



MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Affiliated to the Philatelic Federation of South Africa

NEWSLETTER

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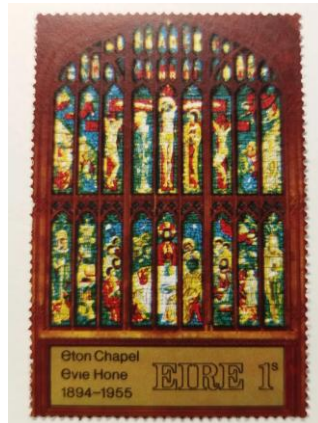
Editor: Aubrey Bowles

HAPPY EASTER!

This year Easter will be celebrated early during the month of April. Good Friday falls on 03 April and the long weekend concludes with Family Day on Monday 06 April on which day in 1652 Jan van Riebeeck landed at the Cape of Good Hope!



Serbia & Montenegro 2014
The Crucifixion of Christ



Ireland 1969
Last Supper & Crucifixion

Easter is an important Christian holiday – many Christians believe it to be the most important holy day of the year – and quite a number of different countries have issued postage stamps observing Easter.

Many of the stamps issued, like the 2002 Hungarian stamp depicted here, are overtly religious in nature, and feature imagery associated with the Crucifixion of Christ.



Easter is also a happy time, especially for children, who enjoy hunting for Easter eggs. Many colourful designs of Easter eggs appear on stamps issued by a vast number of countries. The Easter Egg symbolises the rising of Christ when he emerged from the tomb on the third day following his crucifixion.

APRIL FOOL

The first day of April can also be quite eventful as often many tricks are played on unsuspecting victims by practical jokers!



On 31 March 20155 Royal Mail issued ten stamps in support of British humour. In an article in the British Philatelic Bulletin they stated: "This issue celebrates brilliantly distinctive British humour by paying tribute to generations of comic geniuses — from Norman Wood and Spike Milligan to [Dawn] French and [Jennifer] Saunders, Lenny Henry and Victoria Wood via [Eric] Morecambe and [Ernie] Wise and Monty Python. These are revered practitioners from the past 60 years, including many whose work is considered a landmark in comedy. Released on April Fool's Day (naturally), the issue also features a Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards and a Retail Stamp Book."

You have been warned, so don't get caught!

On this day in 1998, a federal judge in Little Rock, Arkansas dismissed sexual charges against President Bill Clinton stating that the case had "no genuine issues" worthy of a trial! American justice is great!

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

The 2nd of April saw the beginning of the Falklands Islands War as troops from Argentina invaded and occupied the British Colony located near the tip of South America. The British retaliated and defeated Argentineans on 15 June 1982 after ten weeks of combat with more than 1 000 lives lost.



Falkland Islands – 2007
Falklands Islands War – 25th Anniversary

On 04 April, 12 nations signed the treaty creating NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization) to unite for common military defence against the threat of expansion by Soviet Russia



The stamp was issued by the USA in 1952. NATO was est. on 04 April 1949. America is now threatening to withdraw from NATO citing lack of support in their war against IRAN



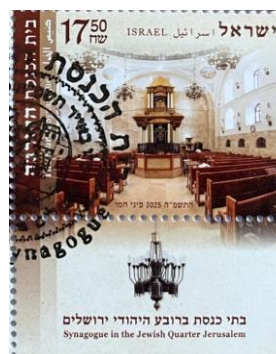
April 11 saw the launch of Apollo 13 from Cape Kennedy. Following a loud bang, the famous words "Houston we have a problem here" were heard at the Space Centre. Astronauts James A Lovell and Fred Haise transferred into a lunar module and returned safely to Earth



Adolf Hitler, leader of the Nazi Party

Adolf Hitler was born in Braunau am Inn in Austria on 20 April 1889. He waged a war in Europe from 1939 to 1945 precipitating the death of 50 million persons through military conflict and the Holocaust

On 30 April 1948, Palestine Jews declared their independence from British Rule and established the new state of Israel. The first official postage stamps of the new State of Israel, titled Doar Ivri ("Hebrew Post"), were issued on May 16, 1948,



Yom Haatzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) falls from sundown on April 21st to sundown on April 22nd. Ever since independence, Israel seems to have been embroiled in a war against her neighbours and currently is embroiled in a war against Iran; Lebanon and Yemen

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

>There are no birthdays recorded for April but, if anybody does celebrate a birthday in this month, please let Tony Koch know. We do wish Pat Izaaks a belated birthday which he celebrated on 26 March. "Veels geluk, Oom Pat!"

>Tony Koch is busy updating our membership list which will be completed this month

>If you have not paid MPS Membership yet, please do so immediately. No club can function efficiently without funds. If you are paying per EFT please send proof of payment to our Treasurer, Heather Wyllie

>Our next meeting will be on Saturday 18 April at 09h00 The theme will be EASTER BUNNIES and you can show anything related to Easter.

As many stamps are available commemorating or celebrating this event, we should have a good response! So, come on, do your bit and put up an exhibit of from one to five pages together. You could win the "Mug of the Month"

>Mike O'Connor presented "The Historic Buildings of Pietermaritzburg on Post-Cards" and kept the audience enthralled. He is a very good recounter with a fantastic memory and excellent knowledge of history. His talk was most interesting and well-received by a captive audience



Mike O'Connor presenting "Post-cards"

>It is pleasing to learn that several of our members will be exhibiting at the National Stamp Show in Johannesburg during September this year and we wish all of them success. Hopefully members from other KZN Societies will also be exhibiting to make a strong showing of what our Province can do!

>NB In May Roger Porter, RDPSA, will present "Boer War Stories" which should not be missed.

BREAKING NEWS

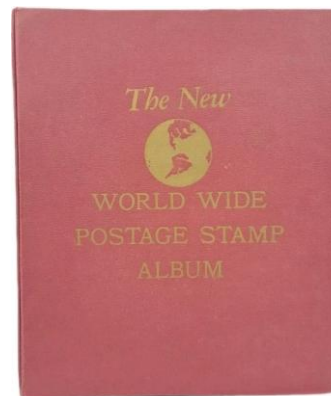
The Artemis 111 Rocket will traverse the moon over the next four days and at 12h05 AM (five minutes after midnight) on April 01 it will appear in front of the moon and will be clearly seen from Earth. The Chinese have also launched a moon rocket and, according to unconfirmed reports, the two space-ships will be seen passing the moon at the same time

This is going to be a sight to behold so, get your binoculars out, dress warmly and get out into the garden to view a "once in a life-time sight" occurring on 01 April 2026 A report-back from readers viewing this spectacle will be appreciated



Artemis 2 Rocket on the launch-pad

NEW ISSUES



The New World-Wide Postage-Stamp Album Collectors Book Available on E-Bay Cost US\$195 R3 356,0 Plus, postage



Great Britain 25 March 2026 – Definitive stamps to meet new international rates

SEEN AT THE MEETING

Photographs courtesy of Russell Bowton

John Handman, Club President, addressed the meeting and said how pleased he was with the attendance as some other societies are lucky to have eight members attend! He was also very pleased that some of the MPS members would be exhibiting at the National Exhibition in September. John was going to visit the Royal Philatelic Society in London but could not go as his flight was cancelled by Emirates due to the ongoing war in the Middle East

He was delighted to introduce our guest speaker, Mike O'Connell, who is a well-known and knowledgeable stamp and post-card collector



An attentive audience at the meeting
25 members were present

Mike O'Connor, guest speaker, presented his story about "The Historic Buildings of Pietermaritzburg on Post-cards" and kept us enthralled with information and anecdotes about the old buildings of 'Maritzburg. He also included much information about the origin; size and use of post-cards as well as information about the publishers.

The first official, government-issued postcard was introduced in Austria-Hungary on October 1, 1869, based on an idea proposed by Emanuel Herrmann and Heinrich von Stephan. Known as the *Correspondent-Karte*, it was a plain, picture-free stiff paper card with space for an address and a short message, featuring a pre-printed stamp.



The first official post-card

The Alphabet Show comprised the letters M, N, O



Gordon Gove presenting the Mark

Gordon Gove exhibited six pages about inflation in Germany and the influence on the German Mark which was appropriately illustrated with excellent philatelic material. Gordon won the coveted "Mug of the Month" for his exhibit.



Left: Gordon Gove receiving the Mug of the Month from Club President John Handman. This is the second time that Gordon has won the mug! Well, done, Gordon!

Pieter Swanepoel displayed stamps from Magyar Posta (Hungary) depicting defensive driving which he felt was appropriate with Easter approaching

Right: Pieter Swanepoel showing his "defensive driving" exhibit. Pieter often shows some-thing of interest to suit the occasion



Aubrey Bowles showed his proposed 16-page exhibit covering the nine existing Monuments in South Africa in order to judge the reaction of the members who said that he should "go ahead" - much appreciated!

The next meeting will be an Easter theme and exhibits of Bunnies; Eggs or Religious themes will be appreciated. Come on, give it a go. You might even win the Mug of the Month for your effort!