

A New License Prefix for Botswana

By
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Botswana in the early 1970's used J, R, S and UA as meter license prefixes. Since the mid-1970's, the only prefix used for all licenses has been R ... until 2004! Many thanks to Bruce Warrender of Scotland who sent me the attached samples of a new prefix and a new type. While this is similar to Type 10 of Botswana in Hawkins and Stambaugh's *The International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog* and Types 7A1, 7C1 and 7C2 of my *Typology of Botswana Meter Marks* (<http://www.postalhistory.ca/typologyintro.html>), there are distinct differences.

First and foremost is the new "BP" license prefix, as mentioned earlier. Other firsts are the presence of two columns of vertical numbers between the townmark and the logo, the use of the abbreviation "GBE" for Gaborone in the townmark, the presence of three digits before the decimal point in the value mark, and the use of five digits in the license number. Additional major differences include the size of the indicia which is shorter and longer, the space between the interior and exterior circles in the townmark which is smaller, and the use of smaller text in the townmark.

These differences lead me to conclude that this mark should be designated as a new type in *The International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog* and a new group my *Typology of Botswana Meter Marks*.

Figure 1: License Number 06003, Botswana Telecommunications Authority. It is not known if this new license replaces the BTA's other known license of R210.

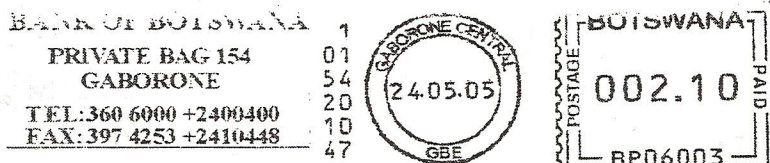


Figure 1

Figure 2: License Number 06010, Bank of Botswana, Gaborone. It is not known if this new license replaces the Bank's previous issued licenses of R26 and R39.

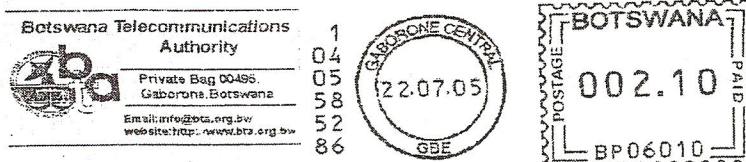


Figure 2

Figure 3: License Number BP06504, BotswanaPost. Interestingly, this mark does not have the vertical numbers between the townmark and the logo and is somewhat less tall, making it a new variety. The license number is also interesting as it starts 065 and not 060 as with the other two marks. While BotswanaPost has used permit mail in the past, this is the first meter license they have issued to themselves.

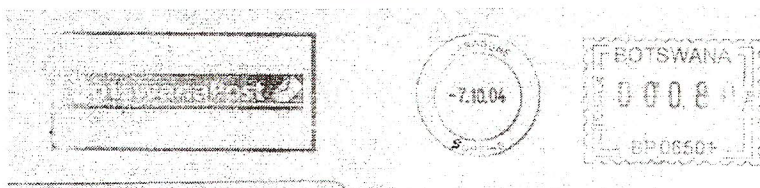


Figure 3

Can anyone help me identify the meter machine that made these marks? Any other information regarding the variations noted (e.g. what do the vertical numbers mean, and thoughts on the wide variation in the license numbers) would also be appreciated. (Editor's Note: Figures 1 and 2 look like prints from PB's Post Perfect models. The first vertical number is likely the item counter, the second a security code)