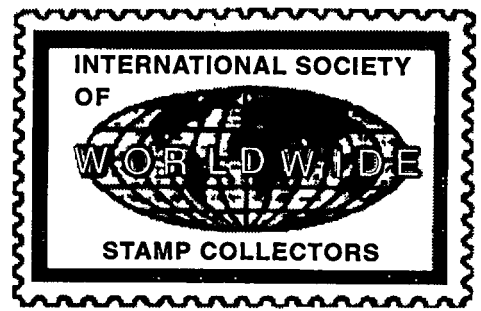


The Circuit

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The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

Griqualand

by Dave Creson (# 170)

Last summer I bought a stamp estate box from a local dealer I know. The box had been picked of some obvious valuable material, but I was able to find plenty of less valuable (but perhaps more interesting) stamps. Way down deep I found a stock card with some rather common Cape of Good Hope issues.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Cape of Good Hope had issued triangle stamps in 1853 until 1864. What I had were the rectangle "Hope" lady seated issue (Fig. 1). The problem was they all had "G" stamped on them in red or black. My trusty Stanley Gibbons explained that the "G" was for Griqualand, and gave a rather brief breakdown. First there was a manuscript surcharge (Fig. 2). Then "G.W." overprint, then later 14 types of "G" overprint on Cape of Good Hope ½, 1, 4 & 6 pence and on 1,5 shilling (Fig. 3). There are legitimate double and inverted overprints.

Griqualand's postal rates are not documented anywhere that I can find, but probably were similar to that of Cape of Good Hope. It is not clear to me what the ½ pence was used for in Griqualand. The 1 pence probably was for local printed matter. The 2 pence was used for fines (postage due). Please note that there was no 3 pence stamp until 1880 or even any recorded need until November of 1879. The 4 pence was used for inbound overseas mail (prepaid mail was valid only to Cape Town), and outbound private ship mail (private ship and packet ship mail had different rates). The 6 pence was used for overseas packet mail and later for letter registration. The 1 shilling was also used for overseas packet mail, and the 5 shilling was used (I suppose) for heavier parcels and postal accounting.

Another oddity was finding any information in depth about the area, so I could better understand events that created a need to overprint Cape of Good Hope stamps with a "G." Modern references are lacking any meaningful information; however, my 1929 *Britannica Encyclopedias* were helpful. *The Postal History of Transkian Territories* by Ken Baker, *The London Philatelist* and *Encyclopædia of British Empire Postage Stamps* by Lowe were also helpful. The bottom line is that there is really not a lot written about this area in any depth.

Further research revealed that Griqualand is really two areas. Griqualand East is bordered on the northeast by Natal and on the northwest by Basutoland. It was named after the settlement there in 1862 of the Griqua people under the leadership of Adam Kok. (More about this area later.)

WHERE

Griqualand West, also named after its Griqua inhabitants, is part of the inner plateau of South Africa. It lies north of the Orange River (Fig. 4), being

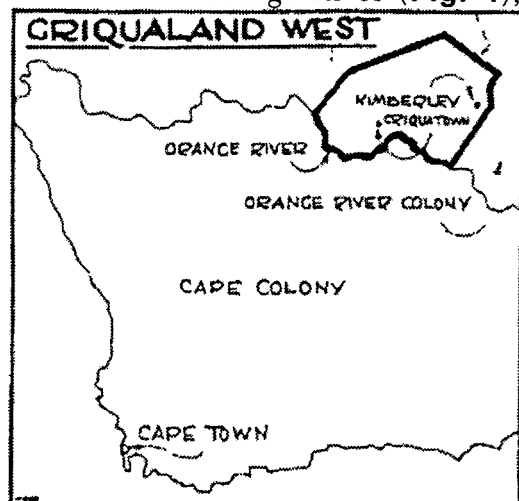


Fig. 4

(See "Griqualand," concluded on page 4.)

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ISWSC President's Column

by Tony Zollo (#856), President and Executive Director, ISWSC

The summer months tend to be slow time of sun and vacation, but within the ISWSC a great deal is happening. Recently the board approved the appointment of Jeff Hayward as Interim manager for Youth Services and Bob Reidel as Interim manager for Publications. They will both serve until a permanent Vice President for Charitable Programs is elected this fall. That individual will then decide how to split up the responsibilities under our Charitable Services.

We still need volunteers to serve as candidates for the open positions. These include President, Vice President for Public Relations, Vice President for Charitable Programs, and Secretary. Remember this Society is *your* Society and can only flourish with your help. It is time to consider giving back to the society and philately! We have many different ways in which you can do just that. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, or if you want to nominate another member please notify our Secretary Dalene Thomas or me (both addresses listed in this issue). The positions close to new candidates on July 31, 1999.

I am also happy to inform you that a volunteer to help co-manage the sales program has stepped forward. He is Charles Jensen (#1837) and he will be working with Bob MacKenzie to slowly take over the uncertified (uninsured) part of the Sales Program.

I have gotten an offer to help with filing the ISWSC's request for tax exempt status. I am hopeful that I will be able to report on success in this effort in the near future.

I want to remind all member of the new penalty on late renewals (announced in the last edition of the *Circuit*) beginning July 1, 1999. Renewals must be made within 30 days of the expiration date (the last day of the month printed above your name on the envelope in which each *Circuit* is mailed) to avoid a fee. Renewals 1-4 months late will be charged a \$2 late fee and renewals 5 or more months late will be charged a \$5 fee. To avoid these fees, you may want to consider renewing early or for two or three years at a time.

Until next time...

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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Phone or send your questions to the appropriate volunteer. Please include a self addressed stamped envelope or an IRC for a reply.

DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE: AUGUST 1, 1999

Carol Cervenka Recognized

By Tony Zollo President, ISWSC

By unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, President Tony Zollo awarded Carol Cervenka (our former Executive Director) with a Certificate of Appreciation and \$100 cash honorarium for her many years of hard work and excellent service to the members of the ISWSC. Until her health made it difficult for her to continue Carol was the backbone of the society. Her work touched every member and was in no small way responsible for the growth and development of the society from its earliest days until she stepped down in late 1998.

Many members were impressed with the efficiency and business-like management she brought to all society affairs. Just as many were touched by the personal and friendly manner she brought to all aspects of her work.

Carol is a very special person, whose efforts on behalf of us all are appreciated and honored.



Stamp Trading

Joan Roderick (#669)

One of the nice things about a club like ISWSC is the opportunity to "meet" and get addresses of fellow stamp collectors. It certainly adds to the enjoyment to establish contacts with fellow collectors, exchange ideas and, if desired, gain trading partners.

Recently I have become aware of some practices that speak ill of our club and certainly do not conform to our ideals. SWAP circuits are sometimes inundated with damaged, common, CTO's, and definitive stamps.

Members have, with good conscience, established trading partners who have been unfair and downright dishonest.

No one expects when trading on a one-to-one basis, to receive common stamps and five or six copies of that. I think if everyone submitted only the kind of stamps they would like to receive and not their old castaways, everyone would benefit.

I don't want to beat this dead horse but look to your self and honestly say "who me?"



Help Needed!

by Joan Roderick (#669)

The SWAP Circuit desperately needs a volunteer to take over the G-M section of the SWAP Circuit. If no one comes forward we will have to drop this service. I have done it myself and it is really fun and an opportunity to look at some nice stamps and "meet" some very nice people.

Richard Houck has to relinquish his duties as CTO Circuit Manager, also, because of other obligations. If you are interested in keeping this going do yourself a favor and volunteer.



Dues Information:

Single/Dealer/Club membership, \$10*

Youth membership (under 18), \$8*

Family membership (up to 4 persons in one residence), \$17*

*=plus 250 large commemoratives for the Youth Program or equiv. donation in US \$

Dues above are for one year and include six newsletters per year. You may sign up for three years at a time. For an application or further information send SASE or IRC to: ISWSC, PO Box 150407 Lufkin, TX 75915-0407 USA.

Advertising Policy:

All ads dealing with philatelic concerns are acceptable. We reserve the right to edit out objectionable language. Advertisers are expected to respond to all inquiries, so be sure you can handle the responses before you offer to trade, buy or sell. If you have a bad result from answering an ad, contact the editor. We will try to resolve the conflict.

Display Rates (Camera Ready)* per insertion:

Full page, \$40**; Half page, \$20**;

Quarter page, \$10**; Per column inch, \$2.

*Camera Ready means ready to paste up or scan and print. Reductions and typesetting extra. **Discounts for three or more insertions of same ad. Yearly display rates available. Write to ISWSC past president Tom Fortunato (see p.2) for special rates.

Classified Rates per insertion:

First 30 words, including name, address, and zip code are \$3. Additional words are 20 for \$1. NOTE: State abbreviations are one word. "PO Box 12345" is two words. Zip code is one word.

Make all checks payable to ISWSC in U.S. funds. Send copy to the Editor and payment to Tom Fortunato. Addresses are on page 2.

“Griqualand,” continued from page 1:

bordered by Bechuanaland, Transvaal, and the Orange Free State. The climate is dry and the only perennial rivers are in the eastern districts, through which the river Vaal flows and severe thunderstorms sometimes occur. It is mainly a pastoral area. So much for where Griqualand West is . . . but who were these Griqua people?

HISTORY

At the end of the 18th century, a large group of people who were descendants of Dutch farmers and Hottentots (Khoikhoi) led a nomadic life on the plains south of the Orange River. In 1803 a missionary named Anderson induced a number of this group with their chief, Bartend Barends, to settle north of the Orange River. A mission station was formed at a place where there was a strong flowing fountain, now since disappeared, which gave the name of Klaarwater to what is now known as Griquatown, or Griquastad. Klaarwater became a retreat for all this group, Hottentot refugees, Kaffirs and Bechuanans.

From Little Namaqualand came a few half-breeds and other under the leadership of Adam Kok, a man of mixed white and Hottentot blood, who is regarded as the founder of the modern Griquas. The settlement prospered and the tribesmen abandoned their old nomadic ways in favor of that of the Griquas.

Adam Kok, Barends and others moved eastward in 1820. Those who remained behind elected as their leader a teacher in the mission school named Andries Waterboer, who successfully administered the settlement. Meanwhile Adam Kok and his companions had occupied part of the country between the Modder and Orange Rivers, and in a short time had exterminated the Bushmen inhabiting that region. Kok died about 1835, and after a period of civil strife was succeeded by his younger son, Adam Kok III, who in November of 1843 signed a treaty placing himself under British protection. He eventually found himself threatened by the Boers (Dutch) of the newly-established Orange Free State. He assisted the British troops (against his grandfather's people). Adam Kok III again moved in 1861-63 with his people, some 3,000 in number, to the region (then depopulated by Kaffir wars) now known as Griqualand West. He was succeeded in 1872 by the son of Andries Waterboer, Nicholas Waterboer, under whom the condition of the Griquas declined.

DIAMONDS

A “pebble” picked up on a farm by a child on the banks of the Orange River in 1866 started it all. The pebble was identified as a 21-carat diamond (**Fig. 5**). This was the first step in opening the diamond fields of that region, which have become the greatest in the

world. The rush to search for alluvial diamonds in the gravel of the Orange and Vaal rivers was greatly accelerated in 1870 and 1871 following the discovery of “dry diggings” in the district near present-day Kimberley. The discovery of diamonds entirely altered the fortunes of the country. At the diggers' camps the Griquas exercised no authority, but over all of the district either the South African Republic, Griquas or the Orange Free State claimed sovereignty. Sometimes who or all three would claim the same area.

The diamond boom mail was routed first through Orange Free State and later through the Cape of Good Hope. The non-overprinted CGH stamps from late 1870 on were used. No stamps were used prior. The “G.W.” or “G” overprints did not come into use until 1877 and all prior usage can only be traced by cancels. However there was a manuscript rate change of 1 pence on a 4 pence blue, which occurred in Griqualand in September 1874. It should also be noted that Cape of Good Hope stamps with a “G” overprint were valuable only in Griqualand and also only until 1880.

The area was still claimed by the Griquas led by Nicholas Waterboer who, on the advice of his agent David Arnot, petitioned the British to take over “his” country. This Great Britain, seeing huge wealth from the area, consented to do so on October 27, 1871. Proclamations were issued by the high commissioner in Cape Town, receiving Waterboer and his Griquas as British subjects and defining the limits of his territory.

The Boers (Orange Free State, New Republic, etc.) in particular were greatly incensed by the action of the British government, but the dispute was settled in 1876 by the payment of £90,000 by the British to the Orange Free State, in full settlement of their rights.

The diamond diggers found the British administration did little for their benefit, and a period of disorder ensued. In July 1873 the territory was made a Crown Colony. The British backed government remained unpopular. The diggers complained of its unrepresentative character, the heavy taxation exacted, and the inadequate protection of property.

The diamond diggers formed a society for mutual protection, and the discontent was so great that an armed force was sent early in 1875 from the Cape to overawe the agitators. At the same time measures were taken to render the government more popular.



Fig. 5

(See “Griqualand,” continued on page 6.)

WHY THE SHARK TEETH GRABBED ME or AROUND THE WORLD IN ONE AFTERNOON

by Anne Murphy (#1774)

I have never professed to specialize in any particular area of my collection. There are 10,000 or so stamps (not a huge number by some standards) housed in over 60 albums of various sizes, representing 100 or more countries. And within my collection there are a few favourites. But none have really grabbed my attention like the Carcharodon megalodon from New Caledonia!

The fossil shark jaw featured on a New Caledonia stamp issued at Australia 99, the World Stamp Expo held in Melbourne from 19-24 March. World Stamp Expo didn't draw me immediately – I'm not fond of jostling crowds – and so I visited there on the spur of the moment. There was too much to see without some kind of game plan and so Craig (my very indulgent husband) and I decided to see the show via a "philatelic passport".

We didn't at first realise that buying the \$3 passport committed us to visiting 94 countries in one afternoon to purchase the stamps that needed to be placed on each page of the passport and have them cancelled in their special World Stamp Expo way. With stamps generally ranging between 50 cents and \$1 this too became quite an expensive way to pass the time.

Being a Saturday afternoon, the queues at some stalls were horrendous. However, the pursuit of the world's stamps and cancellations resulted in some wonderful prizes - such as the Carcharodon megalodon, which is where I came in.

In a far corner of the Expo was New Caledonia's stand. If you're not sure about the country, New Caledonia is east of Australia in the south-western Pacific Ocean, its capital city is Noumea and the official language is French. My philatelic passport also tells me the population is 200,000 and the first stamp issued there was in 1859.

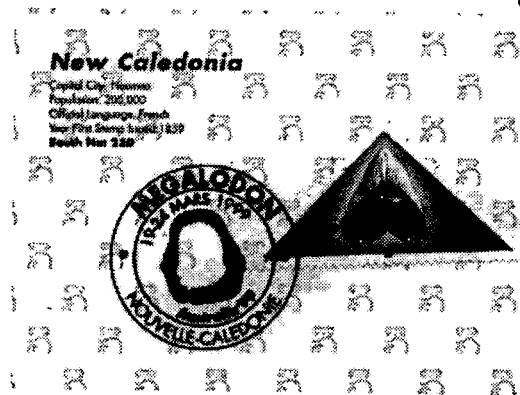
The stamp in itself is quite interesting - the triangular stamp which features a single tooth is 100 francs and has an ocean blue background. But I was particularly taken by the clean, bold cancel. The young lady at the New Caledonia stand took great care to print it strong and clear. It features the word "Megalodon 19-24 Mars 1999, Australia '99, Nouvelle Caledonie". In the centre of the ring is the reconstructed jawbone open and ready to bite.

The fossil jaw was reconstructed in 1996 after being "dredged" by a research ship in northern New Caledonia. Assembly took eight months and was based on a complete jaw found in a phosphate deposit and similar to a great white shark.

A miniature sheet on the same subject featured three stamps – one similar to the 100F stamp, but also showing a small portion of the jawbone. Another shows a concept image of the creature in all its ferocity and a third shows the relative size of the megalodon (at 15 metres or 20 feet) to a great white shark (at 7 metres or 5 feet) and a human (1.7 metres).

Despite my favouritism for this issue and its cancel, my complete passport has become a prized possession. I don't begrudge the cost of the exercise, the sometimes aggressive crowd we encountered, or even the fact that we had to return a second day to fill the last few pages (some stands were closed for the Jewish Sabbath). It was one of the many excellent features of Australia 99 World Stamp Expo and by touching on so many countries in this small way, it was one way to travel right around the world.

Shown below: **Fig. 1:** 100F Carcharodon megalodon.



See "Shark Teeth," next page, for Figure 2.

Official Notice to All Members

by Tony Zollo, ISWSC President

By a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, Member Nina Roebuck (#1772) living at 4909 N. Richmond Rd., Pierpoint OH 44082-9773 has been expelled from membership in the ISWSC. This action has been taken due to her failure to return Sales Circuit material belonging to other members and failure to reply to written inquiries from the Sales Circuit Manager and the President.

Ms. Roebuck is no longer eligible to participate in any ISWSC program. All members are warned to enter into trades or other business with her at their own peril.

