



Newsletter One August 2020

58 Commissioners and counting

November 2021 may seem distant, but in these unprecedented times, the news cycle moves fast. So, welcome to the first of our newsletters. The bad news is that we have had to postpone our event. The good news is that we've found a new date and that international interest is exceeding our expectations. We've now had confirmation of participation from 58 countries.

What you will find in this edition:

1. Cape Town date change: from March to 9-13 November, 2021
2. Our Chief Patron: former Pres. Kgalema Motlanthe
3. Showcase: more about the prison letter from Nelson Mandela
4. Meet the people
5. Dates to diarize: the new time-table

Cape Town Date Change: from March to 9-13 November, 2021

The Steering Committee for Cape Town was hoping that the show's relatively late date in March next year would enable it to avoid rescheduling. But Covid-19 has continued to rage through the world. In view of the uncertainty around international travel, the Committee therefore decided to ask FIP if the date for the show could be moved. FIP agreed.

The new date for the Cape Town show is 9-13 November, 2021.

Covid-19 has upended local and international philately. The fact that London 2020 (a marquee event in the philatelic calendar), has had to be moved to 2022, is just one indication of the scale of its impact. In our view, the world will only settle into a safe new international routine once an effective vaccine becomes widely available. Our hope is that that will have happened before November next year.

Our Chief Patron: His Excellency Kgalema Motlanthe

In October last year, the former president of South Africa, His Excellency Kgalema Motlanthe, accepted an invitation from the organizing committee of Cape Town 2021, to be our chief patron. A big 'thank you' to Dr Gerhard Kamffer for facilitating this. It will make a big difference to our ability to pull off a successful event.

Kgalema Petrus Motlanthe was born in 1949. In 1976 he was arrested on charges of terrorism and sentenced to 10 years on Robben Island (the same prison that held Nelson Mandela). Shortly after his release he was elected Secretary-General of the powerful National Union of Mineworkers. He went on to become the Secretary General of the ANC (1997); and eventually President of South Africa in 2008 when President Mbeki stepped down.



Pres. Motlanthe served as president from Sept 2008 until May 2009 when he was succeeded by Jacob Zuma. He retired from active politics in 2014 to establish the Kgalema Motlanthe Foundation. The Foundation's mission is to promote an inclusive dialogue among all South Africans aimed at finding solutions to the country's challenges.

In October last year, the former President was instrumental in facilitating a meeting between the CT 2021 organizing committee; and the Dept of Telecommunications and Postal Services headed by Hon. Min. Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams.



Participants in the meeting with the minister: Siphwe Ngwenya, Jan Hofmeyr, Siphso Majombozi, Phindile Dlamini, His Exc. Kgalema Motlanthe, Hon. Min. Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, Gerhard Kamffer, Emil Buhmann, Ayanda Mbolekwa.

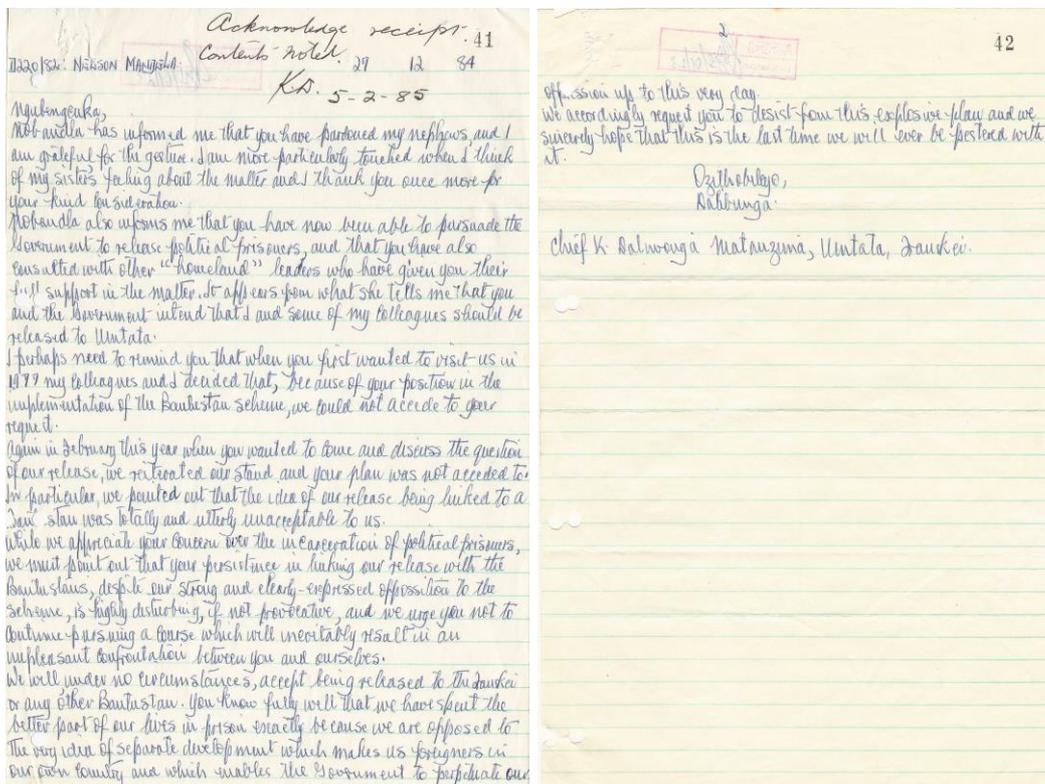
From the start, we've believed that our show has a unique opportunity to be both socially relevant and a great philatelic event. We are hoping that it will create an interest in philately among everyone in South and Southern Africa, particularly the youth. It will be the first ever inclusive international philatelic event in Africa.

Showcase: the letter written from prison by Nelson Mandela

Every newsletter will showcase a uniquely important philatelic item. None is more important than the first, a letter that Nelson Mandela wrote from prison to Kaiser Matanzima, the leader of the Transkei homeland. This letter will be in frame 10 of Gerhard Kamffer's court of honour exhibit 'The Road to Democracy'.

i). Historical background

The apartheid government of South Africa came up with a scheme to permanently disenfranchise black South Africans. The scheme involved designating bits of South Africa as 'homelands' for each of the major black language groupings - Zulu, Xhosa, Venda, etc.



Letter written by Nelson Mandela in 1985 to Kaiser Matanzima (President of the so-called 'Republic of Transkei'), rejecting an offer of freedom.

In time, the government hoped that these homelands would become independent countries. It would then be able to redefine all black South Africans as citizens of some or other made-up independent country - leaving South Africa as a purely white country! By this means, it hoped to claim that South Africa had no black citizens. All black South Africans would need passports to be in South Africa; and they'd need work permits if they wanted to work in South Africa.

Of course, the bits carved out for intended independence were the least economically viable parts of the country.

Nelson Mandela came from a geographical region of South Africa known as the Transkei. In 1976 it was the first of the so-called 'homelands' to adopt quasi-independence. Mandela's cousin, Kaiser Matanzima was its first prime minister. In 1979 he declared himself 'President'. Along with the Ciskei, it was intended as the home country of Xhosa-speaking black South Africans. It was immediately condemned by the United Nations; and South Africa was the only country that ever recognized its independence.

ii). The letter

Nelson Mandela wrote the letter from Pollsmoor Prison on the 29th of December, 1984. It is evident from the letter's contents, that Mandela had been offered freedom as long as he accepted citizenship of the essentially sham Republic of Transkei. The letter runs over two pages and is recorded as 'contents noted' by the hand of 'KD' i.e. Kaiser Daluwonga (a popular appellation for Matanzima) on the 5th of February, 1985. The faint, signed purple stamp is probably the mark of South African authorities.

The letter starts cordially enough. Mandela thanks Matanzima for releasing two of his nephews. By that time, local government in the Transkei had become thoroughly undemocratic with Matanzima regularly imprisoning anyone suspected of political opposition. Mandela's nephews had been political prisoners of the Matanzima government.

But then the letter moves quickly on to the matter of the offer of freedom. Mandela writes:

“... when you first wanted to visit us in 1977 my colleagues and I decided that, because of your position in the implementation of the Bantustan scheme, we could not accede to your request.”

Mandela continues:

“Again in February this year when you wanted to come and discuss the question of our release, ... we pointed out the idea of our release being linked to a Bantustan was totally unacceptable to us.”

The letter concludes:

“We will under no circumstances, accept being released to the Transkei or any other Bantustan. We have spent the better part of our lives exactly because we are opposed to the very idea of separate development which makes us prisoners in our own country and which enables the government to perpetuate our oppression up to this very day.”

Not many South Africans were aware that the white government of South Africa was attempting these political maneuvers. Their plan was to try to secure the legitimacy of apartheid South Africa by getting Mandela to agree to freedom and citizenship of the sham Republic of the Transkei.

Meet the people

Every newsletter will feature people in key roles Cape Town. In this newsletter: Emil Minnaar (Commissioner General); and Howard Green (President of the Jury).



Emil Minnaar is internationally known as South Africa’s representative at the FIP. He is the winner of many awards for services to philately in South Africa including our top award, the Skinner Cup in 2004. An accomplished exhibitor, he has won gold at national and international levels. He regularly represents South Africa at international events as commissioner or juror. In 2008 he was invited to sign the Honour Role of Distinguished South African Philatelists.

Mr Emil Minnaar



Howard was the Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Johannesburg 2010 International Stamp Show and President of the Jury. He has served as a juror Nationally and Internationally on many occasions since qualifying as an International FIP juror in Canada in 1996. He is a multiple gold medal winner at both national and international level. In 1993 he was invited to sign the Honour Role of Distinguished South African Philatelists.

Mr Howard Green

Venue and key dates

The venue for the show is the Cape Town International Convention Centre 2 (<https://www.cticc.co.za/>). It is within walking distance of the exhibit hotel, the Southern Sun Cullinan. Check out the official website for Cape Town tourism for more information on accommodation and tourism options: <https://www.capetown.travel/>

You will find everything that you need to know about the Cape Town Exhibition itself on our website: www.capetown2021.org. But in case you haven’t visited it yet, here are the dates you need to diarize.

1. 15 May 2021: all entry forms (except literature) to be received by commissioners
2. 31 May 2021: all entries sent by National Commissioners to Commissioner General

3. 30 June 2021: National Commissioners advised of entries accepted for exhibition
4. 15 July 2021: National Commissioners to have advised successful entrants
5. 31 July 2021: Invoices for entries sent to National Commissioners
6. 30 August 2021: Payment due and selection of international jury
7. 1 October 2021: last date for receipt of literature entries
8. 9 November 2021: exhibition opens
9. 13 November 2021: exhibition closes