

REGISTRATION LABELS - A TENTATIVE TYPOLOGY

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The current Bechuanaland postal markings studies include handstamped registration marks but do not extend to printed registration labels.

These were first introduced at a few of the larger offices in the Protectorate in the 1950's. Since Independence their use has become more widespread.

With a view to their eventual inclusion in the postal markings studies for the Protectorate and for Botswana, this article sets out a tentative typology. To date all recorded types of label are from gummed, perforated coils. If self-adhesive labels are introduced, a means of distinguishing them will be added to the typology.

Members are requested to send me any additions to the lists of offices of use of the recorded types and details, with photocopies, of any additional types.

Typology. Four main features suffice to identify the types so far recorded:

a. The 'R'

Type A - Medium thickness (1.5 to 1.75mm vertical stroke), seriffed, flat-footed.

B - Medium thickness (1.5mm), seriffed, sliced foot to vertical stroke.

C - Medium thickness (1.5mm), seriffed, broken lower right serif showing as dot.

D - Medium thickness (1.75 to 2mm), seriffed, hooked foot at bottom right.

E - Squat and thicker (2.5mm), seriffed, flat-footed.

b. The Office Name. All types are in capital letters:

Type 1 - 2.5mm sans-serif letters.

2 - 2mm sans-serif letters.

3 - 1.75mm sans-serif letters.

4 - 2.25mm sans-serif letters.

5 - Initial letter(s) 2.25 to 2.5mm, others 1.75 to 2mm, sans-serif.

Note: Types 4 and 5 are described as sans-serif which is how they appear to the naked eye. However, under magnification the extremities of some letters may show slight widening or very small serifs.

c. The 'No.' preceding the individual registration serial number:

Type A - Seriffed without stop, tall (4.5mm) 'N'.

B - Seriffed without stop, smaller (4.25mm), thicker 'N'.

C - Sans-serif without stop, narrow 'N' (under 2mm overall width).

D - Sans-serif without stop, wider 'N' (2 to 2.25mm).

E - Seriffed with stop under 'o' of 'No.'.

d. The Serial Number

- Type 1 - Up to four 4.5mm sans-serif digits.
2 - Up to four 4.5mm mostly sans-serif digits ('1' & '4' known to be seriffed).
3 - Up to five 4.25mm sans-serif digits.
4 - Up to five 5mm slim seriffed digits.
5 - Up to five 4.25 to 4.5mm seriffed digits.
6 - Up to five 3mm seriffed digits.

These four typology elements are combined in the above sequence to form individual type descriptions. All are prefixed 'RL' to avoid any possibility of confusion with similar postmark type numbers.

Additionally there are some differences in the dimensions of the printed blue frame, as shown in the list of types below. It should be noted that within a particular type these dimensions may vary slightly (usually by up to Plus/minus 0.5mm) between one office and another.

Shades of blue printing of otherwise identical labels are outside the scope of this typology.

Recorded Label Types. Office names printed in two lines are listed accordingly. The relative setting(s) of the two lines are shown, normally by the position of the first letter/figure of the second line, e.g. N/T indicate that the 'T' is under the 'N'. In a few cases where the subsequent spacing of letters differs it may also be necessary to show the position of the final letter of the second line, e.g. A/V & N/E.

<u>Type No.</u>	<u>External Dimensions of blue frame (mm)</u>	<u>Recorded Offices of Use</u>	<u>Settings</u>	<u>Recorded Overall Period of Use</u>
<u>BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE</u>				
RL A1A1	39 x 15.5	Francistown Mahalapye Serowe		1952-58
RL A2B2	38.5 x 15.5	Lobatsi Palapye Serowe		1953-61
RL A3C5	36 x 16	Lobatsi Mafeking		1965-66 (Lobatsi also after Independence)

BOTSWANA

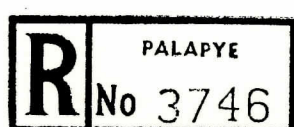
RL A3C5 (continued)	36 x 16	Francistown		1966-69
		Gaberones	R/1	(Some probably also
		1		pre-Independence)
		Gaberones	R/2	
		2		
RL A4C5	35.5 x 15.5	Molepolole		
		Palapye		
		Pitsani		
		Francis-	R/T, RA/T	1968-83
		town		
		Gaborone		
		Gaborone	OR/1	
		1		
		Gaborone	OR/3	
		3		
		Gaborone	A/V	
		Village		
		Ghanzi		
		Kanye		
		Lobatsi	A/2	
		2		
		Lobatse	AT/1, BA/1	
		1		
		Lobatse	A/2	
		2		
		Mahalapye		
		Maun		
		Mole-	O/P	
		polole		
		Moshupa		
		Ootse		
		Palapye		
		Pitsani		
		Ramotswa	1st A/S	
		Station		
		Serowe		
		Shoshong		
		Tatitown		
		Tsabong		
RL A5C5	36 x 16	Gaberones	ER/2	1968-75
		2		
		Gaberones	AB/V & NE/E	
		Village		
		Machaneng		
RL A4D4	34 x 15	Mahalapye		
		Mochudi	MO/V	
		Village		
		Orapa	13.5mm long	1979
		Ramotswa	1st A/V & W/E	
		Village		
		Selebi	LE/P	
		Pikwe		

RL A4D5	35 x 15	Francis- town Gaborone 1 Gaborone 3 Gaborone 2 Lobatse 2 Mochudi Orapa Selibe- Pikwe Sherwood -Ranch	N/T, RA/T R/1 ER/3 1st O/2, OR/2 A/2 17.5mm long B/P E/R	1976-79
RL A5D4	34.5 x 15	Mahalapye		?
RL A5D5	34.5 x 15.5	Mahalapye		?
RL B4C5	34.5 x 15.5	Lobatse 1 Gaborone 3	A/1 OR/1	?
RL C4C5	36 x 16	Gaborone Village	A/V & N/E	?
RL C5C5	36 x 16	Mahalapye		?
RL D4D3	35 x 15.5	Selebi Phikwe	1st E/P	?
RL D4D4	35 x 16	Gaborone 1 Gaborone 2 Gaborone Village Jwaneng Kanye Lobatse 1 Lobatse 2 Maun Mochudi Palapye Selebi- Pikwe Serowe Tatitown Tsabong	OR/1 OR/2 A/V & N/E AT/1 AT/2 15mm long 2nd E/P	1979-85

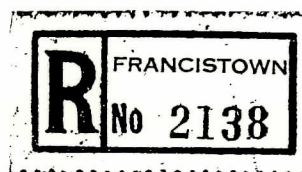
RL D4D5	35 x 16	Bontleng Francis- town Gaborone 1 Gaborone 2 Gaborone 3 Gaborone Village Jwaneng Kasane Maun Orapa Palapye Selebi Pikwe Selebi Phikwe	N/T, AN/T, N slightly rt of T OR/1 OR/2, R/2 OR/3, R/3 A/V & N/E 10.5mm long L/P LE/P	1982-86
RL D4E6	35.5 x 16	Broad- hurst Gaborone 1 Gaborone 3 Hukuntsi	O/H OR/1 OR/3	1985-86
RL D5D4	35 x 16	Mahalapye Molepolole		?
RL D5D5	35 x 15.5	Ramotswa Village	RA/V & SW/E	?
RL E5E6	36 x 16.5	Gaborone 2 Gaborone 3 Hukuntsi Mahalapye	OR/2 OR/3	1986-88



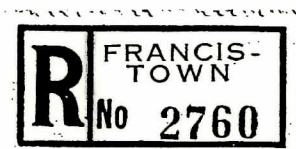
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RL A2B2



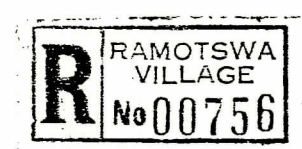
RL A3C5



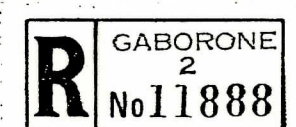
RL A4C5



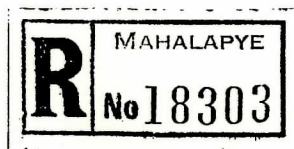
RL A5C5



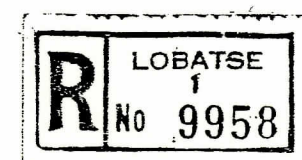
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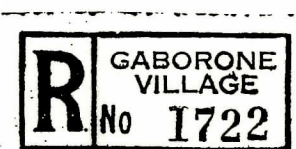
RL A4D5



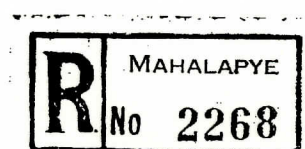
RL A5D4



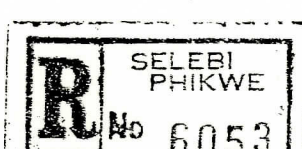
RL B4C5



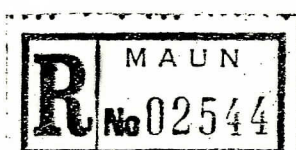
RL C4C5



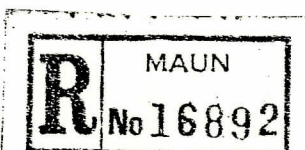
RL C5C5



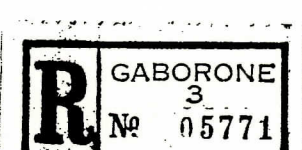
RL D4D3



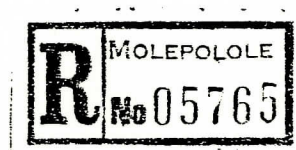
RL D4D4



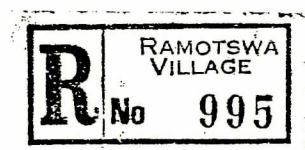
RL D4D5



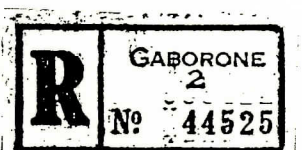
RL D4E6



RL D5D4



RL D5D5



RL E5E6