

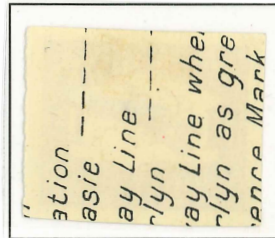
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Air Mails *The Second Air Stamps*

Color Trials

The 1/- value was printed in five test colors on the back of obsolete land charts by the Government Printing Works, Pretoria

a. Orange



Back of proof showing portion
of obsolete Government Land Chart

b. Orange-Yellow



c. Orange-Vermillion



d. Bright Rose

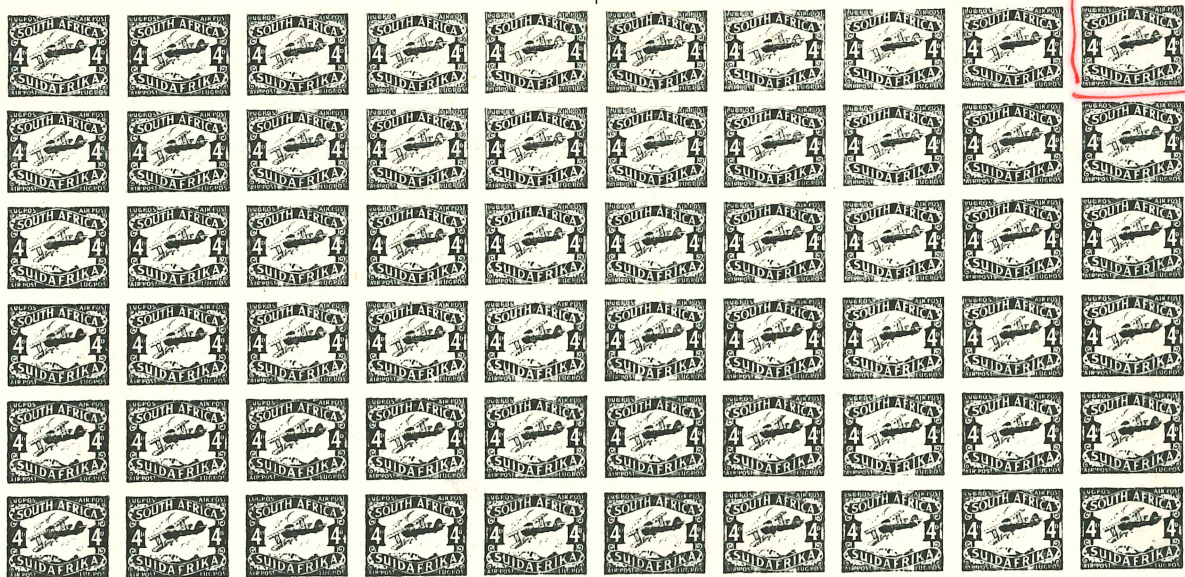
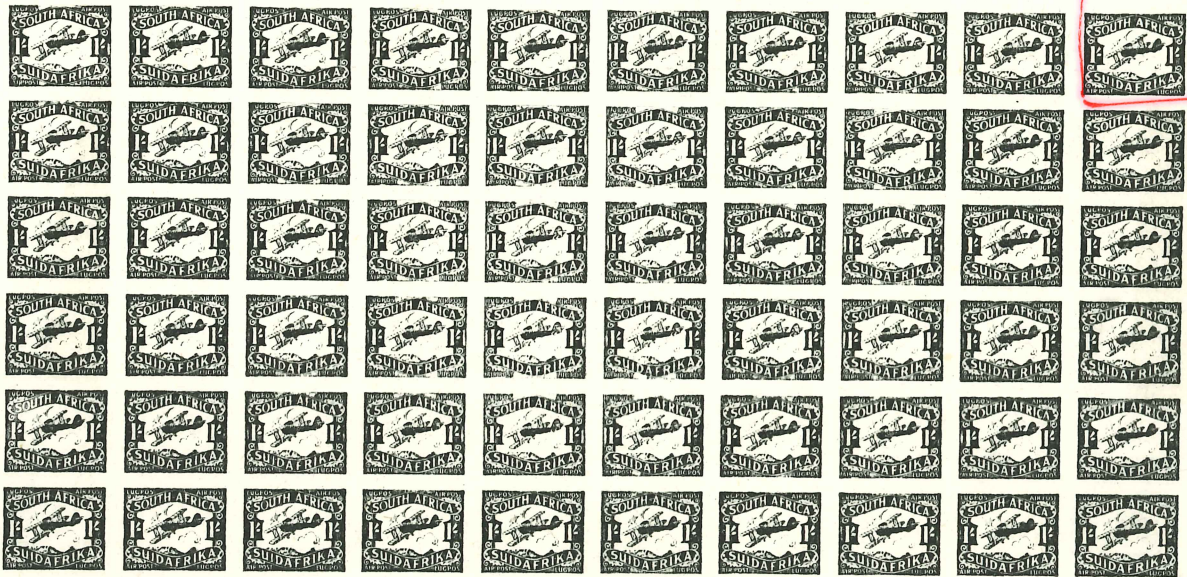


e. Scarlet



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

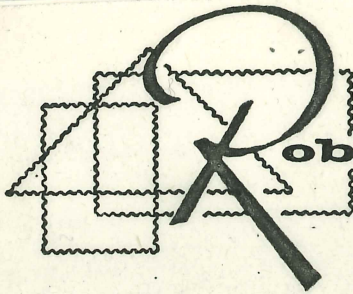
Reduced photocopy of the two Plate Proof sheets of 60
Identifying both sheet positions as Row 1/10



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Air Mails *The Second Air Stamps* Plate Proofs

There is a single known sheet of 60 Plate Proofs each of the 4d. and 1/- airmail stamps.
Individual proofs are 22 x 27 mm., in black on light card, imperforate. These Plate Proofs both from Row 1/10



Robemark philatelists (Pty.) Ltd.

SHOP 192 RED ROUTE CARLTON CENTRE JOHANNESBURG
TEL 21-9728 P O BOX 11419 JOHANNESBURG 2000 RSA

27/8/79

This is to certify that the black
proofs of the 1929 Airmails sold to
Messrs Zululand Stamps are genuine
and originate from row 1/10.

P. Vogenheck

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

A Short History of the Plate Proofs provided by Ken Joseph of Philatelic Friends, formerly Robemark Philatelics

Hi Moody,

Those proofs are scarce as only 60 exist in public hands and some were sold in positional blocks or pieces with varieties. Peter Vogenbeck worked at Robemark for a number of years and now operates out of Germany, focusing on the former German Colonies.

A bit of history on these proofs: The photos shown in the 1952 Handbook are of the Plate Proofs (although without any description). In the 1955 supplement, they are listed: PLATE PROOFS 4d & 1s (in black) @ 60/- each. They were again shown in the 1960 Handbook @ R10 each, as well as the 1979 Revised edition @ R350 each.

It's interesting that they were priced at all, as they only existed in the complete panes, the actual ones shown in the 1952 Handbook, which we (Robemark Philatelists) bought in the late 1970's from a Mr. Crookes of Natal, who had possession of them. We cut the sheets up and sold off matched positional pieces, blocks, pairs and singles. They were listed in our catalogue (1983 edition) @ R750 each. They have always been priced higher than the colour trials and deservedly so. As far as I know, the lower panes (*sic*) remain intact and are kept in the SA Postal Archives or more likely, at the SA Postal Museum.

Regards, Ken

Full size photocopies of the only known two Plate Proof pages
Folded for Display



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Air Mails

The Second Air Stamps

SG 40 and 41. 4d. Green and 1/- Orange

This short set of two values became available at all post offices in the Union on August 16, 1929 marking the inauguration of the second air service by the government. The long delay between the first set and these was caused by World War I. A company called "Union Airways Ltd" was formed to operate between Cape Town and Durban via East London, with side trips to Johannesburg via Bloemfontein. As in 1925 the service was operated weekly in conjunction with the arrival and departure of the Union Castle mail boats at Cape Town. The inland fee was set at 4d. per half ounce and, unlike the first set, were valid for prepaying all of the postage not just the air mail portion. The first flight on August 26 was flown by pioneer aviator, Major Allister Miller. Supplies of both stamps were exhausted around March 1933.



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Second Air Stamps

The second set of two values was printed by the typographic process on unwatermarked paper at the Government Printing Works in Pretoria. There are no Controls for these issues. The design shows a side view of a Moth biplane banking across the center, with the names above and below in English and Afrikaans. The artist was a member of the Government Printer's staff. The sheets were printed in two panes, upper and lower, each of 60 stamps (6 rows x 10) divided by a horizontal gutter. The same master image plate was used for both panes of both values. Jubilee lines have a gap above and below the 5th stamp of the 1st and last rows respectively with a colored dot near the center of the gap which served as a guide for perforating the panes 14 x 13½. The sheets were fed in at the left-hand margin so it is imperforate while the top and right-hand margins are perforated through. In 1932 the use of both air and regular stamps was discontinued and the remaining air mail stamps were authorized for ordinary postal use.

SG 40. 4d. Green (Shades)



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Second Air Stamps

SG 40. 4d. Green (Shades)



V1-White blob between 'AF' of AFRICA. Row 3/8

V2-Short 'l' in AIR. Rows 3 & 9/9



V4-Slightly thicker upper edge of cloud
retouch. Row 12/9.



Margate, Natal.
Blue color chaneling



V1-White blob between AF
of AFRICA. Row 3/8



V2-Short "l" in AIR.
Rows 3 & 9/9



V3-Thickening of bottom frame
line under "U" of LUGPOS.
Row 12/5



V1-White blob between 'AF' of AFRICA. Row 3/8

V2-Short 'l' in AIR. Row 3/9

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Air Mails

The Second Air Stamps

SG 40. 4d. Green (Shades)



V4-Thicker upper edge of cloud as a result of etching being retouched. Row 12/9



Bethlehem, ORC
V2-Short "l" Row 3 & 9/3



Bloemfontein, Cape or ORC
_AUG 29



Uitenhage, Cape 10 MAR _
V1-Blob between "AF" Row 3/8

Upon formation, on 31 May 1910, the Union assumed responsibility for the administration of postal services which had formerly been controlled by the four colonies. Cape Colony stamps had been used in the territory of Basutoland (now Lesotho). From 1910 any stamp that was valid for use in the Union could be used in Basutoland until 31 December 1933.

Basutoland usage is scarce and Gibbons catalog value is 6x normal



Mohaleshoek, Basutoland
12 JUN 33 cds

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Air Mails

The Second Air Stamps

Mixed Franking Cover

Mixed franking of Union and First Definitive Issue inscriptional block of four ½d 1933 Swaziland stamps and 4d. 1929 Union Second Air. Posted 2 February 1933 at Mbabane, Swaziland to Pretoria, Union of South Africa. Union airmail stamps were restricted to airmail use until 1932 when remaining stamps became available for ordinary postal use.

Union stamps used in Swaziland on cover are extremely rare and are valued several hundred percent above usual usage



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Second Air Stamps

SG 41. 1/ Orange (Shades)



Cape Town 1932



Pietersburg 28 JAN 1932



Frere, Natal
18 DEC 1932

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Second Air Stamps

SG 41. 1/ Orange (Shades)

Variety



V1-Break in bottom frame under
"U" of "LUGPOS" Row 12/5

On piece, with official 1934 Royal Tour of H.R.H. Prince George Post-mark. The strike was offered free to mark official mail on the train. The oval cachet is measures 60 x 36 mm. and the wording is similar to the date-stamp. It includes 'OFFISIEEL VRY 1934 OFFICIAL FREE'⁷ in the center of three lines. The royal crown appears at the top of the oval. On March 17 the train was in Riverton, Cape Province near the end of the tour.



V1-Frame break under "U" of LUGPOS⁸



⁷ Vry = Free, in Afrikaans

⁸ The colored dot near the center of the gap in the jubilee line above and below the 5th stamp of the first and last rows, respectively served as a guide for perforating the panes.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Second Air Stamps

SG 70-71

Overprinted S.W.A. for use in South West Africa

27 November 1930

