



PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY
PORT ELIZABETH FILATELIEVERENIGING
 ESTABLISHED 1890 - RECONSTITUTED 1912

Address: Postnet Suite 11, Private Bag X0002,
 The Fig Tree, Charlo, 6033, RSA

Venue: Bible Society House, 31 Cotswold Avenue, Cotswold

Correspondence: francois@softchem.co.za

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office-bearers

President/editor	Francois Friend	082 554 8900
Vice president	David Brown	041 360 4025
Secretary/treasurer	Louis Oosthuizen	082 469 7494
Honorary auditor	Barry Green	072 055 7448
Exchange superintendent	Graham Butcher	083 351 7980
Librarian	Willy Porter	082 705 5317

Next meeting

13 April 2026 at 11:00 (reminder at the Barn and Barrel)

editor's note

Welcome to our newsletter for March - the third of the new year that just keeps rushing on. Unfortunately the South African cricket team once again fell off the wall in a semifinal against New Zealand at the T20 cricket world cup that was played in India and Sri Lanka. What another sad ending to another campaign that promised so much. Anyhow, the autumn weather in the Eastern Cape remains quite pleasant that is now being interspersed with more northern hemisphere sporting events on television. Albeit that the weather prescribes mostly external activities, we trust you will find time to enjoy the third newsletter of the year. Keep well, safe and sound.

from the secretary's desk

Birthdays for April 2026: Willy Porter 1 Apr, Dallas Whitfield 4 Apr, Graham Butcher 13 Apr and David Brown 24 Apr; we wish them all happy stamping and many more healthy years ahead.

rolling programme for 2026/2027

month	date	happenings
April	13 Apr 2026	Pub quiz at the Barn and Barrel. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
May	4 May 2026	Philatelic Services Stamp's Friend Trophy and Quarterly Cup competitions. General trading and auction - bring some of your material that you wish to dispose of. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
June	1 Jun 2026	Neville Polakow Trophy and Mike Koyd Postal History Shield competitions. General trading and auction - bring some of your material that you wish to dispose of. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
July	6 Jul 2026	Pub quiz at the Barn and Barrel. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
August	3 Aug 2026	Philatelic Services Stamp's Friend Trophy competition. General trading and auction - bring some of your material that you wish to dispose of. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
September	1 Sep 2026	Dave Berg Cup for best thematic display competition. General trading and auction - bring some of your material that you wish to dispose of. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
October	5 Oct 2026	Pub quiz at the Barn and Barrel. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
November	2 Nov 2026	Quarterly Cup and Contemporary Cup competitions. General trading and auction - bring some of your material that you wish to dispose of. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
December	4 Dec 2026	President's night.
January	11 Jan 2027	Contemporary Cup, TJ Strachan Ladies Bowl and President's Cup competitions. General trading and auction - bring some of your material that you wish to dispose of. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
February	1 Feb 2027	Pub quiz at the Barn and Barrel. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
March	1 Mar 2027	Annual general meeting. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.



minutes of the 114th annual general meeting

MINUTES OF THE 114th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY, HELD ON MONDAY 2 MARCH 2026 AT THE BIBLE HOUSE, 31 COTSWOLD AVENUE, COTSWOLD, PORT ELIZABETH COMMENCING AT 11:00

PRESENT: Francois Friend (in the Chair)

MEMBERS: 21 **APOLOGIES:** nil **VISITORS:** nil

Welcome: The president welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes: Minutes of the annual general meeting (AGM) and monthly meeting dated 3 March 2025 were tabled for adoption. These were accepted - proposed by Dave Brown and seconded by Bruce Watson.

The meeting then proceeded with the scheduled events.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

Reports:

- (a) **President:** Francois read out his report that is attached hereto.
- (b) **Treasurer:** The treasurer Louis Oosthuizen presented the annual financial statements that were audited by the honorary auditor Barry Green. The accounts were then adopted, proposed by Dave Brown and seconded by Francois Friend.
- (c) **Exchange superintendent:** Graham Butcher provided feedback on the current state of the PEPS exchange booklets. Francois thanked Graham for his hard work and for making this a success.
- (d) **Librarian:** The librarian Willy Porter reminded the members of the large number of reference books available in the library and encouraged the members to make use of it. There is, *inter alia*, a complete collection of all the SA Philatelist journals available.

Presentation of awards:

Margaret Morgan was unfortunately not present at the meeting to receive the Dave Berg Cup certificate for her exhibit entitled "Unique Stamps" - shown on 8 September 2025; and for the Philatelic Services Stamp's Friend Trophy for her exhibit "Full speed ahead" that she displayed on 5 May 2025.

Election of office-bearers: The president vacated his post and Dave Brown was requested to ask for nominations of new office bearers. Barry Green proposed the same committee as 2025. This proposal was seconded by Cecil Ahlers and unanimously accepted by the members present.

- (i) **President:** Francois Friend
- (ii) **Vice president:** Dave Brown
- (iii) **Secretary/treasurer:** Louis Oosthuizen
- (iv) **Exchange superintendent:** Graham Butcher
- (v) **Librarian:** Willy Porter
- (vi) **Honorary auditor:** Barry Green

General:

Francois informed the meeting that he forwarded the below notice of motion to the secretary of the society, Louis Oosthuizen, on 7 February 2026:

"In terms of Article 6 (2) of the constitution I wish to propose the below motion for the upcoming agm:

The addition of below section in Article 3 (2) namely:

(f) **ultimate member:** being all those who are 85 years and older at the start of a year - these members will enjoy the same benefits as ordinary members but annual subscriptions will be waived."

The motion was then put to vote and the members present unanimously voted in favour of the proposed constitutional change.

Graham Butcher requested that any member that is not currently on the circuit book list and would like to receive circuit books should contact him. He also raised his concern about the time some members keep the books with them before forwarding it to the next person on the list. The below proposal was formulated following input from several members:



Each lot of books to be circulated get a unique name (for example, "blue bag") and the progress of this lot must be reported on the PEPS WhatsApp group. Books must be forwarded as soon as possible and are not to be kept for longer than one week. A member defaulting a third time, by keeping the books for longer than a week, will be taken of the circuit list.

Vernon congratulated the committee on their excellent work done during their 2025 term and also conveyed that the Federation is pleased with the work that the society is doing in keeping philately alive in Port Elizabeth. The Federation also asked about the possibility of PEPS hosting a National Philatelic Exhibition. Francois then said that the only way that PEPS would be able to do so is if the Federation accepts a proposed budget from PEPS with no alteration. Barry Green then added that all funds to be received for such an exhibition must be paid up front by the Federation.

Dave Brown proposed that the club buy a complete up to date set of Stanley Gibbons Stamps of the World catalogues. This proposal was not accepted and Louis said that he would put a link to the StampWorld website on the PEPS WhatsApp group along with the Colnect and Collect.com sites suggested by other members.

The annual general meeting closed at 12:15 with there being no further matters to discuss.

President:

Date:

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president's report for term 2024/2025



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT PRESENTED AT THE 114th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY HELD AT
THE BIBLE HOUSE, 31 COTSWOLD AVENUE, COTSWOLD
ON 2 MARCH 2026**

The year 2025 turned out to be another successful year for the society with quite a large number of new members joining the society. However, as is unfortunately a normal occurrence in elderly societies like PEPS, some members also departed the planet on a permanent basis since our previous annual general meeting, namely Ilmar Lätti, David Marston, Peter Joseph and just last week ex-member Ron Cleland. This is and will always be sad.

Our meetings continued in its normal fashion at the Bible Society's Bible House who graciously allows the society use of their premises once a month. Of course the society is some months missing in action from the Bible House when the four-times-a-year pub quizzes take place at the Barn and Barrel pub, an event enjoyed by all members and sponsored by the society. A review of the past year's attendance shows that on average 17 members attended meetings, which remains both high and pleasing.

The society currently has 45 members and based on federation's Chief Operating Officer's report in 2025, PEPS was listed as the third largest affiliated society in the country with 43 members (Bellville was second on 44 members and Witwatersrand remained first with 46 members). Quite close for the top three societies and who knows, maybe with the count for 2026 PEPS may well be slotting into the first position. Definitely not bad for old Port Elizabeth.

Thank you to all our members that exhibited during the year, the amount of time spent in writing up and presentation of the exhibits at the meetings is appreciated. The society was also represented at the national stamp exhibition in Paarl during September 2025. Three of PEPS's members exhibited namely, Vernon Mitchell with his exhibit entitled *Guiding Lights*, Dick Schuurman with *The centenary of the death of Sir Rowland Hill 1879 - 1979: the Caribbean countries commemorated this event*, and Francois Friend with *Succulents*. Both Vernon and Dick received certificates of merit/participation and Francois received a silver award. I will not repeat the diatribe one of our society's members made with regard judging after the event, which off course was "moi".



Also a big thank you to all those members who brought contributions to the monthly meetings that lightens the burden on the editor for our monthly newsletter, especially Ian McArthur, David Brown, Willy Porter and Vernon Mitchell.

I wish to thank all of our committee for your contributions during the year, especially Louis Oosthuizen as secretary and treasurer and Graham Butcher, our exchange superintendent. Hopefully Messrs Oosthuizen and Green will inform us that our finances remains good, notwithstanding the additional expenditures due to our pub quiz held four times a year.

As you are all aware, we completed our year of 2025 with the traditional President's night sponsored by Stamp's Friend and held at the Barn and Barrel in Walmer Heights where everybody once again had a great time. Just like the previous years the "old timers" kept their space occupied until late in the evening, to great astonishment of the waiters (or maybe their faces reflected a resigned look due to tiredness).

Ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion I wish all members of the society a great 2026 with many happy philatelic experiences. Keep well, safe and sound.



.....
Francois Friend

PRESIDENT: PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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minutes of monthly meeting

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY, HELD ON MONDAY 2 MARCH 2026 AT THE BIBLE HOUSE, 31 COTSWOLD AVENUE, PORT ELIZABETH COMMENCING AT 12:30

PRESENT: Francois Friend (in the Chair)

MEMBERS: 21 **APOLOGIES:** 0 **VISITORS:** 0

The monthly meeting started at the conclusion of the annual general meeting and proceeded with the scheduled events.

(1) ITEMS OF INTEREST, BRINGALONGS AND NEW ACQUISITIONS

Ian McArthur enlightened the meeting on the founder of the Japanese postal system and Japanese stamps in general, Baron Maejima Hisoko (24 January 1835 - 27 April 1919). Born Ueno Fusagoro in the village of Shimoikebe, Echigo Province, he was a Japanese statesman, politician and businessman in the Meiji-period. In 1866 he was adopted into the Maejima family and sent to Edo to study rangaku [...meaning "Dutch Learning", refers to a body of knowledge acquired by Japan through contacts with the Dutch enclave of Dejima in Nagasaki during the Edo period (1641 - 1853), Ed.], medical science and English. In the Bakumatsu period he was considered a radical reformer and proponent of westernisation.



Baron Maejima Hisoko.

He was sent to Great Britain in 1870 to study the workings of the General Post Office. Upon his return to Japan in 1871, his proposals for the creation of a similar postal system in Japan were quickly approved. The Japanese post office began operation in April 1871 with a daily service linking Tokyo with Osaka, with 65 post offices in between. Maejima personally coined the Japanese word for postage stamp (kitte). To make the system self-supporting and to extend the modern economic system into the countryside, Maejima also created a system of postal savings banks in 1874. This system expanded to include money orders in 1875.

In 1874 Maejima hired a foreign advisor, Samuel M Bryan, to negotiate a postal treaty with the United States and to assist in the admission of Japan into the Universal Postal System in 1877. Maejima had many other interests: he started a newspaper in 1872; he helped to establish a school which later became Waseda University; and in 1886 he established the Kansai Railroad Company in Osaka. He helped establish the Rikken Kaishinto political party and was appointed as Vice Minister of Communications from 1888 to 1891, during which time he established the Japan's state-owned telephone service.

By the time Maejima retired in 1881, the Japanese postal system had expanded to 5 099 post offices and was continuing to grow. Ennobled with the title of danshaku (baron) under the kazoku peerage system in 1902, he served as a member of the House of Peers from 1904 - 1910. He has been honoured on several Japanese postage stamps, as shown below.



Baron Maejima Hisoko on Japanese stamp issues.

The early postal system in Japan was characterised by a feudal network of post stations along the main highways, known as Go-kaido, which extended from Edo to various cities. Mail was delivered on foot by couriers called hikyaku, often over treacherous mountain trails. The system evolved to include money remittance services for merchants and traders, forming the foundation for Japan Post's banking functions. The Meiji era saw the establishment of Japan's first modern postal service in 1871, which was modeled after the British postal system, including the Penny Post reforms. This system aimed to make mail accessible and affordable to all citizens, promoting democratic ideals and modernisation. Illustrated below are three of Japan's first stamp issues.



Three of Japan's first stamp issues.

The chrysanthemum emblem was a significant feature on Japanese stamps from 1899 until 1947. The emblem was a stylised circle with 16 petals radiating out from a smaller circle in the center and it was inscribed only in Japanese. The chrysanthemum emblem was also present on the imperial chrysanthemum crest, which was used on stamps issued before 1947. This emblem was a key identifier for collectors and was used to denote the country's identity on stamps, see below.



The chrysanthemum on a Japanese stamp.

Dave Brown brought along his trademark goodies and started with the below Trinidad and Tobago stamp for the 175th anniversary of Angostura Bitters issued on 27 January 2000. Angostura Bitters, created by Dr Johann Siegert in Venezuela in 1824 and later established in Trinidad, became a global staple in cocktails and culinary use. The 175th anniversary stamps highlight its cultural and economic significance to Trinidad and Tobago, where Angostura remains a major brand. Interestingly, Angostura also marked its 200th anniversary in 2024 with a limited-edition bitters release, showing how the company continues to celebrate its legacy with special products and commemorations.



Trinidad and Tobago stamp for Angostura Bitters.

Dave then showed the below Christmas 2025 - the gingerbread choir stamp from Finland issued on 5 November 2025. The Gingerbread Men Choir in Finland is a whimsical, festive motif that has become part of the country's Christmas stamp tradition. Its significance lies in how it blends Finnish cultural artistry with the universal joy of Christmas. The stamps depict cheerful gingerbread cookies singing in a choir, sometimes led by Santa Claus. This imagery symbolises the warmth, togetherness, and playful spirit of Finnish Christmas traditions.



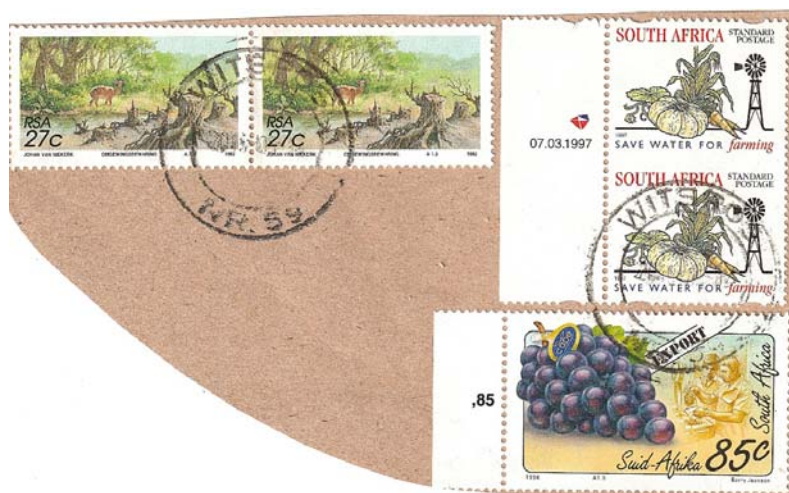
Christmas stamp from Finland.

Next Dave discussed a Brazilian stamp issued on 24 November 1962 for a campaign against leprosy. Between 1954 and 1987 Brazil issued 16 stamps that are noted as postal tax stamps, all featuring the portrait of Padre Bento. Padre Bento (1819 - 1911), whose full name was Bento Dias Pacheco, was a Brazilian Catholic priest from Itu, São Paulo, remembered for his extraordinary compassion and service to marginalised communities. He became renowned for his lifelong service to people suffering from Hansen's disease (leprosy). Brazil issued postage tax stamps in 1955 commemorating Padre Bento, and later stamps in the 1960s highlighting his role in the fight against Hansen's disease. These stamps are now collectible items and part of Brazil's postal heritage. According to Dave the below stamp must be one of the smallest stamps he has seen in a very long while, measuring only 19 mm x 19 mm.



Small Brazilian postal tax stamp.

Dave then told the meeting that while wading through Mr Skinner's latest offering of approvals he came across a pair of stamps from the National Water Conservation campaign issued on 7 March 1997 in South Africa. Dave believed it was an unlisted variety in SACC and gobbled it up with glee - see vertical imperforated pair on piece below. On digging a little deeper Dave found that uncut booklet sheets were sold and, looking at the date in the selvedge, it would seem that this pair came from such a sheet that was used as postage. Looking at the postmark Dave guessed that it was used to mail an SA Philatelist.



Piece with vertical imperforated pair of the South African 1997 National Water Conservation issue.

In his final presentation Dave showed the below King Edward VII definitive from the Orange River Colony that he found in a box of "office waste" he purchased at an auction. Dave was pleasantly surprised to find that there were many, many stamps (including South Africa and South West Africa) with nice clear circular date stamps from around 1900 to the 40s and even 50s. The interest in this particular item for Dave was the actual cancellation date of 31.05.1910, the date that the Union of South Africa came into being.



Orange River Colony stamp used on the date that the Union of South Africa came into being.

Willy Porter brought along some old postcards he found illustrating Jeffreys Bay from a period long gone by, as shown below.



Savoy Hotel.



Beach Hotel.



View of beach from Savoy Hotel.



Cattle grazing in front of Savoy Hotel.



General view of Jeffreys Bay.



Jeffreys Bay Beach.

Christian Trump treated the society to a two-frame exhibit of the flower definitive issue of Germany (see next page). This definitive issue was in use from 2005 until 2019 and all values were issued in sheets of ten. In 2017 a new ENA (European Article Number) code was introduced and printed on the left and right side of the sheets. An interesting addition to the definitive issue was a rose stamp that, when rubbed, gave off a rose smell. A truly beautiful definitive issue and it is quite clear why it made such an impression on Christian.

Lieb Venter presented a very informative exhibit on the 1s hyphen flaw of the South African 1937 coronation of King George VI issue, as shown on next page. Lieb explained his theory to the members in that the flaw was due to the plate that got worn due to the softness of copper. He furthermore showed the five stages of the development of the flaw and also some other recurring varieties and their positions on the sheet.

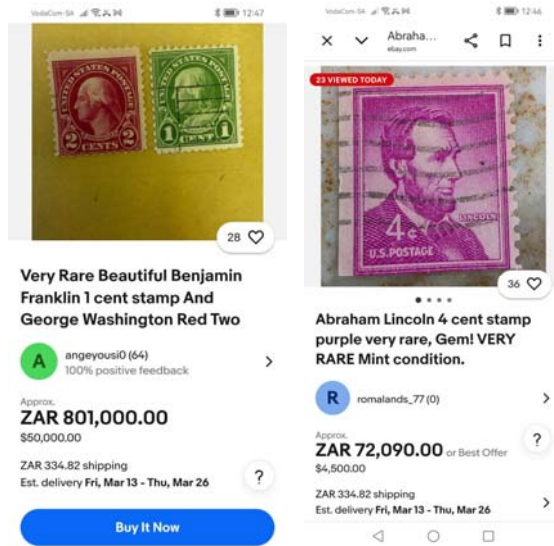
The final contribution of the day came from Francois that showed a printout of United States stamp prices on the internet that he received from a prospective seller, illustrated further below. It took him a while to convince the poor seller that the similar stamps he had are actually of very little value. Francois said that he is becoming convinced that some people may be using stamps to "wash" money.



Exhibit showing beautiful German flowers definitive issue from 2005 - 2019.



Exhibit of the 1937 coronation of King George VI issue's 1s hyphen flaw.



Farcical stamp prices on the internet.

(2) GENERAL

Francois confirmed with Graham that the annual amount to be paid to the Bible Society for the use of their premises was R 2 500,00 and that Louis would pay this in due course

Francois mentioned that this year's national stamp exhibition, to be held at the Johannesburg Country Club in Johannesburg, will take place on 9 - 12 September 2026. He will thus be travelling on Monday 7 September, the date on which the society's September meeting is scheduled to take place and enquired from members present whether it would be fine if the September meeting is rescheduled for the preceding Tuesday, 1 September 2026. The members concurred with the suggested change of date and Louis will confirm with the Bible Society that the use of the venue will be in order for the new date.

An auction of items donated by club members was held and brought in an amount of R 630 for the club.

The next meeting will be held on 13 April 2026 at the Barn and Barrel's Paddock for the society's next pub quiz with Dave Brown setting the 20 questions. Members are invited to also bring along some items of interest and new acquisitions. We will commence with our meeting followed by the quiz and lunch, which will be paid by PEPS.

The meeting closed at 13:35 with there being no further matters to discuss.

PRESIDENT:

DATED:



.....Bikini Lisa 2

editor's titbits

Well folks that is that for our March edition of the newsletter. Should you come across useful philatelic articles, auction results, news items, etc - please forward to us for possible inclusion in future newsletters. Also, any letter to the editor is welcomed. **Bye**



stamps and
other collectables

a cover from yonks



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Lighthouse Comfort 32 pages	R 970
Lighthouse Premium 64 pages + slipcase ..	R 1 100
Lindner 64 pages	R 1 080

Mounting strips

Hawid, Prinz, Lighthouse pre-cut strips	from R 20
Lighthouse SF (per 5 strips)	
217 mm x 21,5 mm or 27,5 mm	R 30
217 mm x 33 mm or 36 mm	R 40
217 mm x 40 mm or 45 mm	R 50
217 mm x 55 mm or 66 mm	R 60
217 mm x 72 mm or 84 mm or 92 mm	R 70
217 mm x 148 mm or 164 mm	R 110

Tweezers and exhibition sleeves

Tweezers (12 cm/15 cm)	R 200/350
Exhibition sleeves (packet of 5)	R 160

Magnifying glasses

Straight shank 60 mm	R 30
Folding 30 x 21 mm	R 70
Illuminated 40 x 25 mm	R 140
Lighthouse frameless LED	R 550

Other

Prinz stockcards - box of 100	R 650
Vario pages	
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 strips/packet of 5	R 180

Stamp and first day cover albums

Various new and second hand stockbooks and cover albums in good condition. R 100+

Stock

British Commonwealth/cinderella's
South Africa/Homelands/SWA/Namibia

we buy stamps and collectables

we do want lists

Nov 2025

remember to visit our website at www.stampsfriend.com

Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth (1840 - 1970) catalogues available

2014 = R 300 2015 = R 400 2016 = R 500 2017 = R 600

2018 = R 700 2022 = R 1 100 2023 = R 1 400 2024 = R 1 700

