

The South African Philatelist

All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

Volume 102:3. 996

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June 2026



July 2026: Announcement of Results. Exhibits will be available for viewing on the PFSA website.

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- Joof van der Merwe RDPSA – josuav528@gmail.com

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Please note: Publication closing dates for **FINAL** submission of Advertising Material for *The SA Philatelist* is by **25 Jul. 2026**.

ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:

For the Volume 102:4 997 - The **AUGUST 2026** issue submit by **15 Jul. 2026**

Send your contribution to sap@stampssa.africa



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FEDERATION NEWS

André du Plessis RDPSA, Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, [083 399 1755](tel:0833991755)
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Union Handbook: Work on the review of the Handbook are progressing well. The chapters on the Interprovincial stamps, Air Mails, 1913 Kings Heads, London Pictorials and Pretoria Typo printing are completed and ready for proof reading.

The Union Handbook is far more than a reference book. It is a testimony to the depth, research and heritage of South Africa's philately landscape, something of which we can all be justly proud! The revised publication represents an investment not only in a book, but in preserving and celebrating our philatelic legacy for current collectors and generations to come.

Readers are warmly called upon to consider donating to the Union Handbook Fund. This fund was established to assist with the significant printing costs of a long overdue review of the Union Handbook - an extraordinary work that stands as the magnum opus of South Africa philately.

By contributing to this fund, you help ensure that this landmark publication continues to be a source of national pride and international respect for South African philately. Every contribution, regardless of size, plays a meaningful role in bringing this important work to fruition and will be greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to communicate any comments, suggestions and amendment/corrections of the content of the 1986 Jack Hagger RDPSA print of The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961 to André du Plessis RDPSA at pfsastamps@gmail.com

Your participation is valued and sincerely appreciated.

Stampshow 2026: 9 to 12 September 2026, Country Club Johannesburg, Woodmead. Closing date for entries is 20 July 2026, and exhibits should be delivered to the Organising Committee by 8 September 2026 at 10:00. We would like to invite you to participate and looking forward to receiving your entry.

Exhibitors are reminded to send scanned copies of their exhibits before 20 August 2026 to the organising committee. This new venture will benefit exhibitors, jurors, feedback, exhibiting, and philately in general.

Click to view the [Prospectus](#) and [Entry form](#)

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[World's Best Stamp](#): view the 195 stamps, issued in 2025, entered by 66 countries in this competition held under the auspices of the PFSA.

[Philatelysa \(New\)](#): SAVPEX exhibits from 2020 to 2025 have been transferred from the [Stampssa](#) website to the new PFSA website, [Philatelysa](#), which also hosts members' multi-frame exhibits and presentations. If you have received a Large Vermeil or higher award for an exhibit at a Stampshow and would like to display it on this website, please contact André du Plessis at pfsastamps@gmail.com.

PFSA Constitution

The PFSA Executive Committee, comprising John Handman, Louwrence Erasmus, Derek Roth, and André du Plessis RDPSA, is currently reviewing the PFSA Constitution to ensure compliance with both existing and newly enacted South African company legislation. Legal counsel has been consulted to assist in this process at no cost to the PFSA. 

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or decline any articles, letters or any other material submitted for publication, and reserves the right to effect minor changes of spelling, punctuation, grammar and word choice without requesting prior permission from the author(s). For more substantial revisions, such as shortening or restructuring, either the Board will request the author(s) to effect such changes or will propose amendments to the author prior to publication - if no agreement can be reached then publication will be declined.

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The PFSA encourages participation in both this journal, *The SA Philatelist*, as well as the electronic newsletter, *'Keeping in Touch'*. By interacting with these publications, regular and new readers continue to support stamp collecting in South Africa. For more details contact the Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, André du Plessis RDPSA, [+27 \(0\)83 399 1755](tel:+270833991755), or on email at pfsastamps@gmail.com, or visit the website at <https://www.stampssa.africa>.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

• Affiliation fee: RSA and worldwide: R150.00 (Electronic only).

PLEASE NOTE: The PFSA affiliation fee offers, *inter-alia*, six copies of the electronic journal and electronic newsletters annually.

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Contributions and letters for the publication must be forwarded to the Editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist*, email: sap@stampssa.africa

Advertising Rates available from the C.O.O. André du Plessis RDPSA, email: pfsastamps@gmail.com 

Letters to the Editorial Board



Correspondence to *THE SA PHILATELIST* should be addressed to the Editorial Board. Material received is most welcome and will be reviewed. Articles, letters and items of interest will be considered for publication.

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Hello

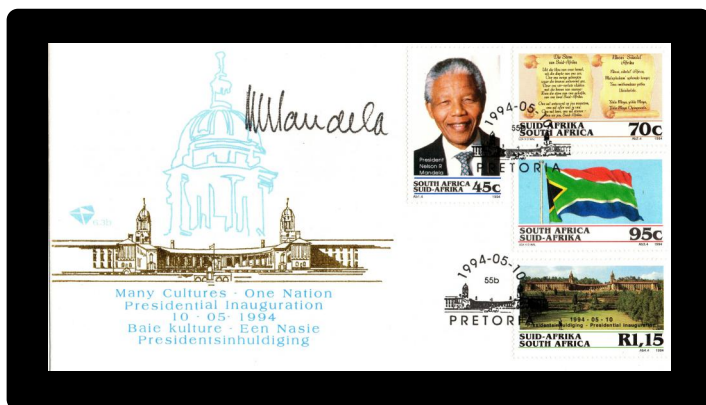
I thoroughly enjoyed the article by Danie van Zyl in your December 2025 issue of *The SA Philatelist*. It added a new dimension and reference point for identifying elusive Mandela signatures on FDCs.

What do I make of the attached, though? The signatures appear to be identical, on three different FDCs (one of which is obviously privately produced, but still useful when looking for similarities in Mandela signatures), hinting at them being autopen signatures; however, they don't match the autopen signatures associated with Autopen A, B or C.

Were they possibly printed directly onto the FDC?

Kind regards

Grant Wiid



Investigating Mandela signatures is a never-ending adventure. Since I identified signatures A, B and C I have added signature D, as found on the SA Navy 75 cover number 22, *An International Fleet Review* by President Nelson Mandela, 5 April 1997. The signature referred to in this letter resembles the Navy cover signature very closely but not exactly. The first "a" has a curl absent in signature D. This could be signature E but we need to examine the original covers rather than inspecting scans. I do not believe these signatures could have been printed on the covers. We may perhaps have to investigate the possible use of a rubber cache. The more information we can gather the closer we will be to finding answers. At present we have more questions than answers. Hopefully a Mandela staff member who officially used the autopen instrument will find a way to enlighten us as to its use and to how many different sets were in use at any one time.

Danie van Zyl

Editor: See the article in this issue for the identification of Signature D on p. 96.

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Exhibition Calendar

EXHIBITION	DATE	LEVEL	COMMISSIONER / CONTACT	LINK
SAVPEX 2026	Jun. 2026	PFSA	Emil Minnaar RDPSA	PFSA
SASOL 26 Mini Exhibit.	Jul. 2026	PFSA Ausp. OILFILAT Orga.	Leon Jacobson	SASOL 26
MACAO 2026 Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	26 Jun. - 1 Jul. 2026	FIP Patron. FIAP Ausp.	Emil Minnaar RDPSA	MACAO 2026
Bilateral Stamp Exhibition Germany-Sweden	17 - 19 Jul. 2026	FEPA Recog.	N/A	BEPHILA 2026
BANDUNG 2026	27 - 31 Aug. 2026	FIAP Patron.	N/A	BANDUNG 2026
NATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2026	9 - 12 Sep. 2026	PFSA Orga.	André du Plessis RDPSA Louwrence Erasmus	PFSA
Gauteng Regional Exhibit.	24 - 26 Sep. 2026	PFSA Ausp. AFP Orga.	Ronel Erasmus	TBA
SRBIJAFILA XVI National Stamp Exhibition	7 - 11 Oct. 2026	FEPA Recog.	N/A	SRBIJAFILA XVI
STAMPEX at the BDC Trade Show	28 - 31 Oct. 2026	PTS Ausp.	N/A	STAMPEX 2026
PHILATAIPEI Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	19 - 24 Nov. 2026	FIP Patron. FIAP Ausp.	Josua (Joof) van der Merwe RDPSA	PHILATAIPEI 2026
MONACOPHIL 2026	3 - 5 Dec. 2026	FEPA Recog.	N/A	MONACOPHIL 2026



NATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2026

9 to 12 September 2026

Venue: The Country Club Johannesburg, Woodmead

Entries close: 20 July 2026

Delivery of Exhibits: 8 September 2026, 12:00

Congress: 11 September 2026

[Entry form](#)

[Prospectus](#)

Contact: André du Plessis RDPSA – pfsastamps@gmail.com



SASOL 26 Mini Exhibition

27 - 31 July 2026

Sasolburg Public Library

Under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa

Prize giving: 1 Aug 2026

Contact:

- Leon Jacobson – lj.heritage@gmail.com
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Looking Back a Century: Highlights from *The SA Philatelist* - May and June 1926

by Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

This month's exploration of Southern African philately delves into summaries of May and June 1926's issues of *The SA Philatelist*. These insights are intended to spark further interest in philatelic research.



Stamps and Native Logic.

A native had a twopenny stamp, he also had a letter to post. With ten native logs he procured a pair of scissors and cut the stamp in two. One half he affixed to his letter, the other he carefully preserved for future use. His letter was surcharged. This is true.

While chatting with the postmaster of the Johannesburg Indo-Native post office the other day, our Editor's attention was very forcibly drawn to a heated argument between a policeman and an Indian clerk. It appeared that the young native had asked for two sheets of halfpenny stamps and placed a pound note on the counter. Upon the stamps being handed him, he grabbed them, and the pound note as well, and endeavoured to make off with the lot. A swift movement of the Indian's hand prevented the Government from being defrauded of twenty shillings—and probably saved the policeman from a spell of detention up Hospital Hill way.

A half-crown native walked into the same office one Saturday afternoon and placing a half-crown on the counter asked for stamps. He was handed thirty 1d stamps, but appeared to be far from satisfied with the bargain. Amid a storm of words the native policeman kept on the premises made an appearance and, as the native was condemning the Government to overcross in the place, force was applied and the malcontent found himself in the street. A few minutes later he reappeared, accompanied by a joint policeman, who appeared to think that the semi-insubordinated heath had not changed what he had asked for. What the postmaster said to the policeman matters not, but the upholder of law, order and traffic beat a hasty retreat and walked a westerly or two westward of his usual conception of directing traffic. What the native really wanted will probably never be known, at any rate, he got full value for his money.

Again, at the same post office, a mine native handed an Indian clerk a half-crown, with the request that he be supplied with penny stamps to that value. He was handed thirty perfectly good stamps bearing Van Riebeeck's ship in the center. He, however, pushed them aside and loudly stated that he was giving the clerk King George V's Head he wanted King George's Head in future, and would never be satisfied. An ill-reverenced and would-be at the moment, he acceded to, he seized his half-crown and, with his head held high, went in search of a, in his opinion, more loyal post office.

The SAP front page of May 1926.

which he considered more loyal and reliable. These stories, though paternalistic and typical for the 1920s, highlighted the social challenges of transitioning from traditional designs to the Union's new pictorial issues.

The journal's main philatelic focus this month was the Union of South Africa's pictorial 6d stamp released on 1 May 1926 (Fig.1). It provided a detailed technical description, highlighting the stamp's rich orange frame and green orange tree (*Citrus sinensis*) design. Printed in sheets of 240 with the multiple Springbok Head watermark, the issue quickly became a subject of study for specialists. Mr Alex Bronks had already identified varieties in the horizontal shading lines of the tree, which varied in length within a single block of four.



Fig.1: 6d Green and Orange.



Fig.2: Bechuanaland Protectorate Postage Dues.

South West Africa (SWA) also sold the Union's 6d pictorial, overprinted by the Government Printer in Pretoria. In Bechuanaland Protectorate, new details emerged about the

overprinted Postage Due stamps (Fig.2). The 1/2d green and 1d red stamps were overprinted in England in full sheets of 240, with different watermark orientations, inverted for the 1/2d and up for the 1d.

The journal reported developments in Mauritius, where a new 15c 'Arms' type in slate blue appeared, and in Malta, where a significant overprinting event occurred. On 1 April 1926, the 'Melita' set was overprinted 'POSTAGE' to prevent fiscal use, followed by the arrival of a new pictorial set printed by Waterlow & Sons Ltd (Fig.3). The issue also briefly covered new colours and values from Grenada, Hong Kong, India, and Nyasaland.



Fig.3: Malta Definitives.

The correspondence columns showcased the meticulous research of contemporary philatelists. Mr W. J. Harrington of Pretoria sought clarification on various 1913 Rhodesian 6d 'Admiral' types. He found a used block of four with a combination of dies, particularly regarding the shading and outlines of the cap and ear. This highlighted the ongoing effort to categorise the complex plate productions of the British South Africa Company.

Mr J. E. M. Coch, a Johannesburg resident, corrected his previous research on the first Bulawayo provisionals. He found that the 'stop after Penny' variety on the 1d surcharges didn't exist and that the Stanley Gibbons (SG) catalogue were wrong.

The May issue featured a comprehensive checklist of the pictorial issues of the Moçambique Company (1918–25).

The journal reprinted a critique from *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* about the Union's 4d triangular stamps. The American publication called the imitation of the classic Cape of Good Hope triangulars 'impertinent' and 'a slight to tradition'.

The journal covered two major airmail events. It detailed Alan Cobham's return flight from Cape Town to London, carrying seven letters, including one to the King and another to the Editor of *The SA Philatelist*. The Editor described a surviving cover autographed by Cobham and postmarked in London on 15 March 1926.

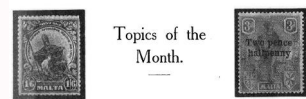
The journal reported on the inauguration of a new aerial

mail service in the Belgian Congo, connecting Leopoldville to the Katanga mining district. This service reduced mail transit time from the Congo's mouth to Elisabethville to less than two days, allowing Belgium to bypass foreign transport routes via Cape Town.

Reports from various philatelic societies concluded the issue. The Johannesburg United Philatelic Society (JUPS) adopted a new, streamlined constitution at its annual general meeting, reducing the committee from eleven to five members. In Rhodesia, Mr Thornton corrected a historical error in the society's official checklist, clarifying that the first Rhodesian issue was printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd, not William Collins, Sons & Co.



Vol. 4, No. 5, June, 1926, Whole No. 41.



Rhodesian Items.
In sending us a copy of the £10, 1898 issue overprinted REVENUE, Mr. L. H. Rivers states that this is the only Rhodesian stamp which he has seen with this overprint. We have seen but one other Rhodesian stamp with the above word superimposed on it and that is a copy of the £20, 1898 issue, shown us by Mr. I. Glasser.
Mr. Rivers further informs us that he has a number of old Rhodesian stamps postmarked "Penhalonga," the present-day spelling being "Panhalanga." For several months, in 1922, the Bulawayo Post Office used a handstamp worded "Bulawayo." Our correspondent catches a very clear impression of this error. Kafue in Northern Rhodesia was, and probably still is, using a postmark worded "Kafue, N.R. Rhodesia."
A number of N.R. shades are also submitted by Mr. Rivers.
N.Z. Congress and Exhibition.
We saw included in Messrs. Wilson, Smith & Co. for an account of the very successful philatelic exhibition and Congress held in Dunedin last March. Some outstanding collections were on view, and over 7,000 visitors examined them. We would like to see an exhibition in South Africa in the near future.
In the Limelight.
Once again Malta is to the fore and much ink is being spilled regarding its recent issues. There was a report in the Maltese Parliament to the "Postage" overprints, a Deputy asking the Minister of Posts no less than ten or twelve questions regarding recent issues and other postal matters. The replies given were evasive and unconvincing.

The SAP front page of June 1926.

Northern Rhodesia, the Kafue postmark used the redundant designation 'Kafue, N. Rhodesia'.

In March 1926, the Dunedin Congress and Exhibition in New Zealand was highly successful, attracting over 7,000 visitors. This success inspired the editor to propose a similar large-scale exhibition in South Africa. Meanwhile, the Maltese postal administration faced scrutiny in the Maltese Parliament.

The 'Topics of the Month' section focused on the resilience of the philatelic press during the British General Strike. British dealers reported a slight decline in business.

On 18 June 1926, the Pretoria Post Office installed an US-type cancelling machine, modernising South African postal history. This machine offered a cleaner and more compact cancellation than previous 'endless' types. It also introduced slogan postmarks.

Two 'postal mysteries' were highlighted. The first involved a registered Cape parcel reaching Johannesburg without stamps, suggesting a clerk accepted payment but forgot to affix postage. The second concerned a missing £4,000

diamond packet allegedly falling off a train between Premier Mine and Johannesburg.

The popularity of South West African (SWA) varieties in London was evidenced by auction results from H.R. Harmer.

An intriguing, previously unrecorded error was discussed: a Transvaal King Edward VII ½d bi-coloured stamp with an inverted centre. A former clerk at the Johannesburg GPO recalled an elderly gentleman who bought a full sheet of these errors. When the clerk offered to exchange them, the customer insisted on keeping them. No further copies have been found, making it a significant 'lost' variety of South African philately.

The 'New Issues and Varieties' section detailed numerous technical flaws in the pictorial issues of the Union of South Africa. Variations in the shade of the 6d frame were noted, along with specific plate flaws in the 1d pictorial, such as an uneven white line above 'REV' and a curved stroke in the word 'POSSEEL'. In SWA, a 1d Type VI overprint showed a broken 'o' in 'South', appearing as a 'c'. The Pretoria-printed 3d Postage Due had also appeared, though it was then only available with the SWA overprint.


Beyond the local region, the journal chronicled:

- Bechuanaland Protectorate: Waterlow watermark paper was used to issue the 6d and 1s values.
- Belgian Congo: Predicted colour changes due to the franc's volatility.
- Mozambique: On June 1, double postage was mandated for one day to benefit the *Sociedade Humanitaria Cruz do Oriente*.
- Malta: New pictures, including a 5s green and black with a megalithic design.

On 14 May 1926, the Cape Town Philatelic Society held its Annual General Meeting, re-electing Mr H. Meyer as President. The JUPS showcased 'Pages of Interest', including SWA pictorials and Bahamas War Tax varieties. The East Rand Philatelic Society (ERPS) presented Mr T. Wood's collection of Japanese stamps, during which a rare 'Tost' for 'Post' variety was discovered.

References

- [1] *The SA Philatelist*, Vol. 4 No. 4. Johannesburg: J. Robertson, May 1926. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SAP-May-2026.pdf>.
- [2] *The SA Philatelist*, Vol. 4 No. 5. Johannesburg: J. Robertson, Jun. 1926. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SAP-Jun-2026.pdf>. 

Show your collection to your family and friends, and consider exhibiting it at club meetings and regional, national, and international exhibitions. See this issue of *The SA Philatelist*, [Stamps SA Keeping in Touch](#), and the official PFSA website at <http://stampssa.africa> for more information. 



Beware South West Africa 1935 Silver Jubilee stamps cancelled Okahandja 6 May 1935

by Neil Donen, Royal Philatelic Society Canada

In August 2022 I wrote a short article for the South African Philatelist on Madame Joseph (MJ) forged postmarks associated with the 1935 King George V Silver Jubilee issue [1]. At that time all of the identified forged postmarks on cover were associated with the City Stamp Shop in London, run by Eric Bowie. The prevailing theory was, and continues to be, that Gordon Rhodes, owner of the forged implements, loaned these out to Bowie who used them to cancel his own covers. Early articles, as well as the book published Worboys and West, indicated that both Rhodes and the successive owners of the implements, loaned out the implements to other dealers [2].



Fig.1: Enlargement of postmark, left lower corner in Fig.2.

Recently I was able to identify a forged MJ Okahandja, South West Africa (SWA) postmark not associated with the City Stamp Shop (Figs 1 and 2). Based on the catalogued numbering systems of forged implements housed at the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL), the postmark is MJ400 and is identical to that found on the on-piece items sold by the so-called Nottingham group (Fig.3). Fig.4 is one of the original forged covers identified. It is addressed to the City Stamp Shop. All of the postmarks are dated 6 May 1935. The forgeries differ from the genuine cancel (Fig.5) in that the forged postmarks have a continuous inner circle, whereas the genuine cancel mark has breaks in the inner circle below the letters 'OK' and 'JA' of Okahandja. Table 1 highlights the differences between MJ400 and MJ401. The implications are that Rhodes 'loaned out' both implements.

The newly identified cover with forged postmarks is interesting (Fig.2). It is addressed to J.S. Davis, a well known 1930's stamp dealer in aerophilately. Davis also used his middle name and addressed many cover to himself as John Stephen. Most of his out-of-country origin Silver Jubilee associated air mail covers are registered. Despite an exhaustive search, I have been unable to uncover another forged postmark under either of the names he used. Davis lived in Liverpool. It would thus appear to be unusual for Rhodes, who lived in London, to have 'loaned' his implements to a dealer some 300 kilometres away. The only other non-City Stamp Shop cover with forged MJ postmarks (Tangier) I have identified was addressed to an unknown dealer whose postal code was in close proximity to that of Rhodes.



Fig.2: Forged Okahandja, South West Africa, postmark (MJ400) addressed to John Davis of Liverpool. Note the inner circle is complete. With permission of pkstamps2020.



Fig.3: On-piece Okahandja forged postmark sold by the Nottingham group. These items were probably produced in the 1980s.



Fig.4: Forged Madame Joseph Okahandja postmark addressed to the City Stamp Shop, London.



Fig.5: Facsimile of genuine Okahandja postmark. Note the incomplete inner circle, specifically below the letters “OK” and “JA” of Okahandja.

The date of issue of the 1935 SWA Silver Jubilee stamps was 1 May 1935. Given this new finding, it is recommended that any covers with Okahandja postmarks dated 6 May and, bearing a full set of 1935 Silver Jubilee stamps, should be carefully examined to rule out forgeries. Three other Southern African colonies (Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland) also have MJ postmarks dated 6 May 1935. Their first day of issue was 4 May. Thus, the same caution should be applied to them as recommended with the Okahandja postmark.

References

- [1] N. Donen, “Southern Africa and 1935 Silver Jubilee Madame Joseph Forged Postmarks,” *The South African Philatelist*, vol. 98, no. 4, pp. 130–133, Aug. 2022.
- [2] D. Worboys, *Madame Joseph Forged Postmarks*, R. West, Ed. London. Royal Philatelic Society, London and The British Philatelic Trust, 1994.

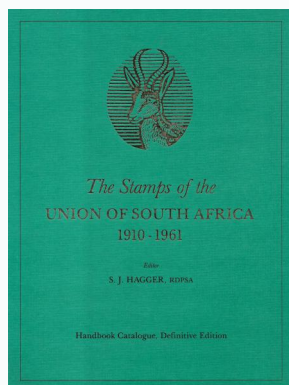
	MJ400	MJ401
Position cross bar of first ‘A’ of Okahandja	Above midpoint	At midpoint
Position cross bar of ‘A’ of S.W.A.	Above midpoint	Just below midpoint
Date Line		
- Loop of lower part of “6” of		
‘6 May 35’	Almost circular	Oblong in shape
- Height of “A” in front of ‘35’	At midpoint of ‘3’	Above midpoint
Findings of MJ catalogue numbers with respect to philatelic items	Stamps	
On-piece		
Davis cover	City Stamp Shop cover	

Table 1: Differences between Okahandja Madame Joseph Forged Postmarks MJ400 and MJ401.

Note: All identified South West Africa City Stamp Shop covers have MJ401 type postmarks, while the remainder of the items are all MJ400 type postmarks. It includes partial postmarks found on loose pieces of stamps.

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REVIEW/UPDATE OF THE UNION HANDBOOK



An update and review of *The Union Handbook*, dated 1986, is underway. This important project aims to ensure that the handbook remains accurate, up to date, and reflective of the latest research within our philatelic community. You are invited to send any comments, ideas, changes or corrections on the Jack Hagger RDPSA print of *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 – 1961* to André du Plessis RDPSA at pfsastamps@gmail.com. Every contribution, whether a small correction, a fresh perspective, or a detailed proposal, will help strengthen the quality and integrity of this important reference work. Your participation is valued and sincerely appreciated.

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Union of South Africa Stamp Varieties

by André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

WAR EFFORT, BANTAM SERIES, 1942 TO 1945 [I]: Part 2.

½d Issues 1 to 4
 UHB 89
 (SG 97) (SASCC 95)



Bluish green (shades).



Photographic essay.

The ½d value depicting the infantry was in the vertical format of 11 x 21,5 mm, which gave 360 stamps per sheet in 20 rows x 18 and with six marginal arrows. They are usually collected in triplets, although only a block of six contains all the possible combinations of language, perforation and roulette.




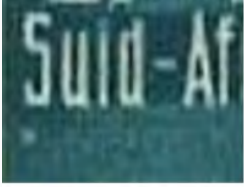




Only cylinder 40 was used to produce five issues in various combinations with four marginal cylinders.

Originally the background shading at the top of all the stamps of the first row was almost completely missing, but it was later filled in or retouched, and at this stage the cylinder is referred to as No. 40a. The first stamp on the sheet was inscribed in English, and the serial numbers were on the right margin throughout. Sheets of Issue 1 had them first in black, then blue and finally red, while in the other issues they were always red.

No	Issue	Cylinder Numbers		Margin Colours	Issue date
		Stamp	Margin		
89	1	40	Slogan 5	Green	Oct. 1942
	2	40	Slogan 6	Green	July 1944
	3	40	Slogan 7	Violet	Nov. 1944
	3a	40a	Slogan 7	Violet	Jan. 1945
	4	40a	Slogan 9	Green	Oct. 1945

SELECTED VARIETIES

(As listed in the Union Handbook (UHB - 1986))

 <p>Issues 1 - 3: Missing background at top of stamps (ex-Row 1) UHB 89 - V1</p>	 <p>Issues 3a - 4: Background filled in at the top of all stamps (ex-Row 1) UHB 89 - V2</p>	 <p>Blob "piked" helmet (ex-Row 2/3) UHB 89 - V3</p>	 <p>Any of the eleventh-row flaws UHB 89 - V4</p>
 <p>Stamps partly printed UHB 89 - V5</p>	 <p>"Certificates" or "Sertifikate" printed on stamps (misplaced perforation) UHB 89 - V6</p>	 <p>Roulette omitted UHB 89 - V7 (SG 97c) (SASCC 95c)</p>	 <p>Perforation misplaced - running through stamps UHB 89 - V8</p>

1d Issues 1 to 4
UHB 90
 (SG 98) (SASCC 96)



Carmine (shades).



Photographic essay.

Stamps of the 1d value portrayed a nurse, and the format and sheet layout were the same as for the ½d, except that the first stamp was inscribed in Afrikaans.

There were two stamp cylinders, derived from the same multipositive, which were combined with four different

margin cylinders to produce four issues. Screening on the first cylinder, no. 6922, was slightly finer than on the second, no. 6936.







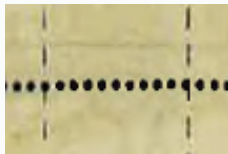




For issue 4 the stamp cylinder was rotated in the reverse direction, so that the black or red sheet numbers were on the left margins.

“11th row flaws” appear on various positions on the sheet and are caused by the inking cylinder. The position on the stamp is the same, appearing every eleventh row.

No	Issue	Cylinder Numbers		Margin Colours	Issue date
		Stamp	Margin		
90	1	6922	Slogan 6	Red	Jan. 1943
	2	6936	Slogan 7	Violet	Aug. 1944
	3	6936	Slogan 8	Purple	April 1945
	4	6936	Slogan 9	Red	May 1945

SELECTED VARIETIES

(As listed in the Union Handbook (UHB - 1986))

 <p>Multipositive: Blob on veil above nurse's right shoulder (ex-Row 18/10) UHB 90 - V1</p>	 <p>Issue 1: Any eleventh-row flaw: Flaw on veil Ex-Row 11/11 UHB 90 - V2</p>	<p>IMAGE NOT AVAILABLE</p> <p>Issue 1: White mark between “U” and “R” of SUID AFRIKA (ex-Row 14/16) UHB 90 - V3</p>	 <p>Issues 2 - 4: Long oblique line, with dots on either side of it, on right sleeve (ex-Row 7/11) UHB 90 - V4</p>	
 <p>Issues 2 - 4: Large blob on veil in front of face (ex-Row 1) UHB 90 - V5</p>	 <p>Issues 2 - 4: White spot opposite left elbow (ex-Row 20/16) UHB 90 - V6</p>	 <p>Issue 3: Large purple blob on left elbow and smaller one on collar (ex-Row 16/3) UHB 90 - V7</p>	 <p>Joined paper UHB 90 - V8</p>	<p>IMAGE NOT AVAILABLE</p> <p>Stamps in top row only partly printed UHB 90 - V9</p>
 <p>With blank margin (slogan not printed) all stamps UHB 90 - V10</p>	 <p>Part of “Certifikate” or “Sertifikate” printed on stamps UHB 90 - V11</p>	 <p>Both roulettes omitted UHB 90 - V12 (SG 98b) (SASCC 96b) Listed by SG and SASCC Left hand roulette omitted UHB 90 - V14 (SG 98ba) (SASCC 96c)</p>	 <p>Roulette misplaced UHB 90 - V13</p>	

1½d Issues 1 to 4
UHB 91
(SG 99) (SASCC 97)



Red-brown
(shades)
Roulette 6½ .

Red-brown
(shades)
Roulette 13 .

Photographic essay

An airman was featured on the 1½d stamps which were in 12,5 x 21,5 mm format. They were printed in sheets of 240 (20 rows x 12) with an arrow at the centre of all four margins. The first stamp was inscribed in English, and the sheet numbers in black were on the right margin. There were two issues, from stamp cylinders 7019 and 43, which were from a common multipositive, and only one slogan cylinder. The slogans were always in the same colour as the stamps.

No	Issue	Cylinder Numbers		Rou- letted	Issue date
		Stamp	Margin		
91	7019	6922	Slogan 1	13	Aug. 1942
	2	43	Slogan 1	13 or 6½	Sep. 1942

Issue 1: "Swarm of bees" smudge between head and right frame (ex-Row 1/6) UHB 91 - V1	Issue 2: Letters "F" and "R" of AFRICA joined at top (ex-Row 1/3) UHB 91 - V2	Issue 2: White spot on forearm over "C" of AFRICA (ex-Row 1/9) UHB 91 - V3	Issue 2: Short vertical white mark at side of face under value (ex-Row 3/11) UHB 91 - V4	Issue 2: Extra "ear flap" to helmet (ex-Row 3/13) UHB 91 - V5 (SG 99c) (SASCC 97c)
With blank margin (slogan not printed) UHB 91 - V6	"Certificates" or "Sertifikate" printed on stamps UHB 91 - V7	Roulette omitted UHB 91 - V8 (SG 99b) (SASCC 97b)	Rouletted 6½ with short slits widely spaced UHB 91 - V9	Dry Printing (Not listed)

References

- [1] S. J. Hagger, *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961, Handbook Catalogue*, Definitive Edition. Cape Town: Reijger Publishers (Pty) Ltd, 1986. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Hagger-Group-12-a.pdf#page=15>.

Show your collection to others



There is a profound, almost singular joy in turning the pages of an album to share one's collection with a fellow enthusiast or a curious newcomer. It is the moment where solitary stewardship transforms into a shared narrative, allowing the collector to peel back the layers of history, art, and detective work that each stamp represents. To exhibit a collection is to take others on a journey through time and geography, pointing out the subtle shift in a watermark or the story behind a rare cancellation that might otherwise go unnoticed. In this social exchange, the collection truly breathes; it ceases to be a mere inventory of paper and becomes a vibrant bridge of human connection, where the passion of the curator ignites a spark of wonder in the viewer.



Soldiers' Mail

by Andrew Briscoe RDP SA FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The British Postal Act of 1795 introduced reduced postal charges for soldiers' mail. By this Act, a postage rate of one penny for 'single letters' sent or received by non-commissioned officers was introduced. This measure was enacted in response to the "ever-increasing re-direction charges incurred by soldiers posted from one station to another". Before this Act, frequent troop movements meant that mail redirection costs were significant and the high postal rates limited correspondence to the wealthy. The reduced postal charges introduced by the 1795 Act were intended to boost morale and permit service members to stay in touch with their families (the legislation required that such correspondence should relate to 'Private Concerns only').

The 1795 Act allowed this reduced postage rate for non-commissioned officers, seamen or privates in the army, navy, militia and reserves. Such persons were allowed to send single letters for one penny, the cost of postage being paid in advance. This special rate was significantly cheaper than the standard civilian postage charge, which varied by distance and the number of sheets of paper. To prevent abuse of the system, several conditions were implemented:

- The letter had to be a single sheet of paper (a 'single letter') weighing under one-quarter ounce;
- The soldier or sailor's name, rank, and regiment or ship had to be written on the outside of the letter, and
- The letter had to be countersigned by the commanding officer.

Figure 1 is an example of such mail. The envelope was addressed to Nottingham in August 1851 by private Thomas Shipley, No 2675, 2nd Battalion, 60th Royal Rifle's whilst in transit to the Cape and countersigned by the commanding officer. Upon arrival in Cape Town, no charge was raised, and the envelope was then forwarded to Nottingham.

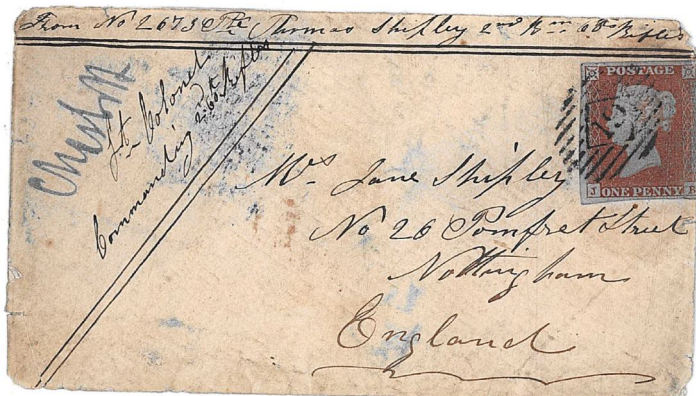


Fig.1: Reduced rate for non-commissioned military personnel, addressed to Nottingham, Aug. 1851.

Letters from Britain to non-commissioned officers could also be sent for a penny prepaid. Figure 2 is an example of such a letter, being posted at Aberdeen on 10 October 1853 and addressed to a soldier serving in the 7th Battalion of the Royal Artillery stationed at Cape Town. The letter crossed with the regiment returning to England. The 7th Battalion left Cape Town on 15 November 1853 and mustered at Woolwich on 31 January 1854, to where the letter was redirected, and arriving on 6 February. A redirection charge of one penny was applied, presumably in Cape Town, but then cancelled in London.



Fig.2: Letter from Aberdeen to Cape Town, 10 Oct. 1853.

The Cape Colony Regulations

The British Postal Act of 1795 applied in respect of letters from or to British soldiers stationed at the Cape, and in 1826, for the avoidance of doubt, Cape Ordinance No 25 of that year, which came into effect on 15 November 1826, provided similar regulations applicable specifically to the Cape. Subsequently Ordinance No 25 of 1826 was repealed by Ordinance No 1 of 1846, but the regulations relating to soldiers' letters were not altered.

Figure 3 illustrates an 1848 example of a soldier's letter from Simon's Town to England. It is endorsed at the top as being "From Private Richard Herbert, 2670 of C. Company, 1st. Battalion, 6th. Royal W. Regiment", with the required officer's countersignature of Lieutenant Colonel John Michel, commanding the 6th Regiment at lower left. There is also a strike at lower left of the GENERAL POST OFFICE / CAPE TOWN undated letter stamp which indicates that the letter was handed to the Cape Post Office for onward transmission. However, there is no mark to indicate that the one penny soldiers' concessionary rate was paid. Instead, there is a manuscript notation "More to pay" with an English circular handstamp to similar effect. The manuscript "2" charge mark was in respect of the ship's captain's gratuity on letters sent by a private ship.



Fig.3: 1848 soldier's letter from Simon's Town to England.

Figure 4 is an interesting item, illustrating an incorrectly taxed concessionary cover. Dated August 1871, the cover was posted in Grahams Town and addressed to Sergeant W. Taylor, Staff Clerk, R. E. Dept, Fort Napier, Natal. The sender was presumably unaware that letters addressed to soldiers could be posted at the 1d rate and had franked the letter at the 4d within-the-Cape rate. When the cover reached the Natal post office, a TO PAY handstamp and a manuscript "2" charge was added. This charge was presumably raised because the rate for mail from Cape Colony to Natal was 6d and not 4d. However, when the item was delivered to Sergeant Taylor, he pointed out that letters to soldiers should benefit from the concessionary 1d rate, and the "2" charge was cancelled. The cover is endorsed "Soldier's Letter improperly charged, 2d reclaimed".



Fig.4: Incorrectly taxed concessionary cover.

In 1877, by a Cape Postal Notice dated 6 October 1877, new regulations were introduced. The Notice applied to letters to and from members of the Cape Mounted Rifles, Yeomanry, Volunteers, and all Colonial Forces on active service within the Colony. Such letters could now be conveyed free of charge, provided that:

- Letters addressed to any of these Corps must be superscribed "On Active Service";
- Letters from members of these Corps must bear the frank of the officer in command of such Corps or detachment of it;

- The letter must not weigh more than half an ounce and must relate entirely to the private concerns of the soldier; and
- Letters to England from non-commissioned officers and privates must not exceed half an ounce in weight, must bear the frank of the officer in command of the detachment, and a postage stamp of one penny.

Figure 5 illustrates an 1879 cover that complies with these requirements and was therefore conveyed by the Post Office free of charge from Kei Road to Cape Town. The cover bears at lower left the frank of the commanding officer of No 1 company detachment of the D.O.E. Volunteer Rifles (being the Duke of Edinburgh's Own Volunteer Rifles).



Fig.5: Letter from Kei Mouth to Cape Town, 1879.

The privilege of free postage of soldiers' letters at the Cape was withdrawn following the conclusion of the Basuto War of 1800-01.

Chelsea Pensioners

Following the Napoleonic Wars, some injured 'out-pensioners' from the Royal Chelsea Hospital in London settled overseas. Mail to these pensioners was mailed in the usual way and carried free in Britain but would normally be charged in other countries. Figure 6 illustrates such a letter dated 1832 and addressed to a pensioner from the '54th Foot' resident in the Cape of Good Hope, which also obtained the privilege of free postage within the Cape.



Fig.6: Letter dated 1832, sent to a pensioner from the '54th Foot' resident in the Cape of Good Hope.

Acknowledgment:

Brian Trotter, *Southern African Mails*, Royal Philatelic Society London, 2016

The Quest for Knowledge: A Profile of John Haigh

In the world of philately, we often speak of ‘working’ on a collection. But for Prof. John Haigh (Fig.1), a man who spent nearly four decades in the lecture halls and laboratories of Rhodes University, philately is not just work, it is a lifelong extension of a deep-seated academic curiosity.



Fig.1: Prof. John Haigh.

John is a man whose 20-year retirement has been anything but idle. A retired Pharmacy lecturer with over 100 peer-reviewed papers to his name, John has traded the pharmaceutical journal for the album page, applying the same rigour of research to the ‘bits and pieces’ that make our hobby so rich.

John’s path to both his career and his hobby was shaped by a sharp eye for detail. Interestingly, a teenage stint in a hospital turned him away from doctoring, leading him to ask: “What is next best in the life-saving business?” The answer was Pharmacy, a career that not only fulfilled his professional life but also fuelled his hobby. During a two-year apprenticeship in a Salisbury pharmacy in Southern Rhodesia, John found a golden source of used stamps, the lifeblood of his collection.

“I only collect used stamps”, John tells me with the conviction of a true purist. “I feel that a mint stamp has not done its job!”

While many of us started with a colourful packet of ‘all-world’ stamps, John’s entry into postal history was far more evocative. In 1954, a 12-year-old John boarded a Union Castle ship bound for Southampton. Having heard whispers of the ‘magic’ that happens to mail at sea, he posted a letter to himself.

When he returned home, he found his envelope bearing a South African stamp cancelled ‘Paquebot – Posted at Sea’ (Fig.2). Seeing his 12-year-old handwriting on that cover today remains a poignant reminder of where his fascination with postal markings began.

This spark ignited a massive pursuit of what others might call ‘postal curiosities’. John does not just look at the stamp; he looks at the story of the journey. His vast

collections include ‘To Pay’ marks, censor marks, and the instructional markings that tell a tale of a letter’s struggle to reach its destination: *Gone Away*, *Building Demolished*, *Unknown*, *Undeliverable*, and *Left*.



Fig.2: Paquebot Letter posted on an Union Castle ship.

John has been a cornerstone of the Eastern Cape’s philatelic community for decades. Those who were active in the 70s and 80s will remember him as the long-serving Secretary of the Grahamstown Philatelic Society (GPS). His dedication went beyond local meetings; he represented the GPS at national congresses in Potchefstroom and Bloemfontein and spent six years as the editor of *The Post Office Stone*, the authoritative voice of the Postmark and Postal History Society.

Today, while he continues to exhibit at the Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society (PEPS), his focus has turned toward home. He is currently working on extending his Grahamstown postal history collection from the Cape of Good Hope period into the Union and Republic eras.

When he is not navigating the ancient ruins of Greece or Turkey, another of his great passions, John is a firm believer in the ‘active brain’. Whether it is Sudoku, crosswords, or researching a rare cancellation, the quest for knowledge is what drives him.

“Old age restricts as I can no longer walk as well as I used to”, John admits, “but philatelically, there is still lots to be done”.

As we look through his scans of 19th-century Grahamstown covers or that 1954 Paquebot envelope, it is clear that John Haigh’s collection is more than just paper, it is a map of a life well-lived and a mind that refuses to stop learning. [📄](#)

Do you have a story to share? The SA Philatelist is always looking to highlight the journeys of our members. Contact us at sap@stampssa.africa.



The Mandela Autopen Signatures, Re-visited


by Danie van Zyl, Pretoria Philatelic Society

If you collect Mandela memorabilia you may want to consider including a set of autopen signatures in your collection.

As of this date four distinct autopen signatures are known. The labels A to D are for identification only as it is unknown at what date each was activated. The best we can say is that it was in use after the date on the cover. The different autopen signatures are illustrated in the Table below.

If you have the money and inclination you can go into the marketplace and buy a Mandela hand signature now, at a price. If you are looking for an autopen signature, especially a particular A, B, C, or D signature, you may be surprised to find not one on offer. Autopen signatures, although looked down upon in the past, are very scarce. A set of all four signatures should be treasured.

	Signature	Cover illustrated
A	 <p>'N' and 'M' high points almost level plus a closed 'd'</p>	
B	 <p>'N' high point much higher than 'M'</p>	
C	 <p>'N' and 'M' high points almost level plus an open 'd'</p>	
D	 <p>'N' and 'M' high points almost level plus short stubby 'd', a break before 'd' and no break after 'd'</p>	

 We would love to hear from you! If you have any thoughts or comments about any of the articles in this issue of *The SA Philatelist*, please send your comments to the Editorial Board. Just click on the email address: sap@stampssa.africa



Beyond the Naked Eye: An Objective Stamp Shades Standard

by Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

My fascination with the study of colour of the Union King's Heads began in 2006 after I bought my late uncle's Southern African collection from his estate. He had meticulously collected according to the South African Colour Catalogue, missing only the two rarer shades: the ½d Dark Mossy Emerald Green and the 2d Dark Plum. These became my research focus, spent hunting for them.



Fig.1: Dark Mossy Emerald Green (left) and Dark Plum (right) (Erasmus Collection).

A few months later, I bought a copy of *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 – 1961 Handbook Catalogue* [1] and found that the Union King's Heads have even more subtle colour variations than I thought. As I became more interested in understanding these shades, I read classic literature of the Union King's Head. A summary of these early observers will be discussed in a later article.

Reynolds [2] mentioned that many colour variants exist for all values, with eight to ten distinct shades for the 1d alone. His observation was later corroborated by Lobdell [3], who compiled the colour varieties noted by several authors. To the newcomer all identified shades can appear overwhelming; to the specialist it is a formidable puzzle.

My Ph.D. in Electrical and Electronic Engineering focussed on developing an AI model grounded in neuroscience. This expertise also enabled me to grasp the scientific principles behind stamp shades from a neuroscience perspective. After several attempts to translate colourimetry science into a language accessible to philatelists, this article represents the culmination of that effort. It offers a practical understanding of colourimetry within analytical philately.

Humans can reliably distinguish over a hundred colour shades [4], yet seasoned experts still struggle to identify the colour varieties of the King's Heads.

Sorting the variants was frustrating. Individual stamps differed, but traditional colour-key systems offered no relief. Using Lobdell's [3] colour summaries, I tried the *Stanley Gibbons Colour Keys* 75, 100, and 200 [5], but none of the classic Union King's Head colours were in them. A colour key provides a reference point that must be matched approximately, perfect correspondence is rare.

Colour perception is a neurological phenomenon, not purely physical. Two people under identical lighting can see different

shades, especially with colour blindness. I experienced this at club meetings, stamp shows, and auctions, where fellow philatelists argued about shade assignments. To test my perception, I acquired a reference collection sorted by colour. Even with that, I struggled to place all my King's Heads in the same shade categories, wondering if the effort was worth the controversy over a hundred-year-old stamp.

Colour is crucial in philately: it distinguishes common from rare, ordinary from exceptional [6]. However, assessing a stamp's colour is subjective, frustrating, and often contentious. A standardised, reproducible method is needed to replace personal judgement with objective, scientific criteria. This article discusses how modern colourimetry provides that tool.

For over a century, collectors have relied on traditional methods to assess stamp shades. However, these methods are inherently subjective and become apparent upon critical analysis:

- *The 'Trained Eye'* relies on an individual's memory and experience, which are non-reproducible, variable, and unverifiable. It is considered unreliable in forensic contexts.
- *Physical Reference Tools* like the *Stanley Gibbons Colour Key* [5] offer comparison, but they're susceptible to fading, environmental damage, and printing ink inconsistencies. They can not serve as immutable standards.
- *Ambiguous Catalogue Terms* like 'dark blue green', 'deep plum', or 'electric blue' are culturally loaded and useless for objective identification without a common visual reference. They are often used loosely and interchangeably with other names.

This subjectivity extends beyond academia and has significant economic and profound implications. A seemingly insignificant difference in a stamp's shade can dramatically alter its value. Collectors invest considerable financial resources and dedicate themselves to preserving historical postal issues based on this subjective characteristic.

Philately's challenge of subjective colour identification has been solved by objective, reproducible colourimetry [7]. Dr Jannie Hofmeyr used colourimetry to study the shades of the U.S. 1861 3¢ [4], leading to the rewriting of the relevant entry in the USA specialised catalogue. *The Institute of Analytical Philately* in the USA has evaluated and demonstrated this logical transition from opinion to philatelic fact. However, video spectral comparators used so far are expensive and unaffordable for most philatelists [8]. In later articles, it will be demonstrated how a scanner and computer can be used to determine the shade of stamps

with reasonable accuracy by a philatelist without the layout of large sums of capital.

This article describes a scientific basis for colourmetry in philately, but without the mathematics used in [7] to make the knowledge more accessible to more philatelist. Mathematics is important in colourmetry for understanding the nuts and bolts, but philatelists only want to use colourmetry, not fundamentally understanding it. The question arises: why are the collectors' primary tool, their eyes, insufficient for the critical task of reliably determining stamp colours?

The Science of Human Vision

To fully understand the scientific solution, one must first understand the biological origin of the difficulty: how humans perceive and experience colour. The human eye is a sophisticated organ, but it is not a perfect scientific instrument. Its interpretation of colour is an active, biased neurological process.

Human colour perception is a complex neurological process, not a direct measurement of light. We perceive colour because objects reflect light. A stamp does not have an intrinsic colour. It absorbs certain wavelengths and reflects others. This reflected light enters the eye and focuses on the retina (Fig.2), a nerve cell layer at the back of the eye. The retina has millions of photoreceptor cells:

- *Rods* (~ 110 million): These cells, activated in low light, enable night vision by registering only shades of grey, not colour.
- *Cones* (~ 6 million): These cells function better in bright light and are responsible for colour perception and visual clarity.

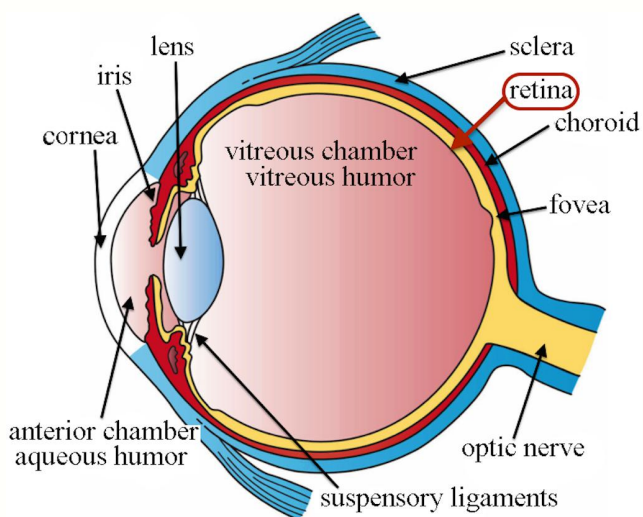


Fig.2: The Eye With the Retina Pointed Out. Source: Wikimedia [9].

Humans have three types of cones, each sensitive to different light wavelengths: short (blues), medium (greens), and long (reds) (Fig.3). The brain combines signals from these cones to create our colour perception. This system allows us to perceive and experience up to 10 million colours, but its non-uniformity presents a problem in philately. This article discusses a solution to this issue.

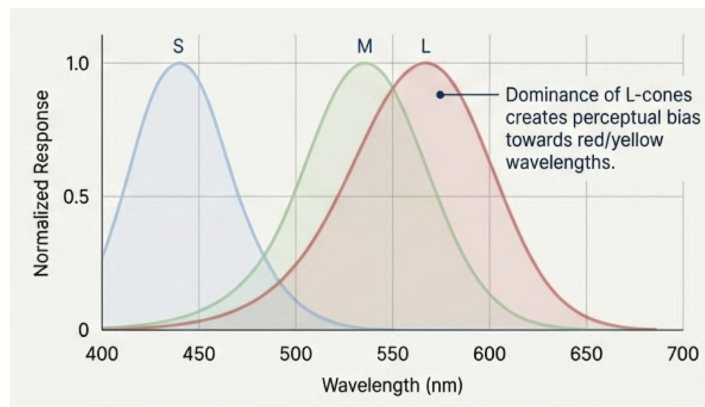


Fig.3: Human Cone Cell Spectral Sensitivity, based on Wikipedia [10].

Cones in the retina are unevenly distributed. Two-thirds process longer wavelengths, like reds, oranges, and yellows. This makes our vision more sensitive to subtle shade variations in warm colours than cool ones. This bias causes two people with normal vision to see different shades of the same stamp. This makes subjective evaluation unreliable, so we need a universal, objective standard to overcome these limitations.

The Quest for a Standard Observer

To address the challenge of subjective colour perception, in 1931, the International Commission on Illumination (CIE) developed the science of colourimetry: an objective, quantitative method for measuring colour. It replaces personal interpretation with an universal, standardised reference, defining a colour by precise numbers rather than an ambiguous name.

The 'Standard Observer', a mathematical idealisation of normal human colour vision, is the key to this framework. It provides a device-independent basis for colour measurement. Colours are defined relative to this universal standard, not to a specific display (e.g. RGB) or printing device (e.g. YMCK). This standard was developed from colour-matching experiments in the mid-1920s by two independent research groups lead respectively by William David Wright and John Guild (Fig.4).



Fig.4: William David Wright and John Guild. Source: Wikipedia.

The combined results of the two studies formed the basis for the CIE 1931 2° Standard Observer, named for its 2° field of view, corresponding to the *fovea* where cones are concentrated (Fig.2).

Mapping Human Vision

The CIE XYZ colour space, a device-independent model, mathematically represents all colour sensations perceptible

to the Standard Observer (Fig.5). It serves as the master reference for modern colourimetry.

Colour is determined by three tristimulus values (X, Y, Z), calculated by integrating a light source's spectral power against the Standard Observer's colour-matching functions. The Y tristimulus value directly measures perceived brightness, allowing colour to be separated into two components:

- **Luminance (Y):** Brightness.
- **Chromaticity (x, y):** The hue of a colour, regardless of its brightness, is plotted on the chromaticity diagram (Fig.5).

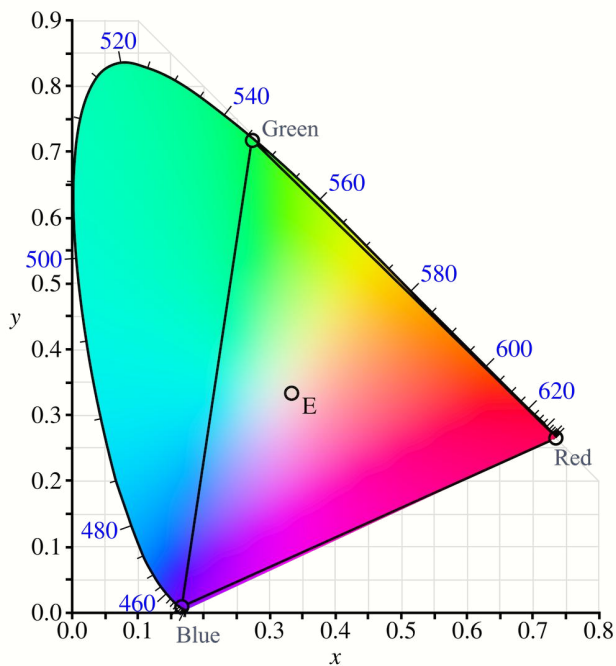


Fig.5: Gamut of the CIE RGB primaries and location of primaries on the CIE 1931 XY chromaticity diagram. White Point (Illuminate E) at $x = 1/3, y = 1/3$. Source: Wikipedia [10].

The Flaw in the Map

The CIE XYZ space lacks perceptual uniformity. A fixed geometric distance between two colour points does not always correspond to an equal visual difference. For instance, a 5-unit distance in the green region might be imperceptible, while the same distance in the blue region could be very obvious. David MacAdam quantified this by plotting the regions on the chromaticity diagram where colours are indistinguishable from the centre colour to the average human eye. Fig.6 shows that human colour sensitivity varies greatly with hue and saturation, making CIE XYZ unsuitable for accurate colour difference calculation.

Creating a Universal Map for Colour

The CIELAB colour space, derived from the CIE XYZ system, is the modern, objective map of all visible colours [11]. It is designed to achieve perceptual uniformity and is widely accepted for scientific and industrial applications.

Imagine a flawed map where city distances do not match their actual separation. CIELAB is like a modern, perfectly scaled map where the distance between points on the map corresponds to the actual perceived difference in

colour. This makes it mathematically faithful to human vision. However, CIELAB is not perfect, especially in blue hues, so more sophisticated calculations are needed to measure colour differences accurately.

CIELAB is utilised in quality control for printing, textiles, dermatology [12] and forensic analysis. Postage stamps are printed products and therefore can also utilise CIELAB.

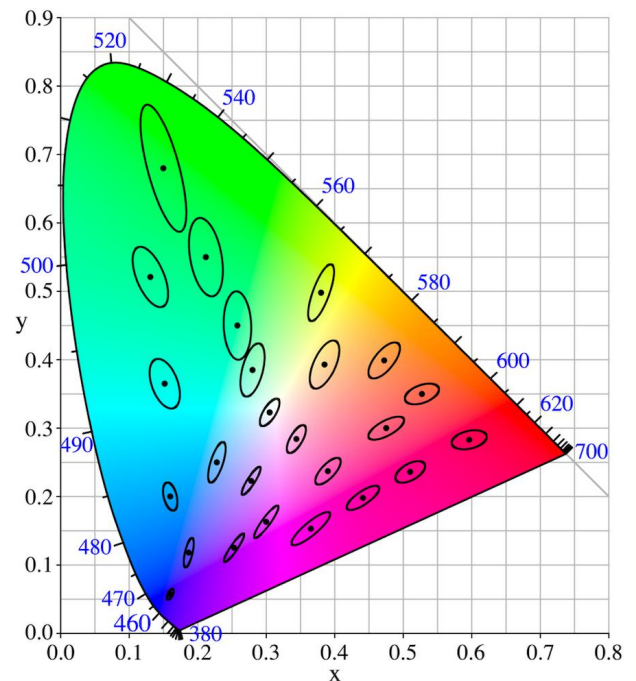


Fig.6: MacAdam Ellipses on the CIE 1931 XY Chromaticity Diagram (the ellipses are ten times their actual size). Source: Wikipedia [10].

The Colour Space for Stamp Colours

The CIELAB space's design is strategic, modelling the human brain's colour processing. It is based on the Opponent-process theory, psychological and neurological model, which suggests our brain interprets colour through three antagonistic channels [13]: light vs. dark, red vs. green, and yellow vs. blue. CIELAB translates this into a three-dimensional coordinate system (Fig.7).

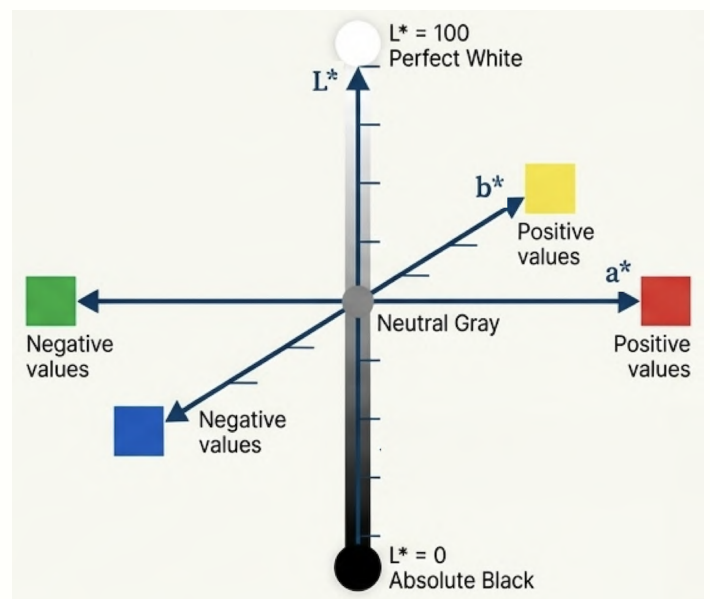


Fig.7: The $L^*a^*b^*$ Coordinate System Axes.

Any visible colour can be uniquely addressed on this universal map using an $L^*a^*b^*$ coordinate (Fig.7). The three axes are:

- L^* (Lightness): This vertical axis ranges from 0 (absolute black) to 100 (perfect white). It objectively distinguishes between 'light blue' and 'deep blue' stamps, measuring luminosity, not colour.
- a^* (Red–Green Axis): This horizontal axis measures a colour's position on the green-to-red spectrum. Negative values mean more green, positive values mean more red, and zero means neutral grey.
- b^* (Blue–Yellow Axis): This horizontal axis is perpendicular to the a^* axis and represents the colour's position on the blue-to-yellow spectrum. Negative values means more blue, while positive values means more yellow.

Fig.7 plots a stamp's colour using these three coordinates, converting a subjective description into a precise location. With every colour having a unique three dimensional address on this universal map, the next step is to create a tool that measures the exact distance between them.

From Coordinates to Description

The precise $L^*a^*b^*$ coordinates can be transformed into a more intuitive cylindrical model, $L^*C^*h^\circ$, using the same L^* axis but replacing a^* and b^* with Chroma (C^*) and Hue (h°) (Fig.8).

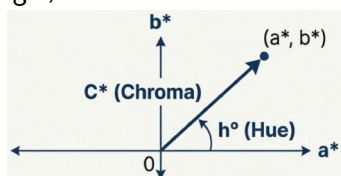


Fig.8: Chroma C^* and Hue h° Components.

This framework objectively separates and defines the ambiguous terms philatelists often use interchangeably for 'shade' [6], Table: 1.

Philatelic Term	Scientific Correlate	Description
'Dark', 'Bright', 'Light', 'Pale'	L^* (Lightness)	The lightness or darkness of the colour.
'Vivid', 'Dull'	C^* (Chroma)	The saturation or intensity of the colour.
'Red', 'Blue-Green', 'Orange'	h° (Hue)	The fundamental colour family.
'Deep', 'Brilliant'	L^* and C^*	large $ C^* $ and a corresponding L^* value

Table 1: Definition of Philatelic 'Shades'.

The Digital Ruler

After plotting a stamp's colour as a precise coordinate on the CIELAB map, the Delta E (ΔE) metric calculates the exact distance between it and a reference standard [14]. [15]. The symbol E comes from the German word 'Empfindung', meaning emotion or sensation.

The formula for calculating this distance has been refined over the years to better align with human perception (Fig.9). Earlier versions, like ΔE_{76} (based on simple Euclidean

distance), had flaws because the CIELAB space is not perfectly uniform. The current international standard, the CIEDE2000 (ΔE_{00}) formula, is more robust because it uses complicated weighting functions for lightness, chroma, and hue. These functions account for the human eye's non-uniform sensitivity across different colour zones, making the final result the most accurate reflection of a perceived difference to date. A ΔE_{00} value of 1.0 is the threshold of perception, a 'Just Noticeable Difference' (JND), that is more reliable across the entire colour space than any previous formula.



Fig.9: Evolution of Delta E.

For philatelists, the numerical value of ΔE_{00} provides a clear, objective meaning for what was once a subjective assessment, as shown in Table 2.

ΔE_{00} Value	Perceptual Meaning for Philately
≤ 1.0	<i>Imperceptible Difference</i> : the two colours are considered identical to the human eye. Any measured difference is due to instrument error.
$1.0 < x \leq 2.0$	<i>Perceivable Difference</i> : a trained observer can tell the difference between the two colours.
$2.0 < x \leq 3.5$	<i>Noticeable Difference</i> : this range often serves as the rationally defensible boundary between two distinct catalogue shades.
> 3.5	<i>Fundamentally Different Colours</i> : a significant difference could indicate a separate stamp issue, a major variety, or a fraudulent colour change.

Table 2: Perceptual Meaning of ΔE_{00} Values for Philately.

With this definitive metric established, the assembly of these rational components into a complete, objective framework that replaces speculation in philately with certainty is complete.

From Subjective Guesswork to Philatelic Certainty

This modern methodology provides a complete system for objective analysis. The Standard Observer serves as the universal reference point, and CIELAB space offers a perceptually uniform map with unique addresses for each colour. The Delta E (ΔE_{00}) value quantifies the perceived difference between any two colours.

This scientific framework transforms ambiguous shade identification into a precise, objective colour categorisation process (Fig.10). It offers a standardised, reproducible, and legally defensible method for authenticating and valuing stamps, meeting the precision required for these important historical artefacts.

Acknowledgement

A special thanks to Cedric Roché, RDPSA, for his comments and advice on this article.

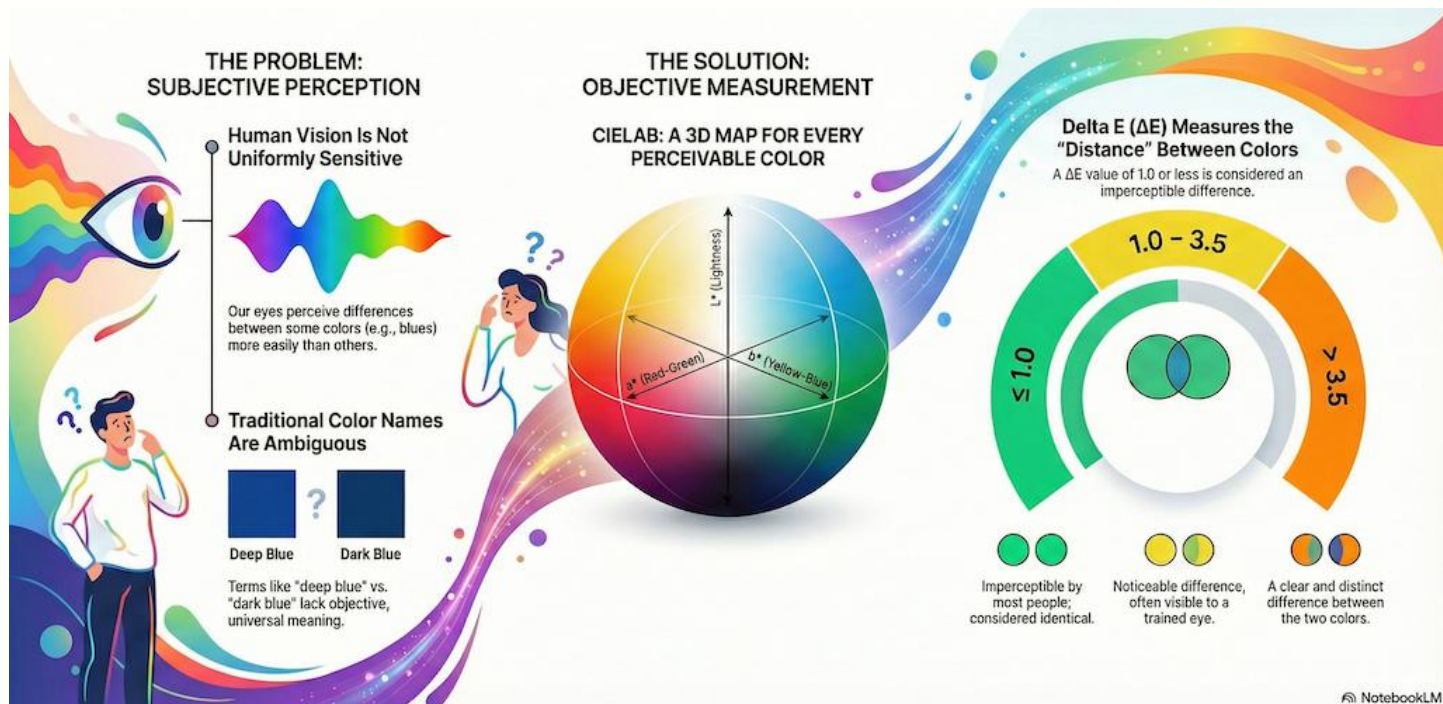


Fig.10: Measuring Colour Objectively.

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Table Mountain, The Inspiration (Part 4)

by Gawie Hugo, Paarlse Filateliste

1d Table Bay 1900

Among the most attractive late Victorian issues of the Cape of Good Hope is the 1d carmine stamp commonly known as the 'Table Bay' issue, Fig.1. Released in January 1900, it commemorated an important postal reform: the introduction of the one penny postal rate applicable between member countries of the British Empire.



Fig.1: Imperf plate proof.

This reform, often associated with the wider movement toward Imperial Penny Postage, was a major step in making communication across the Empire cheaper and more accessible. The Cape Colony marked the event with a stamp that combined local scenery, colonial identity, and imperial postal purpose.

Design and Production

The stamp was designed by Mr E. Sturman, a staff member of the Cape Town Post Office. Its design is divided into two principal sections. The lower half depicts Table Bay, with ships in the foreground and the unmistakable outline of Table Mountain rising in the background. The upper half bears the crest of the Cape Colony, giving the stamp both a local and official character.

The inscription reads 'ONE PENNY', with the value also shown as 1d. The issued stamp was printed in carmine red by De La Rue & Company, the renowned London security printers. It was produced on paper bearing the Anchor and Cable watermark and was perforated 14.

A notable philatelic item associated with the issue is the imperforated plate proof, Fig.1, examples of which are known in the issued colour. Such proofs are of particular interest to specialists, as they show the design before final production and distribution.

A Stamp Reflected on a Cigarette Card

The popularity and visual appeal of the Table Bay design extended beyond postage stamps. It appeared as No. 93 in the 'Rarest Varieties' series of cigarette cards issued by African Tobacco Manufacturers, Fig.2.

The cigarette card illustration is a close approximation of the stamp, but it is not an exact reproduction. This difference is significant. At the time, producing a direct copy of a postage stamp could have contravened government copyright or

regulations designed to prevent the reproduction of current stamp designs. The card therefore offered collectors a philatelic image without duplicating the stamp too precisely.



Fig.2: Cigarette card No 93 of the 'Rarest Varieties' series.

A Postcard to England

A fine example of the stamp's intended use is found on a postcard sent to England, Fig.3. The postage was 1d, correctly meeting the British Empire postcard rate.

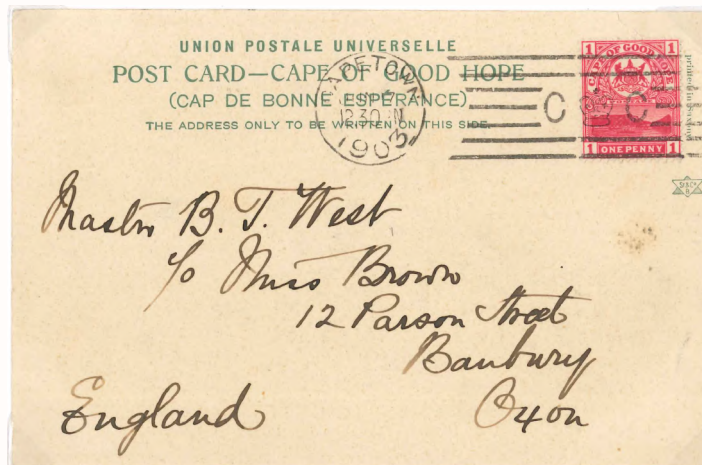


Fig.3: Post card sent from Cape Town to Banbury, England.

The card was cancelled at Cape Town on 17 June 1903 using a straight-line Machine Roller Defacer, classified as MRD1, introduced in 1898. This machine cancellation includes a large crown and is an important feature for postal historians interested in the mechanisation of mail handling at the Cape.

The postcard itself is headed: Union Postale Universelle, Post Card — Cape of Good Hope, Cap de Bonne Espérance.

As was customary, the address side carried the instruction that only the address was to be written there. The card, numbered 72379, was printed by Stengel & Co., Berlin, a prolific publisher of picture postcards during the period.

The card was sent to Banbury, England, making it a representative example of ordinary imperial correspondence carried at the newly established penny rate.

A Cover to Germany

Another interesting usage involves a cover sent to Germany, franked with: 2 × 1d Table Bay stamps and ½d Hope Standing, Fig.4.



Fig.4: Cover sent from Kuils River to Elbersfeld, Germany.

Together these made up 2½d, the correct overseas letter rate beyond the British Empire.

The cover bears a circular date stamp from Kuils River, recorded as CDS 11, with a diameter of approximately 23 mm, dated 21 February 1900. This is an early use of the Table Bay issue, coming only shortly after its January 1900 release. It had arrived in Elbersfeld on 10 March 1900.

Philatelic Significance

The 1d Table Bay issue occupies an appealing position in Cape philately. It is both commemorative and functional:

commemorative because it marks the adoption of Imperial Penny Postage, and functional because it was widely used on everyday mail. Its design is strongly local, celebrating Cape Town's famous harbour and mountain, yet its purpose was imperial, linking the Cape more closely with the wider British postal system.

For collectors, the stamp offers several avenues of study: issued examples, plate proofs, watermark and perforation details, machine cancellations, postcard usages, foreign-rate covers, and related ephemera such as the African Tobacco Manufacturers cigarette card.

In short, the 1d carmine Table Bay is more than a handsome colonial stamp. It is a small but vivid witness to a moment when postal reform, imperial identity, and Cape scenery came together in one memorable design.

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More Than Bits of Paper: Why Philately Still Matters



In today's digital age, it's easy to overlook postage stamps as relics of the past. However, philately offers a rewarding way to explore history, art, and culture. Unlike a pastime of collecting just old paper, philately preserves cultural heritage through miniature works of art.

Stamps tell stories, commemorating scientific breakthroughs, national heroes, indigenous wildlife, or historical events. In South Africa, they offer a visual record of the country's

political, social, and environmental journey, serving as tiny ambassadors of national identity.

Philatelic detective work captivates collectors. They start with an attractive stamp, only to uncover a deeper story about the designer, printing process, postal routes, or event. The hobby rewards curiosity, transforming a stamp album into a carefully curated museum.

Philately celebrates craftsmanship. Engravers, illustrators, and printers create intricate works on tiny canvases. Before social media and online marketing, stamps were widely distributed public art.

Philately's greatest strength lies in its ability to unite people. Collectors share knowledge as easily as they exchange stamps, discussing watermark varieties, postal history, and thematic collecting. They all share a passion for preserving fragments of humanity's story.

Next time you see a postage stamp, take a closer look. It might be a small piece of paper, but it's actually a window into history, culture, and artistic achievement. That's why philately endures, not just as a hobby, but as the guardianship of our collective memory. [📄](#)

Castles

by Press Office, Royal Mail



Fig.1: First Class stamps showcasing the spectacular settings of eight castles from the nations across the UK.

Royal Mail has unveiled a set of 12 stamps that showcase the architectural brilliance of castles across the UK on 14 May 2026.

The main set of stamps features photography of eight castles, from all four nations of the UK, dating from the Norman period onwards, Fig.1.

A further four stamps presented in a miniature sheet celebrate Royal castles and are newly commissioned artworks by British illustrator Rob Ball, Fig.2.

The word 'castle' is used today to describe a type of lordly or aristocratic residence that incorporates fortifications – including towers, ditches and battlements – either for display or for defensive purpose.

Castles were first built in England in the middle of the 11th century, and from 1066 in vastly larger numbers at places such as Warwick and Windsor, helping to secure Norman rule. With the expansion of Anglo-Norman power, they spread throughout the British Isles, as at Pembroke and Dundrum. The Welsh leaders built their own castles to defend their lands. Castle-building continued throughout the Middle Ages at Caernarfon and far beyond, such as at Dunluce. Many castles occupied prominent and ancient sites, including at Dover, Stirling, Bamburgh and Urquhart.

The greatest castles were developed as prized residences into the 17th century, but many, including Raglan, fell victim to the Civil Wars of the 1640s. There was a revival of interest in castles from the 18th century, and large numbers were built by wealthy landowners, including Queen Victoria and Prince Albert at Balmoral. Today, castles remain an important part of our landscape and heritage, and their extraordinary, varied history makes them fascinating places to learn about and visit.

The stamps, and a range of collectible products, are available to pre-order from today (14 May) at www.royalmail.com/castles and by telephone on 03457 641 641. A Presentation Pack including all 12 stamps is priced at £22.50. The stamps go on general sale from 21 May.

Stamp-by-stamp:

Dunluce Castle

Castles played an important role in attempts by the English Crown to secure and colonise Ireland in the 17th century. Dunluce Castle was built in the 16th century by the MacQuillans, and in July 1604 a grant confirming Randal MacDonnell in possession of his lands in Ulster proposed the establishment of "a fort or garrison" there. The castle stands on a rock that projects dramatically into the sea. In 1611, a visitor reported that the encircling wall contained "a good house of stone with many lodgings" and the neighbouring town was "peopled for the most part with Scottishmen", colonists from across the sea.

Dundrum Castle

Dundrum Castle was one of the first generation of castles built by Anglo-Norman adventurers eager to acquire territory in Ireland from the 1170s onwards. Set on a hill that commands a natural harbour with wide beaches to pull up boats, the castle was well-placed to secure communications with the west coast of England and Wales. The exact circumstances in which the castle was founded remain uncertain. It was probably established by John de Courcy but quickly passed to a rival, Hugh de Lacy, Earl of Ulster, who is thought to have built the circular keep that dominates the castle by about 1211.

Castell Rhaglan | Raglan Castle

A royalist stronghold during the Civil Wars, Raglan Castle was deliberately destroyed after its surrender on 19 August 1646. William ap Thomas began building the castle around 1435, but it was his son, William Herbert - nicknamed the 'masterlock' or effective regent of Wales - who made it a palace-fortress. The centrepiece was a tower of prodigious size that was known by the 17th century as the Yellow Tower of Gwent. In the 1580s, William Somerset, 3rd Earl of Worcester, further enlarged the castle and created extensive gardens around it.

Castell Penfro | Pembroke Castle

The Normans were quick to extend their power into south Wales in the late 11th century, staking out their conquests with castles. Of these, Pembroke Castle, which commands a natural anchorage, was one of the largest and most important. The great drum-shaped keep that towers over the walls was probably begun in 1199 by William Marshal. He was one of the most celebrated knights of his age and was created Earl of Pembroke that year. The keep was originally crowned with a triple ring of battlements, a very unusual detail.

Urquhart Castle

In about 1230, Alan Durward, the son-in-law of King Alexander II of Scotland, began to develop a castle at Urquhart, on the western shore of Loch Ness. The rocky peninsula on which it stood has a history of occupation that probably stretches back to the Iron Age. Over the course of the Middle Ages, the castle played a role in the violent internal politics of Scotland but ceased to be occupied as a residence by the early 17th century. It was last garrisoned in 1689 but was not besieged. Nevertheless, the buildings were damaged on this occasion and were never subsequently repaired.

Stirling Castle

Dramatically set on an outcrop of rock above the floodplain of the River Forth, Stirling Castle commands a natural

crossroads between the Highlands and the Lowlands of Scotland. Two crucial Scottish victories in the wars of independence from England were fought within sight of its walls: the Battle of Stirling Bridge (1297) and the Battle of Bannockburn (1314). It was also here that King Edward I tested his massive catapult known as the 'war-wolf' during a siege in 1304. Stirling remained an important royal residence throughout the Middle Ages, and its fine royal apartments, probably begun in 1538, have recently been recreated.

Warwick Castle

Warwick Castle was built by William the Conqueror during the brutal military campaigns fought against the Anglo-Saxons that followed the Battle of Hastings in 1066. In 1068, William ordered its construction to control the town and, according to the Domesday survey of 1086, several properties were demolished to accommodate its fortifications. The castle became the seat of the Earls of Warwick, one of the greatest noble lines of the Middle Ages. They ambitiously redeveloped the building in stone from the 14th century and named its highest tower after the hero of chivalric literature, Guy of Warwick, from whom they claimed descent.

Bamburgh Castle

Bamburgh Castle stands on a volcanic plug that was first fortified from 547 as the capital of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Bernicia. It was subsequently a castle of the Earls of Northumbria until 1095. A great keep, built on the rock in about 1120, established this as the northernmost royal fortress in England. The castle was last besieged in 1464 and fell into ruin during the 16th century. Curiously, it was repaired as a hospital and school in the 18th century by Lord Crewe's Charity and then remodelled as a residence from 1894 by Lord Armstrong of Cragside.


The stamps and a range of collectible products are available to order from 15 May 2026 at www.royalmail.com/castles. 



Fig.2: Miniature Sheet with original illustrations of Royal castles.

Tribute to Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA

The South African defence, academic, and international philatelic communities are saddened by Brigadier General (Doctor) Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA's passing on 10 May 2026. We have lost a great postal historian, an acclaimed academic historian, and a distinguished Reserve Force



Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA.

general whose career spanned fifty years, from 1973 to 2023.

Gerhard Kamffer, born on 15 July 1954, in Balfour, Mpumalanga, grew up on a family farm. This rural upbringing gave him a deep understanding of the economic challenges in the South African interior, which later influenced his strategic focus on rural development.

He pursued extensive higher education at Potchefstroom University (now North-West University), earning a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Arts with Honours, and a PhD in History. His rigorous doctoral training shaped his dual path as a senior army officer, a world-class scholar and philatelist.

Gerhard's passion for postage stamps began in 1967 at 12, and he became chairman of the Potchefstroom University Philatelic Society in 1976.

His early gold-medal-winning collections were mostly made from his farm in Heidelberg/Standerton. His dedication to archival research at the Post Office Museum and National Archives led to a historic victory at the 1987 Paarl 300 National Stamp Exhibition. At 33, he won the State President's Trophy (*Grand Prix*) for his exhibit on the Revenue Stamps of the Union of South Africa, breaking the stigma around 'Cinderellas'.

He was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of Southern Africa (RDPSA) in 1998 and received the Manfred Weinstein Memorial Medal in 1994. He received the Post Office Trophy twice for his national exhibits.

Gerhard, a master of history and philately, presented South African postal history to international audiences in Beijing, Toronto, Melbourne, and Thailand.

His 'Storyteller' philosophy peaked with his open-class masterpiece, 'The Road to Democracy in South Africa up to 1994'. This collection, featuring letters from Nelson Mandela, won a Gold at the THAILAND 2018 World Stamp Exhibition and was displayed in the Court of Honour at IPEX Cape Town 2022.

Gerhard, a prolific author and academic, served on the Editorial Advisory Board of *Scientia Militaria* and that of the *SA Philatelist*. He published around 100 in-depth articles in *The SA Philatelist* and *The Transvaal Philatelist*. He received the Hagger Award for his scholarly contribution in philately multiple times.

For over 20 years, he served as a national philatelic judge. As a dedicated mentor, he structured his guidance focusing on curatorial logic and technical depth.

Gerhard leaves a wealth of knowledge and a legacy that will shape future generations' academic, military pursuits and philately. He taught us that history, from regiment names to postmarks, is an integral part of our national heritage.

Gerhard is survived by his wife, three sons, three daughters-in-law, and nine grandchildren. He has laid down his tongs for the last time, but his masterpieces will always live on in our annals.

Rus in vrede, Gerhard.



LEGACY

When Passion Becomes Legacy – Navigating Collections After Death

Imagine a man who spent his evenings poring over albums of stamps, each tiny square a portal into history. For him, collecting was joy, escape, and identity. For his family, however, those albums may one day become a puzzle: What are they worth? Who should handle them? And how do you honour his passion without being overwhelmed?

A Treasure Map

A lifelong philatelist from Cape Town, was meticulous in everything he did. His stamp albums were neatly arranged,

his notes precise, and his passion evident. When he passed away, his daughter discovered a typed list of every stamp he had purchased, complete with dates, prices, and auction references.



"It was like a treasure map. We didn't feel lost – we felt guided."

His foresight meant the family could approach an auction house or dealer with confidence, avoiding confusion and disputes.

The Disappointed Heirs

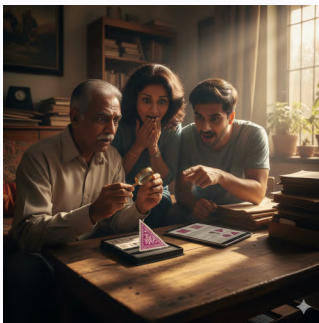


In Johannesburg, a widow and her son believed their inherited albums would fund their son's university fees. However, when experts examined them, they found the stamps were mass-produced and only held sentimental value.

"They weren't a financial legacy, but an emotional one. They told the story of his life."

They realised the true value lay in the joy the collector found in his hobby.

The Surprise Gem



A Durban family nearly donated their late uncle's stamp albums to a charity shop. A friend suggested a valuation first. Among the albums was a rare 19th-century stamp worth over R150,000.

"It felt like he had left us a secret gift."

The windfall helped cover medical expenses, turning a forgotten collection into a life-changing inheritance.

A Trusted Guide

A Pretoria family faced a mountain of albums after their father's passing. A local dealer patiently explained every step of the process.



"The dealer treated us with dignity. We felt like we were walking with someone who knew the terrain."

The process became less about fear and more about trust.

Tips for Heirs

- Keep the collection intact.
- Seek multiple valuations.
- Don't rush into decisions.

Checklist for Collectors

- Keep records of purchases and dates.
- Store certificates and invoices separately.
- Specify preferred auction house/dealer in your will.

Lifestyle Reflection

Collections are more than just objects; they are memories, histories, and legacies. With foresight and care, they can continue to tell their stories long after the collector finally closed his/her album. [🔗](#)

Call for participation



The SA Philatelist has earned nine international awards, not merely for its production values, but for the passion, knowledge and dedication of the people behind every page. That legacy belongs to all of us, and it needs you.

Every collector has a story worth telling. Whether it is a rare find, a postal history mystery solved, or simply a lifelong love of the hobby, your experience matters. We offer full editorial support to help you put your collection into words.

If you have philatelic expertise to contribute to our Editorial Board, a sharp eye for language, or technical skills in \LaTeX , there is a place for you here.

The joy of sharing your collection with a fellow enthusiast, that same spark of wonder and human connection, is exactly what *The SA Philatelist* brings to thousands of readers across South Africa and beyond. Come and be part of it. Your knowledge, your passion and your time will help shape this cherished publication for generations of philatelists still to come.

Become part of the team. Send an email today to sap@stampssa.africa



Visit a Stamp Fair Near You



Cape Stamp Fair and Auction

Usually **first** Saturday, every month.
Bellville Valley DRC Hall,
c/o Postma & St Andrews Streets, Bellville
Open: 09:00 – 12:30

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Ken Joseph: 072 5971287,
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Robert Harm: 082 925-7103,
robertharm9@gmail.com

George (Online Philatelic Auctions Only)

Ray's Stamps

Contact:
Ray Upson: 044 871 2286,
scpa@xsinet.co.za,
Fax2Email: 086 733 8444

Pretoria Stamp Fair and Auction Gauteng

First Saturday, every month.
Greek Orthodox Church,
Corner Lynnwood Road & Roper St, Brooklyn
Open: 08:00 with Auction at 10:30

Contact:
Kenny Napier: 083 444 0249,
kenny.napier@mweb.co.za

Johannesburg Stamp Fair and Auction Gauteng (Old Kyalami Stamp Fair)

Second Saturday every month.
German Club, 131 Holkam Road, Paulshof, Sandton.
Open: 08:00 with Auction at 10:00

Contact:
Kenny Napier: 083 444 0249,
kenny.napier@mweb.co.za

East Rand Stamp Fair and Auction Gauteng

Last Saturday, every month.
Edenvale Bowling Club,
6th Avenue, Edenvale
Open: 08:00 with Auction at 10:00

Contact:
Kenny Napier: 083 444 0249,
kenny.napier@mweb.co.za

Natal Stamp Fair and Auction (Durban)

Second and **last** Saturday, every month.
Classic Motor-cycle Club,
137 Tara Road, Bluff, Durban
Open: From 09:00

Contact:
Zbigniew Kawecki: 082 968 6888,
z.kawecki57@gmail.com

KZN: Sunbird Stamp Auction

First Saturday, every month.
St Elizabeth's Anglican Church Hall,
45 Salisbury Avenue, Westville, Durban
Open: 09:00 – 13:00

Contact:
Kim Breytenbach: 082 871 6292,
sunbird.stampauction@gmail.com



Support SAPDA Dealers. The South African Philatelic Dealers Association (SAPDA) maintains a code of conduct for dealers in stamps and postal material and arranges dealer participation in the annual national stamp exhibition. For more information: <https://stampssa.africa/buy-and-sell/>



Take Your Collection Further with PFSA



We value stamp collecting as more than a hobby; it is a lifelong journey through history, art and culture.

Joining the *Philatelic Federation of South Africa* (PFSA) can enhance your collecting experience. PFSA provides certification services, specialist research resources, philatelic libraries, exhibition opportunities and a network of committed collectors.

Keep up to date with the journal *The SA Philatelist* and the newsletter *Stamps South Africa – Keeping in Touch*.

Whether you want to improve competitive exhibits or broaden your specialisation, PFSA membership offers practical support and strong community connections.

Contact the President or Secretary of a society for more information to join.

EASTERN CAPE

• **EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: David Preston, 082 774 2090, prestee@telkomsa.net; Sec: Carlos Da Fonseca, 082 334 7603,

Carlosdafonseca66@outlook.com; Meetings: Fourth Thursday monthly at 19:30—Heritage Hall, 1st Floor, Berea Gardens, 70 Jarvis Rd, Berea, East London.

• **PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Francois Friend, 082 554 8900, francois@softchem.co.za; Sec: Louis Oosthuizen, 082 469 7494,

louis.oosthuizen001@gmail.com; Meetings: First Monday monthly at 11:00 (except December)—Bible Society House, 31 Cotswold Ave, Cotswold, Port Elizabeth.

FREE STATE

• **GOLDFIELDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Gary Trower, -, garytrower11@gmail.com; Sec: Andrzej Formanowicz, 082 805 4800, litestrider@mweb.co.za; Meetings: Second Saturday of the month - 9.00 for 9.30 at the Welkom Retirement Village, Welkom.

• **ORANGE FREE STATE PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Neil Cronje RDPSA, 082 800 1432, drjdecronje@gmail.com; Sec: Voet du Plessis, 082 449 9488, jvoet44@gmail.com; Meetings: Every 4th Saturday monthly at 10:00 (except December) - Sentraal Primary School, Raymond Mhlaba Rd, Bloemfontein.

• **SASOLBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Leon Jacobsen, 083 389 8647, lj.heritage@gmail.com; Sec: Cecily Jacobsen, 083 389 8647, lj.heritage@gmail.com; Meetings: Second Wednesday monthly at 14:00 (except December)—Sasolburg Public Library, Civic Centre, Fichardt St, Sasolburg.

GARDEN ROUTE

• **DIE POSBOOM FILATELIEVERENIGING, MOSSSELBAAI:** Pres: Gerrie Conradie, 082 952 6700, gajcon@gmail.com

Sec: Nico Els, -, nicolaase@gmail.com; Meetings: Second Tuesday monthly at 18:00—St Peter's Kerkzaal, Marshstraat, Mosselbaai. 19:00.

• **GEORGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Willie Mollentze, 082 555 7760, mollentzewf@gmail.com; Sec: Otto Muller, 083 240 8722, otto1muller@gamil.com; Meetings: Second Thursday monthly at 18h00—Minor Hall, Presbyterian Church, 8 Caledon Street, George. 19:00.

• **STILL BAY PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION:** Chair: Karel Nel, 082 414 4881, karelnel@mweb.co.za; Sec: Fred Meyer, 083 676 1379, fredlin1@telkomsa.net; Meetings: Monthly on the first Tuesday at 15:00.

GAUTENG

• **AFRIKAANSE FILATELIEVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA:** Chair: Louwrence Erasmus, 083 540 5092, voorsitter@afpretoria.co.za; Sec: Ronel Erasmus, 083 397 6742, sekretaris@afpretoria.co.za; Website: <https://afpretoria.co.za>; Meetings: Second last Saturday of month at 10:00 (no December meeting)—Queenswood N.G. Kerk, Garret Street, Queenswood, Pretoria.

• **EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: David Wigston, 084 702 3704, speedbird.imperial@gmail.com; Sec: Paul Hammerton, 082 459 4221, hampaul@ananzi.co.za; Meetings: Last Saturday monthly at 14:00 (except December)—52 Van der Post Avenue, Parkrand, Boksburg. Please confirm attendance with Cynthia Gillespie on 083 236 4998 or at cynthia.gillespie@gmail.com.

• **EDENVALE PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Colin Bousfield, 083 961 9656, Bousfield.colin@yahoo.co.za; Sec: Sandy Robertson, sandystampnews@gmail.com; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/668264589986883>; Meetings: Monthly on the last Saturday at 13:00 (except December)—Thornhill Manor Hall, Thornhill Retirement Village, Modderfontein.

• **PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG:** Pres: Clive Carr, 083 634 1939, carr.clive@gmail.com; Sec: Vic Sorour RDPSA, 083 630 2266, vsorour@wol.co.za; Meetings: Third Wednesday monthly at 16:00 (except December)—Blairgowrie Recreation Centre, Park Lane, Blairgowrie.

• **PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: John Robertson, 079 876 2162, jhrmjk@mweb.co.za; Act Sec: Alex Visser RDPSA, 082 922 2917, alex.visser@up.ac.za; Website: <https://stampssa.africa/pretps>; Meetings: First Saturday monthly at 09:00—Greek Orthodox Church, Corner Lynnwood Road & Roper St, Brooklyn, Pretoria..

• **SANDTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Chris Carey, 083 662 2150, ccarey@icon.co.za; Sec: Beata Carey, ccarey@icon.co.za; Meetings: First Thursday monthly at 10:00 (except January)—Blairgowrie Community Centre, Park Lane Avenue (off Susman Av), Blairgowrie.

• **WITWATERSRAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Ian Matheson RDPSA FRPSL, [083 455 9501](tel:0834559501), ian@cdi.biz; Sec: Nikki Espley-Jones, [011 710 6406](tel:0117106406), nikki@ccj.co.za; Meetings: Second Wednesday monthly at 16:00—Country Club, Johannesburg, Napier Rd, Auckland Park; last Wednesday monthly at 19:00—Woodmead Country Club, Johannesburg.

• THEMATICS SA:

• **Pretoria Chapter:** Contact: Helena Snyman, [083 990 8953](tel:0839908953), helenasnyman7@gmail.com; Meeting: First Saturday monthly at 10:00—Greek Orthodox Church Hall, corner Lynwood Road and Roper Street, Pretoria (opposite UP main gate).

• **Western Cape Chapter:** Contact: Diederik Viljoen, [082 456 6653](tel:0824566653), diederikaviljoen@gmail.com; Meeting: First Saturday monthly at 09:00—Bellville-Vallei DRC hall, c/o Postma and St Andrews Street, Oakdale, Bellville.

• **KZN Chapter:** Contact: Aubrey Bowles, [083 382 8308](tel:0833828308), aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com; Meeting: Third Monday monthly at 15:00.00—St Matthews Parish Hall, 115 Hesketh Drive, Hayfields, Pietermaritzburg.

KWA-ZULU NATAL

• **HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Frik Booyse, [083 284 5929](tel:0832845929), nfbooyse@gmail.com; Marketing: Barry Livsey, [082 892 7324](tel:0828927324), hps@xsinet.co.za; Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/339715808168144>; Meetings: First Saturday monthly at 08:30—Elizabeth Church Hall, Salisbury Avenue, Westville, Durban.

• **MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: John Handman, [083 660 1275](tel:0836601275), -; Sec: Aubrey Bowles, [082 316 3308](tel:0823163308), maritzburgphilatelicsociety@gmail.com; Meetings: Third Saturday monthly at 10:00—Hilton Scout and Community Hall, Magnolia Road, Hilton.

• **PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWAZULU-NATAL:** Pres: Zbigniew Kawecki, [082 968 6888](tel:0829686888), z.kawecki57@gmail.com; Sec: Genevieve Fitzpatrick, genevieveta60@gmail.com; Meetings: Second and fourth Saturday monthly at 09:00—Classic Motor Cycle Clubhouse, 137 Tara Road, The Bluff, Durban.

WESTERN CAPE

• **BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Chuck Muller, [073 187 4076](tel:0731874076), chuck@sbr.co.za; Sec: Karen Coetzer; Meetings: Second Wednesday monthly—Durbanville Golf Club, Sports Way, Durbanville – 19:00.

• **FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Johan De Wet, [073 020 5004](tel:0730205004), elspethd@iafrica.com; Sec: Volker Janssen, [021 786 1548](tel:0217861548), janssenp@iafrica.com <https://www.fhps.info>; Meetings: First Tuesday monthly at 14:00—The Minor Hall, Civic Centre, Recreation Rd, Fish Hoek.

• **PAARLSE FILATELISTE:** Pres: Gawie Hugo, [083 956 2410](tel:0839562410), gawiehugo@gmail.com; Sec: Riaan Crafford, [082 876 7608](tel:0828767608), paarlsefilateliste@gmail.com; Meetings: Second Saturday

monthly at 09:00—MBA gebou, Concordia St, Suider Paarl.

• **PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE, CAPE TOWN:** Pres: Martin Crawford, m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com; Sec: Marilyn Crawford, m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com; Meetings: Last Wednesday monthly at 18:30 (except December)—Activities Hall, Public Library, Howard Place, Pinelands.

• **ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN:** Pres: Hugh Amoore RDPSA FRPSL, [082 440 8204](tel:0824408204), [082 440 8204](tel:0824408204); Sec: Victor Millard, [082 802 8882](tel:0828028882), royalphilct@gmail.com <https://stampssa.africa/rpsct>; Meetings: First Saturday monthly at 11:00 and fourth Monday at 14:00—Athenaeum Trust, Mariendahl Rd off Campground Road, Newlands.

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

• **ANGLO-BOER WAR PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Chairman: Kevin Darcy, drmkdacy@gmail.com; Sec: Nick Harris, [0791 8081197](tel:07918081197), mnrphboer@aol.com; SA rep: Nigel Hosking, [+27 82 789 5746](tel:+27827895746), nichosk@iafrica.com; Website: <https://boerwarsociety.org.uk>; Meetings as advised in *Anglo-Boer War Philatelist* — usually in South Africa during Congress week.

• **CAPE & NATAL STUDY CIRCLE:** Contact: Simon Solomon, capenatalstamps@gmail.com.

• **FILATELISTEN VERENIGING ZUIDELIJK AFRIKA:** Act pres: Johan Diesveld, ohandiesveld@gmail.com; Act sec: Ko Zegerman, kozeerman@kpnmail.nl; Meetings quarterly.

• **ORANGE FREE STATE STUDY CIRCLE:** Pres: Richard Stroud RDPSA, [+44\(0\)1278 782235](tel:+4401278782235), richard@richardstroud.plus.com; Website: <http://www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk>; Meetings and venue advised in *OFS Bulletin*.

• **PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTH AFRICA:** Contact: Peter Thy, pthy@ucdavis.edu; SA rep: Uli Bantz, [011 766 1495](tel:0117661495), ulib@mweb.co.za; Website: <http://psgsa.org>.

• **RHODESIAN STUDY CIRCLE:** Sec: Brian Zlotnick, [00 44 1274 566607](tel:00441274566607), bzlot@blueyonder.co.uk; SA rep: Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, FRPSL, [079 898 3795](tel:0798983795), patf@fgprop.com; Website: <https://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk>; Regular meetings and events across the world.

• **SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY:** Contact: Simon Peetoom, contact@southafricancollectorsociety.com; Website: <https://southafricancollectorsociety.com/>.

• **SOUTH WEST AFRICA STAMP STUDY GROUP:** Pres: Uli Bantz, [083 409 6969](tel:0834096969), ulib@mweb.co.za.

• **TRANSVAAL STUDY CIRCLE:** Pres: Lars Jørgensen RDPSA, lars.jorgensen.fs@gmail.com; SA rep: Danna Strydom, [083 452 0575](tel:0834520575), dstrydom@icon.co.za.

• **WINDHOEK FILATELIEKLUB:** Pres: Derick Loteryman, derickl@iway.na; Sec: Friedhelm Beck, beckciv@iafrica.com.na.

Your passion deserves it! Join a society today.



PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA



THE VALUE FUND

LAUNCHING THE NEW UPDATED UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA STAMPS HANDBOOK

Any organisation needs funds to deliver a VALUE proposition for its members.

Under a new management team, elected at the last Congress of the PFSA, held in Paarl in October 2025, the “Value Proposition” was recognized as a key initiative of the PFSA going forward.

Members of the PFSA are members either through direct membership, or through membership of Philatelic Societies affiliated to the PFSA. It is these members who recognise a value proposition and will both maintain their membership and encourage others to join, if there is a consensus that membership brings benefits!

Times have changed, even for the philatelic community worldwide.

“IT” is the tool that takes philately into every philatelist’s and stamp collector’s living room. Communication has never been more necessary nor more relevant and IT (Zoom, Teams etc.) is the driver. This is now well-tested and has been verified by philatelists worldwide.

All it takes is a click of a button to research a favourite subject, to engage with other collectors, to take part in auctions online and even to research journals and other philatelic books and newsletters online. Even those with a competitive gene can enter several online exhibitions.

Many collectors have embraced the new technology and the “new” way of collecting! The PFSA is fully embracing this direction.

Notwithstanding, many still wish to hold a book or journal in their hands whilst browsing contents. Unfortunately, many publications are outdated, out of print or just simply irrelevant.

The Handbook of the Union of South African Philately, a “*magnum opus*” at the time of its original publication, needs modernization. Modernizing into full-colour with updated information, a good research Index, is now an essential initiative by collaboration between the UK-based SA Collectors Society and the PFSA.

It is proposed to produce the book with high-quality colour images, durable binding and an easily searchable Index. It will be digitised in due course.

The new revised edition will be co-authored, co-edited by an eminently qualified group, including inter alia Brian Trotter RDP FRPS (Hon) RDPSA, Simon Peetoom, Rob and Lyn Lester (both SACS, UK), Pat Flanagan RDPSA FRPSL and André du Plessis RDPSA. None of the above, other than their respective contributions without compensation, has, nor will they have any commercial or other interest in the book.

The book will subscribe to all editorial laws and statutes in both RSA and in the UK.

Funding for the publication shall, following successful international trends, see funds being raised through:

- DONATIONS TO THE PFSA UNION HANDBOOK BOOK FUND (Anonymous if preferred)
- PRE-ORDERS WITH OR WITHOUT ADDITIONAL DONATIONS

The costs are essentially the costs of printing and binding.

The Book Fund will be administered by Derek Roth, current treasurer of the PFSA. It will be independent of any other funds within the PFSA ambit. It shall be used solely to produce the book.

Payment should be made to the PFSA bank account using UHB Stamp Fund and your name as reference.

TIMELINES FOR THE FINAL PUBLICATION SEEM TO INDICATE AVAILABILITY DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2027

ENQUIRIES:

André du Plessis RDPSA
Tel: +27 83 399 1755
pfsastamps@gmail.com

PFSA Banking details:

Philatelic Federation of South Africa
Standard Bank - Kempton Park
Acc. No.: 023 304 669
Universal Code 051001
Reference: UHB Stamp Fund and your name
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WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

THE DR ERICK REEBER FRPSL COLLECTION

Including
Important British Africa

9 JUNE 2026, LONDON



For further information

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