

Report of the Kenilworth Meeting held on 31 May - 1 June 2026

The first display by Simon Peetoom related to Postage Due items these included Postage Due stamps, tax marks and Instructional cachets, all on cover. Many unusual and varied items were shown. He expanded on the Tax marks including the introduction of fractions to assist with the proportion of tax due. Simon then went on to show examples of covers with applied cachets 'Posted Out Of Course' and 'Insufficient Pre-Paid' along with 'Not Collected' and 'Refused' markings. Of particular interest was an air letter addressed to Jayne Mansfield, which members were invited to read.



Simon Peetoom



Tony Howgrave-Graham

Tony's display consisted of seven frames of the Union Stamp Booklets. A recent acquisition, a 1913 Booklet which was very rare, had completed his display. Other early Booklets included the 1920, 1922, and 1926 London Pictorial Booklets. Tony explained that exploded examples of the Booklets are worth far less than the unexploded ones but that the exploded Booklets are more interesting to display showing all of the adverts contained within them. Of further note were the razor blade Booklets and a 1970 Booklet which was stapled on different sides. Specimen examples also featured, which he explained are difficult to find, as well as Booklets with different layouts of Jubilee lines and gutters.

The Abell Trophy, of which there were five participants, was held over lunchtime.

After the lunch interval, Steve Hannath displayed 'The Postal History of the Imperial Garrisons of South Africa 1902 to 1914'. He explained the origins and reasons why the Imperial Garrisons were introduced and showed many postcards and covers along with ephemera. Highlights included a letter written by an invading soldier to his Scottish father, a Pass for a black man to seek medical assistance, a superb South African Constabulary hand stamp dated 13 November 1900, postcards of Guns on Naval Hill and the Cheshire Regiment outside the Castle at Johannesburg.

The display concluded with cancellations from most army post offices, with examples of postmarks used by the Garrison at St Lowry Road, an excellent cover from Fort Knokke where the Ordnance Corps was based, as well as Upper Wynberg Camp and Standerton. Another excellent display from Steve which was well presented.



Steve Hannath



Bob Hill

The last display of the afternoon was given by Bob Hill, which was eight frames, with each individual frame featuring a different part of Bob's collection. These were 1) Mobile Post Offices, 2) Cape of Good Hope Postmarks, 3) Commemorative Postmarks, 4) Cork Cancellations, 5) Maritime Mail, 6) Postal Slogans, 7) Union Postmarks and 8) Apartheid Mail.

Highlights from Bob's display were skeleton postmarks of the 1936 South African Medical Congress with a page from the Clerk's Handbook showing the six daily cancellations (believed to be the only example). Also shown were exhibition post cards and special date stamps. Bob highlighted cork cancellations on cover, which are not often seen, along with a favourite cover which was carried on the SS Nautilus from Port Nolloth to Cape Town. In his Apartheid section, he showed early manuscript Passes of 1909, 1912 and 1916, Native tax forms and a Christmas card from the first Bangwato Company, as well as examples of Trading Store mail which showed fingerprints of the recipients. Lastly, two invitations to attend functions where Prince George was invited to attend in 1934.

The afternoon's displays were followed by the AGM, the minutes of which are recorded separately. An enjoyable evening meal was held at the hotel, where Steve Hannath was presented with the Abell Trophy. The winner of the Wicks Award was Chris Oliver for his article on Airgraphs Relating to South Africa.

Thirteen people attended on the Monday morning to view seven displays.

The first was given by Glenn Fearons who showed many different 'Covers of the Centenary of the Great Trek 1838 to 1938'. Glenn also displayed a copy of the Star Mail Daily Bulletin. He then showed first regular air mail covers from London to the Cape as well as WWII 'V' slogans on cover and Christmas seals.

Chris Palmer then gave a detailed display of the 2d, 1s and 2/6 Official stamps. He focused on printing flaws, particularly the diæresis to the second 'ë' of 'Offisieël', and showed numerous examples in pairs, blocks, strips and on cover. He particularly drew attention to the 1s (ex. Hisey) and 2/6 (ex. Matheson) blocks which are extremely rare and a cover with 1s stamps in a strip of 4 with flaws. Chris's display showed most of the errors/flaws of these Official stamps and contained very detailed information.



Chris Palmer's cover with a strip of four one shilling Officials with flaws.

Ian Smart displayed, in his own words, 'stamps that you would normally get at an average Post Office in South Africa or South West Africa'. He showed the stamps as a comparison between their respective countries and definitive issues. These included the first to eighth South African definitive series, South West Africa overprints on South Africa stamps, several issues from Namibia including the latest definitive issue, in complete sheets.

The next display was by Steve Hannath and was an abridged history of South African postal history from 1657 to 1910. Steve explained the history of early mail particularly the Dutch period and showed several examples of early Cape mail and the oval medallion letter stamp/seal which was the first Cape of Good Hope postal marking. He displayed many postcards as well as artwork covering this period.

Tony Howgrave-Graham followed with a well-illustrated display of the Herero Rebellion in South West Africa. Many interesting items were shown including messages from a 'Helagraph Station' in the Kalahari. The Rebellion was at first unsuccessfully dealt with by Major Leutwein and was eventually put down by von Trochar. It appears that about 85% of the Hereros either died during the Rebellion or were driven into desert areas, where they later died of starvation. Several items displayed by Tony concerned a native called Samuel Mahareo.

Danna Strydom then displayed the Transvaal Otto printings. He explained how one could identify flaws and also showed forgeries and how they could be distinguished from the originals. He explained that tête-bêche pairs are very rare and that most of the copies seen are either in the Royal or other major collections. Danna displayed proofs, narrow set plates, eagle designs, 3d colour trials, surreptitious 3d plates, Goldner plates and the 6d improved eagle. Both the presentation and material were superb.

The last event of the afternoon was a light-hearted display by Bob Hill on his now famous KitKat. Everyone enjoyed what was a very entertaining presentation, full of laughs and linked to South African philatelic and social events. Well done to Bob who concluded the displays in a very special way.

The meeting closed at 12.30 p.m. and all thanked Simon for his hard work in organising another very successful event. It was agreed it would be held again next year.