

PS of J Newsletter

MAY 2026



Welcome to our May newsletter.

Our last meeting

On 15th April, 8 members attended our meeting with the theme **Anything relating in any way to the letters X, Y & Z**. Apologies were received from 8 members unable to attend.

Only 8 at our April meeting. This is the lowest attendance since COVID. Hopefully May will see us back at the average of just under 15 as we had last year.

Clive said he holding all 200 circuit books at his home. Arrangements to visit and go through the books must be made with him.

Some books have not been circulated for some time, so there may well be many items of interest to members who joined the society recently, or to those who didn't participate in the circuit.

We will use the sellers' asking prices as a guide for pricing to members. Payment for purchases is to be made to the society's bank account by EFT.

The society has been asked to contribute toward the costs of publishing the revised **Stamps of the Union of South Africa Handbook (UHB)**. This was put to the meeting.

There was a fair amount of discussion, concluding that the UHB was an important reference source deserving a contribute from our society towards the costs to publish it.

It was further agreed, as a senior society and being able to afford it, we should contribute R 5 000.00. Since the meeting the committee unanimously agreed to make the contribution from our development fund. Our contribution was made by EFT on 28 April.

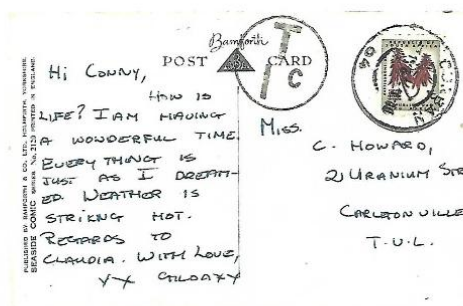
Items of interest

Charles Kuhn had a full sheet of Zimbabwe 2000 1c stamps. He explained how by end 2008 hyperinflation had made the value of the whole sheet completely worthless for postage.

Howard Green had a sheet of labels from the International Stamp Exhibition Johannesburg 100.



Ted Roberts for the April meeting theme of X, Y & Z, he showed this postcard which at its time would have been X-rated.



The postage rate for a postcard sent within South Africa was 1½c from 14 February 1961 to 1 April 1971. (An unsealed envelope as, for example, enclosing a Christmas card, cost 1c.) This card was underpaid ½c and therefore taxed 1c, twice the deficiency.

Exhibits

Howard Green showed 2 pages of forgeries of the Sudan first provisional issue and a page of interpostal seals. He also had a one-page exhibit of a Sudan campaign postcard.

SUDAN

First Provisional Issue

Forgeries:

Cancellation dates far outside the period of issue and use.



Overprints crudely executed, too large or too small, poorly struck or aligned.



Interpostal seals are round labels used by the Egyptian Post Office for various purposes in the nineteenth century. Also known as interpostals, their principal use seems to have been to seal large envelopes containing packets of letters sent by one post office to another.

Egyptian stamps used in the Sudan

Prior to the re-conquest era of 1897, Egyptian stamps were used in the Sudan from 1867 when the first Egyptian post office opened. The relative scarcity of their use in the Sudan varies both with the period and time and the Office. In general all examples before 1880 are scarce to very rare. Suakin is the commonest of the offices, followed by Khartoum before 1884 and Wadi Halfa after that date. Suakin and Wadi Halfa were the only two offices not overrun by the Mahdi and so continued to operate throughout the forerunner period when all other offices were closed.

7 February 1878

Poste Egiziane KASSALA

1 piastre red of 1874 - 75 issue



16 ? 1879

Poste Khedevie Egiziane SUAKIM

1 piastre rose of 1879 issue



? January 1886

WADI HALFA

20 para postage due of 1884 watermarked issue.



? January 1890

SOUAKIN

5 mills rose-carmine of 1888 issue.



Interpostals



Sudan Campaign-Postcard from Egypt to Pakistan

1885 (July 31) Egypt 20m Postal Stationary Card addressed to Shikarpur, India (should be Pakistan) and redirected to Baraila. Card from Lionel Charles Dunsterville of Royal Sussex Regiment, cancelled Cairo and with Sea/Post Office date stamp (6 August) and Shikarpur arrival date stamp (21 August). Interesting message on card – "Leave here for Suakim (Sudan) tomorrow at 7am. 250 men and 3 Officers are going and by good luck I have command of a company".



The 1885 1st Mahdist war was just finished and by 30 July the Dervishes were in control of all Sudan except for the Red Sea fortresses. This item is from the start of the build up to the reconquest of Sudan that commenced in March 1886 under Major-General Sir H. Kitchener.

Ted Roberts had 4 pages of examples of three spellings of the Seychelles Outer Islands, "Zil Eloigne Sesel".

Zil Eloigne Sesel

1980, 4 July:



1981, June:



Zil Elwagne Sesel

1982, 19 Dec:



1983, 25 Feb:



1983, 13 July:



1983, 27 Sept:



Ian Matheson showed 14 pages of elements of “X, “Y” and “Z”.

Xunatunich

Xunatunich is an ancient (700-800AD) Mayan site in British Honduras close to the border with Guatemala. Ian had visited in the 1960s while the site was being opened up by teams of archaeologists. The site has featured on stamps of British Honduras / Belize and they were included in the display.



A set was issued in 1966 to commemorate 100 years of postage stamps. It has since been established that the first stamps came out in December 1865, so the centenary should have been the year before. Stamps, FDC and commercial covers were shown. Xunantunich also featured on the 15c and \$3 (miniature sheet) in a 1983 set featuring Maya sites.



In the 1960s most of the central pyramid was covered in jungle, but it has now been largely cleared and is a popular tourist site. It was found that the sandstone frieze was rather fragile once the vegetation had been cleared, so it has been given a synthetic coating to protect it. Numerous photos of the site

were shown from different stages in the excavation. The nearby post office is San Jose Succotz. A rare cover from the office was presented bearing a hitherto unrecorded postmark.



Ian also showed a few relics from the excavation – tools of flint, sandstone and obsidian. Removal of these common items from the site had been permitted but all jewellery, pots with painting and other important items were not allowed to be removed and were retained as national heritage items to be classified by the archaeologists. Ian and his wife Rosa had visited the site again in 2012 and he showed a couple of recent photos.



Yvetot

Yvetot is a commune in the Seine-Maritime department in the Normandy region of northern France. It is the capital of the Caux region. Yvetot issued revenue stamps for payment of affichage tax to display posters on public walls of the town. Examples were shown.



Zanzibar

It is not uncommon to see airport tax stamps on the covers of air tickets. Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam levied similar taxes on travellers using the ports for sea travel between these destinations. Tickets were presented with \$5 tax stamps of Zanzibar for the Zanzibar – Dar es Salaam trip and a \$5 Tanzania stamp for the trip from Dar es Salaam to Zanzibar.



Terry Lydall showed an A3 one-page exhibit of early Christmas (Xmas) stamps.

Christmas is celebrated in many ways throughout the world so it's no surprise that the philately for the holiday includes thousands of stamps and covers, most

created since the mid-20th century. The Christmas theme is among the world's most popular topical areas to collect.

The first “Christmas-themed” stamp: Canada 1898

Whenever we talk about “firsts,” a lot of contenders line up to make claims, so it's no surprise that there are a lot of firsts when it comes to Christmas stamps. That said, there's little doubt that Canada can claim the first Christmas postage stamp connection, even if the stamp was not intended to specifically celebrate the holiday.

The 1898 2-cent stamp features a collage of Queen Victoria's crown at the top, a Mercator map of the world with the nations and colonies of the British Empire displayed in red, “Xmas 1898” and the phrase, “We hold a vaster empire than has been.”

There are two varieties of what many philatelists consider the world's first Christmas stamp, Canada's Imperial Penny Postage stamp of 1898. It was Canada's first bicolour stamp and has major colour varieties involving the colours of the ocean and land. But why does it say “Xmas 1898?”

The stamp was issued December 7 and its use went into effect December 25, 1898, the inauguration of the Imperial Penny Postage rate (which was 2 cents in Canadian funds).

There is an oft-repeated story that Canadian Postmaster General William Mulock developed the stamp and proposed that it be issued on November 9 to “honour the prince,” meaning the Prince of Wales. But when Queen Victoria asked “what Prince?” in a displeased manner, Mulock realized the danger, and answered “Why, madam, the Prince of Peace.”

Other early Christmas-themed stamps

Romania – in July 1906 issued a set of four stamps depicting an angel, believed by some to be the Angel Gabriel.

Spain – from 1941 - 1945 Barcelona City Council overprinted stamps with “NAVIDAD”.

Hungary – caught in the grip of World War II in 1943, issued three stamps depicting the Nativity.

Austria – in December 1948, issued a stamp commemorating 130 years since the composition of “Silent Night” by Gruber and Mohr, but issued to mark the “Day of the Stamp”.

Spain – in 1949 issued Christmas themed stamps (bell ringing) and 1950 (festivities) to raise funds for the fight against tuberculosis.

The first Official Christmas stamp

As far as is known, the first official “Christmas Postage Stamp” issued by a postal authority was by Austria in 1953.

Acknowledgement: Some of this information is courtesy of a 2018 article by:



American Philatelic Society

A Brief History of Early Christmas Stamps

Christmas is celebrated in many ways throughout the world so it's no surprise that the philately for the holiday includes thousands of stamps and covers, most created since the mid-20th century. The Christmas theme is among the world's most popular topical areas to collect. This exhibit looks at the earliest known examples of Christmas postage stamps.

The first “Christmas-themed” stamp: Canada 1898



Whenever we talk about “firsts,” a lot of contenders line up to make claims so it's no surprise that there are a lot of firsts when it comes to Christmas stamps. That said, there's little doubt that Canada can claim the first Christmas postage stamp connection, even if the stamp was not intended to specifically celebrate the holiday.

The 1898 2-cent stamp features a collage of Queen Victoria's crown at the top, a Mercator map of the world with the nations and colonies of the British Empire displayed in red, “Xmas 1898” and the phrase, “We hold a vaster empire than has been.” There are two varieties of what many philatelists consider the world's first Christmas stamp, Canada's Imperial Penny Postage stamp of 1898. It was Canada's first bicolor stamp and has major colour varieties involving the colours of the ocean and land.

But why does it say “Xmas 1898?” The stamp was issued December 7 and its use went into effect on December 25, 1898, the inauguration of the Imperial Penny Postage rate (which was 2 cents in Canadian funds).

There is an oft-repeated story that Canadian Postmaster General William Mulock developed the stamp and proposed that it be issued on November 9 to “honour the prince,” meaning the Prince of Wales. But when Queen Victoria asked “what Prince?” in a displeased manner, Mulock realized the danger, and answered “Why, madam, the Prince of Peace.”

Other early Christmas-themed stamps

In July 1906 Romania issued a set of four stamps depicting an angel, suggested by some to represent the Angel Gabriel. From 1941-1945 Barcelona City Council issued stamps overprinted with “NAVIDAD” for each of those years.

Hungary – caught in the grip of World War II in 1943, issued three stamps depicting the Nativity.



Austria – in December 1948, issued a stamp commemorating 130 years since the composition of “Silent Night” by Franz Gruber and Josef Mohr, but the stamp was issued to mark the “Day of the Stamp”, not for Christmas.

The first Official Christmas Stamp

As far as is known, the first official “Christmas Postage Stamp” issued by a postal authority was by Austria in 1953.



Acknowledgement
Some of the information included in this exhibit was obtained from a 2018 article published by:
the American Philatelic Society




10

A request to all our distant members

We would like to hear from you in the form of a small one-page or two-page exhibit, or with any interesting news or items. We had an interesting one-page from Keith Klugman based in the U.S.A. earlier and would like to have more. His item was included in our February newsletter.

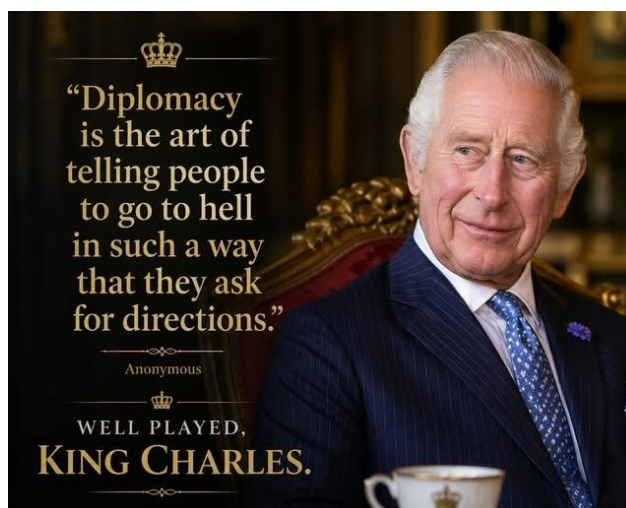
All it takes is a colour scan sent to me to print and share at our next meeting and include in our newsletter. The scan should show the philatelic item/s and the story behind the item/s.

Maybe we will get something from Adel Bulpitt, Colin Sperber and Pieter Coetzee, who are not members, but do receive our newsletters.

Our next meeting

Our next meeting will be at 15:30 for 16:00 on Wednesday 20th May, with the theme: **British Commonwealth**. That is all the countries covered in the red SG British Commonwealth catalogue.

Tailpiece



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
