

# A Typology of Botswana Meter Marks

*A systematic approach to classifying the meter marks used in Botswana*

## WHY SHOULD ANYONE CARE ABOUT METER MARKS FROM BOTSWANA?

From the early 1960's until the advent of email, more than half the mail in the world had payment for postage denoted by meter marks<sup>1</sup>, making these postal marks at least as important as postmarks and stamps to the study of modern postal history.

Because they were introduced closely following independence in 1966, these marks are an important aspect of the development of Botswana postal system. Due to the almost complete lack of development in the country prior to its independence and the consequent lack of corporations that had a high volume of mailing that would make meter machines a viable means of affixing postage, Botswana (or Bechuanaland as it was known prior to independence) was a late starter in the use of meter machines compared to other countries in the area like the Rhodesias (Zimbabwe and Zambia) and South Africa.

<sup>1</sup> Hawkins, Joel, Stambaugh, Rick et al. International Meter Stamp Catalog. Retrieved on 14 September 2022 from [https://en.wikibooks.org/w/index.php?title=International\\_Postage\\_Meter\\_Stamp\\_Catalog&oldid=4105199](https://en.wikibooks.org/w/index.php?title=International_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog&oldid=4105199)

**50%+**  
of all mail in the world  
moves by meter mark

They tell us about the  
**history of development**  
in Botswana  
following independence

**Creates a logical and detailed  
classification system that can  
be applied to larger countries**

They tell us about  
consolidation in  
the meter ma-  
chine industry

Same interest and excite-  
ment for errors, freaks,  
and oddities as for stamps

**V**arieties show flexibility in  
the regulations and gen-  
eral lack of quality control  
while the postal system experi-  
enced rapid growth



Examples of Meter Marks from Surrounding Countries

Due to the relatively short period of use of meter marks in Botswana from the 1970's until present, this work represents a complete microcosm illustrating the breadth and complexity of these important marks that denote payment of postage. The principles used in developing this typology can be applied to the study of meter marks in larger countries. The large number of **groups** and types of marks show the many different brands and models of machines used in the early days. The fewer **types** of marks in more recent times show the consolidation that has occurred in the meter machine manufacturing industry.

An important philatelic feature of this exhibit is the number of **varieties** illustrated, both large and small. These varieties show the large flexibility in the regulations governing the use of meter machines as well as a general lack of quality control while the postal system experienced rapid growth in the early days of the newly independent country (see Figures 1 and 2). The same interest and excitement that collectors have for the discovery and collection of stamp varieties, errors and oddities can be applied to collection of meter marks.

## Background

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.

Botswana is a country located in southern Africa (see Figure 3) and currently has a population of approximately 1.65 million. Although postage meter machines have only been 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).

## History

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.

Postage  
meters and  
franking  
machines

5. The Director may, subject to such conditions as he may deem necessary, licence the use of approved postage meters or franking machines for impressing upon postal articles the sign of postage or stamp value.

Figure 1: Excerpt from Botswana Post Office (Postal and Franking) Regulations, Statutory Instrument No. 124 of 1980

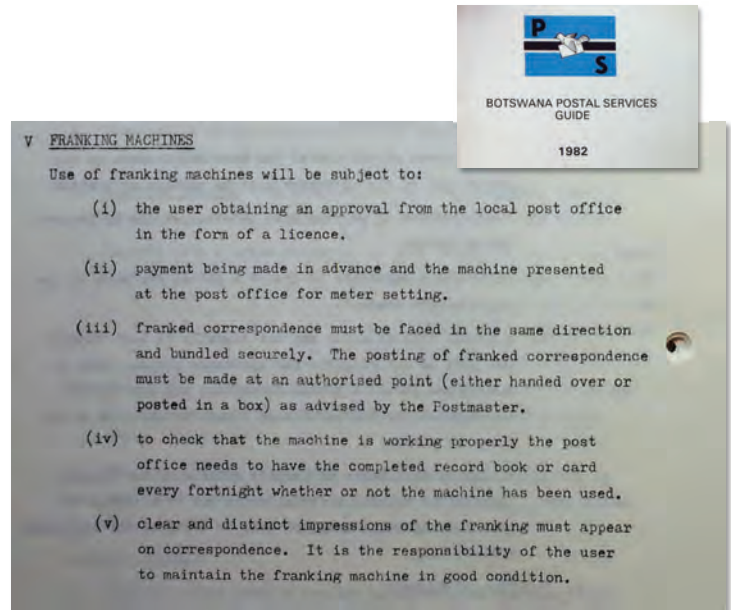


Figure 2: Direction on the use of Franking (Meter) Machines from the 1982 Botswana Postal Services Guide

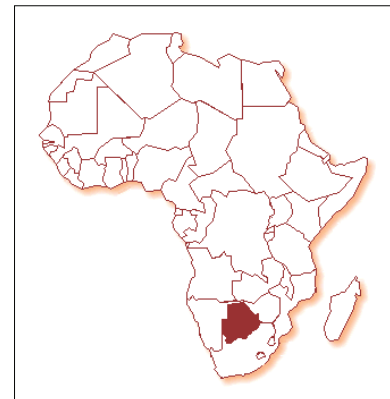



Figure 3: Location of Botswana



TITLE <b>STAMP DESIGN BECHUANALAND</b> <b>-SIMPLEX</b>		MATERIAL	FINISH	DRAWING NO <b>L 1267B</b>
NEXT ASSEMBLY				ISSUES.
				1. <b>17-7-57</b>
				2. <b>L1267C. REMOVED 24-2-67 67904</b>
<b>STANDARD BLANK S.5272A</b>				
GENERAL DEPTH OF ETCHING OR ENGRAVING <b>030"/.035"</b>				
DRAWN BY: <b>LJ</b>	THIS DRAWING. NOT TO BE SCALED.		THIRD ANGLE PROJECTION.	No. PER MACHINE-
THREE PLACE DECIMALS ± .003 TWO PLACE DECIMALS ± .010 PRACTICAL ANGULAR ± 1/64 BREAK ALL CORNERS .005 TO .015	TOLERANCES UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED— PIERCED HOLES + .008 - .000 DRILLED HOLES UP TO 1/4 INC. + .003 - .000 LET # 357 TO 75 + .008 - .000 OVER 75 + .001 - .000 45° ANGLE ON CHAMFERS NOT DIMENSIONED		ECCENTRICITY SCREW MACHINE WORK .003 GEARS .002 GRINDING .001 GRIND 1/2 SMOOTH FINISH	DRAWING NO <b>L1267B</b>
UNIVERSAL POSTAL FRANKERS LTD. FRANKPOST WORKS. ANGEL ROAD. EDMONTON. LONDON N 18				

**Figure 4: Assay of Proposed Meter Mark for Bechuanaland Protectorate**  
(Inglefield-Watson. 1991. Meter Marks. Runner Post. No. 24p. 459)



**Figure 5: Specimen Die prepared from Drawing shown in Figure 4**  
(Peetboom, 2105. Runner Post. No. 90. p. 2264)



**Figure 6: Franking of First Meter Mark Issued in Botswana**  
(Case, 1971. Meter Stamp Bulletin. No. 95. p. 78)

There is no evidence that postal franking machines were used prior to independence, although as indicated in Figure 4, a drawing of a frank die from Universal Postal Frankers Ltd. in London UK in 1957, their use was under consideration during the Protectorate period. While Figure 5 (Peetboom, 2015) shows a die prepared from the drawing, 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." So, the mark should be considered a specimen.

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 6). This mark was created by a Universal MV 'Automax' machine from Universal Postal Frankers Ltd. The pro-

duction 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.

Issue dates for the first 30 or so licences in Botswana are unknown. In 2002, the only file record from the 1970's and 1980's remaining at Botswana Post was 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 imple-

mentation 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<sup>1</sup>. 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.

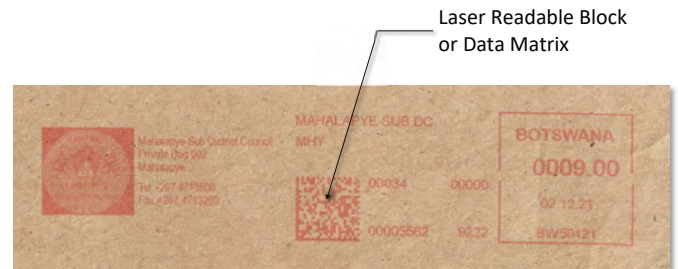
In addition, the Botswana Medical Aid Society meter mark, dated 10 April 1995 is printed in blue despite all meters in Botswana and elsewhere being typically printed in red. This does not seem to be a provisional issue, as their licence was granted on 11 June 1992.

Circa 2003 / 2004, BotswanaPost required that all meter franking machines become digital to improve security and allow for refilling of funds remotely 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 digital postage meters still used a mechanical printer. These marks can be distinguished in two ways, a) these new licences are prefixed with the letters “BP” followed by a five digit number, and b) they contain security coding as illustrated in Figure 7.

In 2021, BotswanaPost introduced fully digital meter machines that incorporate the use of “laser readable blocks” that look like QR codes and allow post office sorting equipment to read and sort the mail more easily (see Figure 8).



**Figure 7: Example of Digital Meter Marks used from circa 2003 to present (show coding)**



**Figure 8: Example of Digital Meter Mark with Laser Readable Block or Data Matrix**

<sup>1</sup> Hawkins, Joel, Stambaugh, Rick et al. International Meter Stamp Catalog. Retrieved on 14 September 2022 from [https://en.wikibooks.org/w/index.php?title=International\\_Postage\\_Meter\\_Stamp\\_Catalog&oldid=4105199](https://en.wikibooks.org/w/index.php?title=International_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog&oldid=4105199)

## 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 changed in the 2000's with the introduction of the "BP" and "BW" prefixes (see Types 21 and 22).

This typology is based on the examination of 12 different aspects of the meter mark design. Figure 9 provides definitions of some of the terms used to describe meter marks in the typology.

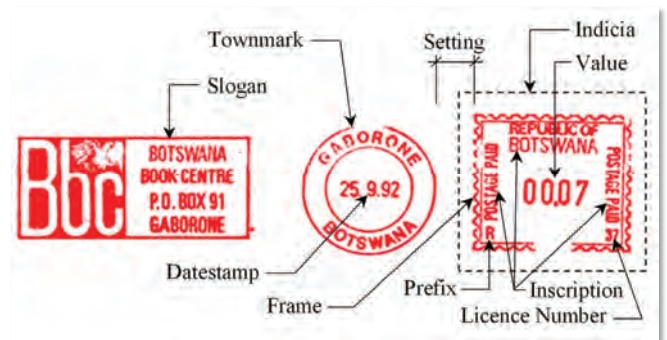


Figure 9: Parts of a Meter Mark

Figure 10 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 11. 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.

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.

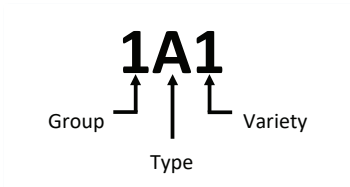


Figure 10: Typology Number Components

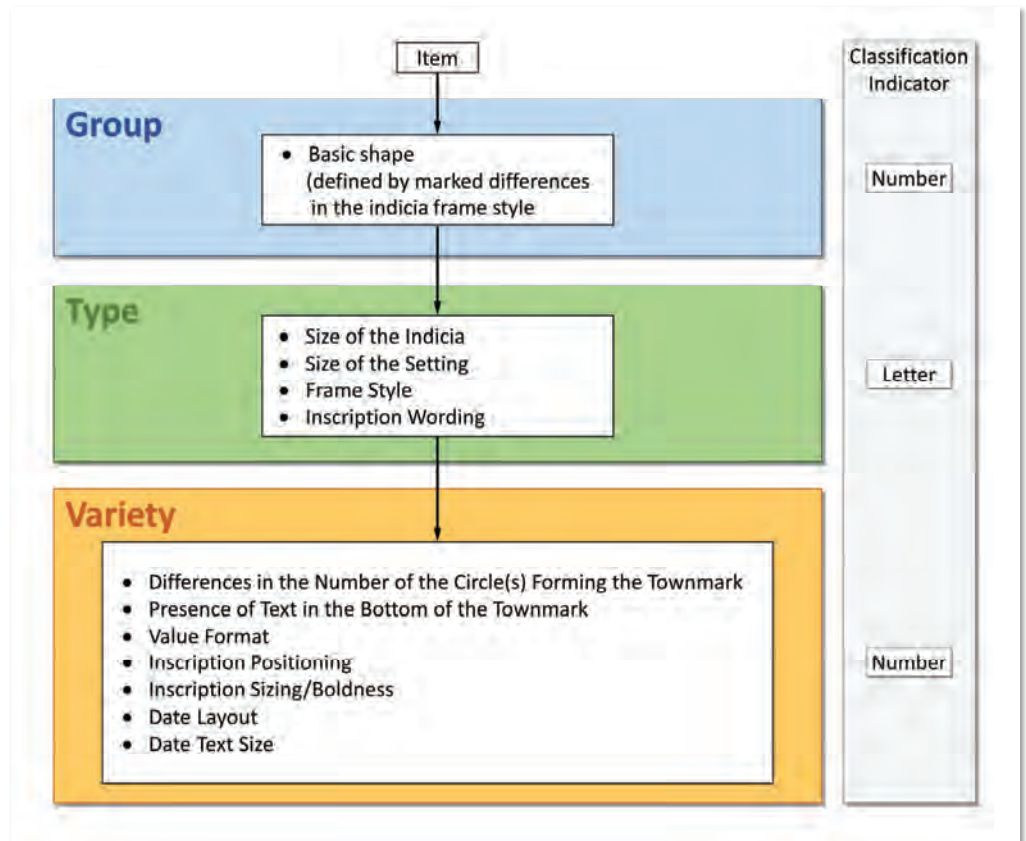


Figure 11: Basis of Differentiation

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 12 describes the layout of the tables that appear at the start of each group. These tables provide detailed information that describe the differences in the meter marks within that group. Subtle differences in some marks are explained by the endnotes on the last page of the exhibit. The table shown in Figure 13 is a sample of the table that appear with each mark. It provides a quick summary of the difference associated with each mark so that viewers can quickly know where to look for differences on a mark and compare it to others.

Meter Type Number	Aspects that determine types				Aspects that determine varieties							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	27 x 27 mm	16 mm	1	1	Double	Yes	.00=	1	1	1	1	Universal/Pitney Bowes "Automax" (MV)
1A2	27 x 27 mm	16 mm	1	1	Double	Yes	=0,00	1	1	1	1	
1B1	22 x 23 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 29 mm	7 mm	1	1	Double	No	0,00	1	1	1	1	Roneo Neopost "205" (MV)
2A2	20 x 27 mm	6 mm	1	1	Double	No	0,00	2 <sup>a</sup>	2	1	1	
2A3	20 x 29mm	7 mm	1	1	Double	No	0 00	1	1	1	1	
2B1	20 x 25 mm	6 mm	1	1	Double	No	0 00 -	3 <sup>b</sup>	2	1	1	
2C1	18 x 26 mm	8 mm	1	1	Double	No	0,00	1	3	1	1	

Figure 12: Layout of the Typology Table Used in the Exhibit

Type	Size of Indicia	Size of Setting	Frame Style	Inscription Wording
Variety	Townmark Circles	Text in Bottom of Townmark	Value Format	Inscription Positioning
	Inscription Sizing/Boldness	Date Layout	Date Text Size	

Figure 13: Layout of the Typology Table Used in 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 14, 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.

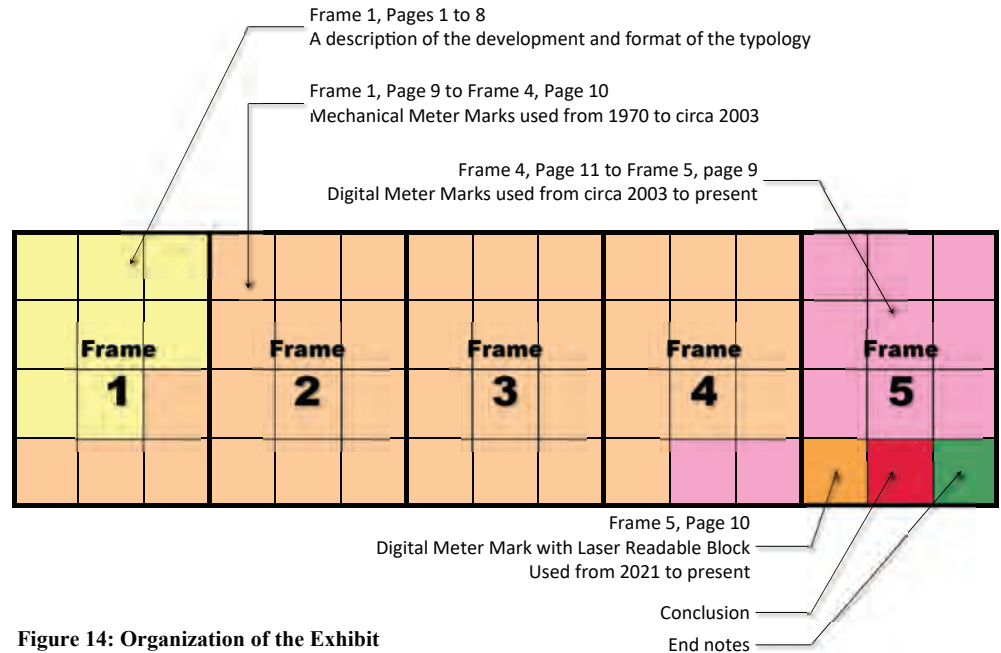


Figure 14: Organization of the Exhibit



# 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

Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame Style
	Inscription Wording
	Townmark Circles
Variety	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value Format
	Inscription Positioning
	Inscription Sizing/Boldness
	Date Layout
	Date Text Size

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 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

Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame Style
	Inscription Wording
	Townmark Circles
Variety	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value Format
	Inscription Positioning
	Inscription Sizing/Boldness
	Date Layout
	Date Text Size

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 nickel, copper, and cobalt and to a smaller extent precious and platinum group metals. 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

Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame Style
	Inscription Wording
	Townmark Circles
Variety	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value Format
	Inscription Positioning
	Inscription Sizing/Boldness
	Date Layout
	Date Text Size

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

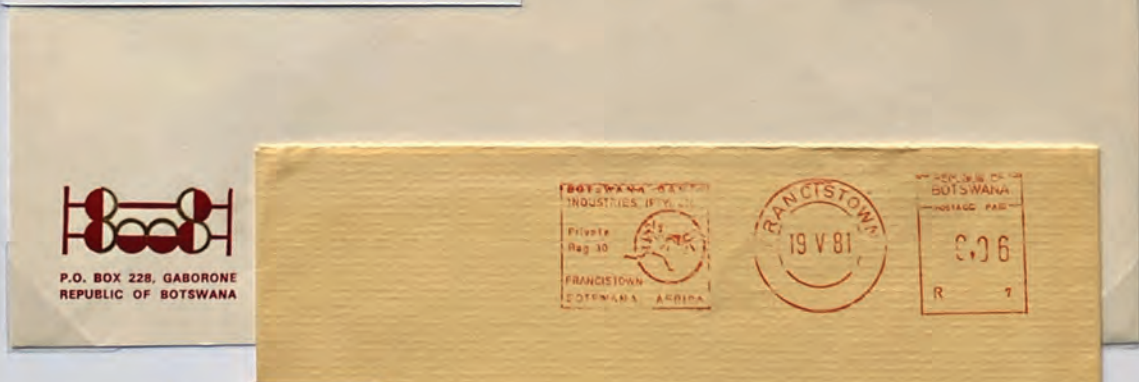
Meter Type Number	Size of Indicia	Size of Setting	Frame Style	Inscription Wording	Townmark Circles	Text in Bottom of Townmark	Value Format	Inscription Positioning	Inscription Sizing/Boldness	Date Layout	Date Text Size	Machine Type
2A1	20 x 28 mm	7 mm	1	1	Double	No	0,00	1	1	1	1	Roneo Neopost "205" (MV)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

### Type 2A1

Type	Size of Indicia	
	Size of Setting	
	Frame Style	
	Inscription Wording	
	Townmark Circles	
Variety	Text in Bottom of Townmark	
	Value Format	
	Inscription Positioning	
	Inscription Sizing/Boldness	
	Date Layout	
	Date Text Size	

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.

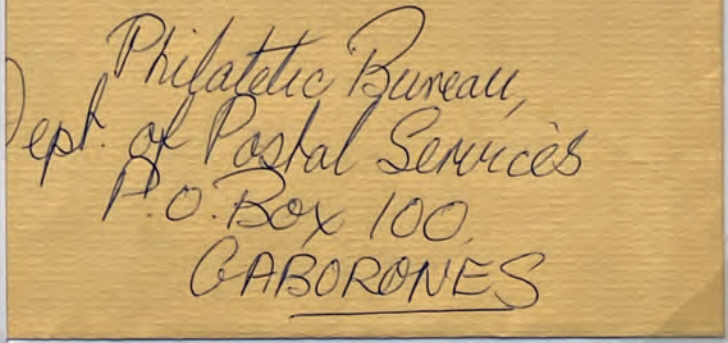


### Type 2A2

Type	Size of Indicia	
	Size of Setting	
	Frame Style	
	Inscription Wording	
	Townmark Circles	
Variety	Text in Bottom of Townmark	
	Value Format	
	Inscription Positioning	
	Inscription Sizing/Boldness	
	Date Layout	
	Date Text Size	

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., 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.







## 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	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame
	Style
	Inscription
	Wording
	Townmark
	Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value
Variety	Format
	Inscription
	Positioning
	Inscription
	Sizing/Boldness
	Date
	Layout
	Date Text
Size	



## Type 2A4

R24, Botswana Meat Commission, Lobatse

Cover front from a letter dated 30 November 1979 from Lobatse to an unknown destination within Botswana, paying 5 thebe, the rate for a domestic surface letter up to 20 grams.

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 Botswana's development as an independent nation, beef export was the only foreign exchange earner.

Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame
	Style
	Inscription
	Wording
	Townmark
	Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value
Variety	Format
	Inscription
	Positioning
	Inscription
	Sizing/Boldness
	Date
	Layout
	Date Text
Size	



## Photocopy



### Type 2A5

Type	Size of indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame
	Style
	Inscription
	Wording
	Townmark
	Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value
Variety	Format
	Inscription
	String Boldness
	Date
	Layout
	Date Text
	Size

#### 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 Botswana in the 1890s.

### Type 2B1

Type	Size of indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame
	Style
	Inscription
	Wording
	Townmark
	Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value
Variety	Format
	Inscription
	Positioning
	Date
	Layout
	Date Text
	Size

#### 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.

