge are the only anonymously made ones in this series. A loop of triple braid (two red strands, one black) is threaded through the suspension ring.

1935. Irregular square, gilt brass, max. 22 × 24 mm. Centre, the charioteer on a gilt irregular trefoil, outer ground red enamel, the upper part with a radiate under-pattern, below with stippled under-pattern; superimposed on this above, a black enamel horseshoe-shape, with "! The Wanderers Club !", below a black rectangle with the date 1935. Reverse: centre, the number 439; at the base in three lines, "H. Jenkins / & Sons LTD / Birm"; all incuse. A loop of braid like that of the previous year is threaded through the suspension ring.

1936. Round, gilt brass, 29 mm diameter. Centre, the charioteer (here apparently female) on a round gilt field; surrounding this a black enamel ring with "! The Wanderers Club ! / 1936"; these superimposed on a red enamel maltese cross, the tips of the arms touching an outer black ring, the spaces between the arms voided. Reverse: in four lines near the top, "The / Goldsmiths' / Alliance / Johannesburg", raised; centre, the number 852; incuse. A loop of triple braid (yellow, red and black) is threaded through the suspension ring.



1937. Missing.

1938. Gentlemen's. Octagonal, gilt, 28 × 27 mm. Centre, the charioteer on a square gilt field, the base of which is partly raised; outer ground red enamel with the date "1938" in the upper part; in the upper half a partly inset black enamel marginal panel with the words "The Wanderers Club" in gilt. Re-



verse: in three lines at foot "H. Jenkins / & Sons LTD. / Birm."; centre, the number 824, all incuse. A loop of bicoloured triple braid like that used in 1934 is threaded through the suspension ring.

Ladies': The same pattern reduced to 19 mm, on a red enamel bar 5 mm wide, with a total length of 45 mm. Reverse: a pin and clasp soldered on to the bar, forming a brooch; the same maker's mark and, at the top of the octagon, the number 2353. As neither the spacing nor the level of the digits is uniform, one deduces that they were struck individually by hand.

1939—1948. All missing.

1948. Ladies': The entire badge is struck in relief and is gilt; there is no enamelling. It is in the form of an irregular rectangular brooch with maximum dimensions 45 × 18 mm. The dominant feature is a horizontal rectangular panel bearing the word "Wanderers"; crossing this in a vertical rectangle with the word "The" above and the charioteer below; on either side of the charioteer irregular panels with the word "Club" left and the date "1948" right. Reverse: the same maker's mark as in 1938, and above, the number 2775.

## 2. Noel Glen's badges

1933. As above, no. 698.

1935. As above, no. 540.

1936. As above, no. 741.

1937. Irregular rectangular (a delightfully period piece of *art deco*), gilt brass, maximum dimensions 23 × 27 mm. Obverse: from the top, a black rectangle 19 × 1,5 mm, a red rectangle 27 × 9,5 mm with horizontal ribs under the transparent enamel, enclosing a rectangular gilt panel 16 × 7,5 mm with the charioteer; a decorated rectangle max. 19 × 14 mm; on this a black panel 10 × 12 mm (18 mm in the second line) bearing the inscription "The / Wanderers / Club / 1937", red background with vertical ribs above, stippled below, and a black rectangle 11 × 2 mm. Reverse: in the charioteer panel, the incuse number 1311; in the next-to-lowest panel the maker's mark "H. JENKINS / & SONS LTD / BIRM". Suspension by a cord of 1934-type braid.

1938. As above, no. 1367.

1939. This badge alone survives in the box in which it was supplied. The box is white cardboard, 54mm square × 14 mm deep, with an adhesive paper label (fig. 00). The badge is gilt brass, in the form of a Maltese cross 29 mm square, each arm triangular, to 23 mm wide, separated from its neighbours by slots 10,5 × 1–2 mm, arms red enamel with stipple underlayer, upper 3 each inscribed with one word of "The / Wanderers / Club", central boss circular, gilt, 15 mm in diameter, with the charioteer; bottom arm of the cross with a black enamel panel 12 × 4 mm below, bearing the date 1939. Reverse: in the centre, number 1468 incuse, digits 3–3,5 mm high, not perfectly aligned; at the foot of the cross the maker's stamp "H. JENKINS / & SONS LTD / BIRM". Suspension by a cord of 1934-type braid.

1940. Round brass, 30 mm diameter. Obverse: a red enamel ring with stipple underlay, bearing the inscription (starting at 7 o'clock) "! The Wanderers Club ! 1940"; inside this a round brass panel with the charioteer, the area below the rope base being black enamel. Re-



verse: centre, the incuse number 1444, digits 4 mm high, and below this the maker's mark "LAMBOURNES / BIRMINGHAM". Suspension by a cord of tricoloured braid.

1947. Dark bronze, ornate shield shape, maximum dimensions 35 × 28 mm. Obverse: in the centre a rectangular panel 15 × 9,5 mm with the charioteer; above, the legend "The / Wanderers"; below, "Club / 1947". Reverse: At the top the maker's stamp "H. JENKINS / & SONS LTD / BIRM"; in the centre the number 112, digits c. 3,2 mm tall. Suspension by a cord of plain red braid.

1948. Paler bronze than the 1947 badge, 18 × 34 mm, similar in form to the 1948 ladies' badge described above but mounted for suspension from a cord of plain red braid. Reverse: no. 686.

1958. Round brass 24 mm in diameter. Obverse: in the upper 3/4, a black enamel band inside dot-and-dash edging, bearing the legend "The Wanderers Club"; below, a red enamel band with stipple underlay bearing the legend "! 1958 !" separated from this by small areas of plain brass with stipple underlay; in the centre, the charioteer on a white enamel background, the charioteer's clothing and alternate twists of the rope below red enamel. Reverse: above centre the number 944 incuse, digits 3 mm high; below centre the maker's mark in relief, the top line curved "PRETORIA BADGE / & S.S. / BOX 2151". There is a ring at the top for the cord, which has not survived.

Associated with this group is a 1947 ladies' badge; I believe it to have been my mother's, though there is no incontrovertible evidence for this. This badge is the same colour as the gentlemen's badge for this year, but made up as a brooch of irregular shape, maximum dimensions 41 × 24 mm. Obverse: top, "The", above a panel 15,5 × 7,5 mm with the charioteer; below this the inscription "Wanderers Club / 1947" in two lines. Reverse: top, Jenkins's mark; behind the pin the number 2073.

### 3. Competition badge awarded to Edith Sanderson (Tredgold).

The badge is of bronze, in an ornate and irregular shape, maximum dimensions 28 × 28 mm. Obverse: the club monogram "TWC" in ornate Victorian Gothic letters, with a ribbon bearing the name of the club below. Reverse: evidently supplied plain; the legend (lines in bold are curved) "**W.G.C. / 7 Annual L / Free Exercises Competition / ! Ladies ! / 7 2nd L / Miss E. Sanderson. / 7 1914 L**". This is attached by a chain of 3 rings to a black ribbon 27,5 mm wide, with yellow and red stripes 2 mm wide, 7 mm in from the edges. It is housed in a plush-lined box of the kind normally used for military medals and proof sets.

### Discussion & conclusions

It would be interesting to know when the Wanderers Club started and stopped issuing these badges, and why. The present membership token is a plastic card similar in shape, size and general appearance to a credit card.

Evidence of the badges themselves, confirmed by my mother, shows that the gentlemen's badges were designed to be suspended by the braid from the buttonhole of a jacket. This does make the brass chain on the 1924 badge anomalous; could it have been an individual solution



to the problem of a frayed braid? Ladies' badges were made as brooches, often but not always of the same design as the gentlemen's badge of the same year. It would seem, therefore, that a complete collection of these badges would include up to four (ladies' and gentlemen's; junior and adult) for each year.

One deduces from the numbers on the badges that relatively few, at least of the earlier ones, were made. In all probability an even smaller proportion of these have survived, conferring a degree of rarity on those which have. As the "serial" numbers change from year to year, it seems that the badges were issued in order of receipt of subscriptions, and that these numbers are not membership numbers assigned to a specific person. On the other hand, if one could determine the name of the person to whom a specific badge was assigned, this would make a collection a personal relic like a group of medals, and give it some of the same interest. Comparison with two Witwatersrand Agricultural Society badges and one S.A.W.A.S. badge found with Edith Tredgold's pair indicates that incuse numbering by separate dies for each digit was standard practice among societies using metal badges. The numbers on Harold Sanderson's and Aunt Edith's badges indicate that ladies' badges were given higher serial numbers than gentlemen's.

The changes in maker and in Henry Simpson's address throw an interesting sidelight on the early social history of Johannesburg. One may also deduce that the manufacture of the badges was put out to tender each year, and different tenderers were successful at different times.

As far as is known this is the first published attempt at a catalogue of these badges. One hopes that the existence of this incomplete account will inspire the publication of sufficient notes to allow a complete account to be written. Such an account would, it is hoped, encourage collectors to pay attention to this facet of Johannesburg's history.

The competition badge is interesting, in that it is dated to four years after the adoption of the charioteer motif, yet it displays only the earlier monogram. One assumes that a supply of badges was made before 1910, and the committee, not wishing to spend money unnecessarily, continued using the obsolete design until the stock was used up. The presentation of this badge is very like a military medal, and raises the questions of when one would wear it, and where would it go on an occasion when military medals are also worn.

### Acknowledgements

My mother, for keeping and passing on this interesting collection of badges to me, for explanation of their use, and for the subscribers' copy of Gutsche (1966), which originally belonged to H.J. Sanderson. Thanks are due to Peter Wilson for encouragement in writing and publishing this note.

### References

Gutsche, T. 1966. *Old Gold: The History of the Wanderers Club*. Timmins, Cape Town.



# Telately - A Complimentary Hobby

by Dawie Schwartz

## 1 The Name

Coin Collectors call themselves Numismatists and Stamp Collectors, Philatelists, but the new study and collection of Smart Cards has no universally accepted name.

The Americans came up with the word Telegery for phonecard collecting and for a collector, Telegerist. These can be translated into the Latin Telegeria and Telegerista, but in most languages including English it remains difficult on the tongue. In the Germanic languages the "ry" ending creates translations that sometimes sounds very strange. These are probably the reasons why Telegery is not accepted internationally.

If we look at the meaning of Philately from the Greek *philo* + *ateleia* which is "Page (or document) that gives exemption (of payment)" then it could be equally be applicable to phonecards, because the name implies, just as with stamps, that the phonecard exempts you from using money to pay for a service.

In both cases the service is communication, with stamps it is written communication and with phonecards it is generally verbal communication. So there is a strong case to classify the collection of phonecards together with the collection of stamps and call it Philately.

Most collectors of both stamps and phonecards however feel that the differences between them are so big that they merit different classifications and thus names.

With stamps the material is paper and the mode is transport, with phonecards the material is plastic and the mode is telecommunications.

In South Africa phonecard collectors have opted in 1998 for the name Telately, not only for Phonecards but for all Smart Cards. Some collectors in Australia, Brazil, the Caribbean, Cyprus, Europe, Greece and Slovakia have followed suit and the first Conferences using the name Telately have been held in South Africa in 1999 and in Brazil in 2001.

The name is derived by combining the Greek *tele*, which have the connotation of "over a distance" with *ateleia* to get Telately, pronounced te-la-te-lee, with the meaning "Exemption (of payment) for (communication) over a distance" and which, with the derivative Telatelist, is much easier on both the tongue and the ear. It is, like the words Philately and Philatelist, easily translated into other languages and also gives a hint of the similarity between stamps and phonecards.

Because of the "over a distance" connotation it includes, except for phonecards, also remote phonecards, simcards, phone credit and debit cards, credit cards, bank ATM and debit cards as well as shop cards and any other card that communicate over wires, telephone or radio to a computer.

Although historically Telately has a close affinity to Philately, the development of "Purse or Cash Cards", mainly by Visa, has moved this aspect of Telately towards Numismatics. The Purse Cards are taking over the role of coins and notes, and could in the electronic future replace them altogether. The question will then be whether they fall under Telately or Numismatics. The position of Credit and Debit Cards is also not that clear, because it is also a form of money that is replacing cash.



## 2 Smart Card Technologies:

### 2.1 Magnetic Cards:

The first technology used in smart cards was a magnetic strip across the length of the card, usually to one side. This technology is still used extensively in credit cards and ATM cards. Quite a few variations in magnetic technology occur however. The first phonecards used in Italy had the magnetic strip across the breadth of the card, but they were not popular and were later replaced.



Different widths of the magnetic strip occur, some are placed in the centre of the card and others are covered by printing over them.

GPT in the U.K. developed their own unique system consisting originally of 7 rectangular magnetic pads, which were later reduced to 5.

### 2.2 Optical Cards:

One of the first technologies was the optical system developed by Landis & Gyr of Switzerland with their biggest client being British Telecom.



For higher value cards, two optical strips were used, one on each side of the card.

### 2.3 Chip Cards:

Chip technology was developed by Bull of France and has become the most popular system for phonecards in the world with the exception of the USA.

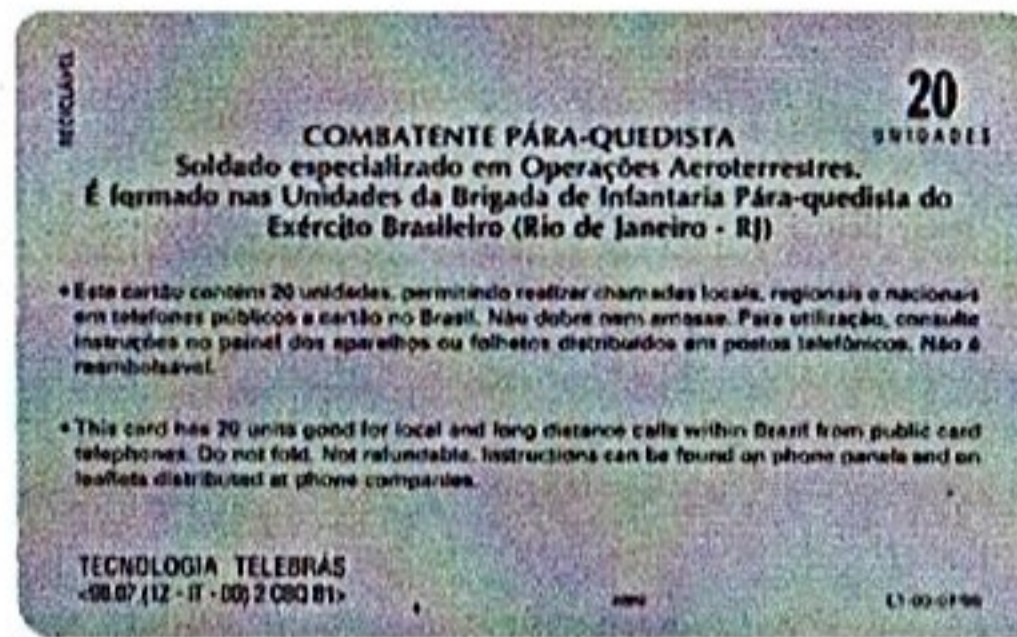


Today you find the most bewildering range of variations in the design of the chip contact strip, with gold, silver and nickel used for the plating.



## 2.4 Passive Inductive:

In Brazil they used a passive inductive system that uses metal ladders imbedded in the card. The rungs are melted as the call continues, thus measuring the time used.



It is difficult to distinguish this type of card from the magnetic cards with covered tracks.

## 2.5 Active Inductive Cards:

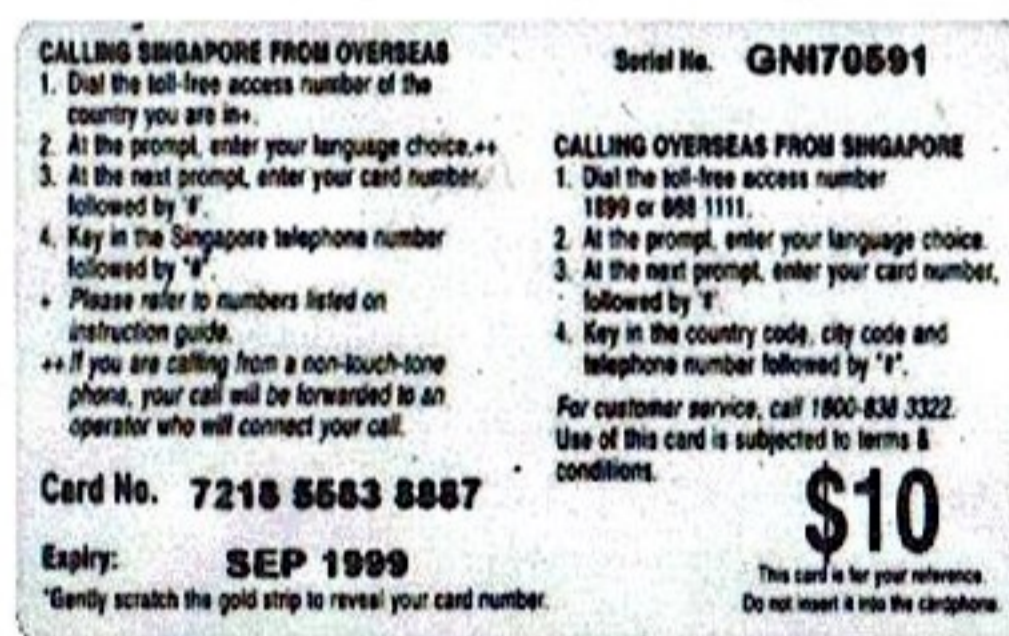
These cards have a chip with a loop antenna embedded in the card. There are no electrical contacts and the chip is interrogated inductively by the reader.



These cards can only be identified by the peculiar broken off corner.

## 2.6 Remote Cards:

Remote cards do not store information on the card. All the information is stored in a remote computer that can be activated by dialling in the pin or control number.



A variety of remote phonecards exists. For most of them you must dial your contact telephone number, but some have a magnetic strip that does only the dialling, not the insertion of the pin. All call recharge vouchers as used on mobile cellphones and also on Telkom's PrepaidFone are a variety of remote phonecards.

## 3 Types of Cards:

As in Numismatics where coin collecting is predominant, in Telately it is phonecard



collecting that is the most popular, with other smart cards coming a poor second. The following type classification is for phonecards but is equally applicable to other smart cards.

### 3.1 Sample Cards:

Cards submitted by a card supplier [CS] to a network operator [NO] or other potential clients, but without a card reading instrument or possibility for evaluation.

### 3.2 Demonstration Cards:

Cards demonstrated by a CS on their own card reading instrument(s) at any venue, including their own premises.

### 3.3 Evaluation Cards:

Cards submitted by a CS to a NO for technical evaluation of either the card reader or the cards themselves. This includes such items as Telkom Tender Phonecards which were supplied with cardphones and also cards submitted to a telephone NO without a cardphone, but with the NO's own mapping for technical evaluation on its own cardphones.

### 3.4 Trial Cards:

Cards issued to users not associated with the evaluation entity, to use and report back on problems encountered in the use of the cards. Trials can be held by a NO on their own system, or by a CS with specially installed card readers for a NO in his user's area.

### 3.5 Production Cards:

Cards manufactured for a NO for use on its network.

### 3.6 Test Cards:

Cards used to boot, load, or test a card reading instrument by a CS or NO.

### 3.7 Simcards:

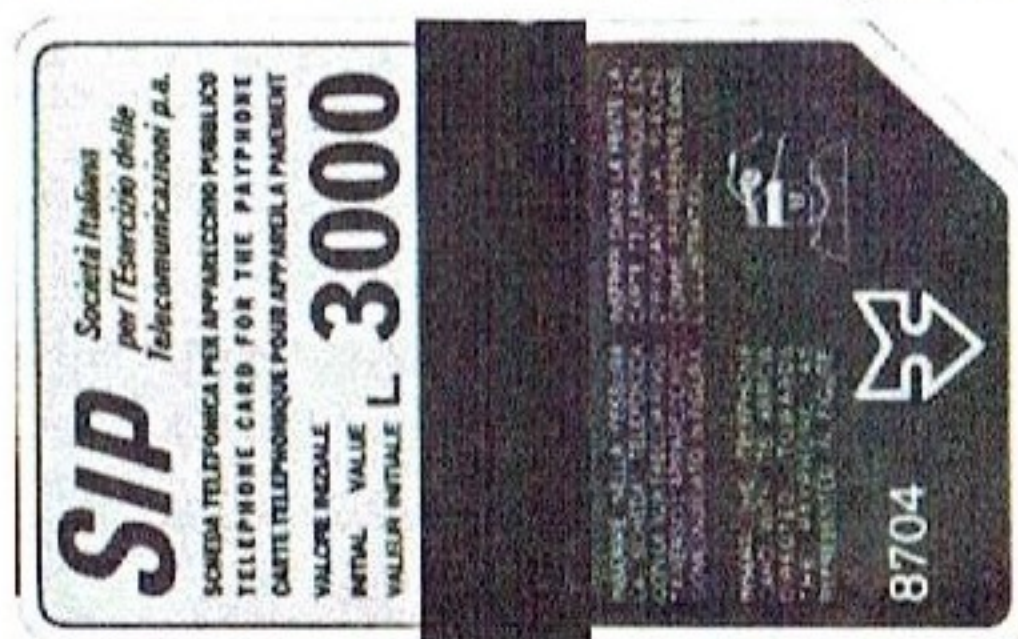
Subscriber Identification Module cards are used in telephone instruments to identify them to the operating system, but plays no role in the making of individual calls. They are not limited to GSM systems and are also used on Analog Radio Telephone and Fixed Line Telephone systems.

## 4 Phonocard History:

### 4.1 The Beginning:

The first phonecard issued and sold to the public was Italian. It was issued in 1976 but no one at the time thought it was the start of a new hobby that within twenty years would attract about six million collectors in Asia and nearly two million in Europe.

Prepaid phonecards were born in Italy, during the autumn of 1975. A number of telephones accepting prepaid cards, as well as vending machines for the cards, were installed at the beginning of 1976 in the *Villa Borghese* area of Rome. Interestingly enough, the company involved, SIDA, was not in the telecommunications industry, but was a manufacturer of vending machines.



Manufactured by Pikappa, the very first Italian cards proved unsatisfactory, as they were too thin and jammed the vending machines. The first cards showed no face value, but had



carrying units valued at L50 (50 lira) detailed on the reverse side. The cards, like the later ones manufactured by Urmet, have a corner to be detached before using, so it is easy to distinguish a mint from a used card. Only the very first card didn't have the detachable corner.

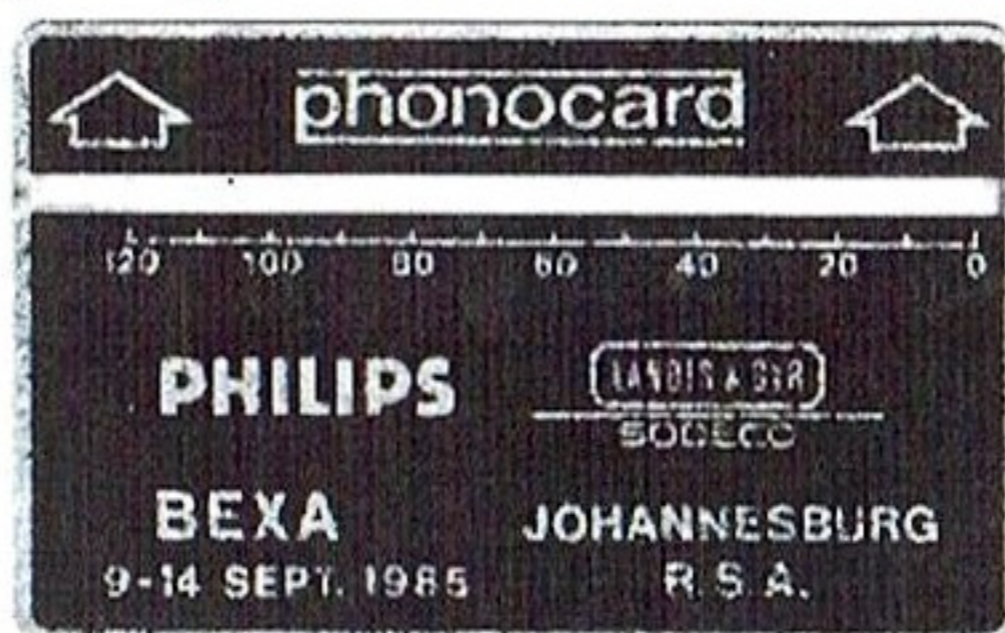
Today, Italy is third only to Japan and China in the use of prepaid phonecards.

#### 4.2 The SAP&T Trials:

In South Africa the Department of Posts and Telecommunications always had the problem that their coin operated telephones were vandalised and the money boxes stolen.

The P&T Senior Director in charge of Public Telephones in 1985, Dennis Hurrell came to the conclusion that phonecard technology had developed to such an extent that P&T should consider the implementation of an optical system which he considered superior in security to other systems.

To promote the optical system, it was exhibited by Philips at the Bexa exhibition in Johannesburg from 9 to 14 September 1985. For this event a special phonecard was produced to the standard Landis & Gyr design with the names of the three companies on them.



This is the famous South African Bexa "Phonocard", light blue in colour with 120 units on a narrow white optical strip.

After extensive evaluation it was eventually decided that the system was too expensive for local manufacture and agreement could also not be reached on the export by P&T of a locally manufactured system.

Dennis Hurrell decided early in 1986 to look for a cheaper solution to the P&T requirement. Telkor was at the time the supplier of a locally manufactured, coin operated public telephone, the TSA3, and they were approached to submit proposals for a magnetic phone-card system.

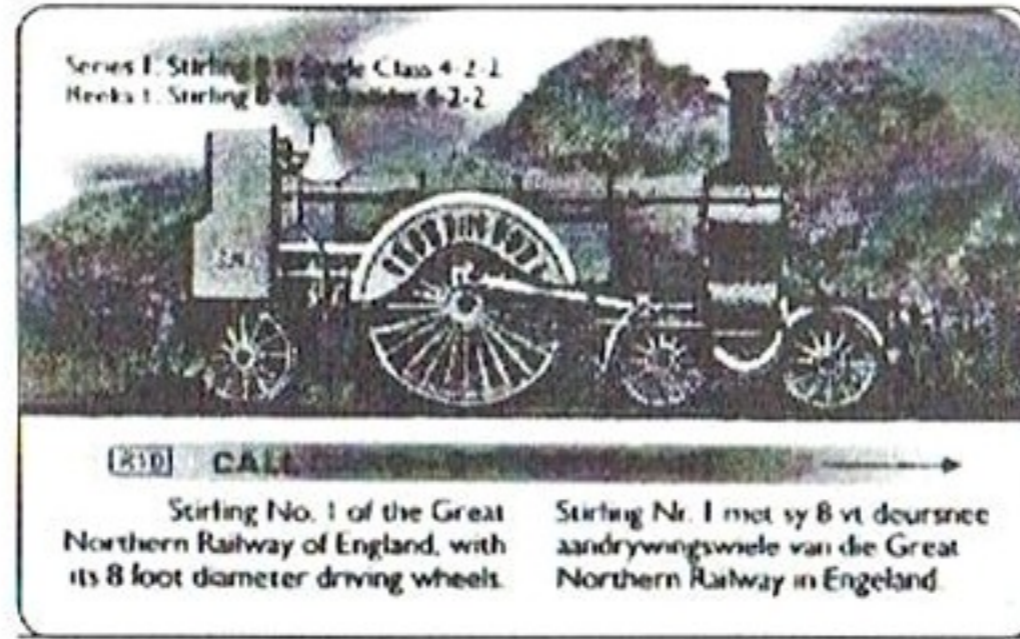
The P&T/Telkor Liaison Committee that was originally formed for the coin operated telephone, took control of this operation. All development and testing was done by Telkor but the Liaison Committee monitored and controlled the project.

Telkor first offered to incorporate the Anritsu technology, a low coercivity magnetic phonecard system (300 Oersted) into their TSA3 and manufacture the new product locally. The security level of the Anritsu system proved inadequate and it was decided to look at the Plessey/GEC magnetic phonecard technology, a high coercivity system (3600 Oersted).

A few cardphones and some Plessey parking meter cards were evaluated and the Liaison Committee decided to carry on with a trial phase and an order for 100 telephone instruments with GEC card readers was placed on Telkor and a few months later the first 5 units, incorporating the flatbed reader, were delivered from GEC with 1000 magnetic phonecards manufactured by Plessey.

These cards had a design of a Stirling locomotive submitted by Dave King of Telkor. These cards had a face value of R10 and had no control numbers.





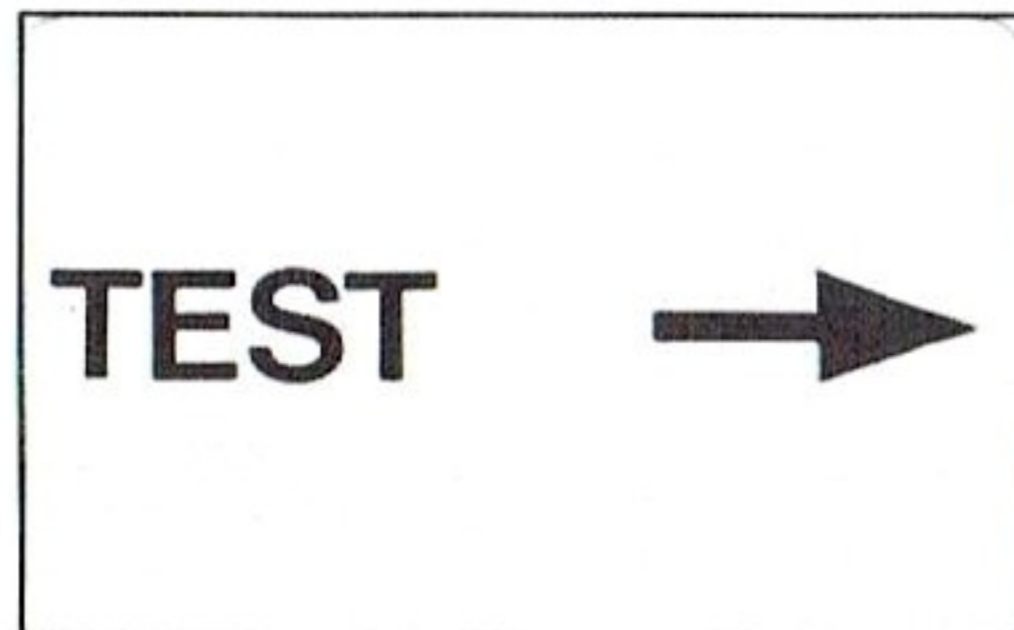
Two of the cardphones were installed at the Polkol Post Office at the Police Training College in Pretoria and the phonecards were given out to students to evaluate the use of the cards.

This evaluation was conducted during the first half of 1987 and after completion approximately 800 phonecards were recovered by Telkor; these eventually landed in the hands of collectors.

P&T was in the meantime doing their own design for the next lot of phonecards. These designs were done by Gerhard Mynhard and were based on the GEC black parking meter cards used in the initial evaluation. These are today commonly known as the "P&T black" phonecards.



An order for 200000 phonecards to P&T's design and 500 white technicians cards with the word "Test" and an arrow in black was placed on Telkor and supplied by Plessey.



The first phonecards delivered had no control numbers but later cards had the date of manufacture on them. A few cards were however supplied with experimental control numbers i.e. small incised numbers with the prefix 8E and a 4 digit number in the handset on the obverse of the card.

With the arrival of the first cards, 2 to 3 telephones were installed at the following places:

- 1 Pretoria - 8 sites.
- 2 Cape Town - 2 sites
- 3 Jan Smuts Airport.



- 4 Johannesburg Railway Station.
- 5 Durban Louis Botha Airport.
- 6 Bloemfontein 4 Parachute Battalion.
- 7 Middelburg at a coal mine
- 8 Walfish Bay was planned, but never implemented.
- 9 Witwatersrand Agricultural Show in 1989 and briefly at some other electronic orientated exhibitions.

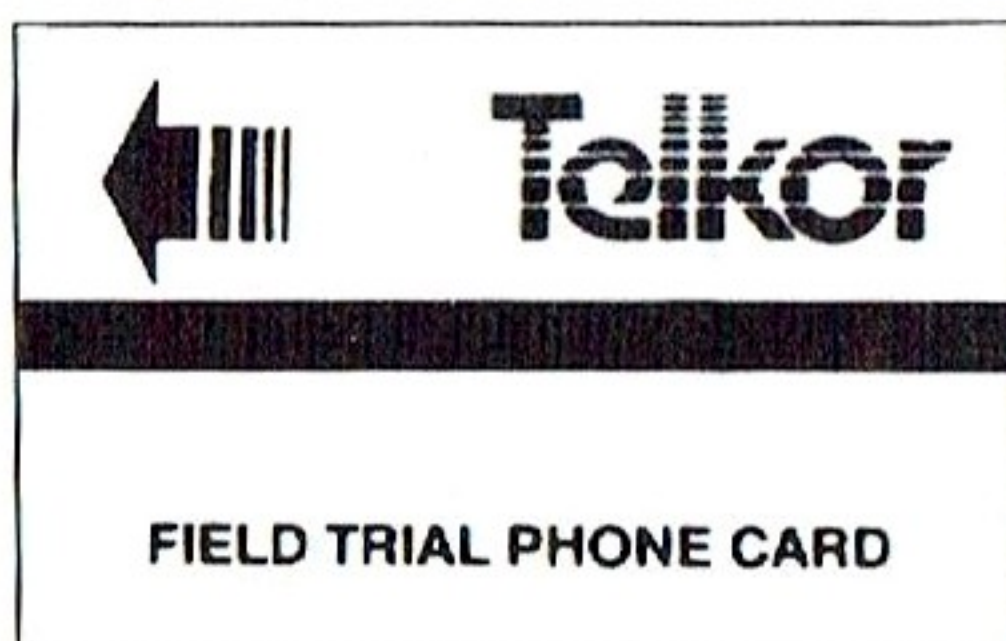
Problems were experienced with both the phones and the cards. Early in 1990 it was decided that due to the difficulties in maintaining the equipment away from Pretoria, to withdraw all equipment from other centers and concentrate them all in Pretoria.

A second order for 200000 phonecards was placed on Telkor and supplied by GEC-Plessey Telecommunications (GPT) who had taken over the phonecard activities of both GEC and Plessey. These phonecards were all with control numbers on the reverse with thick white laminations and they had less technical problems than the cards of the first order.

To maintain the cardphones some had to be cannibalised to repair others and in the end Telkor could not deliver 100 cardphones and the order had to be amended to 80.

Because of the problems experienced with the Plessey/GEC system, Telkor proposed their own high coercivity system which they had developed in the meantime. This consisted of thin plastic magnetic cards and a "wrap-around" reader that bent the card round the reading head in a 180 degree arc.

They produced some R10 white cards with the Telkor logo in red and FIELD TRIAL PHONE CARD in black on the reverse, with no value and control numbers, which were intended for field trials but were eventually only used for technical evaluation.



P&T approved that trials be conducted at the Police Training College. The trial phonecards used were designed with both the P&T and Telkor logo on a blue R5 and on orange R5 and R10 cards, all without control numbers.



The trials started on 1 April 1991 and the company experimented with different thicknesses of plastic as well as with plasticised paper to bring the cost of the cards down. Telkor provided the technicians with test cards to maintain the system.



The first type had the Telkor logo and TECHNICIAN CARD in black on the reverse.



Three more technicians cards were used all being variations of existing cards , either with a label stuck on or handwritten to indicate its function.

#### **4.3 The Telkom Trials:**

On 1 October 1991 P&T was split up into two companies, the Post Office and Telkom SA. Telkom decided to terminate the Magnetic Phonecard Project and to go out on a general tender.

Telkom however granted an extension to Telkor for the magnetic trials and different cards with new designs with only the Telkor logo on them were evaluated at the Police Training College well into 1992.

Early in 1992 Telkom called for tenders for both cardphones and cards, specifying the operational parameters, without limiting it to either magnetic, optic or a chip based system. It was a requirement of the tender that a minimum of 50 operational cards and one cardphone be submitted for testing.

Eleven tenders were received, some of them offering more than one option. During the Tender evaluation period the tenderers were requested to make a presentation of their offers, during which sample phonecards were handed over to members of the evaluating team. All these cards are rare and very popular with advanced telatelists.

After the evaluation of the tenders, Telkom drew up a short list of four tenderers for the field trial phase of the tender. The following tenderers were given a Field Trial Phonecard Design and requested to submit 10 000 cards of R10 or 35 units each with this design for field trials:

- 1 Grinaker Electronics with their GN communications offer.
- 2 The Telumat division of Plessey with their Landis & Gyr offer.
- 3 Telephone Manufacturers of SA with their GPT offer and
- 4 Telkor with their own offer based on the Gemplus chip card.

The field trials were scheduled from July until November 1992. When the trials started Telkom asked all tenderers to submit an additional 500 cards loaded with either R3.00 or 10 units. These cards were issued to the Telkom staff involved with the evaluation to use on the system. Somehow or other, probably because of time scales, Temsa never submitted such a card.

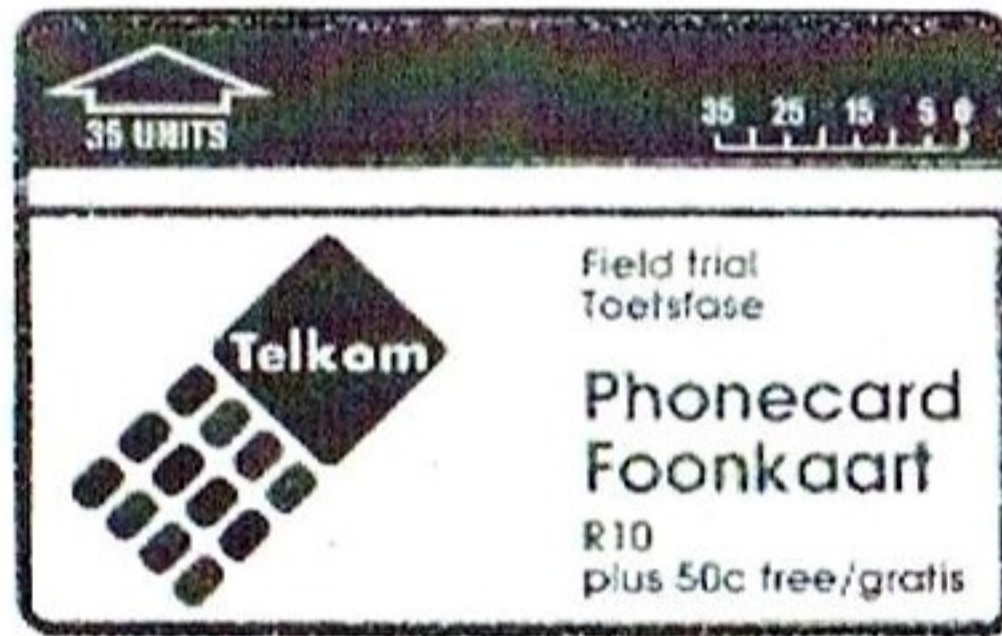
The cards that were evaluated at the field trials were the following:

- 1 Grinel:
  - 1.1 R10 Magnetic Card with the Telkom design on the obverse and a magstripe and control 0000-00XXXX on the reverse.





- 1.2 R3 Magnetic Card with Telkom design and control 0001-000XXX.  
 2 Plessey:  
 2.1 35 unit Optical Card with a modified Telkom design and an



optical strip on the obverse and control 207A0XXXX incised at the bottom reverse.

- 2.2 10 unit Optical Card with similar design and control 27A00XXX incised in same position.  
 3 Temsa:  
 3.1 R10 Chip Card with the Telkom design on the obverse and control TEL00000XXXX and chip on a black reverse.



- 4 Telkor:  
 4.1 R10 Chip Card with the Telkom design on the obverse and the chip, a large reddish orange CCP1 and control 0000XXXXX on the reverse.



- 4.2 10 units Chip Card with the Cape Peninsula on the obverse and a completely modified



Telkom design with the chip and no control on the reverse.

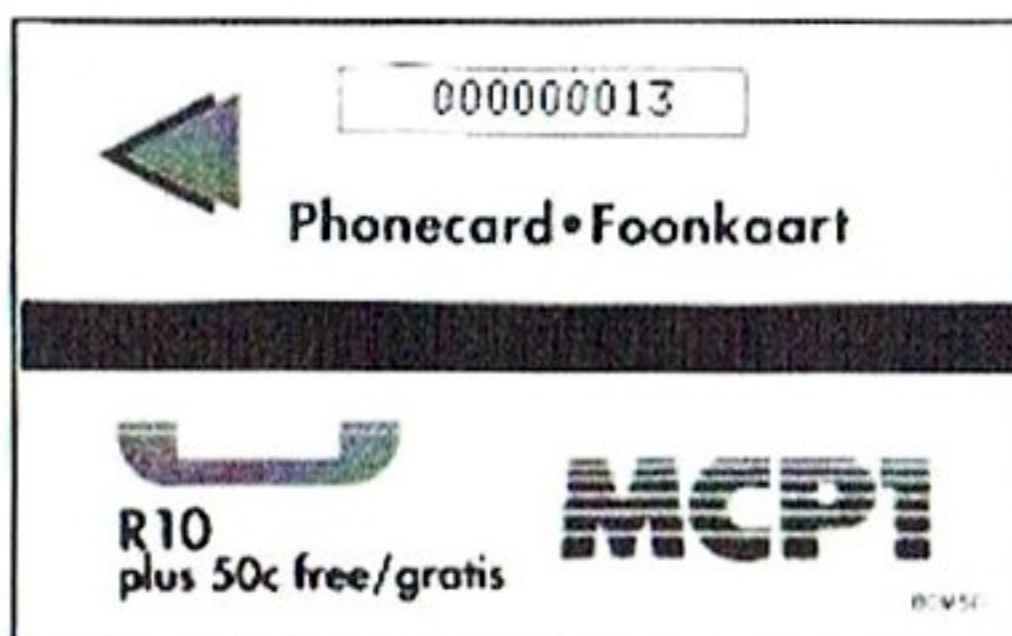


Telkor felt very strongly that chip phonecards were too expensive for the South African market so they submitted an unsolicited magnetic trial card on thin plastic.

Telkom received 100 numbered cards and the balance without numbers they trialed at the Police Training College themselves and submitted the results to Telkom.

In terms of the Tender Regulations this offer could however not be considered, because it was not on the short list. This card is however also listed because it was part of the history of the Telkom 1992 Trials and eagerly collected:

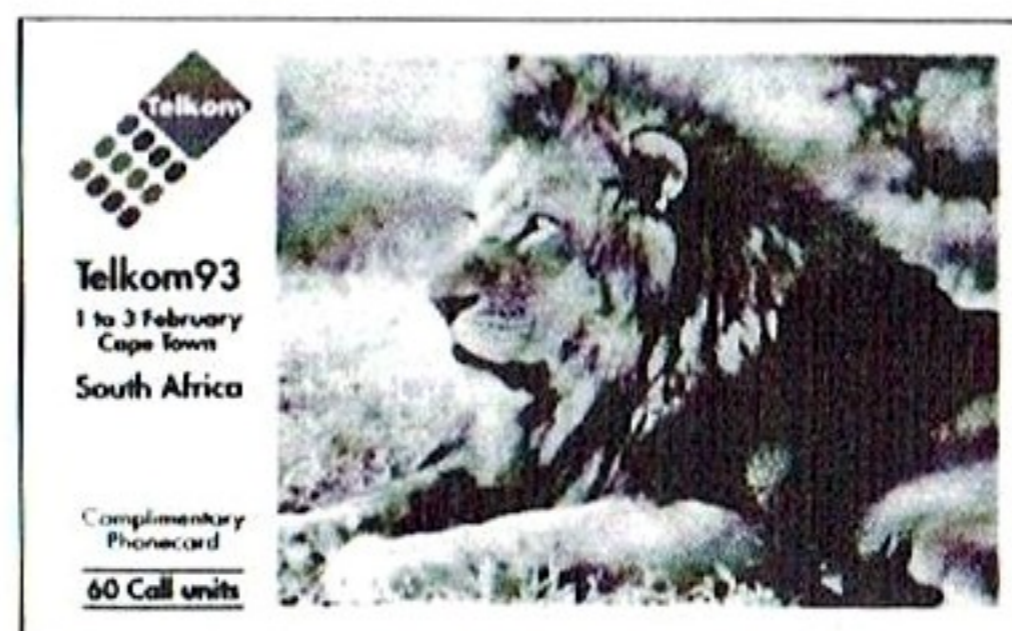
4.3 R10 Thin Magnetic Card with Telkom design on obverse and narrow magstripe, a large red MCP1 and control 000000XX on the reverse.



The balance of these phonecards do not have a control in the black square.

By August 1992 Telkom had already decided to go for the chip technology and they decided to unveil their new system during the Telkom '93 Conference and Exhibition in February 1993 with a complimentary phonecard.

They gave both tenderers with a chipcard offer, Telkor and Temsa, a design with a "resting lion" and logo with a request to quote for 2000 cards.



Indications are that due to the limited time before Telkom '93 both companies started manufacturing the cards before the tender was allocated. Temsa was however the successful tenderer and supplied the following card to with control TEL0000XXXX to Telkom and it was issued at Telkom '93.



The reverse of the card has the Temsa logo and name at the top with a grey grid line design.



Temsa produced after Telkom '93 a further 400 cards with laser control number TEL002XXX which were issued to VIP's and Telkom staff.

The Telkor card, which was now surplus, has "Complimentary Phonocard" in green on a black band at the top, the head only of the same lion to the right and the Telkom'93 logo from the obverse repeated below the chip.

These cards, like all the others, eventually found their way to collectors; the majority of them with control S-5-00001XXXX, but also a few without a control.

#### 4.4 Telkom Production:

In October 1993 Telkom launched their Phonecards System with the issue of the "Big Five", five cards depicting the popular large South African animals that all tourists want to see.



They were manufactured by GPT in the UK and supplied by Telephone Manufacturers of South Africa (Temsa), all with the prefix SAEG(X). The last digit identified the card but were omitted on some cards.

In 1995 Temsa started local production during the supply of the Bushman Paintings Series.

Temkom utilised the opportunity to switch over to a new prefix TXXX where the second digit indicated the category of the card and the last two digits an identification of the card.

The categories are as follows:

**TAXX - Advertising Cards:**

Commercial designs that advertise the products, services or concepts of clients.

**TCXX - Commemorative Cards:**

Commemorative designs highlighting an annual, national, international or historical event or a figure of national or international importance.

**TEXX - Engineering Cards:**

Cards designed for use by technical staff maintaining cardphones or evaluating technical aspects of a system.

**TGXX - Generic Cards:**

In general generic designs are very neutral, sometimes repeating the same design for all values in an issue. Generic cards are used as backup stock and may be reprinted and reissued.

**TNXX - General Cards:**

Designs that feature subjects of general interest to the community such as tourism, sport, fauna and flora, folklore, art and music.

**TPXX - Promotional Cards:**

Designs that promote national or international events and campaigns as well as Telkom's own complimentary cards.

**TSXX - Scratch Cards:**

This prefix is used for scratch card competitions, where prizes can be won.

Lately the implementation of the above criteria by Telkom has become lax and some



strange categorisations have been found.

#### 5.1 **Transtel Phonecards:**

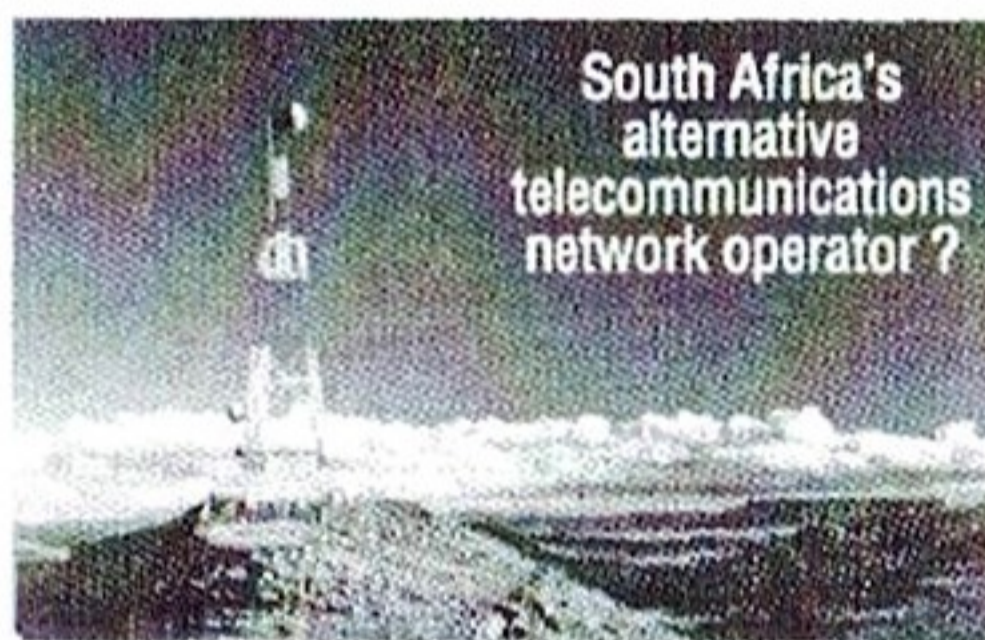
Transtel inherited their telephone system from Spoornet, previously known as the South African Railways.

As an alternative Telecommunications Network Operator their phonecards couldn't operate on the Telkom system and they had to do separate trials.

##### 5.1 **Transtel Field Trial:**

Transtel produced only one field trial phonecard in March 1993, the so-called R12.60 Telecommunications Tower.

A paper card, looking like the phonecard, was issued by SAA, to First & Business Class

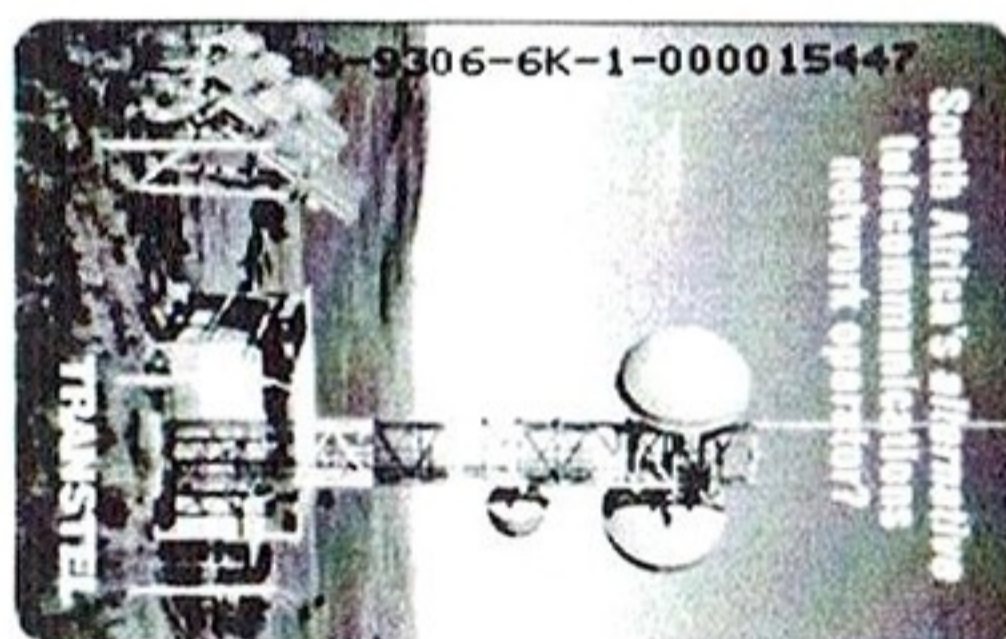


passengers when they booked in, and they could then exchange it in the VIP lounge at Jan Smuts Airport (Johannesburg International) for a phonecard, free of charge, which they could use there to make phone calls. No value was deducted from the cards as the phones were programmed to simulate actual deduction.

Three variations of this card are recorded.

##### 5.2 **Microwave Tower:**

The next card issued in July 1993 is the R15.00 SAA/Micro-wave Tower phonecard.



Like the trial card a paper voucher looking like the actual phonecard, but with "FREE R15/worth of calls" on a red band in the one corner, were issued by SAA to passengers, which could be redeemed in the VIP lounge.

This promotion expired on 30 Sept 1993.

Six variations of this card are known.

##### 5.3 **Martial Eagle:**

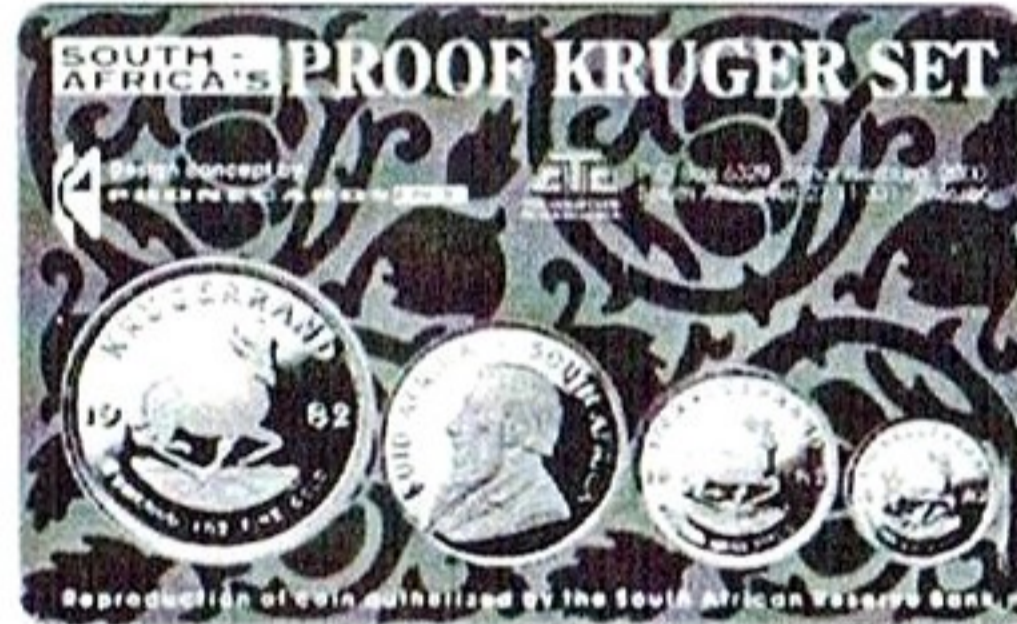
The third design, issued in October 1993 by Transtel, was the R5 Martial Eagle phonecard. There are three variations and quite a few errors recorded.





**5.4 Proof Kruger Coin Set:**

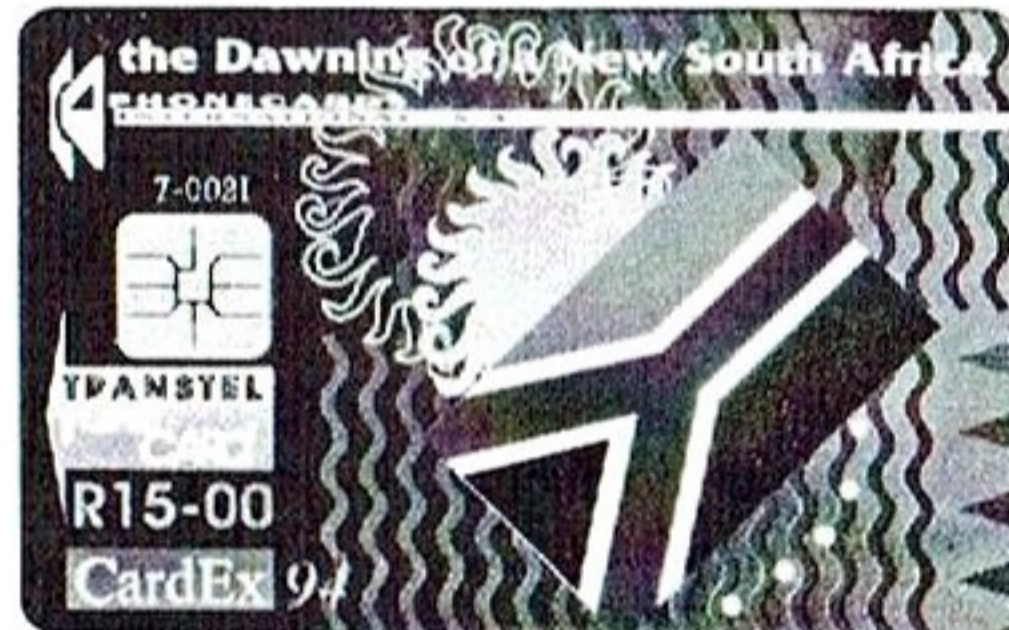
The next design issued by Transtel is the infamous Kruger Coin Series produced for Phonecards International and The Gold Club of Johannesburg.



The set consists of a R5, R20, and R50 card and three variations of each exists.

**5.5 Cardex '94:**

The next card was a R15 promotional card released in Sept 1994 at Cardex '94 in cooperation with Phonecards International.



Three variations of the Cardex '94 phonecard exists

**5.6 Microwave Tower II:**

In August 1995 Transtel re-printed the Microwave Tower design with a new format control number with prefix 8-. Two variations of the control number, both in size and position are known.

**5.7 Phelophepa Train:**



In August 1995 Transtel issued the Phelophepa Health Train puzzle set of 4 x R15.00 cards. On the reverse there is a composite picture illustrating the function of Phelophepa and on the obverse there is a map of South Africa with Phelophepa's 1995 route indicated on it.

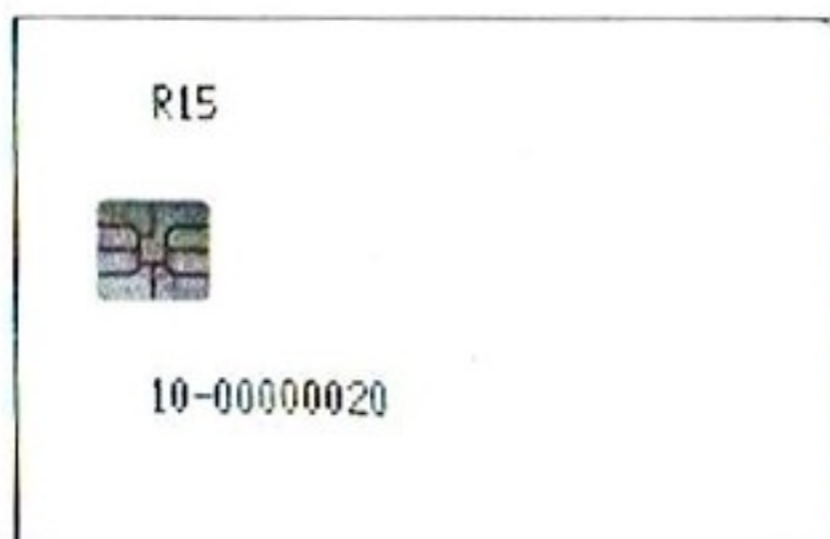
Four variations in chips and control numbers are known.



### 5.8 Emergency White:

When the Phelophepa Series 9 cards were sold out, Transtel hadn't finalised their future strategy about payphones and emergency measure they control number with prefix

Two variations in the are recorded.



no cards were available. As an printed the value (R15) and a 10- on a white card.

length of the control number

### 5.9 Phelophepa Train II:

In 1996 Transtel issued a new printing of the Phelophepa Train Sets with the control prefix 11-. No variations of these cards are known.

## 6 MTN Phonecards:

In 1994 MTN started their Community Service Phonecard System and began issuing phonecards. They never did extensive phonecard trials and were quite happy with limited technical evaluations.

MTN first issue, "The Birth of Cellular", had the control prefix MTM, but for a long time afterward they dropped the prefix altogether.

With their Community Services Set they started using the prefix A0X, then jumped to B0X on the next 9 cards and then to C0X for the next 21, and so on. There seems to be no specific reason for the changes to the next prefix.

MTN has only two types of phonecards, General Cards sold to the public and Complimentary Cards, without a value on them, used for promotional purposes.

## 6 Conclusion:

The hobby of Telately has a lot in common with both Philately and Numismatics, with a probable overlapping with Numismatics in our electronic future.

With Telatelists collecting thematic cards, there are a lot of them collecting coins, notes and stamps on cards, maybe an indication of their interest in the other two disciplines.

Telately is already a complimentary hobby to many Philatelists and Numismatists and can add a lot of diversion to those collectors finding that they are getting bored due to a lack of collecting material in their field.

Any collector interested in expanding into this field of collecting or wishing to join the African Telately Association can contact me at

*Dawie Schwartz*

*P.O.Box 1302,*

*Wingate Park.*

*0153*

*Tel: 012 347-0495*

*E-mail: [telately@bigfoot.com](mailto:telately@bigfoot.com)*



## A fascinating new ZAR medallion series presently in the making!

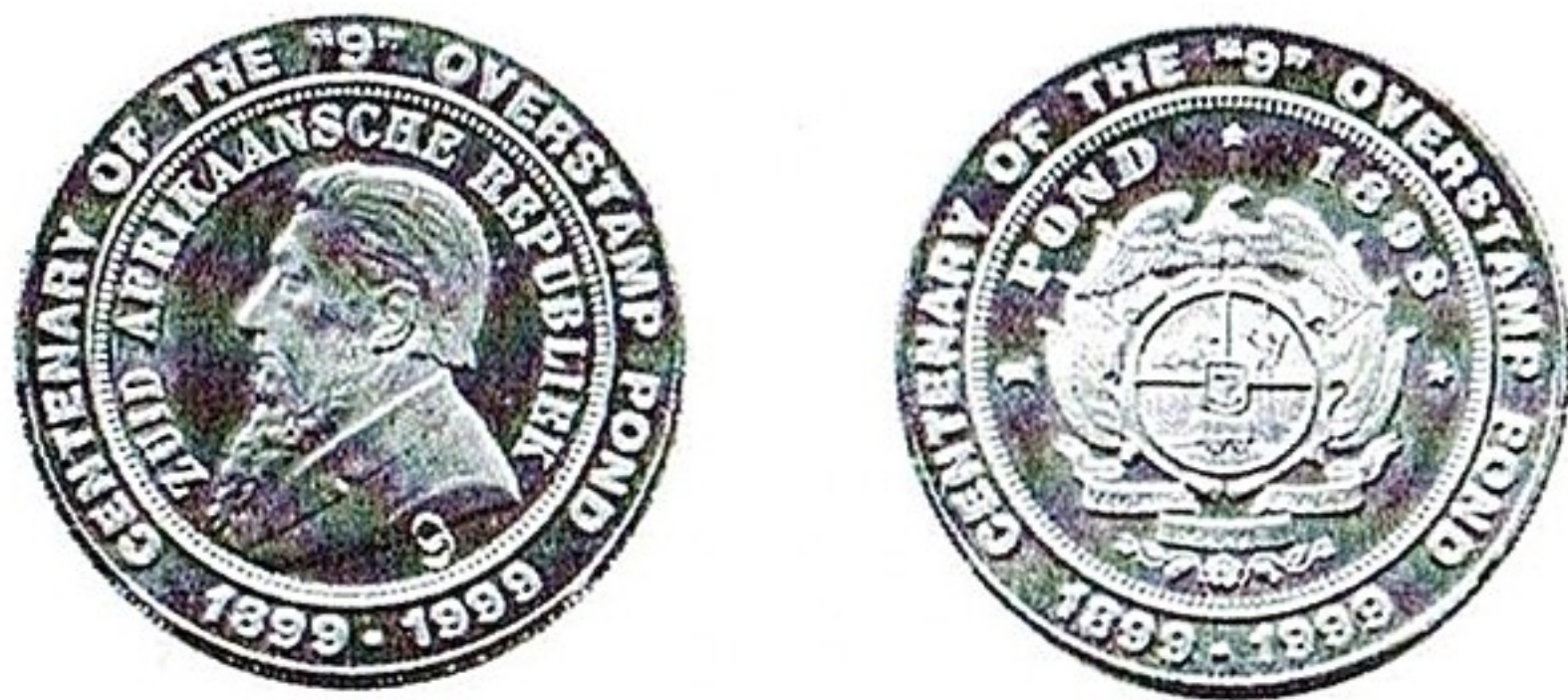
Peter Wilson

Three years ago at the 1999 National Numismatic Society (NNS) Annual Dinner at the Gold Reef City Mint, the diners were treated to the striking of a medallion commemorating the centenary of the minting in 1899 of the famous ZAR "Single 9" Pond. This is certainly the most valuable coin struck in our numismatic history. The design of the medallion is beautiful and the quality of the striking is excellent.

This medallion, and the reaction of many members to it, gave rise to the idea of continuing to commemorate the wonderful ZAR coinage series at ensuing NNS Annual Dinners. The Dinner in November 2000 included the striking of the second medallion in the series, which commemorated the centenary of the "Last Pond" struck at the ZAR Mint during 1900. The November 2001 Dinner commemorated the ZAR Blank (or "Kaal") ponde, via an interesting piece having the "rimless" pond on one side and the "with rim" on the other, both having very typical scraper marks.

In this current year of 2002 we will be commemorating the "Veld Pond", and each medallion from now on will carry a "GRC-NNS" mintmark. Future years will see the commemoration of such well known ZAR coins as the Sammy Marks Tickey, the 1894 gold tickey, the double shaft "error" pond, and many others!

These highly collectable pieces are being struck in gold, silver, copper, bronze and antique-bronze.



Centenary of the Single "9" Overstamp



## Setting the Time

Louis Josselowitz and Hugh Glen

*The need for standard time and the means of distributing it in the 19<sup>th</sup> century are discussed. In the first British occupation of the Transvaal, standard time was distributed from Pretoria by means of six substantial pocket watches. One has been rediscovered, and is described.*

For centuries the one and only way of setting up a mechanical clock to tell local time was very simple. The time of day when shadows are shortest is local noon, and all else follows from that. Set up a stick (or a monument) in an open space, plot the position of its shadow for a few days, and then set the clock going at noon one day. Time can be checked by repeated observation of the noontime shadow, if necessary. Why not use a sundial? Because to set up a sundial so that it works accurately, one needs to know where (in terms of latitude at least) it will be used; a British-made sundial will not work in South Africa unless it has been suitably modified. One of us (HFG) recalls having been shown the shadow technique in school in Johannesburg, an experience not improved by the inability of half the class to grasp why our watches (those that had the right time) showed 12h08 when the shadow showed noon exactly.

By the end of the eighteenth century clocks and watches were sufficiently accurate and common to make a glaring flaw in this Heath Robinson technique inescapable. Because the earth's orbit around the sun is elliptical, not circular, apparent (sundial) noon may be up to 16 minutes before or after (local) standard noon. One of the first communities to switch from sundial time to mean time was Geneva in 1780 (Howse, 1980). Standard time became more important when transport started running to fixed time tables. The organisers of the mail between Bath and London discovered as long ago as 1784 that it was necessary to have a standard watch on the coach if it were to stand any chance of running to time. At this time the roads in Britain were no better than in the Transvaal a century later, and by 21<sup>st</sup> century standards, even the fastest mail coaches were glacially slow.

In the last quarter of the nineteenth century it became apparent that the new and more rushed lifestyle coming into existence required that quite large areas should all use the same standard time if the people were to cope. This realization dawned as the result of the coming of the railways in Britain and relatively quick river transport in America. The railways in Britain took their time from Head Office (naturally), which effectively meant London (naturally). The good citizens of Manchester or the West Country used local time, and so there were frequent occasions of frayed tempers when a western plutocrat arrived at (say) noon, Liverpool time to catch his train, only to discover it had left some ten minutes earlier, precisely at noon, London time. Clearly, some system of time zones was needed.

The system we have today came into being in 1884, which is some years after the story told in this article took place. Nowadays we in South Africa take our time from the meridian 30E East of Greenwich. Reading from north to south, this meridian enters South Africa almost exactly at Beit Bridge (the road from Messina to the border runs almost exactly due north, but crosses this line twice in 16 km). The next relatively easy point to find our standard meridian is at Ermelo, where the N2 to Piet Retief crosses the railway line; this point is signposted. The next populated place where the line crosses exactly is, curiously, the Mooi River toll plaza on the N3. Finally, it passes out to sea in the Mkambati Reserve, Eastern Cape. None of these places is exactly obvious as a reference point for maintaining a national standard time, and so



now, as over a century ago, time standards are maintained away from the "standard" meridian, and a correction applied.

The extent of the correction depends, of course, on the longitude of the place where the standard time is maintained. As the original users of the watch described here knew, they needed a further correction for the longitude of the place where the watch was used. In this case, the primary standard was the Observatory in Cape Town, and the secondary standard was evidently maintained in Pretoria. Presumably, the expense of a good clock that could be consulted decorously at any time as a standard was considered to be more cost-effective than a shadow that only worked once on each sunny day, and not at all under cloud. A minute from the Postmaster-General of the Transvaal (Loveday, 1879) indicates that Pretoria time was regulated from Cape Town by telegraph via Natal, which cannot have improved the accuracy of the enterprise. The PMG guessed that the time difference between Cape Town and Pretoria would be "somewhere about 42 minutes" (true value 39 min. 52.5 sec.), which was remarkably accurate, given that the first accurate maps of the Transvaal are about 15 years younger than the watch described here.

The prime mover in bringing standard time to the Transvaal was, naturally enough, the post office. This organ of government was established as long ago as the late 1850's. Rosenthal (1979) records the establishment of a runner between Pretoria and Rustenburg in 1858. He reports on an official complaint from one government functionary to another mandarin in 1863, concerning a letter that took *two months* to travel from Rustenburg to Pretoria; in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we have again almost achieved a similar level of efficiency. The idea that all post offices in a territory should work to the same time was first floated in 1840 (the year of the first postage stamp) by Capt. Basil Hall RN. As the government of the Transvaal in the first British occupation was largely military (Lehmann 1972), it is perhaps not surprising that the post office supplied standard time from Pretoria to outlying districts at a relatively early date. Although this was decreed from the start, an aggrieved minute from Loveday (1880) notes that due to a misunderstanding by the Surveyor General, a list of towns with their difference in time from Pretoria was prepared; this is reproduced in Table 1.

To distribute standard time in the Transvaal, the Colonial Office sent six watches to the Transvaal Postmaster General. A letter in the State Archives dated 29 November 1879 attests to their despatch, and a reply dated 10 December (De Vogel, unpubl.) of the same year to their safe arrival in Pretoria. The second letter indicates that two were used on the mail route from Pretoria to Kimberley, two on the Lydenburg road and two on the Natal road. Evidently towns not on these routes (such as Rustenburg and Pietersburg) were expected to make their own arrangements. There was desultory discussion among the officials concerned as to the advisability of despatching watches by runner as well as by coach, but for reasons which, though practical at the time, are now definitely Politically Incorrect, it was decided not to do this.

As mentioned above, standard time in Pretoria was derived from the Royal Observatory in Cape Town by telegraph via Natal. The watches were then adjusted to this and despatched with the mail coaches to their respective destinations and intermediate stops. Special instructions were issued to the drivers of the Kimberley coaches not to adjust their watches at the end of their journeys, due to the difference in mean time (about 16 minutes) between there and Pretoria. Postmasters and Landdrosts on the routes were instructed to set their clocks by the watches carried by the mail coaches. A minute circulating in the Transvaal civil service at the time (Loveday 1880) states quite specifically that Pretoria time was to be taken as standard throughout the Transvaal.

One of us (LJ) is an avid collector of pocket watches, and always searching for interesting



specimens. My delight in finding one of these six standard timepieces in a box of old unrepaired watches was almost equalled by the interest shown by members of the committee of the National Numismatic Society in the story the authors of this note were able to assemble. The watch in my possession is numbered 4 on the back of the case, which is 59.5 mm in diameter and 24.8 mm thick (Fig. 1). The winding square is 2.5 mm, and it is interesting to see from the official correspondence that keys of this size were not to be had in the Transvaal (unless specially imported) at the time. The same correspondence informs us that "these watches wind the reverse way from ordinary ones". The original winding key has survived, and is at present attached to the suspension ring of the watch. The dial is white enamel, with Roman numerals. The movement is signed Jn. Walker, 68 Cornhill & 230 Regent St., London, and numbered 7351. The face is marked John Walker, 77 Cornhill & 230 Regent St. London. Apart from the inscription TRANSVAAL GOVERNMENT on the face, this watch closely resembles those used by the Cape and Natal railways, and in the Orange Free State. It has now been fully restored.

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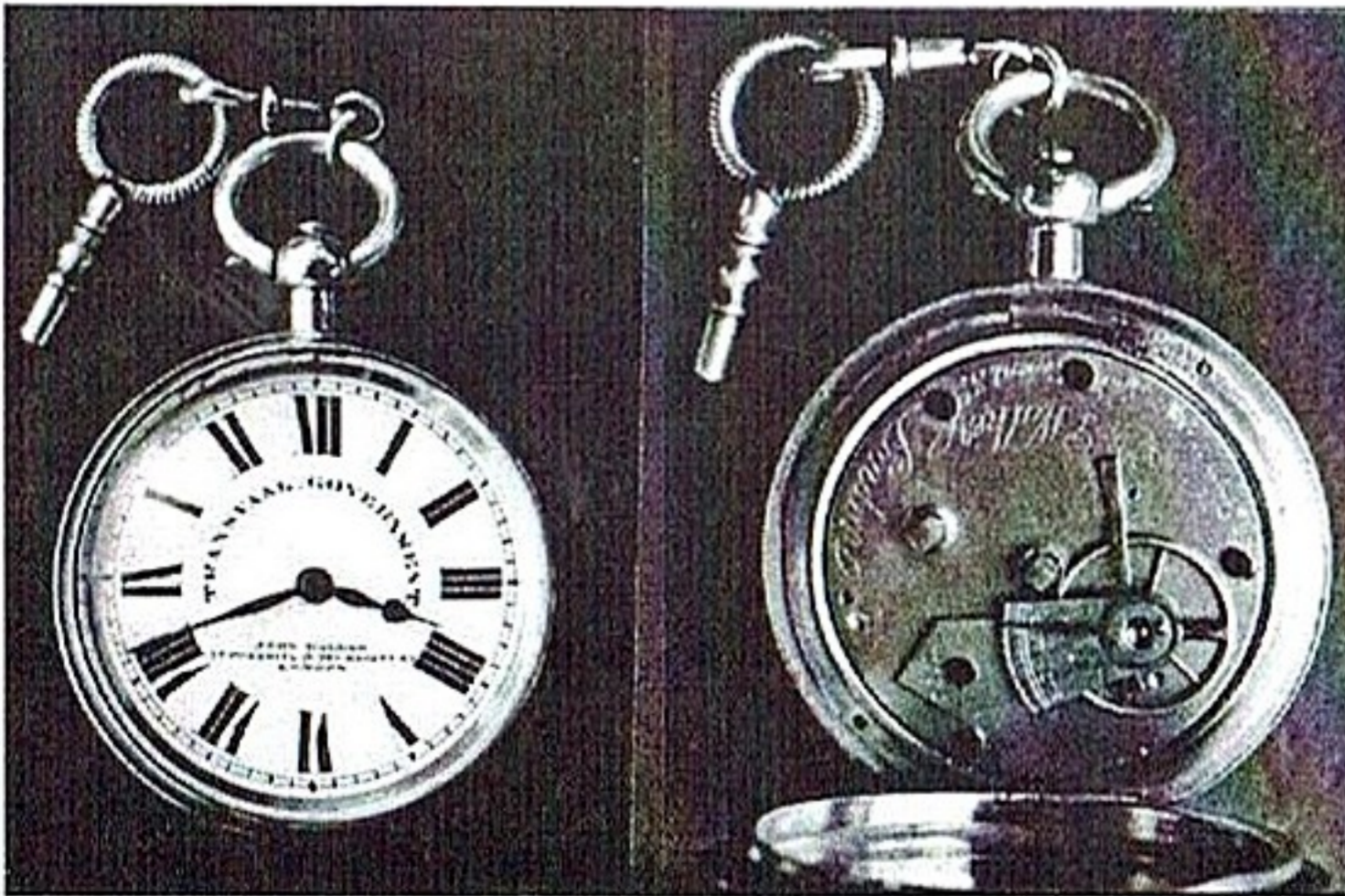
	Name of Place	Longitude	Diff.	Min. Sec.
1.	Pretoria	28E	37'±	0' 0"
2.	Heidelberg	29E	1'	±40"
3.	Standerton	29E	41'	±3' 20"
4.	M[artinus] W[essels] Stroom [now Wakkerstroom]	30E	6'	±5' 0"
5.	Utrecht	30E	21'	±6' 0"
6.	Lüneburg [Lüneburg, near Paulpietersburg]	30E	52'	±8' 4"
7.	De Emigratie	30E	31'	±6' 40"
8.	Lake Chrissie	30E	42'	±7' 24"
9.	Lydenburg	30E	45'	±7' 36"



10.	Pilgrim's Rest	31E	3'	∅8' 48"
11.	Middleburg	30E	3'	∅4' 48"
12.	Maraba Stad	29E	52'	∅4' 4"
13.	Eersteling	29E	49'	∅3' 52"
14.	Nylstroom	29E	13'	∅1' 28"
15.	Rustenburg	27E	44 -	4' 28"
16.	Zeerust	26E	38' -	8' 52"
17.	Lichtenburg	26E	52' -	7' 56"
18.	Christiana	25E	52' -	11' 56"
19.	Bloemhof	26E	13' -	10' 28"
20.	Klerksdorp	27E	22' -	5' 56"
21.	Potchefstroom	27E	48' -	4' 22"
22.	Sterkfontein (Jacoby's)	28E	21' -	2' 0"
	R[oyal] Observatory Capetown		-	37' 45"

(Signed) Saml. Melvill / 28.12.[18]79

#### Description of Transvaal Government Watch circa 1879



Diameter 59.5mm,  
 Thickness 24.8mm,  
 White enamel dial, Roman numerals,  
 signed  
 Transvaal Government  
 John Walker  
 77 Cornhill & 230 Regent St  
 London  
 Case, open face, Base Metal.  
 Movement signed  
 Jn Walker  
 68 Cornhill & Regent St London  
 7351

Back of case engraved...4

Technical detail.....Fusee with Lever Escapement



# Notes on Trade Dollars of the Indo-pacific Region

with particular reference to the Spanish, Maria Theresa and British Dollars

Hugh Glen

## Abstract

Three major trade dollars of the Indo-Pacific region, the Spanish dollar of 8 reales, the Maria Theresa and the British dollar, are discussed in detail. Various other dollars of more limited circulation are described more briefly. The use of these coins is noted, and general principles for predicting the relative success of a trade coin (one used in a country away from its state of origin) are deduced. Social history can be traced from common coins, but not from prize rarities; therefore, common coins ought not to be despised by collectors just because they are not rare.

## Introduction

“Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight!” All the best Caribbean parrots are supposed to learn this cry shortly after hatching. But the Spanish dollar of eight reales was about the earliest trade dollar of the Far East. When one reads early accounts such as that of Pyrard (1888) of travels to this area, and the financial systems prevailing at the time of the introduction of the Spanish dollar to the Pacific, a possible reason for its popularity immediately springs to mind. Pyrard relates that in 1605, the basic major unit of currency in the Maldives, then a major trading crossroads, was a bent silver rod of some 5 grams, called a *larin*. Apparently there was no intermediate coinage between this and the cowrie shell, which traded at 12 000 to the *larin*. Giving change must have been a tedious business. A standard, readily identified coin of more convenient form than a *larin* must have held some fairly obvious charms for traders, especially if it was accepted throughout their range of business. If it were backed by a powerful issuing authority, as the Spanish dollar was when first issued, so much the better.

The Chinese monetary system was similar to that of the Maldives, in that there was a huge gap in value between the minor currency (cash) and the rather indefinite lumps of silver (taels) used for major transactions. Nominally one tael was worth 1000 cash. This was an order of magnitude simpler than the Maldivian system, and was further simplified by the existence of multiple-cash pieces. Nevertheless, a convertible silver piece could be expected to lubricate foreign trade and so be popular. This would be the more so in this case, as the dollar (of whatever origin) had a definite mass and hence value, recognised by all users.

## Spanish Dollar

The Spanish dollar of 8 Reales was at one time the world's most widely circulated coin. In addition to its native Spain and South America, it was popular in Africa and the Far East, and of course in every pirate-adventure story ever written. This piece was first issued in 1520, and continued well into the nineteenth century. As the Netherlands were nominally under Spanish control when the Dutch East India Company was founded in 1602, the Honourable Company



was graciously permitted to issue a form of this coin for use in the Far East. Since this was, by 1652, the standard denomination of currency aboard V.O.C. ships, the Spanish "piece of eight" arrived at the Cape with Van Riebeeck. It was still popular in 1800, as indicated by Sir George Yonge's proclamation in that year, listing the values of Cape legal tender coins (Becklake, n.d.).

### Maria Theresa Thaler

The Austrian Maria Theresa Thaler achieved wide popularity in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf areas, where copies were made until quite recently. It was the preferred currency in Yemen until the late 1960's, and those who travelled there at the time vividly recall using Maria Therasas to make their daily necessary purchases. All Maria Theresa thalers, regardless of origin, bear the date 1780. This date bears no logical relation to the actual date of manufacture of most extant specimens, but permits one to say that the piece was first minted in that year. The last ones were made on the Arabian peninsula about 25 years ago (unless someone there is still churning them out ...).

Keith Murray's (1990) paper in the ASANS journal gives a fascinating insight into the origin of these beautiful pieces. Nevertheless, I would much like to see a guide to the identification of variant forms of these coins. How does one tell the genuine Austrian article (if any still exist) from a Gulf copy?

### British Trade Dollar

Since 1863 Hong Kong had a currency based on a silver trade dollar and its fractions (Dowle & Finn, 1970). This was in contrast to most British colonies of the time, where the gold-based sterling system was used. Dowle and Finn point out that the reason for this was that China, the most important nearby trading partner of this colony, had a well-established silver-based major currency.

This dollar was issued from 1895 to 1935 (Yeoman, 1961), thus spanning three reigns, those of Victoria, Edward VII and George V. Pieces from different reigns are not distinguished except by date. This dollar was issued both before and after the great debasement of the British currency in 1920. Up to then, British silver coins had been made of an alloy containing 92,5% silver, but in 1920 a sudden (and temporary) rise in the silver bullion price caused the Royal Mint to change the standard alloy to one containing only 50% silver (Dowle & Finn, 1970). The colouration of the worn and unworn parts of the piece indicates that even the trade dollar did not escape this general debasement of the British currency.

### Other competing trade dollars

The British trade dollar was not the first such coin to emanate from London. That distinction belongs to a little-known piece issued in 1600 by order of Queen Elizabeth I (Dowle & Finn, 1970). Half, quarter and eighth dollars were also made, but none achieved popularity in their intended market. One may deduce from the widespread absence of any reference to this issue that the coins are rare today. Although a standard dollar supported by simply-related standard fractional coins should have been a winning product, it seems to me that the failure of this



issue is most probably to be ascribed to the absence in the Far East at the time of any English force to back up the acceptance of the pieces.

Yeoman (1979) states that the United States of America issued trade dollars from 1873 to 1878 for use in the Far East in competition with the Mexican Peso. Although the relatively short period of issue indicates that they were less than perfectly successful, over 25 million of the pieces were made.

In 1918 the Italian authorities produced a crown-sized silver piece called a *Tallero*, nominally for circulation in Eritrea. Its design, shown by Yeoman (1961: 151) indicates that it was intended to compete with the Maria Theresa Thaler in the Red Sea area. Its short life-span and relative scarcity (I have yet to see one in the flesh, as it were) indicate that it failed quite dismally.

Another very scarce trade dollar is that issued by the Arabs in the Comores towards the end of the nineteenth century. This appears always to have been rare, from which one deduces that it was not wildly successful. Or did the Comorian economy not run to buying in vast amounts of silver to make coinage? The two possibilities are not independent.

#### Method of use of trade dollars

My friend John Lavranos reports that he went on an expedition to the Hadhramaut, in south Yemen, when Maria Therasas were still the only accepted currency. He tells me that the members of the expedition spent a fair amount of time in Aden sorting out supplies and other arrangements. One of the other arrangements involved going to the bank, and cashing the requisite number of travellers' cheques into Maria Therasas, which were sold by weight at bullion value. The bags of coins were stowed somewhere safe in one of the vehicles, and then brought out as needed to pay for fresh supplies in the interior. How ever did they manage change, one wonders?

#### Conclusions

By comparing the successful trade dollars and the "also-rans" enumerated above, it seems that one can draw up a list of requirements which a coin must meet if it is to succeed as a widely-accepted standard medium of trade. These include :-

1. It should be quite substantial, but not absurdly so (or the larin would still be with us)
2. It should be of strictly controlled weight, so that individual pieces do not need to be weighed separately at every transaction.
3. It should, fairly obviously, be of good metal. One doubts if the later (50%) British dollars would have been welcomed if they had not been preceded by others of 92,5% silver.
4. The issuing authority should be widely known and respected in the target area.
5. The design should be stable, not changing more than is absolutely necessary over as long a time as possible.



A more general conclusion which I draw from this study concerns the nature of numismatic study, and runs somewhat as follows. It is well and good that some numismatists devote their time to preserving and cataloguing prize rarities, for if they did not do so, much of the interesting variation which coins present would be lost forever. Nevertheless, what these rarities can tell us about the societies that made them is strictly limited, precisely because they are rare. It is very evident from this study that rare is exactly what the successful trade dollars are not.

By examining the commonest coins and their backgrounds in detail one learns much more about the societies which made them, and those in which they were popular. If they were not popular, they would not have survived for long, and so would not be common. This study indicates that the society in which a coin is made is not necessarily that in which it is used. Where the two differ, the history of their interactions is another fruitful field of study.

### Acknowledgements

Many thanks are due to Mrs E. Lewis, who gave me a British Trade Dollar, and to my cousin, Rawdon O'Connor, for the Maria Theresa discussed here. I am very grateful to John Lavranos for discussing their use with me. As usual, Estelle Potgieter and Mrs Lategan worked wonders with the inter-library loan system.



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## D.T. Batty: Numismatist Extraordinaire

by Neville Harden

He described himself as a "Dealer in all kinds of Old Coins, Medals, Old China, Stamps, Pictures, Antique Carved Oak Curiosities, &c.". The labour of his life, though, was the compilation of 'Batty's Copper Coinage' in four volumes. The work was originally issued in parts with distinctive bright orange paper covers, and cost 1/6d (15c) each. The first was issued in 1868 and the thirteenth part (which made up the first volume) in 1877. Herein he described just over 1000 of the Penny Tokens of the British Isles, and about 3000 Halfpenny Tokens.



D T Batty

In the last three of these parts he included a notice advertising his duplicates for sale and made an impassioned plea to his subscribers to assist him by inducing others to subscribe so as to enable him to proceed without a loss which he was incurring at that time.. He also made a suggestion thus:

"It has been suggested to combine with this work *A Numismatic Journal* to enable Collectors to give and receive information and to record historical matters respecting the *Copper Currency* of this Country, the study of which has up to the present time been comparatively neglected. The other branches of Numismatic Studies and General Archaeological Subjects will also be introduced.

"The author begs to submit to the subscribers that 6 or 8 pages be devoted Monthly to these purposes as an experiment, and if satisfactory progress is made more pages may be added. This may ultimately lead to what is desired by a number of gentlemen, *the formation of a National Provincial Numismatic and Archaeological Society* to search out and record all local matters not yet published. Contributions of articles, queries, historical notes, particulars of 'finds', discoveries &c, for the Journal may be sent before the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to D.T. Batty, 10 Cathedral Yard, Manchester."

Volume II opened with Part XIV in 1877 and ended with Part XXIX in 1884. The price had risen to 4/6d (45c) each. Another 1500 halfpenny tokens are described, as well as 4000 farthing tokens. Volume III deals with Britain's Regal Copper Coinage from Elizabeth I to Victoria, up to 1859, and includes Brass and Pewter items. It started with Part XXX in 1886 and ended with Part XLIX in 1894, covering nearly 7000 items. Volume IV consists of an Appendix to the Regal series of Copper Coinage to include Victoria's Bronze Issue of 1860—1887. This was edited by F.G. Lawrence, covers a further 1500 items and was published in 1898. In addition Volume IV contains a descriptive catalogue of the Colonial Copper Currency of Canada in Parts L to LIV, issued in 1895 and covering about 2000 items. The price for these parts had now risen to 7/6 (75c) each.

The Editor of the Appendix included a Note as follows:

"This Appendix completes Mr Batty's great work on the Copper Tokens and the Regal



Copper Coinage of our country to the Jubilee year 1887.

"The Bronze Series (1860—1887) was in rough MSS only, and I undertook to complete it for the press, as Mr Batty died before he was able to finish it himself.

"I desire to call the attention of Numismatists to the enormous amount of labour the

PART I.—PENNY TOKENS.]

[VOL. I.]

BATTY'S CATALOGUE  
OF THE  
COPPER COINAGE  
OF  
GREAT BRITAIN,  
IRELAND, BRITISH ISLES,  
AND  
COLONIES,  
LOCAL & PRIVATE TOKENS, JETTONS, &C.,

COMPILED FROM VARIOUS AUTHORS, AND THE MOST CELEBRATED COLLECTIONS;

TOGETHER WITH THE

AUTHOR'S OWN COLLECTION OF ABOUT TEN THOUSAND VARIETIES.

*Illustrated with Plates of Rare and Unpublished Coins.*

Author has devoted to this harassing task, which occupied the greater part of his life.

"It was in 1868 that Mr Batty printed and issued the first part in Manchester, so that this work has taken 30 years to bring out. "Several of the largest Copper Collections were at his disposal for comparison with his own extensive one; these represented the labour of several lives, and every care has been taken to ensure the most complete and accurate descriptions. Mr Batty's principle was that 'where there is the slightest difference between two coins, these coins cannot have been struck from the same die.' The result of carrying out this idea has been that not only every type, but every known die is recorded. Where large flaws appear, the dies were giving way, so that many of these specimens are unique.

"The work is in fact a Complete Catalogue of the Copper, Tin and Bronze Coinage

of Great Britain and Ireland, and it will always rank as the Standard Reference Work for that Coinage.

Signed E.G. Lawrence

Sutton, Surrey, March 1898"

This prediction did not come to pass as the present standard reference work is R. Dalton & S.H. Hamer's *The Provincial Token Coinage of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century*. In the Introduction to this work they mention six authors who compiled descriptive lists of tokens. They record James Conder of Ipswich, a leading numismatist of his day who had published *An Arrangement of Provincial Coins, Tokens and Medalets issued in Great Britain, Ireland and the Colonies* in 1798, which remained the book of reference until James Atkins published his work *Tradesmen's tokens of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century* in 1898. Not a mention of Mr Batty!

In Peck's *English Copper, Tin and Bronze Coins in the British Museum 1558—1958*, Batty's volumes III and IV are mentioned in the bibliography, and in W.J. Davis' *The 19<sup>th</sup> Century Token Coinage of Great Britain* there is a minute reproduction of the title page of Batty's catalogue. Batty's photograph is also reproduced but with no other mention at all.

In Siegfried E. Schwer's *Price Guide to Unofficial Farthings 1820—1870* Batty's catalogue is listed in the bibliography. In the introduction he notes that the distinction between unofficial farthings and commemorative medalets may be ill-defined. He goes on to say that Batty's Volume II of 1877 records an "extraordinary conglomeration of farthing-sized pieces in cop-



per, brass and white metal. Among nearly 3000 items described are tea checks, coal tallies, bowling alley tickets, theatre passes, political medalets, cheap commemorative medallions, garden and museum passes, ferry and omnibus tickets, tramcar tickets, toll-bridge passes, estate passes, meal tickets, newspaper tickets — valid on exchange for one copy — discount checks granting 5% on presentation; Public House checks for dominoes, cards etc.; and tokens ranging in value from a farthing to 5 pounds”.

But isn't that what Token Coinage is all about?

It does not appear that Mr Batty's life work was much appreciated but he must be pleased that his volumes are still being used by at least one collector to catalogue his modest collection in far-away South Africa, well over a hundred years after they were published.

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## Marshall Hole Emergency Fiscal (Currency) Cards

by Dr Heinz Wirz

During the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) a shortage of silver coins and bank notes was experienced in Southern Rhodesia. This was the result of the Matabeleland Africans hoarding silver coins and the result of the Boers cutting off of the railway line between Vryburg and Mafeking in South Africa. The severing of the main railway link between the British Cape Colony and Matabeleland in Southern Rhodesia prevented the importation of money to pay the miners. The Matabeleland Government Secretary, Hugh Marshall Hole, recommended to the administrator, Alfred Lawley, that they make use of the large stocks of Rhodesia British South Africa Company stamps.<sup>1,2</sup>



H. Marshall Hole

**Figure 1. Matabeleland Government Secretary, Hugh Marshall Hole**

It was agreed that the stamps be secured to a card containing the signature of Marshall Hole and the Standard Bank was prepared to accept these cards as cash. The legal status of the Marshall Hole cards was *gazetted* on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1900 (see appendix A). The Government notice makes provision for these cards to temporarily substitute for the short-term shortage of silver coins. The notice makes no reference of a 10/- revenue stamp to be used on the cards to substitute for the half crown (10/-), which is a gold coin. In a letter to an eminent stamp collector, M.H. Dann on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1935, reproduced in Appendix B, Marshall Hole does make reference to a 10/- stamp being used on the cards.

The Chronicle Printing Works in Bulawayo produced the cards that contained the inscription:

**THE CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BULAWAYO**

Please pay in cash to the person producing this card the face value of the stamp affixed thereto, if presented on or after the 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1900.

This card must be produced for redemption not later than 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1900.

The cards, also known as fiscal stationery<sup>3</sup>, varied considerably in size ranging from 72-80mm by 54-60mm. The card edges also varied from having square corner edges to being rounded by a varying degree.

The Bulawayo printer's name appeared on the bottom left, which is incorrectly spelt - Buluwayo



on the bottom line, parts of the word "CHRONICAL" missing and breaks in the printing of Marshall Hole's signature. These are not regular, uniform features and a tremendous variation exists indicating that these are just features of poor printing.

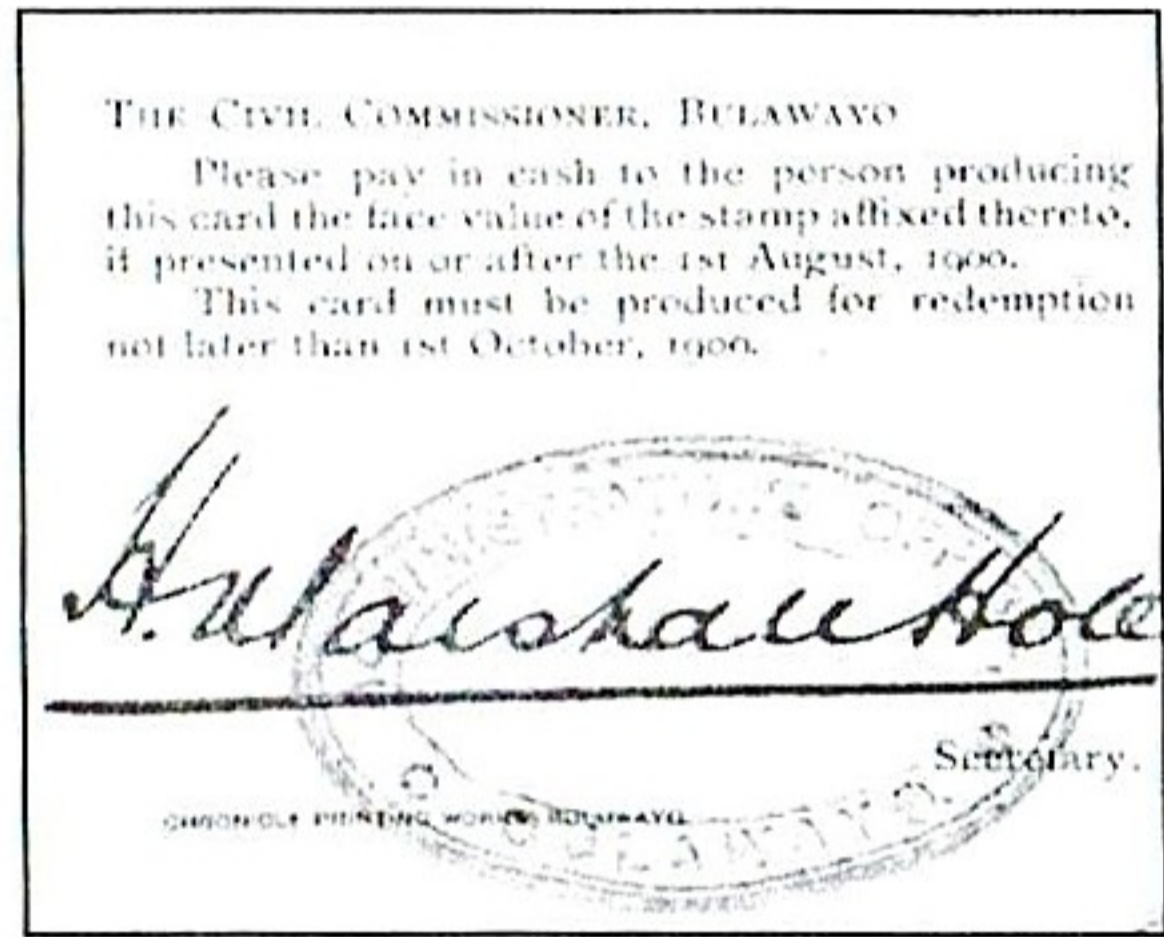
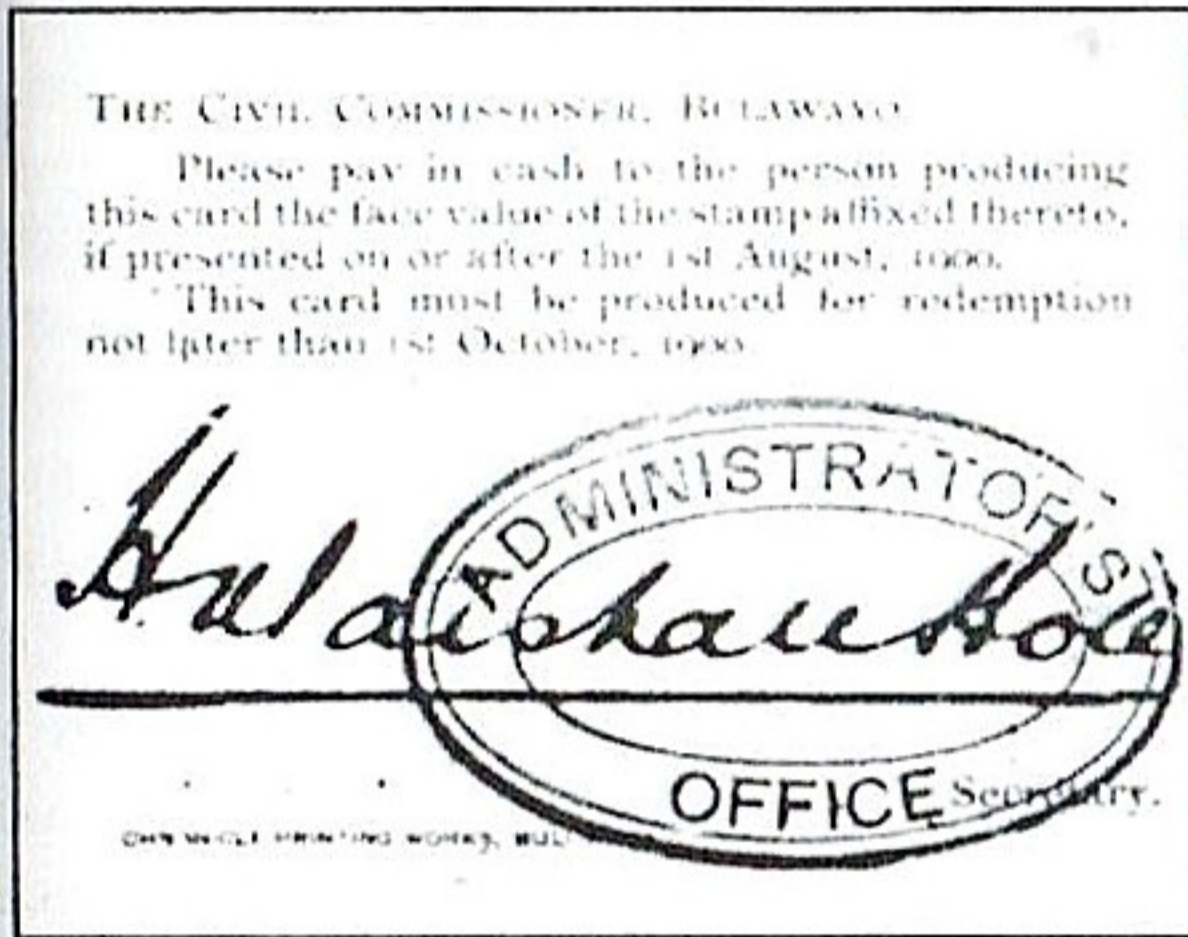
Two types of validating rubber stamps were used. Type 1 reads "ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE BULAWAYO" and Type 2 reads "ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE". Research done by Dr Stan Kaplan revealed that these two types of validating rubber stamps are evenly balanced<sup>2</sup>. A total of four different varieties of Rhodesian postage stamp money cards, which became known as Marshall Hole cards, therefore exist.

**Card Type A – Full stop after Bulawayo**

**Validating stamp 1 –**

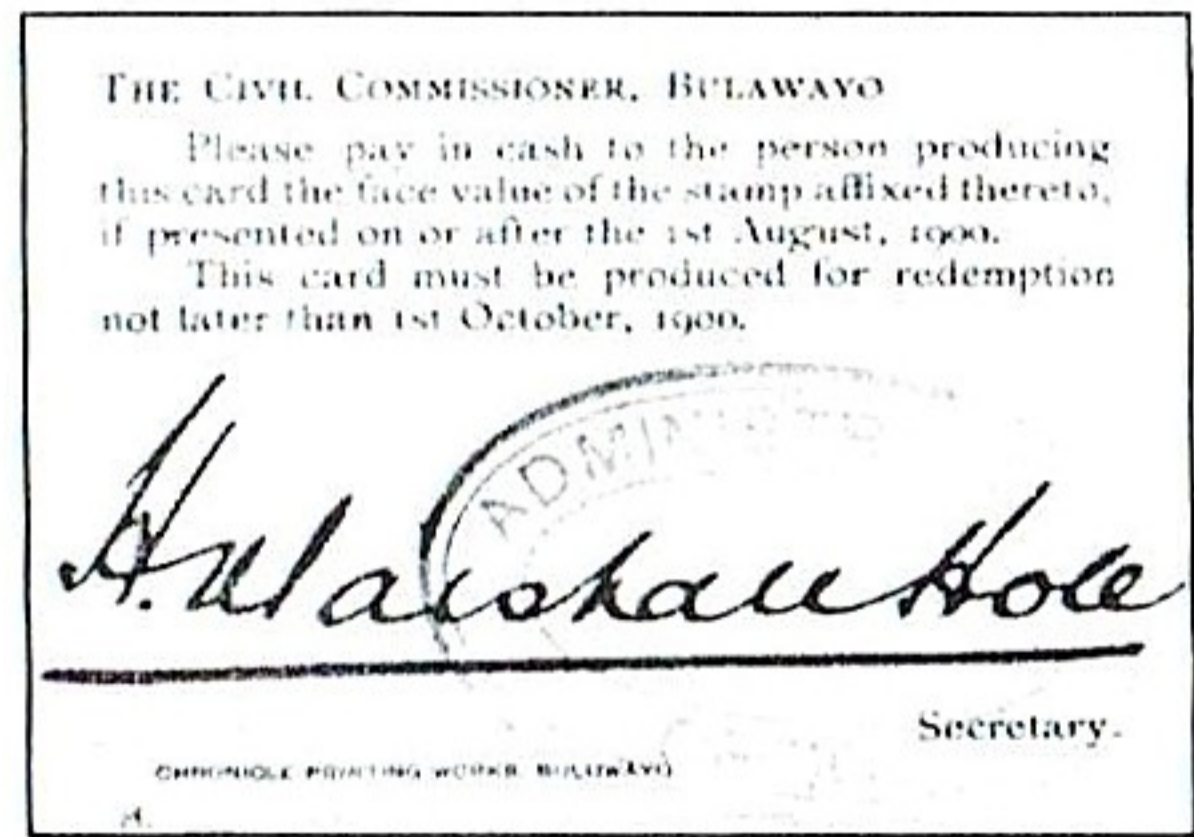
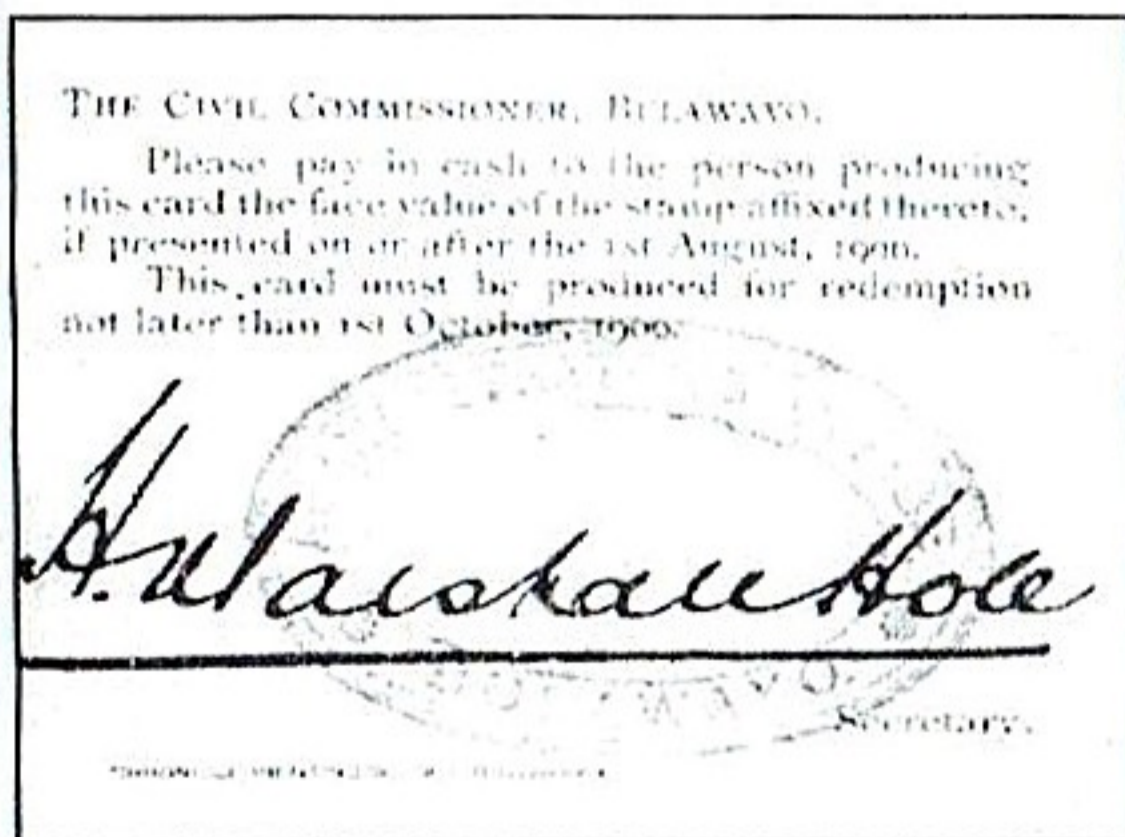
**Type B – No full stop after Bulawayo**

**Validating stamp 2--**



**"Administrators office · Bulawayo"**

**"Administrators office" only**



**Figure 2. The four different types of Marshall Hole cards**

A single stamp was affixed to the front of the card. Four different types of British South African Company stamps were used and elucidated in Table 1 and Figure 3.



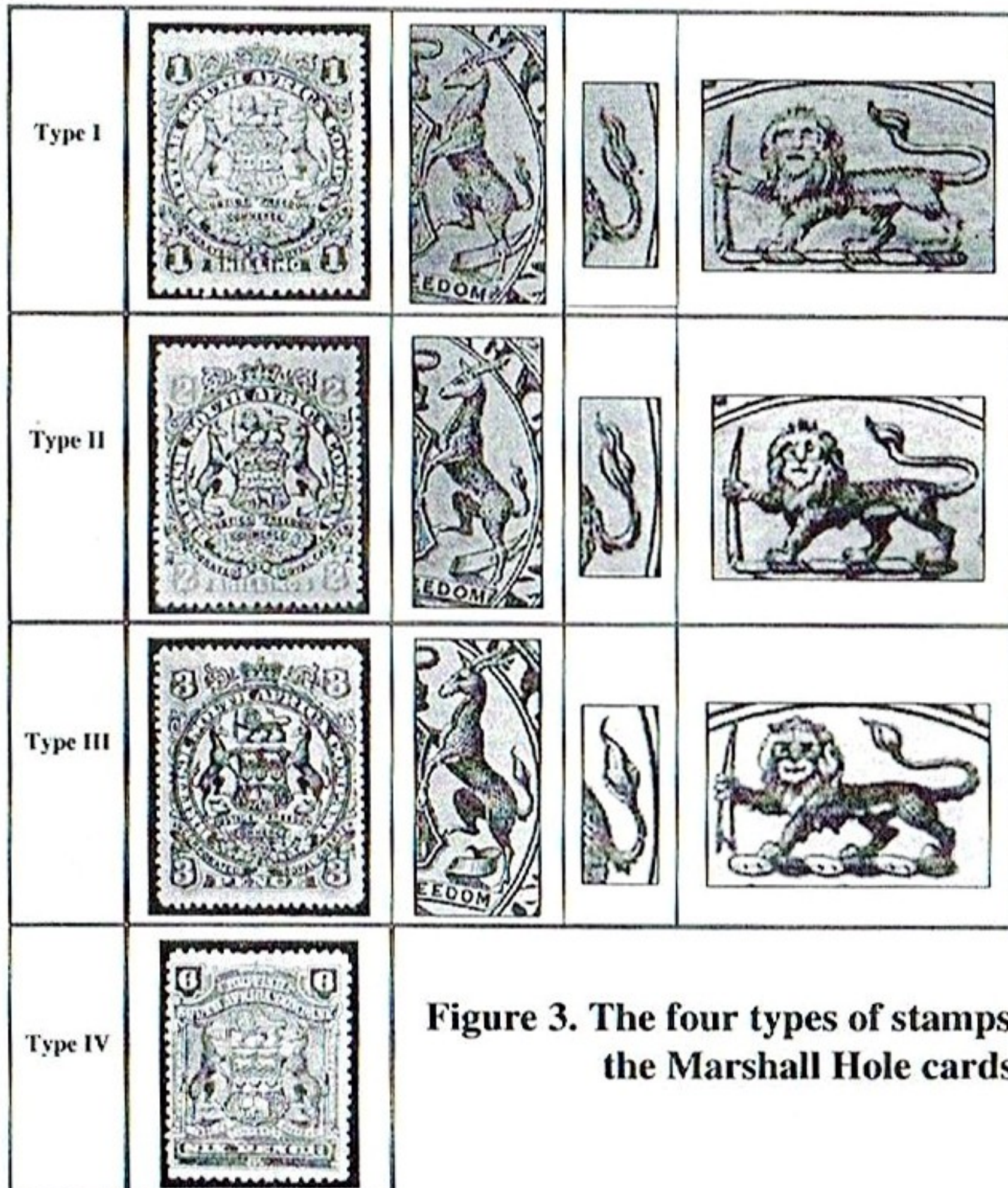
v
f
x

- Stamp used on Marshall Hole cards
- Seen on Marshall Hole cards<sup>1</sup> - possible forgery. See page 63.
- These stamps exist but not seen on Marshall Hole cards
- These stamps were never printed

Denomination	Type I (1896/7 - Die 1)	Type II (1896/7 - Die 2)	Type III (1897)	Type IV (1898)
3 pence (3d)	f		v	x
6 pence (6d)	x	f	v	v
1 shilling (1/-)	v			v
2 shilling (2/-)		v		
2 shilling 6 pence (2/6-)		v		x
10 shilling (10/-)		v		x

**Table 1. The different stamp types used on the Marshall Hole cards**

The 1896 – 1897 definite issue of stamps of the British South Africa Company (BSAC), made by Perkins Bacon, are the most commonly seen. Two dies were used for this issue. The first type (Type I) contained a dot after the right-sided springbok's tail and a partly shaded lion's body. The second type (Type II) contained no dot after the springbok's tail and the body of the lion is more heavily shaded all over.



**Figure 3. The four types of stamps used on the Marshall Hole cards**



It can be seen from Table 1 that, of the stamps used on Marshall Hole cards, only the 1-shilling (1/-) stamp was printed with Die I and the 2/-, 2/6d and 10/- stamps printed with Die II. Why were only these four stamp varieties used? The most probable answer is that these four denominations were readily available. It is interesting to note that presentation specimen sets of stamps, created for admission to the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) around the same time, also did not contain the complete set of stamps. While these sets include Die I printed 3d stamps and Die II 6d printed stamps these are not seen as Marshall Hole cards other than as reported by Ineson!

At first glance it would appear that the 10/- stamp is of two varieties as a result of a "different" colour background, the official rose colour background and an ochre coloured background. This is the result of bleaching of the rose paper with time and sunlight exposure, a well-known philately phenomenon.

The third stamp type (Type III) was printed in 1897 by Waterlow and Sons and differed from stamp Types I and II in that they were printed using a much finer detailed print die. Note also that the ends of the scroll were curled up and no longer pass between the legs of the springbok. Only the 3d and 6d stamps of this issue were used on Marshall Hole cards. The final type (Type IV) was a smaller stamp with a new design. Only the 6d and 1/- stamps of this 1898 – 1908 definite issue appeared on Marshall Hole cards.

A total of 8 different stamps appear on the obverse side of the Marshall Hole cards thus making 32 different card versions if one takes into account the two different card prints and the two different validation rubber stamps. Not all 32 variations have been seen by prominent Marshall Hole card collectors (see Table 2). The most commonly found cards are those bearing the lower value stamps. Very few Marshall Hole cards affixed with Die II printed stamps are found as these cards contained the higher denomination (2/6- and 10/-) stamps.

The currency cards were first issued on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1900 in Bulawayo, 29<sup>th</sup> April in Gwelo, in Selukwe in May and 1<sup>st</sup> June 1900 in Fort Victoria. A total face value of approximately £20 000 Marshall Hole cards was issued and all but £1 000 worth of stamp containing cards were redeemed.

Cards with stamps values of 2d, 4d and 4/- have appeared on the market place. John Ineson points out that these must be considered forgeries<sup>1</sup>. Since Marshall Hole cards were introduced as substitutes for the short term scarcity of coins these denomination stamps, for which there were no circulating coins in Southern Rhodesia, were not issued by the Bulawayo Administrator's office. The Gazetted Government Notice, which I have reproduced as Appendix A, as well as a letter by Marshall Hole, Appendix B, indicate that 2d, 4d and 4/- cards were never gazetted nor used as legal tender in Southern Rhodesia. Cards containing multiple stamps have also appeared in the market place. These too, in my opinion, should be considered forgeries. Only one stamp was applied to a card by the issuing Bulawayo Administrator's office to temporarily substitute for an unavailable coin as a result of the disruption of the link between the Cape Colony and Matabeleland. Cards without stamps are known to exist. This helps explain the presence of these anomalous items in the market place as enthusiasts stick stamp(s) to these cards.



















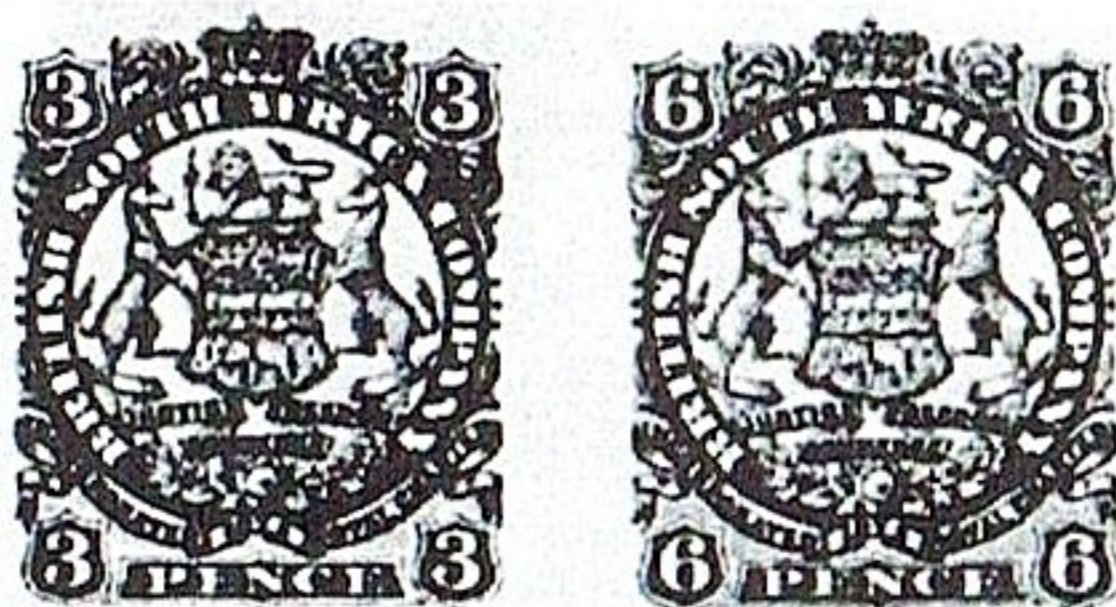
My Cataloging #	Stamp Type	Stamp Denom.	Example of a stamp used	Coin substituted	Card Type	Validation stamp type	Available
MH1	I	1/-			A	1	Not seen
MH2	I	1/-			A	2	Yes
MH3	I	1/-			B	1	Yes
MH4	I	1/-			B	2	Yes
MH5	II	2/-			A	1	Yes
MH6	II	2/-			A	2	Yes
MH7	II	2/-			B	1	Yes
MH8	II	2/-			B	2	Yes
MH9	II	2/6-			A	1	Yes
MH10	II	2/6-			A	2	Yes
MH11	II	2/6-			B	1	Yes
MH12	II	2/6-			B	2	Yes
MH13	II	10/-			A	1	Not seen
MH14	II	10/-			A	2	Yes
MH15	II	10/-			B	1	Yes
MH16	II	10/-			B	2	Yes
MH17	III	3d			A	1	Yes
MH18	III	3d			A	2	Not seen
MH19	III	3d			B	1	Yes
MH20	III	3d			B	2	Yes
MH21	III	6d			A	1	Yes
MH22	III	6d			A	2	Not seen
MH23	III	6d			B	1	Yes
MH24	III	6d			B	2	Yes
MH25	IV	6d			A	1	Yes
MH26	IV	6d			A	2	Yes
MH27	IV	6d			B	1	Not seen
MH28	IV	6d			B	2	Yes
MH29	IV	1/-			A	1	Yes
MH30	IV	1/-			A	2	Yes
MH31	IV	1/-			B	1	Yes
MH32	IV	1/-			B	2	Yes

Table 2. Table elucidating possible Marshall Hole cards



Ineson<sup>1</sup> has depicted in his book *Paper Currency of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902* a Marshall Hole card containing a 3 pence stamp (Type I) and a 6 pence stamp (Type II).



**Table 4. Marshall Hole cards carrying the above two stamps have been reported**

These cards have not been seen in other collector's hands. It is apparent from Marshall Hole's letter (see Appendix B) that only the "6d and 1/- stamps are of two kinds". By revisiting Table 1 you will see this would therefore exclude a second type 3d stamp and a third type 6d stamp, which I have marked as "f", appearing on Marshall Hole cards. Are Marshall Hole cards containing these two stamps therefore forgeries? Stamp types I, II and III are rather similar and the untrained eye may not perceive these differences. It is not inconceivable that Marshall Hole may not have considered these as different stamps. I would also like to remind you that the two stamps in question were used in presentation specimen sets created for admission to the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union indicating that these two stamps were available around the same time as the issuing of Marshall Hole cards. Further research is required to answer the question as to whether these two stamps were officially used on Marshall Hole cards. In the mean time you, the reader, will have to determine whether you consider these two varieties of Marshall Hole cards genuine or forgeries.

### References

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2. Kaplan, Dr S. (Sept. 1974) *The Marshall Hole money cards – or Rhodesian Currency cards*. Bickels Coin & Medal News. 10 (3) pp. 8-10.
3. Arthur, A.M. (Oct. 1983) *Marshall Hole currency of the Anglo-Boer War*. SA stamps monthly. Vol. 4, No. 10. pp. 15-17.



**THE LEGAL TENDER OF MARSHALL HOLE CARDS**

Below is the Gazetted Government Notice from the Administrator's Office of Bulawayo dated 7th April 1900.

“IT is hereby notified for general information that, in order to meet the scarcity of silver currency at present prevailing in Matabeleland, the Government have issued cards bearing revenue stamps of the values of 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s., and 2s.6d., which may be redeemed for cash at the Office of the Civil Commissioner, Bulawayo, on or after the 1st day of August, 1900, but not later than the 1st day of October, 1900.

The stamp cards may be purchased at the Office of the Civil Commissioner, Bulawayo, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily.

No cards presented after the 1st of October, 1900, will be redeemed by the Government.”

**A. Lawley,**

Administrator.

By command of His Honour the Administrator,

(Signed)

**H. Marshall Hole,**

Secretary.



## Appendix B.

Below is reproduced a letter written by H. Marshall Hole to Mr H.C. Dann, a stamp collector, dated 17 September 1935 (some 35 years after the issuing of the fiscal cards bearing his name).

“On the outbreak of the Boer war in 1899 the enemy occupied Vryburg, in Cape Colony; invested Mafeking, and seized the railway line for nearly 100 miles in Bechuanaland. For some months all communications between Rhodesia and the Cape were suspended, and as this was the normal route for the conveyance of supplies and mails we were reduced to serious straits in all parts of Matabeleland. Among other difficulties was the scarcity of coinage, especially silver, which rapidly disappeared from circulation, probably because the natives were in the habit of hoarding it. Apart from the general inconvenience of this shortage it threatened to denude the farms and mines of native labourers, whose wages had to be paid regularly.

At that time I was Government Secretary for Matabeleland, and it occurred to me that the difficulty might temporarily be met by the use of postage and revenue stamps, of which we happened to have a large supply in stock. Clearly, however, a stamp by itself would have been useless for circulation, and I suggested that the stamps might be pasted on to cards bearing an order on the fiscal officer (Civil Commissioner) to pay the value of the stamp if presented after the 1st of August, by which date we were confident that railway communications would be restored. The Administrator (Hon. Arthur Lawley) agreed on the understanding that the cards should bear my signature – rather an embarrassing condition, which was met by having a metal die made, which I still possess.- The Standard Bank agreed to treat the cards as cash, and, after some hesitation, the natives generally were persuaded to accept them.

Stamped cards were issued of the values of 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 2/6 and 10/-, and a complete set is in the envelope attached. It will be noticed that the 6d and 1/- stamps are of two kinds, and that the 10/- card bears the endorsement of the Standard Bank.

The currency tension was eased soon after the relief of Mafeking (May 16th, 1900) and the repair and re-occupation by the British forces of the railway line, and most of the cards were redeemed in August. Speaking from memory I believe that about £20,000 worth of cards were issued, and when the circulation ceased on the 1st October it was found that almost exactly £1,000 worth were still outstanding, some having no doubt been lost or destroyed, and others kept as curios. This £1,000, less the small cost of printing the cards, was clear profit to the Administration, and compensated me for the ridicule the experiment proved when I first proposed it. Apart (*apart*) from this the cards certainly relieved the community of an awkward predicament.”