The Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town
Newsletter 4/2016 part 4 of 4

Meetings in July 2016

Monday 11 July 2016 *Jan Hofmeyr will show The* **3c Washington**
   See part 1 for details.

Monday 26 July 2016: *Roddy Sparks will show Canadian Contingent of the Anglo Boer War and other postal history.*
      See part 1 for details

Meeting Notes: May and June 2016

23 May 2016: David Watts Estonia

David Watts is known in the society as a student of border mail, so it was a surprise to see to

his display of Estonia to the start of WWII in 7 frames

14 Feb 1905: An Estonian cover from the Russo-Japanese war, from an Estonian Military Hospital as shown by David at the Royal as part of his display on 23 May 2016

Left: as shown by David

Black-yellow Inverted centre on the 5-mark issue of 1919.

Two sheets are known with this variety and a small number are thought to exist

David told the meeting that he had been persuaded to start collecting Estonia by a long-time (and now long-time deceased) former member Mr Freymann, a former Estonian who, as David put it, persuaded David to collect his duplicates! But eventually Mr Freymann alerted him to a collection that was up for auction; that collection, David told us, provided the basis for much of his display. We were treated to a fascinating and excellent display: early pre-stamps letters were followed by the first Russian period (imperial Russia used n Estonia), some fascinating postal history including a cover from the Russo-Japanese War of 1905, active service mail from WWI, and the emergence of the Estonian republic after WWI following the German occupation. This was followed by a comprehensive display of the stamps issued by Estonia up to the second German occupation in WW11.

13 June 2016 *Brian Fenemore's 'The Standard Bank of South Africa – A Philatelic and Social History'*

There can be few better topics to capture part of the developmental history of a region, than one of its most prominent banks. Brian's 'Standard Bank' display is a great example of the way in which a fascinating collection can be built from what may seem to be a simple subject.
The Standard Bank of South Africa had its beginnings on 3 June, 1857 when a group of prominent businessmen in the Eastern Cape city of Port Elizabeth met to talk about creating a bank. They were unable to raise the capital locally at the time; and so John Paterson, the driving force behind the bank, went to the UK where he completed a successful capital raising. The letters of Memorandum and Association were finally signed on 13th October, 1862. The delay in the bank's founding led to it being one of the first companies to be established under the new 'Limited Liability Act of 1862' in the UK.
Brian's exhibit kicked off with pictures of the bank's founders; and with copies of the original documents, lost to the Bank itself, but found by Brian in the Western Cape archives.

The scope of the exhibit covered stamps and covers from the bank's branches; cheques, bills of exchange, promissory notes, and bank notes; rare picture postcards of the banks early branches and agencies across the region; war covers related to the Anglo-Boer and first and second World Wars; registered envelopes and other postal stationery; promotional items pertaining to the bank; and sporting items and memorabilia related to its various sponsorships.

And so we saw a picture of the tent that was the bank's first branch in Bulawayo. We saw an extensive array of letters from people in countries all over Africa, written to the bank. One of the most interesting items was a censored letter, written in 1917 from the bank's branch in New York to the Royal Bank of Australia in Melbourne. There were SBSA perfins (the bank perforated some of the stamps it used), rare cancellations, and censored covers from all the wars.

Fittingly, the exhibit ended with examples of credit cards issued by the bank. The exhibit illustrated the history of a great commercial enterprise, the evolution of a region in Africa; and the development of money in its changing forms. (JH)

An item from Brian's display: a cheque drawn on the Bank's Cradock branch. The 1d stamp pays the stamp duty in accordance with the Stamp Duty Act of 1864.

27 June 2016: A society Auction

This was fun. Many walked away with bargains and some overpaid: such is the fate of those who go to auctions. Over R17 000 was taken and the majority of the items sold. Thanks are due to Brian Fenemore and the auctioneer, Colin Rowe, for dealing with the varied lots offered.