

The South African Philatelist

All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

Volume 102:1. 994

www.stampssa.africa

OUR NEW STAMPS.



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Critically Endangered Vultures

Beaufort West 2026-01-23

African White-backed Vulture (*Ispix africanus*) André Botha 2026

Cape Vulture (*Ispix capensis*) André Botha 2026

Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*) André Botha 2026

White-headed Vulture (*Gypsicoelestus*) André Botha 2026

African White-backed Vulture (*Ispix africanus*) André Botha 2026

Photography: André Botha
Hooded Vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*)

8.006

Critically Endangered Vultures

8815
8816
8817
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PRINTER'S LOGO

2026-01-23
Designed by Rachel-Mari Ackermann
Photography: André Botha
Cape Vulture (*Ispix capensis*)

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- Large Silver JAKARTA 2008,
- Large Vermeil IPHLA 2012,
- Large Vermeil Cape Town International 2022

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ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:

For the Volume 102:2 995 - The **APRIL 2026** issue submit by **15 March 2026**

Send your contribution to sap@stampssa.africa



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FEDERATION NEWS

André du Plessis RDP SA, Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, [083 399 1755](tel:0833991755)
<https://www.stampssa.africa> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/>



Stampshow 2026: The date and venue for the National Stamp Show have been set for 8 to 12 September 2026 at the Country Club Johannesburg, Woodmead.

The closing date for entries is 20 July 2026, and exhibits should be delivered to the Organising Committee by 8 September 2026 at 10:00. We would like to invite you to participate and looking forward to receiving your entry. Please note that exhibitors must scan each frame of their exhibits into 300dpi PDF files and submit them by the entry closing date to André du Plessis RDP SA (pfsastamps@gmail.com). (A3 size pages may be scanned into two A4 size pages). These files may be sent via normal email or transferred via 'WeTransfer' (a free transfer program available on the Web) or similar program. The scanned copies of the exhibits will be sent in advance to the respective Jurors to review at their leisure. It is envisaged that this will assist the jurors to prepare themselves for the judging process at the show. The belief is, that this should result in a more comprehensive feedback/critique which will be beneficial to the exhibitor.

Louwrence Erasmus has been appointed as chairman of the jury.

Congress is scheduled for Friday 12 September 2026 at 09:00 with Palmares on Friday evening at 19:00.

Union Handbook: As we all are aware, *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa* is long outdated. It was proposed to update and produce the book with high quality colour images, durable binding and an easily searchable index. It will be digitized in time. The new revised edition will be co-authored, co-edited by an eminently qualified group, including inter alia Brian Trotter RDP FRPS (Hon) RDP SA, Simon Peetoom, Rob and Lyn Lester (both SACS, UK), Pat Flanagan RDP SA FRPSL and André du Plessis RDP SA. None of the above, other than their respective contributions without compensation, has, nor will they have any commercial or other interest in the book. To this extent, a Union Handbook fund is launched to assist in funding the publication. The fund will be administered by Derek Roth, current treasurer of the PFSA. It will be independent of any other funds within the PFSA ambit and shall be used solely to produce the book (See page 6).

New Region: The three Societies on the southern coast of Western Cape province - George, Mossel Bay, and Still Bay - consulted with the PFSA Management Committee (MC) about forming a new Philatelic Region. After reviewing their request, the MC at its meeting on 29 January 2026, approved and supported the creation of the new Region 9. The societies have also nominated Hans Manke from George for the position of Regional Vice President. Congratulations on establishing the new Region, and best wishes for your continued success! 🇿

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or decline any articles, letters or any other material submitted for publication, and reserves the right to effect minor changes of spelling, punctuation, grammar and word choice without requesting prior permission from the author(s). For more substantial revisions, such as shortening or restructuring, either the Board will request the author(s) to effect such changes or will propose amendments to the author prior to publication - if no agreement can be reached then publication will be declined.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy and honesty in the editorial columns of this magazine, the publisher and editor cannot be held responsible for inaccurate information supplied and consequently published. Publication of articles is subject to availability of space and cannot be guaranteed in each edition. Copyright for material published in this magazine is strictly reserved. Illustrations are not necessarily actual size because of space constraints.

The PFSA encourages participation in both this journal, *The SA Philatelist*, as well as the electronic newsletter, *'Keeping in Touch'*. By interacting with these publications, regular and new readers continue to support stamp collecting in South Africa. For more details contact the Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, André du Plessis RDP SA, [+27 \(0\)83 399 1755](tel:+270833991755), or on email at pfsastamps@gmail.com, or visit the website at <https://www.stampssa.africa>.

PUBLICATION: *The South African Philatelist*, a bi-monthly stamp journal, is published by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA). This is one of the oldest running stamp magazines in the world which was founded in 1923.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

• Affiliation fee: RSA and World Wide: R150.00 (Electronic only).

PLEASE NOTE: The PFSA affiliation fee offers, *inter-alia*, six copies of the electronic journal and electronic newsletters annually.

• Enquiries regarding subscriptions and PFSA membership can be addressed to the C.O.O. André du Plessis RDP SA at pfsastamps@gmail.com
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Contributions and letters for the publication must be forwarded to the Editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist*, email: sap@stampssa.africa

Advertising Rates available from the C.O.O. André du Plessis RDP SA, email: pfsastamps@gmail.com 🇿

Goodbye Dr Alan Rose RDPSA



Dr Alan Rose RDPSA.

The SA Philatelist rolling. And this is where Dr Alan Rose RDPSA found himself in what could only be termed as 'the wrong place at the wrong time'. He was cajoled into taking over as chairman of the Standing Committee. Little did he realise that it would result in a 22-year relationship with the production of *The SA Philatelist*, a total of 131 issues.

It was in late 2003 that *The South African Philatelist* entered a major crisis. Matters came to a head with the resignation of the then editor in January 2004 and the retirement of Jonas Michaelson from the Standing Committee. This situation created a quandary for members of the PSFA Management Committee: how to keep production of *The SA*

Rose took over as editor from the April 2004 issue, which also saw a major makeover of the publication, including a move to full colour. The Standing Committee was also converted to the Editorial Board. In December 2007, he announced that he was stepping down as Chairman of the Editorial Board. However, he remained as a member of the Board where he made an invaluable contribution to the production of *The SA Philatelist*. In addition to becoming the Board's language expert, Rose also contributed some thirty articles.

Following the Covid-19 hiatus of 2020, members of the Board started discussing the need for successors to take over the publication of *The SA Philatelist*. Despite announcing his intention of retiring from the Board several times, he was persuaded to remain. Ultimately, he prevailed and took his leave of the Board with the publication of the December 2025 issue. The acumen Rose brought to the Board will be missed. From the members of the Board, past and present, we wish him a peaceful rest from the stresses of meeting *The SA Philatelist* deadlines.



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PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA



THE VALUE FUND

LAUNCHING THE NEW UPDATED UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA STAMPS HANDBOOK

Any organization needs funds to deliver a VALUE proposition for its members.

Under a new management team, elected at the last Congress of the PFSA, held in Paarl in October 2025, the “Value Proposition” was recognized as a key initiative of the PFSA going forward.

Members of the PFSA are members either through direct membership, or through membership of Philatelic Societies affiliated to the PFSA. It is these members who recognize a Value Proposition and will both maintain their membership and encourage others to join - if there is a consensus that Membership brings benefits!

Times have changed, even for the Philatelic community worldwide.

“IT” is the tool that takes philately into every philatelist’s and stamp collectors living room. Communication has never been more necessary nor more relevant and IT (Zoom, Teams etc.) is the driver. This is now well tested and has been verified by philatelists worldwide.

All it takes is a click of a button to research a favorite subject, to engage with other collectors, to take part in auctions on-line and even to research journals and other philatelic books and newsletters online. Even those with a competitive gene can enter several on-line exhibitions.

Many collectors have embraced the new technology and the “new” way of collecting! The PFSA is fully embracing this direction.

Notwithstanding, many still wish to hold a book or journal in their hands whilst browsing contents. Unfortunately, many publications are outdated, out of print or just simply irrelevant.

The Handbook of the Union of South African Philately, a “*magnus opus*” at the time of its original publication, needs modernization. Modernizing into full colour with updated information, a good research Index, is now an essential initiative by collaboration between the UK based S A Collectors Society and the PFSA.

It is proposed to produce the book with high quality colour images, durable binding and an easily searchable Index. It will be digitized in time.

The new revised edition will be co-authored, co-edited by an eminently qualified group, including inter alia Brian Trotter RDP FRPS (Hon) RDPSA, Simon Peetoom, Rob and Lyn Lester (both SACS, UK), Pat Flanagan RDPSA FRPSL and André du Plessis RDPSA. None of the above, other than their respective contributions without compensation, has, nor will they have any commercial or other interest in the book.

The book will subscribe to all Editorial laws and statutes in both RSA and in the UK.

Funding for the publication shall, following successful international trends, see funds being raised through:

- DONATIONS TO THE PFSA UNION HANDBOOK BOOK FUND (Anonymous if preferred)
- PRE-ORDERS WITH OR WITHOUT ADDITIONAL DONATIONS

The costs are essentially the costs of printing and binding.

The Book Fund will be administered by Derek Roth, current treasurer of the PFSA. It will be independent of any other funds within the PFSA ambit. It shall be used solely to produce the book.

Payment should be made to the PFSA bank account using UHB Stamp Fund and your name as reference.

TIMELINES FOR THE FINAL PUBLICATION SEEM TO INDICATE AVAILABILITY DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2027

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Exhibition Calendar

EXHIBITION	DATE	LEVEL	COMMISSIONER / CONTACT	LINK
Dubai 2026 Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	4 - 8 Feb 2026	FIP Patron. FIAP Ausp.	Anton Putter	Dubai 2026
World's Best Stamp	Feb to Apr 2026	PFSA	TBA	PFSA
2nd International Virtual Aero- & Astrophilatelic Exh.	14 - 22 Feb 2026	FISA Patron.	Virtual	AMSIPEX-26
Virtual STAMPEX Philatelic Trade Show	6 - 8 Mar 2026	PTS Ausp.	N/A	STAMPEX 2026
NORDIA 2026	8 - 10 May 2026	FEPA Recog.	N/A	Nordia 20256
BOSTON 2026 General World Exhibition	23 - 30 May 2026	FIP Patron. FIAF Ausp. FEAP Recog.	N/A	Boston 2026
SAVPEX 2025	June 2026	PFSA	Emil Minnaar RDPSA	PFSA
MACAO 2026 Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	26 Jun - 1 Jul 2026	FIP Patron. FIAP Ausp.	Emil Minnaar RDPSA	MACAO 2026
PhilLat26	26 - 29 Jun 2026	FEPA Recog.	N/A	PhilLat26
Bilateral Stamp Exhibition Germany-Sweden	17 - 19 Jul 2026	FEPA Recog.	N/A	BEPHILA 2026
BANDUNG 2026	27 - 31 Aug 2026	FIAP Patron.	N/A	BANDUNG 2026
NATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2026	9 - 12 Sep 2026	PFSA Orga.	André du Plessis Louwrence Erasmus	PFSA
Gauteng Regional Exhibit.	24 - 26 Sep 2026	PFSA Ausp. AFP Orga.	Ronel Erasmus	TBA
SRBIJAFILA XVI National Stamp Exhibition	7 - 11 Oct 2026	FEPA Recog.	N/A	SRBIJAFILA XVI
STAMPEX at the BDC Trade Show	28 - 31 Oct 2026	PTS Ausp.	N/A	STAMPEX 2026
SASOL 26 Regional Exhibit.	Oct 2026	PFSA Ausp. OILFILAT Orga.	Leon Jacobson	SASOL 26
PHILATAIPEI Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	19 - 24 Nov 2026	FIP Patron. FIAP Ausp.	Josua (Joof) van der Merwe	PHILATAIPEI 2026

We Need Your Expertise! Help *The SA Philatelist* Maintain Excellence.

The SA Philatelist is a nine-time international award winner, and we rely on our passionate readers to uphold this standard. We invite you to volunteer your unique skills to contribute to South African philately.

How can you help?

- **Write:** Share your collection's story (with editorial help).
- **Edit:** Join the Editorial Board or volunteer as a language reviewer.
- **Production:** Offer talents in production and layout.

Share your knowledge and passion. Become part of the team! Send an email today to sap@stampssa.africa



Looking Back a Century: Highlights from *The SA Philatelist* - January and February 1925

by Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

This series continues to explore the field of Southern African philately, featuring summaries from *The SA Philatelist* published a century ago. It is hoped that these insights will encourage further interest in philatelic research.



Vol. 3, No. 12. JANUARY, 1926. Whole No. 36.

OUR NEW STAMPS.

South West Africa Not Forgotten.



and the 4d slate blue stamp featuring the design of the Cape Triangular. The 1/2d and 1d stamps had perforations of about 14 3/4 and a multiple Springbok's head watermark, spaced at 21 mm horizontally and 33 mm vertically. Print quality was good, with Mr. J. Ritchie noting only minor variations. The alternate printing of English and Afrikaans inscriptions created two differently worded stamps in a pair, signifying Afrikaans adoption. Inverted watermarks were found for both 1/2d and 1d values.

The 4d stamp arrived in sealed envelopes containing 60 stamps, each in English or Afrikaans. Printed on sheets, the stamps were cut and had two watermark varieties: one diagonal and the other inverted.

More values were expected soon. The 2d stamp, with a mauve frame and a black picture of the Union Buildings, was due in January due to supply issues. Details for the 3d stamp were not available. The 6d stamp would feature an orange tree in black within a yellow frame. The full series would include all values up to £1. Official statements confirmed the continued issue of existing King's Head type stamps until stocks ran out. Postmasters could only requisition the new 1/2d and 1d stamps, receiving a proportion of

both old and new issues.

The Post Office announced the withdrawal of the new 1/2d and 4d stamps from sale at the Johannesburg head Post Office on 16 January due to flaws. One stamp had an imperfect 'D' in 'Suidafrika' and another had an imperfect 'L' in 'Posseel'. Initially, sheets were sold without the bottom left block of four with the 'L' flaw, but the discovery of the 'D' flaw led to the withdrawal of the entire stock. (Refer to the February 1926 issue for more details.) The 4d stamp became unavailable due to stock shortages, with a new supply expected. King's Head stamp booklets containing 2d stamps, which were unpopular, were withdrawn. A new booklet with the new 1/2d and 1d stamps was anticipated. A new 1 1/2d brown King's Head type postcard was also on sale.

The new South African 1/2d and 1d stamps, overprinted for South West Africa in English ('South West Africa.') and Afrikaans ('Suidwes Afrika.'), were also issued on 1 January. The vertical overprint was thought to avoid design interference, with hopes of consistency until a permanent pictorial set appeared, possibly with South West Africa's independence. The 4d triangular, yet to be overprinted, was expected to be printed in sheets, cut, and sold in packets of 60.

The journal reported on Alan Cobham's flight from London to Cape Town, expected to arrive in Johannesburg on 29 January 1926.

The 'New Issues and Varieties' section provided a comprehensive account of developments in the British Empire and African territories south of the Equator.

The journal also included 'Philatelic Criticism' of the New Union Issue. E. Tamsen was disappointed that the Springbok's head was on the 1/2d stamp instead of the 1d, the most common denomination. He found the 1d ship design inappropriate for an inland country and considered the triangular, imperforate 4d a backward step, comparing it to collector-focused stamp issues. Tamsen suggested using designs featuring statesmen, patriots, or promoting the country's beauty. The Editor agreed with some of Tamsen's points, noting the financial benefits of the alternative English and Afrikaans inscriptions. While finding the 1/2d stamp tasteful, he pointed out the disproportionate springbok's ears and agreed the springbok should have been on the 1d. However, he interpreted the ship design as depicting the arrival of European settlers, not glorifying navigation. The Editor strongly agreed that the 4d was released awkwardly, suggesting it should have been perforated and in sheet form, despite the historical precedent of imperforate Cape triangulars.

The new South African 1/2d, 1d, and 4d stamps were unveiled at the Office of the High Commissioner for South Africa in London on 2 January 1926.



The February 1926 issue of *The South African Philatelist* [2] reported on the then-recent Union of South Africa and South-West Africa stamp releases, which had generated considerable discussion and surprise among collectors. Notably, the ½d, 1d, and 4d adhesives were sold at the Office of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa in London from 2 January 1926. This move, aimed at generating revenue from collectors, surprised many, especially since complete sheets of the 4d were initially sold in London before reaching South Africa.

British Empire and beyond.

- Mauritius saw stationery provisionals.
- Moçambique featured a new private 'Porte Franco' label of the Sociedade Humanitaria Cruz do Oriente, surcharged 50 centavos.
- Nyasaland Protectorate issued ½d and 2d denominations in new shades of deep blue-green and pale grey.
- Rhodesia presented Admiral type varieties, including a 2s 6d Die III and 1½d perf. 14½ x 14, along with a ½d double head. Southern Rhodesia's 1½d bistre-brown displayed a variety lacking a cap outline and horizontal lines between the cap and inscription.
- South-West Africa, a 2d postage, Type III, was reported with a double overprint, and the 2d due appeared with Type VIa. The £1 value was also noted with both Type VI and VIa on the same sheet.
- Other territories reported new issues on Script watermark paper, including the Falkland Islands, Fiji, Gambia, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad.
- Australia's £2 and the Leeward Islands' 2s received new colours.
- New Guinea's pictorial series received an "O.S." overprint for official use.
- New Zealand's 'Exhibition' set from Dunedin featured a general view of the exhibition with a Maori pattern.

Surprise Follows Surprise.
MORE ABOUT OUR NEW STAMPS.

The new ½d and 1d stamps are typographed by Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., the 4d, being, as stated last month, line engraved by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., Ltd. To the general surprise of collectors no further values of the new set have been issued. We are credibly informed that a supply of the ½d value has been in Pretoria since about December 1925. It was understood that further supplies were awaited before issuing it, but if our information is correct, ample time appears to have elapsed to allow of further stocks being received. The ½d and 6d values are expected to reach Pretoria any time now.

As stated in the stop press column in our last issue, the new ½d, 1d, and 4d adhesives were placed on sale at the Office of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa in London on January 2nd. This action on the part of the Government has occasioned considerable surprise, and clearly shows that it is seeking revenue from collectors. The 4d was first placed on sale in complete sheets and then replaced by the envelopes of 60 loose stamps. This caused more surprise, inasmuch as no sheets have yet been sent to South Africa. We understand that it was pointed out to the Government that a strange position would arise if sheets were to be sold in London and not in South Africa, for a supply of sheets is now on its way to this country and will be placed on sale as soon as it is received.

We have received copies of the 4d stamps (singly and in unsevered pairs) cut from sheets by philatelists, and they bear enormous margins, and also show guide lines round the corners of the stamps. The stamps in the racks have been punched out by the printers and much of the margins of the stamps discarded. Mr. R. Roberts informs us that the value under discussion is printed in sheets of 120 (two pages of 60). In one pane all the stamps are inscribed in English, while the neighbouring pane is inscribed entirely in Afrikaans. Thus unsevered pairs, with one stamp in English and the other in Afrikaans, can only be had by removing copies from the centre of the sheet with the margin between panes in the middle. In our next issue we will give a complete list of the shades and varieties to be found in the new stamps.

Fig. 1: The SAP of February 1926.

Printers were experimenting with a suitable colour for the triangular 4d stamp.

The ½d issue's temporary withdrawal from sale was to reduce older stock, not due to a broken 'L' in 'Posseel'. The 'broken L' variety was later corrected, but the 'open D' in 'Suidafrika' on one stamp remained. A correspondent, Espargne, criticised the Government's inscription of 'South Africa' and 'Suidafrika' on the stamps, seeing it as an ambition to absorb neighbouring territories. They also pointed out Dutch linguistic inaccuracies, like using 'posseel' for postage instead of 'port' or 'posgeld', and pluralising 'pennies' as 'Vier Pennies' instead of 'Vier Pennie' for the 4d value. The editorial note clarified that the second language was officially Afrikaans, not Dutch.

Mr. M. L. Levitt of Windhoek supplied the new South-West Africa triangular 4d stamps, overprinted and issued on 27 January 1926. These stamps were sold in sealed packets of 60, each containing stamps in a single language. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., Ltd. in England overprinted them. The overprint on the ½d and 1d issues had a two-line format without a hyphen after 'Suidwes', while the one-line 4d overprint had a hyphen between 'Suidwes' and 'Afrika'. The latter was confirmed as the correct form.

Mr. Alan Cobham's flight from London to Cape Town and back to England was covered in detail in aerophilately. He carried special mail, including souvenir cards from the aviation weekly *Flight* addressed to South African correspondents and notable individuals, which were posted in Cape Town. This venture was expected to boost interest in aerophilately in South Africa.

Reports of a company planning to start air mail services in South Africa using Junker aeroplanes on a Cape Town-Durban-Johannesburg route, with new air mail stamps depicting a Junker machine, persisted. News from abroad included the resumption of a regular air mail service in the Belgian Congo on 9 April 1925, operating on a three-weekly schedule between Kinshasa and Luebo. The Schoolboys' Exhibition in London featured a dedicated "stamp street" promoting philately among the younger generation. Locally, Mr. P. A. Sheppard of Umtali submitted covers bearing Bechuanaland Protectorate stamps cancelled with the Royal Train cachet.

The issue's 'New Issues and Varieties' section reported numerous new printings, colours, watermarks, and errors from across the

The 'Mauritius Georgians' section highlighted market trends, showing a significant surge in interest and value for King George V head types, surpassing Edwardian issues. The 50c, once priced at two shillings and sixpence, was fetching over a pound, with similar rises expected for other varieties. Collectors were advised to acquire the scarce 25c orange-buff and pale-yellow Die J and consider the uncatalogued five-rupee varieties, especially the 10-rupee on experimental paper, a major rarity. A general warning to 'buy now' was issued due to anticipated future price increases.

The journal reported on a sale conducted by Mr. H. R. Harmer, titled 'The Mayfair Find'.

Current-then South African postal rates were provided, with 1d per ounce for letters within Southern Africa, 2d per ounce for other British Possessions and the UK, and 3d for the first ounce to other foreign countries.

Finally, the 'Society News' section offered insights into local philatelic activities. The Johannesburg United Philatelic Society hosted Mr. C. Smithers of Cape Town, who exhibited remarkably complete and specialised collections of South-West Africa and Rhodesia. A lively debate at a subsequent meeting saw Mr. C. F. Skinner's motion—asserting the greater philatelic interest and investment value of 20th-century British Empire stamps over 19th-century issues—carried by a single vote. The Capetown Philatelic Society showcased Mr. R. Hazell's exceptional collection of Capes, featuring mint blocks of triangulars, "woodblocks" including the 1d blue error, and rectangular provisionals.

References

- [1] J. Robertson, *The SA Philatelist*, Vol. 2 No. 12. Johannesburg: J. Robertson, Jan. 1926. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SAP-Jan-2025.pdf>.
- [2] J. Robertson, *The SA Philatelist*, Vol. 3 No. 1. Johannesburg: J. Robertson, Feb. 1926. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SAP-Feb-2026.pdf>. 



On the Centenary of the London Printings of the Union Definitive – Used on the First Day of Issue, January 1st 1926

by Keith P Klugman RDPSA, FRPSL, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

January 1st 1926 was a Friday and a public holiday, yet a number of post offices were open to sell the first three values of the new definitive stamps, the first Union of South Africa issue of stamps separately inscribed in English and in Afrikaans. In order to get all the new stamps used on the day of issue, ideally bilingual pairs of the ½d and 1d value were needed on the envelope. The triangular 4d value stamps were widely only available in pre-cut packets as imperforate singles, so two separate stamps were required, though two covers do exist with imperf pairs of the 4d ostensibly cancelled on 1 January as discussed below.

For many years the Stanley Gibbons catalogue stated that the stamps were used only on 2 January but the overwhelming evidence from multiple post offices of use on 1 January has led to the correction of that error.

Illustrated for the first time are representative examples of all towns and cancels known to the author to have used these stamps on that first day. More doubtless exist. The majority of uses were from major towns and their suburbs, with a few rare exceptions from less developed urban places. Most towns were in the Cape Province which may reflect the density of stamp collectors at that time in the Union so we will start with the less represented provinces. These earliest uses on the first day of issue are mostly local covers, or in a few instances are addressed within the Union. None are addressed abroad. The local rate of postage changed on that day (1 January 1926) to 1d per ounce, from the previous rate of 1d per ½ ounce since the Union in 1910 (Hugh Amoore, personal communication). As such any cover franked with a full set of the three stamps was paying a rate of eleven times local postage, or seven times penny postage if registered (4d). Even a set of single stamps was over payment by ½d of the single rate of registered postage at 5d (Fig.21).

From the Free State, perhaps not surprisingly the only record is from Bloemfontein (Fig.1).

From Natal, use is only recorded from Durban (Figs 2 and 3).

Perhaps the rarest recorded use of these stamps on 1 January 1926, but controversial, are two covers also recorded from Durban (Figs 4 and 5). Conventional wisdom is that uncut sheets of the 4d were only made available later in 1926, but this pair of covers were registered and cancelled in Durban on 1st January. The cancels do not tie the pairs to the covers and there is no backstamp which is unusual for a registered cover, so they may have been contrived but this remarkable pair of covers are shown in Fig. 4 and 5.

The other two values were likely also available in Durban and Hugh Amoore illustrated an English ½d off cover example used in Durban in the *Springbok* issue of January 2019.

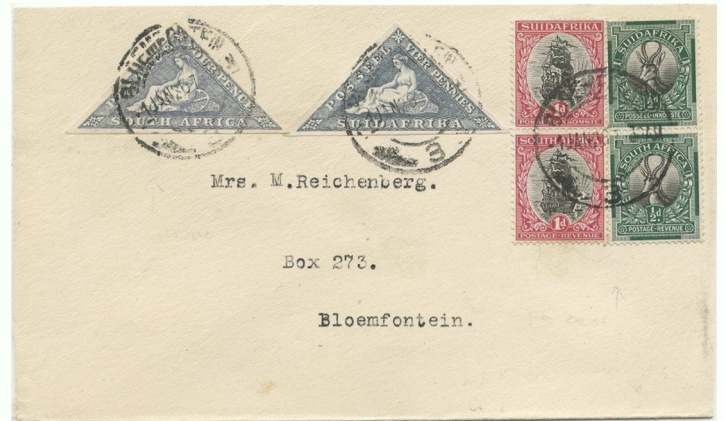


Fig.1: Full set used at Bloemfontein counter 3 (Klugman collection).



Fig.2: Durban machine cancel of the 4d used at 5pm (Klugman collection).

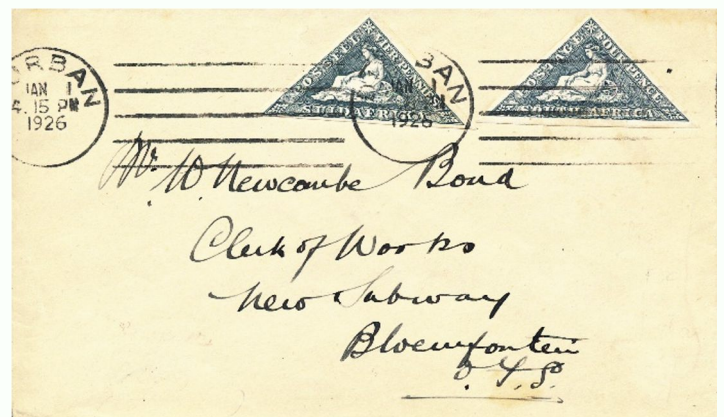


Fig.3: Durban machine cancel of the 4d used at 6:15pm right (Lester collection).

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Fig.4: Imperf Afrikaans pairs of the 4d used in Durban with circular datestamp. (Klugman collection).

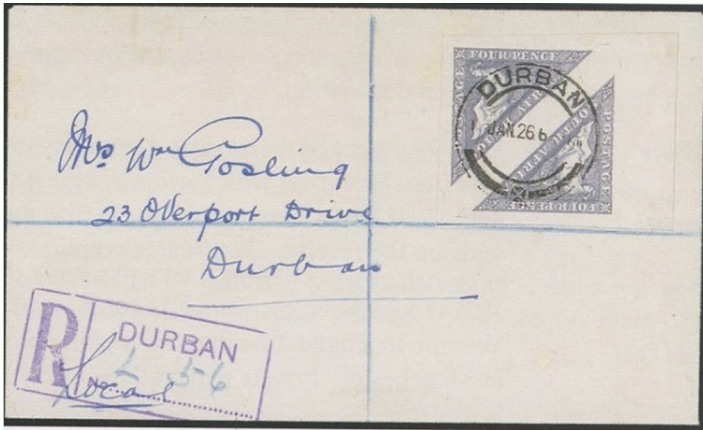


Fig.5: Imperf English pairs of the 4d used in Durban with circular datestamp. (Klugman collection).



Fig.6: Johannesburg full set with "1" first day cancel (Klugman collection).

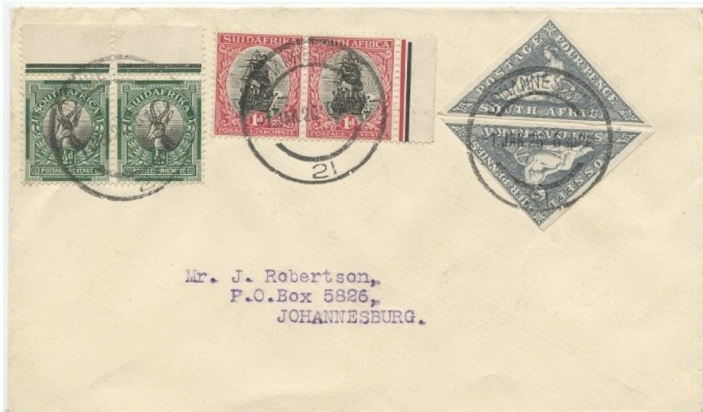


Fig.7: Johannesburg "21" cancels on full sets to the local stamp dealer Robertson (Klugman collection).



Fig.8: Slogan Johannesburg cancel "Support SA Industries" addressed to The SA Philatelist (Klugman collection).

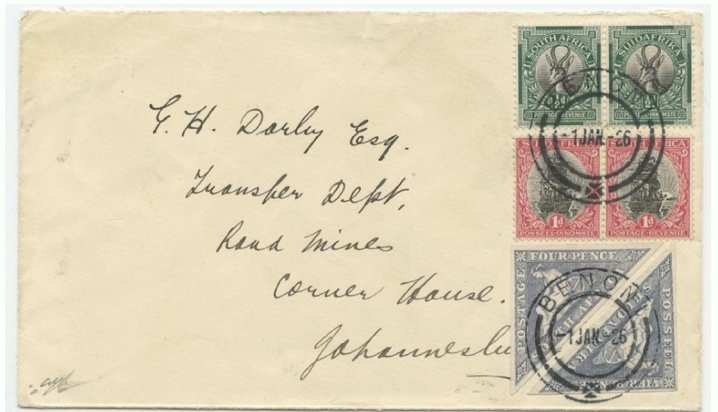


Fig.9: Use from Benoni (Klugman collection).



Fig.10: Use from Pretoria (Klugman collection).



Fig.11: Off cover use from Politsi (Klugman collection).

From the Transvaal there are examples recorded from Johannesburg, Benoni, Pretoria and remarkably an off cover single from Politsi near Tzaneen (Fig.11). There are three cancels (Figs. 6 to 8) recorded on cover on 1 January 1926 from Johannesburg. The slogan cancel in Fig.8 has also been seen on a first day cover with single stamps.

An example from Benoni is illustrated in Fig.9 and from Pretoria in Fig.10.

Finally from the Cape Province, covers from Cape Town and its suburbs dominate, but covers are also recorded from East London and its suburbs, Beaufort West, Kimberley, and the Western Traveling Post Office 2.

For Cape Town itself covers are recorded cancelled at counters 1, 9 and 20. Fig.12 illustrates a cover cancelled with a full set at counter 1.

Two more covers are recorded from counter 1 with singles. From counter 9 two covers are recorded, one with blocks of four of the ½d and 1d and just a single 4d, but also a second franked with four of the 4d (Figs 13 and 14).

There was some fun at counter 20 in Cape town early in the morning where a cover in Hugh Amoores collection was inadvertently cancelled with the marking showing 1 January, but still dated 1925 (Fig.15). There is a piece with this incorrect 1925 cancel on an Afrikaans 4d also in the Lester collection. Also recorded at that counter are lovely off cover blocks of eight used on the first day later in the day with the year corrected in the Amoores collection (Fig.16).

There are a number of covers from the suburbs of Cape Town including Muizenberg, Rondebosch and Sea Point (Figs 17 to 19). There is also a pair of the ½d on piece from Sea Point in the Amoores collection and a cover with the full set from Sea Point was in the Meintjies collection.

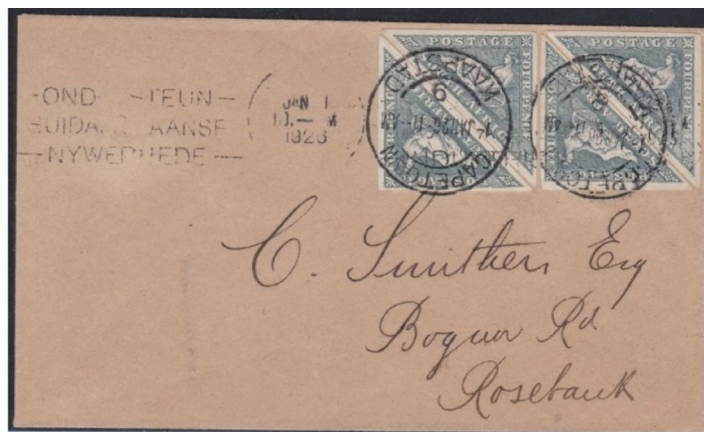


Fig.14: First day covers cancelled in Cape Town at counter 9 (Klugman collection).



Fig.15: Singles on cover in Cape Town franked wrongly 1 Jan 1925 (Amoores collection).



Fig.12: Registered cover from Cape Town counter 1 (Klugman collection).

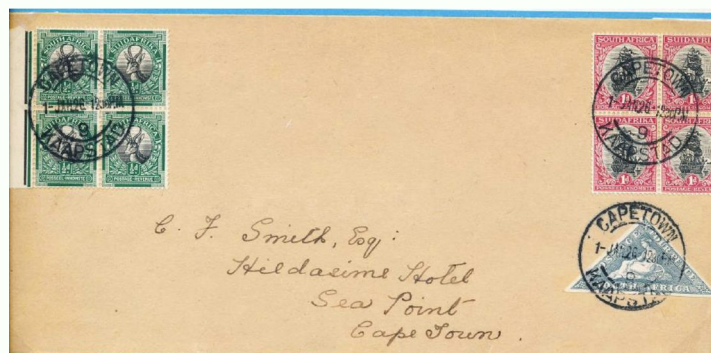


Fig.13: First day covers cancelled in Cape Town at counter 9 (Lester collection).



Fig.16: Blocks of 8 of the ½d and 1d franked at the same counter as in Fig.15 later in the day with the year date corrected to 1926 (Amoores collection).

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Fig.17: First day of issue from Muizenberg, lacking a 4d stamp (Amoore collection).



Fig.20: First day of issue on Union penny postal stationery with additional 1/2d Kings Head and missing the Afrikaans 4d from East London (Klugman collection).



Fig.18: First day of issue from Rondebosch (Philatelic Friends auction, June 2020).

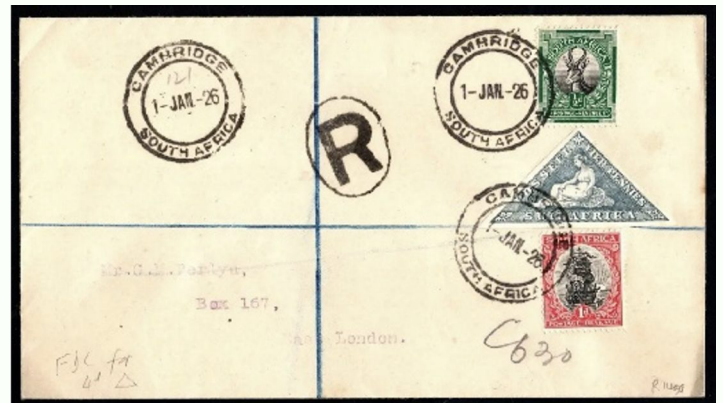


Fig.21: First day of issue from Cambridge singles (Lester collection).



Fig.19: First day of issue from Sea Point, lacking a 4d stamp (Klugman collection).



Fig.22: First day of issue with full set from Walmer (Messenger collection).



Fig.23: Beaufort West (Klugman collection).

There are covers recorded from East London itself as well as its suburb Cambridge and from Walmer in Port Elizabeth, as illustrated in Fig.15.

Finally there are three covers from smaller Cape Post offices illustrated in Figs 23 to 25, namely Beaufort West, Kimberley and the Western Travelling Post Office number 2.

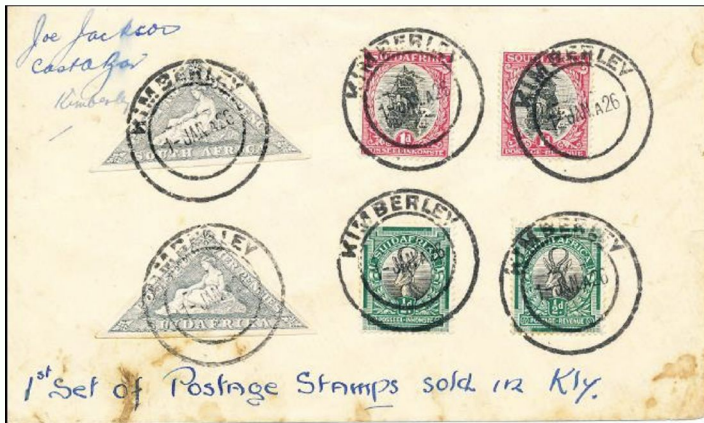


Fig.24: Cover endorsed "1st set of postage stamps sold in Kimberley" (Lester collection).



Fig.25: Unusual Western TPO cancel of the Western Traveling Post Office (TPO) number 2 (Klugman collection).

Table 1 illustrates the recorded covers described in this article.

There were a number of post offices that sold the first three London printings on their day of issue on 1st January 1926. All these covers are scarce and they emanated mainly from the large cities in all four provinces plus their surrounding suburbs.

Acknowledgements

I wish to acknowledge the Lesters and Hugh Amooore and Robin Messenger for illustrations of copies of covers in their collections.

Province	Cancellation	Number of Covers Recorded	
Orange Free State	Bloemfontein 3	1	
Natal	Durban machine cancel	2	
	Durban hand cancel	2	
Transvaal	Johannesburg 1	1	
	Johannesburg 21	2	
	Johannesburg slogan machine cancel "Support our Industries"	2	
	Benoni	1	
	Pretoria	1	
	Cape Province	Cape Town 1	3
		Cape Town 9	2
Cape Town 20		1	
	Muizenberg	1	
	Rondebosch	1	
	Sea Point	2	
	East London 1	1	
	Cambridge	1	
	Walmer	1	
	Beaufort West	1	
	Kimberley	1	
	Western Traveling Post Office 2	1	
	Total		28

Table 1: The recorded uses of the first three Union London printings on 1 January 1926.

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June 2026



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July 2026: Announcement of Results. Exhibits will be available for viewing on the PFSA website.

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- Joof van der Merwe RDPSA – josuav528@gmail.com



The SWA Official Overprints: a Peep into the Printing Room

by Danie van Zyl, Pretoria Philatelic Society

Much is written about stamps and the overprinting of stamps, but not so much about what happens in the printing room where the stamps are produced. In May 1929 and again in August 1929, the Union of South Africa 2d stamp, originally issued in March 1927, was overprinted for use as South West Africa Official stamps. These two issues differed only in their layout, specifically in the vertical placement of the letters 'S.W.A.', which appeared low on the stamps of the May issue and higher up on the August issue.

The activities within the printing room during this period provide a subject of significant interest. This small study concludes that the same slugs and the same forme were utilized for both printings, with the only modification being the repositioning of the 'S.W.A.' slug. It remains unknown whether this positional change was implemented for a technical reason or to facilitate an easier distinction between the two printings.

A comparative study of the two issues, using the presence or absence of the stop after 'OFFICIAL' and 'OFFISIEEL' as a guide, shows quite clearly that the same slugs were used in the same forme. It is highly unlikely that the stops and their various permutations would be identical across both issues if newly made slugs in a reset forme had been used for the August printing. Furthermore, the presence of a broken letter 'F' serves as strong confirmation of the repeated use of these specific slugs and the established forme.

Ten blocks of four stamps are presented in this comparison, arranged with the May issue on the left and the August issue on the right. In the first example, there is no full stop found on any stamp in either block, see Figs 2 and 3.

A telling indicator is provided in the subsequent illustration, which features the same broken letter 'F' in both issues, Fig.1. Other examples demonstrate a mix of stops and no stops, Figs 4 and 5, including corner blocks where a stop appears only after 'OFFICIAL' on the bottom-right stamp, Figs 6 and 7.



Fig.1: Same broken letter 'F' in both issues.

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Fig.2: No full stop, May 1929.



Fig.3: No full stop, August 1929.



Fig.4: Full stop followed by no full stop, May 1929.



Fig.5: Full stop followed by no full stop, August 1929.



Fig.6: Full stop only on bottom right, May 1929.



Fig.10: Full stop on inscriptional blocks, May 1929.



Fig.7: Full stop only on bottom right, August 1929.



Fig.11: Full stop on inscriptional blocks, August 1929.



Fig.8: No full stop only on top left, May 1929.



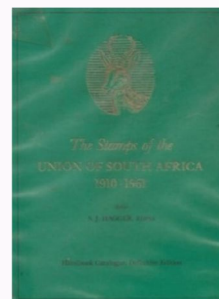
Fig.9: No full stop only on top left, August 1929.

In another instance, no stop is found after 'OFFICIAL' on the top-left stamp of the blocks, Figs 8 and 9.

Finally, the comparison includes inscriptional blocks that feature stops on all stamps, Figs 10 and 11.

The existence of so many similarities effectively rules out the possibility of these occurrences being mere coincidences. The conclusion must be drawn that the same slugs in the same forms were used in the two printings, and that the 'S.W.A.' slug was simply moved to a relatively higher position for the second issue.

REVIEW/UPDATE OF THE UNION HANDBOOK



As noted in the Federation News on page 4, an update and review of *The Union Handbook*, dated 1986, is underway.

This important project aims to ensure that the handbook remains accurate, up to date, and reflective of the latest research within our philatelic community.

You are invited to send any comments, ideas, changes or corrections on the Jack Hagger RDPSA print of *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961* to André du Plessis RDPSA at pfsastamps@gmail.com

Every contribution, whether a small correction, a fresh perspective, or a detailed proposal, will help strengthen the quality and integrity of this important reference work. Your participation is valued and sincerely appreciated.

Building Bridges and Stories: A Profile of James Grinyer



Fig.1: James Grinyer.

James Grinyer's philatelic life is, in many ways, a familiar story to many collectors: childhood enthusiasm, adult-life interruption, and then a powerful return to the hobby with renewed energy and purpose. Yet

what makes James particularly compelling is the way he has channelled that return into community building, and into exhibits designed to draw people in through theme, narrative, and discovery.

James kindly gave permission for his information and images to be used across PFSA platforms, ensuring his story can be shared widely and, ideally, inspire others to keep collecting, researching and exhibiting.

Ask James what defines him beyond philately and his answers quickly sketch a person engaged with the world. He is deeply interested in current affairs, with a strong curiosity about international developments. He also retains an enduring interest in geography and the historical events that shaped the world, an outlook that naturally aligns with thematic philately, where a single stamp can open a door to a much larger narrative.

Although he used to enjoy travel, he notes that it has become "just too much these days", and this has, in a sense, intensified his armchair exploration through reading, research, and of course stamps.

At home he enjoys gardening, and he is also an enthusiastic golfer. Sport features strongly in his leisure time: he watches cricket above all (his favourite), and also follows soccer, golf and rugby.

James's daily routine reflects calm consistency, an orderly structure that matches the way many successful philatelists approach collecting.

He rises at about 6:00, starts with coffee, and then heads to the front verandah for exercises and stretching. After breakfast, if golf is not on the day's agenda, he'll 'potter around in the garden'. And then, more often than not, he settles into his study where he can spend hours working on and researching his philatelic interests, the sort of deep immersion familiar to anyone who has ever "just checked one detail" and looked up to find half the day gone.

Evenings are for winding down. After dinner, he watches a bit of TV; and if there is no cricket, he and his wife will often end the day with a movie. Bedtime is typically around 22:30.

James was born in 1942, during the war, on the West Coast of Scotland. After WWII, the family moved south to Kent, England. His childhood memories are rich with the outdoors,

playing outside constantly, and like so many boys of the time, soccer was central: "We always seemed to be kicking a ball."

Collecting, too, was part of that childhood world. James remembers collecting matchbox covers, cigarette cards, and stamps and, importantly, the social side of the hobby: stamp swapping in the school playground, an early lesson in the communal pleasure of philately.

When asked for a moment from youth that still shapes him, James points to a major life shift: moving to South Africa in 1956, when he was 14. It is the kind of transition that broadens horizons and resets identity: new landscapes, new systems, new postal history and new contexts. For many collectors, migration also deepens the meaning of stamps: they become both cultural markers and personal anchors.

James' collecting began around age seven. Like many young collectors, he got his early material from the post, not purchases. His pocket money was limited, so he collected stamps soaked from envelopes.

His first truly memorable acquisition was not a stamp but an album. A very small album (as James emphasises, "really small") given to him by his father, and believed to have belonged to his grandfather. That album contained a stamp that would become the emotional centre of his collection: a Penny Black, which he still owns today.

He cherishes it for its representation of family, continuity, and the origins of his lifelong interest. As James says, it holds more value than its monetary worth.

James's story includes a familiar chapter: when life becomes hectic and hobbies take a backseat.

After school, he continued collecting, but it became less important. He focused on his career and family, describing himself as more of an accumulator than an active philatelist.

James's professional life was impressive: he was a director of a large South African civil engineering company, then founded and ran his own company for ten years before selling it to an American company. This background explains his philatelic interests: he enjoys systems, structure, and delivering outcomes, and he's equally passionate about organising people and materials.

When asked about his greatest achievements in philately, James does not mention medals or rare items. Instead, he highlights his service.

James joined the Ambers Stamp Club, Howick, in 2013 and was asked to run it from 2019. He values the invitation deeply, acknowledging that he is not the best philatelist. The club's trust in him as leader is a meaningful endorsement.

Ambers, a non-affiliated club, boasts 43 members with an average attendance of 22 over the past year, demonstrating a strong level of participation.

Running a club takes effort, and James lays out the behind-the-scenes work: preparing and circulating agenda posters, sending two newsletters each month, and ensuring meetings are properly planned and engaging.

Under his leadership, the club hosted two stamp exhibitions: one in July 2021, shortly after lockdown, and another in October 2023.

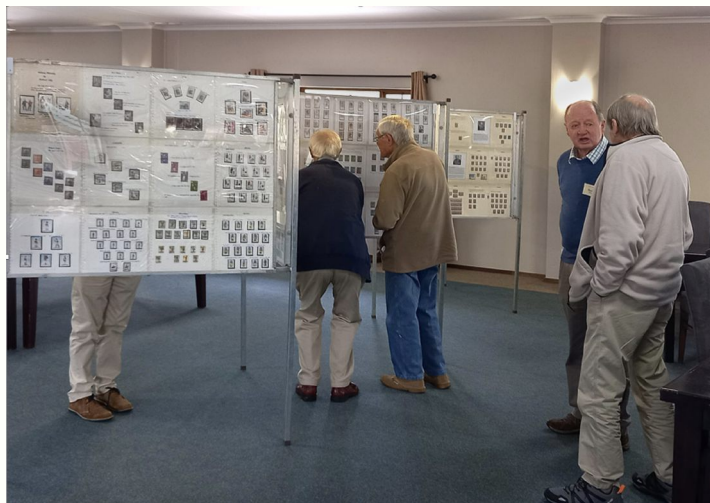


Fig.2: The Ambers Stamp Club's Internal Exhibition, 2023.

Both were displayed to the public for ten days in the Estate's Club House, courtesy of the Maritzburg Philatelic Society.

These exhibitions, designed to encourage participation, didn't follow formal rules or award prizes. Despite this, they succeeded in engaging the public, achieving good participation (14 exhibitors and 180 pages in 2023), and attracting new club members.

James has noticed that meetings are most effective when presentations are themed around geographical, historical, exploration, flora/fauna, or similar story-driven topics. In the past year, 7 out of 12 themed presentations were the best attended.

The club experimented with an 'alphabet' theme linked to philatelic items. Initially unattractive, a practical tweak in the form of a shopping voucher prize for the best exhibit transformed it. Participation surged to five exhibitors, and the club plans to replicate the success.

James, encouraged by another Ambers member, joined the Pretoria Philatelic Society to enter the national exhibition (MARPEX 2024). He initially considered joining Maritzburg, but their meetings fall on Saturdays, which he prefers for golf.

His first national entry was in the Open Class, titled 'The Heroic Age of Polar Exploration'. He selected the subject because it aligned with what he had learned at club level: people respond to compelling themes and human stories.

He admits to being disappointed with that first national

outing, but crucially, he did not stop.

At the Paarl Nationals, he entered two exhibits, staying with themes he knows connect with audiences: "The Remote Islands of Tristan da Cunha" and "Discovering the Post Horn on Postage Stamps and Other Related Material".

The 'Post Horn' exhibit, in particular, sent him deep into research: not only iconography and stamp issues, but postage systems and the history of mail itself. Exactly the kind of learning journey James thrives on.

He intends to continue entering exhibitions because he finds them personally demanding in the best way: "such a challenge to myself", requiring extensive reading and research to bring an exhibit to completion.

James candidly addresses a growing challenge for South African exhibitors: unreliable postal services and the difficulty of sourcing suitable local material. Completing an exhibit now often requires sourcing items overseas and relying on friends and family to bring them back. Three members of the Ambers Stamp Club collaborate to help each other with this process, highlighting the mutual support that sustains the hobby.

When James speaks about motivation, both in life and in philately, two themes emerge: organisation and story-building.

He is always been driven by organising, which served him well in business leadership and now powers his philatelic projects and club administration.

Beyond organisation, James finds deeper satisfaction in finding a subject, building a story around it, and illustrating it with philatelic material. This process of shaping an idea into a coherent narrative gives him a sense of satisfaction and achievement.

At 84, James's clear-eyed and practical plans are refreshing: stay involved as long as possible. He hopes his 30-year-old grandson, who's interested in philately, especially from an artistic perspective, will take over the collection and make it attractive to younger generations.

He acknowledges that golf has become more challenging, so he is considering joining the Maritzburg Philatelic Society and spending a Saturday a month there, trading fairway time for fellowship, frames, and philatelic conversation.

James Grinyer's profile is more than just a collector's story. It is about using philately to learn, organise, connect with history, geography, community, and family.

From a small inherited album and a Penny Black to leading a thriving club, mounting public exhibitions, and stepping onto the national exhibiting stage, James reminds us that the best collections are well-lived, not just well-mounted.

If there is a single thread running through his answers, it is this: make it interesting, make it meaningful, and make it shared. [🔗](#)



Union of South Africa Stamp Varieties

by André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

Union Golden Jubilee - Sterling, 1960 [1]

A series of four stamps in the denominations of 4d, 6d, 1s and 1s 6d was issued on 2 May 1960 to commemorate the golden jubilee of the founding of the Union of South Africa on 31 May 1910. In addition, a further 3d stamp featuring the Union's six Prime Ministers, became available on 31 May.

Designs: 4d the Union Flag and the opening bars of the national anthem; 6d the Union coat of arms and those of the four former colonies. Both stamps were designed and drawn by H. Kumst. The theme of the 1s, drawn by V. Ivanoff with lettering by Kumst, was 'progress through co-operation', and the 1s 6d depicted the official Union Festival emblem, with lettering by Kumst.

All the stamps were bilingual, and some designs reappeared the following year with values in decimal currency.

Although 31 May 1960 was a public holiday, post offices in the main centres were open for at least an hour for the sale of the 3d stamp, the design of which had remained a secret until then. These stamps were also on sale throughout the anniversary day

at the post office at the International Stamp Exhibition UNIPEX in Johannesburg.

The 4d and 6d stamps were in the upright format, measuring 21 x 37,5 mm, perforated 14 x 15 and with the Coat of Arms watermark facing left. They were in sheets of 120 (6 rows x 20 columns) with arrows at the centre of all four margins and a single broken bar on those at the sides. Cylinder numbers - three of them in the case of the 6d, which was the first Union stamp to be produced from so many - were on the left margin adjoining the first stamp of the bottom row. The sheet numbers, four-figure red or five-figure black in the case of the 4d value and five-figure black only for the 6d, were on the bottom margin.

The 3d, 1s and 1s 6d values were in horizontal format measuring 37,5 x 21 mm, perforated 15 x 14 and with Coat of Arms watermark upright. The sheets of 120 stamps had a single broken bar on both top and bottom margins. Cylinder numbers were printed on the bottom margin below the sixth stamp, and the four-figure red sheet numbers were on the right margin.



Dark and light brown
UHB 144
(SG 184) (SASCC 183)



Orange red and
cerulean blue
UHB 145
(SG 179) (SASCC 178)



Orange red,
brown and sea-green
UHB 146
(SG 180) (SASCC 179)



Indigo and Sulphur-yellow
UHB 147
(SG 181) (SASCC 180)



Black and grey blue
UHB 148
(SG 182) (SASCC 181)

SELECTED VARIETIES

(As listed in [1])

UHB 144 - 3d






Cylinders no. 94 (Interior) and 11 (Exterior)

<p>Oblique line across forehead of General Smuts (ex-Row 7/2) UHB 144 - V1</p>	<p>White spot over "H" of SOUTH (ex-Row 13/5) UHB 144 - V2</p>	<p>Thin line running up from top of protea (ex-Row 15/2) UHB 144 - V3</p>	<p>Large dot on Dr Malan's head (ex-Row 17/5) UHB 144 - V4</p>	<p>White line across back of Dr Verwoerd's head (Screen scratch) (ex-Row 19/3) UHB 144 - V5</p>

Please note that another variety for this stamp exists namely Light brown omitted (SASCC - 183a; SG 184a).







UHB 145 - 4d

Cylinders no. 16 (Interior) and 95 (Exterior)

				
White dot between note of music and "R" of AFRIKA (ex-Row 1/20) UHB 145 - V1	Smudge above "4d" near centre of pole (ex-Row 4/11) UHB 145 - V2	Dot below second "A" of AFRICA (ex-Row 5/13) UHB 145 - V3 (Lieb Venter collection)	Dot above forearm (ex-Row 6/6) UHB 145 - V4	White dot below "C" of AFRICA (ex-Row 6/20) UHB 145 - V5

UHB 146 - 6d






Cylinders no. 24, 88 (Interior) and 52 (Exterior)

					
Green dot below tree on Shield (ex-Row 2/9) UHB 146 - V1	Line running upward from Cape Coat of Arms (ex-Row 3/20) UHB 146 - V2	White line (screen scratch) from shield on row 4/2 through "U" of SUID on row 4/3 (ex-Row 4/2) UHB 146 - V3	Thick green line outside left bottom curve of shield (multi.) (ex-Row 5/2) UHB 146 - V4	Brown dot on edge of right bottom curve of shield (ex-Row 5/19) UHB 146 - V5 4	Joined paper UHB 146 - V6

Please note that another variety for this stamp exists namely Interrupted brown printing (UHB - V6; SASCC - 179a).



UHB 148 - 1s 6d

Cylinders no. 44 (Interior) and 34 (Exterior)


				
White mark below "LD" of POSGELD (ex-Row 2/1) UHB 148 - V1	White dot above and to left of "P" of POSGELD (ex-Row 4/2) UHB 148 - V2	White "cloud" above emblem at left (ex-Row 5/2) UHB 148 - V3	White smudge below "PO" of POSGELD (ex-Row 5/3) UHB 148 - V4	White line (screen scratch) below "1/6" (ex-Row 7/6) UHB 148 - V5

UHB 147 - 1s

Cylinders no. 29 (Interior) and 100 (Exterior)

	
Blue dot near woman's head (ex-Row 12/5) UHB 147 - V1	Blue dot in gutter below "OS" of POSGELD (ex-Row 14/3) UHB 147 - V2

References

- [1] S. J. Hagger, *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961, Handbook Catalogue*, Definitive Edition. Cape Town: Reijger Publishers (Pty) Ltd, 1986. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Hagger-Group-12-c.pdf#page=7>. 

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The Early Postal History of Ascension

by Andrew Briscoe RDP SA FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The island of Ascension is believed to have been discovered by the Portuguese navigator João da Nova in 1501, and was initially named Conception, before being rediscovered two years later in 1503 on Ascension Day by Alphonse d'Albuquerque, who gave the island its lasting name. The uninhabited volcanic island was occasionally visited thereafter by ships, and in February 1701, Captain William Dampier arrived in the Roebuck, bound for England. The ship was leaking badly and sunk soon afterwards. Dampier and his crew survived by eating turtle meat and found water at a spring. In the seventeenth century, ships calling at Ascension often left letters in a bottle to be picked up by vessels going in the other direction.

The island remained uninhabited until Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte was incarcerated by the British 700 miles away on St Helena in 1815 when a small naval garrison was stationed on Ascension to deny it to the French. The island was placed under the direct rule of the Admiralty, and was run as if it were a ship. It was governed by a naval captain under the command of the admiral superintendent at Gibraltar. The island was designated HMS Ascension, a "Stone Sloop of War of the Smaller Class". By the time of Napoleon's death in 1821, Ascension had become a victualling station and sanatorium for West Africa Squadron ships engaged in the suppression of the slave trade around the West African coast. In 1823 the island was taken over by the Royal Marines. It remained under the supervision of the British Board of Admiralty until 1922, when it was made a Dependency of St Helena.



Fig.1: 1830 (24 May) letter, headed 'H.M.S. Ariadne - At Ascension' to Guernsey, rated 1s 8d and showing step-type PORTSMOUTH/SHIP LETTER handstamp in red. The writer mentioned his voyage included Sierra Leone, St. Helena, Fernando Po, Princes Island, and Accra on the Gold Coast (courtesy of Spink & Son).

Postal History

Edward Proud reports that by 1673 an informal "Bottle Post" had been started on the island and in that year Dominic Fernandez Navarette wrote: "We found letters ashore of French and English which had passed by there a year before; those that sail this way are so curious as to write letters, put them into bottles and leave in a safe place, but visible, by which the next comers have intelligence who has gone by and what voyage they had."

Subsequent accounts often mention that the bottle was located in a hole in the rock near the landing place, although its main use seems to have been to record ships' visits rather than as a 'post box'. Following the British Occupation in 1815 letters to be forwarded were left by passing ships more frequently. However there was no regular mail service.



Fig.2: 1850 envelope addressed to Lieut. John Townsend R.N., H.M.S. Tortoise, Ascension, West Coast of Africa and endorsed 'By H.M. Steamer Wasp', prepaid the packet rate of one shilling (courtesy of Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions).

On 7 June 1852 the British Post Office informed the chief officer stationed on Ascension that the General Screw Steam Ship was starting a monthly service to India via Cape of Good Hope. This was followed by a letter on 25 April 1854 saying that the service had been terminated and letters to Ascension would henceforward be forwarded by Private Ship.

In September 1857 the British Post Office wrote to inform that: "Several complaints have recently been made to this office of letters from Ascension having been overcharged on delivery in this country and that on enquiry it appears the irregularities have risen owing to the letters having reached this country in an unlabelled bag containing correspondence from the Cape Verde islands, the Cape of Good Hope and other places.

Owing to the manner in which these letters were received it was impossible for the Officers of this department to ascertain with

any degree of certainty the places at which the several letters originated and - thus, some of those from Ascension which should have been charged with a postage of 6d only, have been erroneously taxed with higher rates under the impression that they came from other places to which such higher rates were applicable.

In order to prevent such errors for the future I request that you will be good enough to make up all the correspondence posted at Ascension in a sealed mail properly labelled, and that the letters contained in such mail may bear a stamp shewing that they have originated at Ascension."

Upon receiving this letter, G R. Gliddon, who was in charge of the post, requested a datestamp, which was sent on 3 March 1858 with ink and a stamping pad.

Mail from Ascension to Great Britain

On 29 February, 1860, the Rev. A. G Berry (Chaplin), wrote to the Postmaster General complaining that no stamps were officially on sale on the island, and on 24 April 1860 the Postmaster General replied that he could not make provision for supplying the public at Ascension with British stamps and left it to them to make their own arrangements for obtaining British stamps, and that letters received from Ascension with British stamps to cover the correct rate would be forwarded without further charge.

This was followed by the officer who acted as Postmaster, writing 5 July 1860 a similar letter, to which the Postmaster General in London replied as follows:

"8th August, 1860

Sir,

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th ultimo requesting to be furnished with information as to the amount of postage to be collected and the regulations to be observed in respect to letters posted at Ascension for transmission to Foreign Countries.

In reply, I have to state that there is no necessity for the prepayment of letters posted at Ascension addressed to the Continent of Europe; as such letters, on arriving at this office are not detained for postage but are forwarded on to their destination and the postage due upon them charged on delivery.

I have further to point out that any list of the rates of postage upon letters for the Continent which might be furnished by this office would be liable to constant correction, owing to changes in the rates which take place from time to time, and it is not considered desirable therefore to supply such a list or to authorise the collection at Ascension of the postage on Foreign Letters.

I am, Sir, etc.,

(Sgd.) F. Hill."

Following this the Commandant ('the senior officer on board') reported officially in a despatch to the Admiralty dated 19

October 1860, that "*Foreigners of all nations wish to post letters for Europe but there is no post office established and no stamps and I request that instructions may be sent."*

The Postmaster General, on enquiry being made of him by the Admiralty, replied that there was no necessity for the prepayment of letters posted at Ascension, and the Commandant was informed accordingly.

In 1863, however, a further effort was made by the then Postmaster to obtain official rates for Ascension, but again he received a disappointing reply from London:

"30th June, 1863.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 2nd instant, I beg to acquaint you that there is no necessity for you to possess information respecting the rates of postage on letters posted at Ascension addressed to places in transit through the United Kingdom as there is no need for such letters to be prepaid. Any arrangement for the prepayment of the letters referred to would involve the necessity of opening Accounts between this Department and Ascension, and the small advantage that might be given to the public by affording them the option of paying their letters in advance would be more than counterbalanced by the trouble of the additional accounts.

I beg to refer to my letter on the 8th August 1860, on the same subject.

I am, Sir, etc.,

(Sgd.) F. Hill."

In 1863 the Union Steamship Company entered into a contract with H.M. Postmaster General for their packet boats, on the return voyages from the Cape of Good Hope to Plymouth, to call at Ascension and St. Helena once monthly for the purposes of embarking and disembarking mail.

Mail from Great Britain to Ascension

With effect from 24 March 1863, the Post Office in London issued a Notice to inform the public that there were now two ways of sending mail to Ascension: by packet at the rate of one shilling per half ounce, and by private ship at the rate of four pence per half ounce, Fig.3. The Notice stated in the last sentence that "*The postage on letters addressed to Ascension must be paid in advance, or they cannot be forwarded.*" Pre-payment was required because there was no post office in Ascension, and no accounting arrangement for collecting monies due to the British Post Office.

The Ascension Post Office

In April 1864 an official post office was opened on the island. The postmaster applied for a salary on 20 April 1864, which was granted with effect from 5 June 1864, being £15 p.a.

The Post Office then published the following notice on 13 September 1875: "*The Mails for Ascension have hitherto been despatched from England by each of the three Packets sailing*

monthly for the Cape of Good Hope, for delivery by the first homeward Packet touching at the Island, but, as only one of the Packets calls at Ascension on the homeward voyage, it is found that the practice of sending the Mails from England three times a month to the Cape is, in two cases, attended with no advantage whatever.

POST OFFICE NOTICE 1863

No. 9, 1863.



INCREASE OF POSTAGE
ON LETTERS FOR
THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, NATAL,
ST. HELENA, and ASCENSION,
WHEN CONVEYED BY PACKET; AND
REDUCTION OF POSTAGE
WHEN CONVEYED BY PRIVATE SHIP.

The revenue derived from letters conveyed by Packet between the United Kingdom and the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, St. Helena, and Ascension having been found to be wholly insufficient to cover the expense of the Packet Service, it has been decided to revert to the former rate of postage of ONE SHILLING for letters, to and from these places, not exceeding half-an-ounce in weight, and the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have, by Warrant, directed that this increased rate shall be charged on the 1st April next, and thenceforward.

Simultaneously, the scale of progression for charging letters addressed to any of the foregoing places will be modified by substituting for the existing scale, a scale of weight having half-an-ounce as a unit throughout, with the postage advancing by single rates, as follows:—

Not exceeding ½ oz.	Above ½ oz. and not exceeding 1 oz.	Above 1 oz. and not exceeding 1½ oz.	Above 1½ oz. and not exceeding 2 oz.	Every additional ½ oz.
1 s. 0 d.	2 s. 0 d.	3 s. 0 d.	4 s. 0 d.	1 s. 0 d.

At the same time, in order to provide a yet cheaper means than at present of sending letters, not requiring great speed and punctuality, to and from the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, St. Helena, and Ascension, the postage by Private Ship will be reduced from Sixpence to Fourpence the half-ounce, increasing for heavier letters at the rate of Fourpence for each half-ounce, according to the above scale of progression.

The postage upon letters for the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, and St. Helena, whether conveyed by Packet or by Private Ship, may either be paid in advance or left to be paid on delivery; but in all cases where the postage is not prepaid, the letters will be charged on delivery with one additional rate besides the usual postage.

The postage on letters addressed to Ascension *must be paid in advance*, or they cannot be forwarded.

By Command of the Postmaster-General,

ROWLAND HILL,
GENERAL POST OFFICE, 24th March, 1863. Secretary.

Printed by W. F. Gowers, 5, Lamb & North, Long Acre, London, W.C.

Fig.3: Public notice that Ascension received mail via two methods.

For the future, therefore, Mails for Ascension will be made up in London only once in each month, viz.:— via. Southampton on the morning of the 15th, with a supplementary despatch

via Plymouth the same evening. These Mails, instead of being carried on to the Cape, as formerly, will be landed at St. Helena, for return thence by the first homeward Packet.”

In July 1889, further changes were announced by the British Post Office. Henceforward, the Islands of Ascension and St Helena would for the most part be served by the intermediate steamers of the Union Steam Ship Company and of the Castle Mail Packets Company, “instead of by the regular Cape Packets as at present.”

In April 1894 the Deputy Postmaster S. Hinshelwood proposed that Ascension issue its own stamps. Suggested designs were submitted to the Postmaster General in London, but the idea was rejected and the designs were returned.

Significant progress was made in 1903 when arrangements were made for mail steamers of The Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company to call regularly at Ascension both on the outward and the homeward voyages between Cape Town and Great Britain.



Fig.4: 1873 (23 November) Sailor's envelope to Kendal, headed "From B.M. Reade, Matron, R.M. Hospital/Ascension", countersigned by Commanding Officer, showing fine Ascension c.d.s. and bearing GB 1d with London barred oval cancellation, arrival d.s. (14.12) on reverse (courtesy of Spink & Son).

References

- [1] J. Attwood, *Ascension – The Stamps and Postal History*. Robson Lowe Ltd, London, 1981.
- [2] E. B. Proud, *The Postal History of Ascension, St Helena and Tristan da Cunha*. Proud-Bailey Co. Ltd., East Sussex, U.K., 2005.



NATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2026

9 to 12 September 2026

Venue: The Country Club Johannesburg, Woodmead

Entries close: 20 July 2026

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Contact: André du Plessis RDPSA – pfsastamps@gmail.com



Table Mountain, The Inspiration (Part 2)

by Gawie Hugo, Paarlse Filateliste

We continue this multi-part series to explore how Table Mountain influences material for philately and non-philately, often featuring Table Mountain as a backdrop.

Cape of Good Hope

After British control of the Cape Colony was established following the Battle of Blaauwberg in January 1806, postal services were quickly expanded and formalised. The reopening of the Castle Post Office necessitated tools to manage communication for the growing inland population. This led to the deployment of the Oval Medallion Post Office Letter Stamp (MLS1) (Fig.1), which was in use from the end of January 1806 until 1817. Despite being a government seal repurposed by the occupying forces, the MLS1 holds historical significance as the first British postal marking in the colony, reflecting the urgent measures taken to secure administrative communication during the transitional period.

A cover (Fig.2) from after the Battle of Blaauwberg marks the start of British rule in the Cape Colony.

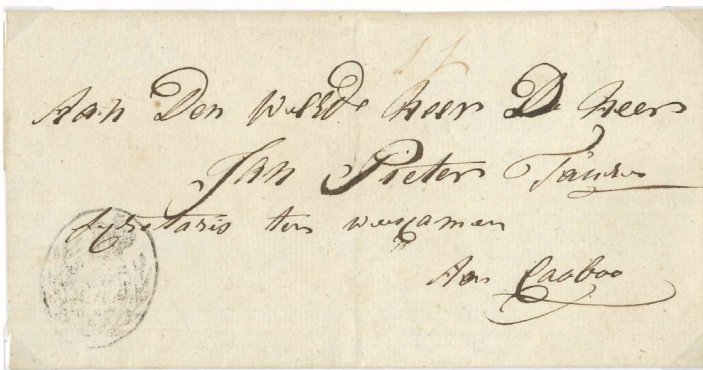


Fig.2: Cover from the period after the 1806 invasion with oval medallion Post Office Letter stamp.

Pre Stamp Period

As settlers ventured deeper into the interior, establishing towns like Worcester, the pressure on the postal system grew. By 1829, as shown by the Worcester wrapper with the GPO Cape Town datestamp (Goldblatt DLS3) (Fig.3), the system had advanced marking devices but was still costly. Postage was expensive, calculated per sheet (7d per page), making official mail ('On his Majesty's service') highly regulated and often not free. The total postage charge for the two pages in Fig.3 was 1s 2d (14d).

Payment was centralised and problematic. Postage was only payable in Cape Town, causing inefficient 'unpaid mail' and hindering service expansion. This financial barrier persisted

for 25 years until the Cape of Good Hope Triangles in 1853 mandated prepayment, solving the logistical issue from British administration.

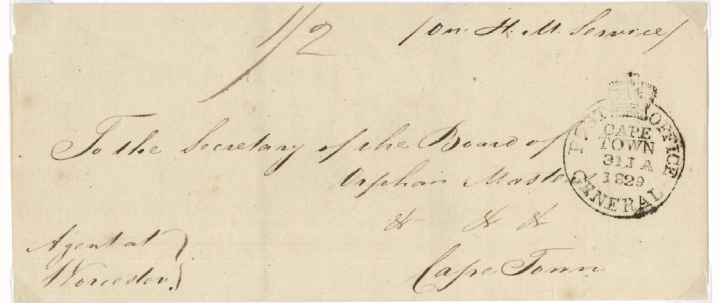


Fig.3: Wrapper from Worcester to Cape Town, 31 Jan 1829.

Adhesive Postage Stamps

In 1853, the Cape Colony's postal history changed dramatically. It moved from the costly and inefficient collect-on-delivery system to the modern prepaid postage era. This revolution was sparked by the introduction of the Cape of Good Hope Triangles, the Colony's own adhesive postage stamps that were famous worldwide.

Charles Bell, the Surveyor General of the Cape Colony, designed these iconic stamps. His innovative triangular shape, a rarity in global philately, captured the spirit and geography of the Colony. The allegorical figure of 'Hope' (often symbolised with an anchor) depicted in the artwork. Introduced on 1 September 1853, the Triangles provided secure and accountable revenue collection and cemented the Cape Colony's place in philatelic history, leaving a legacy of one of the world's most sought-after and aesthetically unique stamp issues.

South Africa commemorated the centenary of postage stamps in 1953. The first day cover (FDC) features Hope against the iconic backdrop of Table Mountain (Fig.4). The postmark, 'Postage Stamp Centenary Exhibition,' was specially designed by the SA Post office.

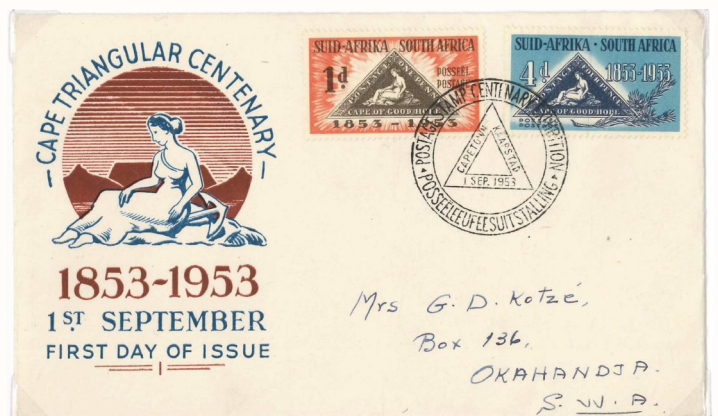


Fig.4: FDC: Cape Triangular Centenary.

Commemorating UPU

The Cape's entry into the Universal Postal Union (UPU) on 1 January 1895 marked a significant milestone in its international mail history. Founded in 1874, the UPU standardised international postal rates and rules, simplifying the complex network of bilateral treaties into a seamless global service. The 2005 reprinting of postcards commemorates this important event.

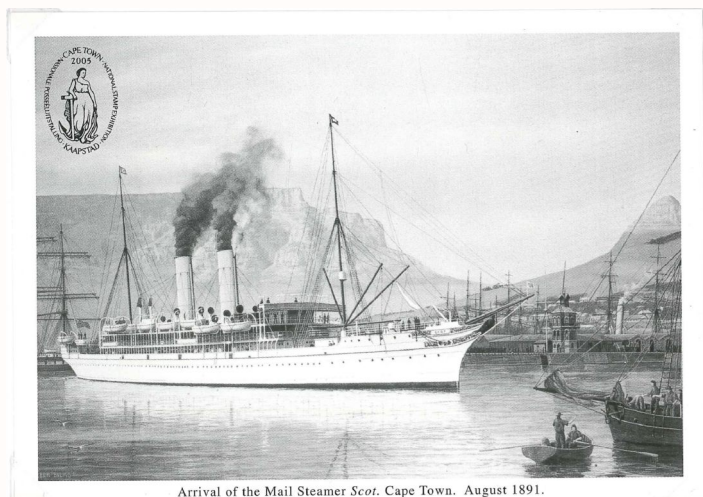


Fig.5: Postcard No 2 of the 2005 commemorative series post cards.

The commemorative postcard, featuring the 'Arrival of the Mail Steamer Scot, Cape Town, August 1891' (Fig.5), highlights Cape Town's reliance on fast mail steamers for overseas correspondence during that era. These steamers connected the Colony to Britain and the world, making the arrival of vessels like the Scot a major event. The image, part of the 2005 commemorative series (Postcard No. 2), underscores the historical significance of sea mail in the age of rapid colonial expansion, just four years before the Cape joined the UPU and standardised its international operations.

References

- [1] R. Goldblatt, *Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope, The postal history and markings of the Cape of Good Hope and Griqualand West, 1792-1910*. Cape Town: Reijger Publishers (Pty) Ltd., Jan. 1984. [🔗](#)

We would love to hear from you! If you have any thoughts or comments about any of the articles in this issue of *The SA Philatelist*, please send your comments to the Editorial Board. Just click on the email address: sap@stampssa.africa [🔗](#)

A Nation's Story, One Stamp at a Time

Philately, the study of postage stamps and postal history, is often considered a hobby, but it serves as a unique archive of the nation's history and heritage. Stamps issued during different administrative periods provide insights into the country's socio-political evolution, cultural milestones, and natural wealth.

South African philately's heritage starts with the Cape of Good Hope's first stamps, the iconic Cape Triangles, in 1853. These early stamps served a postal purpose and represented the Cape Colony's administration, which later evolved through the postal histories of the Boer Republics and Natal.

Stamps from the Anglo-Boer War era (1899–1902) are significant heritage artefacts. They show the conflicts and political unification that led to the Union of South Africa in 1910. The first Union stamps, featuring King George V, symbolised peace and the new administrative structure between English and Afrikaans populations.

South African stamps have played a crucial role in documenting and celebrating the country's diverse cultural heritage, especially during the mid-to-late 20th century, when the South African Post Office (SAPO) introduced thematic issues that went beyond depicting only state symbols and monarchs.

Stamps began to celebrate national heroes, commemorate historical events, and showcase indigenous cultures. Collections exist for stamps illustrating:

- Rock Art: Depicting the ancient San heritage in caves.
- Flora and Fauna: Highlighting South Africa's biodiversity, from the Big Five to the Fynbos biome.
- Architectural History: Depicting historic buildings, lighthouses, and landmarks.
- Indigenous Leaders: Honouring figures previously excluded from official narratives, despite past controversy.

The philatelic heritage is most poignant in the stamps issued since South Africa's transition to democracy in 1994. These stamps shift from state-centric themes to those celebrating shared humanity and national reconciliation, evident in designs commemorating Nelson Mandela's inauguration, the new coat of arms, and the recognition of eleven official languages.

Collecting South African stamps is more than just ownership; it's about curating a tangible, chronological narrative of the country's history. Each perforation, watermark, and cancellation mark tells a story of governance, conflict, resilience, and the quest for a unified identity. For historians, collectors, and citizens, these stamps are vital, miniature artefacts of national heritage. [🔗](#)



The Stamps of Liechtenstein: Not Just Any Old Collecting Area (Part 2)

by Holger Zahnow, Independent Author

*"Up on the young Rhine
Liechtenstein leans
On alpine heights"*

Liechtenstein national anthem (as amended in 1963)

Text presumably by Jakob Josef Jauch (1802-1859)

Melody of the anthem of the United Kingdom (UK)¹



Fig.1: Messenger service between Lindau and Milan.

Before state-organised postal services began operating in Liechtenstein, private services were in demand. A messenger service between Lindau and Milan/Italy is mentioned in

relation to Liechtenstein as early as 1627 (Fig.1), when a rest stop for the Lindau messenger was set up at the 'Rössle' or 'Post' inn in Balzers. There are reports of another post office in Schaan. Precursors of state postal services in the form of official messengers have been known since the 17th century. Village messengers were also used for localised communication.



Fig.2: 200th anniversary of the opening of the k.k. Balzers letter collection centre of Austrian Post.

Liechtensteinische Post AG refers to the year 1817, when the imperial-royal Austrian postal administration opened the first letter collection point in Balzers on 1 September (Fig.2). Letters cancelled with the place name Balzers exist from 1827 onwards. In 1845, a post office opened its doors in Vaduz. Austrian postal sovereignty in the country followed in 1852 by state treaty. Liechtenstein was regarded as a domestic postal service. The close links with Austria ensured that the products of the Austrian postal service (postage stamps of various types from 1850, postal stationery and even revenue stamps) were also distributed and used in Liechtenstein. Such rarely preserved covers with Austrian stamps and

Liechtenstein postmarks are referred to as precursors until Liechtenstein issued its own stamps.

First own stamps

Philatelic data Liechtenstein (I)	Date	Stanley Gibbons
First postage stamp of the Austrian Postal Administration for Liechtenstein	01.02.1912	1
ditto of the Princely Liechtenstein Post Office under Austrian administration	03.03.1920	14
ditto of the Princely Liechtenstein Post Office under the administration of the Postal, Telephone and Telegraph companies (Swiss PTT)	01.02.1921	46
Number of stamps until the end of 2023	13.11.2023	2020
First motif stamp ¹⁾ occasion: Vaduz Castle postage stamp	05.05.1920	27
First postage stamps with a motif that is not purely Liechtenstein occasion: 80th birthday of Prince Johann II, motif: Madonna	05.10.1920	43-45
First surcharge stamps	05.10.1925	74-76
First airmail stamps	12.08.1930	110-115
First miniature sheet (block)	29.09.1934	MS144
Number of miniature sheets up to and including 2023 (Census: Michel catalogue)		52
First self-adhesive postage stamp	07.09.2009	1518-1521
First postage stamp with QR code	14.03.2011	1576
First ATM/Machine Labels (series "Municipal Coat of Arms")	04.12.1995	1-11
Last ATM/Machine Labels (series "Village Post")	02.06.2003	12-23
First stamp booklet	--	--
First crypto stamp with blockchain technology	06.09.2021	MS1947
First yearbook with all stamps of a year (followed by subsequent issues)	2007	

¹⁾ Previously only depictions of Prince Johann II and coats of arms as motifs.

Sources: Data basis for the analyses: Michel Redaktion (Hrsg.): Michel Europa Katalog 2023, Bd. 1: Alpenländer (E1), 108. Auflage, München, 2023. Schwaneberger Verlag GmbH; Information from »Philately Liechtenstein«, Vaduz; the author's own synopsis

Table 1: Table Philatelic data Liechtenstein I.

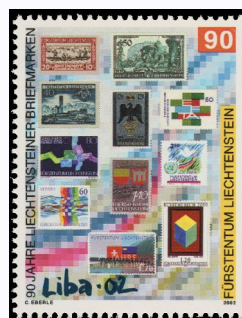


Fig.3: 11th stamp exhibition LIBA 2002 and 90 years of Liechtenstein stamps.

However, it was not until 1911 that the two states agreed a convention on postal, telephone and telegraph services, which granted the Principality the right to issue its own postage stamps. And just one year later, on 1 February 1912, the first Liechtenstein postage stamps appeared (Fig.3), albeit with the inscription 'K.K. österr. Post im Fürstentum Liechtenstein' (Imperial and Royal Austrian Post Office in the Principality of Liechtenstein). The continued, temporary use of Austrian stamps marked a period of transition and adaptation of the postal system and also led to mixed frankings. With the postage stamps of March

¹Frommelt, Josef: National anthem, as at 31 December 2011, in: Historical Dictionary of the Principality of Liechtenstein online (eHLFL), URL: <https://historisches-lexikon.li/Landeshymne>, retrieved on 01/07/2025

1920 (Fig.4), the issue by the Princely Liechtenstein Post Office (under Austrian administration) was emphasised by arabesque overprints on earlier postage stamps covering the designation 'K.K. österr. Post'. This was immediately preceded by the cancellation of the postal treaty with Austria. Two months later, new stamps were issued, which now only read: 'Fürstentum Liechtenstein'. The co-administration of the postal system by Austria ended in 1921 by means of a postal convention with Switzerland (Fig.5). This lasted until the end of 1999. The first postage stamp of the Princely Liechtenstein Post Office under the administration of the Swiss PTT (Swiss Postal, Telephone and Telegraph services) appeared on 1 February 1921 with a value of Rappen 2 (Fig.6). This was followed by years in which Swiss postage stamps were also used in Liechtenstein, with the result that philatelists were once again able to record Swiss postage stamps used in Liechtenstein and mixed frankings.



Fig.4: Postage stamp of March 1920.



Fig.5: Liechtenstein Stamp Exhibition, Vaduz and 25 years of the Postal Convention with Switzerland.



Fig.6: 1920 10 Heller overprinted 2 Rappen.

A glance at the stamp catalogue reveals a large number of varieties in the years from 1920 to 1922.

It turned out that the Liechtenstein-Austrian company 'Verkaufsstelle internationaler Postwertzeichen' (Point of sale for international postage stamps), which was commissioned with the private production and marketing of the stamps, deliberately created them, which led to the termination of the cooperation.

Liechtenstein Post in the 21st century

The liberalisation of telecommunications and postal services in Switzerland and Europe, as well as compliance with the regulations of Law of the European Economic Area (EEA), ultimately led to laws on the Liechtenstein postal system (Postal Act) and on the establishment and organisation of Liechtensteinische Post (Postal Organisation Act) at the end of the 1990s. On 1 January 2000, the public law Liechtensteinische Post AG (Fig.7) commenced its business operations with the takeover of the postal business from Swiss Post, which includes not only the usual postal services, but also logistics and financial services as well as document scanning. It was founded with a share capital of CHF 5 million (ZAR 109 million) and at that time was 100 per cent owned by the Principality of Liechtenstein. Further milestones followed in 2005 with the sale of 25 per cent of the shares in Liechtensteinische Post AG to Swiss Post and in 2006 with the integration of the 'Office for Stamp Design' (introduced in 1967) and the 'Postage Stamp Office of the Princely Government' from the national administration as 'Philately Liechtenstein' into Liechtensteinische Post AG. In 2021, Swiss Post's minority shareholding was terminated by repurchasing its shareholding, as a result of which Liechtensteinische Post AG once again belongs entirely to the Principality of Liechtenstein. According to the Prince's Secretariat, neither the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation nor the Princely House are shareholders of Liechtensteinische Post AG.



Fig.7: Founding of Liechtensteinische Post AG on 1 Jan 2000.

The Princely House on stamps

Beyond the political and economic aspects, the Princely House also has a special philatelic feature. The cult of the Princely Family culminates in a veritable flood of postage stamps depicting members on many different occasions. Births, birthdays, weddings, children, taking office, anniversaries and deaths are documented on the small pieces of paper. In addition to these popular motifs, there are numerous other stamps honouring family members without depicting their portraits, by depicting the possessions, wealth and power of the House of Liechtenstein. For example, Stanley Gibbons No. 209 from 1942 shows a scene when the population had to pay homage to the then Prince Anton Florian I (1656-1721) in Bendern on 5 September 1718. Such stamps were not included in the following statistics. Because

several people are depicted on some postage stamps, the multiple count cannot be equated with the number of stamps. Based on these premises, it can be reported that by the end of 2022 there are a total of 176 portraits of 33 different members of the Princely Family on postage stamps and miniature sheets. The line of ancestors begins with Prince Karl I (Fig.8). As the Princely House of Liechtenstein currently comprises over 120 living members, there is a rich selection of potential motifs. In the age of the much loved rankings, Prince Johann II (1840-1929) takes first place with 35 images of his portrait or person, followed by Prince Franz Josef II (1906-1989) with images on 28 stamps and Prince Hans-Adam II (*1945) on 20 stamps or miniature sheets to date. In fourth and fifth place are Princess Georgina von Wilczek (1921-1989, wife of Prince Franz Josef II and mother of Prince Hans-Adam II) with 15 reproductions of her countenance and Prince Franz I (1853-1938) on 14 stamps.



Fig.8: Thaler from 1614 with the portrait of Prince Karl I of Liechtenstein.

The entertaining question arises as to why Liechtensteinische Post has issued so many stamps depicting members of the Princely Family and will presumably continue to do so in the future. Does this reflect a general desire among the population? Is the Princely House prompting this focus? A corresponding question was submitted to 'Philately Liechtenstein'. As expected, this focus in the annual issue programmes is not seen as problematic. The members of the Princely House would be the representatives of the Principality and an integral part of its history. It therefore would make sense to depict them on the country's stamps on special occasions.

Philatelic data Liechtenstein II	Quantity	
	Postage stamps	Souvenir sheets
Repeated themes until the end of 2022 (selection)		
Chinese New Year	12	-
Europe (under the aegis of the CEPT or PostEurop) ¹⁾	100	-
Princely treasures (issues I-XI) ²⁾	31	-
Greeting stamps	18	-
Liechtenstein panorama and similar subjects	36	-
Joint issues	23	3
Post and telecommunications	72	5
Rheinberger, Josef Gabriel (1839-1901, composer)	6	1
SEPAC (Small European Postal Administration Cooperation)	12	-
Sport: general	31	-
Sport: Olympic Games and football tournaments	89	-
Christmas	182	-

1) Conférence Européenne des Administrations des Postes et des Télécommunications (CEPT); successor organization: PostEurop.

2) Only the stamps issued under the title "Princely Treasures" are included here. Many more works of art are depicted on Liechtenstein's postage stamps. These include other objects from the Princely Art Collections, which are primarily kept in the Liechtenstein National Museum in Vaduz or the Liechtenstein Museum in Vienna.

Sources: Data basis for the analyses: Michel Redaktion (Hrsg.): Michel Europa Katalog 2023, Bd. 1: Alpenländer (E1), 108. Auflage, München, 2023, Schwaneberger Verlag GmbH; the author's own synopsis

Table 2: Table Philatelic data Liechtenstein II.

Further accents and recurring themes

An intensive examination of Liechtenstein's postage stamps reveals further accents and recurring motifs.

Since the 1930s, the postal and telecommunications sector in general and that of Liechtenstein in particular have repeatedly prompted the country's postal service to issue related stamps, most of which are much to the delight of collectors very attractive. By the end of 2022, 72 stamps and five motif miniature sheets can be assigned to this spectrum. These include, for example, an airmail stamp from 1935 (Fig.9) to mark the first postal flight from Vaduz via Altenrhein near St. Gallen/ Switzerland to Innsbruck/Austria and special postage stamps depicting old postal routes (Fig.10) as well as numerous other issues with historical or current references to the topic in question.



Fig.9: First postal flight Vaduz-Altenrhein-Innsbruck 1 Jul 1935.



Fig.10: Europe (C.E.P.T.) 2020 - Ancient Postal Routes.

Stamps issued at Christmas and usually on the occasion of major sporting events are unavoidable. Christmas motifs have adorned a total of 182 Liechtenstein stamps since 1957 and without interruption since 1970 every year. The 'Sport' category can be subdivided into 'Olympic Games and football tournaments' (89 stamps) and 'Sport in general' (31 stamps). The first special stamps with the subject 'Sport' appeared in 1954 for the FIFA Football World Cup 1954 in Switzerland.

The twelve stamps issued to date for the Chinese New Year celebrations are a sensational and highly original series. Introduced as a world first in 2011, each year since then, artistically designed silhouette stamps featuring Chinese zodiac signs have been issued using state-of-the-art laser technology: Dragon - Snake - Horse - Sheep - Monkey - Rooster - Dog - Pig - Rat - Ox - Tiger - Rabbit (Fig.11). The art of silhouettes developed in China and Persia and has been a favourite with people in Europe and beyond since the 17th century. Silhouettes also developed into a popular art form in Australia without establishing a specific native character. However, the selection of motifs naturally also focusses on Australian sights. Liechtensteinische Post would not be itself if it did not celebrate these outstanding issues with additional formats to the delight of collectors

and in favour of its sales promotion. The individual stamps are usually accompanied by small sheets with four stamps printed together and, in partial editions, undivided printed sheets with four small sheets. The illustrations are lavishly continued on the edges of the sheets with further attractive graphic enhancements.



Fig.11: Chinese New Year - Year of the Rabbit.



Fig.12: 150 years of the Feldkirch-Schaan-Buchs railway line.

Parallel issues have so far been agreed in consultation with the postal administrations or postal organisations of ten other countries with a total of 23 stamps and three motif miniature sheets: Costa Rica, Germany, Austria, Russia, Switzerland, Singapore, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Ukraine and the People's Republic of China. The first joint issue, i.e. stamps issued by both Liechtenstein and another

country and dedicated to the same theme, appeared in 1988 on the occasion of a cultural agreement with Costa Rica. An interesting novelty was presented for the anniversary '150 years of the Feldkirch-Schaan-Buchs railway line' with a miniature sheet (Fig.12), as it contains the stamps of all three postal administrations (parallel issue with Austria and Switzerland). Naturally, the respective stamps are only authorised for franking in their home countries.

Traditionally, honouring personalities from Liechtenstein and foreign celebrities is a popular subject. Liechtenstein can play in this league with the composer Josef Gabriel Rheinberger (1839-1901) and has done so to date with six stamps and a souvenir sheet (Fig.13) with the Rheinbergerhaus Music School in Vaduz, his birthplace. The 1938 issue with the musician was the first time that a Liechtenstein citizen not belonging to the Princely Family was depicted.



Fig.13: Josef Gabriel Rheinberger.

Other well known foreign figures must have achieved world fame to be commemorated on the occasion of their birth or death. Notable events since the 2010 issue year have been the 250th birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven, the 400th birthday of Molière, the 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci (2019), the 500th anniversary of the death of Raphael and the 700th anniversary of the death of Dante Alighieri (2021). Or they could be historic events such as the 50th anniversary of the first manned moon landing (2019), the 75th anniversary of the first United Nations General Assembly, the celebrations to mark 100 years of PEN International (Fig.14) and 50 years of the aid organisation Doctors Without Borders.



Fig.14: 100 years of PEN International.

Certain themes were worked through in several sets over the course of a year or several years, e.g. 'The Year of the Vintner' with four tranches and twelve special postage stamps in 2003 or the 14 Holy Helpers (saints from the second to fourth centuries) with three tranches in 2003 to 2005. 36 stamps issued are now particularly attractive and popular, which were declared as panoramic views of Liechtenstein or appeared in the same style on other occasions. These are stamps printed horizontally and contiguously, which in their wide format provide views that individual stamps could not achieve (Fig.15). Liechtensteinische Post has already expressed its relevance to the present with topical themes such as 'Renewable energies' and 'Environmentally conscious living'. Liechtensteinische Post demonstrated active sustainability in 2012 and 2022 by using up remaining stocks of postage stamps with new denominations printed on them.



Fig.15: Nature Reserves in Liechtenstein.

ATM/Machine Labels did not have a long life in Liechtenstein. At the beginning of December 1995, the first eleven copies of the 'Municipal Coat of Arms' series were issued. The old mechanical stamp machines were decommissioned and replaced by new electronic machines. The second series 'Village Post' was not launched until 2003 with twelve labels (Fig.16). From 2013, the machines were successively decommissioned when a post office was closed or relocated. The end finally came on 31 October 2018.

The idea of being able to order personalised postage stamps has now been taken up by numerous postal companies, as the concept appeals to all those who enjoy highlighting their individuality and bringing it to the attention of a select public. Not only private individuals use this popular product to share special events in their lives (e.g. marriages, births) with the addressees, but companies also use their own stamps, although the vast majority of their mail is certainly franked automatically.



Fig.16: Views of Schellenberg.

Among the potential reasons for issuing stamps, 'Philately Liechtenstein' also identified the desire of collectors to design their own stamps with special motifs, which they keep as part of their themed collections. The quantities of each brand produced differ very greatly. It is regrettable, but understandable, that the personalised postage stamps are not archived and catalogued for reasons of privacy and data protection.

For contact addresses, data sources and picture credits, see Part 1 in [December 2025 issue](#).

To be continued ...

We would love to hear from you! If you have any thoughts or comments about any of the articles in this issue of *The SA Philatelist*, please send your comments to the Editorial Board. Just click on the email address: sap@stampssa.africa

Travelling the World Through Stamps

My stamp room is like a peaceful escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. As soon as I open an album or slide open a stock book drawer, it turns into a whole world of travel! I don't need a passport or booking confirmation to wander through the colourful street markets of colonial India in a series, or to climb the rocky peaks of Patagonia just by looking at a cancellation mark from Tierra del Fuego. One minute, I'm tracing the faded watermark of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, learning about the postal history of a long-gone country; the next, I'm lost in the exotic animals of the Congo or the ancient buildings on the high-value stamps of China. It's a cheap and time-saving adventure where every little piece of perforated paper, with its faint smell of old glue and history, instantly immerses me in different cultures, lost empires and the most distant parts of the world.

Royal Mail Celebrates Finale of Global Hit Series *Stranger Things*

by Press Office, Royal Mail



Fig.1: Key characters from across the Netflix series, 'Stranger Things'.

On 6 January 2026, Royal Mail issued a set of 14 stamps to celebrate the critically acclaimed science-fiction series from Netflix, 'Stranger Things'.

The 10 stamps in the main set show key characters from across the series. Five stamps represent the characters in the Rightside Up - the 'real' world - with a red background, and five represent the alternate dimension with a blue background, known as the 'Upside Down'. Each vertical pair of the stamps represents a season, beginning with the two left-hand stamps from season one, Fig.1.

When shining a UV light over the stamps, iconic logos from the series appear Fig.2.

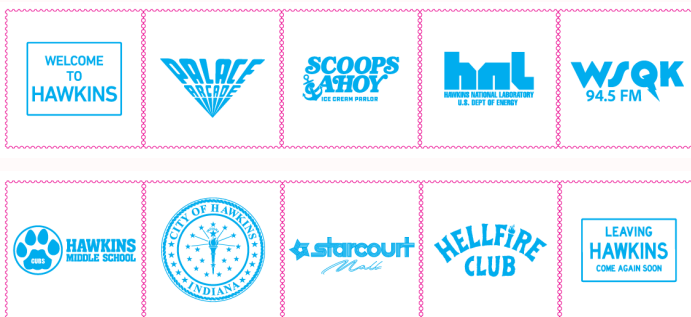


Fig.2: Iconic logos from the series.

In addition, the font used for the '1ST' value of the stamps replicates the typeface used for the series.

The four stamps in the miniature sheet consists of an illustration showing the four friends riding their iconic 80s bikes, Fig.3.

Royal Mail worked with British artist Kyle Lambert, the illustrator who creates posters for each season of Stranger Things, to design bespoke illustrations for the stamp issue.

Set in the 1980s, the series centres around the residents of the fictional small town of Hawkins, Indiana, who are plagued by a hostile alternate dimension known as the Upside Down.

Since the series was first released on Netflix in July 2016, it has attracted a record viewership and a global fanbase, winning numerous awards across the entertainment industry. Praised for its characterisation, atmosphere, writing, soundtrack and acting – with an ensemble cast including British actors in leading roles – the fifth and final series launched on 27 November 2025 and concluded on New Year's Day.

The stamps, and a range of collectible products, are available to order at www.royalmail.com/strangerthings. A Presentation Pack with the 14 stamps is priced at £24.70.



Fig.3: The four friends riding their iconic 80s bikes.

Royal Mail Marks the 50th Anniversary of Concorde's First Commercial Flight

by Press Office, Royal Mail



Fig.1: British Airways Concorde throughout its history.

On 21 January 2026, Royal Mail issued a set of 12 stamps to mark the 50th anniversary of Concorde's first commercial flight, in 1976.

The main set of eight stamps (Fig.1) features stunning photography of the British Airways aircraft throughout its history, including its first and last commercial flights. One of the stamps uses photography of four Concorde flying in formation to celebrate 10 years of service.

A further four stamps, presented in a miniature sheet, include three previously issued stamp images and one never-before-seen design.

Commissioned for the 1969 'First Flight of Concorde' issue, two are designed by influential British stamp designer David Gentleman, and one by Michael and Sylvia Goaman. Royal Mail are re-releasing the stamps, now showing the King Charles III silhouette, along with a fourth stamp design by David Gentleman that was previously shortlisted but not adopted in the 1969 set.

The miniature sheet border image (Fig.2) is inspired by the design of the original presentation pack from 1969.

On Wednesday, 21 January 1976, at precisely 11:40 GMT, the captains of two Concorde – British Airways in London and Air France in Paris – simultaneously pushed forward the throttles and unleashed, for the first time with commercial passengers, the full

force of their reheated, Rolls-Royce Olympus engines.

Supersonic passenger services had begun.

Air France Concorde F-BVFA, the first of seven Concorde destined for Air France, flew to Dakar in West Africa to refuel and then on, across the Atlantic Ocean, to Rio de Janeiro. British Airways had taken delivery of G-BOAA, the first of its seven Concorde, just a week before and, on 21 January 1976, 'Alpha Alpha' spearheaded the British assault on the sound barrier.

Flying at subsonic speeds initially, over Paris, the Alps and Venice, 'Alpha Alpha' then broke through the sound barrier over the Adriatic Sea and accelerated to Mach 2, faster than a rifle bullet, while the champagne flowed. Crossing Lebanon and Syria in just six minutes and arriving in Bahrain just over three-and-a-half hours after leaving Heathrow, the passengers had experienced something special that day and were whisked away to a celebratory banquet hosted by the Amir of Bahrain.

Fifty years ago, history was made, with supersonic travel undoubtedly becoming one of the greatest milestones in aviation history.

The stamps, and a range of collectible products, are available at www.royalmail.com/concorde. A Presentation Pack including all 12 stamps is priced at £21.30.



Fig.2: Miniature sheet inspired by the 1969 stamp designs.

Iziko Museums and Vulture Commemorative Releases

by South African Post Office,



Fig.1: Sheet of six Small Registered Letter rate stamps.

IZIKO South African Museum Bi-centenary

Technical Information

- Stamp issue date: 12 November 2025
- Photographs: Iziko Museums of SA
- Artwork: Thea Clemons
- Stamp size: 33.571 x 31.981 mm
- Stamp sheet size: 59.962 x 148.5 mm
- Paper: Vellum Extra (uncoated) Self Adhesive Paper - Plain Back - Permanent
- Quantity printed: 120 000 Single Stamps, Small Registered Letter
- Colour: CMYK + Gold foil stamping
- Phosphor: None
- Printing process: Offset Lithography
- Printed by: Mortimer Offset (Pty) Ltd, Germiston

Marking its 200th anniversary, the Iziko South African Museum, founded in 1825, is the oldest museum in Southern Africa. Now part of Iziko Museums of South Africa, formed in 1999 from five Cape Town Museum clusters, it's one of 11 national institutions preserving the natural and cultural heritage of the nation, offering South Africans a place to explore history, science, and art.

To observe this milestone, the South African Post Office has released a special set of stamps at the Small Registered Letter rate (Fig.1), along with two Commemorative Display Cards. These showcase scientifically and culturally significant items from the collection of the museum, reflecting its core roles in documenting, archiving, researching, and educating to support knowledge, conservation, and public understanding:

- The skull of the extinct bear *Agriotherium africanum*, discovered at Langebaanweg in the Cape Province.
- *Syncerus antiquus*: The spectacular horns of *Syncerus antiquus*, a giant prehistoric buffalo.

- The Kouga Meteorite: a fascinating meteorite from the collections of the museum. This meteorite is a solid piece of rock from space, possibly from an asteroid or comet that survived its journey through the atmosphere to land on Earth.
- The Mbashe River Buff (*Deloneura immaculata*) is a rare butterfly first recorded near the Mbashe River in the Eastern Cape, in December 1863 by Colonel James Henry Bowker, and described in 1868 by Roland Trimen.
- Mont-Aux-Sources by Moses Tladi (1903–1959): In 1931, Moses Tladi (1903–1959) became the first black artist to exhibit at the Iziko South African National Gallery, after the opening of its new building
- The Linton Panel, a renowned piece of rock art from the museum's archaeological collection also features. From the Eastern Cape, it depicts scenes that offer insight into the spiritual and cultural life of early San communities
- The magnificent Iziko South African Museum building situated at the top of Company's Gardens and at the foot of Table Mountain in Cape Town, appears on commemorative display card 8004 (Fig.2).
- The iconic Whale Well exhibit, featuring impressive marine skeletons, a magnificent juvenile blue whale, and two centuries of conservation leadership, appears on commemorative display card 8005 (Fig.3).

More information at <https://www.postoffice.co.za/Philately/NewStamps/izikomuseum.html>



Fig.2: Commemorative Display Card 8004: Iziko South African Museum Building at the Top of Company's Gardens.



Fig.3: Commemorative Display Card 8005: Whale Well.

AFRICAN VULTURE CONSERVATION

Technical Information (see p.2 for stamps)

- Stamp issue date: 23 January 2026
- Photographs: André Botha
- Stamp size: 33.571 x 31.981 mm
- Stamp sheet size: 59.962 x 148.5 mm
- Paper: Vellum Extra (uncoated) Self Adhesive Paper - Plain Back - Permanent
- Quantity printed: 100 000 Single Stamps, B4 Rate
- Colour: CMYK + Gold Foil
- Phosphor: None
- Printing process: Offset Lithography
- Printed by: Mortimer Offset (Pty) Ltd, Germiston

African vultures have suffered drastic declines over the last 30 years, resulting in four species now listed as Critically Endangered and two as Endangered. These ecologically significant birds are crucial for environmental health, cleaning up carcasses and preventing the spread of diseases, yet they face severe threats, primarily poisoning across the continent. This crisis led to the drafting of the international Multi-species Action Plan for African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) in 2017.


To draw attention to the severe challenges faced by these birds, the South African Post Office has released a special set of stamps at the B5 rate, along with a Commemorative Display Card (p.2). These showcase the resident vulture species in South Africa, reflecting the five-decade legacy of conservation action focused on reducing impacts from wildlife poisoning and energy infrastructure, and facilitating population monitoring.

Resident vulture species in South Africa featured on this set of stamps are:

- Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*)
- African White-backed Vulture (*Gyps africanus*)
- White-headed Vulture (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*)
- Cape Vulture (*Gyps coprotheres*)
- Lappet-faced Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus*)
- Hooded Vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*)

Order Information

These stamps and the commemorative display card are available at selected post office branches and from Philatelic Services at sa.stamps@postoffice.co.za

Orders can also be emailed to Proof.manganyi@postoffice.co.za or Mmama.Phalatse@postoffice.co.za 

IN MEMORIAM

Tribute to Peter Wiebe van der Molen RDPSA FRPSL

With sadness in my heart, I write this tribute to a dear friend and mentor whose presence enriched so many lives. Peter will be remembered not only for his remarkable achievements, but also for the kindness, generosity, and quiet strength with which he shared his journey.

Peter's life began in extraordinary circumstances – born in 1940 during his family's escape to England, practically on the beaches of Normandy. His early years were marked by resilience, as his family returned to Brussels in 1945 and later settled in Holland in 1950. In 1961, Peter returned to England to study and begin his career, earning a Master of Science degree from the University of Manchester. His professional path eventually led him to South Africa in 1975, where he served as Engineering Director for Standard Telephones and Cables until his retirement in 2002.

I first met Peter in the early 1990s, and from the start I knew him as a perfectionist - yet one whose precision was always paired with generosity. He gave freely of his knowledge, mentoring others with patience and encouragement. His passion for philately was not just about stamps; it was about building connections, preserving history, and inspiring others to see beauty in detail.

Peter's contributions to organised philately were immense. He was an active member of the East Rand Philatelic Society from the mid-1980s, and also of the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society. His collections of the Southern African Protectorates – Swaziland, Bechuanaland, and Basutoland – were admired worldwide, and his exhibitions



Peter van der Molen
RDPSA FRPSL.

brought honour to South Africa on the international stage.

Beyond the medals and awards, what stood out was Peter's joy in sharing discoveries, his pride in mentoring younger collectors, and his tireless work to strengthen the philatelic community. Whether chairing organising committees, serving as commissioner at international exhibitions, or publishing research that deepened our collective understanding, Peter gave of himself wholeheartedly.

His book *Swaziland Philately to 1968*, published in 2013, was a crowning achievement - years of careful research distilled into a work that continues to inspire. For this, he was awarded the Crawford Medal, a recognition of both his scholarship and his devotion to the field.

His dedication earned him recognition, and he was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa in 2000. He became a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London in 2001. His honours were many and include: the Tapling Medal, the JH Harvey Pirie Award, the Weinstein Medallion, and others. Yet those who knew him best will remember not the medals, but the man - the warmth of his friendship, the sparkle of his intellect, and the quiet pride he took in nurturing others.

Peter's legacy is not only in the pages of philatelic journals or the medals displayed in exhibitions. It lives in the countless people he mentored, the societies he strengthened, and the friendships he cherished. His life reminds us that excellence and kindness can walk hand in hand.

We will miss Peter deeply, but his spirit remains with us - in every collection he inspired, in every conversation where he shared his wisdom, and in the warmth of the memories he leaves behind.

Emil Minnaar RDPSA 

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kenny.napier@mweb.co.za

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kenny.napier@mweb.co.za

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• **PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG:** Pres: Clive Carr, 083 634 1939, carr.clive@gmail.com; Sec: Vic Sorour RDPSA, 083 630 2266, vsorour@wol.co.za; Meetings: Third Wednesday monthly at 16:00 (except December)—Blairgowrie Recreation Centre, Park Lane, Blairgowrie.

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ccarey@icon.co.za; Meetings: First Thursday monthly at 10:00 (except January)—Blairgowrie Community Centre, Park Lane Avenue (off Susman Av), Blairgowrie.

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• THEMATICS SA:

• **Pretoria Chapter:** Contact: Helena Snyman, 083 990 8953, helenasnyman7@gmail.com; Meeting: ; Meetings: First Saturday monthly at 10:00—Greek Orthodox Church Hall, corner Lynwood Road and Roper Street, Pretoria (opposite UP main gate).

• **Western Cape Chapter:** Contact: Diederik Viljoen, 082 456 6653, diederikaviljoen@gmail.com; Meeting: ; Meetings: First Saturday monthly at 09:00—Bellville-Vallei DRC hall, c/o Postma and St Andrews Street, Oakdale, Bellville.

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• **HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Frik Booyse, 083 284 5929, nfbooyse@gmail.com; Marketing: Barry Livsey, 082 892 7324, hps@xsinet.co.za; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/339715808168144>; Meetings: First Saturday monthly at 08:30—Elizabeth Church Hall, Salisbury Avenue, Westville, Durban.

• **MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: John Handman, 083 660 1275, john@radium.co.za; Meetings: Third Saturday monthly at 10:00—Hilton Scout and Community Hall, Magnolia Road, Hilton.

• **PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWAZULU-NATAL:** Pres: Zbigniew Kawecki, 082 968 6888, z.kawecki57@gmail.com; Sec: Genevieve Fitzpatrick, genevieveta60@gmail.com; Meetings: Second and fourth Saturday monthly at 09:00—Classic Motor Cycle Clubhouse, 137 Tara Road, The Bluff, Durban.

WESTERN CAPE

• **BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Werner Barnard, 082 895 6993, wernerb@axxess.co.za; Sec: Chuck Muller, 073 187 4076, chuck@sbr.co.za; Meetings: Second Wednesday monthly—Durbanville Golf Club, Sports Way, Durbanville – 19:00.

• **FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Johan De Wet, 073 020 5004, elspethd@iafrica.com; Sec: Volker Janssen, 021 786 1548, janssenp@iafrica.com <https://www.fhps.info>; Meetings: First Tuesday monthly at 14:00—The Minor Hall, Civic Centre, Recreation Rd, Fish Hoek.

• **PAARLSE FILATELISTE:** Pres: Gawie Hugo, 083 956 2410, gawiehugo@gmail.com; Sec: Riaan Crafford, 082 876 7608,

paarlsefilateliste@gmail.com; Meetings: Second Saturday monthly at 09:00—MBA gebou, Concordia St, Suider Paarl.

• **PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE, CAPE TOWN:** Pres: Martin Crawford, m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com; Sec: Marilyn Crawford, m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com; Meetings: Last Wednesday monthly at 18:30 (except December)—Activities Hall, Public Library, Howard Place, Pinelands.

• **ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN:** Pres: Hugh Amoore RDPSA FRPSL, 082 440 8204, [082 440 8204](tel:0824408204); Sec: Victor Millard, 082 802 8882, royalphilct@gmail.com <https://stampssa.africa/rpsct>; Meetings: First Saturday monthly at 11:00 and fourth Monday at 14:00—Athenaeum Trust, Mariendahl Rd off Campground Road, Newlands.

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

• **ANGLO-BOER WAR PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Chairman: Kevin Darcy, drmkdacy@gmail.com; Sec: Nick Harris, 0791 8081197, mnrphboer@aol.com; SA rep: Nigel Hosking, +27 82 789 5746, nichosk@iafrica.com; Website: <https://boerwarsociety.org.uk>; Meetings as advised in *Anglo-Boer War Philatelist* — usually in South Africa during Congress week.

• **CAPE & NATAL STUDY CIRCLE:** Contact: Simon Solomon, capenatalstamps@gmail.com.

• **FILATELISTEN VERENIGING ZUIDELIJK AFRIKA:** Act pres: Johan Diesveld, ohandiesveld@gmail.com; Act sec: Ko Zegerman, kozegerman@kpnmail.nl; Meetings quarterly.

• **ORANGE FREE STATE STUDY CIRCLE:** Pres: Richard Stroud RDPSA, +44(0)1278 782235, richard@richardstroud.plus.com; Website: <http://www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk>; Meetings and venue advised in *OFS Bulletin*.

• **PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTH AFRICA:** Contact: Peter Thy, pthy@ucdavis.edu; SA rep: Uli Bantz, 011 766 1495, ulib@mweb.co.za; Website: <http://psgsa.org>.

• **RHODESIAN STUDY CIRCLE:** Sec: Brian Zlotnick, 00 44 1274 566607, bzlot@blueyonder.co.uk; SA rep: Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, FRPSL, 079 898 3795, patf@fgprop.com; Website: <https://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk>; Regular meetings and events across the world.

• **SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY:** Contact: Simon Peetoom, contact@southafricancollectorsociety.com; SA rep: Cedric Roché RDPSA, 083 456 9167, croche@mweb.co.za; Website: <https://southafricancollectorsociety.com/>.

• **SOUTH WEST AFRICA STAMP STUDY GROUP:** Pres: Uli Bantz, 083 409 6969, ulib@mweb.co.za.

• **TRANSVAAL STUDY CIRCLE:** Pres: Lars Jørgensen RDPSA, lars.jorgensen.fs@gmail.com; SA rep: Danna Strydom, 083 452 0575, dstrydom@icon.co.za.

• **WINDHOEK FILATELIEKLUB:** Pres: Derick Loteryman, derickl@iway.na; Sec: Friedhelm Beck, beckciv@iafrica.com.na.

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