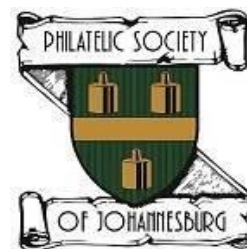


PS of J Newsletter

MARCH 2026



Welcome to our March newsletter.

Our last meeting

Our last meeting was our A.G.M. held on 18th February. It was attended by 13 members and 1 visitor.

Here are the highlights. A.G.M. minutes are available on request from Clive Carr.

Our meeting programme for next year was agreed are follows: -

- Jan 21: Africa & its islands
- Feb 18: AGM & invited exhibits
- Mar 18: Open Class, all categories & postal stationery
- Apr 15: Anything relating in any way to the letters X, Y & Z
- May 20: British Commonwealth
- Jun 17: Mini Exhibits, 1 to 16 pages
- Jul 15: Foreign, the art in philately & philately as art
- Aug 19: Preview of National Exhibits, World at war & back of the book
- Sep 8-12: National in Country Club Johannesburg, Woodmead
- Sep 16: Southern Africa
- Oct 21: My favourite (Maximum of one frame) + thematic exhibits
- Nov 18: As you like it
- Nov/Dec: Music Quiz & dinner (Date to be decided later)

Society awards for 2025

Society Shield - Best exhibit in 2025. Howard Green for Sudan

Ernest Hunt Cup - Robin Messenger for his many outstanding achievements
(Awarded posthumously)

W N Sheffield Award - Union and/or Republic of South Africa. Clive Carr for
OFS postal stationery

Ken Lydall Award – South African Postal History. Howard Green for Rare SWA railway markings
 J Robertson Award – British Commonwealth. Ray Hackworth for Gilberts Tibor Major & Mike Nethersole Award – Thematic or Topical or Cinderellas.
 Ian Matheson for Union Loan Certificates
 J H Harvey-Pirie Award – Countries other than British Commonwealth. Marc Baudin for Algeria
 B Seelig Award – Foreign & Commonwealth Postal History. Ian Matheson for Honduras Censorship
 Hymie Schwab Award – Modern. Marc Baudin for SWA 2024-25
 W van Heerden Research Award – Contribution to philatelic literature. Vic Sorour for marginal bars of the Protea issue
 Mini Exhibits Awards– up to sixteen pages. Ted Roberts for stamps used abroad
 Open Class Award – best open class exhibit of at least 6 pages. Gary Pienaar for 1947 Royal Tour
 Andrew Botma Award – best oral introduction to an exhibit. Ian Matheson for intro to British Entertainment tax
 General Award - most prolific exhibitor during 2025. Ted Roberts for 10 exhibits
 Certificates of Merit or Special Awards – Worthy exhibits. Jim Findlay for SWAPO POW letter and T Lydall for Canada KGV
 One-page award – best and worthy one page exhibit. Gary Pienaar for SWA Rock Art

The Executive Committee was re-elected to serve for another year, as below: -

President and Treasurer	Clive Carr
Secretary	Vic Sorour
Co-opted Committee member	Howard Green
Co-opted Committee member	Gary Pienaar
Independent Accounting Officer	Ray Hackworth

Following the A.G.M., which was adjourned at 16:26, we got back to what we are all about.

Items of interest & exhibits

Charles Kuhn had this item of interest.

The concept of counter generated Variable Value stamps was already in wide use in many countries more than 10 years before ATEEME was formed in 1999.

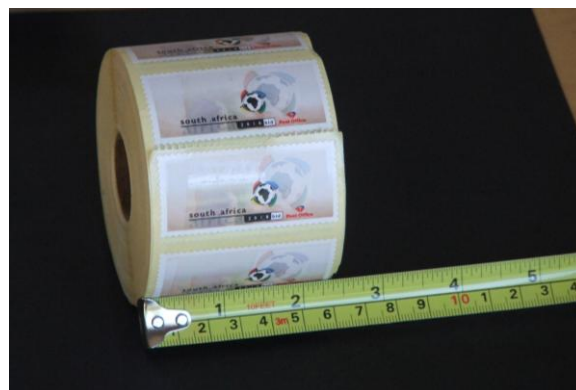
ATEEME is an independent international philatelic group created in 1999, specializing in the collecting and study of ATMs and variable value/rate stamps (Automatenmarken - Vignettes d'affranchissement LISA - Timbres de distributeur - Francobolli automatici).

The company Schlumberger approached the South African post office with a proposal whereby a customer could bring a Postal Item to the counter where the counter clerk would place item on a computer linked printer, scale and touch screen , and touch the parts of the display activating : destination country , air/surface, registered/express/parcel, etc., stamps already affixed, and the computer would then instantaneously calculate the required postage fee to be paid and the clerk would tell the customer the customer the amount to be paid. Upon receipt, clerk would press print and a self- adhesive stamp with the correct face value would be printed, peeled off the backing and affixed to the parcel and cancelled.

Additional stamps of customer specified values could be purchased of any face value from R0,01 to R500, or inscribed “Standard Postage” for customers to affix to their own stationery for subsequent mailing in the usual mail.



The Post Office agreed to run a trial, and ordered the necessary equipment and stamps in rolls of 1000 self-adhesive, no-value printed stamps. The Trial was advertised at post offices in the form of a questionnaire seeking comment on the stamp design, customer preference opinion on ease of use. The trial was run at only FOUR counters, and commenced on 5th February 2004, at Menlyn Central, Johannesburg International Airport, Kempton Park, and Bryanston Post Offices.



Pretoria Dealer, Glen Carpendale sent covers bearing these stamps to his entire mailing list customers, and I fortunately had access to the waste paper enclosure of Direct Medicines where all incoming mail envelopes from the whole country were accumulated for recycling. The stamp design used was popular with all soccer enthusiasts, as it promoted the 2010 World Cup, to be held 5years later. Unfortunately, the trial was terminated in about June 2004.

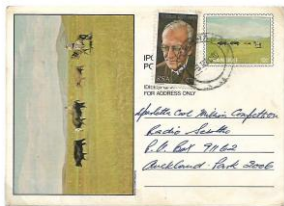
The stamps were illustrated and listed in the 2006 at R5 each (they were still on sale at the time of compiling the catalogue), and 2008 SACC, where no price was given “as insufficient volume to determine a market value” was stated as the reason. A mint pair of 10c and 20c face value sold at Stefan Welz in 2007 for R2700! Since then, the collections of Connie Liebenberg, Theo Swart, and Marge Viljoen have come on to the market, and realised high prices. After the 2008 edition of the SACC, and the murder of Lutz Heffermann, the publisher of the SACC removed the listing of these stamps “as they were not available country-wide” and are “not Stamps” although the Bryanston receipt lists 4 purchases as “VIRTUAL STAMP”.



I used one copy of the six R100 face value copies I purchased at Bryanston to airmail a 29th Edition of the SACC to Canada, and 4 more to forward bulk registered airmail packets to my family in the UK in 2011, 3 of which were received and returned to me, and one did not arrive.

Ted Roberts showed 70 pages of his exhibit on the postal rates of Transkei from independence to reincorporation into South Africa.

Since South African stamps were invalid in Transkei and Transkei stamps invalid in South Africa, mixed franking was not permitted.



However, the mixed franking with these two postcards, showing different scenes, sent from Uitenhage in South Africa, apparently went unnoticed and they were not taxed. Possibly it was not realized that there were Transkei postcards and also the nominal postage was correct for the date. (the postcard rate had increased to 16c on 1 April 1997.)

Many incorrectly franked letters, however, passed through the postal system without being taxed. The following items all have Transkei stamps but they were posted in South Africa:



THE RE-INCORPORATION OF TRANSKEI INTO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

After the elections of April 1994, the Republic of Transkei was once more a part of South Africa. So what changed with the postal system? Well... nothing. The postal rates of Transkei were exactly the same as South Africa and not surprisingly the same rates prevailed. Thus the 45c letter rate, which was operating in South Africa as well as Transkei, continued until the rate once again increased (to 50c) on 1 August 1994. What is more, post offices in Transkei still had stocks of Transkei stamps and continued to use them. Indeed, why waste them? So from the postal viewpoint, there was no indication whatsoever of the change in political status of the Transkei.

27 April 1994 to 31 July 1994: (South Africa) Letter rate: 45c

The following covers show the 45c rate continuing after the re-incorporation into South Africa:



Blast from the past

Here is another scan of the many items Terry Lydall showed at our November meeting last year.

193. ZAR 100 HELICOPTER MAIL

1969, October 10

V: 10/20

For the first time in the history of the Transvaal's postal service, a helicopter was used for the despatch of mail matter. This consisted of ZAR 100 commemorative covers franked with the commemorative stamps. The small ZAR 100 datestamp was used to postmark this mail. A large cachet, 48 mm in diameter, was impressed on the covers. A helicopter is shown at the top, 1869 and 1969 appear in two segments of the circle on the left and right. An old-time mail coach is shown at the bottom. The cachet was designed by Q. Lydall. This mail was carried by a helicopter to the Rand Airport. It was then taken to the Germiston Sorting Office and backstamped with the Germiston "Lug 1 Air" datestamp and despatched in the normal manner. See section 5.

The postmark appearing on the reverse side of the covers, carried on the helicopter flight, was the normal one used at the Germiston Sorting Office. This datestamp has since been withdrawn and the sorting office transferred.

Reference:

South African Philatelist, December 1969, page 262.



Our next meeting

Our next meeting will be at 15:30 for 16:00 on Wednesday 18th March with the theme: **Open Class, all categories & postal stationery.**

Prepared by Clive Carr - carr.clive@gmail.com

Executive Committee

President: & Treasurer: Clive Carr: 083 634 1939 Secretary: Vic Sorour: 083 630 2266

Committee members: Ray Hackworth, Gary Pienaar & Howard Green
