

A Typology of Botswana Meter Marks

Background

Botswana is a country located in southern Africa (see Figure 1) and currently has a population of approximately 1.65 million. Although postage meter machines have only used in Botswana since 1970, meters are an important means of marking postage paid on envelopes in the country which is located in southern Africa). This exhibit provides a classification and examples of the meter marks used in Botswana. Each group of meter marks is shown together on the following pages. The basis of the groupings is explained below.

Prior to Independence in 1966, Botswana was known as the Bechuanaland Protectorate. Other countries in the region, such as South Africa and the Rhodesias were issuing meter licences as early as the 1920's. However, Bechuanaland / Botswana remained largely undeveloped until the 1970's, influencing the lack of demand for franking licences.

History


There is no evidence that postal franking machines were used prior to independence, although as indicated in Figure 2, a drawing of

Figure 2: Assay of Proposed Meter Mark for Bechuanaland Protectorate



Figure 1: Location of Botswana

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STAMP DESIGN BECHUANALAND -SIMPLEX		DRAWING NO. L1267B	
NEXT ASSEMBLY		ISSUES.	
		1	17-7-57
		2	L1267C. REMOVED 24-2-67 61/047
STANDARD BLANK S.5272A			
GENERAL DEPTH OF ETCHING OR ENGRAVING 030"/.035"			
DRAWN BY:- LJS		THIS DRAWING NOT TO BE SCALED.	
THIRD ANGLE PROJECTION.		No. PER MACHINE -	
TOLERANCES UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED -		DRAWING NO. L1267B	
THREE PLACE DECIMALS 2 .003		ECCENTRICITY SCREW MACHINE WORK .003	
TWO PLACE DECIMALS 2 .010		GEARS GRINDING .002	
FRACTIONAL 2 1/64		GRINDING .001	
ANGULAR 2 1°		GRINDING .001	
BREAK ALL CORNERS .005 TO .015		GRINDING .001	
45° ANGLE ON CHAMFERS NOT DIMENSIONED		GRINDING .001	
UNIVERSAL POSTAL FRANKERS LTD. FRANKPOST WORKS. ANGEL ROAD. EDMONTON. LONDON N1R			
From an article entitled 'Meter Marks' by John Inglefield-Watson. Cutting off of top and bottom is due to quality of photocopy available.			

a frank die from Universal Postal Frankers Ltd. in London UK in 1957, their use was under consideration during the Protectorate period. An article by John Inglefield-Watson (1991) states that "It has been reported that in May 1963 the Postmaster of the Protectorate wrote in reply to a query, that were no machines were then in use, but applications for their introduction (makes unknown) were in hand."

While there is no formal record of the first meter franking that was issued, research to date indicates that the first meter licence was number UA1 issued to Standard Bank of Botswana in Gaborone and dated 13 November 1970 (see Figure 3). This mark was created by a Universal MV 'Automax' machine from Universal Postal Frankers Ltd. The production of this model of machine is "stated to have ceased in 1960" (Inglefield-Watson, 1991), which in conjunction with the drawing of the frank die noted above would make the earlier use of meter machines in Botswana seen more likely.



Figure 3: Franking of First Meter Mark Issued in Botswana

Issue dates for the first 30 or so licences in Botswana are unknown. The only file record from the 1970's and 1980's remaining at Botswana Post is the original licence number issue list, which does not contain this information. Also, as company names changed or the licence was handed from the original holder to another, the Post Office made the revisions to the list using opaque correction fluid, obscuring the information underneath. Fortunately, this has affected less than 10% of the records. Some dates have been established from correspondence from the Post Office's 1992 contact effort. The Post Office has retained all files related to this effort and all files since Post Office records that exist do not list issue dates, so it is not possible to identify the implementation of the first meter licences. It is only possible to estimate dates on the basis of earliest seen dates.

From commencement, meter licences were issued nationwide as evidenced through the issuing of the following licences:

- licence number 2 to Central District Council in Serowe,
- licence number 3 to Botswana Business Machines in Francistown,
- licence number 4 to Standard Bank in Maun,
- licence number 6 to Botswana Power Corporation in Francistown, and
- licence number 7 was issued to Botswana Game Industries in Francistown.

Current usage of postage meters in more remote communities, such as Ghanzi, Tsabong and Hukuntsi tends to be the result of District Council use.

In countries other than Botswana, the meter licence prefix usually indicates the meter machine make and or model. In Botswana, after an early attempt to assign prefixes, postal authorities seem to have settled on the universal prefix 'R' for all meters fielded in the country (Hawkins and Stambaugh, 2005). In addition to the 'R' prefix, other prefixes issued on early licences include 'UA' on licence number 1 for Standard Bank, 'H' on licence number 51 for Jwaneng Mine, 'P' on licence number 91 for First National Bank, 'J' on licence numbers 700 and 713 (which are unusual, non-sequential licence numbers), and 'G' on licence number 148 for the Botswana Medical Aid Society.

Circa 2003 / 2004, BotswanaPost required that all meter franking machines become digital allowing for refilling of funds via modem. This necessitated the replacement of virtually all the meter franking machines in the country and BotswanaPost began a new system of licencing numbers. These new licences are prefixed with the letters “BP” followed by a five digit number. The numbers are broken up into two groups starting at 06000 and 065000.

In addition, the Botswana Medical Aid Society meter mark, dated 10 April 1995 is printed in blue despite all meters in Botswana and elsewhere being typically printed in red. This does not seem to be a provisional issue, as their licence was granted on 11 June 1992.

The Number of Meter Licences Issued

In 1992, all licence holders were contacted by Botswana Post in order to confirm whether the issued licences were still in use. While a number responded that either they had never purchased a meter machine or that their machine had ceased functioning, no further action was taken by the Post Office.

In March 1999, a similar contacting exercise was undertaken, which determined that a total of 232 licence numbers had been issued.. At that time, licences not being used were designated for re-assignment. This resulted in 75 old licence numbers becoming available for re-use. However, research from Post Office files and secondary sources appears to indicate that a few licence numbers changed hands before the Post Office began re-issuing expired numbers in mid-1999.

Including the re-issued numbers, a total of 327 licences had been granted by August 2002. Circa 2003 / 2004, BotswanaPost required that all meter franking machines become digital allowing for refilling of funds via modem. This necessitated the replacement of virtually all the meter franking machines in the country and BotswanaPost began a new system of licencing numbers.

Under the new systems, 48 new licence holders have been identified, although based on the licence numbers issued there could be up to 170 licences issued.

Basis of the Typology

This typology is based on the design of the meter prints, as the simplest means of classification. Using the type of machine as a basis of differentiation was attempted and abandoned due to difficulties in identifying which machines made which marks and the realization that multiple makes of machines made the same mark. It was not possible to adopt the popular practice of identifying meter mark types by meter licence prefixes, which in other countries often denote the manufacturer of the machine. In Botswana, after limited early attempts to assign prefixes based on machine types, all meter licences are prefixed with an 'R' giving no indication of the manufacturer or the machine type. This however has recently changed with the introduction of the “BP” prefix (see type 21).

This typology is based on the examination of 12 different aspects of the meter mark design. Figure 4 provides definitions of some of the terms used to describe meter marks in the typology.

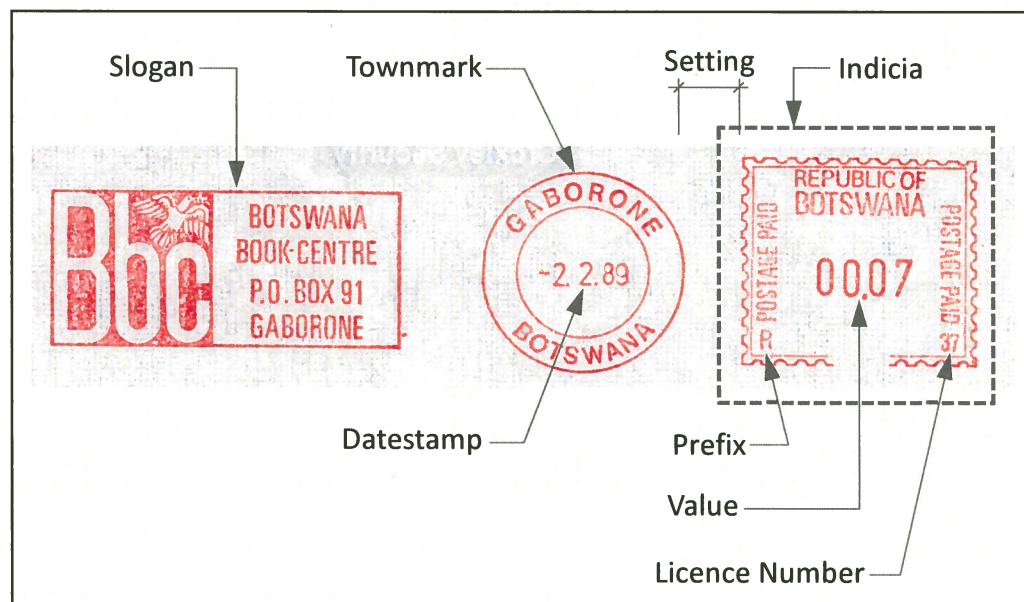


Figure 4: Parts of a Meter Mark

Figure 5 illustrates the numbering system used to define the different meter marks. The criteria used to define different **Groups**, **Varieties** and **Types** are described below and in Figure 6. While the differences in types and varieties as defined by terms such as “immediately apparent differences” or “subtle variations” are subjective in nature, the typology is visually based and reference to the images of the marks shown in the typology will assist greatly in the recognition of the various types and varieties.

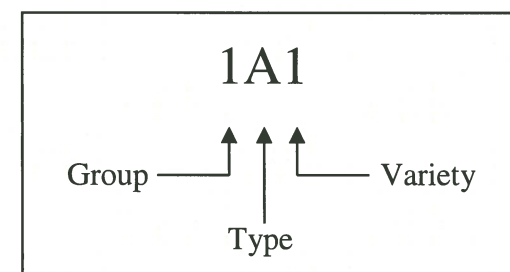


Figure 5: Typology Number Components

A **group** is a set of meter prints with a common basic shape, which sets them apart from all *other* prints. Groups are defined by marked differences in the indicia frame style. Groups are designated by the first number in the typology.

A **type** is a meter print, which differs from others in its group by major differences in design. Types are defined by one or a combination of variations in the following aspects:

- the size of the indicia;
- the size of the setting;
- the frame style; and/or
- the inscription wording.

Types are designated by the letter in the typology number.

A variety is a meter print that has minor differences in design from others within its type. The differences are not always obvious at a hasty glance, but easily distinguished from all other varieties upon examination. Varieties are defined by one or a combination of the following:

- differences in the number of the circle(s) forming the townmark;
- the presence of text in the bottom of the townmark;
- the value format;
- the inscription positioning;
- the inscription sizing/boldness;
- the date layout; and/or
- the date text size.

Varieties are designated by the number following the letter.

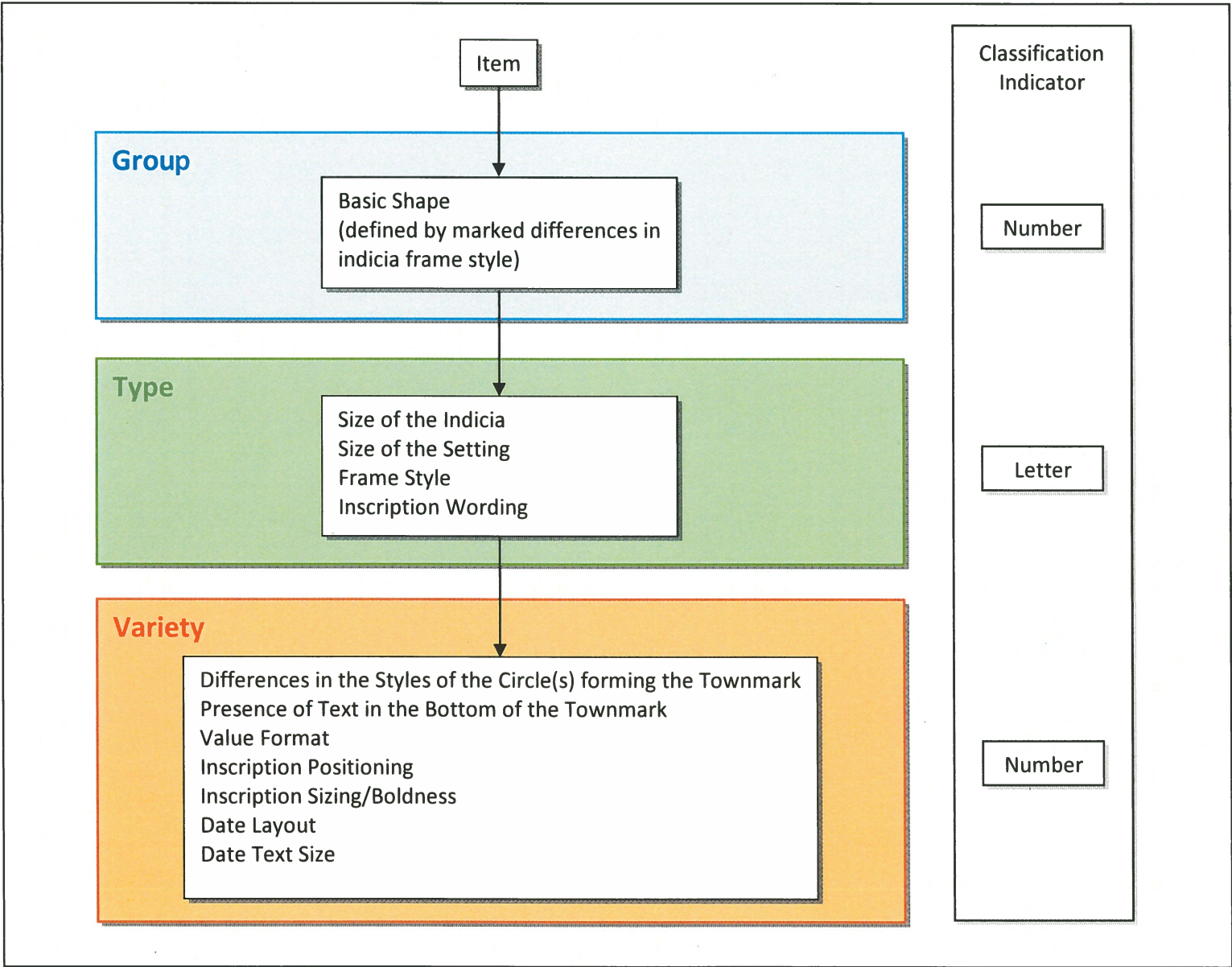


Figure 6: Basis of Differentiation

Figure 7 describes the layout of the tables used in the exhibit to describe the differences in the meter marks within a group. Subtle differences in some marks as explained by the endnotes on the last page of the exhibit.

A Note on Currency

At the time of independence in 1966, Botswana was a member of the Rand Monetary Area (RMA) and the South African Rand served as the national currency. The Rand is the main unit of currency and is comprised of 100 cents. However, with the decision in 1974 to withdraw from the RMA, the country was committed to introducing a new currency.

The new national currency, the Pula as the main unit of currency comprised of 100 thebe, was launched on August 23, 1976 and therefore covers on this exhibit from prior to that date are denominated in Rand.

Regarding the name of the currency, the choice of Pula (meaning ‘rain’ or ‘blessings’) as the basic unit made up of 100 thebe (‘shield’ or ‘strength’) was overwhelmingly supported by a poll of public opinion. Thomas de la Rue and Company, a well known printer of stamps was chosen to design and supply the banknotes.

Organization of the Exhibit

As per Figure 8, these first row and a half of Frame 1 of the exhibit explain a typology that was developed for the classification of the Meter Marks of Botswana. The remainder of the exhibit provides examples of the various types of marks. For each type, the user of the licence number used to illustrate the mark is named and described. Information on the rate is also provided.

Meter Type Number	Aspects that determine type				Aspects that determine variety							Machine Type
	Size of Indicia	Size of Setting	Frame Style	Inscription Wording	Townmark Circles	Text in Bottom of Townmark	Value Format	Inscription Positioning	Inscription Sizing/Boldness	Date Layout	Date Text Size	
1A1	25 x 24 mm	16 mm	1	1	Double	Yes	.00=	1	1	1	1	Universal/Pitney Bowes "Automax" (MV)
1A2	25 x 24 mm	16 mm	1	1	Double	Yes	=0.00	1	1	1	1	
1B1	21 x 21 mm	29 mm	2	1	Double	Yes	3, 4, 5, 10¢(vals. seen)	1	2	1	2	Universal/Pitney Bowes "Simplex" (LV)
2A1	20 x 28 mm	7 mm	1	1	Double	No	0,00	1	1	1	1	
2A2	19 x 26 mm	6 mm	1	1	Double	No	0.00	2 ^b	2	1	1	
2A3	18 x 28 mm	7 mm	1	1	Double	No	0.00	1	1	1	1	

Figure 7: Layout of the Typology Table Used in the Exhibit

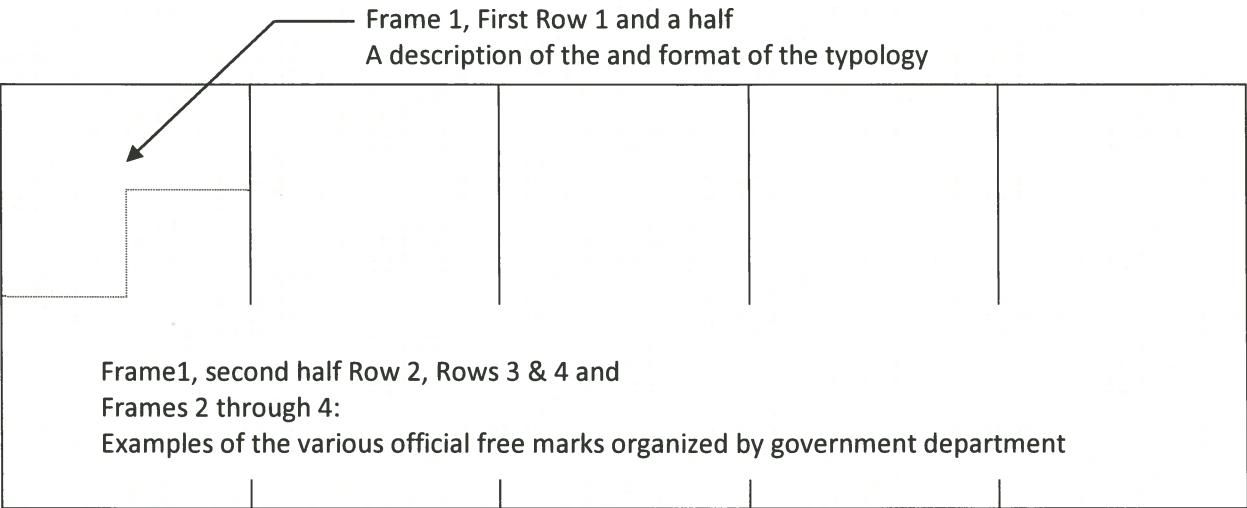


Figure 8: Organization of the Exhibit

Group 1

Meter Type Number	Size of Indicia	Size of Setting	Frame Style	Inscription Wording	Townmark Circles	Text in Bottom of Townmark	Value Format	Inscription Positioning	Inscription Sizing/Boldness	Date Layout	Date Text Size	Machine Type
1A1	25 x 24 mm	16 mm	1	1	Double	Yes	.00=	1	1	1	1	Universal/Pitney Bowes "Automax" (MV)
1A2	25 x 24 mm	16 mm	1	1	Double	Yes	=0.00	1	1	1	1	
1B1	21 x 21 mm	29 mm	2	1	Double	Yes	3, 4, 5, 10¢(vals. seen)	1	2	1	2	Universal/Pitney Bowes "Simplex" (LV)

Type 1A1

Lic. No. UA2, Standard Bank, Mahalapye

Cover dated 20 February 1973 from Mahalapye to Braamfontein South Africa paying 3 cents, the rate for surface mail letters up to 30g posted to countries within the African Postal Union.

After two unsuccessful attempts at establishing a presence in the country in 1897 and 1934 (see Type 7C2 for more information), the Standard Bank opened a location in 1950 at Lobatse as a sub-branch to Mafeking and has continued operating in Botswana ever since. This branch in Mahalapye opened 1963. This bank provided the country of Bechuanaland and its independent incarnation, Botswana, government banking services until 1977, when these functions were taken over by a central bank (see Types 10A1 and 21B1).



Type 1A2

Lic. No. R13, Bamangwato Concessions Limited, Selebi-Phikwe

Cover dated 14 January 1974 from Selbi-Phikwe to Braamfontein South Africa paying 4 cents, the correct rate for airmail letters up to 20g posted to other countries within the African Postal Union.

Prospecting by Bamangwato Concessions Limited commenced in the area in 1959 leading to the discovery of the copper and nickel orebody in the Selebi area in 1963. In 1966, higher grade ore was discovered at Phikwe. The smelter was commissioned in November 1973 and produces "matte" containing Nickel, Copper, and Cobalt and to a smaller extent precious and platinum group metals for further refinement. Bamangwato Concessions Limited was the second largest private sector employer in the country with a labour force over 4,200. Unfortunately, the mine closed in 2013, creating extensive unemployment in the area.



Type 1B1

Lic. No. S1, Botswana Book Centre, Gaborone

Cover dated 14 October 1971 from Gaborone to Braamfontein South Africa paying 3 cents, the rate for surface mail letters up to 30g posted to countries within the African Postal Union.

The Botswana Book Centres history can be traced back to the times of the Kuruman Press of the London Missionary Society in 1826. In 1958, the bookroom, as it was then called, was moved from Kuruman in South Africa to new premises in Lobatse where it operated as the Bechuanaland Book Centre. In 1966, the bookstore moved to the newly established capital at Gaborone where it was renamed the Botswana Book Centre. See also Types 7C1 and 10B3. Note the currency symbol "c" for cents (1/100th of a Rand) in the value setting. This is the only meter mark with this symbol of which the exhibitor is aware.



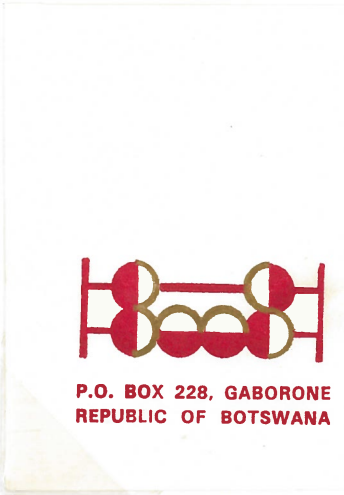
Group 2

Meter Type Number	Size of Indicia	Size of Setting	Frame Style	Inscription Wording	Townmark Circles	Text in Bottom of Townmark	Value Format	Inscription Positioning	Inscription Sizing/Boldness	Date Layout	Date Text Size	Machine Type
2A1	20 x 28 mm	7 mm	1	1	Double	No	0,00	1	1	1	1	Roneo Neopost "205" (MV)
2A2	19 x 26 mm	6 mm	1	1	Double	No	0.00	2 ^b	2	1	1	
2A3	19 x 28 mm	7 mm	1	1	Double	No	0 00	1	1	1	1	
2A4	19 x 28 mm	6 mm	1	1	Double	No	0,00	4	3 ^d	1	1	
2A5	19 x 28 mm	8 mm	1	1	Double ^a	No	0,00	5	4 ^d	1	1	
2B1	19 x 24 mm	6 mm	1	1	Double	No	0-00 -	3 ^c	5 ^d	1	1	
2B2	20 x 24 mm	6 mm	1	1	Double	No	0,00	3	6 ^d	1	1	
2C1	17 x 25 mm	8 mm	1	1	Double	No	0,00	1	7 ^d	1	1	

Type 2A1

Lic. No. R11, Botswana Business Machine Service Limited, Gaborone
Cover dated 30 June 1976 from Gaborone to Braamfontein South Africa paying 6 cents, the rate for airmail letters up to 20g posted to South Africa.

Botswana Business Machine Services (Pty) Limited opened in 1970 selling office equipment, furniture, stationery, air conditioning, carpeting, office partitioning, printers, copiers, engineering, surveying and support / maintenance. During the 70s, BBMS was the major player in the office equipment / furniture business and opened branches in Francistown and Lobatse.



Type 2A2

Lic. No. R7, Botswana Game Industries, Francistown
Cover dated 19 May 1981 from Francistown to Gaborone paying 6 thebe, which is the rate for printed papers above 20g up to 50g posted within Botswana. However, as this does not seem to meet the typical definition of printed papers, i.e. books, magazines, newspapers, brochures, etc. Therefore, this could be an overpayment of 1t of the rate for letters up to 20g.

The wildlife processing industry was located in Francistown, the nearest town to the northern game parks when the Botswana Game Industries (BGI), a private company, was established in 1968. By 1979, BGI had 130 employees from rural villages around Francistown. Increased demand led to BGI expanding and opening branches across the country including Kasane, Maun, Palapye, processing game products for export to South Africa, Germany and the United States of America. Botswana Game Industries became Botswanas first publicly traded company.

Philatelic Bureau,
ep. of Postal Services
P.O. Box 100,
GABORONE

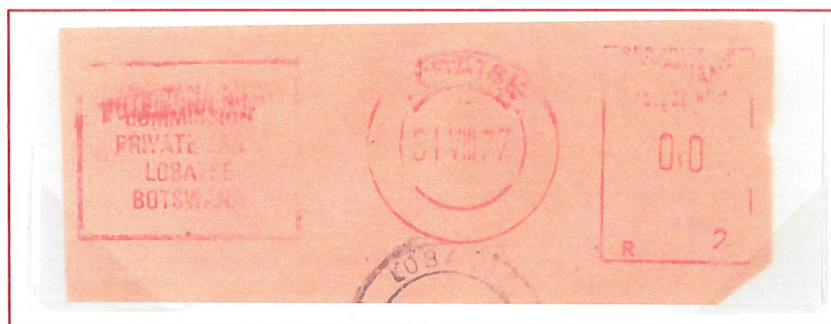


Type 2A3

R10, University of Botswana and Swaziland, Gaborone

Cover dated 23 October 1980 from Gaborone to Wetherby Great Britain paying 30 thebe, the rate for airmail letters up to 20g posted to Europe.

This university, originally called the University of Bechuanaland, Basutoland and Swaziland, was founded in 1964 as the outcome of an agreement reached in 1962 between the High Commission Territories and the Oblate of Mary Immaculate of Pius XII Catholic University, Roma, Lesotho.. It was established to provide tertiary education for black Africans outside of the apartheid era South Africa. In 1966, Bechuanaland and Basutoland gained independence becoming Botswana and Lesotho respectively. In 1975, Lesotho withdrew from the partnership and the university continued as the University of Botswana and Swaziland until 1982 when those two countries established their own universities. Further information on the university can be found at Type 8A3.3



Type 2A4

Photocopy

R2, Botswana Meat Commission, Lobatse

Photocopy of cut piece from a cover dated 31 August 1977 from Lobatse to an unknown destination. Rate is indecipherable.

The first abattoir was built in Lobatse in 1931 by the Imperial Cold Storage and Supply Company, but had to close 6 years later. The abattoir was rebuilt by the Colonial Development Corporation (see Type 14A3) in 1954 and Bechuanaland Abattoirs limited was set up to manage the plant. At independence in 1966, the new government transitioned Bechuanaland Abattoirs to the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) and was made solely responsible for the slaughter and marketing of all beef exports from the country. Additional abattoirs were established in Maun and Francistown in 1983 and 1989 respectively. In the early years of Botswanas development as an independent nation, beef export was the only foreign exchange earner.



Type 2A5

Photocopy

R30, Barclays Bank Botswana Ltd., Mahalapye

Photocopy of cut piece dated 20 August 1977 from Gaborone to unknown destination within Botswana as determined by the value mark of 4 thebe, the rate at the time for surface mail letters up to 20g posted within Botswana.

Historically, the banking sector in Botswana was relatively small, and dominated by Barclays Bank (see Types 2A5, 4B1, 9A2, 12B1, 13C1, and 20A1) and Standard Bank (see Types 1A1 and 7C2). Both of these banks operations in Botswana date back to the 1950s and were originally run as branches of the groups South African subsidiaries. Mahalapye was first served by a Barclays Bank agency from Palapye, a town about 75 km. north until 1963 when a full-fledged branch opened in the community. Mahalapye lies midway along the rail line between Mafikeng, South Africa, and Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, which was developed as the main transportation route through the country in the 1890s.

Type 2B1

Lic. No. J706, Unknown Company, Gaborone

Cover dated 2 July 1988. While the datestamp in this mark has only one digit denoting the year, the postmark indicates that the mark was imprinted in 1988. The cover is from Gaborone to an unknown destination within Botswana as determined by the value mark of 8 thebe, the rate at the time for surface mail letters up to 20g posted within Botswana.

This is an unusual mark as it uses the prefix "J" for the licence number. The exhibition has seen a total of three marks that have the prefix "J". Licence numbers include 700, 706 and 713. The dates for these marks span 1972 to 1988. Unfortunately, the exhibitor has found no records indicating any information about any companies that use this type of mark or prefix. Also, the datestamp in this mark has only one digit denoting the year, however postmark indicates that the mark was imprinted in 1988.

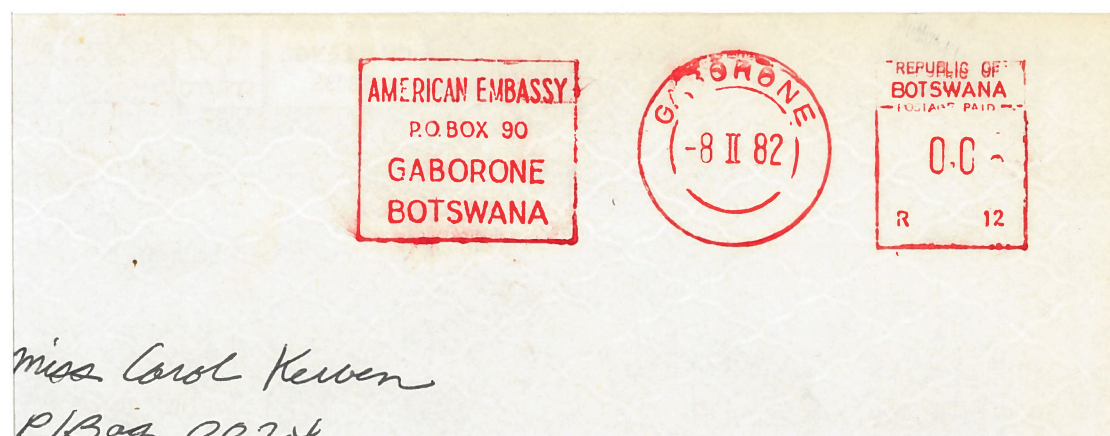


Type 2B2

Lic. No. R12, American Embassy, Gaborone

Cover dated 8 February 1982 from Gaborone to destination within city with undecipherable rate, assumed to be 5 thebe, the rate at the time for surface mail letters up to 20g posted within Botswana.

Diplomatic relations were established between the United States and Botswana on September 30, 1966, Botswana Independence Day, when the American Embassy at Gaborone was established. Botswana was front-line state during South Africa's Apartheid era and received support from many nations including the US during this time. The United States considers Botswana an excellent partner and an advocate of and model for stability in Africa. See also Type 9G2.



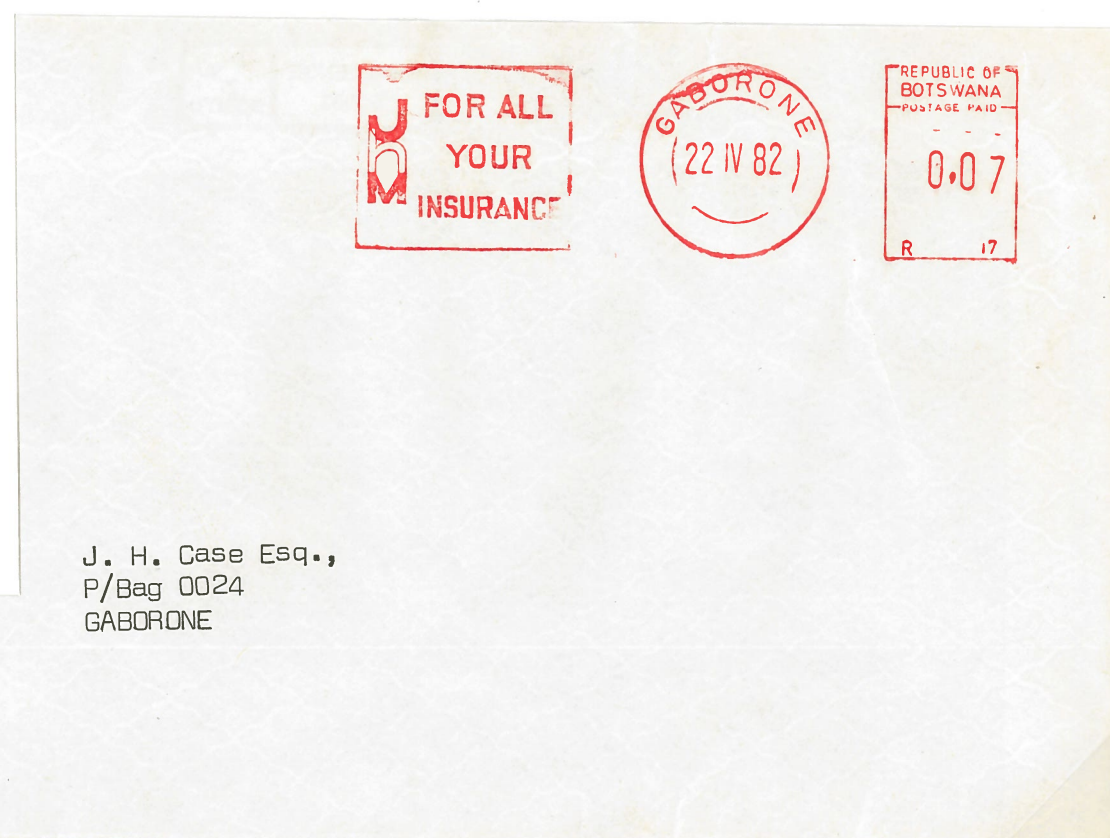
Type 2C1

Lic. No. R17, JHM Insurance, Gaborone

Cover dated 22 April 1982 from Gaborone to destination within city, rated at 7 thebe, the rate for surface mail letters up to 20g posted within Botswana.

J.H. Minet Insurance, a branch of a large international Lloyds registered re-insurer of the same name was established in 1970., becoming the first resident Insurance Broker in the newly Independent Country. The Botswana Development Corporation (a government owned finance corporation established to promote and finance development in the newly formed country, see 14A3) took a shareholding of 25% of the firm in Botswana to establish an insurance broking company in Botswana.

In 1975, the company joined with the Botswana Development Corporation to form the Botswana Insurance Company for the purpose of transacting general and life assurance business. The Botswana Development Corporation was a 51% shareholder and Minets held 49% of the new business.



Group 3

Meter Type Number	Size of Indicia	Size of Setting	Frame Style	Inscription Wording	Townmark Circles	Text in Bottom of Townmark	Value Format	Inscription Positioning	Inscription Sizing/Boldness	Date Layout	Date Text Size	Machine Type
3A1	19 x 26 mm	7 mm	1	1	Double	No	00,0	1	1	1	1	Roneo Neopost "2205" (MV) or Ascom Hasler System "120" (MV) Neopost "505" (MV)
3B1	21 x 26 mm	16 mm	1	1	Double	No	00,00	2	2	2	1	

Type 3B1

Lic. No. R52, Teletswana, Gaborone

Cover dated 26 January 1982 from Gaborone to destination within city, rated at 10 thebe, the rate for surface mail letters above 50g up to 100g posted within Botswana.

Teletswana is the trading name of the Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC), which was established in 1980 to provide, develop, operate and manage Botswana's national and international telecommunications services. BTC is a wholly government owned parastatal corporation. BTC was the only telecommunications provider in Botswana until 1996 when an amendment of the Botswana Telecommunications Corporation Act removed the monopoly of BTC and allowed indirect competition from two cellular companies, MASCOM and Orange Botswana. See also Types 4D1, 9A3, and 15A1.

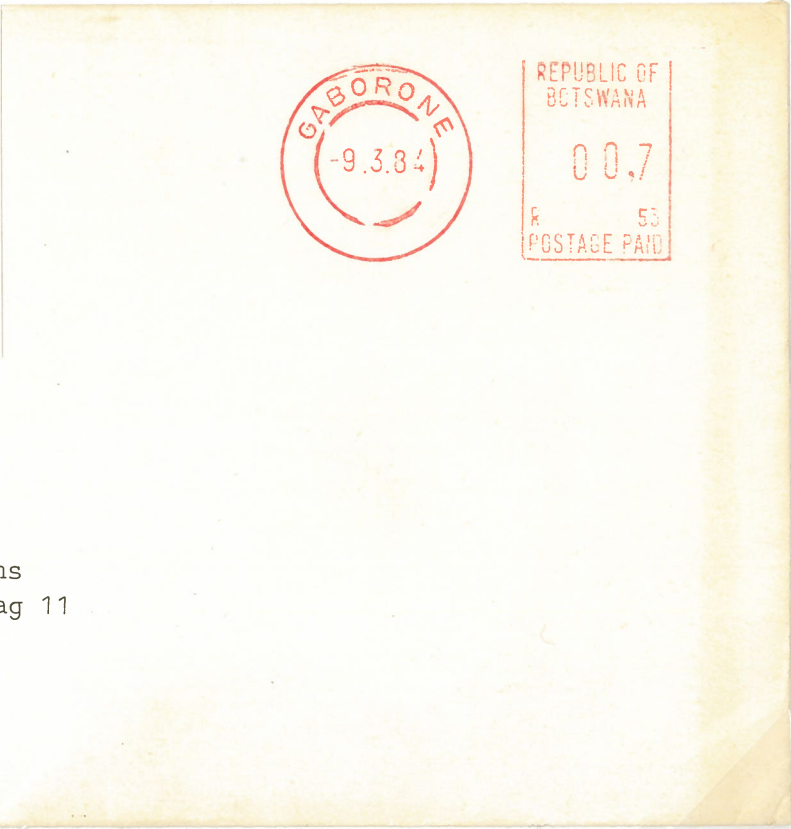


Type 3A1

Lic. No. R53, Associated Insurance Brokers, Gaborone

Cover dated 9 March 1984 from Gaborone to Kanye, rated at 7 thebe, the rate for surface mail letters up to 20g posted within Botswana.

In the early 1980s, the Botswana Insurance Company (see Types 9C2), the Financial Services Company of Botswana and Minet Botswana (see Type 2C1) merged with the Insurance Brokers of Botswana and began trading as Associated Insurance Brokers. Associated Insurance Brokers existed until 2001, when it was taken over by AON Holdings, a global insurance brokers.



Group 4

Meter Type Number	Size of Indicia	Size of Setting	Frame Style	Inscription Wording	Townmark Circles	Text in Bottom of Townmark	Value Format	Inscription Positioning	Inscription Sizing/Boldness	Date Layout	Date Text Size	Machine Type
4A1	23 x 25 mm	6 mm	1	1	Double	No	0,00	1	1	1	1	Roneo Neopost "2205" (MV)
4A2	22 x 25 mm	6 mm	1	1	Double	No	0,00	2	1	1	1	Roneo Neopost "2205" (MV) or
4B1	27 x 28 mm	13 mm	1	1	Double	No	≈0,00	1	2	1	1	Ascom Hasler System "120" (MV)
4C1	27 x 27 mm	13 mm	1	2	Double	Yes	≈0,00	1	2	1	1	
4D1	29 x 23 mm	12 mm	1	3	Double	No	00,00	3	3	2	1	Neopost "505"

Type 4A1

Lic. No. R95, Sefalana, Gaborone

Cover dated 17 January 1992 from Gaborone to unknown destination within the country, based on rate of 8 thebe, the rate for surface mail letters up to 20g posted within Botswana.

Sefalana Group, "Botswanas Bountiful Granary" is a large grocery retailer and wholesaler. The company came into existence in 1974 as a result of a takeover of Bechmalt Holdings Limited, a South African company consisting of 6 wholesale units and a maize mill. It was the first company to list on the Botswana Stock Exchange in 1979. After more than 40 years of operation in a highly changeable business environment, the Group remains the only listed company without a controlling shareholder.



Type 4A2

Lic. No. R121, Kgalagadi Plastic Industries (Pty) Limited, Gaborone

Cover dated 1 August 1991 from Gaborone to unknown destination within the country, based on rate of 8 thebe, the rate for surface mail letters up to 20g posted within Botswana.

Kgalagadi Plastic Industries opened its flexible plastic packaging operation in Gaborone in 1982, supplying customers in South Africa and Zimbabwe. In 1986, the company expanded into South Africa.

Kgalagadi Plastic Industries is a manufacturer of plastic bags and uses about 10% recycled pellets in its production process. Half of this amount originates from its own recycling unit in which clean plastic process waste is recycled into pellets.

