

WITWATERSRAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Country Club Johannesburg, Auckland Park

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

NEWSLETTER No. 385: MARCH 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONTH

Dear Members:

This, the March 2026 Newsletter No. 385, 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 1).
- 3) A summary of the proceedings at the Annual General Meeting at Auckland Park on 11th March 2026 held at 16h00 (Clause 3: Pages 2 to 6).
- 4) The in-person and digital via Zoom Stamp Study meeting at Woodmead on 25th March 2026 held at 19h00 (Clause 4: Pages 7 to 10).

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	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	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. THE 56TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT AUCKLAND PARK ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH MARCH 2026, AT 16H00.

A few pertinent points from the AGM are summarised below:

Twenty-two persons attended the meeting. Seventeen paid-up members of the Society attended the meeting and there were six proxies.

Four members of the Country Club Johannesburg Management team attended the meeting, including the General Manager of the Club.

The full minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting and the President's Report are attached to the email circulating this Newsletter by Nikki-Espley-Jones

Before proceeding with the business of the meeting, the President reported sadly on the deaths of members of the Society, or their close relatives since the last AGM in 2025.

- Johannes Schalkwyk died on 27/02/2025 - brother of Marleen Schalkwyk
- Rose Marie Crocker died on 29/03/2025 – widow of David Crocker
- Wolfgang Meiss died on 05/04/2025
- Robin Messenger died on 10/10/2025
- Duncan Macduff died on 20/11/2025 – son of Alastair and June Macduff
- Peter van der Molen died on 31/01/2026 – Honorary life president of Federation
- Rober Wenger died on 10/02/2026

All present rose for a few moments of silence out of respect for the deceased persons

The President's Report for 2025 was read by Herbie Schaffler and the financial report for 2025 was given by Derek Roth, the Honorary Treasurer of the Society.

At the 2025 AGM it was decided to delay voting on the call to change a Clause in the Constitution to the effect that in the event of a dissolution or liquidation of the Society, the funds of the Society would be transferred to the Country Club Johannesburg, and should members wish to re-establish the Society the funds would be made available. Should no members wish to re-establish the Society after a period, the funds would be considered a donation to the Country Club Johannesburg.

It was voted that the clause shall remain as it is.

The election of the Officers and Committee Members for the year 2026 was carried out and the Accounting Officer elected.

The presentation of Trophies and Certificates of Merit for philatelic material exhibited in 2025 took place.

The General Manager of the Country Club Johannesburg said a few words and gifts of chocolates were given to the ladies by Herbie Schaffler.

For more information read the Minutes of the 2026 Annual General Meeting.

A presentation was given by Dr. Jim Findlay o the 1914 Rebellion

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

Exhibit for the evening

Dr. Jim Findlay showed “The 1914 rebellion”.

The rebellion stemmed from lingering resentments after the Second Anglo-Boer War (1899–1902), in which Britain defeated the Boer republics. Many Afrikaners harbored deep anti-British feelings and viewed Germany's entry into the war as an opportunity for potential alliance or revenge. When Britain declared war on Germany in August 1914, South Africa—as a British dominion—was automatically involved. Prime Minister Louis Botha (a former Boer general) and his deputy Jan Smuts committed the Union to supporting the British Empire, including plans to invade German Southwest Africa (now Namibia) to neutralize German radio stations and secure the territory. This decision deeply divided the white Afrikaner community. Moderate leaders like Botha favoured reconciliation and loyalty to the new Union, but hardline nationalists, influenced by rising Afrikaner nationalism under J.B.M. Hertzog, opposed fighting alongside Britain. Key figures included Lieutenant-Colonel Manie Maritz, Generals Christiaan de Wet and C.F. Beyers, and Major Jan Kemp. They saw the invasion as betrayal and hoped to restore the independent Boer republics or at least maintain neutrality. Economic hardships among rural Afrikaners, including drought and poverty, further fuelled discontent.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO THE 1914 REBELLION

THE ANGLO-BOER WAR 1899-1902

- **BOER GENERALS – GOOD TO OUTSTANDING PERSONALITIES**
- **THE BOERS HAD LITTLE MILITARY TRAINING BUT WERE EXCELLENT IN THE FIELD**
- ★ **THE BOER TACTIC OF SIEGES WAS WRONG
– ALLOWED BRITISH TIME TO BUILD UP LARGE FORCES**

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO THE 1914 REBELLION

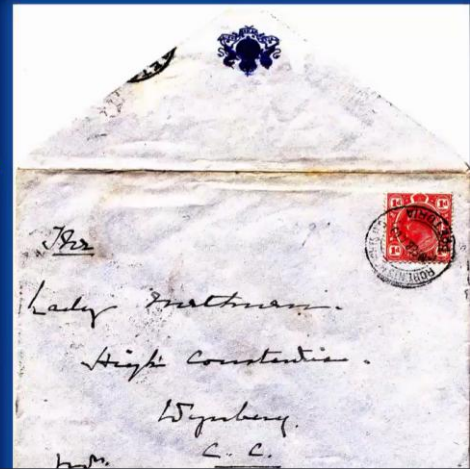
THE ANGLO-BOER WAR 1899-1902

47 000 BOERS AGAINST 1 MILLION BRITISH

- BRITISH TACTICS**
- CONCENTRATION CAMPS
 - DESTRUCTION OF FARMS
 - DESTRUCTION OF RURAL COMMUNITIES

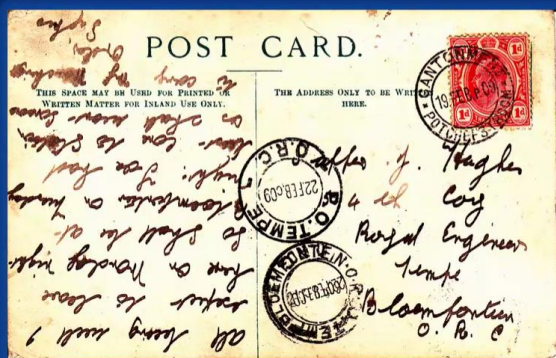
LT. GEN. LORD PAUL SANFORD METHUEN, GCB, GCVO, CMG.
General Officer Commanding-in-Chief South Africa.

A letter from Lt. Gen. Methuen to his wife, Lady Mary Methuen, posted at Roberts Heights to High Constantia, Cape Town. 20 February 1909.

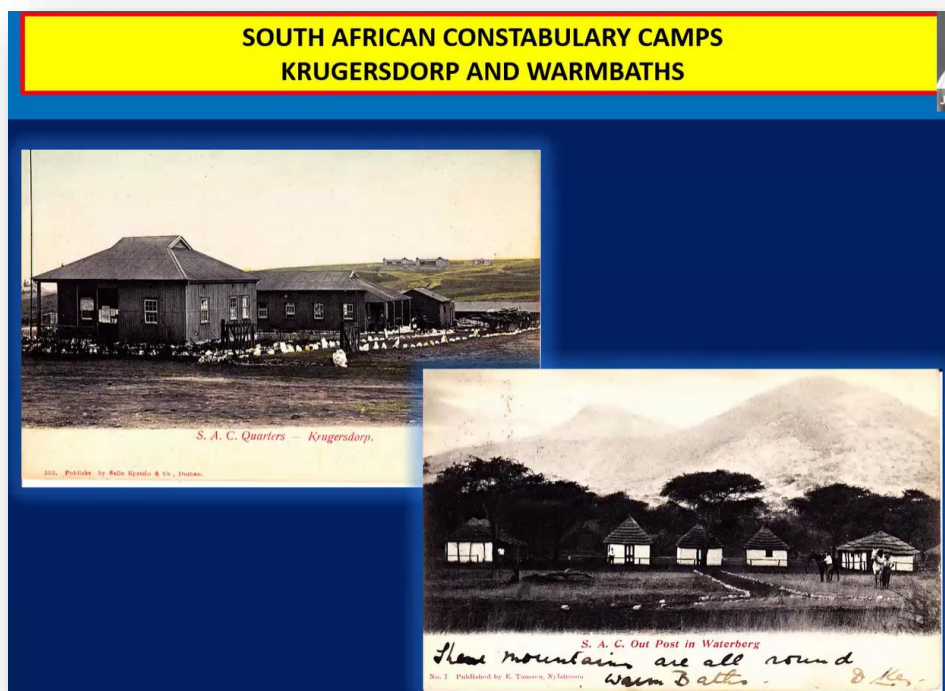


POTCHEFSTROOM CANTONMENTS TO THE ROYAL ENGINEERS AT TEMPE CAMP, BLOEMFONTEIN.

ROYAL ENGINEERS AT TEMPE, 1909.



The uprising began in earnest in October 1914 when Maritz, commanding forces near Upington in the Northern Cape, mutinied, resigned his commission, and crossed into German territory with about 500 men, declaring support for Germany. This sparked sympathetic revolts in the Orange Free State and Transvaal. Rebel commandos formed, with de Wet active in the Free State and Beyers in the Transvaal. At its peak, around 11,000–12,000 Afrikaners joined the rebellion. The South African government responded decisively by declaring martial law and mobilizing the Union Defence Force—ironically commanded largely by former Boer officers loyal to Botha. Government forces, numbering around 30,000, used a combination of rapid manoeuvres, amnesty offers to ordinary rebels, and direct engagements to suppress the uprising. Notable incidents included skirmishes in the Free State and a rebel defeat at Upington in January 1915. Beyers drowned while fleeing across the Vaal River, and Jopie Fourie was later executed for treason after refusing to resign his commission. Maritz and Kemp initially linked up with German forces but were ultimately forced to surrender or flee.



MOVEMENT CONTROL OF CIVILIANS

Travel Permits: Movement within or to enter the Transvaal.

The following REVISED REGULATIONS in regard to PERMITS for Civilians travelling in South Africa are published for the convenience of the Public:

CIVILIAN PERMITS.

A. MOVEMENTS WITHIN THE TRANSCVAAL.

From	Application must be made to
1.—JOHANNESBURG.	COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, Johannesburg.
2.—PRETORIA.	DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, PRETORIA.
3.—OTHER DISTRICTS.	RESIDENT or ASSISTANT RESIDENT MAGISTRATE of the District, or, if none, the C.O.C. of the District.

B. MOVEMENTS TO ENTER THE TRANSCVAAL.

From	Application must be made to
1.—ORANGE RIVER COLONY.	SECRETARY FOR PRIZES, Bloemfontein.
2.—CAPE PROVINCE, NATAL, BURGERSLAND PORT.	
(a.) To Johannesburg.	SECRETARY FOR PRIZES, Johannesburg.
(b.) To Pretoria.	DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, Pretoria.
(c.) To Outlying Districts.	RESIDENT or ASSISTANT RESIDENT MAGISTRATE of the District, or, if none, the C.O.C. of the District.
3.—LIMPOPO PROVINCE.	BAYON COMTE-GABRIEL, Limpopo Marquis.

N.B.—In every case application must be made on the Printed Form provided for that purpose and obtainable from all Colonial Commissioners or Magistrates.

C.—Movements to Enter the Cape Colony, Natal, Rhodesia and Bechuanaland Protectorate.

From	Application must be made to
(A) THE TRANSCVAAL	
1.—Johannesburg.	COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, Johannesburg.
2.—Pretoria.	DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, Pretoria.
3.—Outlying Districts.	RESIDENT or ASSISTANT RESIDENT MAGISTRATE of District, or, if none, the C.O.C. of the District.
(B) THE ORANGE RIVER COLONY.	
1.—Bloemfontein.	SECRETARY FOR PRIZES, Bloemfontein.
2.—All other places.	RESIDENT or ASSISTANT RESIDENT MAGISTRATE of District, or, if none, the C.O.C. of the District.

D.—Irregulars, Conductors, and other Civil Employees of the Army, who are entitled to their discharge from Military Service, and wish for Residential Passes, must apply as under:—

For Johannesburg.	COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, Johannesburg.
For Pretoria.	DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, Pretoria.
Other Districts.	RESIDENT or ASSISTANT RESIDENT MAGISTRATE, or, if none, the C.O.C. of the District.

In every case the application must be supported by the recommendation of the Officer carrying out their discharge, vide A.O. 9 of 27/1912.

E.—Foreign Subjects must apply in all cases through their Consuls, who are requested to apply as above.

F.—Former Burglers of the two occupied Territories must apply:—

1.—If they have taken the Oath of Allegiance, to authorities above described in A, B and C.

2.—If they have not taken the Oath of Allegiance, to Provost-Marshal, Army Headquarters.

G.—Movements among inmates of Burger Camps.

TRANSVAAL.—Application must be made through the Superintendent to the DIRECTOR of BURGERSLAND PORTLAND.

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.—To His Excellency the DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, BLOEMFONTEIN.

Civil Permit Office, Johannesburg, April 1914.

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

The chairperson for the Stamp Study meeting in the Captain's Table at Woodmead on 25th March 2026 was *Adél Bulpitt*, who brought a Black Forest dessert, a variety of chocolates, assortment of nuts and crisps.

There were five in-person members in the room, including *Adél Bulpitt*, *Danna Strydom*, *Jim Findlay*, *Ian Matheson* and *Herbie Schaffler*. Via Zoom there were nine viewers, including member *Derek Roth* and various visitors from the UK.

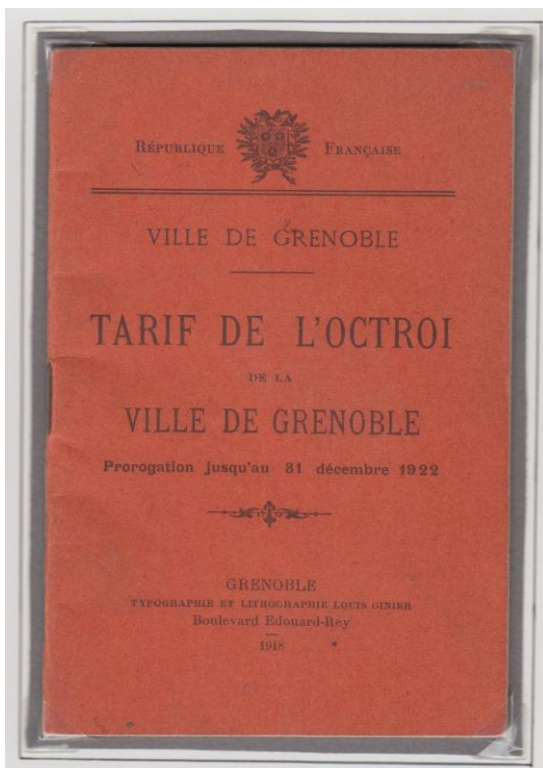
Adél Bulpitt provided her laptop to run the digital Zoom and the Country Club IT technician set up the camera, cables and remote control.

First to show was *Ian Matheson*:

This presentation was titled: "Octroi: A Fiscal Tale of Stamps, Postcards and other Ephemera".

The octroi taxes were levies charged by towns on goods brought into the town for sale, primarily food products or building products. The revenue was a significant part of the money that was used to pay for services within the town before the advent of municipal rates and taxes.

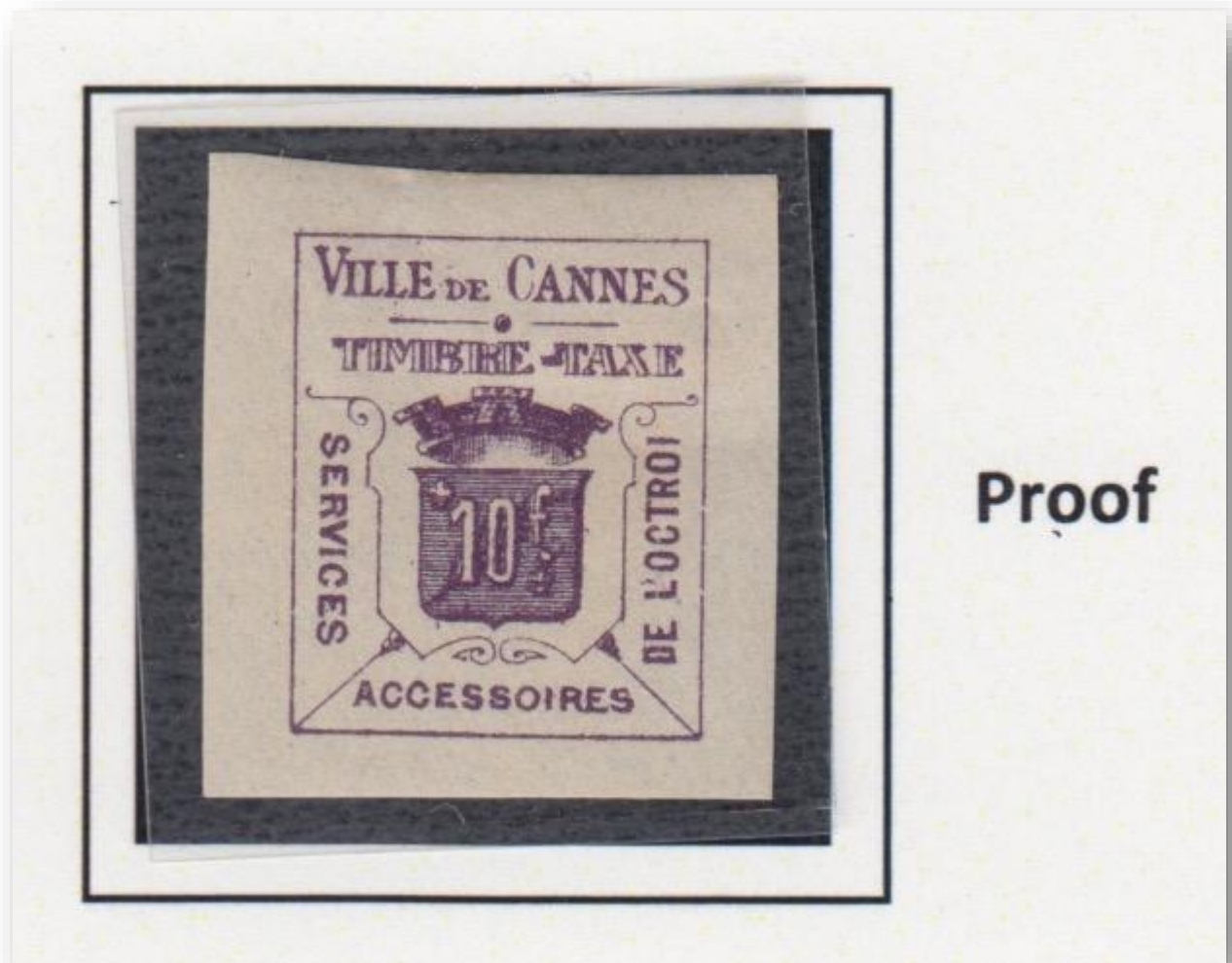
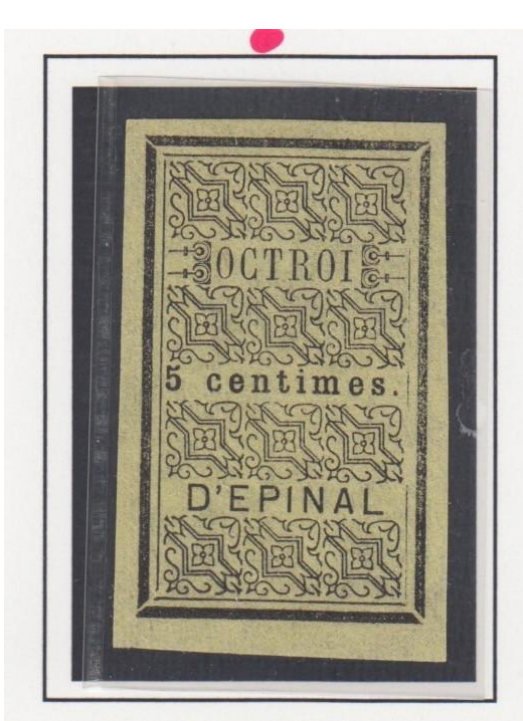
The display opened with several 19th century etchings from early periodicals showing aspects of the octroi system. This was followed by posters and pamphlets produced by towns in France to provide details of the rates of tax in that town. The next section was dedicated to postcards and etchings showing octroi offices outside France. Examples were shown from Timbuktu (French Sudan), Quetta (Balochistan), Hanoi (Vietnam), Diego Suarez (Madagascar) and many others. Diego Suarez also issued octroi stamps in 1885.



A selection of postcards featuring octroi offices in France followed. Two interesting sections were the octroi office postcards of 1910 showing the floods in Paris and surrounds, and the war scenes from the World Wars, all of which necessitated closure of the offices for a time.



France issued stamps for payment of octroi fees for sale of carbonated beverages in Epinal and Bruyeres. Mint and used stamps and varieties were shown. Cannes also issued octroi stamps; the display included unrecorded varieties. Affiches stamps from Cognac and Vitry-sur-Seine were sometimes used in the octroi offices and can be recognised by the postmarks. Examples of each were included along with postcards showing the respective octroi offices.



Proof

The use of adhesive stamps gave way to the use of tickets for denoting payment. An extensive selection was featured.

Evidently, avoiding the taxes was a common joke in France and many examples of illustrations showing such comic scenes were featured. Images of octroi offices also featured in advertising material. Examples were shown advertising chocolates and clothing.

The octroi system was discontinued in 1948 after almost 700 years.



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

The chairman for the next Woodmead meeting on 29th April 2026 will be *Ian Matheson*

General:

- 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.



Best regards and stay safe.

TEMPORARY SCRIBE – ADÉL BULPITT