



MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER

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HALLOWEEN

The holiday began from the old Celtic festival of Samhain. People lit bonfires and wore masks to scare away wandering spirits. is a yearly holiday celebrated on October 31 that blends ancient harvest customs with modern secular traditions



"Trick or treat" became popular in North America where a pumpkin is carved into a mask for use on the night

Left: Montserrat stamp
16 August 1965
SG174

Short for "All Hallows' Eve," the night before the Christian holy day of All Saints' Day (November 1) Today, it functions as a popular cultural celebration rather than a religious observance in most parts of the world.

KRUGER DAY

Kruger Day, also known as Heroes' Day, was an official public holiday in South Africa celebrating the October 10 birthday of Paul Kruger, the 19th-century president of the South African Republic (Transvaal).

Celebrated from 1882 to 1899 while Kruger was alive and in office, and later reinstated from 1952 to 1994 under the apartheid government.

It was designed to commemorate Paul Kruger as a national hero of Boer resistance against British imperialism and to reinforce Afrikaner cultural identity and values.



At the age of 16 Kruger set up his home at the farm Boekenhoutfontein, near Rustenburg. He also owned the farm Waterkloof in the Rustenburg district. The Kruger National Park and Krugersdorp are named after him

Left: South Africa
21 October 1955
Centenary of Pretoria

Kruger lies buried in Heroes Acre, Pretoria

October 10 is no longer a national public holiday in South Africa, having been abolished following the transition to democracy in 1994. Small commemorative gatherings still occur in specific Afrikaner communities like Orania.

NATIONAL STAMP SHOW

The National Stamp Show was held at the Johannesburg Country club in Woodmead from 09 to 12 September 2026

The MPS was well represented by John Handman and James Grinyer

Several members from KZN participated in this prestigious event was opened by Hugh Amooore who quoted what he thought was so apt from an exhibit which happened to be Kim Breytenbach's five frame "The Soliquy of a Postage Stamp" which won a Large Silver.

"I am the World's greatest traveller. I've journeyed from pole to pole and all climes in between; by dogsled; camel and horseback; by every land, sea and air conveyance; even by submarine, dirigible and rocket. I am the World's greatest traveller"

OUR EXHIBITORS

Roger Porter received a Large Gold and the Grand Prix of the show for his Natal: Sea Mail and Packet Mail

Kim Breytenbach who achieved a Large Silver for her Soliquy of a Postage Stamp

Dick Schuurman received a Silver for his Conveyance of Mail Through the Ages

James Grinyer received a Silver for Land of the Pharaohs and a Silver Bronze for his Heroic Age of Polar Exploration

Aubrey Bowles achieved a Silver for Generation Extinction and a Silver-bronze for Diamonds are Forever

Gordon Gove (displaying under Highway Philatelic Society) received a Large Silver for Cry Havoc and Let Slip the Dogs of War Well done, everybody. We are very proud of you!

And now for the next stamp show in Cape Town.....

SEEN AT THE MEETING

The meeting on Saturday 19 September 2026 at Mendola was well attended with 19 members present and we must thank Tony Koch for providing the facility; nice eats and plenty of tea and coffee. Unfortunately, our Club President, John Handman was not able to attend the meeting which was chaired by Aubrey Bowles assisted by Tony Koch

Anything Goes and **Show and Tell** was well supported



The keen audience listening to one of the interesting presentations

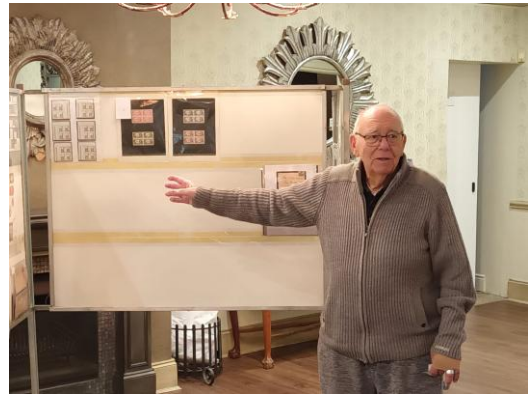


Pat Izaaks showing Flowers on Stamps to celebrate Spring and six postcards depicting scenes from Namaqualand

For Show and Tell, he produced a post-card that had obviously been re-used and an envelope that had been posted during the Anglo-Boer War. Pat asked Roger Porter to comment on these two items

IMPORTANT DATES

The next meeting of the MPS will be on Saturday 17 October 2026 at 09h00 and will be held at our normal meeting place in the Scout and Community Clubhouse behind Checkers



For "Show & Tell" Aubrey put up six Postage Due stamps from Botswana. He also exhibited a complete set of Southern Rhodesia stamps which were issued on 06 May 1935 to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of King George V



Gordon Gove showed postage stamps depicting poetry or a play by the "old masters! Each stamp was accompanied by a verse from Poetry or a Play

Robbie Burns

O my Luve is like a red,
red rose
That's newly sprung in
June;
O my Luve is like the
melody
That's sweetly played
in tune.

Left: France

1962

Rose culture



All of the photographs in this edition are by courtesy of Russell Bowton



Dave always introduces a sense of humour in his exhibits!



Roger Porter pondering over the Postcard and Envelope that were displayed by Pat Izaaks.

The postcard had been written in pencil and a second message had been written over the original "rubbed out" space!

It appears that this was not uncommon as writers sometimes used the horizontal space to write vertically across the original message.

The envelope had originally been posted from Johannesburg to Pietermaritzburg using an old Transvaal "VRI" stamp

The envelope could not be delivered and it was sent to the Eastdown Sorting Office in Lewisham, South East London, who returned it to Pietermaritzburg. A 1d stamp was added and the envelope was reposted to Bloemfontein!

ST HELENA AND THE MAIL

By Roger Porter RDPSA

By 1893 St Helena was experiencing a profound economic depression caused by the collapse of its shipping industry resulting from steamships sailing via the Suez Canal and not the longer route round the Cape of Good Hope

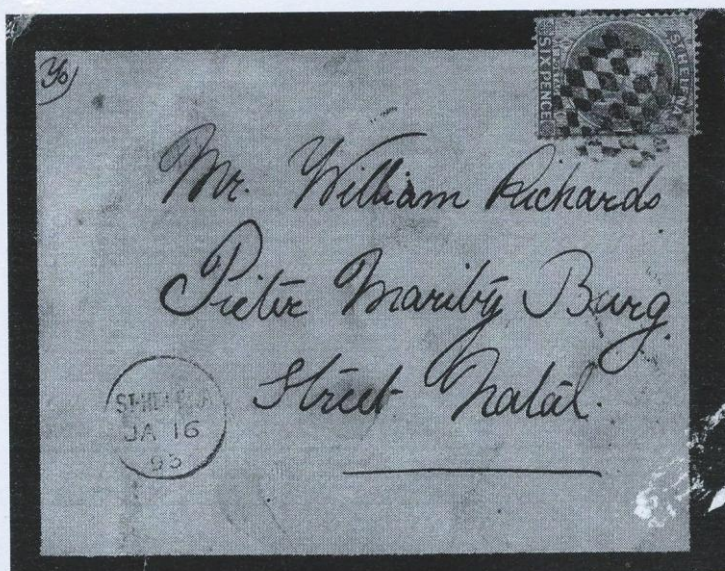
At that time the rate on postage letters conveyed either by Packet vessels, Royal Navy or private ship was 6d per ½ oz. That is, a 4d ship letter rate plus 2d rate to Cape or Natal Post Offices. St Helena joined the UPU on 01 October 1896

The October 1883 to September 1893 Sea Mail Contract between the Cape of Good Hope and the Union and the Castle steamship companies required that each company would provide a mail ship to take the mails alternatively and call on St Helena every fourth voyage. Each company sailed from UK to Cape Town twice a month.



St Helena – Extreme E
The last mail ship to call at St Helena

St Helena Pre-UPU cover to Natal.



Left: A 1893 mourning cover at a 6d postage rate from St Helena JA 1693 to Natal back-stamped Cape Town JA 26,93 GPO JA30 93

Roger has yet to find out conclusively that the ship that conveyed this cover was the SS Zephyrus (1 358 tonnes) that called at St Helena in January 1893 on its voyage from Britain via Cape Town to Melbourne, Australia

The Zephyrus was an Australian Line packet ship.

Note: It's quite incredible the amount of information one can obtain when researching a single item whether it be a postage stamp, an envelope or a postcard



Above: Dick Schuurman receiving the Mug of the Month from Tony Koch

Dick exhibited a four-page item about Canada which was most interesting

BIRTH & GROWTH OF CANADA

By Dick Schuurman

(This story has been abridged by the editor)

Between 1-9 September 1864 the Charlottetown Conference, which was the first of several meetings, was held to discuss a Maritime Union and a Canadian Confederation



Left: Canada
01 June 1935
Commemorative
issue
Charlottetown
Conference

In 1864 the Quebec Conference took place, the second such conference, to further discuss constitutional matters



Left: 26 May 1966
Commemorative
stamp
Centenary of the
London Conference

The London Conference, the last in the series, took place between 1866-67 between leaders of the Province of Canada; New Brunswick and Nova Scotia resulting on the British North America Act 1867.

The Act received royal assent from Queen Victoria on 29 March 1867 and was proclaimed in force on 01 July 1867 creating the Dominion of Canada.



25 September 1963 First Land Route
Long before Confederation, the first regular land mail route was established between Quebec and Montreal via Trois Rivières, the second European settlement by the French. During 1927, Canada issued a set of five stamps to commemorate 60 years of Confederation.



The Fathers of Confederation
The 2c stamp depicts "The Fathers of the Confederation" depicting the Constitutional Conference



Map highlighting the 1867 founding of the provinces
The rest of Canada had yet to be explored and the vast interior was still a wilderness

It was not until 1949 when Newfoundland and Labrador became the 10th and most easterly province of Canada. The 1937 King George VI coronation stamp depicts these two provinces

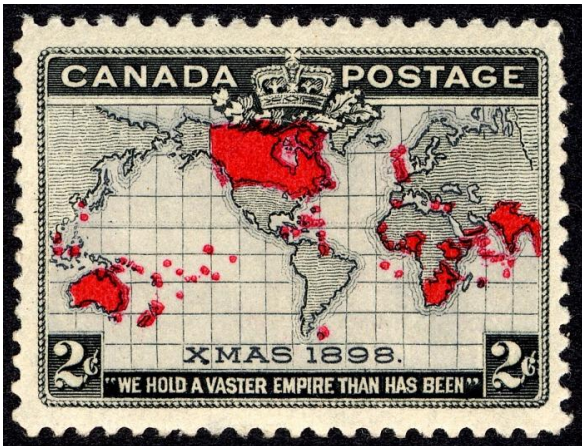


Newfoundland and Labrador

There has always been a strong French influence in Canada and the country is bilingual as a result of this. The French were also the first European settlers in the area. Jacques Cartier landed in 1534. This event was commemorated with a beautifully engraved stamp, printed by the British American Bank Note Company on 01 July 1934

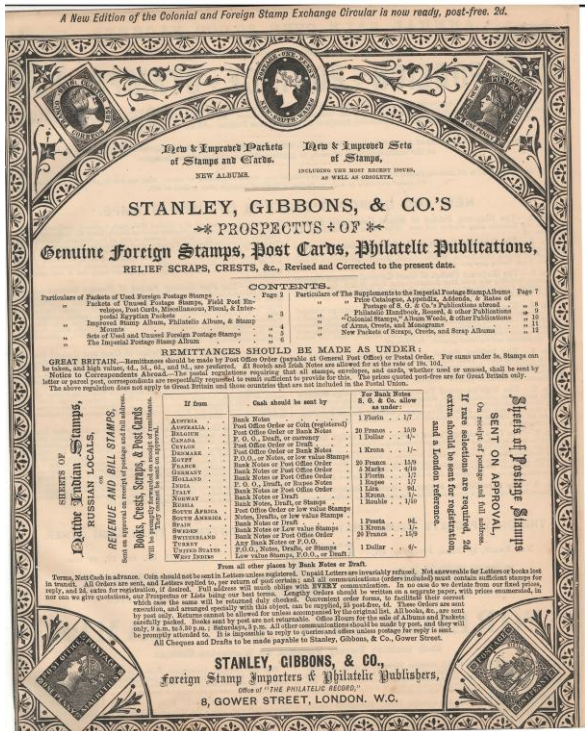


Jacques Cartier and crew approaching land and catching sight of the coast. It was Carlier who named the area "Canada" after the Iroquoian name of two settlements he saw at Stade Cona and Hochalaga



The First Christmas Stamp ever issued

BYGONE ERA



Stanley Gibbons and a copy of their prospectus for 1907



Advertisement for the "modern" Imperial Stamp Album
SEE YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING – PLEASE BRING AN INTERESTING EXHIBIT FOR "ANYTHING GOES" AND AN ITEM FOR "SHOW & TELL"