

SACS Meeting in Letchworth on 11 April 2026

An enjoyable one-day meeting, with a variety of excellent displays, enjoyed by sixteen attendees.

The first display was given by Ian Shapiro on Cape of Good Hope pre-stamp postal history. Ian had recently acquired the thirty-five-page collection, which had been written up based on postal rates at the time of the correspondence. This was a novel way of describing and presenting the material and worked well as a display.

This was followed by Nick Harris, who again had recently acquired a collection on the Canadian Contingent who supported the British in the Boer War and was described in patriotic stationery, postcards and wrappers (1897-1902). An interesting, colourful and well-presented display.

Ian Smart then showed an unusual display of South West African postmarks from 1914-1960 applied to Rainfall Charts which were then folded up and posted to Windhoek. A very unusual display and, as Ian mentioned, difficult to present as the Charts were large. However, the early postmarks were scarce with some excellent strikes.

Steve Hannath then tested all present by showing fifty pages of the Union's stamps based on the order in which they are illustrated in the South African Collectors' Catalogue. Initially all pages were blank and as the issues were identified in order, Steve revealed the page. Those present had twenty seconds to recall the next issue as it appeared in the Catalogue. Sadly, only 56% were answered correctly! Nevertheless, an informative and fun display.

Immediately prior to lunch, there were four entries for the 1-2-3 Cup. Tony Johnson showed two pages on the Voortrekker Monument, Steve Hannath three pages on Gilbert Allis (the first person to sign the RDPSA), Simon Peetoom showed one page of taxed mail and Ian Smart showed one 'page' of Putzel. The cup was awarded to Tony Johnson.



Bob Hill awarding Tony Johnson the '1-2-3 Cup'

After lunch, Keith Perrow gave an excellent and interesting display on the early Post Offices of South West Africa. He started with Adolf Luderitz who prepared the way for the colonisation of SWA by Germany in the 1880's. Keith showed German stamps overprinted with South West Africa, and followed this with the early SWA issues, booklets and postcards.

Danna Strydom then presented mail from the South African Prisoners of War detained in Germany. He explained that there were five main groups of camps in Germany for non-commissioned soldiers, commissioned soldiers, airmen, labour corps and transit camps. The material that followed included examples of South African Prisoner of War mail from various German Prisoner of War camps. This was followed by a display of Patriotic Postal Slogans used in South Africa. An excellent display.

The day concluded with Bob Hill showing six frames of different parts of his collections. The first frame was of Cape of Good Hope pre-stamp covers, the second of South African Airmails and the third of postmarks of towns with Post Cards. This was followed with 'Native' post offices and cancellations, Apartheid date stamps, cachets and labels and the final frame showed part of his Verneuk Pan cancellations and covers from Campbell's world speed record attempt. A varied display with good quality material.

A huge thank you to all who attended and especially to Bob Hill for organising such a successful event. More information on the displays will be given in the write-up which will be published in the Springbok.

We look forward to the next one-day meeting in Letchworth on 29 August 2026.