



MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Established 1924

Affiliated to the Philatelic Federation of South Africa

NEWSLETTER

Issue No.44 Volume 4

MAY 2026

Editor: Aubrey Bowles

THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY

We roamed the fields and river sides,
 When we are young and gay;
 We chased the bees and plucked the flowers,
 In the merry, merry month of May.
 Oh, yes, with ever changing sports,
 We whiled the hours away;
 The skies were bright,
 Our hearts were light,
 In the merry, merry month of May.



Nelson Eddy (1901–1967) was a world-famous American baritone and actor who became one of Hollywood's biggest stars during the 1930s and '40s. He is most iconic for his screen partnership with soprano **Jeanette MacDonald**; together, they starred in eight MGM musical operettas and were affectionately known as "America's Sweethearts".

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, Roger Porter will not be available to do his Boer War presentation at our meeting in May. John Handman will present **The Bambatho Rebellion on Post-cards** instead and we look forward to this presentation.

EVENTS IN MAY

Key worldwide events occurring this month include Labour Day on 01 May (which is also a public holiday) and Africa Day on 25 May. There are also numerous other "theme days" including World Bee Day which is celebrated on the 20th of May.



United Nations, New York
 World Bee Day miniature sheet

On May 13, 1981 - Pope John Paul II was shot twice at close range while riding in an open automobile in St. Peter's Square in Rome. Two other persons were also wounded. An escaped terrorist, already under sentence of death for the murder of a Turkish journalist, was immediately arrested and was later convicted of attempted murder. The Pope recovered and later held a private meeting with the would-be assassin and then publicly forgave him.



Postcard commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the attempted assassination

ANYTHING GOES

You can find any subject ranging from A-Z on a postage stamp; post-card or commemorative cover; you only have to look and you will find it! For this reason, we are very pleased that, at the last meeting, the majority of members present voted to scrap the Alphabet Show in favour of "anything goes"

This removes the restraints imposed by the Alphabet Show and members can draw on anything in their collection to show a from one to five-page exhibit of their choice! Voting for the "mug of the month" remains unchanged and the winner will be decided from a majority vote by the members

Please "rise to the occasion" and bring an interesting exhibit to the June meeting
Incidentally, "Show and Tell" remains and you are most welcome to bring an item along for discussion at the meeting

SATURDAY
16 MAY 2026 @ 09H00
MONTHLY MEETING

PLUS

ANYTHING GOES
and
SHOW & TELL

THE BAMBATHO REBELLION
A historic story told on post-cards by John Handman

There is more to May than one thought with some interesting historical events commemorated on postal items



Golda Meir (previously Meyerson nee Mabovitch) was born on 03 May 1898 and died on 08 December 1978 was the prime minister of Israel from 1969 to 1974. She was Israel's first and, to date, only female head of government. A controversial figure in Israel, Meir has been lionized as a founder of the state and described as the "Iron Lady" of Israeli politics,

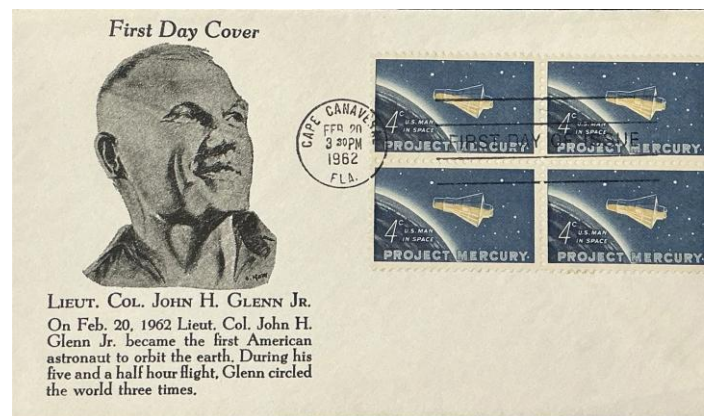
1981 Memorial Issue: A lilac-coloured portrait stamp was issued on 10 February 1981 to commemorate Meir (1898–1978). The stamp features a younger portrait of her.

THE SPACE ADVENTURES

With the recent "around the moon" space adventure still fresh in our minds, it is worth noting some of the past achievements made by the Americans in the "race for the moon"



Vital steps in the U.S. race to the Moon, the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo projects formed a series of missions that quickly built-up U.S. spaceflight technology. Project Mercury astronaut Alan Shepard was the first American to go into space, on a suborbital flight. Fellow Mercury astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth. Project Gemini, named for the twins of Greek mythology, used two-man astronaut crews. Its achievements included the first U.S. spacewalks.



The inscription on the first day cover reads: "Lieut. Co. John H. Glenn jnr On Feb 20, 1962 Lieut. Col. John H Glenn jnr. Became the first American astronaut to orbit the earth. During his five-and-a-half-hour flight, Glenn circled the world three times." Who will have the first settlement on the Moon - America; Russia or China? The race continues!

STAMPS WANTED

At the last meeting, Dick Schuurman presented "The Two Charlies from Oz" which he wants to expand into "The Three Charlies" and he is looking for as many stamps possible covering the American aviation pioneer, Charles Lindbergh



On 20 May 1927, Charles Lindbergh, a 25-year-old aviator, took off at 7:52 a.m. from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, in the *Spirit of St. Louis* attempting to win a \$25,000 prize for the first solo nonstop flight between New York City and Paris. Thirty-three hours later, after a 3,600-mile journey, he landed at Le Bourget, Paris, earning the nickname "Lucky Lindy" and becoming an instant worldwide hero.

If you can help Dick, please let him know:

E-Mail: Stoneshill@hotmail.com

Cell: 083 438 1029

Aubrey Bowles is also in search of a much-needed stamp to complete his Generation Extinction Rhino exhibit as shown below



The stamp is the 1975 Angola Independence issue. If you have it, please let Aubrey know

E-Mail: aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com

Cell: 082 316 3308

Readers are welcome to submit requests for stamps in this newsletter. Just let us know what you are looking for!

NEW ISSUES



The creator of Exploring Stamps, Graham Beck, will film notable exhibits, dealer interactions and conversations with experts and collectors who are invited to visit the studio and share items from their collections on camera.

"This is an exciting opportunity to bring the energy of a world-class stamp show to a global audience," Beck said. "Boston 2026 will be filled with incredible material and I am looking material, and I'm looking forward to capturing those moments and sharing them with collectors everywhere."



the image shown is for demonstration purposes only. It is not intended to be an example of the final design.

Sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service, the **Boston 2026 World Expo** brings the **world of stamps** to **Boston** for eight days as part of the America's 250th anniversary and features **world-class** exhibits

South Africa will be staging a National Stamp Exhibition at the Country Club Johannesburg during September 2026 as well as a Regional Exhibition at the Voortrekker Monument

SEEN AT THE MEETING

All photographs taken at the meeting are by courtesy of Russell Bowton

More than 25 members attended the meeting in April which attracted eight exhibits and a presentation on Boer War POW Camps in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) by Roger Porter

We also welcomed two new members namely Doug Bell and Christine Prodgor. We hope that they will enjoy many happy years with the MPS



Roger Porter (above) is a very enthusiastic presenter and certainly knows his stuff! We always enjoy his interesting talks and look forward to a rescheduled Boer War presentation even though we thoroughly enjoyed learning about censored correspondence to and from POWs in prison camps in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka)



The main subject for our meeting concerned Easter and Religion so Aubrey showed two examples of stained-glass church windows on New Zealand stamps along with covering cards. New Zealand produces beautiful stamps many of which feature religion or health. If anybody ever wants to collect "stained glass windows" then New Zealand is the place to beain!

Pat Izaaks showed a complete issue of Easter Stamps (known as Cinderella stamps or Labels) up to 1973. He also showed the Ten Commandments on Lesotho Stamps



Another of our enthusiastic presenters is Dick Schuurman who displayed "The Two Charlies from Oz" covering the early Australian aviators who, along with Charles Lindbergh, made aviation history



Tony Koch showed a marvellous collection about Matjiesfontein which evoked many fond memories as quite a few members present had actually also stayed at this historic venue. Chloe Bowles, aged 7, actually changed the railway line for an approaching train under the strict guidance of the Station Master!



The historic Lord Milner Hotel – a wonderful place for a visit or stop-over end route to Cape Town

Val de Jager also showed an Easter Theme by displaying the Stations of the Cross on Easter Stamps issued by Bophuthatswana
 There is a magnificent collection about the Lord's Passion as told on stamps issued by that former Homeland country.



Val de Jager showing her Bophuthatswana collection



Aurey also presented a story about the Leipzig Trade Fair which has one of the most extensive philatelic histories in Germany, particularly noted for being the longest-running stamp series of the **German Democratic Republic (DDR)**. Between 1955 and German reunification in 1990, the DDR issued stamps for both the Spring and Autumn fairs every single year.

Roger Porter actually attended a course in Leipzig and he recounted several fond memories of his stay in East Germany



Kim Breytenbach discussing a post-card from Jersey

When it came to "Show & Tell", Kim Breytenbach, who also runs Sunbird Stamp Auctions showed two items and asked for assistance from the audience. One of the items was a postcard from the Channel Island of Jersey that had been posted from Jersey using stamps from Gt Britain. This appears to have been permissible because Jersey forms pre 1969 because Jersey was part of the British Postal System and used GB stamps. Since 01 October 1969, Jersey has had its own independent postal administration and issues its own unique postage stamps



A set of stamps issued by Germany to commemorate the 1931 polar flight over the North Pole in the LZ-27 airship

Kim also showed an interesting airmail letter showing the route taken by an airship purported to have flown over both Poles. The letter was issued in Italy as it clearly shows Roma (Rome) as one of the centres. Roger Porter said that the item was of great interest but definitely required further research because it could be quite valuable



Aubrey Bowles presenting the "Mug of the Month" to a deserved winner!

Dick Schuurman won the Mug of the Month for his excellent presentation and the wonderful story about the "Two Charlies from Oz" which he hopes to expand to "Three Charlies" by including Charles Lindbergh in the story

TWO CHARLIES FROM OZ

By
Dick Schuurman

The two personalities, both aviators, were Charles Kingsford-Smith (known as "Smithy") and Charles Thomas Philippe Ulm. The two were very similar in character and complemented one another. Both had a great sense of adventure – "Smithy" was probably the better pilot whereas Ulm was very good at organising and fund-raising.



Left: Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith in 1932
Born in Brisbane on 09 February 1897
Lost at sea December 1935
He fought in WW 1
1927 – First round Australia flight in a Bristol Tourer
1928 – First Trans-Pacific Flight in a Fokker F V11B/3m
1928 – First non-stop flight across Australia
1928 – First non-stop flight to New Zealand

Most of the flights were made in the "Southern Cross" with Ulm as his co-pilot. Smithy was honoured in 1931 with a set of three stamps commemorating his world flights. A 6d stamp of the same design was issued later that same year but inscribed "Air Mail Service"



The image shows all four of the stamps that were issued Kingsford-Smith was knighted for his achievements and the "Southern Cross" is on permanent display at Brisbane Airport. The main airport at Sydney is named after him as well as a street and a school in Brisbane. In 1978 the Australian Post Office issued a set of four stamps commemorating early Australian aviators which included Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith, Charles Ulm and the "Southern Cross"



1978 imperforate mini sheet with Kingsford-Smith, Ulm, World Map and the Southern Cross



Left: Charles Ulm
Born in Melbourne on 18 October 1898
Lost at sea November 1935
He fought in WW 1
Flew with Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith and founded Australian National Airways with him
Acquired "Faith of Australia" and flew first official Trans-Tasman Air Mail in 1934
In 1934 formed Great Pacific Airways with the intention of a Sydney to San Francisco service

The 50th Anniversary of the first Trans-Tasman Air Mail was commemorated in 1984



Qantas's re-enactment of the flight on First Day Cover issued in 1978
THE ABOVE ARTICLE HAS BEEN ABRIDGED BUT RETAINS THE WONDERFUL STORY