A random selection of covers from St. Helena emphasises that the only mail route at the time was by sea!
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The Tristan Song Project

Issue Date: 14th. February 2013

The Tristan Song Project is an unlikely collaboration between children from the most remote inhabited island in the world and pupils from Norfolk, England.

In 2000, Norfolk's Tony Triggs, a private teacher of music, contacted the Education Advisor at St Mary's School on Tristan da Cunha suggesting that if St Mary's pupils wrote poems he and his own young pupils could turn them into songs.

The Tristan Song Project succeeded beyond their expectations. The island children soon had a repertoire of songs to perform for visiting tourists, and some appeared in Rockhopper Penguins and Other Songs, with profits providing St Mary's School with guitars and other instruments.

The Tristan Project is a model for similar projects worldwide and further information may be found at www.NorfolkMusicSchool.com

The issue consists of four stamps, each with an image or part image of a musical instrument traditionally found on the island or supplied by the Project, along with words from some of the Project songs and jauntily-presented music notation,

The 35p (recorder) stamp quotes the nonsense song "When Fish Get the Flu".

The 45p (violin) stamp has words from "Rockhopper Penguins," reflecting the waddling antics of these much-loved island inhabitants.

The 70p (guitar) stamp features "The Volcano's Black," whose menacing words match the smouldering menace of Tristan's volcano.

The £1.10 (accordion) stamp contains words from "The Molly" (albatross), a bird whose cry haunts the island's gaunt cliffs.

(Continued on page 5)
Each stamp is available in an individual sheet of 10. In the border, lively artwork shows a youngster playing the featured instrument, plus additional lyrics matched with their own authentic notation.

The First Day Cover combines the pieces of artwork to show the children playing together and evidently performing one of the songs with great abandon!

In July 2012 the Administrator of Tristan announced that its Post Office and Philatelic Bureau had appointed Creative Directions Ltd and Pobjoy Mint Ltd to act as its new agent to handle the production and marketing of its postage stamps with an objective of improving the service.

It had been noted that the revenue realised by the Post Office year by year had decreased. The job previously had been provided by the Crown Agents and in 2007 they amalgamated with Harry Allen a trading division of 288 group Ltd. This was a new venture and they renamed themselves CASCO Philatelic services Ltd and so took over handling the production and marketing aspects of the Tristan Post Office.

The first stamps issued by Pobjoy were a set of 4 stamps to commemorate the Shackleton Expedition, on the 28th November 2012 for the 70th Anniversary. See fig. 2

Then followed the WWF Tristan Albatross set and 2 Superb souvenir sheets. (Fig 3, below, 4 and 5 next page)

The Tristan song project had been started by CASCO and the preliminary stamp design artwork handed to Pobjoy (see Fig 6 - next page) however they were not thought to be suitable by the new company and hence the stamps in Fig. 1 were produced.

It will be interesting to see if the stamp designs improve and the revenue from sales increases in the present economic market and the lack of younger collectors taking up the hobby.

In July 2012 the Administrator of Tristan announced that its Post Office and Philatelic Bureau had appointed Creative Directions Ltd and Pobjoy Mint Ltd to act as its new agent to handle the production and marketing of its postage stamps with an objective of improving the service.

It had been noted that the revenue realised by the Post Office year by year had decreased. The job previously had been provided by the Crown Agents and in 2007 they amalgamated with Harry Allen a trading division of 288 group Ltd. This was a new venture and they renamed themselves CASCO Philatelic services Ltd and so took

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Fig. 4 - Tristan Albatross Souvenir Sheet.

Fig. 5 - Tristan Albatross Miniature Sheet.

Fig. 6 - the original CASCO designs for the Tristan Song project issue

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New Ascension Varieties
Long and Short Petticoats

By John Woolven-Allen

I think the 1981 Flowers set is one of the best definitive issues Ascension has ever produced. While rearranging my collection I noticed this oddity and wondered if anyone had come across it before. The £1 denomination (SG295A, Ladies Petticoat) exists in two different sizes, as seen in the illustration (which is a straight-forward scan, I have not engaged in any ‘enhancement’). The stamp on the left measures 49 x 58 mm and 29 x 38 complete perforations, while the stamp on the right measures 49 x 56 mm and 29 x 37 complete perforations. Close inspection reveals the extra length is at the bottom of the stamp below the denomination and picture label. I have four other examples of this stamp which all match the dimensions of the smaller stamp shown here, as do my copies of the 50p and £2 stamps from this set. There must have been a whole line of these taller stamps on at least one sheet, but if this was the case on every sheet then they would be relatively common. Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Catalogue for St Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha, 4th Edition 2011 makes no mention of this. It may be trivial but I am nonetheless curious.

Follow-up

In the November SAC, in the article TdC Cancellations Part 3, p.7, I had asked for more information about a straight line cachet with signature (the complete FDC attached).

Even before publication I received information from Alan Melville and now from several SIG TDC2 members writing with the following response:

“The cachet is a private cachet of J. Ball, the Company Secretary of Tristan Investments (Pty) Ltd in Cape Town and was seen only on FDCs dated 1-1-1952. Mr. Ball visited TdC several times and was most probably on the island when the Post Office opened in 1952”.

If you have any further and/or different information, please tell us!

Klaus D. Hahn

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Request for Help:
Customs Inspection Labels - Purpose Unknown.

By Steven Zirinsky

I have a batch of recent incoming mail to St. Helena. A very small percentage (3 out of 600) have these customs labels on them. I believe these are South African but can’t be certain. Can anyone shed any light on these?

I am also enclosing another item with a hand-stamped number on it. I have several of these ...and I believe they are of UK origin, but again am not certain.

Peter Thy (editor of the Greater Southern Africa Study Group) wrote:

“Well - Don't really know. But my take at this point is that the recipient is a very active ham radio operator on St Helena. The mail to the island (like all transport) goes through Cape Town and that mail is processed there before going with the Royal Mail ferry to the island. The examination tape is probably applied in Cape Town (but how can you tell?). The registration bars must thus be replaced by the SA incoming bars. The square marking with the '16- and the written notations???? “

The reverse of the cover above.

This one above came from the U.S.A.

Peter also wrote:

“How is Ascension getting its mail? Have you got any St. Helena letters from the UK without a Ascension transit? May be more complex than expected.”

Answers to Steven please (Ed.) §
An unspectacular Tristan da Cunha WW2 1940 cover

SIG All Islands
by Klaus D. Hahn

At a first glance this WW2 cover isn't very spectacular. The cover was not censored, obviously of philatelic origin because it was produced by a South African stamp dealer who imprinted his address on the front side.

The plain and obviously unfranked cover was sent to Tristan da Cunha to obtain a missionary hand stamp - and indeed, the cover was cancelled with a clear strike of the Type VII hand stamp on the right upper corner of the envelope. The reverse is plain.

Fig. 1 - philatelic cover to S. Africa struck with the Type VII missionary handstamp.

The peacetime cachets Types V, VI and VII continued to be used after the outbreak of WW2 but to a much lesser extent. When Cmdr. Wooley learned of the usage of the type VII cachet in 1942, he confiscated the hand stamp and prohibited its usage for the duration of the war for security reasons, and the Tristan censor started his work with the tombstone censor marking. But - the cover illustrated was created two years earlier and that's why no censor marking was used on it on Tristan at the time.

Fig. 2 - the London F.S. 59 date stamp

Probably later, and not on Tristan da Cunha, (because of the strike of the Type VII on the upper right corner where usually stamps had to be applied) the KGVI 1½d stamp was affixed to the cover in London and struck with the circular metal date stamp “London 26 MR 40, F.S. 59 “

My conclusion at this time: the cover was collected by H.M.S. Dorsetshire visiting Tristan da Cunha on 7th March 1940, the ship returning with a batch of mail to England. Most of the covers received a London date stamp of 26th March 1940 (a similar cover is pictured in Robin Taylor's Monograph No. 1, p.35).

This date stamp was used by the Foreign Section in London, which was the facility that all incoming and outgoing mails to and from the U.K. went through for sorting.

The number "59" refers to the clerk (or clerks' work station) who did the sorting, all done by hand by real people (something we are perhaps not used to today), with accountability; i.e. if the clerk’s number was on the mail, then the post-office knew who had caused a problem in issues of dispute.

From London the cover was transported to Johannesburg and travelled about 17,000 miles – for a postage cost of 1½d!

References:
Alan Melville
Robin Taylor's Monograph No. 1 and 18 §

By Jackie Schmueli

As a collector of antiquarian books and having an interest in Tristan de Cunha dating back to my school-days in South Africa I purchased the book and would like to share my impressions of the section relating to Tristan de Cunha.

On 8th November 1905 the ship-rigged yacht “Valhalla” sailed from Cowes on its third exploratory voyage on behalf of the Natural History Department of the British Museum.

The route was via Los Palmas to the South Atlantic Islands, the Cape of Good Hope, the Mozambique Channel on to Madagascar, and the “little-know islands lying to the north-west”, returning home via the Suez Canal. The journey completed a voyage of seven months covering 19,000 miles.

“Tristan de Cunha is the largest of a group of three islands, all of which are within sight of one another;”

Numerous seabirds including the yellow-nosed albatross were noted by the author. On approaching the shore the people on the islands sighted the ship and sent out two boats to meet the yacht. Lord Crawford (a fellow passenger and trustee of the Museum) had brought mail from England but by the time it had been sorted it was too late to go on shore.

The islanders gave a detailed account of the bird-life on the island and remarked that Tristan de Cunha was overrun with rats which probably responsible for the extinction of the Tristan finch on the island.

The following day the expedition rowed to within half a mile of the shore but because it was too late they did not disembark.

The author noted that the settlement was composed of about sixteen stone houses built at the foot of sloping grass-covered peaks where cattle grazed. “The islanders sell them to passing ships and we ordered two bullocks, but owing to the stormy weather which set in that night we were unable to hold any further communications with the shore”. The stewards of the yacht bought from the islanders red berries (similar to cranberries) which apparently formed the principle food of a thrush-like bird (Nertera Depressa). Due to harsh weather conditions and stormy seas plans to visit the island had to be abandoned and the yacht continued its journey to the Cape of Good Hope. §

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The Island Post Office has recently had some changes in the style of postmark used and this article will mainly deal with the 2003-2008 period. But first a little background to the subject prior to these dates. Following the return of the Islanders in 1963 a metal hand stamp was used and saw active service until 1990. For a brief period in 1982 a rubber hand stamp was also put to some use but was withdrawn after limited use. A new 27mm 2 ring metal hand stamp was available from 1990 and saw continuous use until the end of 1999. This produced a neat clean strike and it is a pity that it was replaced in 2000 by a 30mm metal hand stamp that proved very difficult to use and the standard of the postmark was poor. The Crown Agents in London were contacted and advised of this and it was suggested that a self-inking hand stamp be sent to Tristan da Cunha. Two 30mm examples were produced and arrived in, and were put to use from, May 2003. These two handstamps are listed as Type 'A'.

Within a short period of time the rubber of the hand stamp began to spread and one of the two handstamps gave an 'egg' style impression as the rubber expanded due to the amount of force used in the postmarking process. This is first noticed on examples from about November 2003, with a good 31mm example seen on the postmark used on the 7th February as an incoming 'Received' postmark. By the visit of RMS St Helena in February 2006 this hand stamp had spread out to 31.5mm. Remember that there are two examples of this hand stamp and the 2nd 'spare' did not receive as much use, but was sometimes used around this period.

In 2006 a new set of handstamps were put into use on the Island listed as Type 'B'. These were similar in style and size to Postmark 'A' with the main difference being the position of the central line of date text.

This new postmark had the line of text higher with the base of '6' of 2006 in line with the base of 'A' of Cunha. The previous postmark 'A' first introduced in May 2003 had the top of '6' of 2006 in line with the base of 'A' of Cunha.

2006 also saw the introduction of a 29mm hand stamp listed as Type 'C' which had a new layout of the date line with the year, month and day reading from left to right. The month was also shown as figures for example November was '11' and not Nov. The following dates have been confirmed 2006-11-16, 2006-11-30, 2006-12-01, 2007-04-20, 2007-07-03

This hand stamp was seldom used and it has proved quite difficult to obtain examples of it in use. By January 2008 the hand stamp had been withdrawn and destroyed after the previous postmaster incorrectly reported that it was against regulations to have two different styles of postmark in use from the same Post Office.

Postmark Type 'D' has now appeared and this 29mm postmark has the central line of the date text lowered. This was put into use during 2007. It is thought that at least two examples are in use in the Post Office as there are very slight differences with the examples seen. As they are made of rubber it is possible that the date line might have some
slight flex in it and cause a slight raising or lowering of the central date text depending on the amount of force used during the postmarking. The postmark created when using these self-inking hand stamps is an improvement on the 2000 style postmark and the only extra cost is the need to replace these self-inking hand stamps after a relatively short period of time in comparison to the metal style hand stamp.

Type A. 30mm dated 30th May 2003.

Type A. 31mm dated 23rd August 2004 and used as a 'Received' handstamp.

Type B. 30mm dated 7th June 2006 with raised date line.

Type C. 30mm dated 2006-11-30.

Type D. 29mm dated 28th May 2007 with lower date line.

(Continued from page 11)

St. Helena Booklets - a question

An example of this booklet was sought on behalf of a non-member recently, and one was duly found which was available for sale.

However, during my own check to see whether I had a spare, I noticed that the stamps are inserted upside down in relation to the cover. This makes sense if the stamps were taken from the edges of a sheet in blocks of four, allowing the staple to be punched into the selvedge, rather than the stamps themselves. Thus stamps inserted upside down came from the right hand side of a sheet, those ‘right way up’ would have come from the left hand side of the sheet. Can members who have more than one copy of this booklet confirm that the stamps are stapled as I suggest?

John Coyle

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Ray writes:
“Since the article another three turned up in the Kelleher sale. I managed to get one and another member was also successful, no idea where the others went.

The one with the red stamp went for $767 including commission

The blue stamped one sold for $1,534

And the one with 4 USA stamps sold for $708

Note. Two of the covers were sent to Waite and one to Wilson: that’s the two missing ones from Waite’s article.” §
It is once again our annual pleasure and privilege to acknowledge and thank our CONTRIBUTING members. In alphabetical order, we applaud Les J. Allam, Huw Avon, Paul L. Bondor, George M. Cousens, Erika C. DeMille, Mike Faulds, Carl J. Faulkner, Terrence M. Gamble, Ernest Garand, Paul H. Gault, Dr. Eli G. Goodman, Klaus D. Hahn, Sybil Innes, Ron J. Kirby, John J. Kriz, Dr. Peter P. McCann, George E. McKay, and Richard Maisel.


To all the foregoing, we offer our collective gratitude for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

Bradley W. Brunsell

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Tristan da Cunha

By Klaus Hahn

The Kelleher postal history auction of February 2014 was most remarkable. Most valuable covers of the past year auctions are still dramatically decreasing as well as most missionary handstamps - e.g. Lot 232 - Type Vacachet to England was sold for $767.

A similar cover at HR Harmer Auction 2011 sold for $1,900 which was a bargain price in 2011, the same cover sold for £1,610 in a Stanley Gibbons Auction in 1998.

Now we are a long way away from the 1998 and 1999 results for the Jack Cole collection

Even the scarce 1922 Shackleton-Rowett Antarctic Exp. cover with the boxed cachet "Tristan da Cunha" - only this one cover is known - was sold for the "bargain" price of $4,720, too expensive for most collectors - but an unique cover!

Three Pooley covers with typewritten TRISTAN DA CUNHA overprints and signature of the Reverend were offered and reached the estimated prices and more, perhaps thanks to an intensive discussion within the SIG TDC2 a few months before.

On the other hand the winners were the WW2 censored covers, e.g.:

Lot 252 HMS Queen of Bermuda censored cover 1940, sold for $767 (estimated $300-400)

Lot 258 Airgraph 1944 redirected to the Job 9 address, sold for $1,652 (estimated $500-750), 2 years ago a similar cover realized $950

Lot 259 censored Woolley cover to "ABC" 1944, sold for $1,534 (estimated $400-600)

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Seven rare covers censored by Dr. Woolley were offered, such a large number of Woolley covers has never been seen before at an auction, so the prices for most of them were only within the estimated range, and some collectors had the chance to fill their gaps for a reasonable price.

Lot 251: First censored WW2 cover by Queen of Bermuda 24 Aug 1940

Lot 261: Active Service censored cover 1944

Lot 262 Dr. Corfield censor marking to England 1945, sold for $502 (estimated $200-300)

Lot 280 Resettlement Survey cover 1962, Maritime Mail handstamp, was sold for $561 (estimated $300-400)

Lot 214, a remarkable interesting registered "commercial" cover to Weston/Marsh with some nice strikes of the Type I hand stamp (estimated price $600-800). §
SECRETARY’S REPORT


New Members

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<tr>
<td>Paul Edney</td>
<td>14-01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 8391</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honolulu, HI 96830</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graeme Robertson</td>
<td>14-02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struan House, Knockintorran North Uist, Western Isles, HS6 5ED Scotland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:graeme@globalislands.net">graeme@globalislands.net</a></td>
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Change of Address

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<td>1755 West Lemonwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tucson, Arizona 85755</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tarantola 1899 Book Shop</td>
<td>06-04</td>
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<td>Via Porcellaga 4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I-25122 Brescia (BS), Italy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Wright</td>
<td>13-07</td>
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<td>1311 W. Downing St</td>
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<td>Springfield, MO 65807</td>
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<td>Francois Friend</td>
<td>L12-10</td>
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<td>P.O. Box 15558</td>
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<td>Emerald Hill 6011 South Africa</td>
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In Remembrance

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Resigned

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<td>Ted Gerrard</td>
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Non-renewal of dues

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<td>Rev. Peter R. Carey</td>
<td>05-03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrey Kudinov</td>
<td>12-11</td>
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<td>Suzie Bull</td>
<td>12-04</td>
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<td>Genie Murphy</td>
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<td>Edwin L. Christenson</td>
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<td>Dr. Henry Stein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rusell L. Kaldenberg</td>
<td>93-01</td>
</tr>
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STATISTICAL SUMMARY for the quarter

| Membership as of December 31, 2013: | 139 |
| New Members during the quarter:    | 2   |
| Loss (Resignations):               | 2   |
| Loss (Deaths):                     | 1   |
| Non-renewal of dues:               | 7   |
| Total Losses:                      | 10  |

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, March 31, 2014: 131

Please report all changes directly to the Secretary Klaus D. Hahn, details on Page 19.§
NEW ISSUES

Tristan da Cunha
Ships and Explorers

Technical details:
- Designer: Andrew Robinson
- Printer: Cartor Security
- Printing Process: Lithography
- Stamp size: 42 x 28mm
- Perforation: 13¾ x 13½
- Layout: 10
- Release date: 7th April, 2014
- Production Co-ordination: Creative Direction (Worldwide) Ltd

Request for Help

From Klaus D. Hahn:

When sorting out some spare copies of PPCs I found one Innes PPC (Logwood House / misspelled word "Logwood") with the old Type 1 date stamp in black.

In B. Mabbett's book "St. Helena Postal Markings 1815-2000" I found the following explanation:

*Although the Type 1 c.d.s. was officially withdrawn from service in 1897, it can still be found used on the odd occasion up to 1912. A cover is recorded with this c.d.s. dated 25th February 1912, and the c.d.s. is also recorded on an Edward VII 2½d key type dated 7th March 1912. No doubt this c.d.s. was kept as a spare, and just used on the odd occasion, or used to cancel mail and stamps as a favour.*

In the German text there is no indication the card was written for philatelic reasons. Because of the same date 25th February 1912 it seems the usage of the Type 3 or 4 date stamp wasn't possible at that date, for whatever reason.

It would be interesting to know if another late usage of the Type 1 c.d.s. is known.

Please have a look in your albums: if you find the Type 1 on a cover or post card with a date later than 1897, please tell me the date when used, even it's the same date (25th February 1912). Below is the scan of the complete PPC.

Many thanks for your help.
Society Article Collections

The society has published two collections of articles written for the Journal, the first related to the 20th. Anniversary of the society’s founding, the second to the 30th. Anniversary.

Each publication is hardbound with a dust jacket and is printed on high quality paper. The 20th. Anniversary Anthology, is sold out, although copies may be available if members wish to advertise in the Chronicle for any which other members may no longer require. The 30th. Anniversary Book contains articles by many of our members, and there are many photos and illustrations, a history of the society and appendices, etc., etc.!

Former Secretary Tom Bowman has a number of copies of this book for sale, enquiries first to our current secretary, please. §

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