



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

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Newsletter April 2026

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Librarian	Willy Porter	082 705 5317

Next meeting

4 May 2026 at 11:00

editor's note

Welcome to our newsletter for April with 2026 now in full swing. Weather-wise in the Eastern Cape there are still lovely warm sunny days, although some days are now quite cold (way below 20 deg C) and the days shorter. So it is that time of the year when inhouse activities start to take precedence and of them all, collecting probably the most enjoyable. Those not inclined to the collecting craziness, loads of sport on television with European clay court tennis, Indian Premier League cricket and the conclusion of European football leagues all currently on the go. With all the competition for people's time, we trust you will find time to enjoy the fourth newsletter of the year. Keep well, safe and sound.

from the secretary's desk

Birthdays for May 2026: Dick Schuurman on 8 May, hope you have an enjoyable day Dick.

rolling programme for 2026/2027

month	date	happenings
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.
April	5 Apr 2027	Pub quiz at the Barn and Barrel. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.



minutes of monthly meeting

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY, HELD ON MONDAY 13 APRIL 2025 AT THE BARN & BARREL, PORT ELIZABETH COMMENCING AT 11:00

PRESENT: Francois Friend (in the Chair)

MEMBERS: 17 APOLOGIES: 2 VISITORS: 0

The president welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a special welcome to the Johnstone brothers who attended a meeting for the first time in yonks.

Minutes of the monthly meeting dated 2 March 2026 were tabled for adoption. These were accepted - proposed by Dave Brown and seconded by Morrice Groer.

The meeting then proceeded with the scheduled events.

(1) ITEMS OF INTEREST, BRINGALONGS AND NEW ACQUISITIONS

Dave Brown brought along his normal selection of goodies and started off with the below rugby world cup championship stamp from France issued on 11 September 1999. The stamp is an oval one in a square surround and was the first oval stamp in the world. The 1999 Rugby World Cup was hosted primarily in Wales (with matches also in England, Scotland, Ireland and France) with Australia winning their second title by defeating France 35 - 12 in the final at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium. France had stunned New Zealand in the semi-final, while South Africa claimed third place.



French rugby world cup stamp from 1999.

Next Dave showed the below peace stamps issued by Cyprus and Austria on 19 September 2025. Willy Brandt, former statesman and chancellor of Germany said "Peace is not everything, but without peace, everything is nothing". In today's world peace is essential in order to ensure a sustainable future and strengthen co-operation between nations. With these words, Hämmerle & Vogel GmbH & Co KG (an Austrian embroidery manufacturer) invited all postal services, through the Universal Postal Union (UPU), to participate in a joint commemorative edition with the "Dove of Peace". The Cypriot and Austrian Posts could not be missing from this global effort to promote peace, unity and co-operation among nations and issued these special embroidered stamps depicting a dove carrying an olive branch - one of the most recognisable and timeless symbols of peace worldwide, with deep roots in religious, cultural and political contexts.



Dove of Peace stamps from Cyprus and Austria.

Dave then showed the below Swiss stamp issued on 6 November 2025 made from clothing. For over 20 years, the uniform of Swiss Post branch employees comprised a yellow shirt or blouse coupled with a scarf or tie and grey trousers or a skirt. In 2025 this uniform was given a fresh new look and as homage to the previous uniform, and in tribute to the employees who helped shape it, the discarded fabrics were given new life. The residual materials from the old uniforms were used to create this postage stamp with the anthracite-coloured elements based on the blazer worn with the shirts and blouses.



Swiss clothing stamp.

Dave also brought along the below beautifully embroidered stamp from Luxembourg issued on 6 May 2025 as 2025 marked the 25th anniversary of the Grand Duke Henri's accession to the throne. [... the stamp was issued some months before his abdication in favour of his son Guillaume on 3 October 2025, Ed.]



Embroidered stamp from Luxembourg.

Dave then reminded members at the meeting that last month he showed a small stamp, saying that it was the smallest he had seen in a long while. At home that afternoon, busy with sorting out stamps for the Bible Society, he came across the below little beauty from South Australia issued in 1895 that measures 11 mm x 20 mm.



South Australia small stamp from 1895.

According to Dave he receives cut-to-shape stamps every now and again and he recently received a packet of 50 stamps from Japan that included the below two stamps that formed part of a set of five 80 yen greeting stamps that were issued on 13 March 1998. The other three stamps in the set featured a dog, budgerigars (budgies) and a rabbit.



Japanese cut-to-shape stamps from 1998.

The final item on Dave's list of goodies for the day was the below German stamp issued on 3 November 2014 to commemorate Christmas showing Santa Claus in a snowglobe - one of those thingies which, when shaken, showers "snow" over whatever is inside the globe. The stamp is cut to shape with die-cut perforations of 102.



German Christmas stamp from 2014.

Ian McArthur then entertained the members with the interesting Daedalus and Icarus mythology and about a monk inspired by this tale. Daedalus was a brilliant Athenian craftsman and inventor, renowned for his skill in sculpture, architecture and engineering. King Minos of Crete commissioned him to build the Labyrinth, a complex maze designed to imprison the Minotaur, a monstrous creature born from the union of Minos's wife, Pasiphae, and a sacred bull. After completing the labyrinth, Daedalus and his son Icarus were imprisoned by Minos to prevent them from revealing its secrets. Determined to escape, Daedalus crafted two pairs of wings from feathers and wax for himself and Icarus. He warned his son not to fly too close to the sun, which would melt the wax, nor too close to the sea, which would dampen the feathers. During their flight, Icarus became exhilarated by the experience and ignored his father's warnings, soaring higher and higher toward the sun. The heat melted the wax, causing his wings to disintegrate, and he plunged into the sea and drowned. Daedalus, heartbroken, continued his journey alone and named the nearby island Icaria in memory of his son. Their story features on several stamps, including Greece and Canada, with some examples shown below.

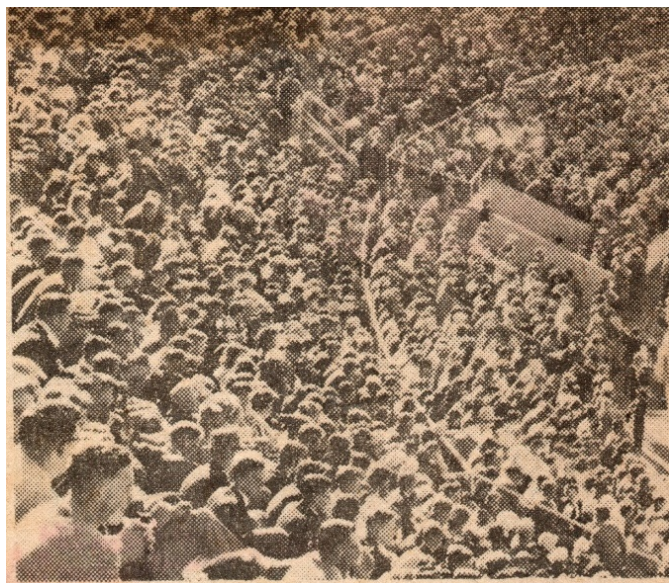


Greek and Canadian stamps featuring Daedalus and Icarus.

As a result of the Daedalus and Icarus story Ian decided to investigate early aviation whereupon he found an entry on aviation in the Encyclopaedia Britannica of 1895 with the following tale. In the early days in Scotland, a monk was so enthralled by the tale of Daedalus and Icarus that he was determined to try and replicate their exploit. His knowledge of aerodynamics was rather sketchy and he believed in "The Proper Place Theory", which had its origin in an attempt to explain why a stone fell to the ground when released from one's hand. It was because the *proper place* for stones was on the ground, and the object, having been removed from its proper place, sought to return thither when released. So, according to the monk, since the proper place for eagles was in the upper air, all he had to do was to find enough eagle feathers, make himself a pair of wings and off he would soar. He made the wings, then, not short of ambition, he launched himself from the battlements of Stirling Castle, heading, not for a trial flight, but for France. He fell fluttering to the ground around the base of the castle, broke both his legs, but survived. When attempting to explain why the flight had been so spectacularly unsuccessful, he said: "Unfortunately I was unable to find sufficient eagle feathers to complete the wings, so had to make do with chicken feathers. I see now that this was a mistake; because the proper place for chickens is on the ground."

Vernon Mitchell informed the meeting of a new South African website named PHILCOSA, which is a philatelic cover database for Southern Africa. [... website address is www.philcosa.com, the site also have some nice research material, Ed.]

Willy Porter brought along a newspaper clipping from 1960 with a photo showing a large crowd of more than 40 000 people attending the Union Festival celebrations held at the Free State Stadium in Bloemfontein, shown below. The stamp issued to celebrate this occasion (see below) was also shown in the newspaper with an accompanying letter by the one or other named "PAX" person justifying the attitude of English-speaking South Africans in not wholeheartedly associating themselves with the celebrations. He/she lists a number of reasons for this and states, *inter alia*, the following: "May 31, 1960, is to celebrate the victory of the Nationalist Afrikaner. As far as many thousands of English-speaking South Africans are concerned, they can do it alone."



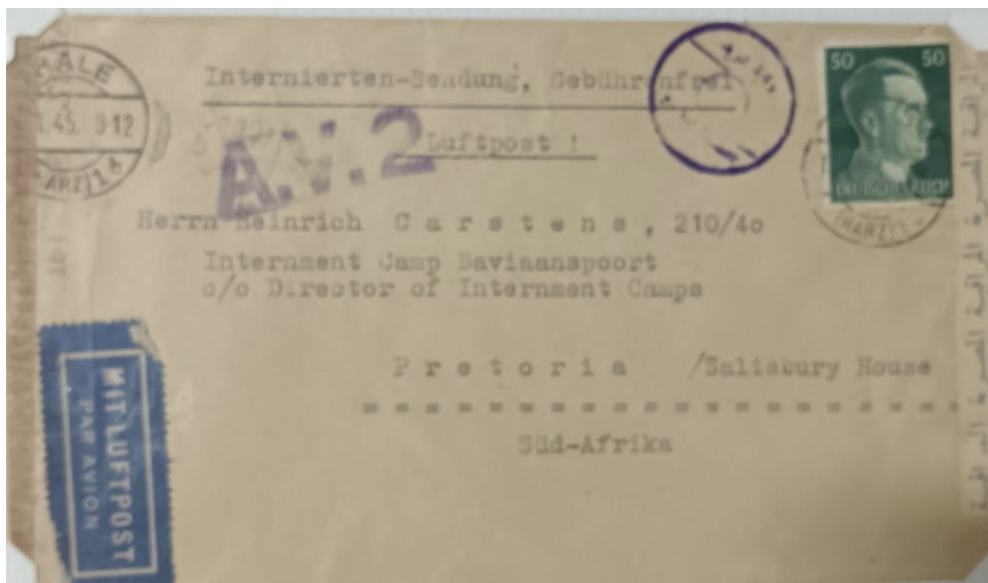
Newspaper clipping showing part of the 40 000 crowd at Free State stadium.



1960 Union Day stamp with prime ministers.

Willy then enquired if anybody could still remember "Daan Desimaal", a catchy jingle that represented the transition to the decimal currency system in South Africa in 1961. The song was popularised by its catchy rock-an-roll tune and was played regularly on radio stations, especially Springbok Radio. The lyrics humorously describe the new currency, emphasising the simplicity of the new decimal system which replaced the old currency with 100 cents to one rand. Willy entertained the meeting by giving a short rendition of the song.

Finally, Richard Johnstone brought along three World War II (WWII) censored mail covers he received from his brother-in-law that collects war memorabilia and clothing from the Boer War, World War I and World War II. These specific covers were amongst clothing packed away in a container since WWII that his brother-in-law bought from a lady in Gauteng after her husband, who served in WWII, passed away. All three covers were mailed from Germany to Pretoria and have "A.V.2" markings on them, see next page. [... A.V.2 markings (Avion 2) on WWII mail were used to indicate that postage had been paid for air transmission, often signifying "all the way by air", Ed.]



WWII covers mailed from Germany to Pretoria.

(2) GENERAL

Francois said that everybody have probably seen the news that a new Union Handbook will be published and the launching of a Union Handbook Fund to cover the costs printing and binding. He also received an email from Dave that informed him that he made a contribution to the fund personally and that he would support any motion for our club to donate. Dave believe that we, as a club, should contribute and would like to propose that we consider a donation of R 2 500.00. Francois said that he agrees to this and enquired from the members at the meeting if this motion is acceptable to all. The members present agreed and Louis would be making the donation to the Union Handbook Fund.

Lieb Venter donated some books to the society's library and these were handed to Willy for processing. Ian McArthur brought along some items that were auctioned in rapid time to the members present. Francois then performed his party trick again and enquired if the long lost Johnstone brothers had any idea how old they were on the day of the meeting. It turned out Kevin was 24 155 days and Richard only 21 594 days old. On enquiry Cecil was told that he was 29 808 days old.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 4 May 2026 back at the Bible Society for the Philatelic Services Stamp's Friend Trophy and Quarterly Cup competitions; general trading and auction; as well as show items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.

(3) PUB QUIZ

The pub quiz followed the general meeting and this time round it was Dave Brown (see next page) who prepared the 20 questions and answers for the day's quiz and members were split into two teams (after pulling numbers from a pub cup), namely Team A: Francois Friend, Cecil Allers, Ian McArthur, Wayne Brewer, Morrice Groer, Lieb Venter and Bruce Watson and Team B: Marietjie Peens, Kevin Johnstone, Willy Porter, Vernon Mitchell, Barry Green, Richard Johnstone, Anthony Harris and Louis Oosthuizen (see further below).



Dave - the quizmaster for the day.



Team A - the eventual winners.



Team B - who came second.

The eventual winners being Team A with 15 points and second was Team B with 13 points. Each of the winning team's members and the quizmaster received a R200 gift voucher for the Barn & Barrel. The gift vouchers and the lunch served at the end of the quiz were sponsored by the society. Once again all present were in good spirits and the late morning/afternoon was enjoyed by all.

The meeting closed at about 14:00 with there being no further matters to discuss.

PRESIDENT:

DATED:



.....Obscured Lisa


reader contributions

Our dealer friend from the United Kingdom, Mark Taylor, has once surfaced after probably bunkering down during the cold winter months up north and forwarded the below interesting triangular-shaped cover from the Cape of Good Hope.

Cape of Good Hope

1843 Royal Observatory

A triangular shaped entire sent by Caroline Thomson at Simons Town to Mrs Maclear wife of Thomas Maclear, the Director of the Royal Observatory at Cape Town. It bears the crowned oval "GENERAL POST OFFICE /CAPE OF GOOD HOPE" handstamp which was in use from 1834 to 1851 and manuscript "3" in red.

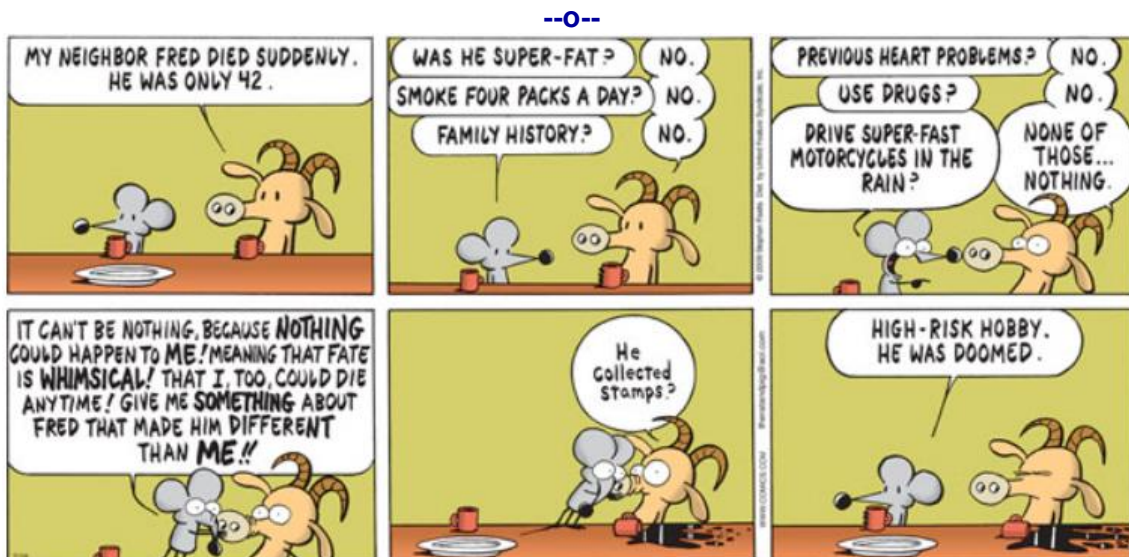


Ex: Sir Henry Tucker; "Maximus" collection – Sale catalogue description

1 1843, March 20th, a letter folded in a triangular shape, addressed to the Royal Observatory, red MS "3" and Crowned oval handstamp (J16)

Accompanying the letter is an article written by Commander F. W. Collins and published in the London Philatelist, surmising that the unusual manner the writer of the letter had of folding her letters, may have been instrumental in transmitting the idea of a triangular adhesive.

Apparently Mrs Thomson was in the habit of folding a small double letter sheet five times to produce a triangular shaped entire. Many people including the Surveyor-General Charles Bell would have seen these entires and perhaps got the idea of using this shape in creating the design for the first Cape of Good Hope postage stamps?



the antique collective

The Antique Collective (TAC), being held monthly on the first Sunday of a month at the Walmer Park Shopping Centre, takes place on Sunday 3 May. Stamp's Friend will once again be there with their normal stuff, situated in the Centre Court.



THE ANTIQUE COLLECTIVE

Sunday 3 May | 10am - 2pm
Walmer Park Shopping Centre

editor's tidbits

Reminder of the facebook group that is free to join by all with some collectable information, updates, news, etc. Please feel free to contribute.

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Note: back issues of the PEPS newsletters available from the Stamp's Friend website under the news/articles menu.

Well folks that is that for our April 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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Stockbooks

Lighthouse Basic 32 pages	R 680
Lighthouse Basic 64 pages	R 980
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

