

½d – UNHYPHENATED PRETORIA PICTORIAL

PRINT

Printed by the Government
Printing Works, Pretoria

LIFESPAN

May 1931 – Sept. 1935
4 years 4 months

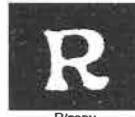
DESIGN

Springbok head facing right
Redrawn by J L BOOYSEN

Apart from the printing process, the main difference between this stamp and its London/Pretoria predecessor is in the shape of the letter "R" in "AFRICA" and "SUIDAFRIKA". The right leg ends squarely on the base line instead of being curled as in the typo printings. This pertains to the ½d, 1d and 6d values



PRETORIA ROTOGRAVURE PICTORIAL



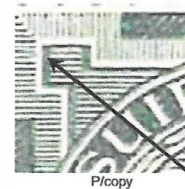
LONDON / PRETORIA TYPOGRAPH PICTORIAL



Three issues were produced from 2 head:- and 3 frameplates

CHARACTERISTIC

Afrikaans stamps: An extended line of shading sloping down into the white border of the top left-hand ornamental square



ISSUE 1, 2 and 3

Printed in black and green, with shades of grey to deep black and various greens

In all printings, the first stamp on the sheet was inscribed in Afrikaans

ISSUES 1 and/or 2 – Headplate 1: Frameplate 1x

This was a small printing in umbers as the stamps are relatively hard to come by

Printed in May 1931 with upright and inverted watermark

ISSUE 2

Headplate 1: Frameplate 2x

Second printing, early 1932 from the same retouched headplate (1), with a different frameplate (2x)

This was a large printing made with the same black ink as before. They became known as the "**Normal**" and "**Retouched**" printings of ISSUE 2

Although the headplate was retouched, there are no differences between the stamps of the 2 ISSUES

ISSUE 3

Headplate 2: Frameplate 3x

The **third** printing was a large one that was printed in June 1934 from a new headplate (2) as well as a new frameplate (3x) with the watermark always upright

The vignettes were in a soft grey color that contributes to a wrong conclusion that the cylinder had been treated. This printing became known as the "**Cleaned Plate**" printing.

WATERMARK

Multiple Springbok head
Upright and inverted

PERFORATION

15 x 14

SHEET

240 Stamps in 20 rows by
12 columns

The **fourth** printing again was a reasonably large one. At this time the condition of the pressure roller has deteriorated and several "traveling" flaws on different positions on the stamps occurred.

The worn condition of the cylinders gave a different appearance to the buck's horns from which this printing derive its name "**Splintered horns**"

Subsequent printings cannot be excluded

Several stages are followed during the print process to assist the printer and errors occur on all issues. On the following pages examples of such errors are described, using the ½d value to illustrate flaws

PRODUCTION

A Goebels printing machine was used for the printing, permitting sequential printing in a single operation. Paper was supplied in large rolls, already gummed on one side and fed through the machine first passing over the frameplate (Exterior cylinder), then over the headplate (Interior cylinder) on to the numbering and perforation sections of the machine. Next to the trimmer (trims the margins) and finally onto the cutter, which cuts it into sheets

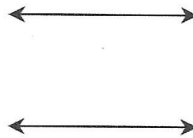
A black four-digit number were printed twice in the right margin of the passing strip (sheet)



After each print it changed the numeral for the next two strokes

JOINED PAPER

The rolls of paper necessitated some joining by the manufacturer and occasionally by the printer when the beginning of one roll had to be joined to the end of another



P/copy

During printing, joining was done with fairly narrow self-adhesive strips with straight edges and a narrow overlap

Joining by the manufacturer generally created an overlap between 10mm and 35mm with irregular edges and was done with the same adhesive as was applied to the rest of the paper

MISPLACED CYLINDERS

In the event that a cylinder is not aligned properly, it causes the printing by the head:- or frameplate to be shifted upward or downward



P/copy



Upward shift of vignette



Unusual shift on top stamp only

DRY PRINTING

Dry printing was caused by the following events on the printing press:

- (1) The press has stopped for a time. The ink dries out in the recesses/cells, clogging them up. When the press starts again ink doesn't transfer to the paper, resulting in the next impression showing some white space. Usually in a slightly irregular pattern
- (2) The ink trough runs out of ink. Deficiencies first start appearing, as there is not enough ink to fill the recesses/cells
- (3) Over or under inking. It typically caused darker or lighter prints and/or blurred/faded portions on stamps
- (4) Damaged or worn plates



Under inked showing faded shading lines



Blurred center



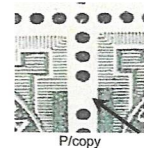
Blurred frame

PERFORATION

Perforation pins not in exact alignment resulted in misplaced perforations. In the event of a broken or bended perforation pin, it misses the paper effecting a missing perforation hole(s)



Missing perf. Hole



DOCTOR BLADE

In rotogravure printing the DOCTOR BLADE removes the excess ink from the smooth non-engraved portions of the image carrier. When a piece of foreign material gets caught by the DOCTOR BLADE, or if it is damaged, the ink gets under the DOCTOR BLADE.

This causes the DOCTOR BLADE to leave marks, lines or smudges of ink on the surface of the cylinder. These are found on the stamps (paper) and are called **DOCTOR BLADE FLAWS**



Too much tension on the DOCTOR BLADE made it "dig in" to the part of the etched surface, causing amongst others, "white corners"



Green line through right stamps

BOOKLET PRINTING

Booklet stamps for the ½d value were produced from the same multipositive that was used in Issues 1 to 3. Produced in the same colours, watermark and perforation, the only way to distinguish them from other stamps is by the cut edge of one or two sides.

Stamps were printed in two times three columns upright and three columns inverted next to each other with margins on the side. This printing resulted in a pair of stamps, next to each other, in which one is upside-down in relation to the other, the so-called **tête-bêche** pairs.

Usually when printing stamps for booklets, the pages were in multiples from different printing plates.

Margin	Column 1	2	3	4	8	7	6	Column 5	9	10	11	12	Margin
Discarded	Discarded	Binding margin						Binding margin	Binding margin			Discarded	Discarded
			Upright w/mark		Inverted w/mark					Upright w/mark			
			PANE A		PANE B					PANE C			

Tête-bêche layout for the ½d and 1d booklet printings

Margin	1	2	3	4	2	1	Margin
Discard	Binding margin		Economy strip	Economy strip		Binding margin	Discard
		PANE A - Upright w/mark		Upright w/mark		PANE B - Inverted w/mark	

Tête-bêche layout for the 2d booklet printings



Tête-bêche pair with gutter between - Booklet printing

After printing, the sheets were cut in blocks of six with a side margin and bind into booklets.

It was unusual for these pairs to find their way into the postal system, since they were quality controlled and cut into individual booklet sheets before binding into the booklet.

These were never sold in this form at Post Offices.

DOUBLE TRANSFER

During the initial etching process of the booklet cylinders, the three columns of inverted Springbok heads were engraved 2½ mm too high for correct registration.

The heads were erased and re-etched in the correct positions. Faint traces of the original etching however remained.



Traces of an extra horn, ear or shoulder can be seen on the left- and right-hand stamps from the panes with inverted watermark.

Continue to stamps

The stamps were withdrawn when it was discovered.