

CERTIFICATE OF APPRAISAL

An exquisitely crafted, historical, presidential election ballot paper best describes this 1994 document naming Nelson R. Mandela as President of South Africa - in the first all-race election in the history of South Africa and the defining moment in South Africa's history after 340 years of Apartheid (separation of races).

Having only been released from prison in 1992 after a 27-year incarceration on famous Robbin Island, Mandela's election proved democracy and free elections would in the future survive after the fall of the former USSR and the end of the communism threat throughout the world.

This document electing Nelson Mandela as President of South Africa contains all the ingredients necessary to becoming a valuable collectors item and cherished by millions of adoring followers around the world. Only a few hundred thousand of these documents remain. The document itself was printed on watermarked, parchment paper by *DE LA RUE* in the UK for \$60M funded by Western nations intent on making the election free from corruption and potential counterfeiting. Each ballot carries a unique, 8-digit identification number with the pictures of the (19) candidates and their party listed in full color. Mandela and the **ANC** are in the 12th position. The election was assisted and monitored by countries in Europe, Scandinavia, Asia and North America.

The unused ballot papers, themselves, only became available by a quirk two days before the April 27 election. A truck contracted to deliver ballot papers to polling stations was hijacked and only recovered after the election was over. The hijacking received media coverage around the world and soon the former White government was inundated with calls for souvenirs from outside South Africa. It was then decided by the government to auction these approximately two (2) million ballot papers to help defray the cost of the election.

Several individuals and companies bid on and received part of these ballots. They have been on sale in most countries, and, now the Internet for the past eight (8) years for up to \$49.00 each. Early on, a South African bidder from Cape Town, Lance Dutton, traveled to New York and sold 100,000 ballots he had bid on for \$2.00 each and pocketed a quick \$200,000. Since then, ballot papers have been sold commercially and used for educational purposes at all levels of instruction - from elementary schools to Universities plus applicable NGO's and Foundations. Part of the current interest in ballot papers is attributed to the phenomenal media and public attention devoted to ballot papers (chads, dimples, butterflies, etc.) during the controversial US 2000 Presidential election and the State of Florida.

The untimely death of Princess Diane in Paris, France has also raised the spectrum of memorabilia for high profile, political-type leaders such as President Mandela. It appears the remaining unused, historic ballot papers from the 1994 election will be at the top of the list of most sought after commemoratives along with Presidential stamps, coins, posters and pictures. At the age of 84, Mandela has recently been hospitalized for prostate cancer but has seemingly recovered to the point of still carrying on an active day-to-day schedule. Based on historical sales records and advertising on cable TV, newspapers (Wall Street Journal) and magazines, etc., it appears the sale of Mandela memorabilia (including ballot papers) will surge rapidly after Mandela's death and closely follow the pattern of Princess Diane commemoratives (\$1½ Billion market).

The most extraordinary feature of the 1994 ballot paper is the hand-applied **IFP - BUTHELEZI** sticker that is found at the bottom of each ballot paper. This last minute physical addition made after 11th hour negotiations to include the Zulu leader in the national elections probably saved South Africa from Civil War. The story surrounding this miraculous turn of events in South Africa's history only adds zest and value to the ballot paper itself. In addition, even the most sophisticated counterfeiting effort would be foiled as the hand-applied stripe can be easily felt with the touch of a finger with a raised, ridged, relief effect.