

Philately South Africa: Stamping with Adél

Issue 8

Newsletter

November 2025



Stamp collecting, also known as philately, has been a cherished hobby for over a century. Each stamp holds a piece of history art and culture.

Stamping Spotlight:

Wendy Buckle - A History of writing materials: animal, vegetable and mineral.

From my Desk:

Transvaal Return Letter Office 1903 item

Shell Oil Company Material

From the Editor - adelbulpitt@gmail.com

The month of October is always very special in Pretoria as the Jacarandas are in full bloom. I find that the burst of colour just lifts the spirit. I love Cape town with all its offerings, but in October Pretoria is the best town in South Africa. One secret that I can share with you all is that most of my zoom meetings are done in my pyjamas, almost like television newsreader with his jacket and tie behind the news desk.

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Exhibitions

EXHIBITION	DATE	PATRON AGE	LINK
National Stamp Show 2025 Paarl	3-6 Sep 2025	PFSA	<u>PFSA</u>
NORDIA 2025 Sweden	12-14 Sep 2025	FEPA	<u>Nordia 2025</u>
PHILAKOREA 2025	17-21 Sep 2025	FIP	<u>Korea 2025</u>
OILFILAT25	27 -31October 2025	PFSA	OILFILAT25
BEIRUT 2025	22-23 Nov 2025	FEPA	<u>Beirut 2025</u>
DUBAI 2026 WSE	4-8 February 2026	FIP	<u>Dubai 2026</u>
BOSTON 2026	23-30 May 2026	FEPA	<u>Boston 2026</u>
MACAU 2026	26 June – 1 July 2026	FIAP	<u>Macau 2026</u>

Virtual

EXHIBITION	DATE	PATRONA GE	LINK
SAVPEX 2025	June 2025	PFSA	<u>PFSA</u>
AUSVIPEX	Start 27 Nov 2025	APF	Ausvipex 2025

Boston 2026 - Tariff issues resolved

If you had concerns regarding the tariffs for the Boston 2026 Exhibition herewith the latest press release from FEPA

Thomas M. Fortunato, BOSTON 2026 Public Relations Chair, reports from BOSTON 2026.

Until this year, stamps and covers could be imported into the United States under Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTSUS) 9704 free of duty. However, several months ago, new country specific tariffs came into effect. This affected philatelic material, which in turn, resulted in the global philatelic community fearing that foreign participants at the upcoming Boston 2026 World Expo would experience unacceptably high costs.

After close consultation with US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) over the past several weeks, the Boston 2026 Organizing Committee is pleased to announce that stamps and covers are, once again, tariff free for entry into the US. Specifically, the initial ruling letter that resulted in philatelic tariffs has now been ruled void ab initio (i.e., null from the beginning) and voided. A new ruling letter holding that philatelic material covered by HTSUS 9704 is again tariff free will be issued by the CBP in the next few weeks.

To ensure the free and smooth entry of philatelic material for the show, the show organizers have hired a customs brokerage firm, Vantage Point Services. They will provide foreign parties (i.e., dealers, auction houses, postal administrations and commissioners) importing philatelic material with the appropriate instructions and documentation for entry into the US.

The customs broker offers support at multiple ports of entry, including Boston, New York, Miami, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

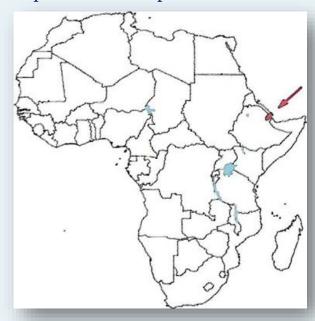
The Press Release: https://fepanews.com/.../PR-2025-10-24-
Importation-Tariff...



OBOCK - Ted Roberts

Historical Background

Obock was a small port on the Red sea (see map) purchased by France in 1862 from a local sultan. It was to stay completely unoccupied by France until 1883. A post office was opened there in September 1884.



ETHIOPIA

Obock

C'Asal Golfe de Aden Tadjoura DJISOUTI

Abhe
Bad

ETHIOPIA

SOMALIA

Location of the Republic of Djibouti in Africa

Present day border of the Republic of Djibouti

Philatelic Background

Obock initially used the stamps of the French colonial general issue, followed by these stamps overprinted OBOCK. The first regular issues, including postal stationery, were of the French colonial "Group" type, of which some examples are shown below.



1892, No member: First regular issue of Obock

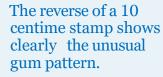
The second regular issue was notable for three unusual features. They were the first French stamps with an entirely pictorial design. They were produced on laid paper with a "quadrille" gum pattern. Finally, they had a simulated perforation around the whole design but were issued imperforate. Some examples are shown below.



1894, February: Second regular issue of Obock.



The used stamps al show the same cancelled There was only one post office in Obock.







This unusual cancel was possibly of Paquebot origin?

In 1893, a post office was opened in Djibouti where there was a far better port than at Obock. As Djibouti grew in importance, so Obock diminished in importance. Finally, at the end of 1899, the post office at Obock was closed. After that, the complete stock of stamps of Obock was transferred to Djibouti, where the post office already had its own stamps inscribed Djibouti since 1894.

1899, 18 October:

From this date it was decreed that the stamps of Obock could be used in Djibouti. Examples are shown below.







1901, 12 November:

Due to a temporary shortage of low value stamps it was allowed to bisect vertically 25c values of Obock. The right side showing the "5" (as the example shown here) could be used as a 5 centime stamp.



CENTIMES

1902, 15 April:

These stamps were issued more than two years after the post office at Obock had closed. They were intended for use in Djibouti during one of the shortages of low value Djibouti stamps.



1902:

Further shortages of 5 and 10 centime stamps led to these *other* overprints on Obock, which, however, are now inscribed Djibouti.









For just over fifty years, the sole post office in the French Somali Coast was that of Djibouti. Then in 1952, Four postal agencies were opened. One of these opened on 1st November 1952, was at Obock

Heritage event

10 October 2025 we celebrate the 200 year anniversary of the birth of Paul Kruger.

The newly added Numismatic and Philatelic sectioned was opened, showcasing items from the collections of **Victor Millard** and **Adél Bulpitt**. It was opened by **Louwrence Erasmus** the President of PFSA



Louwrence Erasmus and Jaco Schoonraad (Curator of the Kruger House)



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Adél Bulpitt in front of her display





The Germans raised funds to support the Transvaal government by hosting entertainment evenings which is reflected in the brochure

The sender in his message 'Good old Bobs' is referring to Lord Roberts who demanded the surrender of the Boers from General Louis Botha

Last months ZOOM Experiences

There are a host of societies that have monthly zoom meetings. A great variety of topics and areas are being covered, from the expert to the novice all are welcome. Join in the fun, herewith a few snippets from what I have seen this month.

STAMPING WITH ADEL

Leon Jacobson showed us the registration markings of SWA. He has done a lot of research and this display was a precursor of his now book that will be published soon.

Registered mail is a service offered by postal services which allows the sender proof of mailing via a mailing receipt and, upon request, verification that an article was delivered or that a delivery attempt was made.

Envelopes should carry a blue cross and an R in a circle, both internationally recognised symbols of registered mail, the name of the post office accepting the item and a unique serial number. The PO name is either a label, a formal official cachet, hand written or other miscellaneous markings.

SWA registered mail used a variety of such markings some of which to be shown here appear to have been used on an ad hoc basis.



A unique (thus far) example of the PO name typed on a sheet margin.

Ondangua 24 VI 40; b/s Tsumeb 2? Jun 40; Swakopmund -4 Jul 40.

The full display is available upon request - adelbulpitt@gmail.com

STAMPING WITH ADEL

Alex Visser had a discussion of correspondence to Sheila Waters in Burghersdorp. This was interesting.



First flight with postage at ordinary rate

- > 25 JUN 1937 Manchester
- ➤ No airmail tag
- ▶ Why double rate?
- No backstamp
- 28 JUN 1937
- Salford
- ▶ Postage 1½d.
- ➤ Airmail tag
- No backstamp



- > FDC KG VI
- Ordinary letter dd 30 JLY 1937 Nottingham
- ▶ Postage 1½d.
- No backstamp return address P Gill, NOTTS

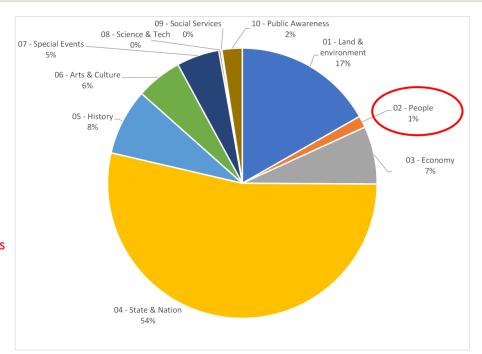
STAMPING WITH ADEL

Bruce Berry - Showed some items from his Rhodesian collection that showcased Famous people on Rhodesian stamps. He had a very interesting analysis of the stamps issued.

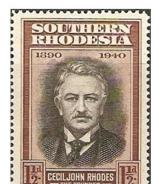
Survey Results

Categories in order of popularity:

- 1) State & Nation
- The Land
- 3) History
- 4) The Economy
- 5) Arts & Culture
- 6) Special Events
- 7) Public Awareness
- 8) The People
- 9) Science & Tech
- 10) Social Services



Other famous personalities on Rhodesian stamps - Cecil John Rhodes



BSAC Golden Jubilee (1890-1940)
- Issued on 3 June 1940

- Born on 5 July 1853 in Bishop's Stortford; went to Natal in 1870 & Kimberley in 1871
- Est Gold Fields of South Africa in 1887 and De Beers Consolidated Mines in 1888
- Confession of Faith; Premier of Cape Colony in 1890; 'Cape to Cairo' railway vision
- Obtained Royal Charter for the BSAC in 1889; Pioneer Column reaches Mashonaland in Sept 1890; supports Jameson Raid & resigns as Premier; 'Rhodesia' adopted 1898
- Died on 26 March 1902 in Muizenberg; buried at World's View at Matopos



Southern Rhodesia definitive (QE II) - Issued on 6 February 1952



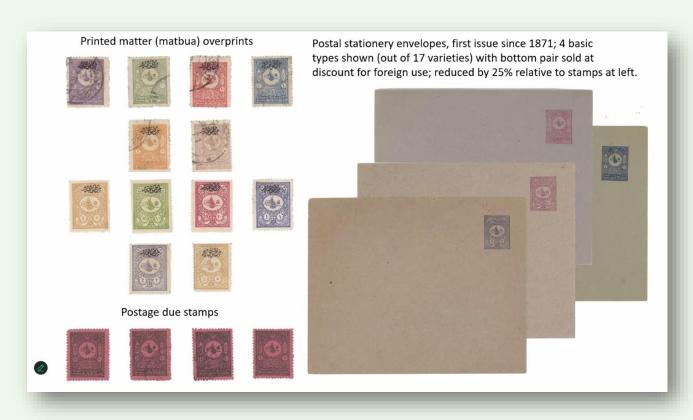
Second Rhodesia and Nyasaland definitive – issued on 12 August 1959



1st Decimal definitive (new value) - Issued on 17 February 1970

STOCKPORT PS

Phil Longbottom - showed his collection of Ottoman and Nationalist Turkey (1901-1923). It was a very good display, and very well researched

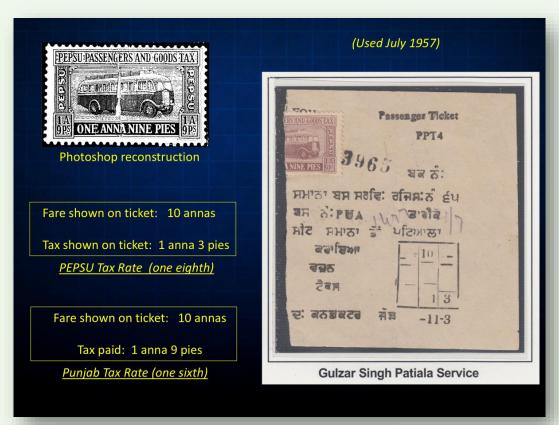


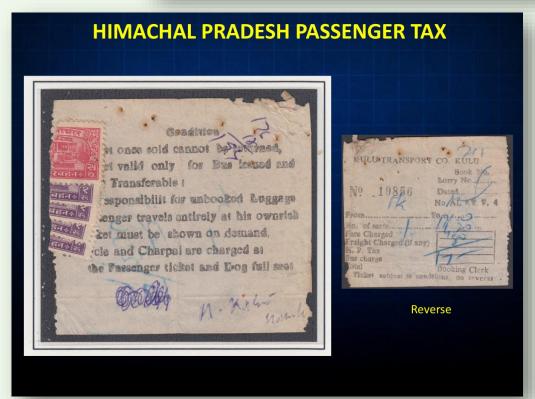


SEEOPS

Hosted by **Margaret Emmerson**; Always a great meeting with good variety of speakers and topics covered.

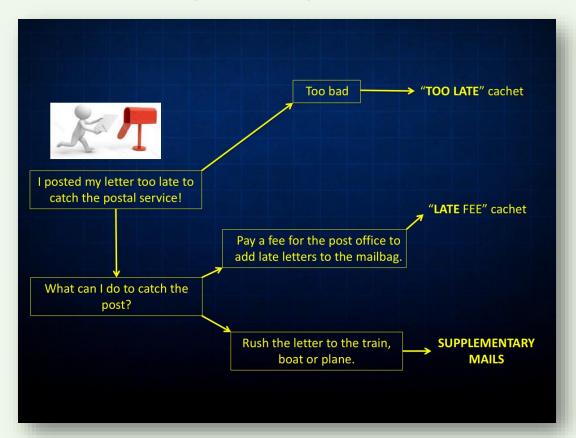
Ian Matheson – Spoiled us with 2 displays for the evening: Passenger and Goods Tax





SEEOPS

Ian Matheson – Spoiled us with 2 displays for the evening: Late Postings of Belize



The full displays are available upon request - adelbulpitt@gmail.com



DAWLISH PS

Mick Bister – Showed a magnificent and interesting display on Joan of Arc. This is a display I will watch again





Flat plate booklets National distribution

Booklets printed off flat plate presses feature a gutter margin which is the width of half a stamp and a staple to attach the pane to the cover.



B = press operator's ID 203 = 2 March (1929) 30 = printing press number

CARLOS COURMONT Concessionnaire 28 rue Bergere Paris (929) S.165

Advertising Agent: Carlos Courmont S.165: Series number



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SAPO Corner

The Post Office is offering you the collector the opportunity to buy a special Christmas gift this year.

The Price is R250.00 per Ostrich Egg.

To order contact: sa.stamps@postoffice.co.za

2005 - Big 5 Series



2010 - 8th Definitive Series



PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA Limited commemorative stamps available at selected post offices

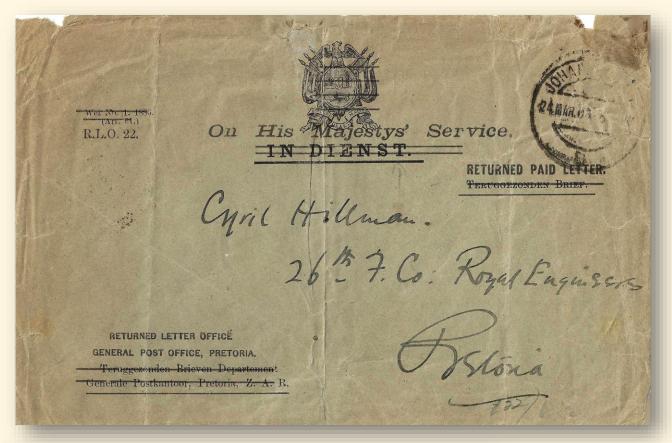
NEW STAMP ISSUE NOW AVAILABLE!

PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA 2024

My Latest Acquisitions

Sometimes you are at the right place at the right time. I was lucky to pick this item up at the local auction this month.

This is from the Returned Letter Office. There are two variations of the coat of arms being small and large, imprinted on these envelopes. The obliteration lines seen here were done after occupation.

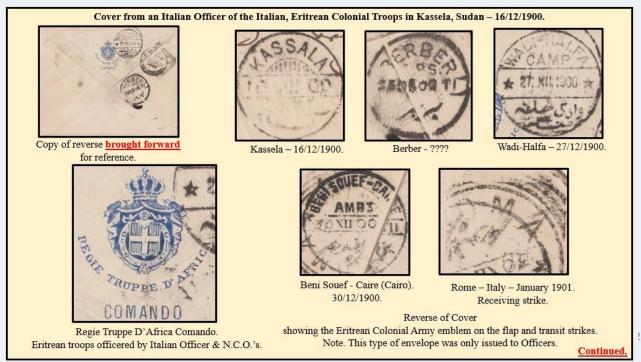




Conundrum Corner

It is a regular occurrence when we have a meeting, and someone will show an item that needs clarification one way or another. Sometimes, you get your answers, and other times the whole room is stumped. I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to you to assist in providing answers if you can. in our zoom meetings, but we don't always find the answer. I would like to use this platform and appeal to you to assist if you can.





HISTORICAL TIMETABLE FOR KASSELA.

Cover brought forward.

Kassela was a few miles inside the Eritrea/Sudan border on the River Gash.

July 17, 1894 – Italian colonial forces from Eritrea captured Kassala from the Mahdists and garrisoned it.

1897 (Dec.). As Britain/Egypt pushed into Sudan, Anglo-Egyptian troops officially relieved the Italian garrison and took over Kassala; Italy handed the town back (partly to secure recognition of Italian Eritrea).

From then on, the post was under Anglo-Egyptian control.

1898–1899 – Kitchener's reconquest culminated at Omdurman (2 Sept 1898) and Umm Diwaykarat (24 Nov 1899); the Mahdist state collapsed, and Kassala remained an Anglo-Egyptian Sudan garrison town.

HISTORY OF KASSELA.

The Battle of Kassala was fought on July 17, 1894, between Italian colonial troops and Mahdist Sudanese forces. Italian forces then occupied the port of Kassala on the Gash River in eastern Sudan. As Kassala had previously been Egyptian the British/Egyptian powers wanted it back as they began to regain the Sudan. Italy handed it to the British/Egyptian authorities in late 1897. The Italians returned to Eritrea with an outpost at Treseney which was +- 38 miles away from Kassela but still on the River Gash.

Although there is no available reference to Italians still being stationed in Kassela, there is evidence of five known covers from Italian officers having been posted from Kassela during this period. One is addressed to Sir Henry Evelyn Wood who had previously been Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and another to an Italian Sergeant and Karen in Eritrea. In my mind this tends to lead to the officers being stationed in Kassela as opposed to Eritrean mail being posted by an alternative route.

Taking into consideration that the Italians had captured Kassela from the Mahdists and had left when the British/Egyptian authorities asked them to; and the fact that the common enemy were the Mahdist extremists, still at large in the desert. Add to this that the Caliph of Egypt was also head of the Muslim Faith along the Red Sea coast reaching as far a British Somaliland in the east it is not unreasonable to assume that there were Italian Officers with the British Army in Kassela in a liaison or advisory capacity. So, until proved otherwise, I am assuming that the five covers originated form this source.

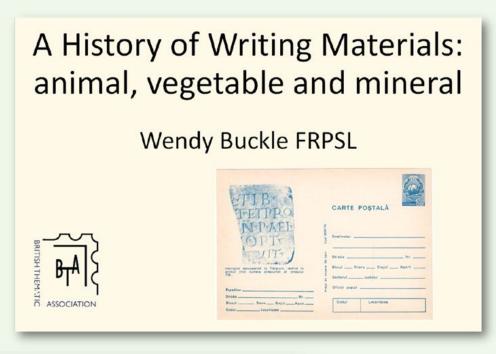


This is a request from **Jamie Smith**.

It is interesting that this Italian soldier was in Kassela, as they were not based there. The question is why was he there during this time?

ZOOM Happy Hour

Wendy Buckley is one of those philatelists with a very interesting collecting field. From watermarks to paper and now writing materials. This display took you on a journey of all different sorts of writing materials that were used, from Bamboo to wood, linen and even peat. Her research and passion is top class. Wendy has displayed to us before, and if you can attend a live presentation of hers even better.





The full display is available upon request - adelbulpitt@gmail.com

Stone









Tombstone Arizona was founded and named by the prospector Ed Schieffelin.

Target killer postmark in use 14.2.1881 to 31.5.1882

Clay





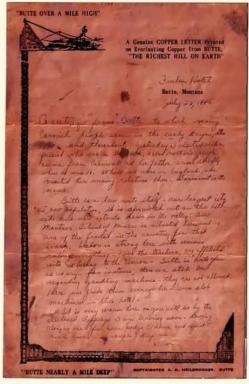






Barton in the Clay (now Barton-le-Clay), Bedfordshire Barton in the Clay to St. Thomas, Danish West Indies 24.10.1903. With St. Thomas arrival mark 13.11.1903. 1d foreign postcard rate; rate in use 25.12.1898 - 31.12.1906

Metal



22 July 1946 Letter written on a thin sheet of copper from a copper mine in Butte, Montana.





Belfast to Dungannnon 26 April 1904

Wood



Posted Morgan, Vermont 13 Aug 1948



Bark: birchbark

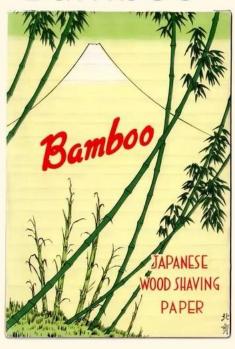




Sweden TPO to Stockholm 24 July 1905



Bamboo





Sheet of writing paper made in Japan from the pulp of the bamboo plant

Papyrus



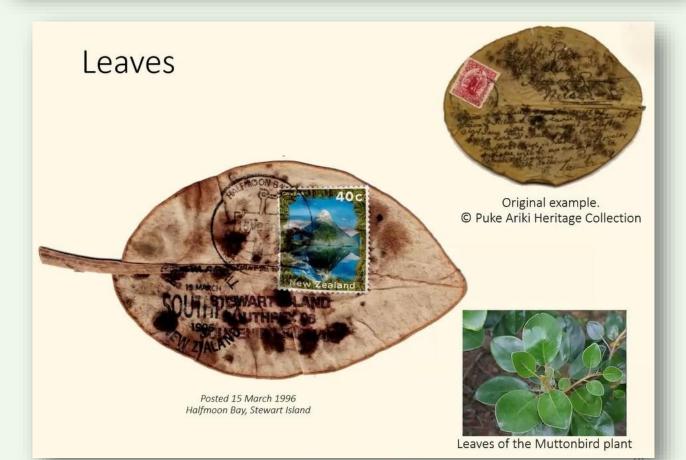


Papyrus grows on the shores of Lake Victoria.
Clumps drift down the White Nile and lodge on banks in
Egypt to grow roots.









Linen





Ms annotation: Echan sans valeur' Amsterdam to Argenteuil c. 1900



Peat







Publisher not given, but clearly there was a series of these designs.

Bone









© British Museum

Wax tablet

WIPA 1965 Der Brief und die Kunst



From a mural at Pompei





Greek letter: children's homework, 2nd century CE

Silk

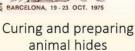


Letter with silk samples affixed 12 July 1770 Marseilles to Saint Etienne. Delivered by hand.



Leather













Parchment and Vellum

feftetur illis 🎒 culi mei femper ad daz quo ma ipfe euellet de laqueo pedes meos 🌚 e pice imme amiferere mei:quomicus apauper umego ribulationes cordis mei multip plicate funt de necessitatibus meis erne me. ide fumilitate med a fabore meum: adis mitte Bininerfa delicta mea efpice inimis cos meos qui multiplicati funt a obio iniquo oberunt me @uftobi animamea gerue me non erubefca quoma fperantin te muocen tes arecti abheferut michi qufuftinuite Bi Bera deusifrael:ep oibnetribulationi69fuis equiceterna dona eis die: a fup ppetua inceat eis.an. Deficta inuctutie mee zigno ratias meas nememineris domine. an. Dredo. Dfalmus. Dmin9iffuminatiomea: a falusmea queltimebo. omims ptector bite mee a quo trepidabo umappropriat fuper me nocentes: Dt edat carnes meas mui tris Bulat me immicimeisipfi infirmati funta ce aderūt icofifiāt adverfū me cafira:nonti mebit cozneū ic epurgat adverfu; mepze līū:in hocego (perabo i nā petii a domino hanc requirā: dt inhabite in domo dīii oibus diebus Dite mee t bidea boluntate diliga bifite templu eins unaid abficoi me in tabernaculo fuo indie maior, protectime in abfcondito tabernaculi fui mpetraepal tanitmez nuncepaltanitcozmen fupinimi

Celluloid





From my Desk

Shell Oil Company

I have quite a decent accumulation of Shell branded material. These are my latest additions.



Sticker for your car window

Letter addressed to the shell Company 1947

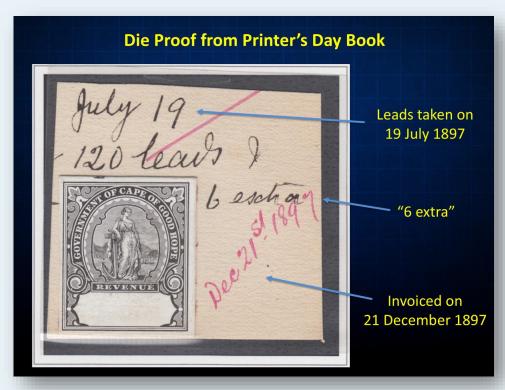


Local Club Meetings

WITWATERSRAND PS

This is a hybrid meeting with members in the room as well as attendees via zoom, OBVIOUSLY this is my favourite meeting as it is my home society. We are attracting more online attendees who participate as well, that makes me happy.

Ian Matheson – This time he has done a study on hope standing of the Cape of Good Hope stamps.



The full displays are available upon request - adelbulpitt@gmail.com

Diederik Viljoen– showed a very interesting display on The Siege of Paris 1870

Ballon-Monte: Colonel Charras, 29 October 1870

It went on a night flight from Gare du Nord and was piloted by Victor Gilles, with no passengers, two Derouard pigeons and 450-470 kg mail in bags. It flew 320km and landed at 4.30pm near Langres

This was also the last launch of a manned siege balloon that the well know Nadar attended.



Nadar i.e. Gaspard-Felix Tournachon (1820-1910), was the first to use balloons for troop surveillance, took photos in 1858 from balloons and was involved with most of the ballon-Montes

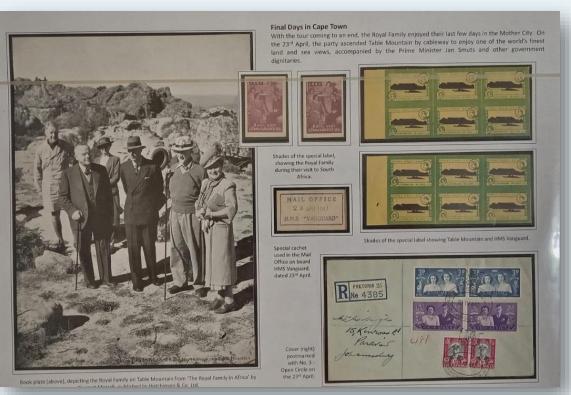


I like to visit as many societies as possible, and if time and budget allows I try and attend international exhibitions where I can. I am sharing my experiences with you in the hopes that you will join me in my philatelic journey and come and say hi.

WITWATERSRAND PS (Auckland Park)



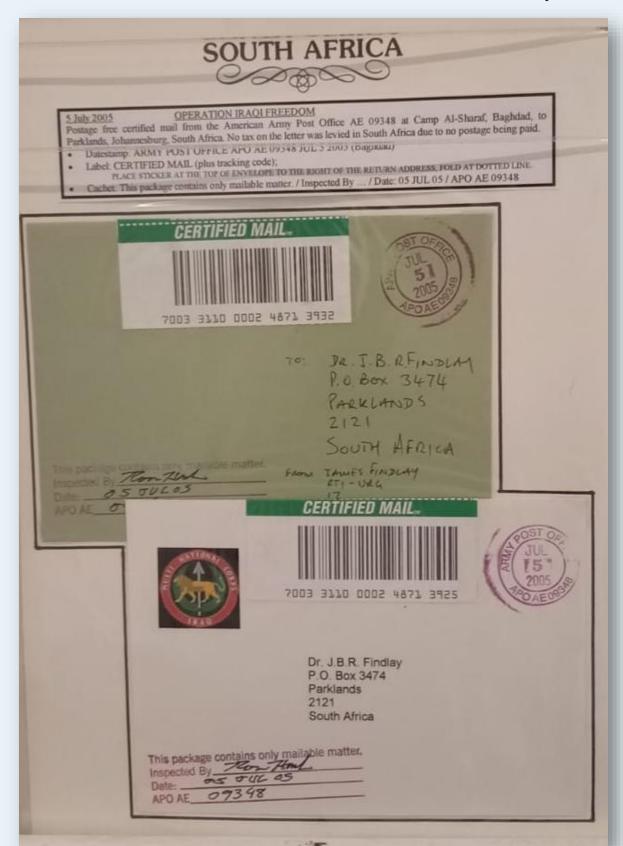
Danna Strydom, Howard Green and Jim Findlay



Gary Pienaar – Showed various items from his Royal Tour collection

WITWATERSRAND PS (Auckland Park)

Jim Findlay– Showed items that he reserved from his sons when they served.



Items of Interest

Well travelled ABW Cover - Clinton Hale

United Kingdom QV 1/2d x2 & 4d on London cover addressed to Mr. Geo Kroto, c.o. Messrs Tokata & Co., Tokyo, Japan. Post Said / Egypt 29 May 1901, transit strike, as well as Colombo / Ceylon and Hong Kong transit postmarks.

Re-addressed Tokyo 6 Sep 1901 with Japan 2sen, 8sen & 10sen stamps to Mr. G Kroto, Passenger per "Kawachi Mai..." (Japan Mail S.S. Co.) to Japan, Port Said. Re-addressed Port Said 5 June 1901 with Egypt 1m, 2m, 3m & 5m to Mrs. Dixon, c.o. Mr Boyes, Lady Frere, Cape Colony. Cape Town red censor strike, violet triangular censor strike. Cape Town, Queenstown and Eastern TPO Down 6 Nov 1901 transit strikes, with Lady Frere arrival postmark 19 Nov 1901.

Re-addressed Lady Frere 20 Jan 1902 with COGH 1/2d x4 and 1d x5 to Mr E Danvers, 17 priory Avenue, Horney, London, England with Cape Town 23 Jan 1902 transit strike and Hornsey S.O. 15 Feb 1902 arrival postmark.

Probably the most well-travelled cover entering and leaving South Africa during the

Anglo Boer War.



Front



Rear



دبی Dubai 2026

Under the Patronage of the Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP), the Emirates Philatelic Association (EPA) will host the Dubai 2026 World Stamp Exhibition to celebrate 100 Years of the FIP and 30 Years of the EPA

The Exhibition will be held 4 to 8 February 2026 at the Sheikh Maktoum Hall World Trade Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates





FIP Patronage



Destination Partner







