



PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY
PORT ELIZABETH FILATELIEVERENIGING

ESTABLISHED 1890 - RECONSTITUTED 1912

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Next meeting

1 September 2026 at 11:00 (note a Tuesday this month due to national stampshow)

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editor's note

Welcome to our newsletter for August where winter is still merrily going along in the Eastern Cape, at least that implies a lot more indoor time occupied with collections. Well, the long awaited rivalry tour of New Zealand had started and South Africa, after dominating the match for about sixty minutes, managed to hand a large victory to the All Blacks through numerous mistakes in the first test. But.... maybe it was a good thing as South Africans may have become too use to winning with the Springboks the past couple of years, which is actually quite an unusual situation for South Africa on the sports fields of the world the last couple of decades. So, on that somber note, we trust you will at least enjoy the eighth newsletter of the year. Keep well, safe and sound.

from the secretary's desk

Birthdays for September 2026 include: Cecil Allers on 2 September and Wayne Brewer on 17 September. Hope you two gentlemen have a great day and happy stamping.

rolling programme for 2026/2027

month	date	happenings
September	1 Sep 2026	Dave Berg Cup for best thematic display competition. General trading and auction - bring some of your material that you wish to dispose of. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
October	5 Oct 2026	Pub quiz at the Barn and Barrel. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
November	2 Nov 2026	Quarterly Cup and Contemporary Cup competitions. General trading and auction - bring some of your material that you wish to dispose of. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
December	4 Dec 2026	President's night.
January	11 Jan 2027	Contemporary Cup, TJ Strachan Ladies Bowl and President's Cup competitions. General trading and auction - bring some of your material that you wish to dispose of. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
February	1 Feb 2027	Pub quiz at the Barn and Barrel. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
March	1 Mar 2027	Annual general meeting. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
April	5 Apr 2027	Pub quiz at the Barn and Barrel. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
May	3 May 2027	Philatelic Services Stamp's Friend Trophy and Quarterly Cup competitions. General trading and auction - bring some of your material that you wish to dispose of. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
June	7 Jun 2027	Neville Polakow Trophy and Mike Koyd Postal History Shield competitions. General trading and auction - bring some of your material that you wish to dispose of. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
July	5 Jul 2027	Pub quiz at the Barn and Barrel. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.
August	2 Aug 2027	Philatelic Services Stamp's Friend Trophy competition. General trading and auction - bring some of your material that you wish to dispose of. Items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.



minutes of monthly meeting

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY, HELD ON MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2026 AT THE BIBLE HOUSE, 31 COTSWOLD AVENUE, PORT ELIZABETH COMMENCING AT 11:00

PRESENT: Francois Friend (in the Chair)

MEMBERS: 20

APOLOGIES: 3

VISITORS: 0

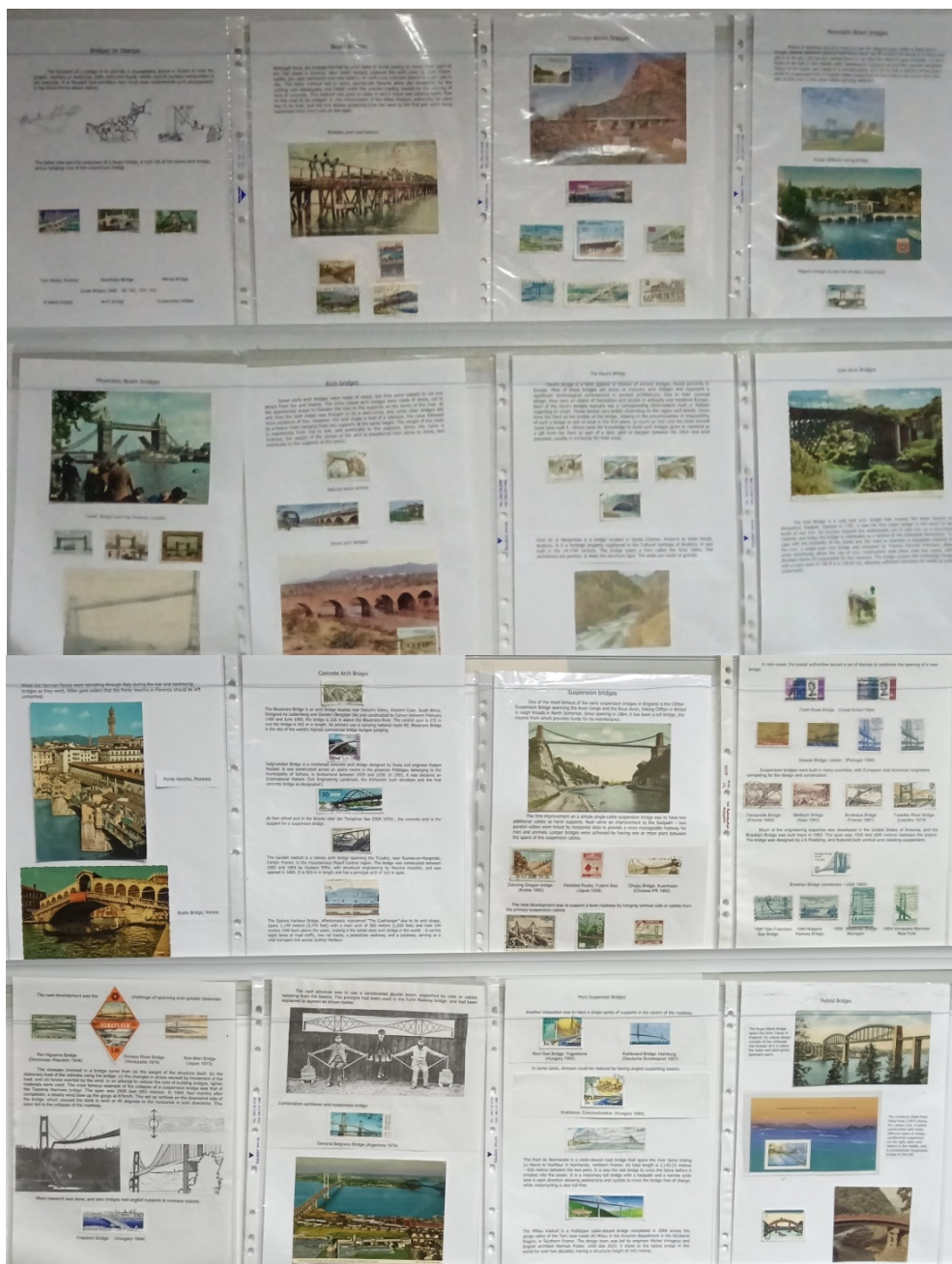
The president welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the monthly meeting dated 6 July 2026 were tabled for adoption. These were accepted - proposed by Lieb Venter and seconded by Willy Porter.

The meeting then proceeded with the scheduled events.

(1) PHILATELIC SERVICES STAMP'S FRIEND TROPHY COMPETITION

Ian McArthur and Barry Green competed for this sought after trophy with Ian's exhibit entitled "Bridges on stamps" and Barry's exhibit entitled "To be or not to be". The exhibits, see below, were judged, as usual, by the members present and Ian got 72,07% and Barry 71,21%, a very close affair. Well done Ian.



Ian's "Bridges on stamps" exhibit.



Barry's "to be or not to be" exhibit.

(2) ITEMS OF INTEREST, BRINGALONGS AND NEW ACQUISITIONS

Dave Brown started off his normal selection of goodies by informing the meeting that he has always been attracted to the unusual, and what he was showing below is an example. Until he saw this sheetlet Dave had never heard of Kalmykia and he just had to find out a little more about it, especially as it portrayed one of his favourite foods - mushrooms. Now Kalmykia sits in southern European Russia, west of the Caspian Sea, with Elista as its capital. This is an area of steppe vegetation, something like our Karoo. It is the only region in Europe that has Buddhism as its majority religion. Laying between the Volga River basin and the Caspian lowlands it lay on major trade routes. In the 1990s, under its President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, Kalmykia became notorious for producing unauthorised topical stamps (space, animals, mushrooms, sports, etc). These were not recognised by the Russian postal authority and were never valid for postage in Russia or internationally. They were printed mainly for sale to collectors abroad, often in sheetlets of 6 - 8 designs and the below is one of those sheetlets.



Mushroom stamps from Kalmykia.

Next Dave showed the below comical sheetlet from Hong Kong that was issued in collaboration with Disney on 12 September 2024, see next page. Six stamps and three sheetlets were issued that featured the famous and beloved classic animated characters that also incorporated Chinese elements that highlights Hong Kong's unique charm as the East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange.



Hong Kong Disney miniature sheet.

Dave also brought along the very interesting set of stamps shown below that was issued by Curacao on 6 May 2026 to commemorate Curacao's participation in the FIFA (*Fédération Internationale de Football Association*) World Cup 2026 for the first time in its history and, as the smallest nation in the world, that it has qualified for this global tournament. The set consists of three themes namely, players, a QR code [...*quick-response code, a two-dimensional matrix barcode that stores information like website links in a grid of black and white squares, Ed.*] and the matches that will be played.



2026 world cup stamp issue from Curacao.

The players are illustrated on two stamps as water, symbolising "the Blue Wave", which is the nickname of their football team. The stamp with the QR code directs users to a YouTube link featuring the song Blue Wave, composed by Aruba-born artist Jeon, when scanned. The final three stamps focus on the matches of the Curacao national team. The match against Germany was their very first World Cup appearance and is presented on a fully gold coloured stamp. An additional limited 24-carat gold stamp, see below, based on the 372c stamp in the set was also issued. What makes this gold stamp unique is that it also features colour. The gold stamp is presented in a deluxe gift box and comes with a certificate of authenticity. Only 110 copies of this stamp have been printed [... *hmm, in today's world that relates to scarce, very scarce, Ed.*].



Certificate of authenticity and 24-carat gold stamp issued by Curacao.

Dave then related his interest in Israeli stamps and also stamps relating to the Jewish culture and heritage with the Slovakian stamp below an example of his collection interest. The stamp shows the synagogue in Trenčín and was issued on 10 April 2026. Dave continued by saying that there is a part of his stamp collection that nobody knows about. He regards it as a thematic collection but it is more than that. Way back, in the 1940s, his father took a Jewish lawyer into his practice as a full partner and, when his father died, he took over the practice. Even as a child he was a man that Dave highly respected and this, he thinks, led to his fascination with things Jewish. One of the main items on his travel bucket list was Israel that his late wife and he visited in the early 1990s. This only deepened his interest. Dave says that "Judaica" covers a very wide range, for example, the country Israel (which he collects), everyday items like vehicles, household goods, trades, etc. What attracted Dave to this particular stamp was that a country was busy restoring its Jewish heritage at a time when people from many countries are becoming anti-Semitic. Many of these anti-Semites are "Christians" but seem to be oblivious to the fact that Jesus Himself was a Jew.



Synagogue in Trenčín Slovakian stamp.

The final item in Dave's presentation was the below "almost" South African issue. The miniature sheet was due for issue on 13 August 2025 to commemorate 20 years of strategic partnership between India and South Africa and shows Oliver Reginald Tambo and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. According to information Dave received this issue was printed in India and, on receipt in South Africa, it was rejected and returned to India. It was NOT issued in South Africa. Some have appeared on eBay, posted by an Indian seller. Dave don't know how many are in South Africa but he is aware that there are six of these miniature sheets and a first day cover in Port Elizabeth [... now one wonders who will have this, Ed.].



South Africa's "not issued" miniature sheet of 2025.

Ian McArthur then took up the entertainment and showed the first French stamps featuring Frenchmen who were not politicians, see next page. He started off with a stamp featuring Ronsard in 1924 to commemorate his 400th birth anniversary. Pierre de Ronsard (1524 - 1585) was a French poet, leader of the Pléiade group and under the patronage of Charles IX he published original verse in a lightly sensitive style. Next up in 1927 was Berthelot for his 100th birth anniversary. Pierre Eugene Marcellin Berthelot (1827 - 1907) was a French chemist who carried out research into dyes and explosives. (He was a politician as well.) Then it was the turn of Victor Hugo in 1933. Victor Marie Hugo (1802 - 1885) was a French poet, novelist and dramatist. The leader of French Romanticism, he wrote The Hunchback of Notre Dame and Les Misérables. Hugo featured again in 1935 on the 50th anniversary of his death.



French stamps with non-politicians showing Ronsard, Berthelot and Victor Hugo (2) respectively.

Ian continued with Jacquard in 1934 with a stamp that commemorated his death centenary. Joseph Marie Jacquard (1752 - 1834) was a French textile manufacturer who invented a punched-card system for programming designs on a carpet-making loom. Then, also in 1934, was Cartier for the centenary of the discovery of Canada. Jacques Cartier (1491 - 1557) was a French navigator who was the first European to sail up the St Lawrence River in 1534 and he named the site of Montreal. Finally, in 1936 the Unemployed Intellectuals Fund, which came into existence as a result of the efforts of the *Confédération des travailleurs intellectuels*, was founded to help those intellectuals who were in difficulty, especially those who were unemployed. From 1935 to 1940 a series of 22 stamps was surtaxed [... surtaxed means having an extra tax or fee added on top of a tax one already pas, Ed.]. They were inscribed *Pour les Chomeurs Intellectuels* and Victor Hugo was on such a stamp.



French stamps with non-politicians showing Jacquard, Cartier (2) and Victor Hugo respectively.

Francois said that Ian's quest of getting on a stamp provides a lot of entertainment, not only to PEPS members but also to others that read the society's newsletter. He received an email from Aubrey Bowles from the Maritzburg Philatelic Society that complimented the newsletter and added that some time ago the Royal Mail did allow personal faces to appear on postage stamps and he thought that SA did something similar.

Next up was Vernon Mitchell that showed some very interesting World War II issues. In 1944 the German propaganda ministry decided to make an effort in a new direction to lower British prestige in neutral countries. For this purpose crude imitations were made of Great Britain's 1/2d and 3d King George VI definitive stamps, shown below. On these stamps the cross on the crown at the top was changed to the star of David, the value was changed from "D" to the hammer and sickle and the rose to the left of the crown also contained the hammer and sickle. Some of these stamps were cancelled "LONDON SPECIAL STAMP AAa0 -6JU 44".



King George VI propaganda issues.

Not to be outdone the Allied propagandists represented Hitler on numerous occasions as the personification of death itself and this idea was expressed in several parodies of stamps put out by the Allies during the later stages of World War II. One was a 12pf Hitler stamp based on the genuine stamp to which two rows of teeth were added alongside the mouth. The "D" in "DEUTCHES" was erased and the first "E" altered to an "F". The text then became "FUTCHES REICH" which, translated into English, meant collapsed empire. The stamp was crudely typographed into various shades of red.



Hitler "skull" propaganda stamp.

Next Vernon showed the German stamp below issued on the 21st anniversary of the Munich rising in 1944. It was a red 12pf + 8pf stamp depicting an eagle killing a three headed snake. The framework of this stamp was used to produce a parody showing a prisoner (the German people) being manacled by a stooping figure, which is easily identified as Himler. This stamp is unlikely to have been intended for postal use. Vernon continued with Estonia that was occupied by Germany in 1941. The first occupation issue was originally issued for local use but was made available for use throughout Estonia from 29 September 1941 until 30 April 1942, see below. However, not many were used since the German "Ostland" stamps were used from 1 December 1941 until the Russian re-occupation of Estonia in 1944. Vernon concluded with the below last three stamps issued by the German Post Office before the collapse of the "Third Reich" in 1945 that were only available for a few weeks at some post offices in Berlin. They were not valid after the armistice on 8 May 1945.



German propaganda stamp on right.



Estonia first occupation issue.



The last three Third Reich stamps issued.

Willy Porter brought along the newspaper clipping from "The Daily Mail" shown right, issued in Johannesburg and surrounds, concerning the Amajuba 1981 stamp issue. There was a 5c and a 15c stamp in the set of two. The 15c rate used to be the airmail rate to Britain but it changed to 20c. The author of this article was wondering whether there would be a last minute change of the face value to 20c. He mentioned that if this would happen it would upset all calculations given in the Post Office bulletin No 163. The author also mentioned that these stamps were looking "better than the average type of dreariness" and about the inflated prices in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue

Amajuba better than average

On Friday, February 27, the South African post office will issue a pair of stamps that look better than the average type of dreariness. They will be the Amajuba centenary issue, and the two stamps will have face values of five cents and 15 cents. That is interesting in itself, as although the five cent is for the internal letter rate the 15c does not fit any of the often used rates.

It used to be the airmail rate to Britain, but that has been raised to 20 cents and I wonder if there will be a last minute change of face value to 20 cents.

If there is, it will upset all calculations given in the Post Office Bulletin No. 163.

Control strips will cost R1 a set, and full sheets will be R5.

The first day cover is to be 40 cents, and the date-stamp cards from the Essen Philatelic Exhibition in Germany are to be 15 cents. There will be 25 million of the five cents and two and a quarter million of the 15 cent, with 175,000 first day covers.

The design of the five cent shows a party of Boers at the foot of Amajuba taking cover behind the rocks, while the 15 cent shows the top of the hill with British troops not knowing whether to take cover in their conspicuous uniforms or to try to return the Boer fire.

The stamps seem a fitting memorial to a defeat that was a fitting reward for remarkable incompetence by the British. It is probably true

that the Boers never fought so well again and it is certainly true that the British never fought so badly again as they did on Majuba.

We are now almost halfway between the 1981 and 1982 Stanley Gibbons Catalogues with the 1982 edition going to press in two or three months. Many collectors are wondering if Gibbons will reduce their prices for British stamps, seeing they overpriced so many in the 1981 edition.

My opinion is that it does not matter much what Gibbons decides to do, as the only prices that matter are those in the marketplace.

There are still many dealers in Britain offering a range of pre-war stamps at prices round about half to two-thirds catalogue, and on auctions prices tend to be even lower. There is some sign that prices have stabilised, and at least they are not falling as much as they were a year ago.

As an example of what has happened in the last nine months or so, the 1939 British high values





A survey conducted in Australia during 1979 indicated that one of the most popular stamp themes was that which depicted birds.

Stamp collectors will again have the opportunity of adding to their collections when the new Vanda stamps, with birds as motif, are released on February 16.

The bright jewel colours of the sunbird family Nectarinidae as portrayed by Johan Hoekstra, adorns this set of four stamps (5c, 15c, 20c, 25c).

The Daily Mail newspaper clipping.

It was then the turn of Richard Johnstone who brought along an interesting cover, mailed in Great Britain with the following written in a rectangle stamped on the envelope: "DISBANDMENT OF THE LAST OPERATIONAL VULCAN SQUADRON NO 50 SQUADRON RAF WADDINGTON 31 MAR 1984". There is also a Royal Air Force Waddington Museum label on the envelope. He enquired if anyone could give him some information about this envelope and also mentioned that during the Battle of Britain the airplanes took off from Waddington Airbase.



Cover with Royal Air Force Waddington information.

Lieb Venter concluded this section of the meeting by showing the below four spectacular varieties of the South Africa 1913 KGV issue.



Offset over corner of 1d block of four.



Interrupted printing on 1d corner stamp.



Interrupted printing due to foreign object on 1d cylinder block.



Interrupted printing on 1d pair.

(2) GENERAL

Francois said that all would have received notification by email of the upcoming stampshow in Johannesburg and that the society has been requested for a donation to the organising bodies. He suggested that the society take a full page advertisement in the stampshow's catalogue at R 750 and the members present at the meeting accepted the proposal.

Willy Porter in his capacity as librarian informed the meeting that there is a list of all the books available for PEPS club members to indulge in. All one needs to do is go to the office at the Bible Society and ask them to unlock the area where the books are kept and then you just need to sign out the book/s that you want to borrow. An interesting auction followed with 22 lots being sold by Francois as the auctioneer.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 September 2026 at the Bible Society for the Dave Berg Cup (best thematic display) competition; general trading and auction; as well as show items of interest, bringalongs and new acquisitions.

The meeting closed at 13:12 with there being no further matters to discuss.

PRESIDENT:

DATED:



.....Sitting Lisa

the antique collective

The Antique Collective (TAC), being held monthly on the first Sunday of a month at the Walmer Park Shopping Centre, takes place on Sunday 6 September. (Stamp's Friend will be in preparation and travelling phase for the upcoming Stampshow in Johannesburg and thus will unfortunately not be in attendance for the September one.)



editor's titbits

Well folks that is that for our August edition of the newsletter. Should you come across useful philatelic articles, auction results, news items, etc - please forward to us for possible inclusion in future newsletters. Also, any letter to the editor is welcomed. **Bye**

stamps and
other collectables

a cover from yonks



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Stockbooks

Lighthouse Basic 32 pages	R 680
Lighthouse Basic 64 pages	R 980
Lighthouse Comfort 32 pages	R 970
Lighthouse Premium 64 pages + slipcase ..	R 1 100
Lindner 64 pages	R 1 080

Mounting strips

Hawid, Prinz, Lighthouse pre-cut strips	from R 20
Lighthouse SF (per 5 strips)	
217 mm x 21,5 mm or 27,5 mm	R 30
217 mm x 33 mm or 36 mm	R 40
217 mm x 40 mm or 45 mm	R 50
217 mm x 55 mm or 66 mm	R 60
217 mm x 72 mm or 84 mm or 92 mm	R 70
217 mm x 148 mm or 164 mm	R 110

Tweezers and exhibition sleeves

Tweezers (12 cm/15 cm)	R 200/350
Exhibition sleeves (packet of 5)	R 160

Magnifying glasses

Straight shank 60 mm	R 30
Folding 30 x 21 mm	R 70
Illuminated 40 x 25 mm	R 140
Lighthouse frameless LED	R 550

Other

Prinz stockcards - box of 100	R 650
Vario pages	
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 strips/packet of 5	R 180

Stamp and first day cover albums

Various new and second hand stockbooks and cover albums in good condition. R 100+

Stock

British Commonwealth/cinderella's
South Africa/Homelands/SWA/Namibia

we buy stamps and collectables

we do want lists

Nov 2025

remember to visit our website at www.stampsfriend.com

Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth (1840 - 1970) catalogues available

2014 = R 300 2015 = R 400 2016 = R 500 2017 = R 600

2018 = R 700 2022 = R 1 100 2023 = R 1 400 2024 = R 1 700

