Current abbreviations in Southern Africa

INTRODUCTION

In the first issue of *English Usage in Southern Africa*, the editors explained that their task was 'to assist in keeping English alive in this country, and to help enquirers wherever possible'. The initial volumes, published between 1970 and 1974, served 'to introduce the tentative findings of the Index staff to a wider public', through word lists, definitions, and occasional articles. In 1975 these lists and definitions were brought together in *A Dictionary of English Usage in Southern Africa*, edited by D.R. Beeton and Helen Dorner, and published by Oxford University Press in Cape Town.

The publication of the dictionary prompted a re-examination of the aims of the Index, as the editors felt that attention should now be focussed on South African English in particular fields (e.g. mining, schoolboyisms). Accordingly, from Vol. 5, no. 1, the editors have concentrated on the publication of articles, reviews and word lists which reflect these 'variants'.

In this index of current abbreviations the examples listed are not necessarily exclusive to South African usage. They are those — whatever the country of their origin, or wherever else they may occur — that are in use in Southern Africa.

To make the index effective we require your co-operation. We should be grateful if any problems or mistakes, any variants or omissions, could be noted and sent to the editors.

It is hoped that the compilation of this index of abbreviations will one day provide a service similar to Ralph de Sola's *Abbreviations Dictionary*, or the *World List of Abbreviations of Scientific, Technical and Commercial Organisations* compiled by F.A. Buttress. The attention of readers is also drawn to E.W. Allen's *Dictionary of Abbreviations and Symbols*, and the *List of Abbreviations of Names of Societies and Organisations* produced in

---

1 The long term project was then known as the Index of English Usage in Southern Africa. Only on final publication was the word 'Index' changed to 'Dictionary' on the advice of the publisher.
1955 by the Information and Library Division of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

METHOD AND FORMAT

1. Capital letters are reserved for proper nouns and lower case for common nouns, except where custom demands a deviation from the rule (e.g. CSIR: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; etc: etcetera). Lower case is used after an initial capital letter when the abbreviation is generally used as an acronym (see definitions below).

2. Abbreviations are listed in alphabetical and numerical order. To facilitate this arrangement, prepositions, articles, and the ampersand have been ignored (D & M, for example, has been classified as DM in the alphabetical order).

3. Stops have been omitted, except where they are used to differentiate one abbreviation from another (e.g. SAP: South African Party; S.A.P.: South African Police).

4. As this is an index, there are many duplications (the South African Railways and Harbours has, for instance, a three, four and five letter designation: SAR, SAR&H, Sarah).

TYPES OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations: contractions (CSIR: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; etc: etcetera).

Acronyms: words formed from letters in a series of related words (Learn: Let Every African Read Now).


Artificial Acronyms: innovative acronyms formed by dropping non-pronounced letters (Wrab: West Rand Bantu Administration Board).

Short Forms (Contracted Forms): two or more related words joined together in contracted form (Unicorp: Union Corporation).

A.D.A.
M.H.

A

AA
Automobile Association
Alcoholics Anonymous
AAC
Anglo American Corporation of South Africa

Adcor
Air Conditioning Contractors (Company)

ADS
Anker Data Systems (Company)

AE & CI
African Explosives and Chemical Industries

AeSSA
Aeronautical Society of South Africa

AET
Association of English Teachers

Afrox
African Oxygen (Company)

Africolor
(Photographic Processing Company)

AG
Administrator-General (SWA/Namibia)
Attorney General (Transvaal)

AGM
Assistant General Manager
Annual General Meeting

AIM
Agricultural & Industrial Mechanization (Company)

ANC
African National Congress

APIPS
Alex Piries Ink and Paper Supplies Company

Armscor
Armaments Corporation of South Africa

ASA
(Railways) Artisan Staff Association

Asseca
African Social, Scientific, Educational and Cultural Association

Assocom
Associated Chambers of Commerce

ASTSSA
Associated Scientific and Technical Societies of South Africa

Atasa
African Teachers' Association of South Africa
Avbob
Afrikaanse Vereniging van Begraafnisondernemings Beperk

B

BAD
Department of Bantu Administration and Development

BAWS
Bantu Animal Welfare Society

BAWU
Black Allied Workers’ Union

BCM
Black Consumers Movement

BCP
Black Community Programme

Bifsa
Building Industries Federation of South Africa

Bishplat
Bishopsgate Platinum (Company)

Boss
Bureau for State Security

BPA
Black Parents’ Association

BPC
Black People’s Convention

BPSG
Black Priests’ Solidarity Group

BWI
Bonus Work Inspector

C

CAeSSA
Companion of the Aeronautical Society of South Africa

Cams
Consolidated African Mines

Capab
Performing Arts Board of the Cape Province

CASA
Cruising Association of South Africa

Cate
College for Advanced Technical Education
CCE  
Chief Civil Engineer

CI  
Christian Institute

CME  
Chief Mechanical Engineer

CNA  
Central News Agency

CRC  
Coloured Representative Council

Cromil  
Crown Mills Holdings (Company)

CSDCR  
Council for Sociological, Demographic and Criminological Research

CSIR  
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

CSS  
Chief Stores Superintendent

D

Dalro  
Dramatic, Artistic and Literary Rights Organization

DB  
Detention Barracks

DHS  
Durban High School

DHSOB  
Durban High School Old Boys (Club, Association)

DIC  
Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation

DLI  
Durban Light Infantry

D & M  
Driving and Maintenance

DP  
‘Duly Performed’ Certificate

DRC (the)  
Dutch Reformed Church
ED (the)
   Education Department
Erab
   East Rand Bantu Administration Board
ER Cons
   East Rand Consolidated
Escom
   Electricity Supply Commission
F
Fasa
   Football Association of South Africa
FBW
   Federation of Black Women
FCI
   Federated Chambers of Industry
FCU
   Farmers’ Co-operative Union
FSALA
   Fellow of the South African Library Association
G
GM
   General Manager
   General Motors
GPO
   General Post Office
H
HAUM (Haum)
   Hollandsche Afrikaans Uitgewers Maatskappy
HED
   Higher Education Diploma
HNP
   Herstigte Nasionale Party
HSRC
   Human Sciences Research Council
I
IAS
   Industrial Aid Society
IATA
   International Air Travel Association
IDSO
   International Diamond Security Organisation
IMF
   International Monetary Fund
Iscor
   Iron and Steel Corporation (of South Africa)
ISEA
   Institute for the Study of English in Africa

J

Jaycees
   Junior Chambers of Commerce
JCD
   John Chard Decoration
JCM
   John Chard Medal
JHB
   Johannesburg
JMB
   Joint Matriculation Board
JSE
   Johannesburg Stock Exchange

K

KWV
   Kaapse Wynbouers Vereniging

L

LDV
   Light Delivery Vehicle
LME
   London Metal Exchange

M

MB
   Metal Box Company
ME
   Mechanical Engineer
MEC
   Member of the Executive Council (of the Provincial Council)
MIF  
Motor Industries Federation

Mima  
Motor Industries Manufacturers Association

MPC  
Member of the Provincial Council

MWA  
Medupe Writers’ Association

Nada  
National Automobile Dealers’ Association

Napac  
Natal Performing Arts Council

NCD  
Natal Co-operative Dairies

NCW  
National Council of Women

NED  
Natal Education Department

NFL  
National Football League

Nicro  
National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders

NMR  
Natal Mounted Rifles

NPA  
Natal Provincial Administration

NPB  
Natal Parks Board

NMSU  
Natal Motor Sport Union

NP  
National Party

NPSL  
National Professional Soccer League

NPU  
Newspaper Press Union

NRP  
New Republican Party
NRSC
National Road Safety Council

NSRI
National Sea Rescue Institute

Nusas
National Union of South African Students

NWR
National Women's Register

OFS
Province of the Orange Free State

Ogads
See: PHSG Ogads

O and M
Committee which examines and advises on Organization and Method in a firm

PAC
Pan African Congress

Pacofs
Performing Arts Council of the Orange Free State

Pact
Performing Arts Council of the Transvaal

PAG
Prince Alfred's Guards

PCT
Pretoria City Transport

PDSA (SA)
People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (South Africa)

PE
Port Elizabeth

PEBS
Prudential Equity Building Society

P.E.N.
Association of Poets, Essayists, and Novelists

PFP
Progressive Federal Party

PHSG
Pretoria High School for Girls
PHSG Ogads
   Pretoria High School for Girls Old Girls Association Dramatic Society
PMB
   Pietermaritzburg
PP
   Progressive Party
PR (the)
   Public Relations Officer
PR
   Pretoria Regiment
PRO
   Public Relations Official (Officer)
Prem Cem
   Premier Portland Cement
PRP
   Progressive Reform Party
PS
   Production Supervisor
PS (the)
   Public Service (Commission)
PSMAA
   Public Servants Medical Aid Association
PTO
   Privilege Ticket Order
PUCHE
   Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education
Putco
   Public Utility Transport Company
PTA
   Parent-Teachers Association
PWD
   Provincial Department of Works

R

Rau
   Rand Afrikaans University
RDM
   Rand Daily Mail
RLI
  Rand Light Infantry
RSA
  Republic of South Africa
RWC
  Roadworthy Certificate

S

SAA
  South African Airways
SAAPA
  South African Airways Pilots' Association
SAAN
  South African Associated Newspapers
SAAU
  South African Agricultural Union
SAB
  South African Breweries
Saba
  South African Bowling Association
SABC
  South African Broadcasting Corporation
Sabra
  South African Bureau for Racial Affairs
SABS
  South African Bureau of Standards
SACA
  South African Cricket Association
Sacboc
  South African Cricket Board of Control
SACC
  South African Caravan and Camping Council
  South African Council of Churches
Sacee
  South African Council for English Education
Sacoin
  South African Consumer Interests
SACU
  South African Cricket Union
SADF
  South African Defence Force
‘Saf’ (the)
  South African Air Force
Safmarine
  South African Marine (Company)
Safto
  South African Foreign Trade Organisation
SAI
  South African Infantry
SAIEE
  South African Institute of Electrical Engineers
SAIMR
  South African Institute for Medical Research
SALA
  South African Library Association
Salstaff
  Salaried Staff Association (SAR & H)
SAMC
  South African Marine Corporation
Sampi
  South African Mealie Producers’ Institute
Sanfa
  South African National Football Association
Sanroc
  South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee
Santa
  South African National Tuberculosis Association
SAP
  South African Party
S.A.P.
  South African Police
SAPA
  South African Press Association
SAR
  See: SAR & H
SARA
  South African Rugby Association
Sarah
  See: SAR & H
SARB
  South African Rugby Board
SARF
South African Rugby Federation

SAR & H
South African Railways and Harbours

SASF
South African Soccer Federation

Sasko
Group of Milling and Bakery Companies

SASM
South African Student Movement

SASO
South African Students' Organization

SATA
South African Teachers Association

SB
The Security Branch of the South African Police

SBL
School of Business Leadership

SFW
Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery

SM
Southern Cross Medal

Soms
Statutary Organisations Medical Scheme

[South African] P.G.A.
Professional Golfers' Association

Soweto
South Western Townships

SRC
Students' Representative Council

SSA
Star of South Africa, First Class

SSAS
Star of South Africa, Second Class

SSRC
Soweto Students' Representative Council

Swapo
South West Africa People's Organisation
T

TAB
Totalisator Agency Board of the Transvaal

Tate
Transvaal Association of Teachers of English

TCL
Tsumeb Corporation Ltd

TED
Transvaal Education Department

Ter
Terrorist

THED
Transvaal Higher Education Diploma

TPA
Transvaal Provincial Administration

TTA
Transvaal Teachers Association

TUCO
Timber Utilization Control Officer

Tucsa
Trade Union Council of South Africa

U

UDC
Union Development Corporation

UHF
Ultra High Frequency

UBJ
Union of Black Journalists

UBS
United Building Society

UCT
University of Cape Town

UJW
Union of Jewish Women

UMR
Umvoti Mounted Rifles

Unicorp
Union Corporation

Unisa
University of South Africa
UP
  United Party
UPE
  University of Port Elizabeth
UPI
  United Press International
UTB
  United Tobacco Company

V
  Vaal Community Council
VHF
  Very High Frequency

WA
  Women’s Auxiliary (of the Methodist Church)
WCC
  World Council of Churches
WGA
  Wool Growers’ Association
Whips
  Waterkloof House Preparatory School
WPLTA
  Western Province Lawn Tennis Association
Wrab
  West Rand Bantu Administration Board

X
  Xhoza Development Corporation

Z
  Zimbabwe African National Union
Zapu
  Zimbabwe African People’s Union
ZTF
  Zimele Trust Fund

[A further list is at present being compiled]