



# Zuid-Afrikaanshe Boer Republics

## Postal and Monetary Sovereignty of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek

### Purpose

This attachment highlights the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR)'s issuance of postage stamps and currency as concrete evidence of its pre-1902 sovereignty and international recognition as an independent state.

### Postal Sovereignty

The ZAR issued its own postage stamps from 1870 (first issue: 1 May 1870, featuring the republic's coat of arms). These stamps were not only used domestically but were internationally valid and recognized. The ZAR concluded postal treaties with other countries (including Britain and Portugal) and joined the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1895, enabling official international postal exchange under its own authority – a privilege reserved for sovereign states.

### Monetary Sovereignty

The ZAR minted its own gold coin, the "Kruger Pond" (or ZAR Pond), from 1892 at the Pretoria Mint (established 1890–1892). The coin featured President Paul Kruger's portrait

on one side and the ZAR coat of arms on the other. Backed by gold from the Witwatersrand mines, it circulated domestically and internationally as legal tender, based on the British pound system but independently issued. This demonstrated economic sovereignty and international trade capability.

### **Significance**

Both postage stamps and currency were practical symbols of sovereignty, accepted in international dealings. The unlawful 1902 annexation terminated these independent systems, replacing them with British control – a direct violation of the Boer republics' established statehood.

### **Sources**

- Postal history: Philatelic Federation of South Africa; UPU archives (ZAR membership 1895).
- Monetary history: South African Mint records; numismatic catalogs (Kruger Pond, 1892–1900).
- General: SA History Online; Britannica ("Transvaal postage stamps and currency").

This annex supports the Boer Volk's historical volkereg and sovereign status prior to 1902.