



WITWATERSRAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Country Club Johannesburg, Auckland Park

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

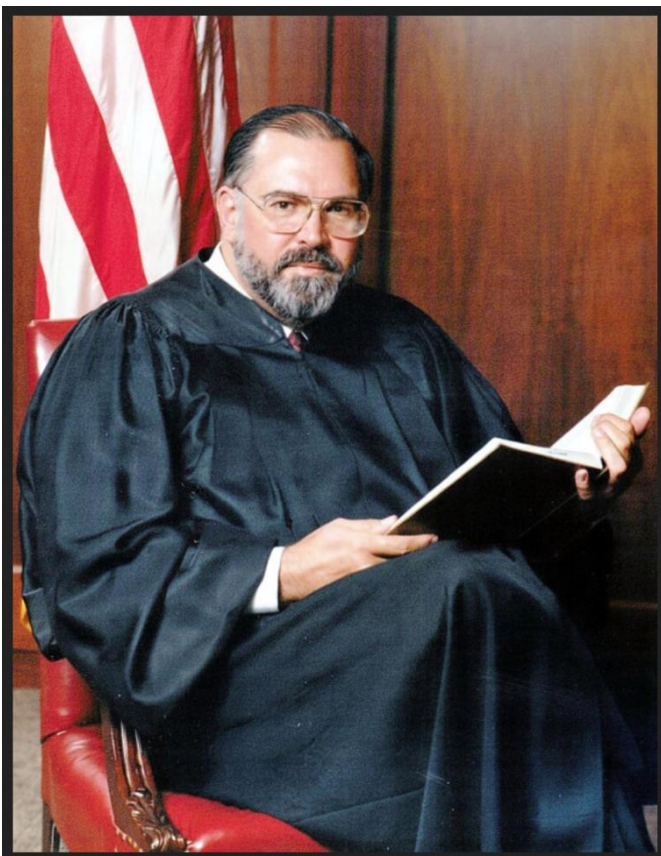
NEWSLETTER No. 387: MAY 2026

Dear Members:

This, the May 2026 Newsletter No. 387, features the following items:

- 1) Obituaries for Moody Tidwell and Gerhard Kamffer.
- 2) Schedule of dates for Auckland Park meetings in 2026.
- 3) Schedule of dates for the Woodmead meetings in 2026 .
- 4) A report on the Auckland Park meeting held at 16h00 on 13 May 2026.
- 5) A report on the in-person and digital via Zoom Stamp Study meeting at Woodmead on 27th May 2026 at 19h00

1. IN MEMORIAM



Senior Judge Moody Tidwell joined Wits Philatelic Society in April 2013. Moody passed away on 2 April 2026 at the age of 87.

Moody was a sailor in the US Coast Guard, a brilliant lawyer, a foundational pillar of the US Court of Federal Claims, and an international peace builder. He was also a devoted husband (of late wife Serena), father and grandfather.

He was a recognized philatelist – an expert in Union of South Africa – spending decades curating award-winning stamp exhibits. It is reported that he visited South Africa 27 times to support conflict resolution efforts, working alongside local leaders like Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk to help shape the nascent democracy. Of course, the visits to South Africa also helped him in his philatelic studies!

As a professional lawyer he earned secretarial medals and also generated a five-foot bookshelf of published opinions



Brigadier General Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA (72) passed away on 10 May at his home in Pretoria East following a long battle with leukaemia.

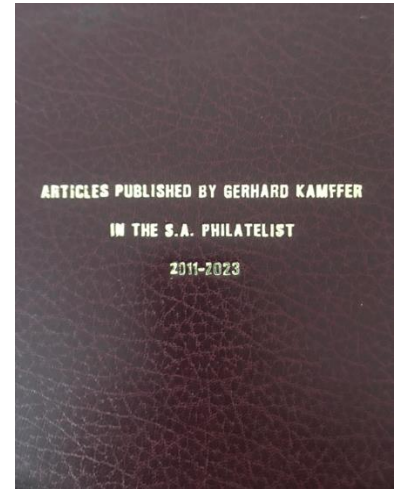
Gerhard was one of the most active philatelists in South Africa. The book illustrated below right is a compendium of his many articles in the SA Philatelist. He broke new ground in Paarl in 1987 by winning the Grand Prix with a revenue exhibit. His exhibit “Road to Democracy” was the keynote exhibit at the Cape Town international stamp exhibition in 2022.

He signed the Roll of Honour of Distinguished Philatelists in South Africa

in 1998. Gerhard exhibited internationally, winning a gold medal in Melbourne, Australia.

Gerhard was born in Balfour, 36km from his adopted home town Heidelberg. He was recognized by the Heidelberg Heritage Association for his contribution to studies of local history.

He spent over 40 years in uniform starting with National service in 1973 and had a chequered military career in addition to being recognized as one of the leading philatelists in South Africa..



2. DATES FOR THE 2026 MEETINGS AT AUCKLAND PARK

The table below gives the 2026 meeting dates and activities to be held in one of the function rooms at 16h00. The actual venue will be announced a few days before the meeting.

Wednesday	10 th June 2026	First Competitive Meeting
Wednesday	8 th July 2026	‘No Rules’ One Frame Meeting
Wednesday	12 th August 2026	Inter-Society Quiz Meeting
Wednesday	9 th September 2026	Thematic Display Meeting
Wednesday	14 th October 2026	Second Competitive Meeting
Wednesday	11 th November 2026	Invited Exhibitor
Wednesday	9 December 2026	President’s Meeting + Cocktail Party

2. DATES FOR THE 2026 STAMP STUDY MEETINGS AT WOODMEAD

The table below gives the dates for the 2026 Woodmead meetings to be held in the Captain’s Table (or other venue to be notified) at Woodmead at 19h00:

Wednesday	24 th June 2026
Wednesday	29 th July 2026
Wednesday	26 th August 2026
Wednesday	30 th September 2026
Wednesday	28 th October 2026
Wednesday	25 th November 2026

3 THE AFTERNOON MEETING HELD AT AUCKLAND PARK IN THE WILLOW ROOM ON 13 MAY 2026 AT 16h00

The chairman for the evening was Ian Matheson. Ian welcomed RDPSAs Andrew Briscoe, Vic Sorour , Danna Strydom and Herbie Schaffler. Attendance at the meeting was 14 with one visitor, Margie Roper, who has now submitted an application form for membership. Ian reported that he had received apologies from Don and Denise Collie, Adel Bulpitt, John Handman, Jim Findlay, Dave Clark, Pat Flanagan and Howard Green. This was our first meeting at the splendid new venue.

General Announcements

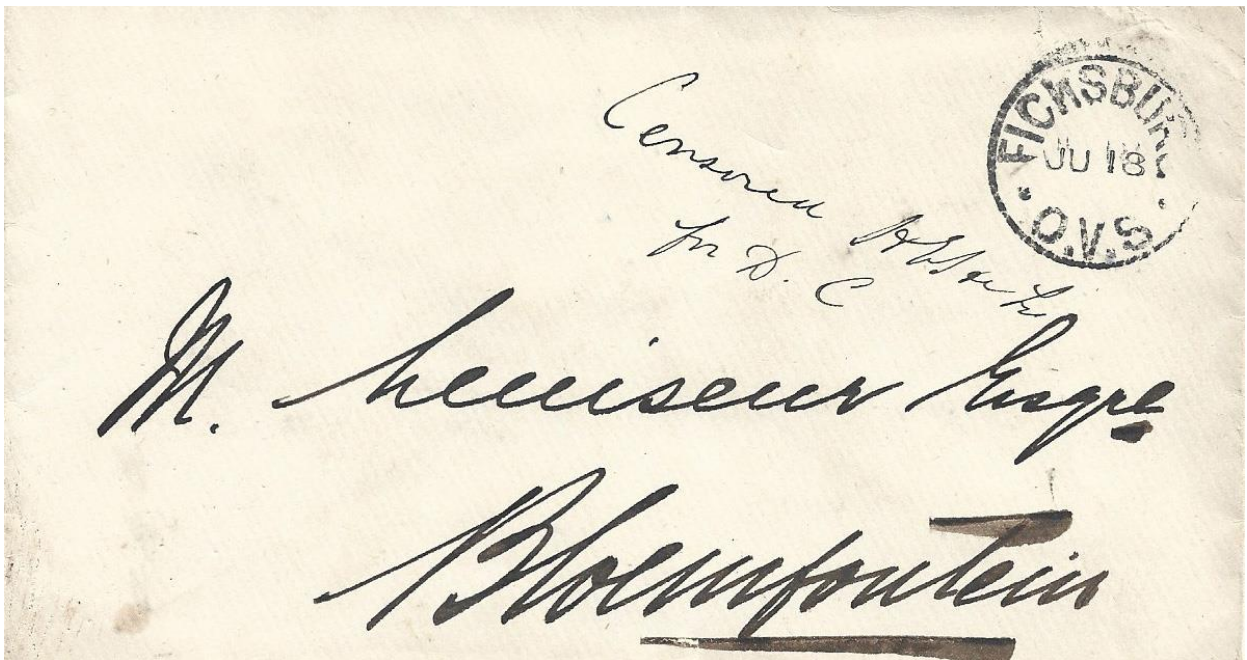
- There was sad news to report. Ian announced the passing of two senior philatelists, Gerhard Kamffer and Moody Tidwell. All present stood in silence while we remembered our late friends.
- Andrew Briscoe RDPSA is a rare visitor to our meetings as he is based in Botswana. It was splendid for the members to meet one of our eminent philatelists in person; we read his excellent submissions regularly in the SA Philatelist. We hope to have the pleasure of his company at more meetings in future. The opportunity was taken to present Andrew with a certificate from our AGM which he was unable to attend. Certificates were also presented to Vic Sorour and Danna Strydom.

• The Exhibits

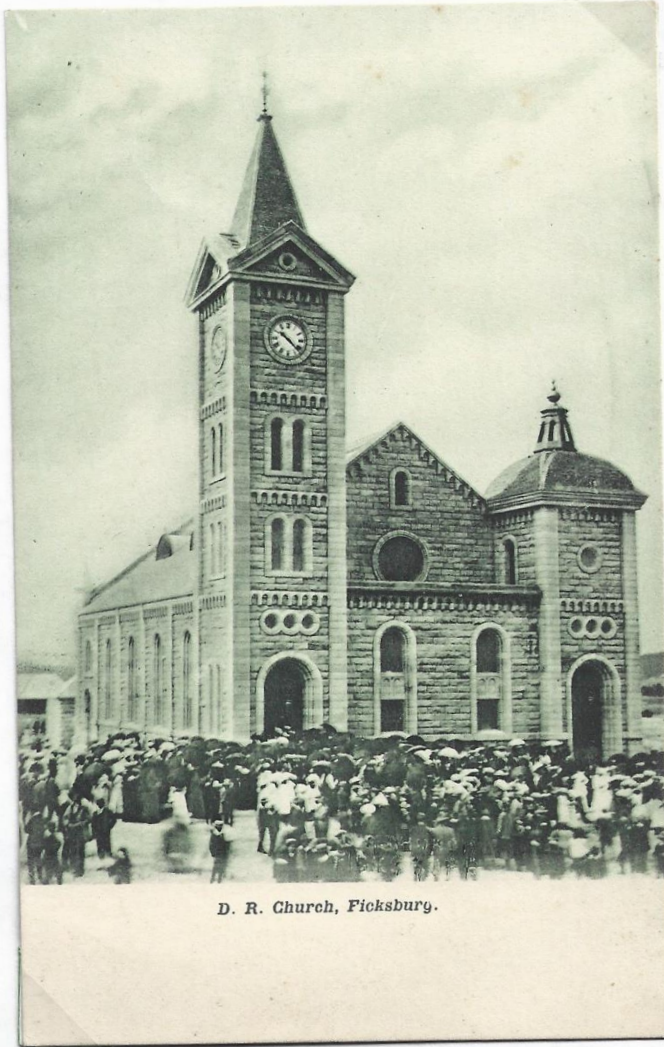
The theme for the meeting was “One Frame Displays”.

Vic Sorour showed postmarks from his birthplace, Ficksburg, in the Orange Free State. Ficksburg is one of three towns (Wepener and Ladybrand are the other two) that were established as strong points in the Free State Republic in the conquered territory, land taken from the Basotho in the war of 1867.

Ficksburg is best known for its cherry and asparagus crops. The annual cherry festival is held each November. Most of South Africa’s cherries come from Ficksburg.



Censored Anglo-Boer War envelope without a stamp and showing the Ficksburg canceller.



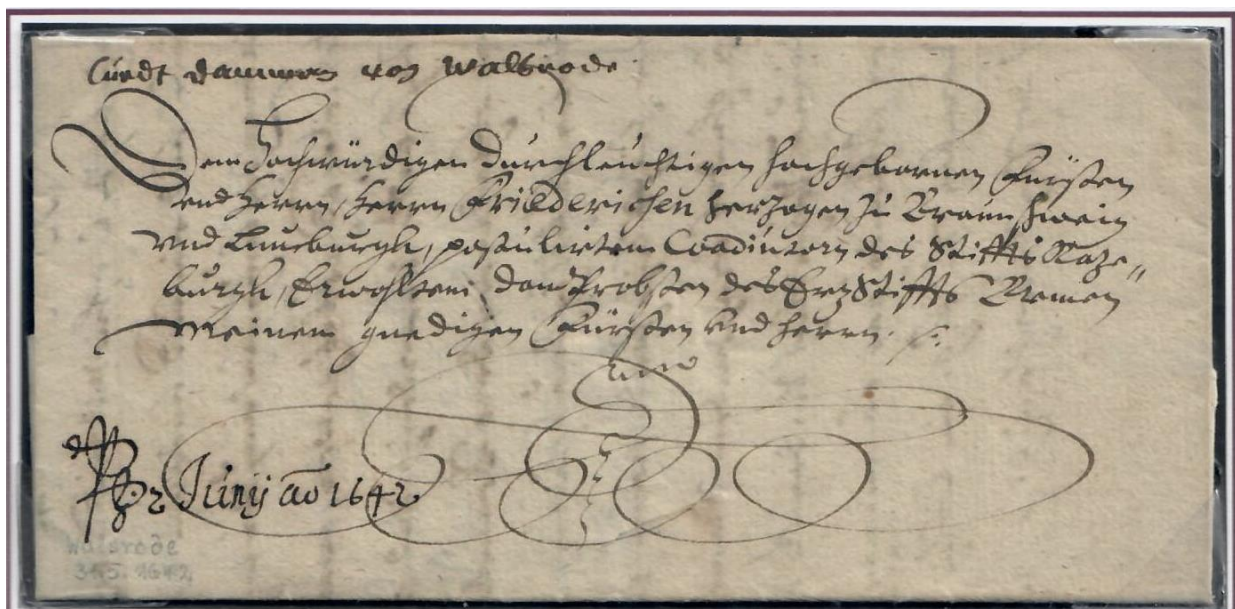
D. R. Church, Ficksburg.

Like many other towns in the Eastern Free State there are many magnificent sandstone buildings in the town. The Dutch Reformed Church with its distinctive clock and the town hall are good examples.

C.R.Swart, who became the first state president of the Republic in 1961, was imprisoned in the local jail after he was found guilty of treason during the rebellion of 1914. The town was named after Commandant General Johan Izak Fick, who fought in the wars against the Basothos (1865-1868)

The exhibit showed the postmarks that had been used in Ficksburg from early times until the present.

Herbie Schaffler showed a frame comprising 18 pages of early Hannover covers and entires dating from 1642 to 1861. The covers were in beautiful condition and demonstrated how postal history from European nations were so much better preserved than those from South-East Asia, Africa or Central America, where weather conditions were much more hostile to paper preservation.



31 May 1642. A folded lettersheet posted in Walsrode, a town in the district of Heidekreis, to a lawyer in Bierda, a village near Walsrode.

1752
Elsdorff
Hamburg

A Monsieur
Monsieur Wahrendorff
Surintendant general des
Affaires Ecclesiastiques de
Sa Majeste' Britannique
Envoye ordinaire de
à Harburg

22 March 1752. Folded lettersheet from Wlsdorff to Monsieur Wahrendorff, the Supt. General for Ecclesiastical Affairs for the King of Britain and forwarded to Harburg in Hamburg.

HANNOVER

Don
Pastor Jan Einigmann
in
Glaubden
Amtt Wbstun

27/15
28/21
Zusatz 48.
J. E. M. 3
1816

APR

4 April 1816. Official folded lettersheet from Hannover to Clausthal.

CELLE

Don
Im hohen Amte des Pastors Mejer
zu
Wehlen.

L. L. L.
M. Westen.
147. 1799. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

France.

20 March 1822. Folded lettersheet from Celle to Wehlen, a town on the Western edge of Saxony-Switzerland in Sachsen.

The next display was provided by our resident vexillologist, Dr. Bruce Berry.

Bruce's display was entitled '**Rhodesia - political milestones on commemorative covers (1965 - 1980)**'. These were a series of privately produced covers to mark significant political events and anniversaries that were issued in Rhodesia between 1965 and 1980. The covers each feature a Rhodesian stamp and are date-stamped to commemorate the event.

The first cover was issued to mark Rhodesia's Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) on 11 November 1965 and the last cover was to commemorate when the country became independent as the Republic of Zimbabwe on 18 April 1980. The tumultuous history between those two significant dates, such as the various settlement negotiations, the installation of the transitional government of Zimbabwe Rhodesia, the signing of the Lancaster House Agreement, the ceasefire and the subsequent arrival of the British Governor were shown on various covers.

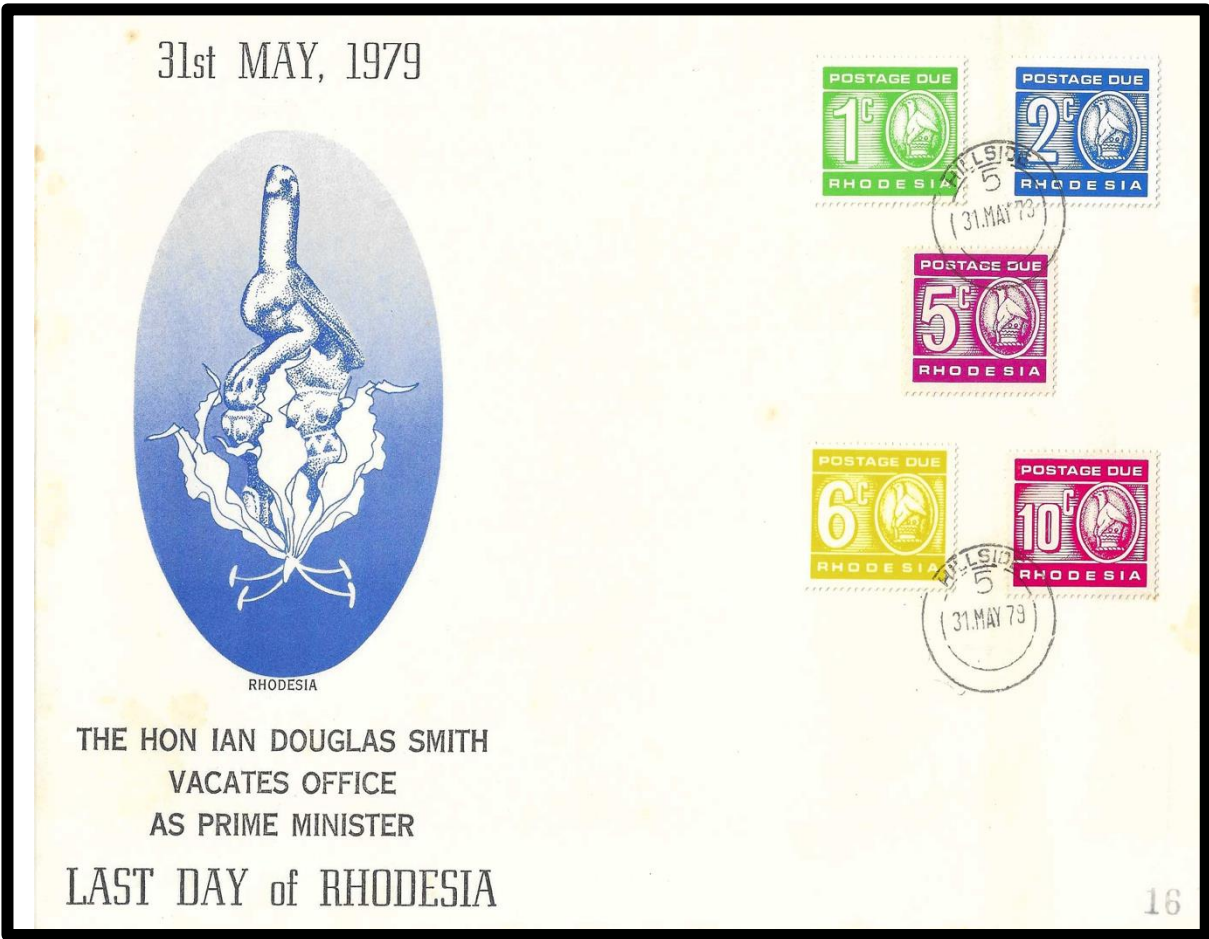
Whilst the covers themselves are not particularly attractive, no doubt being hastily produced to mark the event, they do provide an interesting record of the history of the period.



**Rhodesian Constitutional Agreement
Friday 3rd March 1978**

An agreement which will give Rhodesia a one man one vote majority rule government by the end of 1978 was signed in Salisbury. The signatories were the Prime Minister, Mr. Ian Smith and the three nationalist leaders, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the Rev. Ndabani Sithole and Senator Chief Jeremiah Chirau.





Our treasurer Derek Roth followed with a display of twentieth century Austrian stamps. The exhibit followed catalogue listings and demonstrated the range of beautiful stamps of the period.

Ian Matheson's exhibit showed postmarks from Punta Gorda in British Honduras. The village was founded in 1802 with a few households but grew rapidly as it became the home of the Garifuna immigrants in 1832. Ian told the story of the Garifuna, who originated from two shipwrecks off St Vincent in 1635. They were accepted by the local Carib residents and the two groups integrated and the region became a sanctuary for freed or escaped slaves in the Caribbean region.

St Vincent had been contested by the French and English, but the Treaty of Paris in 1763 awarded the island to England. British and Carib residents were in continuous conflict over land in St Vincent. The second Carib War of 1795 resulted in Caribs occupying most of the island. The British sent a large force and 5000 "Black Caribs" (locals with African features) were expelled from the island and dumped in Roatan, an island near the coast of today's Honduras. It is reported that only 2500 arrived alive, but it was too large a group for Roatan to accommodate. Over the next few decades these people (the Garifuna) moved on to Nicaragua, Honduras and Belize. Punta Gorda was one of the three settlements on the British Honduras coast (The others were Stann Creek and Hopkins).

By 1891 the population of Punta Gorda had reached 519, of which 90% were Garifuna. In 1981 there were 65,000 Garifuna in Honduras, Nicaragua and Belize. They have their own language and culture. In 2001 Garifuna culture was declared a "Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity" by UNESCO. 19 November is a public holiday in Belize – Garifuna Resettlement Day.

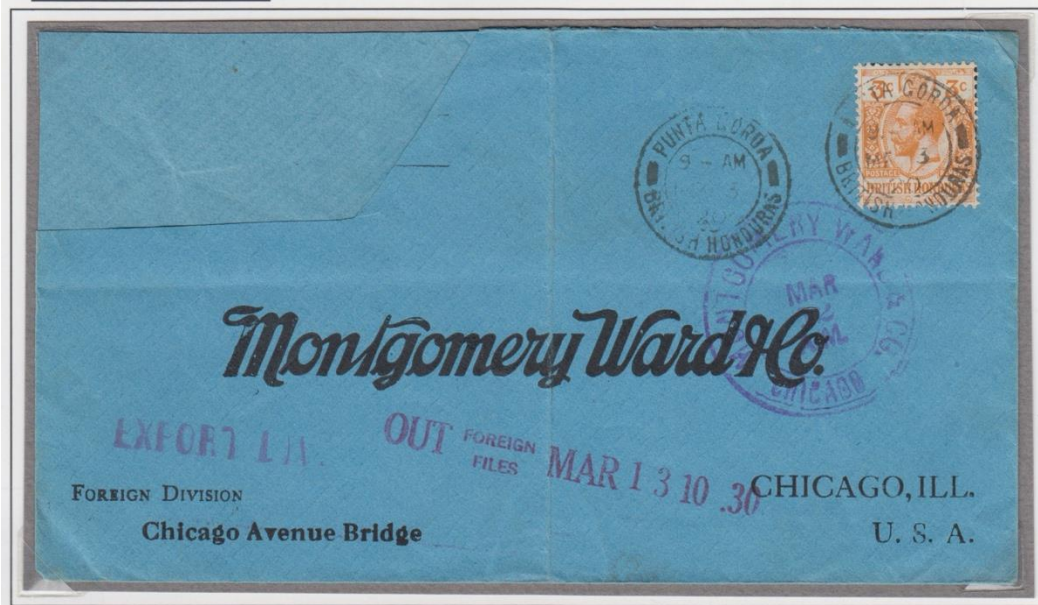
The exhibit showed all postmarks recorded from Punta Gorda post office.

11 June 1890
Duplex cancellation
(two copies recorded)
11/6/90 – 20/8/90)



4 January 1899
A06 dumb canceller
Used in conjunction with
double ring Punta Gorda
datestamp applied to
reverse of cover.
(recorded dates
15/11/1892 – 6/1/1909)

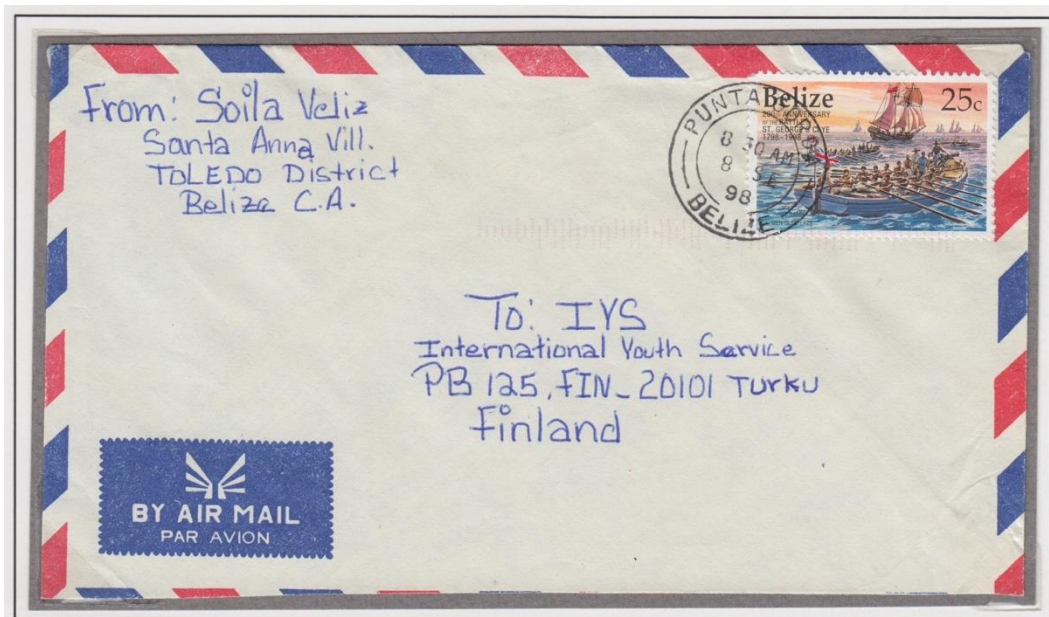




3 March 1920. Cover from Punta Gorda to USA.



10 November 1973. "British Honduras" postal markings used with "Belize" stamps.

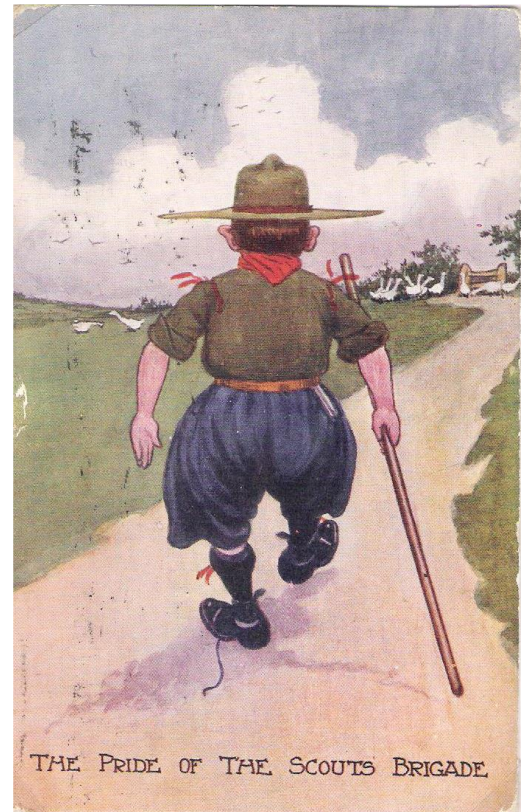


8 September 1998. "Belize" postmark used with "Belize" stamps.

The next frame was presented by Gary Pienaar and was entitled “HUMOUR IN UNIFORM – A comic look at Scouting activities”.

Scouting started in 1907, founded by British Lieutenant-General Robert Baden-Powell to teach adventure, outdoor skills, and values to young people. It was spontaneously embraced by boys all over Britain and across the world who formed Patrols and Scout Troops of their own. They improvised uniforms and went outdoors to camp, explore, pioneer and do good turns.

Scouting’s widespread appeal and public image created an ideal theme for cartoonists and postcard illustrators. Humorous postcards were soon poking fun at some of the Scout’s activities. British humour is generally based on satire, aimed at the absurdity of everyday life. Not everyone took Scouting as seriously as the leaders may have wanted. Several illustrators including Ernest Ibbetson, Harold Earnshaw and Donald McGill were soon producing a range of comic Scouting postcards.



This one frame exhibit explored some of the key themes that postcard illustrators drew inspiration from. The Scout Uniform was a primary source. Given Baden-Powell’s previous military career, illustrators were soon poking fun at the neat, clean image of the Scout. The daily good turn was another, as service to others is one of the key values. The exhibit ends with a brief look at the poor Adult Leader, on which much of Scouting depends, desperately trying to keep up with their young charges while trying to be a good role model and example for the youngsters.



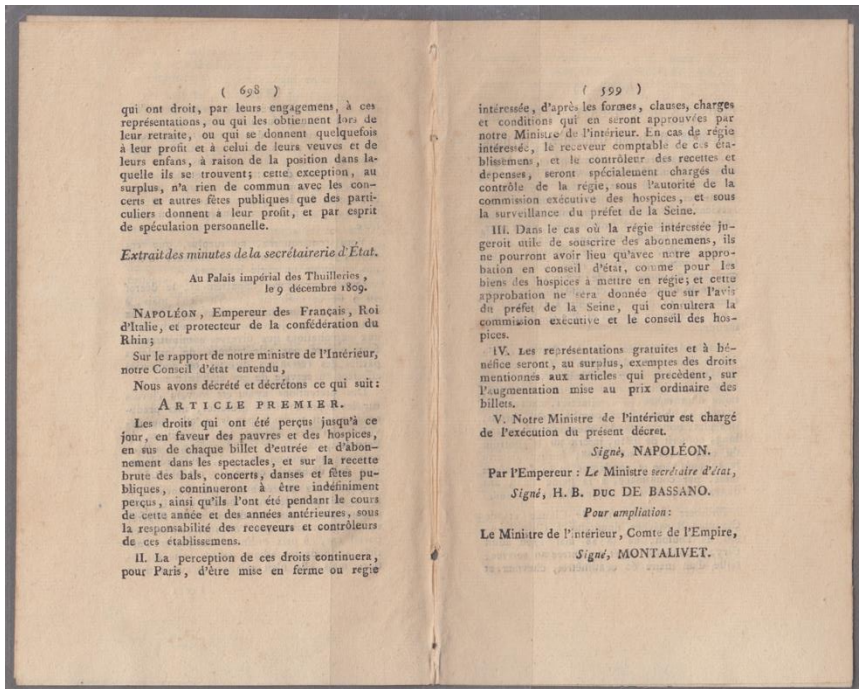
5. THE IN-PERSON AND DIGITAL VIA ZOOM MEETING HELD AT WOODMEAD IN THE CAPTAIN’S TABLE ON 27TH MAY 2026

The chairperson for the Stamp Study meeting in the Captain’s Table at Woodmead on 27th May 2026 was *Ian Matheson*, who provided the snacks.

There were four in-persons members in the room, including *John Handman, Danna Strydom, Jim Findlay, and Ian Matheson*. Via Zoom there were eleven viewers. *Adél Bulpitt* hosted the meeting from England, where she is presently on a visit and Ian Matheson provided the laptop to link to the screen at Woodmead. The Country Club IT technician assisted to set the system up

First to show was **Ian Matheson**: Ian’s topic was **“Droit des Pauvres”**. A literal translation of this is the Right of the Poor. In 1677 a royalty was levied by Comedie Francaise to pay for the Hopital General

to occupy the Hotel de Bourgoigne. This was given a legal basis on 25 February 1699 when this tax was established at one seventh of the total ticket price for theatres, concerts, balls and horse races. The tax was increased to one quarter of the gross revenue in February 1716. The tax was set at one decime per franc in 1796 and this was confirmed in law by Napoleon in December 1809. A copy of the legislation is shown at left. From the 1860s the tax was shared by hospitals and charities.. From 1875 a receiver was appointed to collect the tax. A tax receipt of 1878 was shown. In 1909 it was decided to print special stamps for collection of the tax in France. The stamps were printed from two different plates as illustrated below and to left.





Usage of Droit des Pauvres issue on ticket.



Blank value – to be completed in manuscript (plate proof)

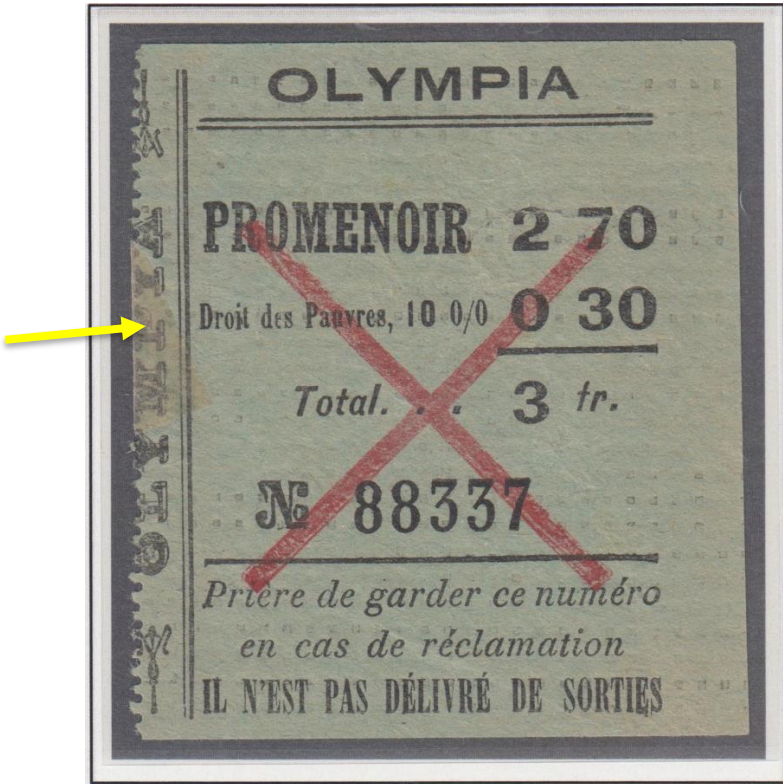


Tickets overprinted "ANNULÉ" for training purposes. The left hand ticket is additionally overprinted "DROIT DES PAUVRES"



The adhesives at left were issued by the town of Montpellier, but bear no face value. They are inscribed "DROIT DES PAUVRES". Maybe they were applied to tickets to show that the tax was included in the price? This will only be confirmed if tickets bearing copies of the stamps are reported.

The display featured numerous tickets where the tickets showed that (a) the Droit des Pauvres was included in the price, (b) the Droit des Pauvres and other taxes were included, or (c) it was indicated that all taxes had been included. An example of (a) is shown on the next page.



The ticket shown at left shows that tax of 10% has been included in the ticket price (30c out of 3fr total) to pay the Droit des Pauvres.

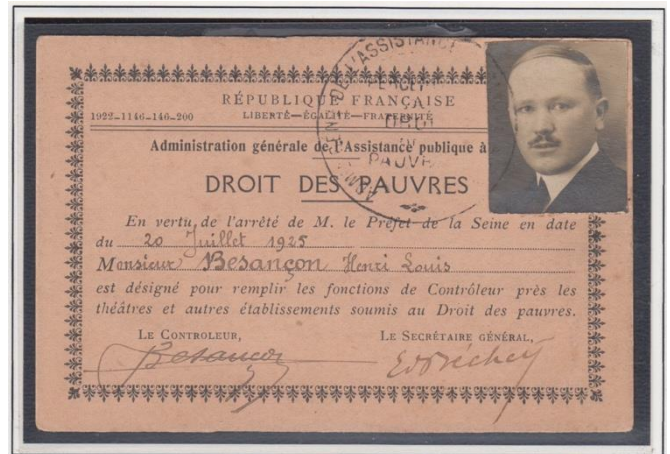
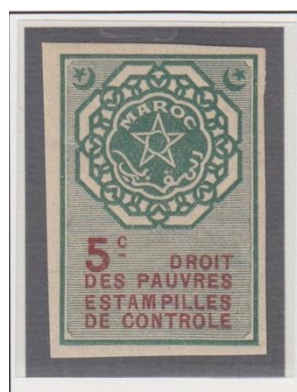
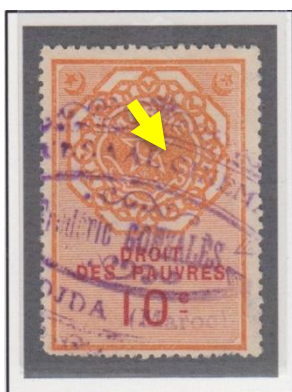
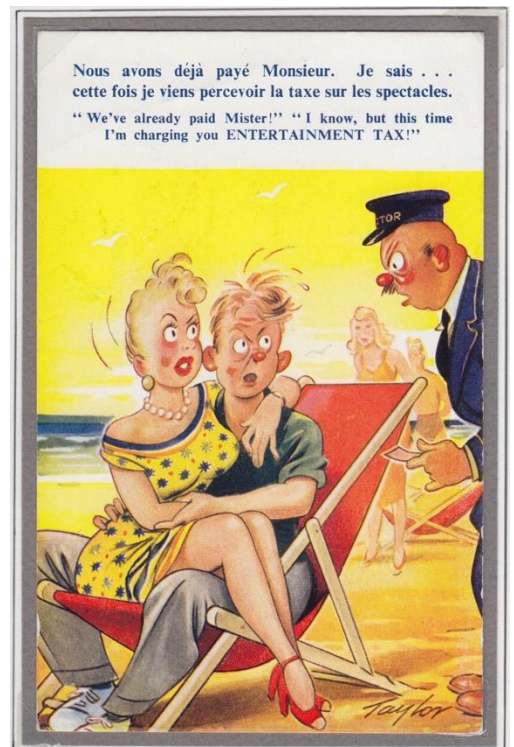
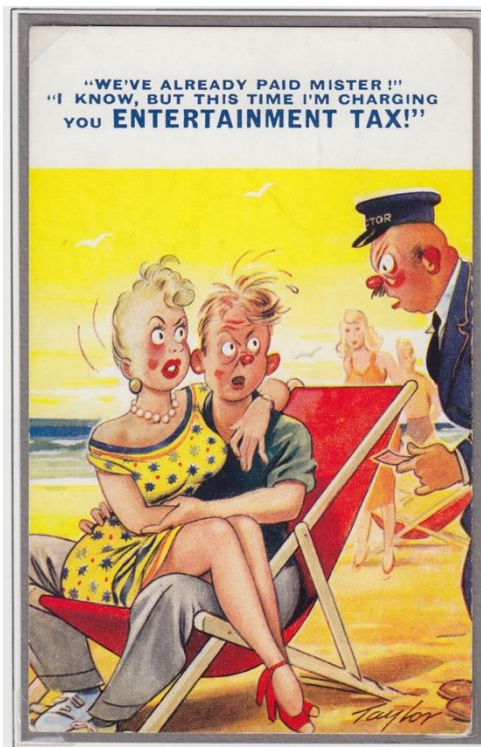


Photo identity badge for Henri Louis Besancon authorizing him to practice in the Droit des Pauvres department

A selection of postcards were shown with French text, all poking fun at the entertainment taxes. Most were cards that had been issued in Great Britain, but had been reprinted in French for distribution in France.



Most of the presentation featured usages in France. However Ian also showed a Swiss ticket used in Geneva, which showed that the Droit des Pauvres tax had been included in the price.

Finally he showed several pages of stamps from French Morocco, which also paid the Droit des Pauvres taxes. The example at far left bears a cinema cancellation. The example at right is a plate proof.

Jim Findlay showed a display tracking the use of flying boats on mail routes. Early routes included the Durban to Southampton route and the “Horseshoe Route” used during the Second World War.

An amphibious flying machine! “An aeroplane boat”! Seen in Monaco in April 1910. This was only a couple of years after the first flight by the Wright Brothers.



First flying boat airmail from Durban to Southampton with 6d postage.

The Farman HF14 Waterplane on a tour of United Kingdom in August 1912.



John Handman told us the story of the Bambatha Rebellion in Natal in 1906, illustrated by a collection of postcards.

The Bambatha Rebellion began in February of 1906, and was essentially a refusal to pay an annual One Pound Poll Tax which had been imposed on all adult unmarried men. The motivation behind the tax seems to have been to encourage younger unmarried men to seek out employment in the colony, as there was a shortage of available labour at the time.



DB Postcard published by Sallo Epstein & Co, Durban is a rare card. It is a photograph depicting the loading of condemned men to be taken for execution. Richmond, was the only location during the rebellion where captured rebels were tried by a military court, found guilty and sentenced to death and where the execution was summarily carried out. All other rebels captured during the rebellion were tried in the civilian courts mainly in Pietermaritzburg and Durban. Richmond was the location of the first confrontation between the authorities and the rebels.

Jamie Smith – who seems to be a subject matter expert on so many subjects – gave a fascinating presentation, which showed the extent of usages of Indian stamps. The display showed stamps posted to and from India and also from numerous other offices around the Indian Ocean.

India to Mauritius, directed via Aden 1866.

Calcutta, 1st Juin (June) 1866.

Enlarged 8 Anna, East Indian Stamp.
Cancelled 'STAMPED' to prevent theft & reuse
and B/1 Octagonal cancellation of Calcutta.

Calcutta - 1/6/66.

Mauritius 7/7/66.

8a, Commercial Entire, stamp tied by 'Stamped' (to prevent theft of stamp) and cancelled with B/1 cancellation. Directed via Aden & Mauritius by rubber stamp. The Mauritius 6d 'to pay' was a ship letter charge (i.e. non-contract vessel).

Socked on the Nose!

At 20h30, *Adél Bulpitt* then closed the Digital via Zoom part of the meeting and the meeting continued with the four people in the venue.

The next Woodmead meeting is scheduled for on 24th June 2026.

General:

- National Stamp Show 2026 will be held at the Country Club Johannesburg – Woodmead from **9-12 September 2026**. This will be hosted by the PFSA, assisted by affiliated members of the Gauteng Philatelic Societies.
- Members are urged to apply their minds for the July meeting at Auckland Park. The theme is “No Rules”. We have frequently heard collectors bemoan the fact that there are so many rules applicable to competitive exhibiting - exhibition sheets must be white, collections must feature at least 50% philatelic material, covers must not be shown sideways, photos must be originals, no mint stamps in postal history exhibits, etc., etc. The list goes on and on. This meeting urges you to misbehave!!! Let’s see what you have that has been kept out of public view in the past because it did not accord with FIP’s arbitrary standards.

Be good, folks. See you at the next meeting, I hope

Ian Matheson, President.



Any offers?