



# MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Established 1924

Affiliated to the Philatelic Federation of South Africa

## NEWSLETTER

“Fun with stamps”

**FEBRUARY 2023**

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Editor: Aubrey Bowles

### FEBRUARY

February is a weird month with just 28 days and 29 in each Leap Year. It is famous for Valentine’s Day In Roman times it was the last day of the year and had 23 days which were sometimes stretched to 27 days to realign the year with the season. It was Pope Gregory who finally designed the calendar as we know it

February comes from the Latin word “Februa” meaning “to clean” and was named after a month-long purification festival.



The **Gregorian calendar** is the calendar used in most parts of the world. It was introduced in October 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII

People born in February are “Leapers” and get to celebrate their actual birthday every four years. To overcome this, they celebrate their birthday on 28 February or on 01 March and use these dates on official documents.

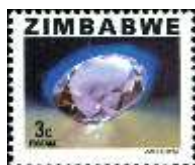


Aquarius



Pisces

Aquarius and Pisces are the Zodiac signs in February. The birthstone of February is the Amethyst



Don’t forget Valentine’s Day which falls on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February each year!

In Welsh February is known as “y mis bach” which means “little month”. Such a perfect description!

### CLUB EVENTS

Thirteen members attended the meeting on Saturday 22 January and enjoyed several mini presentations under M, N & O which mainly covered Natal

FRED HANDMAN  
TONY KOCH  
DAVE WYLLIE

PIET SWANEPOEL

AUBREY BOWLES

ROGER PORTER

Old Natal post-cards  
Early Natal stamps  
Early Government printed Post-cards of Natal  
Boer War military issued labels  
Mogodliani; the Nude Maja and Olympia. All famous paintings  
A fascinating exhibit and talk about the Natal Witness.



The Military Stamps (labels) shown above were Issued to members of the Orange Free State army on active service during the Second Boer War to go freely through the Province. Field Post letters had to be franked with a label or initialled by the Commander in charge. They were used between October 1899 to February 1900

Why don’t you come along to the next meeting to show any subject you like under the headings of P; Q & R

### SNIPPETS

Incidentally, roses are not the flowers for Valentine’s Day but primroses and violets are. As we are in Africa why not give your loved one an African violet? A nice house gift!



A most beautiful African Violet

### DIARY DATES

18 February 2023  
26 February 2023

the all-important AGM  
The Sunbird Stamp Auction begins again