

## SELECTED POSTAL RATES OF BOTSWANA

Compiled by Peter Thy (November 1991)

### 1. Introduction

The following tables summarize the development in the postal rates of Botswana as recorded in published governmental documents.

The postal services of Botswana during 1966-1991 have been controlled by the Post Office Proclamation of 1961 and subsequently the Post Office Act of 1980, as reflected in the various editions of the Law of Botswana (Cap. 72:01). Changes are in recent years issued in the form of Post Office Regulations of which the Postal and Franking Regulations control the classes of mail and franking privileges and the Postage and Miscellaneous Charges Regulations control the postal tariffs. The latter were issued in 1971, 1978, 1980, 1982, and 1986 and form the main sources for the present compilation. An additional source of information has been the summaries of postal rates published annually in the telephone directories until 1980.

The transition in the postal services at independence on 30th September 1966 was gradual. Therefore, proclamations and legal notices issued by the Protectorate administration were still in effect in the Republic for a short period. The first postal regulation issued by the Republic appears to have been legal Notice No. 107 of 1966 which regulates the letter rate within Botswana from 3rd January 1967. The next major event in the postal history of Botswana was the change to the metric system in 1971 and followed by the currency reform on 23rd August 1976. In 1974 the African Postal Union and the British Commonwealth disappeared as geographical groupings in the rate system. The African Postal Union was replaced by what here is referred to as Southern Africa. In 1980 the Botswana Posts and Telecommunications Department was reorganized into a governmental Department of Postal Services and the parastatal Telecommunications Corporation. In 1990, the Post Office followed the telecommunications and became an autonomous, commercial organization.

The compilation has been restricted to mail typical of interest to Postal History collectors. Therefore, mail exceeding 100 grams has not been included and some types of mail such as parcels, samples, and small parcels are not covered. Small parcels were introduced in 1975 and samples appeared up to 1975. The ill defined class of commercial papers ceased officially to be in use in 1965, but still appears in the telephone directory listings until 1967. Literature for the blind has had free franking privileges throughout the period covered, but other franking privileges are not covered. A bulk mailing discount of 5% has been in effect at least since 1963 (more than 100 pieces). An express mail service, or Expedited Mail Service (EMS), to domestic and international destinations from Gaborone, Lobatse, Jwaneng, Selebi-Phikwe, Francistown, and Maun has been in effect since 1st October 1990. A letter to Johannesburg currently costs a minimum of P20, to London P30, New York P35, and Australia P48 (up to 500g). The domestic rate is P12.

The dates given are the legal commencements of the particular documents or, if this is unknown, the publication dates. The official dates and rates may differ due to the administrative enforcement of the regulations. A potential example is reflected in the annual stamp pamphlets issued by the Postal Services, which states that the 10t aerogramme is for Africa, 20t for Europe, and 35t for the rest of the world. Table 3 will show that this is not correct. In a similar way, a summary of the postal rates, printed inside covers to booklets of the 1986 definitive stamps, states that the surface letter rate to Africa is 12t, that the surface rate for postcards within Botswana are 8t, and that the airmail letter rate to all parts of Africa is 15t. All these statements are incorrect

according to the present compilation. The compiler believes, until otherwise proven, that these examples are errors, but the possibility remains that they may reflect a common administrative practice in the Postal Services. Another problem appears in the 1986 rates for printed matters, which e.g. gives the 20g rate as 10t, higher than the corresponding letter rate of 8t. An additional note of caution is that printing errors and other mistakes in the printed regulations appear to be common. Where these either can be independently checked or otherwise are obvious, they have been corrected.

Finally, and more interesting, the above mentioned booklets give the rate for open or window envelopes, invoices, receipts etc as 7t. This latter is not the printed paper rate (10t), but the description appears similar to the commercial mail type that legally ceased to be in use in 1965. A commercial letter rate, therefore, may still be in effect despite the fact that legally it has no foundation. Furthermore, this rate is not listed in the current tariffs as issued by the Postal Services or in telephone directory listings, the latter since 1967.

Potentially, the modern postal history of Botswana offers very interesting collecting specialities. There is the possibility that the practice at the Post Office differs from the official tariffs, both in terms of geographic areas, and also in the rates. The general lack of matching between aerogramme denominations and the rate system would be another interesting subject. The usage of these aerogrammes could form the core of a specialized collection. Further, some types of mail must be extremely rare. An example is the 10t printed paper rate within Botswana.

## 2. Surface mail

### 2.1. Letters

I.	African Postal Union (APU) <sup>A</sup>			Commonwealth excl. APU			Other countries		
	1st-oz	Add/oz		1st-oz	Add/oz		1st-oz	Add/oz	
17. Dec. 1965	2.5 c	1c		3.5 c	2 c		5 c	3 c	
3. Jan. 1967	3	1		4	2		5	3	
II.	African Postal Union (APU) <sup>A</sup>			Commonwealth excl. APU			Other countries		
	0-30g	31-60g	61-100g	0-30g	31-60g	61-100g	0-30g	31-60g	61-100g
1. May 1971	3 c	5 c	7 c	4 c	7 c	10 c	7 c	12 c	20 c
III.	Botswana <sup>B</sup>			Southern <sup>A</sup> Africa			Other countries		
	0-20g	21-50g	51-100g	0-20g	21-50g	51-100g	0-20g	21-50g	51-100g
1. May 1975	4 c	6 c	8 c	4 c	6 c	8 c	10 c	15 c	25 c
5. Nov. 1978	5 t	8 t	10 t	5 t	8 t	10 t	15 t	25 t	30 t
1. Dec. 1980	6	9	12	7	10	13	20	-[1]	40
1. Apr. 1982	7	11	14	8	12	20	25	-	45
1. Apr. 1986	8	12	15	12	15	35	25	-	55

[1] The meaning of the bar for the 21-50g rate to other countries is not clear.

## 2.2. Postcards

I.-II.	African Postal Union (APU) <sup>A</sup>	Commonwealth excl. APU	Other countries
17. Dec. 1965	2 c	2.5 c	3 c
3. Jan. 1967	2	3	3
1. May 1971	2	3	4
III.	Botswana <sup>B</sup>	Southern <sup>A</sup> Africa	Other countries
1. May 1975	3 c	3 c	6 c
5. Nov. 1978	4 t	4 t	10 t
1. Dec. 1980	5	5	12
1. Apr. 1982	5	6	15
1. Apr. 1986	7	15	20

## 2.3. Printed Papers

I.	African Postal Union (APU) <sup>A</sup>	Commonwealth excl. APU	Other countries
	1st-2oz Add/4oz	1st-2oz Add/2oz	1st-2oz Add/2oz
17. Dec. 1965	1 c 1c	2 c 1 c	2.5 c 1 c
3. Jan. 1967	1 1	2 1	2 1
II.	African Postal Union (APU) <sup>A</sup>	Commonwealth excl. APU	Other countries
	0-30g 31-100g	0-30g 31-100g	0-30g 31-100g
1. May 1971	2 c 3 c	3 c 4 c	4 c 5 c
III.	Botswana <sup>B</sup>	Southern <sup>A</sup> Africa	Other countries
	0-20g 21-50g 51-100g	0-20g 21-50g 51-100g	0-20g 21-50g 51-100g
1. May 1975	3 c 4 c 8 c	3 c 4 c 8 c	7 c 10 c 15 c
5. Nov. 1978	4 t 6 t 8 t	4 t 6 t 8 t	8 t 12 t 17 t
1. Dec. 1980	5 8 10	5 8 10	10 -[1] 20
1. Apr. 1982	6 9 12	6 9 12	12 - 25
1. Apr. 1986	10 12 15	12 15 25	15 - 35

[1] The meaning of the bar for the 21-50g rate to other countries is not clear.

## 2.4. Newspapers

I. To 1 lb	African Postal Union (APU) <sup>A</sup>	Commonwealth excl. APU	Other countries	
	Pr. 8oz	Pr. 2oz	1st-2oz	Add/2oz
17. Dec. 1965	1 c	2 c	2 c	1 c [1]
II. To 100 g	African Postal Union (APU) <sup>A</sup>	Commonwealth excl. APU	Other countries	
1. May 1971	2 c	5 c	7 c	
1. May 1975	This class of mail no longer in used [2]			

[1] The additional 1 c per oz rate to other countries ceases to be listed in the telephone directory listings from 1968.

[2] Newspapers are mailed as printed papers. However, note that the telephone directory listings include newspapers until 1980 for the rates 2 c, 7 c, 7 c, respectively.

## 2.5. Commercial mail

I.	African Postal Union (APU) [A]	Other countries
	Per 2 oz	Per 2 oz
14. Feb. 1961	1 c	1.5 c (minimum 5 c)
17. Dec. 1965	This class of mail is no longer in use [1]	

[1] This class of mail is listed in the telephone directories until 1967.

## 3. Airmail

I.-III.	Bot- swana	APU/ S-ern Africa	Rest Africa	Europe	Near/ Middle East	Indian Region	Americas	Rest World
	[B]	[A]	[C]	[D]	[E]	[F]	[G]	[H]
12. Dec. 1963 (pr. 0.5 oz) [1]								
Letters		3.5 c	10 c	15 c	12.5 c	17.5 c	22.5 c	25 c
Postcards		2.5	5	7.5	7	9	12	12.5
Aerogrammes		2.5	5	5	5	5	10	10
Printed Papers			4	6	5	7.5	10	10
3. Jan. 1967 (pr. 0.5 oz) [2]								
Letters	4	4	10	15	15	20	25	25
Postcards	3	3	5	7	7	10	12	12
Aerogrammes	3	3	7	7	7	7	10	10
Printed Papers			4	5	5	7	10	10

### 3. Airmail continued...

	Botswana	APU/ S-ern Africa	Rest Africa	Europe	Near/ Middle East	Indian Region	Americas	Rest World
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#### 1. May 1971 (pr. 20 g) [3]

Letters	4	4	15	20	20	30	35	35
Postcards	3	3	5	7	7	12	15	15
Aerogrammes	3	3	7	7	7	10	10	10
Printed Papers	2	2	6	7	7	15	15	15

#### 1. May 1975 (pr. 20 g) [4]

Letters	6 c	6 c	20 c	25 c	25 c	35 c	40 c	40 c
Postcards	4	4	7	10	10	15	20	20
Aerogrammes	5	5	10	10	10	15	15	15
Printed Papers	4	4	8	10	10	20	20	20

#### 5. Nov. 1978 (pr. 20 g) [5]

Letters	10 t	25 t	30 t	35 t	45 t	45 t	45 t	45 t
Postcards	6	10	12	12	18	22	22	22
Aerogrammes	7	15	15	20	20	20	20	20
Printed Papers	6	10	12	15	22	22	22	22

#### 1. Dec. 1980 (pr. 10 g) [5]

Letters	8	20	20	30	30	30	30	30
Postcards	7	12	15	15	22	22	22	25
Aerogrammes	7	20	20	25	25	25	25	25
Printed Papers	5	12	12	15	15	15	15	15

#### 1. April 1982 (pr. 10 g) [3]

Letters	10	25	25	35	35	35	35	35
Postcards	8	15	20	20	25	25	25	28
Aerogrammes	10	22	23	30	30	30	30	30
Printed Papers	7	15	15	20	20	20	20	20

#### 1. April 1986 (pr. 10 g) [6]

Letters	12	15	28	30	40	40	40	40
Postcards	8	15	20	25	25	25	25	25
Aerogrammes	10	15	25	30	35	35	35	35
Printed Papers	10	10	20	25	25	25	25	25

- [1] Maximum weight for letters and printed papers. The exception is APU (excl. Bechuanaland), where letter rates are 3.5 c for first oz and 1.5 c pr. additional oz. Rates for Commonwealth Europe is 12.5 c for letters, 7 c for postcards, aerogrammes 5 c, and printed papers 5 c. On 1. March 1966 the letter rate was changed to 15 c, excluding Cyprus and Malta, for which the rates now were for letters 12.5 c, postcards 7 c, aerogrammes 5 c., and printed papers 5 c. Rates to the Far East (see note [H]) are identical to the Americas, while Japan is equal to rest of the world.
- [2] Maximum weight for letters and printed papers. The exception is APU (incl. Botswana), where letter rates are 4 c for first oz and 2 c pr. additional oz.
- [3] Maximum weight for letters and printed papers.
- [4] Maximum weight for letters and printed papers. The telephone directories for 1976-78 give for Botswana and APU the 21-40 g rate as 8 c.
- [5] Maximum weight for letters and printed papers. After 1978, a 5 c aerogramme rate within Botswana is listed in the telephone directories.
- [6] Maximum weight for letters and printed papers. The European aerogramme and printed paper rates are given as 35 c and 50 c, respectively, in the 1986 regulation. The current postal tariffs obtained from the Post Office suggests that this is a printing error.

#### 4. Registration and Express [1]

I.-III.	Registration	Express [2] Botswana	Express [3] Foreign
24. Dec. 1965	5 c	5 c	5 c
1. May 1971	10	10	10
1. May 1975	15	15	15
5. Nov. 1978	20 t	20 t	20 t
1. Dec. 1980	25	20	30
1. Apr. 1982	30	25	35
1. Apr. 1986	40	150	150

[1] Fees in addition to normal rates. The regulations are not always clear concerning express fees.

[2] Additional fee for local delivery is some time applicable (the same amount as the fixed fees but pr. km or mile, often maximum 3 km/mi; exceptions are 1980 where local delivery fees are 30 t/km and 1982 where it is 30 t/km). The extra fee may be paid by the sender or the receiver.

[3] Only certain countries and types of mail.

#### 5. Others [1]

I.-III.	IRC [2] CRC	Aerogramme forms	Registered envelopes small	Registered envelopes large	Postcards
12. Dec. 1963	10, 4 c	1 c	*8.5 c	*9 c	*2.5 c
1. May 1971	10, 6	1	4	5	*3, 1
1. May 1975	20	1	5	6	1
5. Nov. 1978	30 t	*5, *10 t	5 t	6 t	1 t
1. Dec. 1980	35	*7, *15	7		2
1. Apr. 1982	40	*7, *20	7		2
1. Apr. 1986	175	*10, *20, *35	15		2 [3]

[1] Aerogrammes, registered envelopes, and postcards marked by '\*' have imprinted stamps. The 1986 aerogrammes are not listed in the 1986 regulations and may have been issued at a later date.

[2] CRC - Commonwealth Reply Coupons (until 1975); IRC - International Reply Coupons.

[3] In 1991, these postcards are sold at 10 t each.

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## Sources.

H.C.N. - High Commissioner's Notice. G.N. - Government Notice.

L.N. - Legal Notice. S.I. - Statutory Instrument.

Post Office Proclamation No. 43 of 1961.

Post Office Act No. 10 of 1980.

H.C.N. NO. 23 of 1963. G.N. No. 113 of 1963.

L.N. No. 68 of 1965; 16 of 1966; 107 of 1966; 108 of 1966.

S.I. No. 55 of 1971; 49 of 1975; 129 of 1978; 32 of 1980; 36 of 1980; 130 of 1980; 28 of 1982; 31 of 1986.

Postage Stamp Issues. A Guide to Postage Stamps Issues. Department of Postal Services, Gaborone, Botswana, 1988ff.

Schedule of Revised Postal Tariffs, not dated. (Obtained from the main Post Office, Gaborone, June 1991.)

Postage rates. Printed on inside cover of booklets of definitive issues, undated.

EMS International & Domestic Price Tariff 1991.

Bechuanaland Telephone Directory, 1966.

Botswana Telephone Directories, 1967-1980

## General Notes.

- [A] In 1966 the countries of the African Postal Union (APU) comprised: Angola, Bechuanaland (Botswana), Basutoland (Lesotho), Burundi, Congo (Zaire), Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), Mozambique, Swaziland, South Africa, South West Africa (Namibia). From 1974, APU ceases to exist as a geographic area in the rate system and is replaced by what here is referred to as Southern Africa. This geographic area was in 1974 composed of: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Southern Rhodesia, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, South Africa, and South West Africa. In 1978, Angola is dropped from the list and in 1982 Mozambique. This listing is partially based on the telephone directory listings. However, these refer consistently to this geographic area in the rate system as African Postal Union, despite this reference are dropped from the official regulations from 1975.
- [B] During 1978 and 1986 mail within Botswana may have been transported by air without extra payment. However, this is not specifically mentioned in the regulations for 1980 and 1982. Before 1967, apparently no airmail service was, judging from the official listings, available within Bechuanaland or Botswana. On the other hand, the telephone directory listings give airmail rates to Bechuanaland and APU countries (identical). In general, the available information is far from clear concerning domestic airmail.
- [C] Rest of Africa not included under [A], includes Mauritius, Reunion, Seychelles, and Zanzibar (until 1978).
- [D] Europe. From 1967 all countries (see note A), including USSR, islands in the Mediterranean, Azores, Canary, Cape Verde (until 1978), Iceland, and Madeira.
- [E] Near/Middle East. Bahrain, Dubai, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Muscat, Saudi Arabia, Sharjah, Syria (from 1967), Turkey, and Egypt (from 1986).
- [F] Indian Region, Afghanistan, Burma, Portuguese India (until 1971), Sri Lanka (Ceylon), India, Pakistan, Thailand, Bangladesh (from 1975), Singapore (from 1980), Tibet (until 1975).
- [G] Americas. Canada, United States, Central (from 1967) and South America, and Caribbean Islands (from 1975). For 1963, see [H].
- [H] Rest of the World. Pacific and Far East: China (from 1975), Japan, Korea (from 1975), and Islands in the Pacific Ocean not mentioned elsewhere. Australasia: Australia, Papua-New Guinea (from 1980), and New Zealand. In 1963 the Far East is defined as Brunei, China, Cocos Islands, Formosa, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Macao, Malaya, Manchuria, North Borneo, Phillipines, Sarawak, and Timor and had similar rates as the Americas. Japan is still grouped with the rest of the World.