



## *The Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town*

*(founded 1911)*

*Hon Life President: Des Hyland RDPSA*

*The Society meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month at the Athenaeum  
Visitors and prospective members are always welcome.*

### *Newsletter 1/2016*

#### *New Committee elected*

At the AGM on 22 February 2016 the Society elected the following committee for 2016/2017:

<b>President</b>	Keith Brodovsky
<b>Vice President &amp; Hon. Secretary</b>	Mary Rogers
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Malcolm Suttill
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	John Carter*
<b>Hon. Librarian</b>	Brian Fenemore
<b>Additional Members:</b>	Alan Rogers, Andrew McLaren, David Sinclair, Peter Dewey, Milton Gerdis, Krish Ranchod, Hugh Amooore & Jan Hofmeyr.

*\* John accepted re-election on the basis that a replacement would be found in the near future.*

#### *Awards 2015*

Society awards are based on exhibits by members in the calendar year. The following awards were made at the AGM

- The Royal Cup** – Jan Hofmeyr for “The use and development of the 3c Issue of 1861”
- A.A. Jurgens Cup** – Adrian de Bourbon for “Allied occupation of Germany 1945 – 1949”  
*(for the best paper read before the Society during the year)*
- J.W.T. Wannerton Cup** – David Watts for “SA Military mail and other conflicts”  
*(for postal history)*
- R.W. Wilson Classics Award** – Jan Hofmeyr for “The use and development of the 3c Issue of 1861”
- David Crocker Shield** – Jan Hofmeyr for “Security measures for the 3c issue of 1861”  
*(one frame exhibit)*
- G.I. Ratcliffe Trophy** – David Wengrowe for “Christmas Seals”  
*(for best exhibit at a composite or all members’ evening)*
- A.V. Jacob Cup** – Brian Fenemore for “Bechuanaland Postmarks & postal history”

### *Syllabus for 2016/2017*

The syllabus promises an exciting series of meetings. If you have not volunteered a display for the season please make a note of

- 27 June: auction
- 9 August: all members postal stationery evening
- 14 November: competition evening (one frame exhibits; thematics; classics)

Printed syllabus cards may be collected at Society Meetings. The next meeting is on:

28 March 2016:

John Kilroe & Hugh Amore will show Union of SA & SWA 1910 to 1961

### *Meeting Notes*

*11 January 2016*

*All members' postal history meeting*

This all members evening provided rich fare for the small number of members and guests who attended the first meeting of 2016. The following exhibit stood out.

Jan Hofmeyr showed a frame of fancy cancels on the 3c 1861 Washington issue. Postmasters were free to create their own designs for the obliterator (used in addition to the circular date stamp which showed post office, state, date and – occasional - a time code). Many of these were designs cut into cork or wood. The designs ranged from the geometric to the pictorial. The display showed superb copies used on cover on the 3c Washington issue, including rarities such as a baseball diamond representation cancel!

*26 January 2016*

*Machin Booklets*



**Arnold MACHIN b. 1911 was a sculptor who** worked mainly in terracotta. He was born at Trent Vale, Stoke-on-Trent, into a family of potters, studied at Stoke School of Art, then worked for the Minton China Works, studied sculpture at Derby Art School, was associated with Wedgwood's as an adviser from 1940, exhibited at the R.A. from 1940.. GB stamps have featured his design since 5 June 1967.

Colin Rowe and Alan Rogers treated the Society to a further instalment of the incredible *Machin* story. Colin's display of the prestige booklets traversed the lot, from the first (Wedgewood) in 1989 to the present WWI centenary booklets, and we were able to see the unexploded booklets and the panes, and see how the booklet – originally intended for the convenience of the letter-writing public – had become the vehicle for marking an event (propaganda) and for the collector. For the *Machin* collector many of these prestige booklets are a must as some *Machin* issues appeared only in these booklets. Colin spiced his display by questions to the audience, testing our general knowledge (or lack of it). Alan Rogers rounded off the evening with a selection the first 10 years of the NVI (no value indicated) *Machin* booklets.

8 February 2016

### *RSA and the rest of the world since 1961*

This was an all members' evening. Seven members exhibited, contributing to an excellent show.

*Adrian de Bourbon* was first up with French "Marianne" definitive issues since the adoption of the new (revalued) currency in 1960. This collection-in-progress illustrated the range of designs and the quality of printing of these issues, leading up to the complex most recent issue, where the sheet involves different printing processes for different rows/columns in the same sheet.

*Phil Collins* followed with a study on the RSA 1965 ITU first day cards and covers that launched what became, what he rightly described, as an FDC collecting bubble. This was accompanied by a detailed account of the printings of the cards and covers and a range of "official" (i.e., Post Office issued) and private FDCs of the issue, some with and some without the commemorative first day cancellation.

*Brian Fenemore* followed with a selection from out-of-the-way places including Sabah and the only issue for the Trucial States (which as he explained were in fact only ever used in Dubai).

*David Watts* presented a selection of RSA corporate postal product issues and followed this with items of interest including Dr Verwoerd's pleas to voters ahead of the 1960 referendum on becoming a republic, and a selection of modern wreck and crash mail, including an item damaged by fire on a Jowell's transport carriage of mails up the West Coast, in each case backed up by detailed information on the event.

*David Sinclair* showed *Machins with a difference*: the Society was treated to a selection of the first years of the *Machins* (1967-1969), collected (mostly) by David in the UK at the time of issue including some key varieties, coils issues and booklets. David has been responsible for the Gibbons' listing of several stamps; it was thus no surprise to learn that one of the early *Machin* varieties (shown on the board, with first-day usage) was listed by Gibbons following David's report of it at the time.

*Brian Franklin* showed, yes, Malta. The stamps shown were distinctive in design (many of the issues being the work of the Maltese designer Cremona) in shape (four sided but not rectangular) and in theme (Malta being a predominantly Catholic country, which it has been since warning off the attentions of Suleiman the Magnificent in the 15<sup>th</sup> century).

*Ida Potgieter* produced a cameo exhibit, which showed the connections between a Banhoek (later, for some unfathomable reason Banghoek) postmark, the RSA stamp that showed her father's farm in the Banhoek district, a series older and modern postcards of the area (that for her had memories of teas at the artist Joan Turner's tea room) and the illustration of the farm on the absurd Post Office "easy letter" aerogramme! It gave everyone much pleasure.

*President Keith Brodovcky* gave members both a show and a lesson in terminology. The show was of post-1960 Rhodesian *varieties* and *flaws*; the lesson was to teach (or remind) us of the difference between

- An *error* (which is in the design or the make-up of the printing plate/cylinder);
- A *flaw* which occurs during the printing process, and may be caused by one of several events; and
- A *variety*, which is a *constant flaw* (i.e., flaw that recurs in the same position on the sheet for the duration of the printing or for a repeated part of a print job).

22 February 2016

### AGM and Competition for the Jacob Cup

By tradition the competition for the Jacob Cup (the next four best exhibits, after the best of the past calendar year is awarded the Royal Cup – provided they have not won the Jacob Cup before) takes place at the AGM. Four outstanding exhibits were on the boards, competing for the Royal Cup.

*Brian Fenemore* showed 100 pages from his exhibit of **The stamps, postmarks and postal history of the Bechuanalands, 1861 – 1966**. There were many highlights, beginning with an early John Moffat letter carried by favour before organized posts, a selection of Stellaland postage and revenue stamps, material from the Warren expedition, an outstanding early incoming letter cancelled with GB and British Bechuanaland (overprinted) stamps, the extremely rare Bloemfontein (yes, there was a *Bloemfontein* in Bechuanaland) cancellation, and a good array of BB and BP overprints (sea horses are always attractive). Rarities included covers from the British West Charterland expedition and the Tati Bech'd railway postmark of 1913. And there was more; airmails, railway letter post, and decimal surcharges (a R10 on five pounds revenue stamp, mint, rounded off the exhibit).

*Adrian de Bourbon's* exhibit of the Allied Occupation of Germany, 1945 - 1949 was well worth another showing (though this time we did not have the benefit of his excellent paper on this difficult – and for most of us – little known subject). The issues of this period have to be seen in geopolitical terms, in order to understand the reason for the AMP (Allied military post) issues followed by those for the French and Soviet Zones, the Joint Allied issues and the issues for Baden, the Rhineland-Palatine, Wurttemberg-Hohenzollern and of course, the Saar. In addition we had the currency reform issues, the Soviet response to this, and the Berlin surcharge labels.



*Roddy Sparks* **Anglo Boer War western campaign** exhibit had everything one could have asked for; a precis cannot do justice to the rarities on show. The Mafeking siege issues were outstanding with important rarities of the siege overprints, crowned by four sheets of the “blues”: Sgt Goodyear and Baden Powell with varieties and on cover. This was followed by Kimberly, Vryburg, Colesberg, Lichtenburg, Rustenberg, Wolmaransstad and exceptional Schweizer-Reneke. If you missed this you will find many of the items he exhibited illustrated in the series of books on these issues!

*Keith Brodovcky's* **Southern Rhodesia George V and George VI definitive issues** was the last of the four. This is a model in-depth study of these stamps. Printer's proof samples were shown and related to the various printings of the issues. Coverage was exhaustive, and included the coils booklets and the postal stationery where this used the issued stamp design. Among the outstanding rarities were the George V: 1d (SG2) pairs imperf at left and right in gutter pairs mint and used; 3d Admiral(SG 3b), mint imperf at top (one of ten possible copies); the 10d and 2/- of the same issue mint imperf at top (of a possible 30 copies of each); the mysterious 1½d letter card and the emergency printing of the George VI aerogramme.

The jury of two had some difficulty (!) but awarded the Jacob Cup to the Bechuanaland exhibit; it was a very, very, close call.

*14 March 2016*

*David Wengrowe*



David Wengrowe promises and delivers surprises: this evening was no exception. He began with back-of-the-book material (the display opened with the full set – including the 5/- and 10/- values - of the labels issued in 1897 for the Prince of Wales Hospitals Fund, followed by a wide range of cinderellas, cards, a lot bought at the Jeffrey's sale in 1984, Society memorabilia, postcards (of course, but with a difference – actors and actresses); a turn of the century souvenir display of the stamps of Japan caught my eye. There was much to see, and David gave a detailed exposition of what he had brought with him.

This newsletter was compiled by Hugh Amooore.

Our sincere thanks go to Jenifer Barry who has resigned the position as Scribe after several years of faithful compilation of the Society's newsletter.