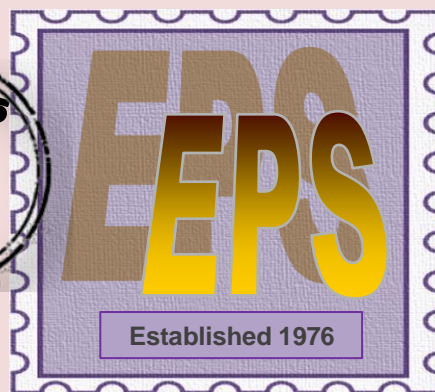


By Email



*Edenvale Philatelic Society,
Gauteng,
South Africa.*

M.M.W.C's

President: Colin Bousfield
083 961 9656
E-mail: bousfield.colin@yahoo.co.za

Vice President: Val Mogg
E-mail: valmogg@icon.co.za

Treasurer:
John Kollen
E-Mail: jkollen@gmail.com

**Secretary &
Newsletter Scribe:** Sandy Robertson
E-mail: sandystampnews@gmail.com



PIN IT PAGE:

Don't forget the **GOLD MEDAL** winning

**EDENVALE
PHILATELIC SOCIETY
FACEBOOK PAGE**

We have over **4.8k** members now!!

There are daily postings of great stamp finds and other information of items of interest. Ask questions on a philatelic problem and the answer is sure to come. Thanks to those who participate.

MAY-
JP Du Plessis
Colin Cowrie



NEXT MEETING:

**Will be on
27 JUNE 2026
from 1pm in the Hall at
Thornhill Manor Retirement
Village.**

**Bring your ITEMS OF INTEREST
(not necessarily stamps!!)**

Themes:

- A: Hats.**
- B: Essays, Proofs, Trials and Specimen issues.**
- C: 1 page with "My Favourite Stamp."
Or 6 to 8 pages of "What I Collect".**

**Please also bring items for the
RAFFLE.**



SEE YOU THERE!

The JUNE Meeting was held on the 30th!!

The National Exhibition will be at Woodmead Country Club. We should organise a group to go on the Saturday – Look into car sharing?

In **ITEMS OF INTEREST**: John K – A cover that was flown on the Space Shuttle 1983 Aug 30 to 5 Sept. Dave Cohen – a silk postcard made in UK of early SA Union Flag – sent in WW1. Charl – 1957 East London expired bus tickets, and telephone cards. Ray – Picture of stamp vendor for coils photo at the Vic Falls. Sandy – An actual used 2024 President Ramaphosa B4 stamp posted in Tshwane from posting a magazine.

For the **THEME of INVENTORS**: Danny – 7 pages of Scientists/Explorers who were also Inventors. Also Dr Koch – identifier of Anthrax and TB; and Neil Armstrong who was a Professor and an explorer. Jean Dulez - Louis Pasteur and pasteurisation.

In the **THEME OF NURSES**: Dave Cohen – Stain on Nurses Uniform 1941 SA War Effort.







In **MY FAVOURITE STAMP**: Jean Dulez - 1 page high value Uganda Geo VI.

MY STAMP COLLECTION: Ray - His Rhodesia collection – needs hole fillers.

1 PAGE CHALLENGE ABOUT A PERSON: Jean Dulez - André-Marie Ampère a French physicist and mathematician who was one of the founders of the science of classical electromagnetism, which he referred to as electrodynamics. Ray – Jan Volschenk – SA Painter. Allan – Robbie Burns – Haggis and Mouses.

Ray won the Trophy for the 1 Page Challenge.

DATES

<p>1 MAY 1840 - the world's first postage stamp, the Penny Black, was sold in the UK, but was not valid as postage until 6 May 1840.</p>	
<p>1 MAY 1915 - the world's largest passenger ship RMS Lusitania left New York City for her last Atlantic crossing on before being infamously torpedoed by a German U-boat on 7 MAY near Cork 11 nautical miles off the coast of Ireland. Around 1,200 passengers and crew died. The sinking became one of the biggest reasons the American people's opinions shifted toward entering World War I.</p>	
<p>2 MAY 1803 - The United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France, doubling the country's size. The United States paid \$15 million, which bought about 828,000 square miles (2,144,520 square km) west of the Mississippi River.</p>	
<p>2 MAY 1952 — 74 years ago, the world entered the Jet Age as the first regular commercial jet flight departed from London, United Kingdom, bound for Johannesburg, South Africa. Operated by British Overseas Airways Corporation, the flight used the pioneering de Havilland Comet 1, carrying 36 passengers and marking a transformative moment in global aviation. The journey covered approximately 6,724 miles and included scheduled stops in Rome, Italy; Beirut, Lebanon; Khartoum, Sudan; Entebbe, Uganda; and Livingstone, Zambia before reaching its final destination. This milestone signalled a decisive shift from propeller-driven aircraft to faster, more efficient jet-powered travel, drastically reducing long-haul journey times and reshaping international connectivity. While early jet travel remained limited to a small number of passengers, it laid the foundation for modern global aviation networks. This flight is remembered as a turning point that accelerated the pace of travel and brought distant parts of the world closer together than ever before.</p>	
<p>3 MAY 1951 - King George VI officially opened the Festival of Britain. It was built on an old bomb site near Waterloo Station on London's South Bank. It was an exhibition and fair celebrating the achievements of the UK throughout history, which played host to 8.5 million visitors throughout the summer. The 4d 'Festival Symbol' was designed by Abram Games.</p>	
<p>While the first Kentucky Derby was raced on 17 May 1875, the only people who could watch it were those able to attend in-person. However, that all changed when the event was finally televised for the first time on 3 MAY 1952. Between 10 and 15 million people tuned in to watch the dark bay colt named "Hill Gail" win the derby and became one of only five horses up to that point to win both the Derby Trial and the Kentucky Derby.</p>	

5 MAY 1930 - The British aviator Amy Johnson took off from Croydon Airport in a De Havilland Gypsy Moth aircraft G- AAAH 'Jason'. She became the first woman to fly solo to Australia, arriving on 24th May.

Then on **7 MAY 1936** — 90 years ago, British aviator Amy Johnson (née Mollison) achieved one of the most remarkable feats in early aviation history by completing a solo flight from England to Cape Town, South Africa, in just 3 days, 6 hours and 26 minutes. At a time when long-distance aviation was still in its infancy and widely regarded as dangerous and unpredictable, Johnson pushed the limits of endurance, navigation, and human courage. Departing from England, she flew across multiple continents in a light aircraft with minimal instruments, facing rapidly changing weather, mechanical uncertainty, and the immense isolation of solo flight over vast distances.

Already celebrated as the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia, this record-breaking journey to Cape Town further cemented her reputation as one of the defining pioneers of aviation history. Her achievement captured international attention across both Britain and South Africa, symbolizing a new era of global air travel and technological ambition during the interwar period.

Amy Johnson is remembered as a trailblazer whose determination and bravery helped redefine what was possible in aviation and inspired generations of pilots around the world.



5 MAY 1925 — Afrikaans was officially recognized as an official language of the Union of South Africa. The change came through the Official Languages of the Union Act, which amended the South Africa Act of 1909 and formally elevated Afrikaans alongside English and Dutch. Although initially defined as a variety of Dutch, Afrikaans had already developed into a distinct language shaped by settlers, enslaved communities, and indigenous influences at the Cape.

The decision marked a major political and cultural milestone for the Afrikaner nationalist movement, which had been working to assert its identity in the decades following the Anglo-Boer War. Language became a central tool in that effort, symbolizing resistance to British dominance and a push for cultural independence.

The recognition of Afrikaans also had long-term consequences. It strengthened Afrikaner political unity and laid part of the cultural foundation that would later influence South Africa's governance in the 20th century. Today, in 2026, Afrikaans remains one of the country's 11 official languages, widely spoken and embedded in literature, media, and daily life across South Africa.



6 MAY 1935 - The Silver Jubilee of King George V marked his 25 years as the King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, and Emperor of India. Despite the King being opposed to Commemorative stamps in general, stamps of a number of different design types were issued the following day. These were issued throughout the British Commonwealth and heralded the start of the Omnibus type Stamps Series.



6 MAY 1910 - HM King Edward VII died. Edward habitually smoked twenty cigarettes and twelve cigars a day. Towards the end of his life he increasingly suffered from bronchitis. He suffered a momentary loss of consciousness during a state visit to Berlin in February 1909. In March 1910, the King was staying at Biarritz when he collapsed. He remained there to convalesce, while in London Asquith tried to get the Finance Bill passed. The King's continued ill health was unreported and he attracted criticism for staying in France whilst political tensions were so high. On 27 April he returned to Buckingham Palace, still suffering from severe bronchitis. Alexandra returned from visiting her brother, King George I of Greece, in Corfu a week later on 5 May.

The following day, the King suffered several heart attacks, but refused to go to bed saying, "No, I shall not give in; I shall go on; I shall work to the end." Between moments of faintness, the Prince of Wales (shortly to be King George V) told him that his horse, Witch of the Air, had won at Kempton Park that afternoon. The King replied, "Yes, I have heard of it. I am very glad": his final words. At 11:30 p.m. he lost consciousness for the last time and was put to bed. He died 15 minutes later.



7 MAY 1765 - HMS Victory, the ship which became the flagship of British Admiral Horatio Nelson, was launched at Chatham. The ship is now preserved at Portsmouth.



8 MAY 1926 - David Frederick Attenborough was born in Isleworth, Middlesex. He moved to Leicester in 1932 when his father, Frederick, became Principal of what is now the University of Leicester. He attended Wyggeston Grammar School for Boys, and he was always very interested in animals and the natural world, and would often spend many days hunting for fossils. And although sadly never appearing on a British stamp, he did promote the 2013 Dinosaurs Issue.

Sir David Attenborough is widely recognized as the only person to be knighted twice. He was initially knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1985 and was later awarded a second knighthood as a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George by King Charles (then Prince Charles) in June 2022.

He never passed his driving test. He travelled to forty countries to make Life on Earth, and when that series aired in 1979, it changed wildlife filmmaking forever.

Over a hundred documentaries. More than forty species are named after him, including a parasitic wasp named in his honour this week. A kakapo in New Zealand. A constellation. He has narrated the lives of creatures that had never been filmed before, in places most people will never go, with a voice so recognisable that it became the sound of the natural world itself for generations of viewers across the planet. It is said that the only animals he does not like are Rats.

During the war, his family fostered two Jewish sisters who had fled Nazi Germany. He served in the Royal Navy. He edited children's science textbooks before television found him. His first programme as a BBC trainee was about a fish once thought extinct. He has never stopped being curious about what is still alive on this earth, and what we stand to lose. There is an Icebreaker named after him – RRS Sir David Attenborough.

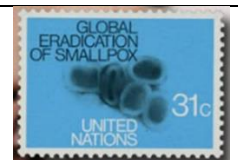


6 MAY 1937 - The Hindenburg disaster was an airship accident that occurred in Manchester Township, New Jersey, United States. The LZ 129 Hindenburg (Luftschiff Zeppelin #129; Registration: D-LZ 129) was a German commercial passenger-carrying rigid airship, the lead ship of the Hindenburg class, the longest class of flying machine and the largest airship by envelope volume. Filled with hydrogen, it caught fire and was destroyed during its attempt to dock with its mooring mast at Naval Air Station Lakehurst. The accident caused 35 fatalities (13 passengers and 22 crewmen) among the 97 people on board (36 passengers and 61 crewmen), and an additional fatality on the ground.



8 MAY 1980 - the World Health Organization officially declared the global eradication of smallpox. This was the first (and as of present, only) human disease that was completely annihilated thanks to global vaccination efforts. This effort lasted over a decade, with the last natural case being from Somalia in 1977.

Since smallpox had been plaguing our ancestors since as early as 1570 BC, it was certainly worth breathing a sigh of relief on that day in 1980 when it was finally taken out for good!



9 MAY 1904 - The steam locomotive City of Truro (engine number 3440), designed by George Jackson Churchward and built at the GWR Swindon Works, became the first steam engine in Europe to exceed 100 mph.



9 MAY 1671 - Irishman Colonel Thomas Blood attempted to steal the British Crown Jewels from the Tower of London. Despite being caught red-handed, he was pardoned by King Charles II.

After the execution of Charles I in 1649 many of the Crown Jewels were sold or destroyed. When the monarchy was restored in 1660, two new sceptres and an orb were made for the coronation of Charles II in 1661. Charles II allowed the Crown Jewels to be shown to members of the public for a viewing fee paid to a custodian who looked after the jewels at the Tower of London. In 1671 Thomas Blood was the first and only man who attempted to steal them. After that, the Crown Jewels were kept under armed guard in a part of the Tower known as the Jewel House.



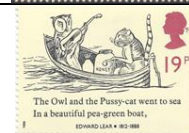
11 MAY 1904 – birth of Salvador Domingo Felipe Jacinto Dalí i Domènech, Marquess of Dalí de Púbol (d. 23 January 1989), known as Salvador Dalí, was a Spanish surrealist artist renowned for his technical skill, precise draftsmanship, and the striking and bizarre images in his work. In 1931, Dalí painted one of his most famous works, The Persistence of Memory, which developed a surrealist image of soft, melting pocket watches. The general interpretation of the work is that the soft watches are a rejection of the assumption that time is rigid or deterministic. This idea is supported by other images in the work, such as the wide expanding landscape, and other limp watches shown being devoured by ants.



12 MAY 1937 - The Coronation of George VI took place. The BBC televised the procession in its first ever outside broadcast. Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon became queen consort.



12 MAY 1812 - Edward Lear, English artist, illustrator, author, and poet, was born. In 1846 Lear published *A Book of Nonsense*, a volume of limericks that went through three editions and in 1867 he published his most famous piece of nonsense, *The Owl and the Pussycat*.



12 MAY 1843 —Britain officially proclaimed Natal as a British colony. This decisive annexation followed the military defeat of the Boer Republic of Natalia, marking a pivotal shift in the colonial administration of Southern Africa. The proclamation effectively consolidated British maritime control over the port of Durban and secured the strategic coastline against rival European and Boer interests.

The transition to British rule was the culmination of escalating tensions between the Voortrekkers, who had established the short-lived republic in 1839, and the British Empire, which sought to prevent an independent Boer state from controlling Indian Ocean access. Following the Battle of Congella and a subsequent siege, British forces reasserted authority, leading to the formal integration of the territory into the Cape Colony's administrative sphere.



13 MAY 1949 - "Bee" Beamont flew the prototype Canberra for approximately one-half hour. It was the first test flight of the English Electric A.1 prototype, VN799, a very high altitude light bomber, and was named after Canberra, Australia's capitol city.



Tulip Day is observed every year on **MAY 13**.

It is a day to celebrate tulips, which are brightly-coloured, spring-blooming flowers.



13 MAY 1717 - Maria Theresa was born in Hofburg, Vienna, Austria. She was the ruler of the Habsburg monarchy from 1740 until her death in 1780, and the only woman to hold the position in her own right. She ruled for 40 years as Queen of Hungary and Bohemia, Archduchess of Austria, and between 1745 and 1765 as Holy Roman Empress. The 300th anniversary of her birth was commemorated with a joint stamp issue by Hungary, Austria, Croatia, Slovenia and Ukraine. The graphic design of the jointly issued stamp by the five postal administrations was based on a portrait of Maria Theresa preserved in the Heeresgeschichtliches Museum in Vienna, painted around the middle of the 18th century by an unknown artist working in the style of Martin van Meytens the Younger.



14 MAY 1918 - philatelic history was made when a sheet of 'Inverted Jenny' stamps were sold to a Mr William Robey at a Washington D.C. Post Office. This mistake would become arguably one of the most famous - and valuable - printing errors of all time. The series was originally issued to commemorate the first American Air Mail flight on 15 May 1918, which used a Curtiss JN or 'Jenny' biplane.

However, several sheets of the 24 cents stamps were spotted to have this unique deformity. The sheets were discovered and destroyed. All except one. The error was caused because unlike the 6 and 16 cents stamps, the 24 cent stamp featured two colours. This meant the sheet had to be fed into the printing press a second time and in this case it was most likely turned the wrong way.

The sole surviving sheet of 100 stamps made its way to a Washington DC Post Office and sold to a Mr William Robey on 14 May 1918 and the rest is history. It remains one of the most valuable and rarest stamps in the world.



14 MAY 1951 - Trains ran on the Talyllyn Railway in Wales for the first time since preservation, making it the first railway in the world to be operated by volunteers. The Talyllyn Railway (Welsh: Rheilffordd Talyllyn) is a narrow-gauge railway in Wales, which runs for 7+1/4 miles (12 km) from Tywyn[a] on the Mid-Wales coast to Nant Gwernol near the village of Abergynolwyn. Opened in 1865 to carry slate from the quarries at Bryn Eglwys to Tywyn, it was the first narrow-gauge railway in Britain authorised by Act of Parliament to carry passengers using steam haulage. Despite severe underinvestment, the line remained open, and in 1951 it became the first railway in the world to be preserved as a heritage railway by volunteers.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talyllyn_Railway

14 MAY 1973 - Skylab, first U.S. space station, launched into Earth orbit.



17 MAY 1749 - Birth of Edward Jenner an English surgeon and discoverer of a vaccine for smallpox.

The world's first vaccination clinic is set to reopen to the public on **17 May 2026**, following major restoration work at the Temple of Vaccinia in Berkeley, Gloucestershire. The small hut-like structure was built as an ornamental garden retreat before Dr Edward Jenner used it in 1796 to administer the world's first smallpox vaccination, with eight-year-old James Phipps as his first patient. Jenner later opened the site to the public, offering free inoculations against the disease and giving the building its now famous name himself.

The structure was placed on Historic England's At Risk Register in 2025, with restoration made possible by a £221,508 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The reopening falls on Jenner's 277th birthday, and a celebration evening will be held today, exactly 230 years to the day since that first vaccination took place on the same spot.



17 MAY 2001 - The US Postal Service issued a 34-cent "Peanuts" commemorative stamp featuring Snoopy the dog. Drawn by Charles M. Schulz (1922-2000), "Peanuts" began in syndication on October 2, 1950. The instalment published on Sunday, 13 February 2000, was the last original comic strip by Schulz, who had passed away the previous day. "Peanuts" focuses on the anxieties and joys of childhood as expressed by a cast of children who often seem wise beyond their years. Central to the comic strip is Charlie Brown's dog Snoopy, who first stood on his hind legs in 1958 and became extremely popular for his imaginative adventures as a number of characters, among them the World War I flying ace.



Louis Jolliet of Quebec was commissioned to explore the Mississippi River in 1672. He was joined by seven men as well as Father Jacques Marquette, a Catholic chaplain tasked with ministering to the men on the journey as well as introducing Native Americans to Catholicism. They began their journey **17 MAY 1673**.

This 1898 Trans-Mississippi stamp show Marquette preaching to a group of Native Americans. The stamp design was based on a William Lamprecht painting owned by Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



17 MAY 1900 - the historic Siege of Mafeking was officially lifted after 217 days of gruelling isolation and combat. This event was a major milestone during the Second Anglo-Boer War (1899–1902), fought between the British Empire and the two Boer Republics—the South African Republic and the Orange Free State. The small town of Mafeking, a strategic railway siding near the border of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, had been surrounded by Boer forces shortly after the outbreak of the war in October 1899. The defence was led by Colonel Robert Baden-Powell, whose resourceful tactics and use of young boys as messengers (the Mafeking Cadet Corps) later served as the inspiration for the global Scout Movement. Despite being vastly outnumbered and facing constant shelling and food shortages, the garrison held out for seven months. The relief was finally achieved when a flying column of British cavalry and infantry under Colonel Bryan Mahon broke through the Boer lines to link up with the defenders.



19 MAY 1881 - birth of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, in Thessaloniki, Greece. He was a Turkish field marshal and statesperson who was the founder of the Republic of Turkey and served as its first president from 1923 until his death in 1938.

His military career saw him involved in the Italo-Turkish and Balkan Wars. He rose to prominence with his role in the Defence of Gallipoli during World War I. After Ottoman defeat in World War I, Mustafa led the Turkish National Movement achieving victory against Greece, Armenia, France, and the United Kingdom. He then abolished the Ottoman sultanate in 1922 and proclaimed the Republic of Turkey in 1923. Mustafa's regime saw socio-economic reforms and diplomatic successes.



20 MAY 1867 - Queen Victoria laid the foundation stone for the Royal Albert Hall. She then opened it on the 29th March 1871. The hall was originally supposed to have been called The Central Hall of Arts and Sciences, but the name was changed by Queen Victoria to Royal Albert Hall of Arts and Sciences when laying the foundation stone, as a dedication to her deceased husband and consort Prince Albert.



20 MAY 1497 - The Italian explorer John Cabot, commissioned by England, set sail from Bristol in his ship Matthew looking for a route to the west. At the time, Bristol was the only English city to have had a prior history of undertaking exploration expeditions out into the Atlantic.

On the 24th June 1497 he reached America in his ship The Matthew, having set sail in May from Bristol. His precise landing-place is uncertain, with Cape Bonavista or St. John's in Newfoundland being the most likely sites. As for stamps showing John Cabot there were no pictures or drawings of him to be found. The Canadian Post office credited several that use the Cabot name, but simply referring to him as "Cabot" on the stamps, when in fact it's the portrait of his son Sebastian Cabot.



21 MAY 1840 - Britain proclaimed complete sovereignty over New Zealand. Fearing that the New Zealand Company was about to set up its own independent administration in the Cook Strait region, Lieutenant-Governor William Hobson unilaterally declared British sovereignty over all of New Zealand.

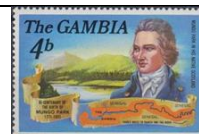


21 MAY 1910 - Louis Botha became the first Prime Minister of the newly formed Union of South Africa. A former Boer general during the Anglo-Boer War and member of the Transvaal Volksraad, he was selected to lead the unified government after the formation of the Union earlier that month. His appointment marked the beginning of centralized governance in South Africa under British dominion, combining former Boer republics and British colonies into a single political structure.

Botha's leadership focused on reconciliation between Afrikaners and British settlers.



22 MAY 1795 - The Scottish explorer, Mungo Park, set sail on his first voyage to Africa which he would later relate in his book 'Travels in the Interior of Africa'.



The SS Savannah was the very first steamship to cross the Atlantic Ocean. She departed Savannah, Georgia on **22 MAY 1819**, and arrived in Liverpool, England on June 20th to great fanfare. Interestingly, the ship carried no passengers as civilians were too fearful of taking such an experimental vessel across the ocean.



24 MAY 1819 - Princess Alexandrina Victoria was born at Kensington Palace in London, the only daughter of the Duke of Kent. As Queen Victoria, she reigned for 63 years, from 1837 until her death in 1901. She married Prince Albert in 1840 and had four sons and five daughters. After Albert's death in 1861, she went into virtual retirement.



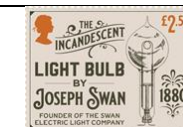
26 MAY 1940 - Sir Winston Churchill ordered the start of 'Operation Dynamo'. It was the evacuation of 338,000 Allied soldiers of the British Expeditionary Force and French troops from Dunkirk's beaches. Besides the efforts of the Royal Navy, 700 small ships were assembled in Sheerness dockyard before making the hazardous crossing to Dunkirk. In total, 338,226 troops were safely returned to England between the 27 May and the 4 June.



27 MAY 1819 – birth of Julia Ward Howe (d.17 Oct 1910) has the most immediately recognizable name. A fighter for abolition, women's suffrage, and pacifism, she was born in New York but lived mostly in Boston and Newport. She wrote the lyrics of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" after meeting President Lincoln at the White House in 1861. Her other creations include several volumes of poetry, a few plays, and the magazine Woman's Journal, which she founded in 1870.



27 MAY 1914 - Joseph Wilson Swan, British electric lamp inventor, died. Swan received a British patent for his device in 1878, about a year before the American, Thomas Edison.



27 MAY 1564 – death of John Calvin (born Jehan Cauvin; 10 July 1509) – he was a French theologian, pastor and reformer in Geneva during the Protestant Reformation. He was a principal figure in the development of the system of Christian theology later called Calvinism, aspects of which include the doctrines of predestination and of the absolute sovereignty of God in salvation of the human soul from death and eternal damnation, in which doctrines Calvin was influenced by and elaborated upon the Augustinian and other Christian traditions. Various Congregational, Reformed and Presbyterian churches, which look to Calvin as the chief expositor of their beliefs, have spread throughout the world.



28 MAY 1907 - The first Isle of Man TT (Tourist Trophy) motor cycle races were held. The winner was Charlie Collier on his pedal assisted Matchless, at an average speed of 38.22 mph. It was argued that rival Jack Marshall, riding a Triumph, would have won if he'd fitted pedals, and the following year pedals were banned.



29 MAY 1790 - Rhode Island became a state. Today, it remains the smallest US state by area, but second-most densely populated after New Jersey. The colony of Rhode Island was founded by religious refugee Roger Williams. He founded the capital of Providence in 1636 as a place for people to practice their religion without persecution. This sometimes earned it the nickname "Rogue's Island."



30 MAY 1914 - Aquitania made her maiden voyage from Liverpool to New York. Built for Cunard by John Brown & Co on the Clyde, after her maiden voyage she made two more Atlantic crossings before the start of WW1. During the war she served as an armed merchant cruiser, troopship, hospital ship and again a troop transport. Aquitania returned to Cunard Line service in June 1919, but was soon taken out of service again for refitting and conversion from coal to oil firing.

In 1920, Cunard transferred its principal New York service from Liverpool to Southampton. In WW2, Aquitania again served as a troop transport. Between 1948-49, Aquitania was placed on a Southampton-Halifax austerity route; her last transatlantic crossing was from Halifax (departing 24 November 1949) to Southampton (arriving 1 December 1949). Aquitania was scrapped in 1950, after making 443 transatlantic roundtrips, steaming over 3 million miles and carrying almost 1.2 million passengers.



Where is Puntlaand?
What is made of leather and sounds like a sneeze?
What countries are named after trees?
What are Sonderstempel?

Answer at end of the
Newsletter!!

ITEMS OF INTEREST

National Anthem of South Africa - Do you know the Lyrics, Origin, History and Meaning?

'Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika' was composed by a Methodist school teacher named Enoch Sontonga in 1897. It was first sung as a church hymn but later became an act of political defiance against the apartheid government. As below 'Die Stem' is a poem written by C. J. Langenhoven in 1918 and was set to music by the Reverend Marthinus Lourens de Villiers in 1921. 'Die Stem van Suid-Afrika'/The Call of South Africa was the co-national anthem with 'God Save The King'/'God Save The Queen' between 1938 and 1957, when it became the sole national anthem until 1994. 'Die Stem van van Suid-Afrika'/The Call of South Africa was composed of 8 stanzas (The original 4 in Afrikaans and 4 in English - a translation of the Afrikaans). It was seldom sung in its entirety with the first stanza being the most widely known and sung.



The South African government adopted both songs as national anthems in 1994, when they were performed at Nelson Mandela's inauguration. They were merged in 1997 to form the current anthem. The new English lyrics were adapted from the last four lines of the first stanza of 'Die Stem van Suid-Afrika'/The Call of South Africa, with the changes made to reflect hope in post-apartheid South African society.

2 MAY 1957: "The Voice of South Africa" officially becomes our national anthem. On 30 and 31 May 1918 CJ Langenhoven sat in his home, Laborgenot op Oudtshoorn, and wrote the first three verses of what would later become "The Voice of South Africa". He not only penned down the words, but also composed a melody for it himself. The poem appears shortly after in The Burger under the pseudonym KRN and is widely praised, even though the original music provoked a mixed reaction. Because the melody did not find a complete sound, Langenhoven announced a competition to find a suitable tone. Several composers submitted their versions over the next decade, but none truly captured the hearts of the nation.



It was ultimately Reverend ML de Villiers who in 1921 from his ministry in Simonstad, created the famous melody that is still sung today. After publication and increasing exposure—especially with Cape Town

performances, radio broadcasts and the symbolic use during the first raising of the Union flag in 1928—"Die Stem" began to grow into something the Afrikaner could consider as his own. After an unsuccessful attempt by Dr. DF Malan in 1939 to have "Die Stem" recognized as the only national anthem, the outbreak of the Second World War forced the matter to a halt and the issue was put aside for the first time. Only years later did it enjoy attention again, when the government approved the current English translation. This version was sung for the first time on April 5, 1952, during the Van Riebeeck festival celebrations in Cape Town. By the 1950s, "The Voice" was already deeply embedded in the national consciousness. On May 2, 1957, it was officially recognized as the national anthem of South Africa—a symbol of identity, history and togetherness.

James Harrison's story begins when he was a teenager recovering from major chest surgery in the 1950s, during which he received large amounts of donated blood to survive. That experience left him determined to "give back" once he was old enough to donate himself.

When he finally did, doctors discovered something extraordinary in his plasma: a rare antibody known as anti-D, likely formed because of the transfusions he received as a boy. This antibody turned out to be the key to preventing Rhesus disease, a condition that once caused thousands of newborn deaths each year.

Throughout the next six decades, Harrison donated plasma as often as Australian guidelines allowed, every two weeks, ultimately reaching 1,173 donations before mandatory age limits forced him to stop at 81. His plasma was used to create 'RhoGAM-type injections', which protect Rh-negative mothers from developing antibodies that could attack their unborn babies.

Before this treatment existed, many women lost multiple pregnancies; after it became widespread, infant mortality from Rhesus disease plummeted across Australia.

Because his antibodies were so uniquely effective, Harrison became known nationwide as "The Man with the Golden Arm," and his donations are credited with saving over 2.5 million babies, a number so large that entire generations owe their lives to him.



Percy Shaw inventor of Catseyes Percy Shaw (1890–1976) was a Yorkshire-based inventor who patented the "Catseye" reflecting road stud in 1934. Inspired by a cat's eyes reflecting his headlights on a foggy night, Shaw created a durable, self-cleaning rubber and glass stud to guide drivers. His invention was widely adopted during WWII blackouts. Percy Shaw's Inspiration: While driving on a dangerous stretch of road in Yorkshire, Shaw's headlights reflected off a cat's eyes, saving him from driving off the road. The Invention: He invented a reflective glass sphere set in a rubber dome, which is held in a cast-iron housing inserted into the road surface. Self-Cleaning Mechanism: The design was refined so that passing traffic pushes the dome down into a puddle of rainwater, washing the glass lenses, ensuring they remain clear. Company and Production: In 1935, he founded Reflecting Roadstuds Limited in Halifax to manufacture his invention. Widespread Adoption: Initially slow to gain traction, the invention was vital during World War II when headlights had to be dimmed or turned off, making the reflective studs essential for safety. Legacy: Shaw was appointed an OBE in 1965 for his services to road safety. Shaw's invention dramatically improved night-time road safety and is now used globally to define lane boundaries and road edges.



World Laughter Day was established in 1998 and the first celebration was on **10 May 1998**. The day is now celebrated on the first Sunday of May worldwide. World Laughter Day is a positive manifestation for world peace and is intended to build up a global consciousness of brotherhood and friendship through laughter.



Four pairs of brothers and three fathers and sons have been awarded the VC.

Field Marshal Lord Frederick Roberts (1832–1914) and his son, Lieutenant Freddy Roberts (1872–1899), are one of only three pairs of fathers and sons to both receive the Victoria Cross (VC), the highest military decoration for valour in the British Army. Lord Roberts won his VC in 1858, and Freddy posthumously received his after being mortally wounded at the Battle of Colenso in 1899. The son was wounded while attempting to save guns on 15 December 1899, a situation in which Captain Congreve (see below) also won the VC on the same day.

General Sir Charles Gough and Brigadier General Sir John Gough. Father: Awarded the VC for bravery during the Indian Mutiny in 1857 and 1858. Son: Awarded the VC for actions in Somaliland in 1903.

General Sir Walter Congreve and Major William La Touche Congreve. Father: Awarded the VC for bravery at the Battle of Colenso in 1899. Son: Posthumously awarded the VC for bravery in France in 1916. Note: The son was the first of the pairs to die in action.

Other Notable VC Family Information - The Goff family is recognized as having three Victoria Crosses within the family: Brothers Hugh and Charles Goff, and Charles's son John.

Three people have been awarded the VC and Bar, the bar representing a second award of the VC. These were Lieutenant A Martin-Leake, and Captain N G Chavasse, both doctors in the Royal Army Medical Corps, for rescuing wounded under fire and an infantry man Charles Upham. Capt Chavasse unfortunately did not live to receive the reward.

Lieut Martin-Leake was awarded his first VC for actions in the Anglo Boer War and his second for actions during the First World War. Capt Chavasse received both medals for actions in the First World War, while third recipient New Zealander, Charles Upham, received both VCs for actions during the Second World War.

TIMELINE OF WORLD'S AIRMAIL STAMPS

Sample of nations who issued their first official airmail stamps:

- 1917 – Italy
- 1918 – United States, Hungary, Austria
- 1920 – Spain, Switzerland
- 1924 – Bolivia
- 1925 – Honduras, Albania, Denmark
- 1926 – Costa Rica, Egypt
- 1927 – Cuba, France, French Morocco, Peru
- 1928 – Canada, Ireland, Malta, Romania
- 1929 – Australia
- 1930 – Belgium, Finland.

The 1925 Black Honduras is the world's rarest airmail stamp. This unique stamp is also the rarest of all railroad thematic stamps. A dull blue 10-centavo Ulua Bridge Honduras stamp surcharged AERO CORREO 25 in black, it played an integral role in early 20th century history.

Nearly as rare are the Red Honduras stamps, of which just seven are known. These Honduras stamps helped inaugurate airmail service between the Honduran capital city Tegucigalpa, which was located in the interior of the country, and Puerto Cortés on its Caribbean coast.

The stamp known as the Black Honduras, believed to be unique, is the world's rarest airmail stamp. The Red Honduras, with no more than seven available to collectors, is the second rarest.

Both were issued in 1925 when Central America's first airline inaugurated service between the Honduran capital city Tegucigalpa, in the interior of the country, and Puerto Cortés on the Caribbean coast. Considering their legendary names, it may seem odd that the Black Honduras is a dull blue stamp and the Red Honduras is a bright blue stamp. That's because they are defined by the ink colours of the overprints on them, which transformed the underlying common definitive stamps into airmail rarities — the 10¢ Ulua Bridge stamp surcharged AERO CORREO 25 in black ink (converting a 10¢ ordinary stamp into a 25¢ airmail stamp, Honduras Scott C12) and the 5¢ Bonilla Theatre stamp overprinted AERO CORREO only in red ink.

First-issue airmail stamps of Honduras are important to philately in the same way that United States airmail stamps of 1918 are important, as historical artefacts of the service that created them. But airmail service was of greater relative significance to Honduras than the original U.S. government airmail service.

Tegucigalpa was isolated from the outside world, with no rail transport and with roads so poor that mule trains took up to a week to carry mail to a port on the north coast for onward transmission to other countries. The small aircraft flown by Compañía Aérea Hondureña (also advertised as Central American Airlines [CAA]) travelled the 200-kilometer distance in about an hour and a half.

Map of Honduras showing the important port city of Puerto Cortés on the northern coast and the capital city of Tegucigalpa to the south. A mountain range runs between the two cities.



15 MAY 1963 - A man named Gordon Cooper climbed into a metal capsule barely larger than a phone booth, and let a rocket hurl him into the darkness above our world. Faith 7 was his ship. The mission: orbit the Earth 22 times. Stay up for a full day. Come home alive.

For most of the flight, it went beautifully. Then, on the 19th orbit, the first warning light came on. A faulty sensor was falsely reporting that the capsule had already begun re-entering the atmosphere. It hadn't. Cooper switched it off. Annoying, but manageable. Then the power died. A short circuit cascaded through the electrical system and killed the automatic guidance controls — the system responsible for keeping the capsule properly oriented, and for calculating the precise angle, timing, and trajectory needed to bring him home. Without it, re-entry became a deadly geometry problem. Come in too shallow, and the capsule skips off the atmosphere like a stone off water — drifting back into the void, with no fuel for a second attempt. Come in too steep, and superheated friction turns the ship into a meteor within seconds. The margin between those two outcomes was measured in fractions of a degree. Every instrument designed to find that margin was now dead.

Back at Mission Control, engineers watched the telemetry in silence. They could see everything failing in real time. They could do nothing to stop it. Cooper was alone in the dark, 165 miles above the Earth.

So he made a decision — calmly, methodically, the way only a test pilot can.

He took a pen and drew reference lines on his periscope window — crude guides to track the horizon. He looked out at the stars he had spent months memorizing before launch, using their positions to orient the capsule by eye. He placed his wristwatch on his wrist and watched the seconds hand carefully.

Then he called in a countdown with John Glenn, stationed on a Navy ship near Japan.

Because when the machines die, the pilot becomes the machine. He ran the numbers in his head. He cross-referenced them against the constellations outside the window. He watched the Earth slowly rotating below. And at the exact moment his math confirmed — backed by the stars and the seconds ticking off his watch — he fired the retrorockets. The capsule shuddered. The sky turned to fire. For several minutes, a cocoon of superheated plasma surrounded Faith 7, cutting off all communication. No radar could track him. No one on Earth could reach him. He was inside a fireball, trusting arithmetic done with a wristwatch and two eyes.

Then the parachutes opened. Faith 7 splashed down in the Pacific Ocean — just 4.4 miles from the recovery carrier USS Kearsarge. The most accurate splashdown in the entire history of Project Mercury.

The man with a wristwatch and hand-drawn lines on a window had just outperformed every automated system NASA could build.

In his own words: "I used my wrist watch for time, my eyeballs out the window for attitude. Then I fired my retrorockets at the right time and landed right by the carrier."

We live in a world that worships technology. And technology is extraordinary — it takes us to space, connects continents, and saves lives. The final backup was never the software. It was the human being who could look out the window, think clearly when everything was breaking, and make the call.



One historic moment. - **7 MAY 1945**, When Germany signed its unconditional surrender in Reims on the reporters were present but strictly bound by a 36-hour news embargo. That didn't stop Associated Press journalist Edward Kennedy, who broke the embargo and leaked the news. His scoop hit headlines across the West on the 8th May, sparking spontaneous celebrations... well before the official announcement.

The Soviets, who hadn't recognized the Reims signing, insisted on a second, more formal surrender in Berlin. Due to time zones, it was already 9 May in Moscow when that document was signed.

That's why Victory in Europe Day is marked on the 8 May in the West, and the 9 May in Russia and some former Soviet states. "The flags of freedom fly all over Europe," President Harry S. Truman announced on 8 May 1945. That day (which, coincidentally, was also Truman's birthday) saw the surrender of German forces. After years of bloody fighting, the war in Europe was over. The event is remembered as V-E (Victory in Europe) Day.

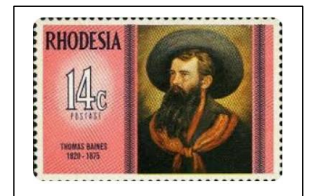
A set of Manx stamps celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day was launched, depicting the "joy and hope felt after years of hardship" during World War Two.

The day commemorates the surrender of Germany to the Allied Forces on 8 May 1945, signalling the beginning of the end of the conflict. The six-stamp set features photographs from the period, including one taken by Manx photographer Leonard McCombe, capturing a London street party scene.



Did you know Carnegie Hall was originally known by another name? It was simply called "The Music Hall" and officially opened to the public on **5 MAY 1891** (although the oratorio hall in the basement held its' first performance on April 1st). As the Music Hall was funded in large part by Andrew Carnegie, it was renamed "Carnegie Hall" in the mid-1890s. Carnegie Hall archivist Gino Francesconi states that the hall was renamed "so that it shouldn't be confused by European artists with a vulgar music hall."

8 MAY 1875 - Death in Durban, Natal, South Africa of Thomas Baines. He was much more than an artist: he was also a successful and enterprising explorer and cartographer whose entire life was spent in travelling, investigating, searching and - wherever he went and in whatever circumstances - making pictures.



He was also a scientific researcher (no less than 18 plants are named after him). Of the several ambitious journeys-of-exploration into the interior, the following are noteworthy: to the Orange and Vaal Rivers during 1848-53; with Dr Livingstone to the Zambesi in 1860; with James Chapman through South West Africa to Victoria Falls in 1861; and to Matabeleland in 1869-72. He also made an important journey of exploration in Australia and the surrounding seas with A.C. Gregory... It is an exciting story: what emerges is an outstanding personality, a fine and courageous character, restless and energetic, of integrity and kindness - and his contacts with Livingstone, Chapman, Andersson, Hartley, Lobengula and many others make a lively story of interesting personalities).

10 MAY 1919 - The first scheduled commercial air service in Britain began. The flights were from Manchester to Southport cost 4 guineas one way and was run by A.V.Roe, and proved very popular. Competing with Sopwith, the Avro Transport Company successfully negotiated with the city of Blackpool the sole rights to land its aircraft on the beach. Today in 1919, four Avro 504K biplanes took off from Alexandra Park Aerodrome with the Blackpool town council members on board as passengers. When the aircraft arrived in Blackpool, reports suggest that 30,000 people turned up to greet them.



11 MAY 1875 – birth of Harriet Quimby (d. July 1, 1912) was America's very first woman to receive a pilot's license in August 2 1911 AND the first woman to fly solo across the English Channel in 1912. Quimby also performed flights with the Moisant International Aviators exhibition team. She drew crowds wherever she went and became known for her iconic flight attire – a purple satin blouse, necklace, antique bracelet, and pants with high-laced boots. She also worked as a theatre critic for "Leslie's Illustrated Weekly," writing over 250 articles in the nine years working for them.

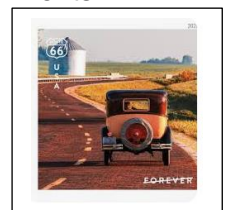
On 16 April 1912, Quimby took off from Dover, England, en route to Calais, France, completing the flight in 59 minutes after landing about 25 miles (40 km) from Calais on a beach. "Her instrumentation consisted of a watch and a hand-held compass, and pilot comfort entirely in the hot water bottle she had strapped to her middle. Her accomplishment received little media attention however as it occurred the day after news broke of the sinking of the Titanic ocean liner on 15 April 1912.



Sadly, Quimby's life was cut short after she and her passenger Charles F. Willard were killed in a flight accident in Boston on July 1, 1912.

Despite her short time as an aviator, Quimby remains known as one of the most well-known and influential female pilots in history. Harriet was also the spokeswoman for Vin Fiz grape soda, and was depicted around the nation in her trademark purple satin flying suit. Harriet was also an accomplished journalist and chronicled her adventures in flight in newspaper articles, allowing readers to join in her daring accomplishments.

Anyone for a road trip? The USPS released a set of 8 stamps honouring the one and only Route 66, an icon of the American West and an enduring symbol of freedom and adventure.



Where on earth is the Kingdom of Redonda?? The Kingdom of Redonda is a micronation associated with the tiny uninhabited Caribbean island of Redonda.

The island lies between the islands of Nevis and Montserrat, within the inner arc of the Leeward Islands chain, in the West Indies. Redonda is part of the country of Antigua and Barbuda. The island is just over one mile (1.6 km) long and one-third mile (0.54 km) wide, rising to a 971-foot (296 m) peak. In September 2023, the Redonda Ecosystem Reserve was established, covering nearly 30,000 hectares (74,000 acres) of land and sea, making it the largest marine protected area in the region. The island teems with bird life, but is more or less uninhabitable by humans because there is no source of freshwater other

than rain, and most of the island is extremely steep and rocky, with only a relatively small, sloping plateau area of grassland at the summit. Landing on the island is a very challenging process, possible only via the leeward coast on days when the seas are calm. Climbing to the top of the island is also very arduous. Despite these difficulties, from 1865 until 1912 Redonda was part of a lucrative trade in guano mining, and many thousands of tons of phosphates were shipped from Redonda to Britain. The ruins associated with the mine workings can still be seen on the island.

National Technology Day is celebrated in India annually on May 11 to commemorate the successful Pokhran-II nuclear tests (Operation Shakti) of 1998. The day highlights advancements in science, technology, and engineering, honouring scientists and engineers who contribute to national progress.



Howick - In Naming the Town, Government officials wished to honour their Colonial Minister in London, Earl Grey, who had recently acquired the title Lord Howick. The name was derived from his ancestral home, Howick Hall, in Northumberland, England. Almost simultaneously, two other towns were also named Howick: Howick in New Zealand and Howick in Ontario, Canada.

11 MAY 1509 - King Henry VII of England, the first monarch of the House of Tudor, was buried. At the time of his birth he was known as Henry Tudor, was born in late January 1457 at Pembroke Castle as the only child of Edmund Tudor, 1st Earl of Richmond and his wife Lady Margaret Beaufort. Henry VII was the first monarch to be buried in the Abbey in a vault under the floor rather than in a tomb chest above ground. Their tomb was designed in the Renaissance style by Italian sculptor Pietro Torrigiano. The black marble tomb base is adorned with six medallions in copper gilt representing the Virgin Mary and Henry's patron saints.



Roald Engelbregt Gravning Amundsen (16 July 1872 – c. 18 June 1928) was a Norwegian explorer of Polar Regions. He was a key figure of the period known as the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. On **12 MAY 1926**, Amundsen and 15 other men in the airship Norge became the first explorers verified to have reached the North Pole. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roald_Amundsen



Lincoln Ellsworth (May 12, 1880 – May 26, 1951) was an American polar explorer, engineer, surveyor, and writer. He led the first Arctic and Antarctic air crossings. Ellsworth's father funded US\$100,000 (\$1.84 million in 2025) to Roald Amundsen's 1925 attempt to fly from Svalbard to the North Pole. Amundsen, accompanied by Lincoln Ellsworth, pilot Hjalmar Riiser-Larsen, flight mechanic Karl Feucht, and two other team members, set out in two Dornier Wal flying boats, the N24 and N25, in an attempted to reach the North Pole on May 21. In early March 1926, under the headline "Across the Pole by Dirigible", The New York Times announced the Amundsen-Ellsworth Expedition. Ellsworth accompanied Amundsen on his second effort to fly over the Pole in the airship Norge, designed and piloted by the Italian engineer Umberto Nobile, in a flight from Svalbard to Alaska. On May 12, the Geographic North Pole was sighted.

Umberto Nobile is primarily remembered for designing and piloting the airship Norge, which may have been the first aircraft to reach the North Pole, and which was indisputably the first to fly across the polar ice cap from Europe to America.

In one of the most horrific executions of Tsarist Russia, 20-year-old Alexander Ulyanov was brutally hanged on **8 MAY 1887**, for plotting to assassinate Tsar Alexander III. A brilliant zoology student turned revolutionary, Alexander was part of the People's Will group and openly admitted his role during his trial. On that freezing morning, he and four others were dragged to the gallows at Shlisselburg Fortress. With only three nooses available, they were executed in batches. Alexander refused last rites and died a slow, agonizing death by strangulation as the noose slowly choked the life out of him.



His public execution shattered his family — especially his 17-year-old brother Vladimir, who would later become the infamous Lenin. Many believe this traumatic moment lit the fire of revenge in Lenin that eventually led to the Bolshevik Revolution and the fall of the Romanov dynasty.

What started as one idealistic young man's defiance ended in torture and death... but ignited a revolution that changed the world forever.

Interesting war time propaganda stamps history
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Cornflakes...



A rare royal-inscribed Boer war Cadbury chocolate bar goes to auction - A 126-year-old Cadbury chocolate bar (still sealed inside its original tin), was recently auctioned. The chocolate bar had been expected to fetch between £200 and £240 but sold for £520.

The bar was produced in 1900 during the Second Boer War, when British authorities commissioned chocolate for soldiers stationed in South Africa.

Queen Victoria ordered three British chocolate manufacturers — JS Fry & Sons, Cadbury and Rowntree — to produce more than 100,000 tins, each containing half a pound of plain chocolate.

According to the National Trust, the companies — all Quaker-owned — were opposed to the war and initially refused payment for the order, donating the chocolate in unbranded tins.

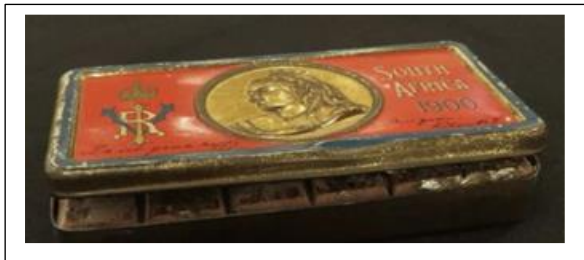
However, Queen Victoria reportedly insisted that soldiers should know the chocolate was British in origin. The manufacturers ultimately agreed to mark the contents, while the tins themselves remained unbranded.

NEW YEAR MESSAGE - Each tin carried the inscription "South Africa 1900" and a handwritten message from the Queen: "I wish you a happy New Year."

The surviving Cadbury bar, is now expected to fetch £200–£240 at auction (At least R4,500).

According to Cadbury South Africa, Cadbury only officially entered the South African market just after the war in 1903, when the Cadbury brothers Richard and George appointed a local sales agent to distribute their products locally.

During the Second Boer War, British soldiers stationed in South Africa were among the earliest recipients of Cadbury chocolate on local soil — not as consumers in a commercial market, but through a wartime supply chain shaped by politics, ethics, and imperial messaging.



15 MAY 1930 - a 25-year-old Iowa nurse named Ellen Church stepped onto a Boeing Air Transport 80A trimotor for a 20-hour flight from Oakland to Chicago, with 13 stops along the way, and made aviation history. She also took tickets, loaded luggage, helped fuel the plane, and even tightened the bolts holding the seats to the floor. Church wanted to be a pilot. She had a nursing degree and a pilot's license, but at the time, no US airline would hire a woman to fly.

So she pitched something else. She walked into the San Francisco office of Boeing Air Transport, the predecessor to United Airlines, and proposed putting nurses on board. Passengers were afraid of flying, and a calm nurse in uniform would help ease their fears. The airline agreed to a three-month trial. Church was hired as head stewardess and recruited seven other nurses, a group that became known as the "Sky Girls." Each had to be a registered nurse, single, no older than 25, no taller than 5 feet 4 inches, and weigh no more than 115 pounds. The trial was a huge success. Other airlines quickly followed, and by 1935 there were already nearly 200 female flight attendants in the United States.

Church's own flying career ended just 18 months later, after a car accident. She returned to nursing, and during World War II she served as a captain and flight nurse in the US Army Air Forces, earning an Air Medal. She passed away in 1965. Today, the airport in her hometown of Cresco, Iowa, bears her name, and the profession she invented employs more than 110,000 people in the US alone.



16-17 MAY 1943 – The famous 'Dam Busters' raid took place by the 617 Squadron of Lancaster bombers led by Wing Commander Guy Gibson. They breached the Mohne, Eder and Sorpe dams in Germany using the 'bouncing' bombs developed by Dr Barnes Wallis. The Dambuster Pilots practiced their techniques at the Derwent Dam in Derbyshire. Regular practices also took place at Eyebrook Reservoir in Leicestershire. Of the 133 aircrew that took part, 8 Planes did not return; 53 men were killed and three became prisoners of war. On the ground, almost 1,300 people were killed in the resulting flooding. Although the impact on industrial production was limited, the raid gave a significant morale boost to the people of Britain. The Eder was Europe's largest dam, and massive damage and loss of life were caused by flood water, as well as a serious loss of hydroelectric power for the German industrial area of the Rhine.



27 MAY 1922 – birth in Belgravia, London, of Christopher Frank Carandini. He was descended from Italian nobility on his mother's side. His great-grandmother was Marie Carandini, a celebrated opera singer. His step-cousin was Ian Fleming—yes, that Ian Fleming, creator of James Bond. His childhood was privileged but fractured. Parents divorced when he was six. Raised between London and Switzerland. Educated at elite schools. Expected to follow a respectable path: military service, perhaps, or banking.

Then came 1939 and World War II. Lee was 17. He volunteered immediately to fight for Finland against the Soviet Union in the Winter War. He hunted Nazis after the war. His Special Forces missions are still classified. By war's end, Lee had received commendations for bravery from the British, Polish, Czech, and Yugoslav governments. After the war, Lee spent time hunting Nazi war criminals with the Central Registry of War Criminals and Security Suspects, using his fluency in Italian, French, and German to track down men who'd committed atrocities. Made his film debut in 1947 with one line in Corridor of Mirrors.



For a decade, Lee struggled. Uncredited roles. Bit parts. Playing corpses. He appeared in Laurence Olivier's Hamlet without credit. Got injured playing a chariot driver in Quo Vadis.

Then came 1957 and Hammer Film Productions. They cast him as Frankenstein's monster in The Curse of Frankenstein. The following year: Count Dracula in Dracula. Christopher Lee had found his calling—playing monsters and villains with such elegance and menace that audiences couldn't look away.

He played Dracula nine times for Hammer. Also the Mummy, Fu Manchu, Rasputin, and dozens of other villains.

The 2000s brought a career renaissance. Peter Jackson cast him as Saruman in The Lord of the Rings—a dream role for Lee, who'd been reading Tolkien since the books were first published and was the only cast member to have met Tolkien personally.



In 2006 at age 84, Christopher Lee—veteran of World War II, knighted by Queen Elizabeth II—released his first heavy metal album! At 91, he became the oldest person to enter the Billboard Hot 100, with a heavy metal Christmas single. He died in London on 7 June 2015 at age 93, obituaries focused on what the world knew: Count Dracula in seven Hammer Horror films. Saruman in The Lord of the Rings. Count Dooku in Star Wars. One of cinema's greatest villains, a towering presence with a voice that could raise the dead.

16 MAY 2026 - at 16.31 Donald Campbell's BLUEBIRD K7 "flew" on Coniston again 59 years after she last did. The run falls in the 70th anniversary year of Donald Campbell's first water speed record on Coniston Water, set in September 1956. THE BIRD FLEW AGAIN. Bluebird K7 is a jet engined hydroplane in which Britain's Donald Campbell set seven world water speed records between 1955 and 1967. K7 was the first successful jet-powered hydroplane, and was considered revolutionary when launched in January 1955. Bluebird K7 top speed was officially 276.33 mph.

Carl Linnaeus described the first siphonophore, the Portuguese man o' war, The Portuguese man o' war is a siphonophore. It is made up of specialized organisms that help it float, sting, reproduce, and feed. Its tentacles can reach up to 100 ft.

Siphonophores are colonial hydrozoans. Siphonophores are the largest longest superorganism in the ocean. At first sight they look like elaborate jelly worms that can be longer than a blue whale. But if you get closer you'll realize it's actually a living colony. Thousands of individuals working together as a single entity. Siphonophores are a colony of single celled organisms and are ocean drifters, incapable of moving through the water on their own.



MAY 31ST WILL LIGHT UP THE SKY - A breath-taking full Moon will rise on 31 May 2026, creating one of the most beautiful night skies until 2029. For a few magical hours, the Moon will appear brighter, larger, and more dramatic as it climbs above the horizon.

Why does the Moon sometimes look so huge? It's called the "Moon Illusion." When the Moon is close to the horizon, our brains compare it with trees, buildings, and mountains, making it appear much larger than when it's high overhead. In reality, its size barely changes — but the effect feels absolutely surreal.

Ancient cultures once believed giant full Moons carried spiritual meaning, marking moments of change, harvests, or new beginnings. Today, scientists study the Moon for a different reason: it preserves billions of years of solar system history on its cratered surface. The 31 May 2026 will be blue in colour, this May Blue Moon is an extra special event that occurs roughly every 2.5 years.



WORLD'S BEST STAMP 2025 COMPETITION - Earlier this year, held under the patronage of the World Association for the Development of Philately in collaboration with the Philatelic Federation of South Africa, UPU invited postal operators from UPU member countries to showcase outstanding stamp design and production in this international competition across five categories. Selected from among the first place winners across 5 categories, the one winning stamp has now been awarded the title of "World's Best Stamp". Congratulations to China for winning this award.



On **19 MAY 1962**, Marilyn Monroe had one of the most iconic performances of her career – singing "Happy Birthday, Mr. President" to John F. Kennedy at a gala for his 45th birthday.

In addition to the usual lyrics to "Happy Birthday to You," Monroe also included an excerpt from "Thanks for the Memory," but with new lyrics:

"Thanks, Mr. President -
For all the things you've done,
The battles that you've won,
The way you deal with U.S. Steel,
And our problems by the ton,
We thank you so much"



After Monroe's steamy performance, President Kennedy responded jokingly by saying "I can now retire from politics after having had Happy Birthday sung to me in such a sweet, wholesome way."

Metallic ink was first used in Switzerland for the 60c (copper bronze) and 1Fr (bronze gold), issued in **MAY 1867**. The 1Fr was printed in gold from 1867 till 1882. The Netherlands 50c stamp was printed in gold ink from October 1867 till November 1871. The first stamp to be printed entirely in metallic ink were the Greek drachmae values of 1901, the 2dr being in bronze, the 3dr in silver and the 5dr in gold ink. Essays for a British £5 stamp in gold ink were prepared in 1882 but in the end ordinary vermilion ink was used instead. Before the advent of multi-coloured photogravure stamps in the 1960s, metallic ink was used by El Salvador in March 1897 for the Federation of Greater Republic of Central America commemorative stamps, New South Wales for the 2½d (2s 6d) Consumptives Home Charity stamp of 28 June 1897, for the borders of the Persian coronation series of 1915, on the South African 2d stamp showing the Rand goldfield of 1938, while silver ink was used in the production of the South Africa stamps celebrating the Royal Silver Wedding of 1948.



The 50c stamp, intended to feature cricket hero Herman C. Griffith, was incorrectly printed with the portrait of his teammate, E. Lawson Bartlett. The infamous 'error of portrait' stamp was never issued in Barbados in 1988. It was spotted by Herman Griffith's son and withdrawn 2 days before issue, except for the Parcel Post Department who nobody told! 101 were sold before they found out. This rare variety is listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue as SG 856a. The 50c stamp with the correct portrait was later issued on 11 July 1988.



ATTORNEY: She had three children, right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?

WITNESS: Your Honour, I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated?

WITNESS: By death.

ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?

WITNESS: Take a guess.

Something to look forward to:

AMSIPEX-27 is coming up in February 2027


AMSIPEX-27 is the 3rd edition of the International Virtual Aero- & Astrophilatelic Exhibition organised by the Air Mail Society India Foundation. Scheduled in February 2026 to coincide with World Air Mail Day (18 February), the exhibition promotes the collection, study, and appreciation of Aero- & Astrophilately. Following two successful editions that attracted global participation and introduced innovative features such as novice classes, international jury interaction, and inclusive recognition, AMSIPEX continues to establish itself as a leading virtual platform in this specialised field.

September 1967 - Millions of stamps go up in flames. In a stamp collector's nightmare come to life, the Italian government in February put a match to 57 million old postage stamps worth millions of dollars. The destruction of 255 sacks of unsold stamps, issued between 1859 and 1963 took four days to complete. They were burned to clean out the Postal Ministry's cupboard and prevent the philatelic deflation that would have resulted if they had been thrown on the market.

Kruger National Park marks 100 years since its formal proclamation in 1926. For a century, Kruger has inspired generations with unforgettable safari memories, breath taking landscapes, legendary wildlife sightings, and stories passed down through families, guides, rangers, and communities. A century later, Kruger remains more than a destination - it is a shared South African story, woven into the identity of the Kruger Lowveld and cherished by millions of visitors from around the world.




Stamps are the only travellers that never get lost, even when they've reached their destination.

<p>THIS Space is available for</p>		<h1 style="margin: 0;">WANTED</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Should you have any wants or queries or even information that you are looking for - this is where they need to go!! Contact the Secretary to have yours included.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">If you have any information please contact LES LOTTER leslotter13@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">He is still looking for any and all SA and RHODESIA registration labels, as well as any information about their first usage etc.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">DANNY KHOURY dannyhour@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Looking for SA Cinderellas examples and any information about them.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">SANDY ROBERTSON sandystampnews@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Always looking for any and all information about RSA Revenue Stamps – also needing actual stamps. Contact him.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">ERYL WORTON ebworton@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Looking for S.A. AIRMAIL Stickers – any examples of these and also any information.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">SANDY ROBERTSON sandystampnews@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Any list/s of the SA Ink jet printings that were in the Setempe (or other) publication for 1994 to 1998; 2000; 2009 to 2011. And any after that. (When did they discontinue??)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">ERYL WORTON ebworton@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Has a range of philatelic accessories e.g. tweezers; Hawid Strips etc. Contact him for more information.</p>	

Share an interesting story about a stamp or cover.
Tell us about a treasured item in your collection or a great stamp find.
Take a picture; write a paragraph or a page,
andsend it to the Newsletter for inclusion.

Still looking for
YOUR
contributions to
the Newsletter.

Please also send me your ideas of things that you would like to see in the Newsletter, or ideas of what you would like to learn about philately!!
I try to check all facts and Links. If there are any problems please let me know.

	PLEASE SEND IN <u>YOUR</u> STAMP RELATED LINKS FOR INCLUSION.
<p style="text-align: center;">RHODESIAN STUDY CIRCLE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MORE</u> Updates, and <u>More</u> NEW stuff.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encyclopaedia of the Federation of Rhodesia & Nyasaland postage stamps 1954-1963 • Encyclopaedia of Southern Rhodesia postage stamps of 1964. • Encyclopaedia of Rhodesia postage stamps 1965 - 1979. • Encyclopaedia of Zimbabwe postage stamps since 1980. • Encyclopaedia of Malawi postage stamps since 1964. • Encyclopaedia of Zambia postage stamps since 1964. • POSTMARKS – Rhodesias and Zambia • Rhodesian Perfins <p>Members Exhibits including RSC Competition Entries for 2026 and before: https://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk/engage/members-exhibits/?fbclid=IwY2xjawQkqa9leHRuA2FbQlXMAbicmlkETFNQmRZbENa dnA3RWVXU085c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHoN 7DXibqdA6Ce1XDf9AzsX3RTloex7suYwCLwCEvEB4gD3d7zDe1pPmgika_a em_AX57cUU6UT9gzxstLsYy6w</p> <p style="text-align: center;">YOU NEED TO GO THERE TO SEE <u>ALL</u> OF THEIR INFORMATION.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">https://stampssa.africa/</p> <p>The website for the PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA. For news about Stamp Shows and Exhibitions in South Africa. - As well as all sorts of interesting stuff.</p> <p>Old SA Philatelist Magazines from February 1923 to now (except for January 1929 to January 1931 when it was not published). A lot of information in these!! They are downloadable for members.</p> <p>New PFSA website Philatelysa .This website is still under development and will be utilised to show online exhibits and presentations by members. https://philatelysa.co.za/</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">A spectacular forgery case.</p>	<p>https://www.filatelia.fi/forgeries/blum.html?sfnsn=scwspmo&fbclid=IwY2xjawR0d95leHRuA2FbQlXMQBzcnRiBmFwcF9pZBAyMjlwMzknZg4MjAwODkyAAEeCu6u5IXUFkH vBGdRGFN1HW5yaCkrKywFaLdfBRRBZ-KFK0YEmkGG7wkTlss_aem_MamOhy_rq0ls9js6KOTvGw#top</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">STAMP FORGERIES</p>	<p>Stamp Forgeries, an index of stamps that have been forged. https://www.filatelia.fi/forqlinks/forged-stamps-a.html</p> <p>Samples of forgeries – a philatelic exhibit. https://www.filatelia.fi/forqlinks/exhibit.html</p> <p>Sources for information on forged stamps and on expertising: a bibliography of classic philatelic forgery literature, internal links. https://www.filatelia.fi/index.html?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">“Stamp Error & Forgeries - Research Society”</p>	<p>Join the Facebook page – lots of interesting information. This is a Special Interests group for people who collect Errors, Flaws, Fakes and Forgeries of Postal Stamps. The page is to share information on any finds; document research done on specific errors and file this research away in such a manner that members can go through items and look at older posts. Members are encouraged to posts their own errors, finds, ask questions, submit sales bundles etc.</p>

QUIZ

APRIL ANSWERS:

1. Eastern Caribbean with Guadeloupe to the North and Martinique to the South.
2. 6.
3. The date.
4. 1937.
5. Airmail.
6. Susan B. Anthony.
7. Proof.
8. 1918.
9. International Red Cross.
10. 1962.
11. Cricket.
12. Rik Wouters.
13. Each has a different border.
14. Cricket.
15. Postal Code.
16. Chemical Industry.
17. Boy Scouts.
18. Bible.
19. First Prime Minister of Ceylon.
20. United Nations.
21. Dog.
22. Friedrich Engels.
23. Winston Churchill.
24. Black.
25. 1953 – 1/6d of Aloes.

MAY QUESTIONS:

1. What building is shown on a 1979 Guernsey issue?
2. What Queen is shown on the first Hong Kong issue?
3. What sport is shown on a 1962 Hungary souvenir sheet?
4. What saint is featured on the Ireland Holy Year Stamp of 1950?
5. What sport is shown on the 1977 Italy Stamp Day issue?
6. The Wright Brothers' airplane appears on a 1978 Lesotho set. What does the set honour?
7. What monument appears on the 1956 Liberia 3cent stamp honouring FIPEX?
8. What American car maker appears on a 1963 Monaco issue?
9. What occupation is shown on a 10cent 1959 Netherlands stamp?
10. What is the central design of the 1969 Norway census stamps?
11. What American First Lady appears on a 1964 Poland stamp?
12. The founder of Lions International appears on a 1960 San Marino stamp. Who was he?
13. What animal is shown on the issue for Spain International Stamp Day in 1965?
14. What Swiss military unit is honoured on a 1965 Swiss stamp?
15. How many stamps were there in the 1974 USA set marking the centenary of the Universal Postal Union?
16. In what year did the U.S. issue four Christmas stamps showing toys?
17. Who is on the three-cent value of the 1938 US definitives?
18. What famous artist's daughter appears on a 1965 US 5cent stamp?
19. What Arizona plant appears on the US statehood issue of 1962?
20. On which of the US series Overrun Countries stamps is there an error?
21. Penny Blacks have which watermark?
22. A Cape of Good Hope stamp with the letter "G" overprinted was from where?
23. When was the first Natal stamp with the Chalon portrait of Queen Victoria issued?
24. Between which years were the "Bantam" definitive and Postage Due stamps of SA issued?
25. In what year were SA the Rugby World Champions?

AS USUAL QUIZ ANSWERS IN THE NEXT ISSUE!!!!

Stamp collectors don't lose weekends, they invest them in tiny masterpieces.

Old philatelists never die they just become unhinged!

ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS:

- Puntlaand? State in Somalia.
- What is made of leather and sounds like a sneeze? A shoe.
- What countries are named after trees? BRAZIL The word Brazil comes from the name of a tree called Pau-Brasil?
- SONDERSTEMPEL - Commemorative postmarks.

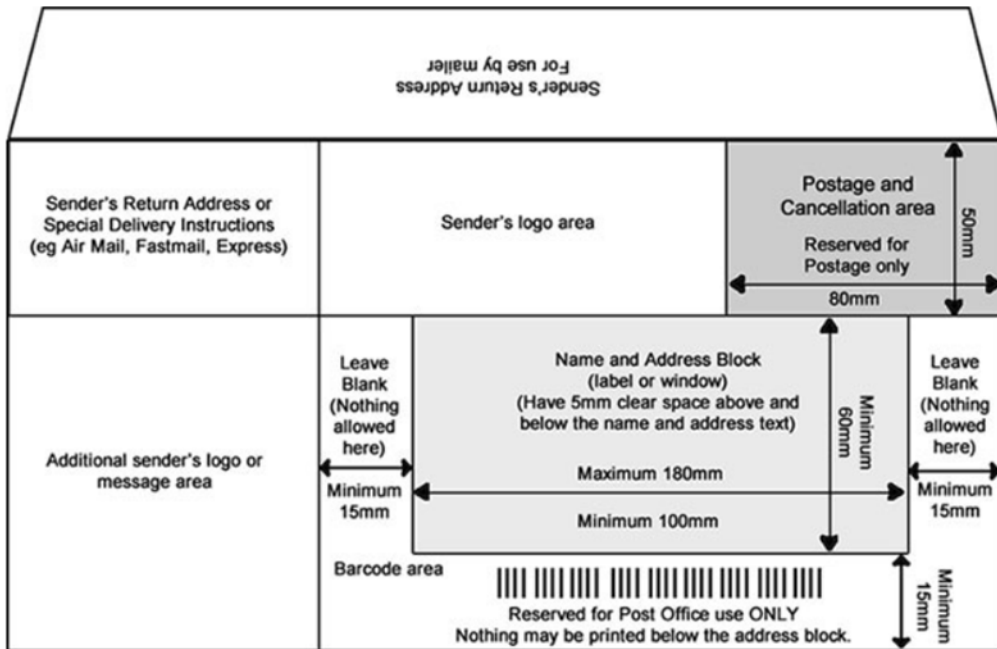


JUST SO WE DON'T FORGET.....

HOW TO CORRECTLY ADDRESS AN ENVELOPE (- From SA Post Office site).

- Ensure that both the sender and the receiver's addresses are correct.
- Check the spelling of surnames, street names and towns.
- Ensure the address is written in black ink.
- Write clearly.
- Always use the correct postal code. View the postal codes. It is vitally important to use the correct postal code.
- Always include the sender's return address on the back of the envelope.
- Always include the receiver's cell phone number so that they can be notified when the item is ready for collection.

Remember to put the right stamp on each and every mail item.
 Be aware of standard mail specifications and avoid sending oversized envelopes and parcels weighing more than 1kg via standard mail.



Finland has the strictest driving rules in the world. Students must learn car mechanics and how to drive on ice. They are also required to pass separate driving test in both summer and winter conditions.