

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE ADDENDUM OF “THE POSTMARKS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND FORMER STATES AND COLONIES”

Since Ralph Putzel, RDPSA, published the first volume of the ten volume opus magnus in 1992, major changes in the status of post offices in South Africa occurred. Many post offices were closed, and new post offices opened. Furthermore, many cancellers were unable to handle the year 2000. The SA Post Office resolved to use a standard steel canceller, based on the Swiss style which is termed “new style” in the description. Apparently some 7600 of these cancellers were issued. However, individual post offices were given certain freedom, and some regions resolved to use a variety of self-inking cancellers. These have been found to have a relatively short life of two to four years, and may become elusive in years to come. Until clarity on their availability is obtained, their price has been retained at 2/10, as for all current material, consistent with the original pricing.

In the Addendum, which is maintained in electronic format to facilitate inclusion of new information in the correct position, the same style as the original books is kept. Information readily available in the books is not repeated. The same numbering system as in the books is maintained, except in some isolated instances where the information for a particular post office is renumbered, but this is clearly indicated. Where the information of a canceller in the book is modified an asterisk is found after the number, such as No. 4*. If no asterisk is shown the information is new. This is also true of additional variants of the date format.

In April 2018 what was known as SWAZILAND became ESWATINI. Only towards the end of 2019 the first date stamp with the changed country name was seen.

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Unrecorded cancellers, or better copies of illustrated strikes, are always welcome. These can be sent electronically (scanned at 300 dpi) or as clear photocopies. Soft- or hard-covered subscription copies of the ten volume set are out of print, and a reprint is not envisaged.

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