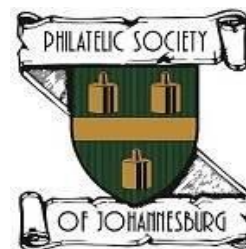


PS of J Newsletter

OCTOBER 2026



Welcome to our October newsletter.

General items

- Once the meeting got underway with some late commers; there were 13 members and 2 visitors who signed the attendance register. The theme for the afternoon was Southern Africa.
- The Stamp Show 2026 award winners were mentioned and congratulated. Details of their exhibits and awards was circulated earlier.
- An email with a photo of the society's trophies has been sent to the SAPO Museum. We are awaiting their reply as to how to proceed with our donation of the trophies.
- Clive reminded members of the 200 circuit books which are still available to members.
- Alistair Macduff was thanked for his efforts in the recruiting drive. No new members yet, but efforts will continue. An updated pamphlet has been affixed to the Blairgowrie Recreation Centre noticeboard as part of the drive.

We have a number of pamphlets for members to take to pin on any notice boards where they could attract interest.

- It was noted that there was general agreement to the earlier 3:00 pm meeting starting time.

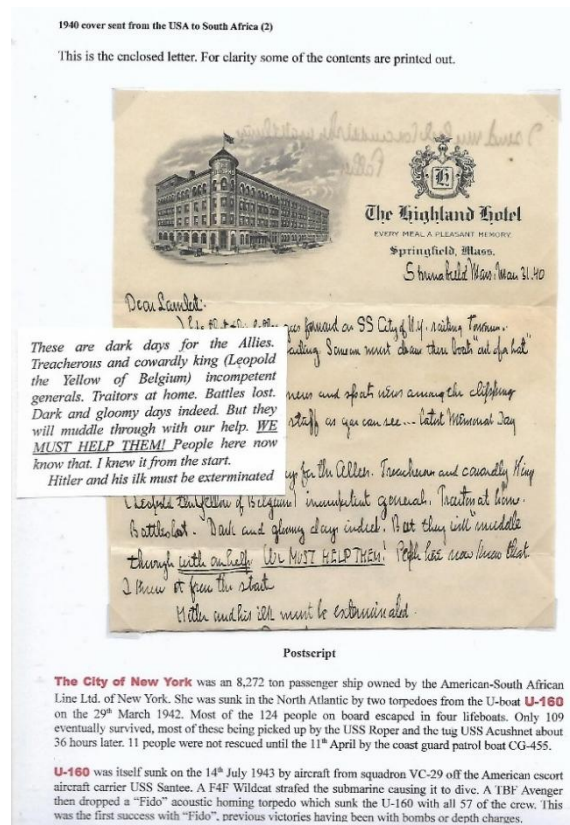
Items of interest

Howard Green showed a Financial Mail magazine with an article which questioned the relevance of the SA Post Office.

The article was quite scathing mentioning how private enterprise had profitably taken over what the Post Office failed to succeed at.



Ted Roberts had an interesting 1940 ‘Special Delivery’ letter from the USA to South Africa.

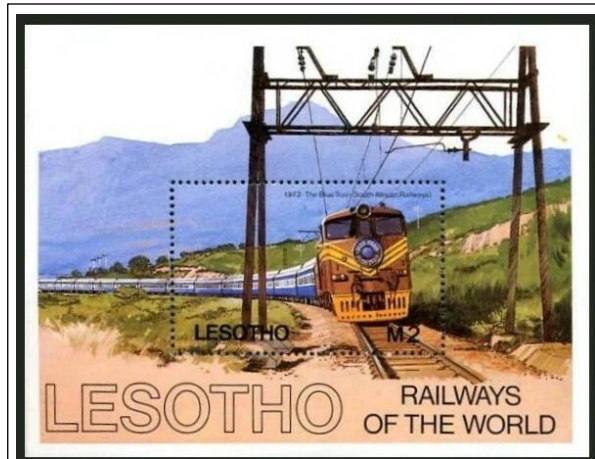


Exhibits

Gary Pienaar showed a one page exhibit on the Blue Train.

THE BLUE TRAIN

The Blue Train is a world-renowned luxury train journey in South Africa operating along a 1,600-kilometer route between Pretoria and Cape Town. Its history dates back to 1923 with the Union Limited and Union Express services, which originally transported passengers between Johannesburg and Cape Town to connect with ships bound for England. Following a hiatus during World War II, the service resumed in 1946 and officially adopted "The Blue Train" name in reference to its iconic royal-blue livery introduced in 1937. After undergoing extensive modernization and refurbishments throughout the 1970s and 1990s, it remains one of the premier tourist experiences in the world.



Commemorative miniature sheet depicting the Blue Train. From the Lesotho 1984 "Railways of the World" set, which also features five adhesive stamps depicting famous historic locomotives.

The exhibit contains a variety of philatelic material connected to the Blue Train, including;

- A booklet of ten Blue Train Cinderella labels, to mark the 30th anniversary of the service in April 1969.
- The commemorative cover and cancel issued on the 4th September 1972, to mark the inauguration of the new Blue Train service between Pretoria and Cape Town.
- The Blue Train booklet of ten airmail postcard stamps issued 1st August 1997.

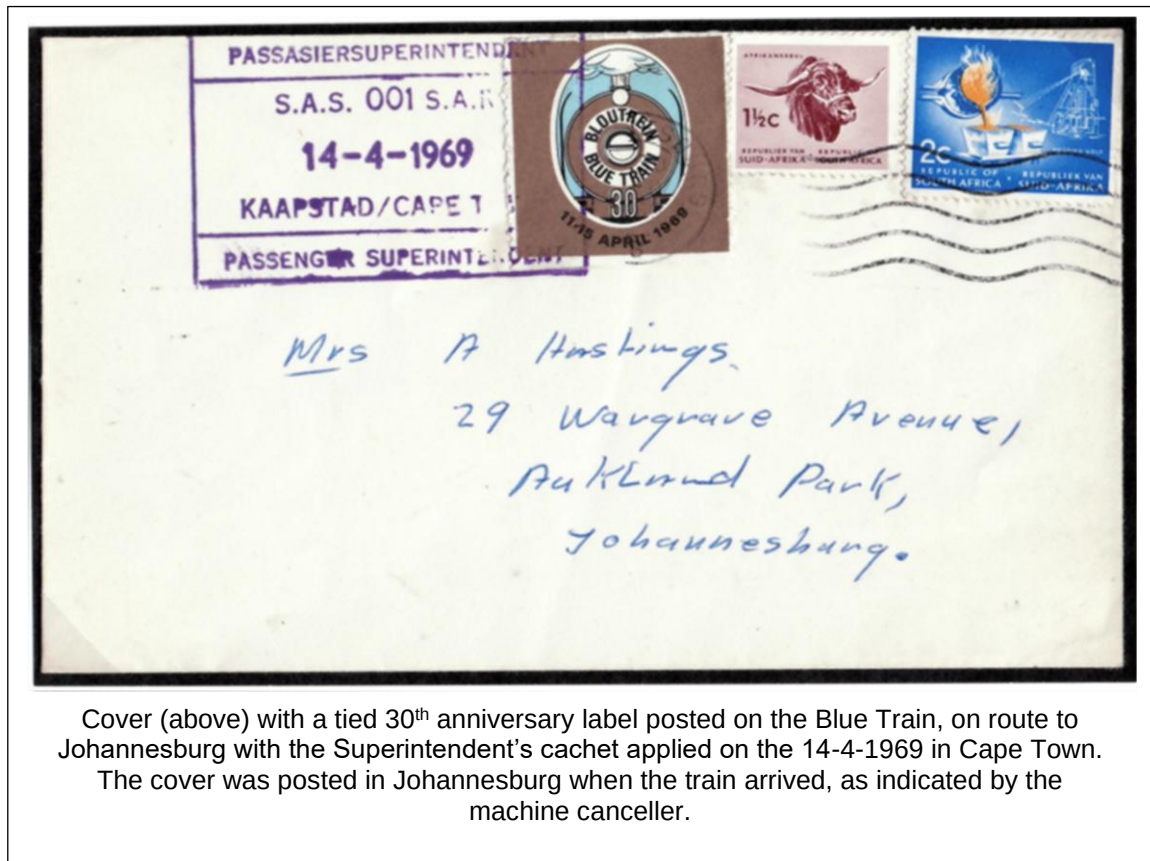
The 30th Anniversary Labels

The origin of the 30th-anniversary milestone traces back to April 1939, when South African Railways (SAR) first introduced revolutionary, air-conditioned passenger stock on its premier luxury trains. To celebrate three decades of air-conditioned



Booklet of ten Blue Train labels, to mark the 30th anniversary of the train service.

luxury travel (1939–1969), the Historic Transport Association (HTA), in cooperation with the SAR Publicity & Travel Department, organized a historic 30th Anniversary Special running of the Blue Train - Johannesburg - Cape Town - return Johannesburg, departing on 11th April 1969. In a famous tribute to rail heritage, this anniversary run was hauled entirely by steam traction across South Africa, utilizing legendary locomotives such as Class 16E Nos. 855 and 859.



To quote Les Pivnic, a celebrated South African railway photographer, author, historian, and former assistant curator of the South African Railways/South African Transport Services Museum, regarding the return journey;

"By 10.00 the next morning we found ourselves back on platform 24 at Cape Town Station. We all agreed that we needed more time in the beautiful Cape to take in more of the sights but at a cost of R93.00 for the trip all in, how could we complain!"

Certainly, an adventure for R93.00. The booklet and cover cost considerably more!

Ted Roberts showed 15 pages of covers from Egypt during WWII with stamps cancelled EGYPT POSTAGE PRE-PAID. Some of the covers had "exotic" stamps but did postal usage anyway.

"Forerunners" and "Used Abroad"

Australia used in Egypt

On Active Service cover of the South African Transvaal Scottish regiment sent to Benoni, South Africa, with 10d in Australian stamps to pay the airmail rate. The stamps are cancelled with an EGYPT / 41 / POSTAGE / PREPAID datestamp* of 1941(7). The cover was censored with a square British Army mark number 157. Note: Australian stamps, Egyptian cancel, South African Envelope, British censor!



"Forerunners" and "Used Abroad"

New Zealand used in Egypt

Active Service "Honour Envelope" sent from Egypt to Parow, South Africa, on 11 August 1942 with the 10d airmail surcharge paid with a pair of 5d New Zealand "Striped Marlin" stamps. The stamps are cancelled with an EGYPT / 71 / POSTAGE / PREPAID datestamp*. The cover was censored with a circular British Army mark number 1648.



On Active Service cover sent to Caledon, South Africa, with a block of four Australian stamps of the 29d overprint issue of 10 December 1941 to pay the standard 10d / 1000 airmail rate. The stamps are cancelled with an EGYPT / 31 / POSTAGE / PREPAID datestamp** of 13 May 1943. The cover was censored with a square Royal Air Force mark number 768.



Airmail letter card sent from Egypt to Worcester, Cape Province, South Africa, on 13 November 1941 with the 3d air letter rate paid with a 1d and 2d stamps of New Zealand. The stamps are cancelled with an EGYPT / 54 / POSTAGE / PREPAID datestamp*. The letter was censored with a South African bilingual handstamp No. 246.

* The Egypt prepaid datestamps ("EPP") were required by the Egyptian authorities for transmission of external mail. This was to allow the postage concession of free surface mail. EPP 41 was used by Australian forces at Ikingi Maryut in 1941. This lay near Alexandria and was a staging camp for allied forces. **EPP 31 was used at the South African Air Force headquarters in Cairo.

* The Egypt Postage Prepaid datestamps ("EPP") were required by the Egyptian authorities for the free external transmission of Forces surface mail. Airmail required a surcharge. Both EPP 71 and EPP 54 were used by the South African Army Postal Service.

"Forerunners" and "Used Abroad"

Malta used in Egypt



Cover sent to Capetown on 29 June(7) 1943 by Lieutenant R.S. Douglas of the South African Air Force (written on reverse). The cover has the correct 1/3d airmail rate from Malta to South Africa paid with Malta stamps of the 1938 KGVI definitive issue. They are cancelled with Egypt Postage Prepaid 47 datestamps. RAF censor 293 in red of a type known used in Malta.

Similar cover sent to Fish Hoek on 7 April 1943 with 1/3d paid with stamps of the 1938 KGVI definitive issue of Malta also cancelled with Egypt Postage Prepaid 17 datestamps (EPP 17). RAF censor 293 in purple signed by Lieutenant F. Marr.



Postal History
Many "philatelic" covers were sent from Egypt during WWII bearing various "unlikely" stamps of the British Empire like Hong Kong or Fiji. Often the stamps were valid and paid the correct postal rate. However in this case the stamps were probably affixed to the covers in Malta and the covers flown to Egypt for onward transmission to South Africa. EPP 17 was used by the Royal Air Force Headquarters in Cairo

"Forerunners" and "Used Abroad"

Cayman Islands used in Egypt



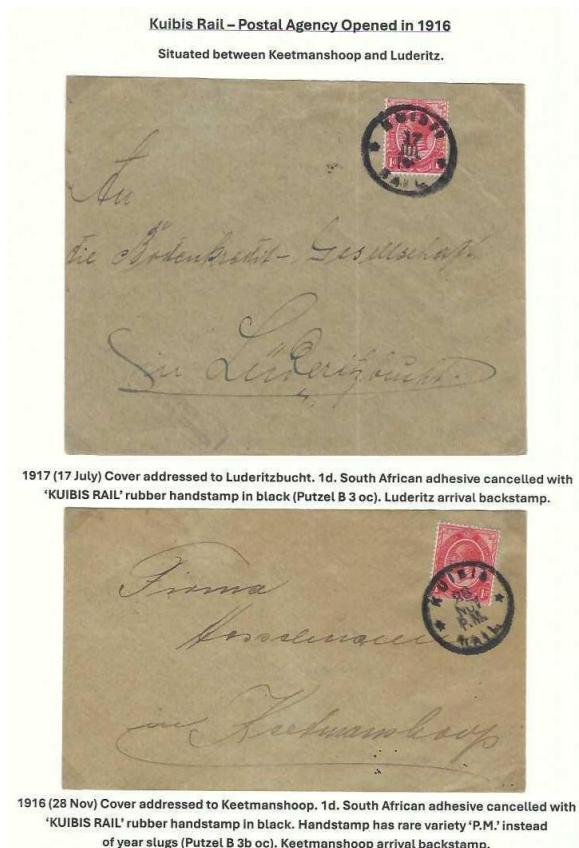
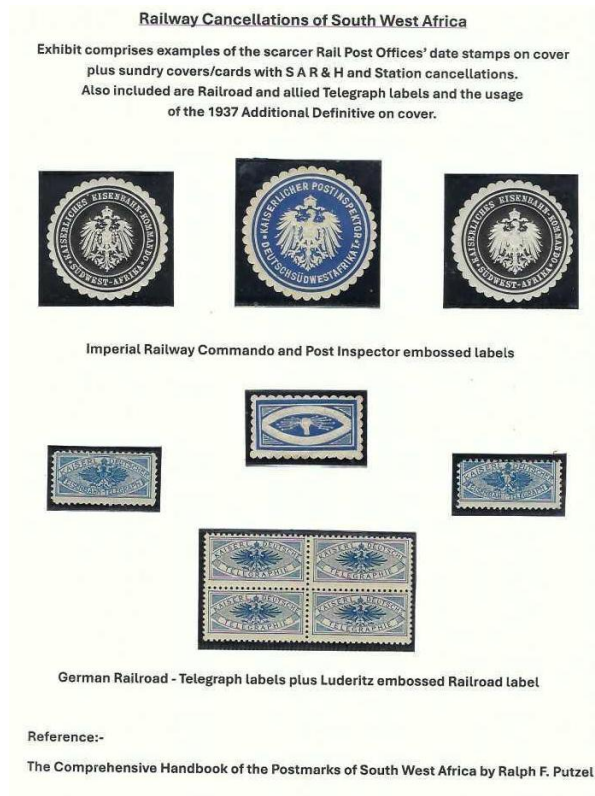
Registered cover sent from South African Army Post Office 29*, in Egypt, to Durban, South Africa on 16 May 1942. The front of the cover has the seven lowest values of the 1938 KGVI definitive issue of the Cayman Islands while the reverse has a 1d "ship" and a 3d "large war" stamp of the Union of South Africa. The stamps are cancelled with EGYPT / 71 / POSTAGE/PREPAID datestamps*. The cover was censored with a standard bilingual South African mark numbered 364.

Philatelic? Yes! But in fact any British Empire stamps could be used to frank military mail from Egypt *provided the correct postage was paid*. The total postage here 4d on the reverse for registration and 10d on the front which covered the standard 10d airmail rate to South Africa. Thus the cover was overpaid, but only by about 5%. Moreover, the cover went through the post.



* A.P.O. 29 was at the Union Defence Force base post office in Cairo, Egypt, throughout the war from 28 May 1941 to 26 February 1946. The Egypt prepaid datestamps ("EPP") were required by the Egyptian authorities for transmission of external mail. This was to allow the postage concession of free surface mail. EPP 71 was supplied to the South African base post office, APO 29.

Howard Green showed the 16 pages of his 'Railway Cancellations of S.W.A.' as exhibit at Stamp Show 2026.



Our next meeting

Our October meeting on Wednesday 21st will once again start at 14:30 for 15:00.

The themes will be; **My favourite (Maximum of one frame) and thematics.**

Prepared by Clive Carr - carr.clive@gmail.com

Executive Committee

President: & Treasurer: Clive Carr: 083 634 1939 Secretary: Vic Sorour: 083 630 2266

Committee members: Ray Hackworth, Gary Pienaar & Howard Green
