

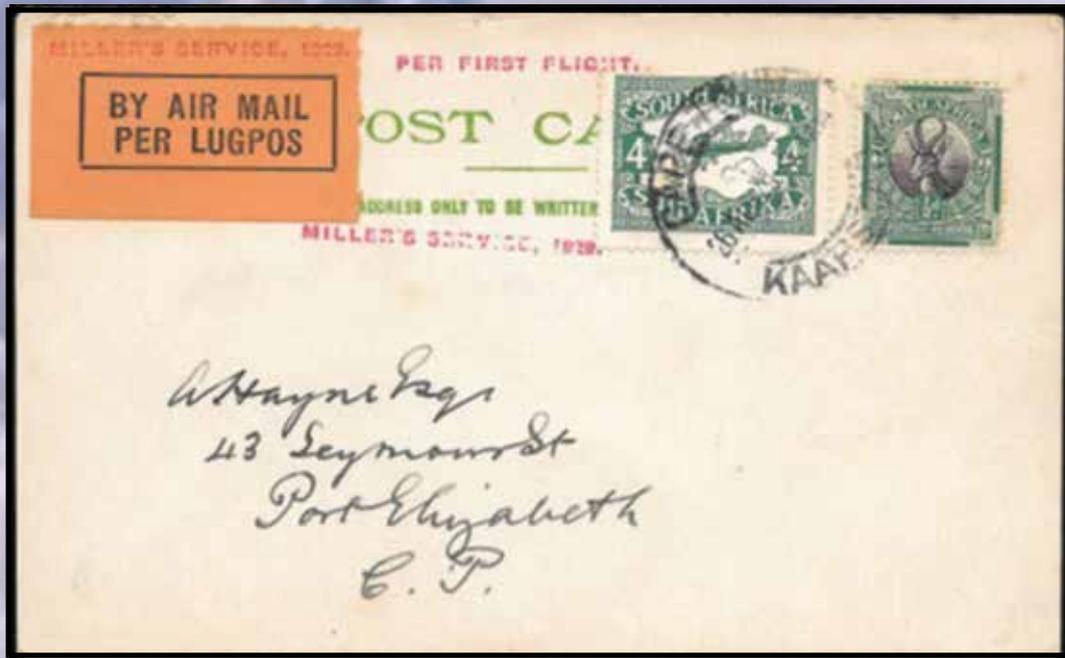
STAMPS

SOUTH AFRICA

ISSUE 3: July, 2021. A bi-monthly newsletter.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE PFSA



Correctly franked 'Millers Service' Postcard used on the inaugural flight of the newly formed Union Airways in 1929 from Cape Town to Port Elizabeth on 26 August 1929. The service resulted from the pursuing of the cause of aviation by Maj. A M Miller.

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IN THIS MONTH OF JULY

round-up of information you won't want to miss

SECOND AIR MAIL STAMPS 1929

Following the 1925 experimental Air Mail Service, the Government unfortunately did not encourage nor support civil aviation on a commercial basis.

However, 1929 saw the establishment of the Union Airways (Pty) Ltd when an agreement was entered between Government and Maj. A M Miller, on behalf of Union Airways, to establish a regular Air Mail and Passenger service between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth.

Routes would be extended from Port Elizabeth to Durban via East London and to Johannesburg via Bloemfontein. The agreement provided the service to run weekly in each direction in conjunction with the Union Castle Line mail ships. To conduct the service and to do chartered flights, five DH Gipsy Moth airplanes were imported.

The inaugural flight took place on Monday 26 August 1929 from Cape Town to Port Elizabeth.

Postal arrangements that all classes of mail matter, except parcels, could be sent by the service appeared in a supplement to Post Office Circular 578 of 22 July 1929. Postal rates were amended by Government notice 1280 of 19 July 1929 to include "A supplementary charge for the conveying of postal articles (exclusive of parcels) by Union Air Mail, 4d per ounce".

To mark the inauguration of the service, two Air Mail stamps were issued and placed on sale from 21 August 1929. No special date stamp was issued. As was the case with the first Air Mail issue of 1925, the stamps were valid for prepayment of the Air Mail portion only. The design is a sideview drawing of a De Havilland D.H. 60 Cirrus Moth in flight against the background of Table Mountain, Cape Town.

Items to be sent via Air Mail also needed additional franking for surface delivery at the rate of 1d per ounce for letters and ½d for open letters, and Post Cards. Sheets were printed on unwatermarked paper in an upper and a lower pane of 60 stamps each, with no cylinder control numbers, marginal arrows or sheet numbers.



Number of stamps printed:

4d – 502 320 (4 186 sheets)

1s – 194 640 (1 622 sheets)

To provide provisional Air Mail stamps for South West Africa, 73 200 of the 4d and 39 480 of the 1s were overprinted S.W.A.

Stamps remained on sale until March 1933 when supplies became exhausted.

Early 1932 it was announced that with effect 27 January 1932, the Air Mail rate within the Union would become an inclusive fee of 4d per half-ounce. Further, that Air Mail stamps would be valid for all postage requirements, including the prepayment of parcels and registration fees.



COLOUR TRIALS

Five different colour trials were specially run for submission to the postal authorities. These were made from the actual plates that had been prepared for the printing of the sheets of the 1/- stamp.

One full sheet of each colour was printed and should have been destroyed upon their return to the Government Printing Works, but five sheets were surreptitiously obtained and circulated.



Bright rose



Scarlet



Yellow orange



Orange



Orange vermilion

Printed on the back of obsolete Government land charts, imperforated, un-watermarked and un-gummed.

The agreement with Union Airways was due to terminate in August 1932. An extension to August 1933 was agreed upon, after which date, and by agreement, the company continued its operations until the end of January 1934. On 1 February 1934, Union Airways were taken over by the Union Government.

Air cover - First Flight

Correctly franked letter from East London to Liverpool, England. Flown on the inaugural flight on 29 August 1929 to Cape Town and forwarded by mail ship to England

Letter rate to the UK: 2d per ounce

Air Mail rate: 4d per ounce



Air cover - first usage of the inclusive rate

Correctly franked Imperial Airways first return flight cover from Cape Town to Preston, England dated 27 January 1932

Air Mail rate to the UK: 12d per ounce



Air cover - to Italy

Letter posted on 8 March 1932 from Cape Town to Torino, Italy. It was flown from Cape Town to London and sent onwards to Italy upon arrival of the mail ship

Air Mail rate to Italy: 12d per ounce



Food for thought...

RAMBLING INTO REVENUES

by Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA FRPSL

I remember the good old days.

It was somewhere in the 1960s, when children were seen and not heard, when policemen were both respected and respectable, when “masculine, feminine or neuter” described all gender options, and when everybody in the stamp club collected “Traditional”. To even suggest anything else would have incurred the instant wrath of my two mentors, whose primary mission was to ensure sustainability of our hobby, so that they would have somebody to sell to before they shuffled off this mortal coil. I attended an old-fashioned boarding school, where I learned that peas should be balanced on the difficult side of the fork, that one never dragged a spoon towards oneself when taking soup, and woe betide any pupil, whose elbows touched the table.

I viewed stamp collecting in the same way.

If we mixed mint and used stamps in the same set, if we collected damaged stamps, or if we allowed forgeries or fiscal usages to sully our traditional exhibits we risked the heavens crashing down, or maybe even worse!! We were later taught that postal stationery could be incorporated, but ONLY IF the indicia matched the design of the issued stamps. I must say I rather enjoyed the challenge and managed to secure gold medals in America, Europe, Asia and Africa with a selection of different traditional exhibits. However the dark side was always looming over me. I bought a fiscally used \$500 Johore stamp and followed that with \$100 and \$500 Straits Settlements, because I could not afford the real thing. British Honduras overprinted 50c postage stamps with the word “REVENUE” so that they could enjoy dual usage. When I applied for a certificate the RPSL advised me that a fiscal marking had been removed from my stamp.



I was sinking deeper into the mire.

Before I knew it I was actually buying revenue stamps because I liked them and had thrown all my earlier principles to the wind. It reminded me of the Katy Perry song “*This was never the way I planned, not my intention I kissed a girl and I liked it*”. Like the drug addict taking his first fix, I was soon to be swept away into a new world, a Narnia or Neverland, far removed from my starting point.

But, as Katy Perry sang, *I liked it*.

I have now rambled into a new world where damaged stamps are often fine, even stamps torn in half! One does not need to show complete sets. High and unusual face values are common, and with this fact come the most beautiful colours. New discoveries jump out from behind every bush; so little of the research has been done. Prices are still manageable for somebody whose assets are counted in rands, but that is changing as we speak. Bitcoins were once cheap (and may be again; who knows?) There are still challenges – some documents are enormous and pose mounting challenges. We are still expected to research the rates for each usage.

That is part of the challenge, of the fun. I have never been a checklist collector and many revenue topics have not yet reached the checklist stage. I love it.

I recommend this to any new collector, and when one combines this with the freedom afforded by Open Class, the only way to go is up.

But, that is a topic for another day.



Nice to know...

RSA PHILATELIC "FIRSTS"



150th Anniversary of Bible Society, 24 August 1970.

Two stamps were issued, and the printing of the 12½c stamp was a new departure in the RSA's stamp printing processes.

For the first time gold foil was used on a stamp.

Gold foil was used to apply the gold lettering.

Printing was started normally with the rotogravure process on the Goebel 840 machine and completed by a form of the letter press which impressed the gold of the inscription "BIBLIA" and the open book below.



Opening of Henrik Verwoerd Dam (now Gariep dam), 4 March 1972



These stamps were the first to be printed on paper with a phosphorous coating.

5th Numismatic Convention and Century of the Burgerspond, 6 April 1974

For the first time stamps were printed with the lithographic facility and not the rotogravure process of the Goebel 840 printing machine.

This feature in the printing process distinguishes it from any of the issues since 1930.

25th Anniversary of Voortrekker Monument, 6 December 1974

First combination of Rotogravure Intaglio printing. Printed on the De La Rue Giori 841 machine which applies the sheet numbers as well as the date of printing below the cylinder numbers





Three ordinary covers: look again

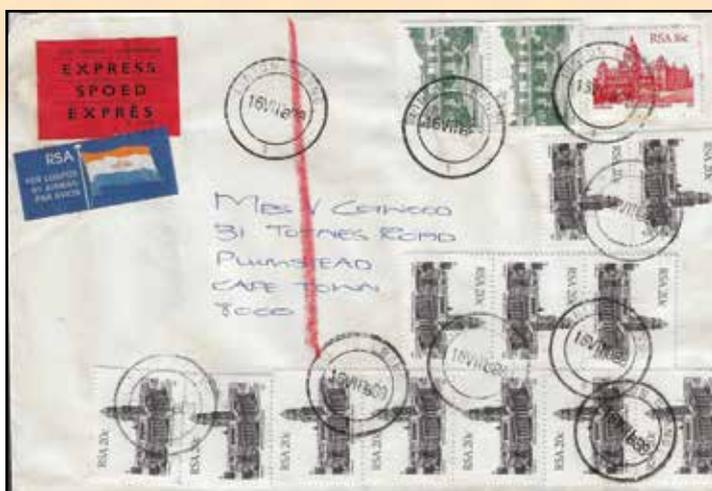
The three express mail covers may not seem that interesting but look again.

Cover 1: Express from Walvis Bay to Rondebosch. Paid R1.48 The letter rate was 8c, the registration fee was 40c and the express fee was R1, so there are postal rate aspects to research and note. Next there are the stamps: The R1 buildings definitive issue saw several printings: some were printed by recess and some by litho. Which one is this? In this case it is the first recess printing. Next Walvis Bay?

In South Africa? Walvis Bay has an interesting history. This cover shows one phase of that history. Originally part of the Cape Colony, it was administered as part of South West Africa until 1977, as part of the RSA from 1977 to 1994. During this period the white voters of Walvis Bay were part of the Parliamentary Constituency of Green Point and from 1994 as part of SWA. This cover is from that 1977-1994 period.

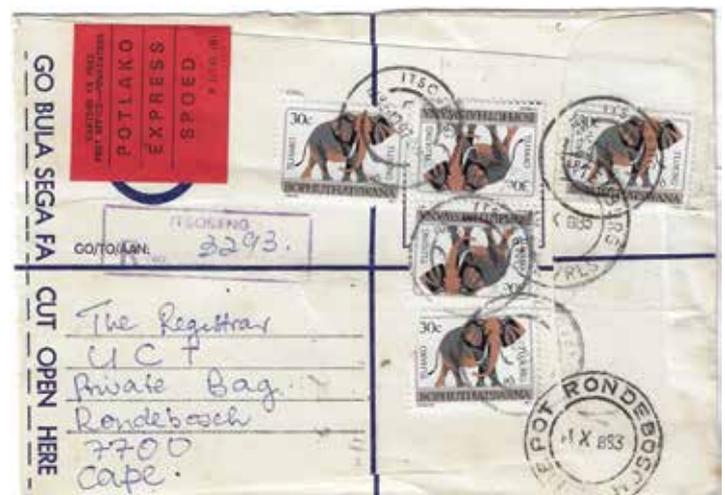


Cover 2: Express from Linton Grange (a post office in the Port Elizabeth/Gqeberha region) on 16 July 1988. By this date, the express fee had been increased to R2.25 (from 1 July 1987) and the letter rate was 16c. So why was this paid R2.60? The answer is that this item was bigger than standard size. The letter rate for non-standard size was 25c up to 100g surface mail and 35c up to 100g airmail. This was less than 100g and airmail so the 35c rate applied.



Then the stamps: the 20c stamps are the second issue of this value, which was recess printed in greyish black (this was the only recess printed 20c issue) and these are the stamps used on this cover. The 16c is deeper red than the first issue, and the 2c stamps are the first greenish grey recess printed issue (there were five distinct 2c issues).

Cover 3. Express from Itsoseng, 7 October 1983. TBVC rates were the same as RSA rates. Paid R1.50 to cover express fee (R1) registration (40c) and postage (10c). The cover has a transit cancellation of Lichtenburg, showing that its route from Itsoseng was via Lichtenburg. The cover is especially interesting as the formula registration envelope is that printed for Bophuthatswana (in English, Afrikaans, and Tswana) as is the express label; based on the South African label it has the store code P1/145(B) where the B distinguished it as applicable to Bophuthatswana.



These three examples show as would many others how much is to be gained by studying the philatelic and postal history aspects of what at first sight may seem ordinary.

something to look for...

Etching Error – 1930 Unhyphenated Pretoria Pictorials (Rotogravure printing), First Booklet Issue.

FOREIGN ENTRY

In rotogravure printing a photographed design is duplicated as many times as required to make a complete sheet on a glass plate.

The glass plate is used as a “negative” when a print is taken from it upon a photographic paper coated with colour pigment and gelatin called “carbon” tissue. The carbon tissue, being printed by exposure to strong light, is then transferred (read etching) to a copper plate or cylinder which is to be used in the printing machine.

During the initial etching process of the booklet cylinders, the three columns of inverted Springbok heads were engraved 2½ mm too high for correct registration with the corresponding frames during printing.

The Springbok heads were polished out from the cylinder and re-etched in the correct positions. Faint traces of the original etching however remained on the plate.



Traces of an extra horn, ear or shoulder can be seen on the left- and right -hand stamps from the panes with inverted watermark. The stamps were withdrawn when it was discovered.

stampssa keeping in touch

CALLING ON YOU TO PARTICIPATE
- we encourage all communication-
feedback or articles...

address all communication to PFSA: COO André du Plessis
or call 083 399 1755 visit <https://www.stampssa.africa/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups>



WE look forward to hearing from you - the input from our readers will inspire additions to this series of newsletters. AND take a closer look at the PFSA website for information and for additional research of South African stamps and other interesting aspects of our hobby.

WHY CERTIFICATION?

A primary reason given to the PFSA Expert Committee for having a philatelic item certified is for the owner/seller, or buyer, to be assured of correct identification, condition and authenticity. (Some collectors even believe in eight to ten year re-certification on treasured items, to keep up to date with current philatelic knowledge and advances in technology). Yes, there are costs involved but what one owner perceives as un-necessary expense is seen by another as a means of achieving certainty, recognising that this also comes with a price. Certification generates confidence - a subliminal 'add-on' value.

Condition evaluation is an all-important factor of the process, even when there is no doubt about an item being the real deal. As knowledge and technology grows for assessment of an item so, equally, do the tools and techniques available for making such changes - repairing damage, re-perforating, re-gumming etc. Especially on more 'classic' issues, the possibility of previous improvement is often a reality. Expertising is a challenging race - your knowledge just has to stay one or two steps ahead.

Many collectors certify, even if the item is comparatively common, simply to confirm that it is the 'better' shade; the scarcer watermark; the 'good' perforation etc. Currently, for example, the PFSA Expert Committee is finalising work on a large group of material that the owner intends using as a reference collection on which to base future studies.

Finally, for now, a further category of submission would be the 'hit and hope' on the premise of 'it may be, but I'm not sure.' The hoped for rarity more often than not turns out to be a triumph of reality over desire but search on, we do see the occasional 'good stamp bullseye!'





Philately Reality - Forgeries

FORGED REVENUE STAMPS

Although we do not support the practice of forgery in stamps, it is already part and parcel of our hobby.

A fascinating aspect of stamp collecting, opposite to the ordinary, is that a defect is treated as a gem!

For instance, if you buy a new shirt without a button or a jacket and discover a stain on it, you do not frame or mount it, but return it as quickly as possible.

Exactly the opposite is true when finding a stamp with an ink blotch, misprint, or any other type of error. This becomes a jewel and boasting piece that can easily be mounted on the living room wall, so to speak. The bigger the mistake the better and in this milieu, it adds some value to a collection. The list is never-ending.

It is of no surprise that forgeries of stamps fall within this ambit. In some instances, they are sought after by collectors and often sell at higher prices than the authentic stamps.

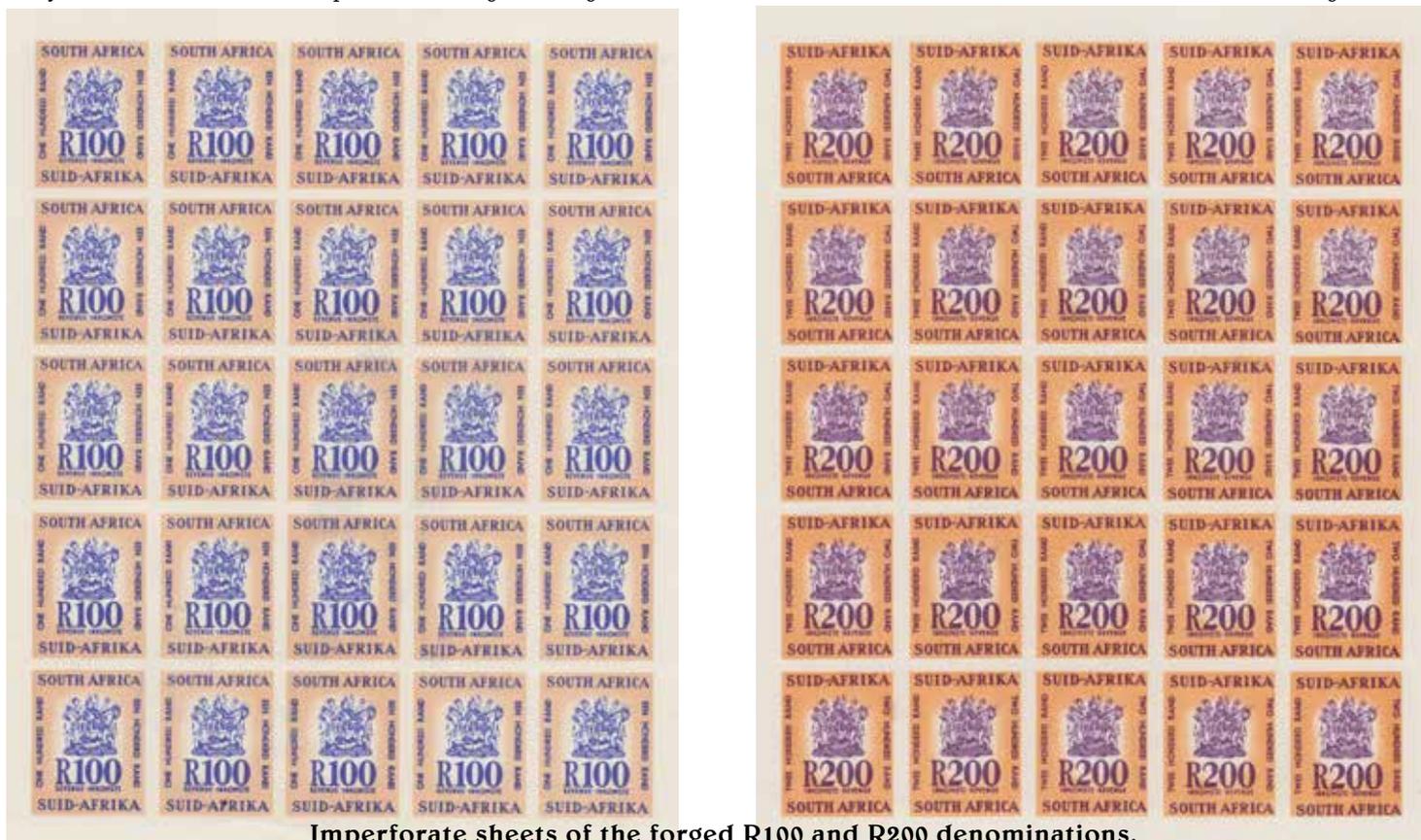
Below follows an extract from an article that appeared in *The Star* newspaper of 16 February 1980:

"A set of forged revenue stamps similar to those which were involved in a R7-million forgery case 12 years ago, has turned up in Johannesburg.

In 1968, two brothers, Morris and Lewis Meyerson of Johannesburg were sentenced in the Rand Supreme Court to 37- and 20-years' imprisonment on charges of forging and uttering. The stamps were exchanged for cash at the Post Office..."

Known sheets values are R20.00, R50.00, R100.00, R200.00.

Some differences detected are a lack of perforation and no date of printing that appears on them. Typically, the year appears above the value in the bottom portion of the crest. Please note that this date is not always easy to find on real stamps as the registering of colours caused it to sometimes moves into the design.



Imperforate sheets of the forged R100 and R200 denominations.

Not many of these forged sheets exist as they were destroyed by the Authorities when detected. Some sheets however, have found their way to collectors.

MODERN PHILATELY

Modern Philately sometimes recently referred to as an experimental 'Promotional Class'. It has as its primary objective the encouragement of collectors of recent or modern philatelic material and to exhibit this at the highest level.

Exhibits must contain philatelic material issued by postal authorities within approximately the last 20 years and should comply with regulations for the Traditional, Postal History, and Postal Stationery Classes. Currently Aerophilately, Thematic and Revenue are not regarded as subjects for Modern Philately.

Stamp series or philatelic topics which were substantially issued after 1991 are qualified topics for this class. However, there is meant to be some latitude in the dates of the material shown.

There is not an arbitrary limit that material issued before 1991 cannot be shown as long as the majority of the exhibit fits the criteria of Modern Philately.

For the foreseeable future, acceptance of entries into the Modern Philately category at FIP World and Specialized Exhibitions will be based on the recommendation of national commissioners and at the discretion of Exhibition Organizing Committees. Exhibitors are entitled to apply for 3 or 5 frames per exhibit.

Acceptance of any entries in the Modern Philately category will not prevent acceptance of entries in any other Class.

The following questions and answers appeared on the FIP website for this class: (<https://www.f-i-p.ch/>)

Q : What is the difference between Modern Philately and Promotional Class ?

A : Nothing – they are essentially the same thing. Modern Philately is the most recent and final name for the category of showing modern philatelic issues in a shorter format of 3-5 frames.

Q : Why do Modern Philately exhibits receive FIP Medals, and Open Philately and One Frame Exhibits do not ?

A : The subjects of Modern Philately exhibits are actually a segment of the already established Classes of Traditional, Postal History, and Postal Stationery formal Classes with their own SREVs. The other two categories are quite different in the content material and scope of the actual exhibits.

Q : Will the Modern Philately category ever become its own separate Class ?

A : No, as the exhibits are actually Traditional, Postal History, and Postal Stationery material judged under these SREVs, the Modern Philately exhibits can be judged by the accredited FIP Jurors from these Classes.

Q : Can modern philately exhibits receive Large Gold awards ?

A : Because of the brevity and recent time frame of the exhibits, the development and importance of the exhibits are restricted thus not allowing for the demanding nature of achieving a Large Gold award.

Q : Why have yet another category of exhibits ?

A : There is a demand for showing more recent philatelic material that can be recognized as such at the international level. Much of this demand comes from newer exhibitors and Federations that are just now starting to develop FIP level exhibitors.

Q : Can a stamp series that was first issued in 1985 and is still used today be exhibited in Modern Philately ?

A : Modern Philately exhibits emphasize material issued in the last 20 years or so.

However, this is not meant to be a rigid time rule and if the majority of the material falls inside the 20 year period, it can be shown as a Modern Philately exhibit.

Modern Philatelic material is worthy of study and in many instances difficult to acquire, treat and present as the short passage of time since their issue has not provided an accurate or precise indication of importance or rarity.





JUDGING OF THE 117 ENTRIES FOR THE VIRTUAL EXHIBITION, **SAVPEX2021**, HAS STARTED. EXHIBIT ENTRIES WILL BE UPLOADED ON THE PFSA WEBSITE BY JULY 15 - www.stampssa.africa JUDGING RESULTS WILL BE UPLOADED BY 25 JULY 2021.

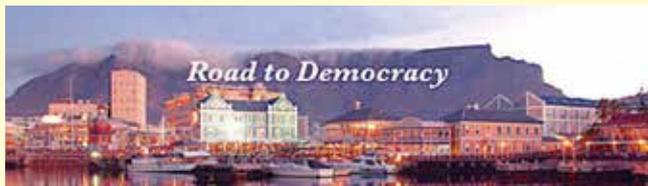
A HUGE VOTE OF THANKS GO TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITION.



The 83rd PFSA Congress is planned to take place together with the **VRIJSTAAT 2021 NATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION** event in Bloemfontein, happening in **October 21 - 23, 2021** - This includes JUNASS 2021.



For News, Stamp Updates, Contributions and more contact the PFSA Chief Operating Officer - André du Plessis 083 399 1755, and to keep up with the latest information by visiting <https://www.stampssa.africa> and follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/>



8 - 12 November 2022
(Tuesday to Saturday - 5 - days)
www.capetown2021.org

www.stampssa.africa

SOCIAL MEDIA - FaceBook, allows us to communicate daily with our readers by featuring a philatelic item of the day. Our "go-to" website, www.stampssa.africa offers stamp information to encourage your interest in this hobby.

Philatelic Societies can now access their own 'drop-down' menu on this site to place their societies latest news and events. It is a great site to find information and for research of South African stamps and many more interesting aspects of our hobby.



Spend time reading articles from previous printed issues of 'The SA Philatelist' that are also available on the official PFSA site. More and more of the earlier, archived issues are being uploaded.

Keep a look out for August 2021 issue of *The SA Philatelist*. The electronic copy will be available on the 30 July.

WHERE TO BUY STAMPS *All fairs open at 09:00 with an auction at 11:00*

* **PRETORIA STAMP FAIR AND MINI-AUCTION - First Saturday**, every month, at the Greek Orthodox Church, Corner Lynnwood Road & Roper St, Brooklyn. *Contact: Paul van Zeyl RDPSA - 076 124 9055. paulvz@mweb.co.za*

* **KYALAMI STAMP FAIR AND AUCTION - Second Saturday**, every month, at the Kyalami Country Club, Midrand. *Contact: Clinton Goslin - 083 272 9367. atlasauctioneers@lantic.net Kenny Napier - 083 444 0249. kenny.napier@mweb.co.za*

* **KYALAMI QSA - Third Saturday**, every month, Kyalami Country Club, Kyalami. Auctions run by Cedric Roché RDPSA and Paul van Zeyl, RDPSA. *Contact Paul on 076 1249 055. paulvz@mweb.co.za*

* **EAST RAND STAMP FAIR - Fourth Saturday**, every month Edenvale Bowling Club, 6th Avenue, Edenvale *Contact: Kenny Napier kenny.napier@mweb.co.za*

* **CAPE PROVINCE - Cape Stamp Fair. Usually first Saturday** every month (09:00 - 12:30) Bellville Valley DRC Hall, crn Postma & St Andrews Streets, Bellville.

Organisers: Ken Joseph of Philatelic Friends - 072 597 1287. ken@philatelicfriends.com & Robert Harm - 082 925 7103. robertharm9@gmail.com

* **NATAL - every second and last Saturday** of every month, Philatelic Society of KZN, 137 Tara Road Bluff, Classic Motorcycle Club, *Contact: Zbigniew Kawecki - 079 465 7468. zkawecki57@gmail.com*

BE SURE TO TAKE NOTE OF THE UPCOMING AUCTIONS

Stephan Welz & Co
Auction for Stamps on 29 July 2021
at 205A Jan Smuts Avenue
Parktown 2193
www.swelco.co.za



FOR A FULL LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIC DEALERS ASSOCIATION (SAPDA) VISIT www.sapda.co.za

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- PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY: *Pres: Francois Friend. 082 554 8900. francois@softchem.co.za Sec: Rodney Maclachlan. 072 619 5409. rhmaclachlan@gmail.com*

FREE STATE

- GOLDFIELDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY: *Sec: Annette Harrison. 072 562 2682. annette@internext.co.za*
- ORANGE FREE STATE PHILATELIC SOCIETY: *Pres: Neil Cronje (RDPSA). 082 800 1432. drjdcronje@gmail.com Sec: Joof van der Merwe. 082 824 6350. jnc1@vodamail.co.za*
- SASOLBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY: *Sec: Cecily Jacobson. 083 389 8647. lj.heritage@gmail.com*

GAUTENG

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- AFRIKAANSE FILATELIEVEREENIGING VAN PRETORIA: *Voors: Louwrence Erasmus. Sec: Ronel Erasmus. 083 540 5092. www.stampssa.africa/avp*
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- PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY: *Pres: Alex Visser (RDPSA), 082 922 2927. alex.visser@up.ac.za Exchange section: John Barry. 082 445 9470. john.barry.rsa@gmail.com*
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 - Pretoria Chapter: 10:00 at the Greek Orthodox Church Hall, *Contact: Helena Snyman, 083 990 8953. helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za*
 - Western Cape Chapter: 09:30 *Contact: Diederik Viljoen, 082 456 6653. diderikaviljoen@gmail.com*
 - KZN Chapter: 15:00 *Contact: Aubrey Bowles, 083 382 8308. aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com*
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- WITWATERSRAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY: *Pres: Herbie Schaffler (RDPSA). 082 722 7604. haschaff@iafrica.com Sec: Nikki Espley-Jones, 011 710 6406. nikki@ccj.co.za*

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