

International Stamp Exhibition to tell the story of our heritage

Postage stamps are miniature communication tools and tell stories about our heritage. They are a part of our visual history and convey important messages about our past.

Examples of culturally important philatelic artefacts will be on show at the **Cape Town International Stamp exhibition**.

When: 8-12 November 2022

Where: Cape Town International Convention Center 2

Entrance is FREE TO THE PUBLIC

This event will feature 1600 frames of stamps from all over the world but also a significant number of frames from South Africa. Each frame comprises sixteen A4 pages for some 25 600 pages being exhibited!

Stamps have often been designed to commemorate heritage milestones such as traditions, folklore, architecture, culinary aspects, sports, wildlife inauguration of political leaders. The list is never ending. When letter sending was commonplace, stamps were ambassadors, reaching far off places to spread awareness of this heritage. Such stamps have become collector's items for *philatelists*.

"Despite their small size, stamps have a more concentrated ideological density per square centimetre than any other cultural form" David Scott states in his book on [European stamp design](#).

As [Queen Elizabeth II](#) died on September 8, [King Charles III's](#) accession to the throne will see [Stamps changing to feature the new King](#). For those that already have rare Queen Elizabeth II stamps, expect their value to increase over the next few years.

This November you will have a chance to see important Philatelic examples of South Africa's unique cultural heritage at the International Stamp Exhibition.

Here are some highlights that can be expected:

The Road to Democracy Exhibition by Gerhard Kamffer

Built up over the past 30 years, the exhibition will illustrate the road of South Africa towards democracy. This award-winning exhibit includes amongst other things, items speaking of the early border wars between the colonists and the Xhosa with a letter that refers to the 8th war in 1851. Also on show will be a letter written by Nelson Mandela from Pollsmoor to Kaiser Matanzima refusing to be released if he was confined to the Transkei only.

A Chronology of events relating to the Cape of Good Hope

The exhibit contains philatelic and non-philatelic material relating to the development of the Cape. The main theme is correspondence to and from Governors of the Cape during different colonial periods.

Post Office Museum Exhibition

On show will be a history of stamps in South Africa with many fine examples from the archives of the South African Post Office.

A Tale of South Africa

This exhibit will tell the story of South Africa from the first documented European rounding of the Cape by Bartolomeu Diaz, slavery, the Anglo Boer wars, and the years of Union. It includes a VOC letter to Jan Van Riebeeck commending him on the beer being brewed in the Cape. Who knew that we made good beer long before we became known for our wines?

To complement the theme of the Cape Town International Stamp Exhibition, the Philatelic Federation of South Africa announced that the South African Post Office (SAPO) will be issuing a limited-edition stamp that will be for sale at the event. Furthermore, SAPO have created 5 unique date stamps that will be used each day of the event to celebrate Nobel Peace Prize laureates: Albert Luthuli, Desmond Tutu, Nadine Gordimer, Nelson Mandela and Frederik Willem de Klerk.

Visitors can create their own memorabilia by purchasing a special Exhibition envelope with the stamp and having it stamped with the unique date stamp available each day – 8 to 12 November – from the Post Office in honour of these outstanding South Africans.

The public are encouraged to bring along their stamp collections to be evaluated during the event by experts in the field.

Anyone interested in history and the raw documents relating to their history and our collective heritage, will find something truthful and relevant at the show.

Come have a look at the role that philately plays in nation building and reconciliation.

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Philatelic Federation of South Africa
<https://www.stampssa.africa/>
Cape Town International Stamp Exhibition
<https://capetown2022.org/>

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