

PS of J Newsletter

JULY 2021



Welcome to our July newsletter.

SOCIETY NEWS

Sadly, the COVID-19 situation in our country is getting worse rather than better. It is also getting closer to home for many of us. The Wits Society have had to cease having meetings. Two of their members were tested positive with COVID.

I spoke to Jim Findlay shortly before sending out this newsletter. He was one of the two. Fortunately, he is on the mend after being seriously ill with this terrible COVID-19 and is still convalescing. We wish him and any others speedy and complete recoveries.

Let us hope vaccinations and the new restrictions will be of some help in stabilising the situation. The real challenge is getting people to take precautions and behave responsibly. Zuma's protesting followers at Nkandla and other gatherings don't set a good example or give one some degree of optimism.

If you haven't done so already, please get your jabs as soon as possible.

OUR LAST MEETING

We had a good attendance at our last Zoom meeting. Kindly hosted by Andre du Plessis, the meeting was joined by: Keith Klugman (USA), Ray Hackworth, Andrew Botma, Terry Lydall, Ian Matheson, Charles Kuhn, Achi Frank (UK), Gary Pienaar and Clive Carr. Andrew was kindly hosted by Ray in Ray's home office. Andrew had power problems at home.

Keith Klugman was the first on the agenda with his 1925 Airmail exhibit. This he followed with two unrelated, but interesting postcards. This is his write up and two of the five postcards he showed.

The 1925 first airmail stamps of the Union were issued on Thursday 26th Feb 1925 in advance of the first airmail flight from Cape Town to Durban on Monday 2nd March. Some enterprising philatelists mailed items early on 26th Feb 1925 to get first day postmarks on the new stamps. Illustrated are 5 of the recorded examples correctly franked 1d for the additional airmail postage plus 1d regular postage for postcards on that day. Four are addressed and mailed at 430pm from Cape Town to Mrs E Robinson in Durban. The “Air Mail Saves Time” slogan cancel which rarely cancels these airmail issues was used on all four of these covers, but was upside down on 2 of them, missing the stamps, so they are cancelled by the first day post office counter number 10 cancel.



Danie van Zyl collection

All four have the purple S. A. Airmail / Lugpos first day cancel and the special orange air mail label produced for these flights in orange in English and Afrikaans rather than the blue label in English and French required by UPU rules for airmail labels.



Klugman collection

The fifth postcard from the Lester collection in the middle differs from the other 4 in that it is addressed to Mr Holden; the 1d regular postage is paid by the preprinted postal stationery 1d postcard; the slogan cancel and label are absent; the post card is endorsed Air Mail in writing and it was cancelled earlier that Thursday, at 11am at Cape Town Post Office counter number 9. First day uses on 26th February 1925 of these stamps from other post offices are theoretically possible but have not been recorded by this author to date.

Andre du Plessis continued with the same theme giving an equally excellent exhibits of this interesting period in our postal history.

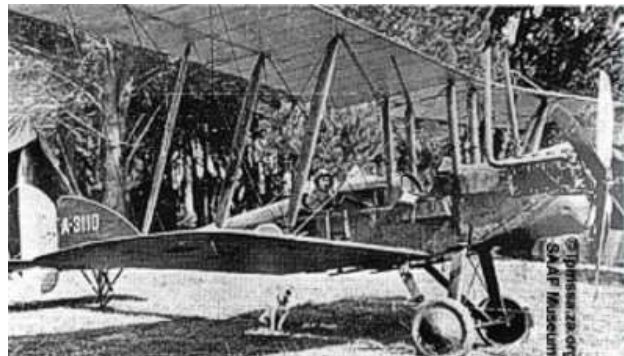
Keeping to the airmail theme, **Gary Pienaar** showed his 1918 Red Cross ‘Fly your Sixpence’ postcards. Here is part of his well-presented exhibit.

THE RED CROSS ‘OUR DAY’ AERIAL POSTS ***7th October – 30th December 1918***

Following the outbreak of the First World War on the 4th August 1914, the British Red Cross formed a Joint War Committee with the Order of St. John, to pool their resources and work together on fundraising activities. Funds were used to support sick and wounded soldiers both at home and abroad.

‘Our Day’ was one of these Red Cross fundraising events, which was organized for the first time in 1915. It continued to take place annually throughout the war. In South Africa, the local Red Cross arranged a similar event, known as ‘The SA Red Cross Our Day’ campaign towards the end of 1918.

Lieutenant Arthur Hugh Gearing of the newly formed Royal Air Force (RAF) was at home on recuperative leave in mid-1918. Being the only RAF pilot fit to fly in South Africa, he was requested to fly a BE.2e biplane over Cape Town to advertise this fundraising initiative. Permission was obtained from the postal authorities to sell and deliver special aerial postcards for the occasion.



Lieutenant Arthur Hugh Gearing's BE.2e Biplane – serial number

Cape Town Flights: First Flight – Wynburg to Green Point Common



First flight on the 7th October 1918. Posted to Johannesburg with a franked KGV ½d stamp dated 7.OCT.D18. On the reverse side the inscription reads "This card is going to be carried in the air first and then sent to you". Known as the 'Large Wings' cards.

Transvaal Flights: Benoni Flight – 30th November (Last Flight in the Transvaal)



Benoni flight on the 30th November 1918. Lieutenant Gearing flew from Turffontein to Benoni, passing over Germiston and Boksburg. They were unable to land in Benoni because of the crowds gathered on the landing strip. The flight was repeated the next day and Lieutenant Gearing landed on the Benoni Racecourse, where the mail was delivered and taken back to Johannesburg. The postcard displays a franked KGV 1d stamp dated 1.DEC.B18. Known as the 'Small Wings' cards.

Terry Lydall was the last to exhibit for the evening. He showed an interesting slant to the popular bird thematic. Terry combined three of his hobbies of: birding, photography and philately into his exhibit. It was certainly a first for me and might be for the society to see a thematic exhibit combining three of a member's hobbies in one.

This is one of Terry's pages.

Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill (459)

Tockus leucomelas



Photo: KNP, 28 Sept 2020, Terry Lydall.

Namibia: 1997



Kenya: 1993



RSA: 1974



Zimbabwe: 1992



Habitat: Thornveld and dry, broad-leaved woodland.
Status: Common resident in northern areas.
Diet: Insects, small animals and reptiles; also fruit and seeds



Thanks to all attendees for their participation and a special thanks to the exhibitors.

OUR NEXT MEETING

We will continue our Zoom meetings for as long as members have something to contribute and until we consider it safe to resume our usual meetings. We already have two members with something to show at our July meeting. As usual it will be held on the third Wednesday, 21st July at 19h00.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

We have another interesting item from **Chris Cordes** down in Hermanus. He copied me on this email to Alex Visser, to include it here. Thanks Chris.

This cover brought a smile to my face!

The only two Post Offices named Kenilworth were in Cape Town and Kimberley. The Kenilworth suburb in Johannesburg did not have a Post Office, so from the markings on the cover, I think they must have had street deliveries.

From the notes made, an unsuccessful attempt was made to deliver said item. As an aside, there are/were some 97 suburbs using the 2091 code!

As the double rate was paid at Booyens and the cover carries a "counter delivery" cachet, the (Christmas?) Card finally reached its addressee!





Who said (apart from my wife) that stamps were boring!

Colin Sperber, now living in Israel, sent us this article from the Jerusalem Post of 15 June. Some news of what's happening over there. Thanks, Colin.

• By LAUREN MORGANBESSER

The signing of the Abraham Accords marked a historic political agreement and is now opening doors in an unexpected new field: philately. Between June 15 and June 30, the Abraham Accords Philatelic Exhibition (AAPE 2021) will highlight historic stamp collections from Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United States.

The exhibition will be held virtually and include a variety of rare and expensive items. Each country will be represented by up to nine collections, and the event features five different categories: traditional philately, postal history, thematic philately, picture postcards, and Court of Honor.

The AAPE 2021 is organized by the Israeli Philatelic Federation, a nonprofit organization promoting stamp collecting in Israel. The exhibits will be judged by a panel of experts, including experienced collectors and exhibitors from all three countries.

Such an exhibition of philately allows each country to highlight stamps that reflect their values and commemorate their histories. Exhibits spotlight unique histories in the countries, such as the postal history of the UAE from the British era and letters sent to and from Israel during the Ottoman period.

Admission is open to the public free of charge starting on June 15 at www.aape2021.com

Ron Matthews, a member of many decades, sent us the following request. Hopefully someone will be able to help him.

Thank you for your efforts to keep members informed as to what is going in these trying times.

My catalogues are so old, Gibbon's commonwealth 2 volumes are 1997 and those for European countries are earlier.

I would welcome the opportunity to purchase second hand copies of fairly recent vintage - do you know of anyone who might be able to help?

If so please let me know, thanking you in anticipation.

Kind regards

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