

An Update to Botswana Permit Mail

by Gordon Smith



This article provides additional information to the article Botswana Permit Mail, published in Forerunners issue number 102, January – April 2022, page 11.

Table 1 is a list of known Permit Mail authority numbers. The list of numbers provided in the previous article is greatly expanded with updates from a list obtained by the author in mid-2004 and only recently rediscovered. In addition, this list provides the date of issue for the Permit Mail authority numbers, where they are now known. Companies using numbers after mid-2004 have been identified through covers in the author's collection. While many blanks have been filled in, companies using Permit Mail authority numbers 10036, 10037, 10040, and 10041 are still unknown to the author at this time.

Number 10011 was first provided to Vista Cellular (PTY) Ltd., which changed its name to Orange Botswana (PTY) Ltd. in March 2003. Number 10023, previously identified as Not Known, assume a mailing service due to variety of companies, has been identified as TNT International Mail, which is indeed a mailing service. Number 10028, previously identified as Not Known, possibly Motswedi Securities has been identified as First National Bank of Botswana.

Figure 1 illustrates a copy of an information pamphlet on Permit Mail obtained in mid-2004.

The author welcomes any additional information that others can provide. Please reach out to me at gs@postalhistory.ca.



Table 1. List of Permit Mail Numbers

| Authority No. | Company Name | Issue Date |
|---------------|--|------------|
| Not Known | Blank | |
| 10000 | BotswanaPost | 7/6/2000 |
| 10001 | Botswana Power Corp | 3/30/2000 |
| 10002 | Gaborone Printing Works | 4/5/2000 |
| 10003 | Heritage Collection Holding | 4/7/2000 |
| 10004 | Multichoice Botswana | 5/15/2000 |
| 10005 | Botswana Telecomms | 8/10/2000 |
| 10006 | Water Utilities Corporation | 9/5/2000 |
| 10007 | The Botswana Heritage | 9/21/2000 |
| 10008 | BOFESET | 9/26/2000 |
| 10009 | Botswana Life Insurance | 10/9/2000 |
| 10010 | Standard Chartered Bank | 10/20/2000 |
| 10011 | Orange Botswana (PTY) Ltd., originally Vista Cellular (Pty) Ltd. | 10/23/2000 |
| 10012 | Mailing Services (Pty) Ltd | 11/20/2000 |
| 10013 | Stambic Bank (Botswana) | 11/27/2000 |
| 10014 | Mascom Wireless | 12/14/2000 |
| 10015 | Botsalo Books | 2/16/2001 |
| 10016 | Delivery Solutions | 3/9/2001 |
| 10017 | Metropolitan Botswana | 7/18/2001 |
| 10018 | Technicon South Africa | 7/24/2001 |
| 10019 | Botswana Medical Aid Society | 9/19/2001 |
| 10020 | Botswana Couriers | 5/29/2001 |
| 10021 | Bank of Baroda (Botswana) | 7/29/2002 |
| 10022 | Shangor Insurance Brokers | |
| 10023 | TNT International Mail | 8/10/2002 |
| 10024 | Telecomms Marketing | 15/01/03 |
| 10025 | Queenspark | Feb-03 |
| 10026 | Botswana Public officers Medical Aid Scheme | Mar-03 |
| 10027 | SECA International cc | March'03 |
| 10028 | First National Bank of Botswana | March'03 |
| 10029 | Associated Fund Admin of Botswana | April'03 |
| 10030 | Pula Medical Aid Fund | April'03 |
| 10031 | Penrich Employee Benefits (Pty) Ltd | May'03 |
| 10032 | Mailwise International | Dec'03 |
| 10033 | Skip Hire | Dec'03 |
| 10034 | BarclayCard International | March'04 |
| 10035 | Botswana Unified Revenue Service | |
| 10036 | ??? | |
| 10037 | ??? | |
| 10038 | Barclays Bank of Botswana Ltd | |
| 10039 | Price Waterhouse Coopers | |
| 10040 | ??? | |
| 10041 | ??? | |
| 10042 | Botswana Examinations Council | |

Permit Mail

Save time, improve your mail handling efficiency.
Use Permit Mail!



- Permit Mail saves time and increases efficiency
- Permit Mail saves you money
- Permit Mail is easy to set up and manage



BotswanaPost

We will deliver

Figure 1A: Official pamphlet from BotswanaPost (Front)

It is often time consuming to lick hundreds of stamps, or to spend time at a franking machine. Permit Mail is a method of payment that saves you time. You simply have your Permit Mail impression printed in the top right hand corner of your mail items.

Use Permit Mail

- Permit Mail saves time and increases efficiency - simply pre-print your Permit Mail impression on your mail items and forget about licking stamps or franking items.
- Permit Mail is easy to set up and manage - fill in your application form and send it to us. We will give you a Permit number within 24 hours that you can use for both envelopes and parcels within Botswana and overseas.
- Permit Mail saves you money - reduce your labour costs in preparing your mail and, if you regularly mail 500 items or more, you may get additional discounts on normal postage rates.

Applying for a Permit Mail number

- Use the specimen shown to design a Permit Mail impression that will be pre-printed on your mail items.
- Complete and return the enclosed application form together with a sample of your impression to us.
- We will notify you of your Permit Mail number within 24 hours.

Permit Mail conditions of mailing

- All Permit Mail must have an authority number issued by BotswanaPost.
- The Permit Mail impression must be pre-printed in the top right hand corner of all your mail items.
- Present your mail items to us in trays, boxes or bundles with addresses facing outwards and the Permit Mail impression in the top right hand corner.
- Permit Mail can be accepted at any approved lodgement point.
- No Permit Mail items may be placed in any Post Box. We reserve the right not to deliver any Permit Mail items which are found in Post Boxes without prior payment.

- Permit Mail items will not be date stamped and it is not necessary to affix postage stamps.
- Payment terms for the mail are agreed prior to mailing or at the time of mailing.
- You keep your Permit Mail number until it is cancelled either by yourself or BotswanaPost.
- You may not use Permit Mail envelopes as reply envelopes for your customers to post back to you. Enquire about Business Reply if you want your customers to respond to you.
- If you contravene any of the conditions laid down, Botswana Post may cancel your number. We will attempt to contact you first.

How to design Your Permit Mail impression



- Design your Permit Mail impression according to the specimen detailed above.
- You may use any colour for your Permit Mail impression as long as the other conditions are adhered to.
- Please have your envelope design approved prior to printing by faxing it to (267) 352848.

If you have any inquiries about this service please phone us toll free on 0 800 33 55 77

BotswanaPost

We will deliver

Botswana Postal Services trading as BotswanaPost • P.O. Box 100 • Gaborone • Botswana
Tel: (+267) 580830 • Fax: (+267) 313099

Figure 1B: Official pamphlet from BotswanaPost describing Permit Mail (Reverse)

Forerunners Forum

Cape of Good Hope Cover and the Robert Taylor Collection

Hendrik Geyer asked in Forerunners #112 the present whereabouts of a cover from the Taylor collection. Colin Fraser emailed to say that *"Bob Taylor's collection was sold intact by him to a client many years ago and before Bob's death. As the clients's interests evolved, most of the collection was resold in a Spink auction in London. If one check back in their catalogues you should find the sale which was done anonymously."*

With a 2019 sale by Spink, the cover may have made it into the Guy Dillaway's Cape collection. This was shown at Milcopex and the Spellman Philatelic Museum in 2017 as part of PSGSA's Africa Symposium (Forerunners #87). Guy died in 2021 (Forerunners #99) and his collection was sold by Harmers International in a couple of auctions in 2022 in rather large groups of covers,⁽¹⁾ but he may not have included pre-stamped material. Another possibility would be Johnny Barth's Cape collection that included pre-stamped material. It is uncertain if this collection is still intact. His collection used to be posted on Dansk Posthistorisk Selskab's website, but was at his request

recently removed.⁽²⁾ Does anybody have information on the collection or its electronic versions where about?

Tony Howgrave-Graham's maritime postal history collection of South Africa contains lots of pre-stamped material but little inland mail. It is available for order from the website of the South African Collectors Society Study Groups⁽³⁾ or downloaded from the website of the South African Philately Club.⁽⁴⁾

Other prominent Cape collections appear solely to have focused on the stamp issuing period and is thus unlikely to have contained inland stampless material. An example of these are Joseph Hackmey's Cape Triangular Collection that now are posted on Museum of Philately's website.⁽⁵⁾

Any additional information will be most welcome.

1. <https://harmersinternational.com/cape-of-good-hope-guy-r-dillaway-section-1/>
2. <https://dphs.dk> and <https://southafricanphilatelyclub.com/forum/topic/johnny-barths-wonderful-cape-of-good-hope>
3. <https://southafricancollectorsociety.com/philatelic-study-book-lets>
4. www.southafricanphilatelyclub.com
5. <https://www.museumofphilately.com/collection/102>



ISSN 1076-2612

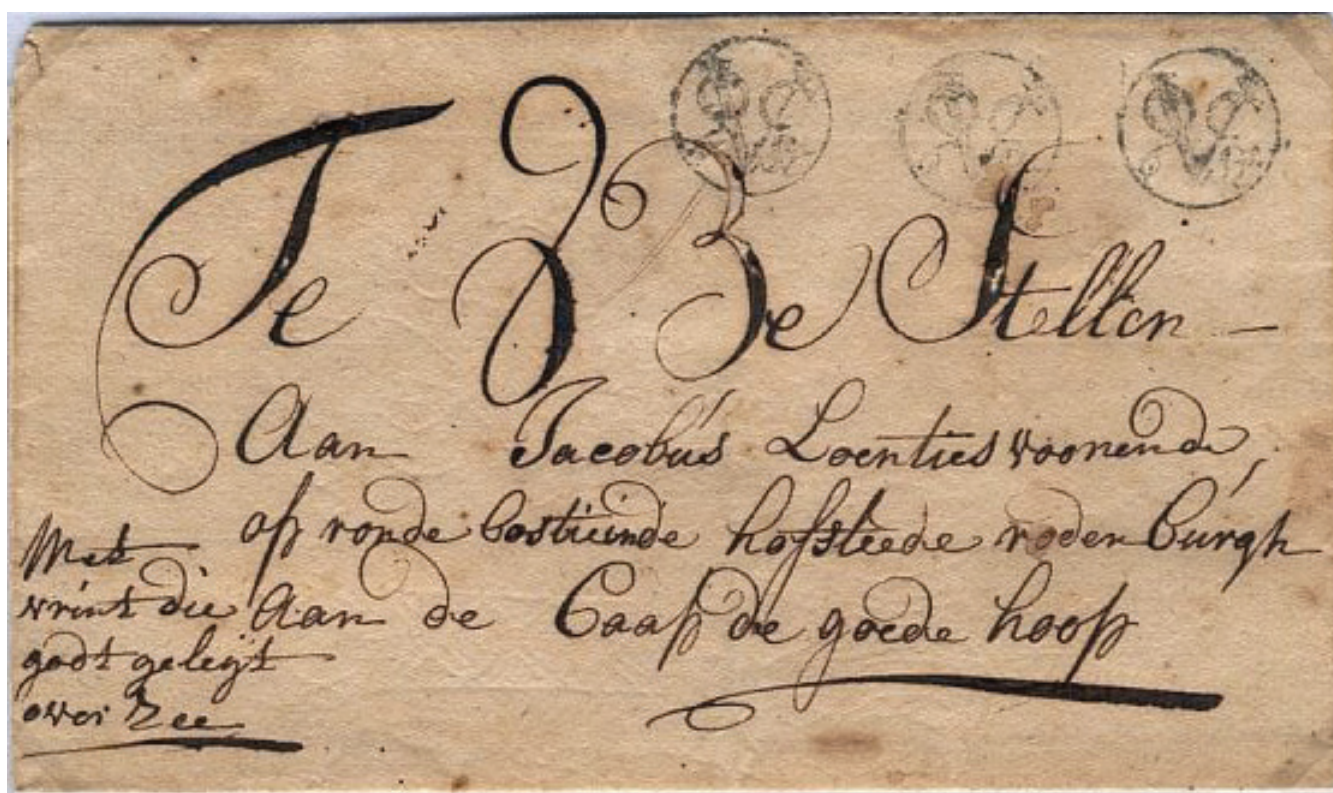
******FORERUNNERS*

JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA

Affiliated with the American Philatelic Society and the Philatelic Federation of South Africa

Volume XXXVIII, Number 3, Whole Number 113

September-December 2025



Dutch folded letter addressed to the Cape of Good Hope bearing three strikes of the VOC handstamp.
From the Johnny Barth collection.

Highlights

Sophiatown

André Bezuidenhout

Botswana Auxiliary Markings

Railway Parcel Stamps

Botswana Permit Mail