

WITWATERSRAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Country Club Johannesburg, Auckland Park

Meeting Venue: Country Club Johannesburg, Napier Road, Auckland Park

NEWSLETTER No. 384: FEBRUARY 2026

Dear Members:

This, the February 2026 Newsletter No. 384, handles the following items:

- 1) Schedule of dates for Auckland Park meetings in 2026 (Clause 1: Page 1).
- 2) Schedule of dates for the Woodmead meetings in 2025/2026 (Clause 2: Page 2).
- 3) In Memoriam. (Clause 3: Page 2).
- 4) The Meeting at Auckland Park on 11th February 2026 held at 16h00 (Clause 4: Pages 3 to 15).
- 5) The in-person and digital via Zoom Stamp Study meeting at Woodmead on 25th February 2026 held at 19h00 (Clause 5: Pages 16 to 19).

1. DATE FOR THE 2026 MEETINGS AT AUCKLAND PARK

The table below gives the 2026 meeting dates and activities to be held in one of the Upstairs Dining Rooms and the Rainbow Room for the Annual General Meeting at 16h00:

Wednesday	11 th March 2026	Annual General Meeting
Wednesday	8 th April 2026	Context Philately
Wednesday	13 th May 2026	One Frame Meeting
Wednesday	10 th June 2026	First Competitive Meeting
Wednesday	8 th July 2026	'No Rules' One Frame Meeting
Wednesday	12 th August 2026	Inter-Society Quiz Meeting
Wednesday	9 th September 2026	Thematic Display Meeting
Wednesday	14 th October 2026	Second Competitive Meeting
Wednesday	11 th November 2026	Invited Exhibitor
Wednesday	9 December 2026	President's Meeting + Cocktail Party

2). DATES FOR THE 2026 STAMP STUDY MEETINGS AT WOODMEAD

The table below gives the dates for the 2026 Woodmead meetings to be held in the Captain's Table at Woodmead at 19h00:

Wednesday	25 th March 2026
Wednesday	29 th April 2026
Wednesday	27 th May 2026
Wednesday	24 th June 2026
Wednesday	29 th July 2026
Wednesday	26 th August 2026
Wednesday	30 th September 2026
Wednesday	28 th October 2026
Wednesday	25 th November 2026

3). IN MEMORIAM

Robert Wenger died on 10 February 2026. Robert joined the Wits Philatelic Society in July 2006, and he very seldom missed a meeting. He was a very active member and always brought a number of items of interest. Our condolences and deepest sympathies to his daughter Sue and his family. Robert's smile will be missed by all.



4. **MEETING AT AUCKLAND PARK ON WEDNESDAY, 14TH JANUARY 2026, AT 16H00.**

a. **Welcome:**

The President welcomed all present to the meeting. There were 12 persons in attendance, comprising 11 members and 1 visitor. The visitor being *Michael Carides*.

The President welcomed the Distinguished Philatelists present, namely Jim Findlay.

He then welcomed the big wigs from the Philatelic Federation, namely Derek Roth (Honorary Treasurer of Federation and the WPS) and Gary Pienaar (Committee Member of Federation and Vice President of the Gauteng Area).

Apologies were received from Howard Green, Nikki Espley-Jones, Jill Redmond, David Mordant, Marleen Schalkwijk, Kenny Napier, Herwig Kussing, Joha de Maayer, Peter Coetzee, Francois Friend and Robert Harm, Mona van Eeden, Vic Sorour, André Du Plessis, John Handman, Don and Denise Collie, Danna Strydom, Francois Friend and Ian Matheson.

b. **Condolences:**

Herbie asked all members present to stand for a few moments of silence in honour of the late **Peter Wiebe van der Molen RDPSA**, who passed on 31 January 2026.

c. **Dates for next few Auckland Park Meetings**

Wednesday	11 th March 2026	Annual General Meeting
Wednesday	8 th April 2026	Context Philately
Wednesday	13 th May 2026	One Frame Meeting

d. **General:**

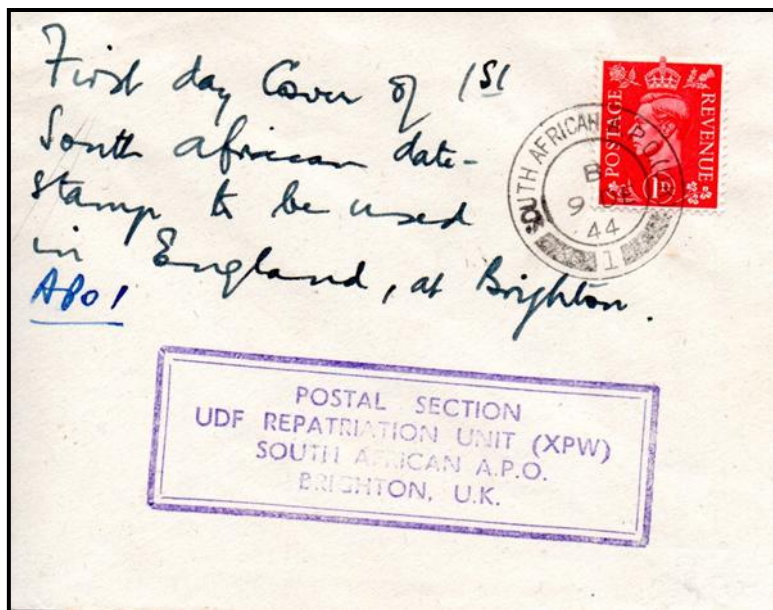
- Stamp Study Circle Meeting at the Woodmead Section. The next meeting, a combined in-person and digital via Zoom meeting will be held on Wednesday, 25th February 2026, at 19h00. The chairperson will be *Derek Roth*.
- National Stamp Show 2026 will be held at the Country Club Johannesburg – Woodmead from **9-12 September 2026**. This will be hosted by the PFSA, assisted by affiliated members of the Gauteng Philatelic Societies.

e. Exhibit for the evening

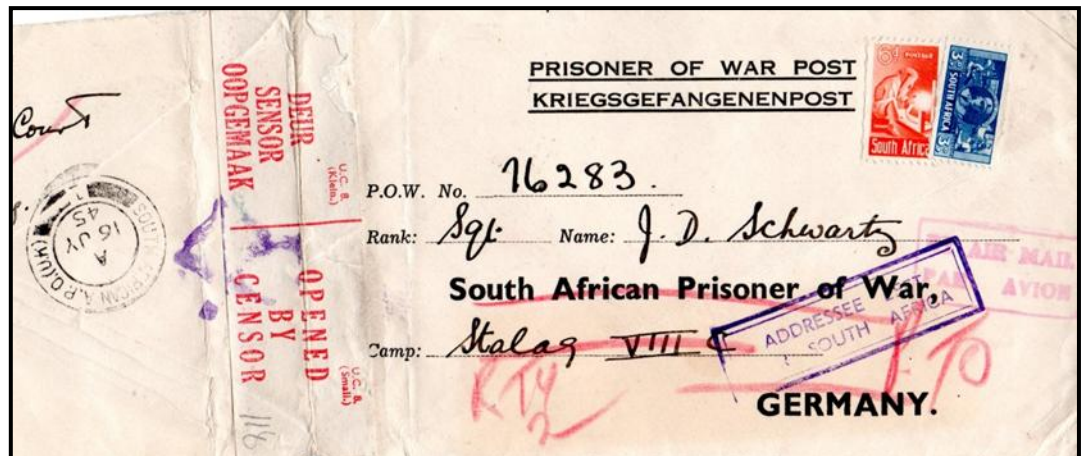
Jim Findlay showed “WWII: The repatriation of South African Prisoners in the United Kingdom”.

Over 10 000 South African soldiers were captured by the German and Italian forces in World War II. Initially they were held in Italian camps and then in German camps. When Italy capitulated in 1943, many POWs were repatriated but the majority were transferred to camps in Germany. In March and April 1945 conditions in Germany were chaotic with infrastructure destruction and food shortages. Many POWs were released or escaped and had to fend for themselves. When the POWs reached Allied advancing, they were repatriated to the United Kingdom where organisations were established to receive them.

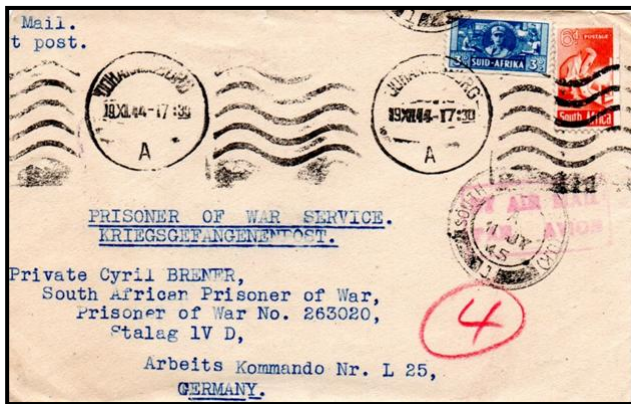
In July 1944, the Union Defence Force established a Repatriation Unit in the U.K. with the headquarters at South Africa House, Trafalgar Square. The South African POWs were housed in 4 Camps in the Brighton/Hove areas. Each camp was allocated a British date stamp – SOUTH AFRICAN A.P.O. (UK) – numbered 1 to 4 for each camp. The British authorities also allocated A.P.O. 151 at Roedean School, Brighton, for the exclusive use by South African forces. The Brighton A.P.O.s closed on 5 November 1945.



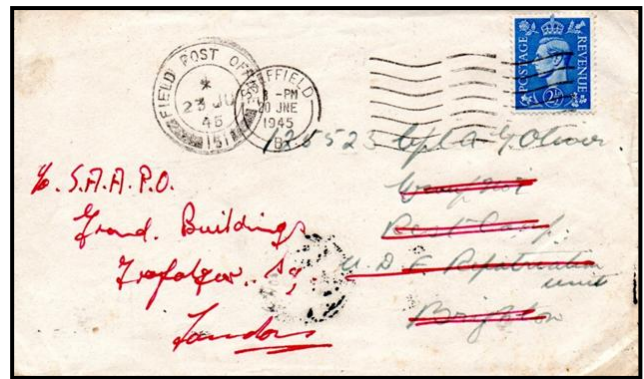
A cover illustrating the first day of use of the South African A.P.O. 1 at Brighton, 9 December 1944.



A cover redirected from POW Camp Stalag 8C, Sagen, to the S.A. Repatriation Unit, Brighton.



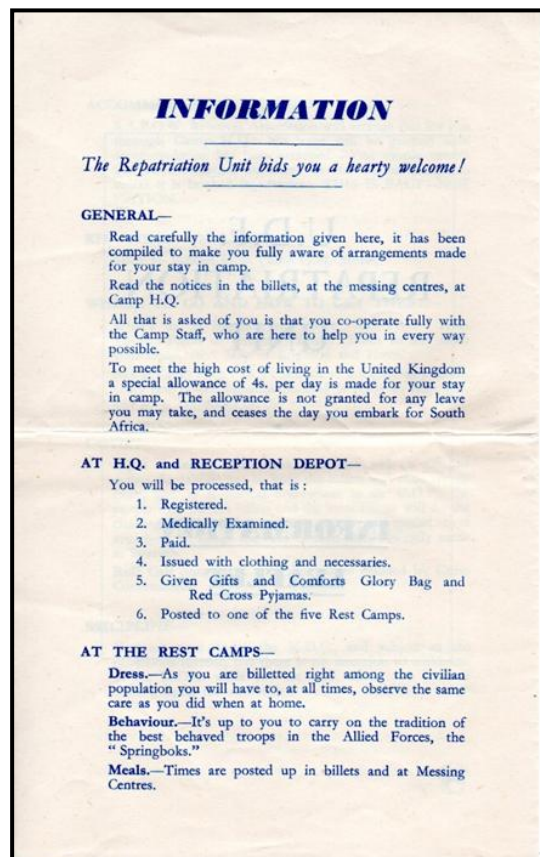
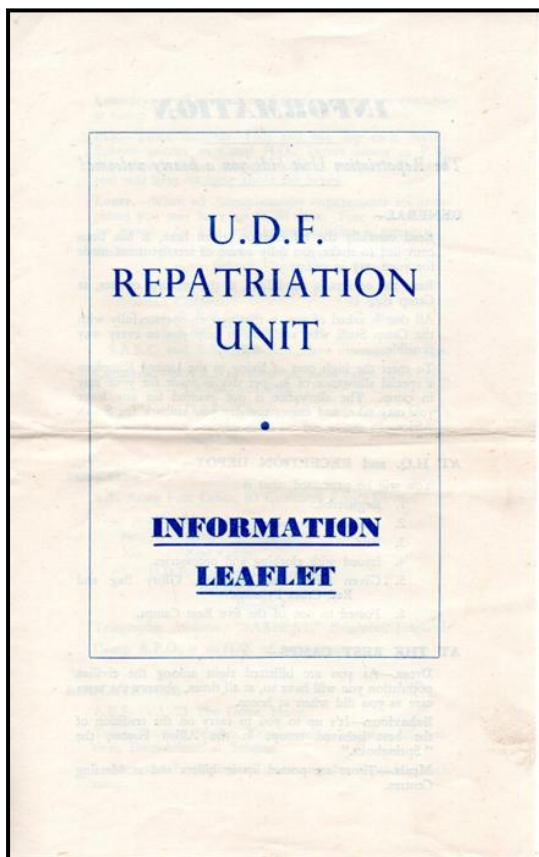
A cover redirected to the S.A. ex-POW Camp 4 at Brighton.



A cover redirected from the Repatriation Unit to South Africa House, Trafalgar Square.



The South African Red Cross welcoming card issued to each POW.



A 4-page Repatriation leaflet explaining aspects of repatriation was given to all POWs.

PHOENIX THEATRE
 CHARING CROSS ROAD, W.C.2
Licensed by the Lord Chamberlain to PRINCE LITTLER

TENNENT PLAYS LTD. in association with C.E.M.A.
 By arrangement with MICHAEL MYERBERG
 present

VIVIEN LEIGH
CECIL PARKER
ENA BURRILL
 IN

**THE SKIN
 OF OUR TEETH**

A History of the World in Comic Strip
 by
THORNTON WILDER

Directed by **LAURENCE OLIVIER**
 Decor by **ROGER FURSE**

MATINEES : Wednesday and Saturday at 2.30 p.m.
 EVERY EVENING at 7 p.m.

TENNENT PLAYS LTD. in association with C.E.M.A.
 By arrangement with MICHAEL MYERBERG
 present

**THE SKIN
 OF OUR TEETH**

A History of the World in Comic Strip
 By THORNTON WILDER

Characters in order of appearance :

Sabina ... Mr. Fitzpatrick ... Mrs. Antrobus ... Dinosaur ... Mammoth ... Telegraph Boy ... Gladys ... Henry ... Mr. Antrobus ... Doctor ... Professor ... Judge ... Homer ... Miss E. Muse ... Miss T. Muse ... Miss M. Muse ... 1st Usher ... 2nd Usher ... Theatre Commissioner ... Majorettes ... Fortune Teller ... Chair Pushers ... Conveeners ... Bingo Caller ... American Announcer ... Mr. Tremayne ... Hester ... Ivy VIVIEN LEIGH ... SIDNEY MONCKTON ... JOAN YOUNG ... MICHAEL LYND ... ROGER BRABAN ... JOHN GRANGE ... PAMELA CONROY ... TERRY MORGAN ... CECIL PARKER ... PETER LORD ... ANTHONY WALLIS ... MAURICE BANNISTER ... NORMAN WEBB ... MEG MAXWELL-LYTE ... JESSIE SPENCER ... DAPHNE NEWTON ... GEOFFREY BARRIE ... LEONARD MAGUIRE ... HUGH STEWART ... EVE MOORE ... PENELOPE SHAW ... JESSIE SPENCER ... ENA BURRILL ... MAURICE BANNISTER ... WILLIAM GILLESPIE ... JOHN GRANGE ... ANTHONY WALLIS ... HUGH STEWART ... GEOFFREY BARRIE ... NORMAN WEBB ... LEONARD MAGUIRE ... JOHN MURPHY ... WALLAS EATON ... DAVID CARR ... MICHAEL LYND ... CHARLES DORAN ... DAPHNE NEWTON ... ANN WILTON
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Directed by **LAURENCE OLIVIER**

*Entertainment was organised for the POWs –
 a theatrical performance starring Vivien Leigh directed
 by Lawrence Olivier.*

EMPIRE STADIUM WEMBLEY
Managing Director - A. J. ELVIN

MAY 26th, 1945 Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL
 ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL MATCH

ENGLAND



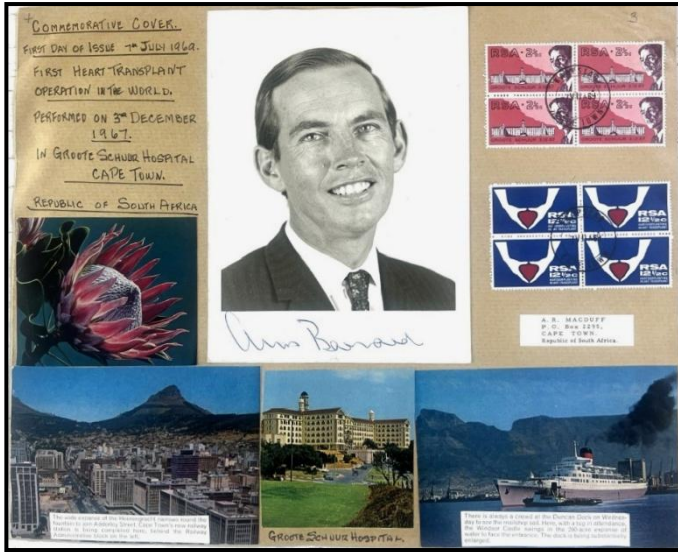
FRANCE

in aid of British and French War Charities

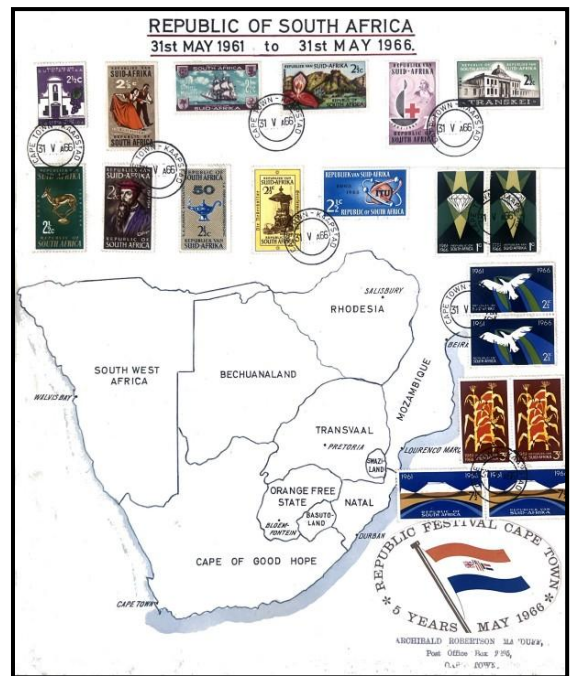
OFFICIAL PROGRAMME SIXPENCE

*The first international football match after the war –
 England vs France – score 2-2.
 This was attended by a large South African ex-POW
 contingent.*

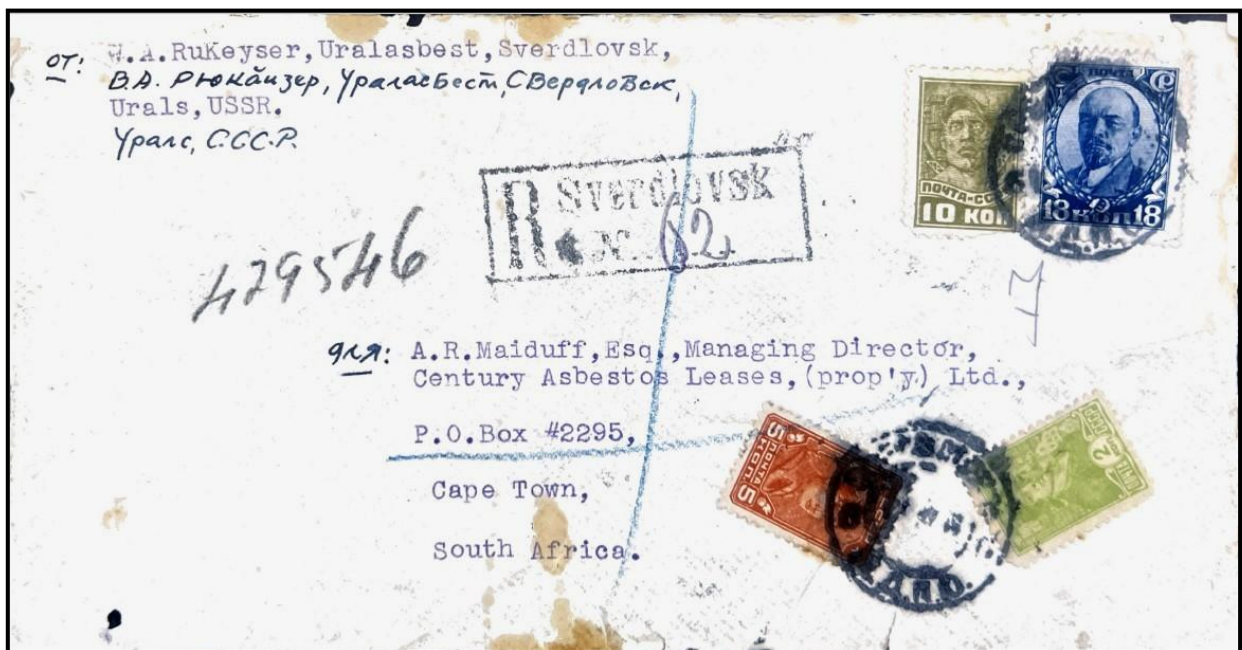
Alastair Macduff showed 5 of his favourite covers, and some of them have a close connection to his family.



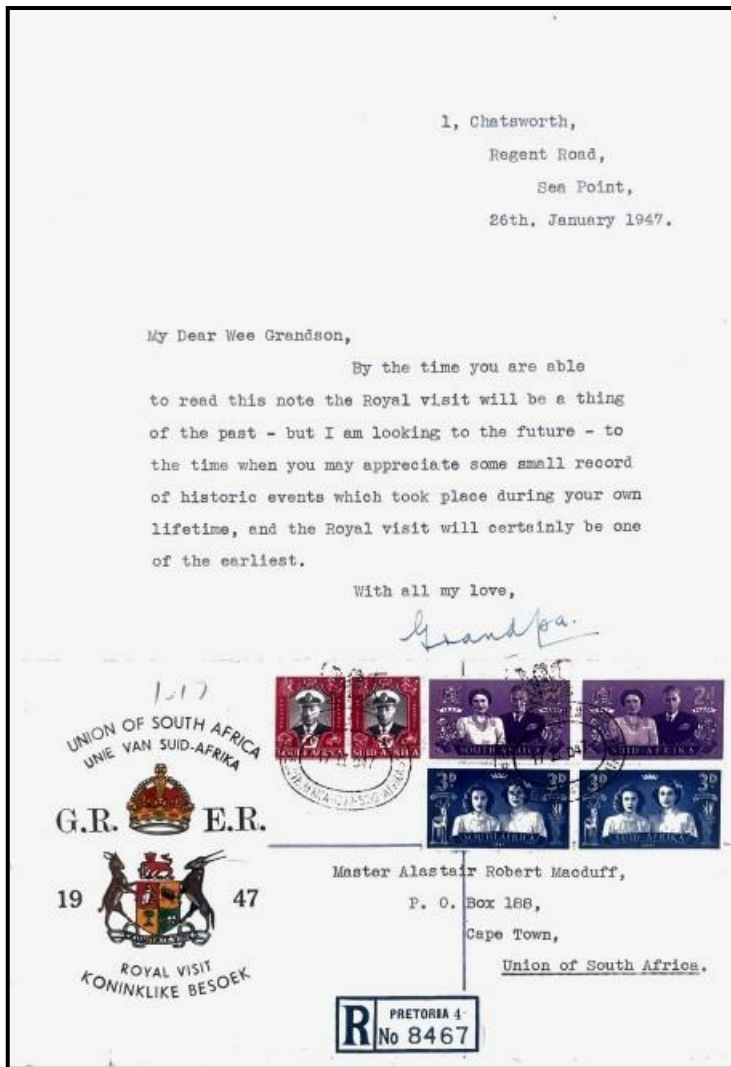
First heart Transplant – hand drawn by his grandfather



5th Anniversary of the RSA Republic – hand drawn by his grandfather



Letter addressed to my grandfather from Uralabest , Urals , USSR dated 1927 with stamp of Lenin



FDC dated 26 Jan 1947 and addressed to me aged 3 months – enclosed letter to me from Grandpa! My introduction to stamp collecting.

The travels of an unclaimed letter from the East African Campaign 1918

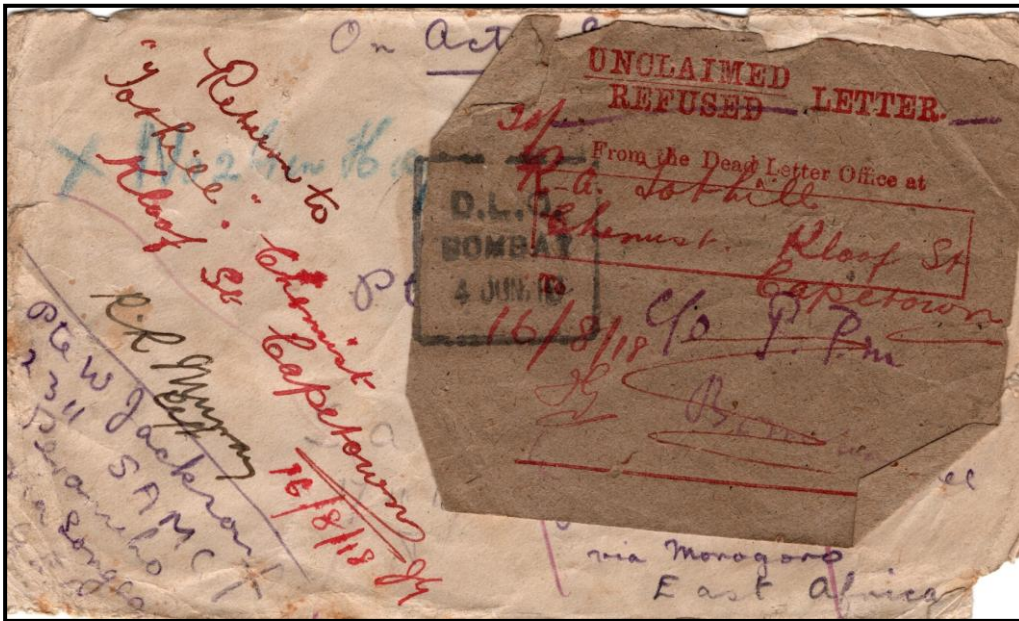
This “**On Active Service**” letter was posted by **Pvt W Jackson** of the SAMC based in German East Africa addressed to **Private R Tothill** “of the South African Medical Corp, 3rd Field Ambulance, Field Post Office via Morogoro, East Africa.

The letter was unclaimed & travelled the world - eventually delivered to Tothill’s father in Cape Town

The unit SAMC supported the South African and Imperial forces during major 1917 engagements, including the **Battle of Narungombe** (July) and the **Battle of Mahiwa** (October).

The campaign was “**almost entirely a medical war**”. The 3rd Field Ambulance treated far more cases of malaria, dysentery, and blackwater fever than combat wounds.

Due to thick bush and tsetse flies killing draft animals, the unit relied heavily on thousands of African porters to carry medical supplies and stretchers.



Postmarks on the back of the letter:

- Field Post Office No 302 – 16 Dec 1917
- Base Office B – 19 Dec 1917
- Mombasa - 11 March 1918
- Dead Letter Office - Bombay 15 May 1918
- Returned Letter Office - Johannesburg - 28 Jan 1918
- Return to R.A. Tothill, Chemist, Kloof St, Cape Town- 16 Aug 1918
- Illegible – 17 Aug 1918



Derek Roth showed a variety of interesting covers from his collection.

1 cover posted from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1943 after independence was restored, depicting Emperor Haile Selasie in his Coronation Robes.



Registered cover posted in India from FP087 on 18 August 1941, to Randfontein, South Africa;



Cover posted from the Leipziger Herbstmesse, DDR



Bruce Berry showed a variety covers from his collection.

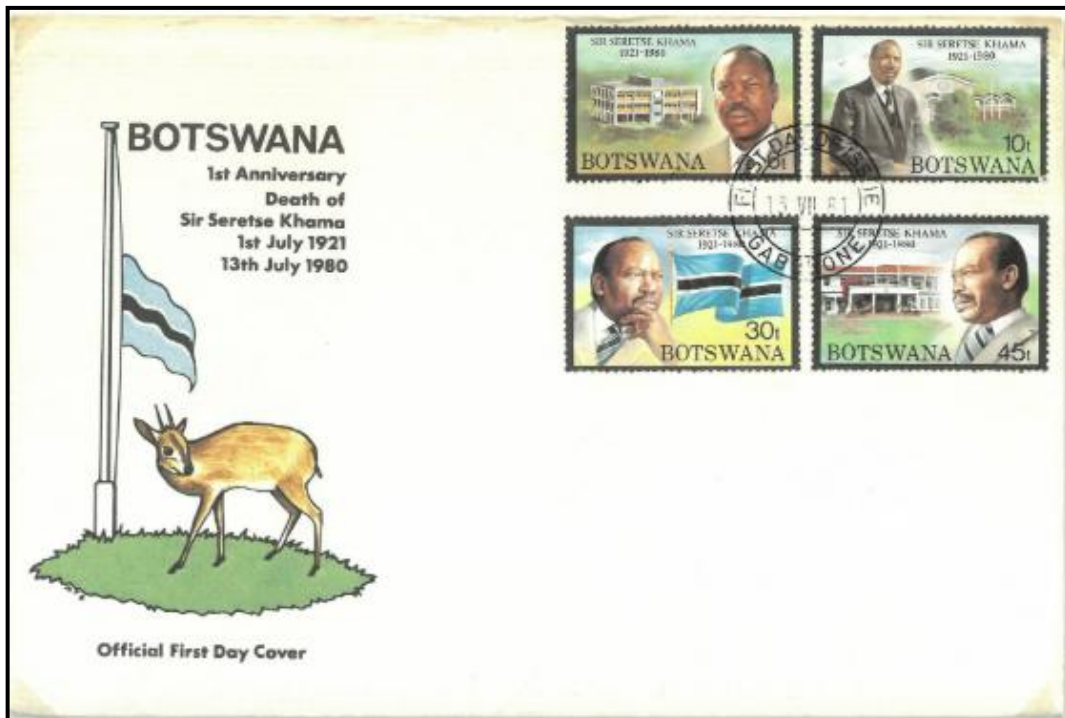
This cover displayed the Independence commemorative issued just after the Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) in November 1965. This was the first stamp issue to be printed in Rhodesia. The UK declared UDI to be an illegal act and requested the UPU to declare stamps issued in Rhodesia to be illegal and thus not valid for postage. In the UK, mail bearing these stamps was surcharged as can be seen on this cover. The cover shows a photograph of Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith signing the UDI proclamation and kit is a favourite as it is also autographed by Ian Smith.



Rhodesia - Independence Issue

Sir Seretse Khama was the first President of Botswana following its independence from Britain in 1966. This FDC was issued to commemorate the first anniversary of his death on 13 July 1981. All the stamps feature images of Sir Seretse. The cover has an illustration of the flag of Botswana at half-mast, the traditional sign of mourning.

The cover is a favourite as in addition the illustration of the Botswana flag, the 30t also depicts the flag. Botswana is unusual in that while this is not the only stamp to feature its flag, this is the only Botswana stamp where the flag is the prominent focus.



Botswana - 1st anniversary of the death of Sir Seretse Khama

Issued to celebrate the achievements of the UK in sport, community, creativity, industry and innovation in 2021, the cover features four stamps illustrating these achievements arranged in the form of a stylised Union Jack.

An innovative design for the stamps based on a national symbol.



UK - A celebration

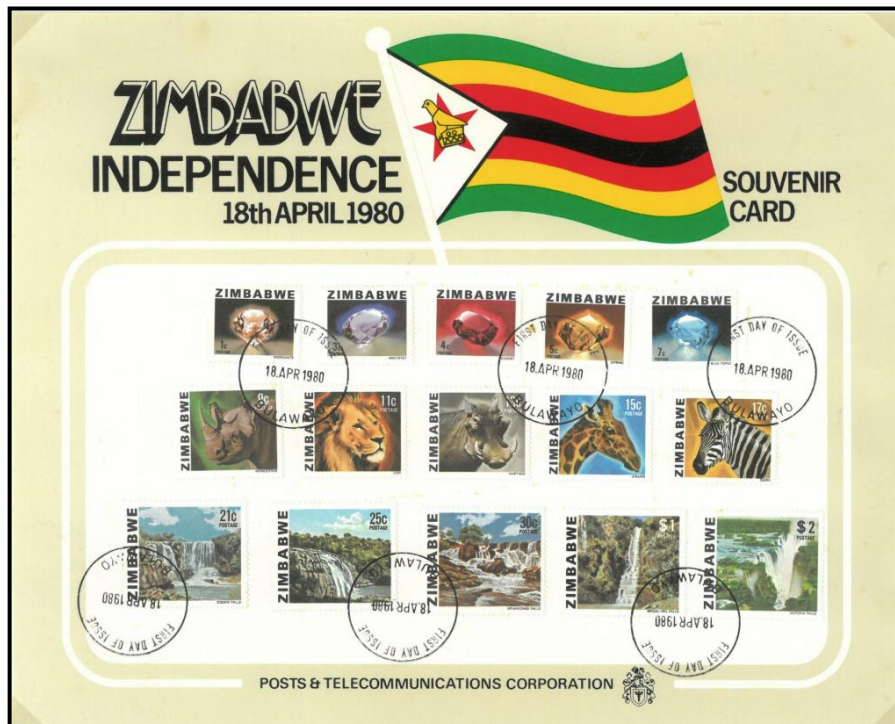
The FDC issued to mark the independence of Timor Leste on 20 May 2002 has its new flag as the background of the cover making it a favourite. The new flag is also depicted on the \$2 stamp.



Timor Leste – Independence

The souvenir card issued for to mark the independence of Zimbabwe in April 1980 also illustrates its new national flag with the first Zimbabwe definitive issue.

The cover is a personal favourite as I queued at the main Bulawayo post office to get the stamps and have them cancelled ... after having been most of the night before to watch the independence celebrations on TV!



Zimbabwe – Independence

Michael Gristwood showed a few of his favourite covers.



Clover 100 years

Clover was a good client and, as a major supplier to them, I was sent by post an invitation to their celebrations. The original envelope, with the special Clover stamp, was posted on 3 December 1999 and received by our company offices on 7 December 1999. The “slide” also has an original “for show” envelope.

This is of particular interest to me as my father died during the D-Day landings. He was with his regiment on board one of the very few ships that was torpedoed. Sadly, all on board drowned. I was born 1 month later.



D-DAY 50th ANNIVERSARY (British set of stamps issued in 1994)



MESSAGES (British set of stamps issued in 1994)

I showed this because it highlights 10 characters well known to and loved by many children in years gone by. My comment was that several well-loved characters have, sadly, been banned in Britain over the last few years as not being PC correct, and we should keep good memories despite what governments decide to do.

The only reason for showing this 1st-day cover is because I had never heard of a country called Zil Elwanyen Sesel. This name refers to the approx. 200, mostly uninhabited, low-lying coral atolls and islands located outside the central granitic Seychelles Bank. Situated hundreds of kilometres from Mahé, these remote, arid islands are known for biodiversity, conservation projects, and specialized postage stamps issued between 1980–1992. These islands are not part of any electoral or administrative district of the main Seychelles nation.



SHIPWRECKS (Issued in 1991 for use by Zil Elwanyen Sesel)



I happened to be on one of the last Swissair flights before the airline stopped flying due to bankruptcy and was given the handout which highlights some of the airline's successes and thanks passengers for their past support. I also happen to have the 1st day issue of the Swiss stamp celebrating 50 years of Swissair in 1969.

*THE DEATH OF SWISSAIR
(1st day cover and handout to Swissair passengers)*

5. THE IN-PERSON AND DIGITAL VIA ZOOM MEETING HELD AT WOODMEAD IN THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE ON 25TH FEBRUARY 2026

The chairperson for the Stamp Study meeting in the Bishops Room at Woodmead on 25th February 2026 was *Derek Roth*, who brought a lovely Swiss roll, assortment of nuts and crisps.

There were four in-persons members in the room, including *Adél Bulpitt, Derek Roth, Ian Matheson and Herbie Schaffler*. Via Zoom there were fourteen viewers, including member David Mordant and various visitors from the UK.

Adél Bulpitt provided her laptop to run the digital Zoom and the Country Club IT technician set up the camera, cables and remote control.

First to show was *Diederik Viljoen*: This presentation was on Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands.

Guernsey

War Occupation:1940-1945

The German advance on the French Channel Coast was quickly and the British decided to withdraw its forces from the Island on 21st June 1940 as they were not in a position to defend it.

The Germans were not informed so they started bombing the islands until the US Ambassador in the UK told them about the situation. The first German troops arrived on the 30th June under Kommandant, Col Friederich Schumacher.

It was a surprise announcement by the British Postmaster General, Dr Charles Hill on the 18th July 1956 to allow regional stamp issues.

The first permission for regional issues were actually given during the War by the German Occupying Force which allowed local stamps for Jersey & Guernsey when the British stamps ran out.

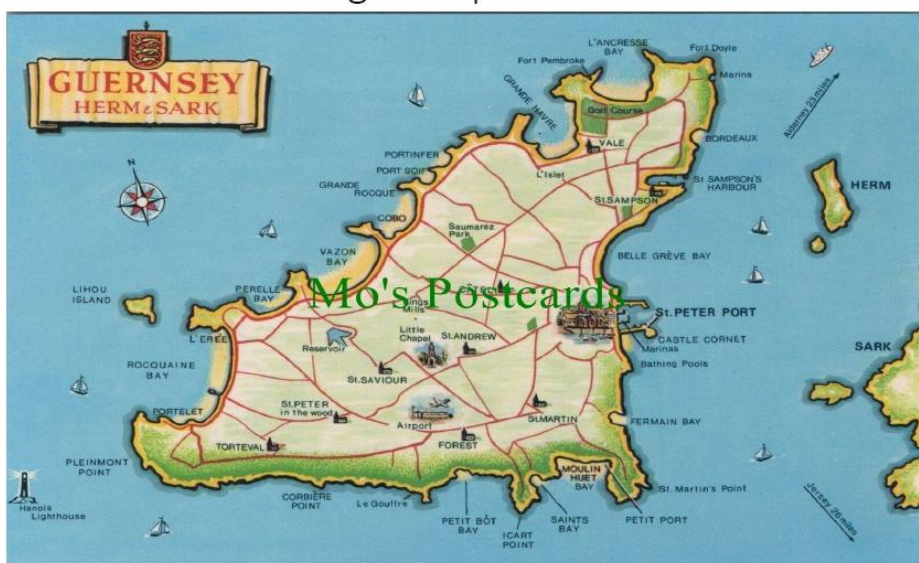
The islanders did not want to use overprinted stamps showing the swastika.



EBay Copy

Guernsey

Google Map circa 1938



Just over 150km from the south coast of England.

BISECTS: A shortage of 1d stamps forced the acting postmaster, Mr H C Chapell, of the Guernsey Post Office on the 24 December 1940, to authorize the diagonally bisect of the 2d British stamp for prepayment of penny postage on the island. This was the first and last time that the British PO allowed this.

The first bisepts were done on the 7th December 1940 and the last on the 22nd February 1941. Only the 2d Orange Postal Centenary Issue of 1940 was supposed to be used.



An occupied mixed franking cover using the 2d Centenary bisect, 1/2d KG VI and a scarlet 1d of the occupation issue to make up the local internal mail of 2 1/2d, dated 18 February 1941. A cut-out dated 22 Feb. '41 and issued stamp are shown above.

The Island was allowed by the German Occupation Force to design and print their own stamps when the British stamps ran out. A roulette typography range of stamps was designed by E W Vaudin and printed by the Guernsey Press Co Ltd.

These were issued during 1941- 44 and they were printed on white paper without watermark depicting the Coat of Arms.

The seven 1/2d green shade stamps, three red shade 1d and two blue shade 2 1/2d stamps are shown below.



Next to show was **Keith Burton**: This was an interesting German postcard relating the rations during WW1. Each character represented more than one sentiment

A Propaganda Postcard

1. A simple picture card by..
2. Oskar Berringer – see bottom left
3. ..but with lots of meaning



Next to show was Ian Matheson with an exhibit, entitled ‘Government Tickets’. This presentation covers the way that governments taxed Entertainment. They had to find the most efficient and foolproof way to tax the general public. Ian takes us through a very detailed journey. This is a study that was done over many years of research and the accumulation of material that is very difficult to find.



Application of entertainment tax stamps was a hassle!

ORANGE FREE STATE

2d with small numeral.

14 August 1930. Ticket for Boere Orkes performance in Ventersburg. The tax rate was 3d so the admission charge was probably 1/6. One of the stamps (1d) is from the first series, Type (b) and the 2d stamp with small numeral and seriffed lower case “d” must have been from the second series of ca. 1927.



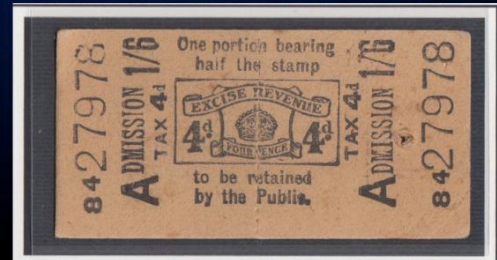
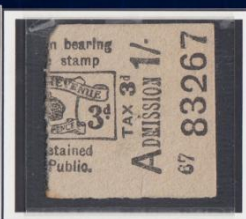
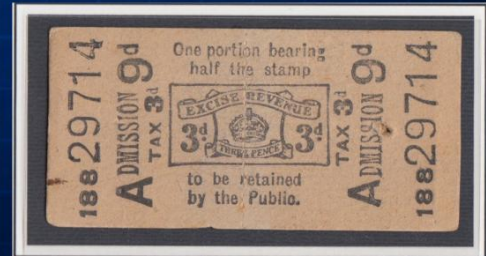
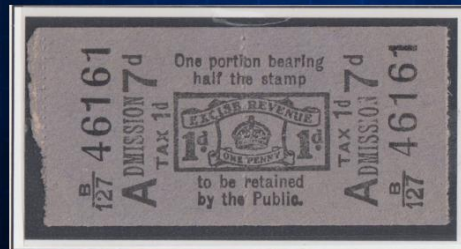
Type 161b (1917-1924)

Large Wide “A”. Seriffed cyclometer numbers.

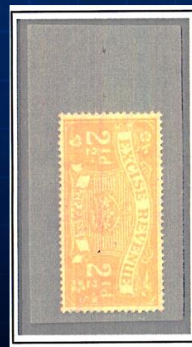
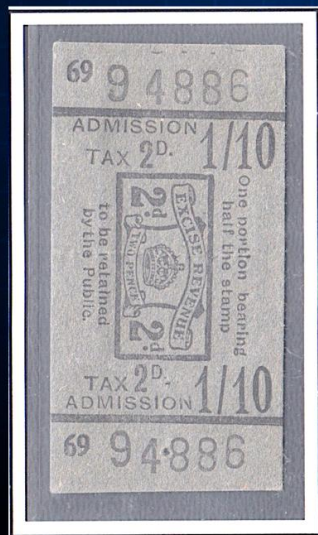


Type 161c (1918-1931)

Large Wide "A". Sans-serif cyclometer numbers.



REDUCED RATE TICKETS



Reverse

Finance Act 1948 (11/12 G VI C.49 s.16) introduced a reduced tax rate of 4½d for an admission charge of 1/9½d to 2/-. This ticket was used in this period and has an additional 2½d adhesive on the reverse to cover the new rate.

At 20h00, *Adél Bulpitt* then closed the Digital via Zoom part of the meeting and the meeting continued with the six people in the venue.

Best regards and stay safe.

TEMPORARY SCRIBE – ADÉL BULPITT