

should be quite easy to spot in the two blocks illustrated (**figure 10**).

Despite their similarities, my interpretation is that we are observing two different colours.

I believe that the stamp used for the typeset overprint is the Cape of Good Hope 2d. *deep bistre* (SG50a), not the *pale bistre* (SG50) listed by Gibbons as the stamp used to produce British Bechuanaland SG32. The stamp used for the stereo overprint appears to be the Cape of Good Hope 2d. *chocolate-brown* (SG62), **a stamp that was not issued until March 1897** and could not possibly have been available in 1891 when the typeset overprint was produced. Distinguishing between these two colours is notoriously difficult, but after much deliberation I believe my conclusions are correct.

Conclusion

In view of the evidence presented above I conclude that the SG32 stereo overprint was a separate printing, produced for exclusive use in the Bechuanaland Protectorate to cover a shortage immediately prior to the introduction of the series of suitably overprinted GB stamps (SG59/65); and that despite the overprint reading ‘British Bechuanaland’, it was never intended for nor used by the post offices of that former territory.

I would like to expand my study of the postmarks. It would therefore be very helpful if members could report to me the earliest clearly identifiable cancel on SG32 in their collection, stating if the stamp has the typeset or stereo overprint. It would also be interesting to try and build up a picture of the issue date for the QV ‘Jubilees’ overprinted ‘Bechuanaland Protectorate’ (SG59/65), and I would very much like to know the earliest identifiable cancel you have on any stamp in the series.

Official Free Markings Supplement 1
by Dennis Firth

This is the first attempt to list all the known Official Free markings used in Bechuanaland Protectorate and Botswana, which, as far as I know, have not been recorded elsewhere.

The main listing was in three main parts:

- Bechuanaland Protectorate (Runner Post #63)
- Botswana markings which show the office of use and the words “Official Free” or similar on the same handstamp (Runner Post #64 -69)
- Official Free handstamps (usually straight line) which are used in association with departmental cachets. (Runner Post #70-71)

This first supplement concludes the recording of

References

Roth, Douglas “British Bechuanaland. Issues of 1d. & 2d. of 1891 & 1893-5 overprinted British Bechuanaland on current stamps of the Cape of Good Hope. SG31-2 & SG38-9” *The Philatelist and PJGB*, December 1981, Vol.1, No.5 pp.252-4.

Inglefield-Watson, Sir J. F. “The Provisional Issues of Nov 1891 and 1893-9 ‘British Bechuanaland’ Reading Up and Down” *Runner Post*#5, Autumn 1986, pp.13-17.

Postscript (26-05-2008)

A visit to the Philatelic Section of the British Library on the 22nd May this year allowed me to conduct some further research into the shades of the basic Cape rectangular 2d. stamp utilised for the production of SG32.

I was able to compare large unused blocks of stamps of both the typeset and stereo overprints. The difference in shade was even more telling in comparisons between these large pieces than had proved the case with single stamps. However, a further comparison between the shade of the stereo overprinted stamp and the shade of the single example that the British Library has of the Cape chocolate-brown stamp of 1897 produced disappointing results. This latter stamp was much paler, and the colour had a definite hint of rose pink to the brown shade. If this one example is truly representative of the chocolate-brown colour, then it most certainly does not match the colour of the stamp of the stereo overprint.

I don’t think this invalidates my remaining arguments other than to make it more difficult to pinpoint the actual release date for SG32 stereo. Maybe a search of the records of the Cape Postmaster-General will produce some results, but that will have to wait for another day

Dates are in “dd-mon-yyyy” format. Handstamps are struck in black - unless otherwise indicated

Official Free Markings for a while as it includes all those known to me at this time (February 2008). As and if unrecorded items appear there will be occasional future supplements.

Acknowledgment

I am indebted to the late Sir John Inglefield-Watson, Peter Jukes, John Schaerer, Gordon Smith and Bruce Warrender for sending me details of items they have in their collections.

The number to the right of the description is my reference number. For a future update I would be looking for some assistance in using the postmark typology to describe the markings.

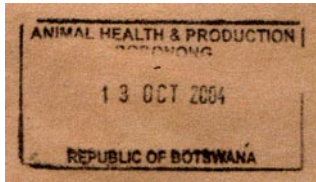
Part 1 - Bechuanaland Protectorate

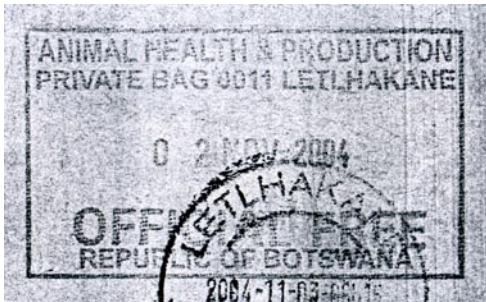
	
DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE	36
<i>Place/Date not known</i>	
Double Oval approx 51mm x 31mm	

RP#63 CORRECTION - No.30 becomes	
INSPECTOR OF EDUCATION BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE	68

	
Principal Medical ?Officer? Bechuanaland Protectorate	78
Mafeking ??-01-1950	
Triple Oval 44mm x 30mm	

Part 2 - Botswana

	
ANIMAL HEALTH & PRODUCTION BOBONONG REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA	118
Bobonong 13-10-2004	
Rectangle <i>Size not known</i>	

	
ANIMAL HEALTH & PRODUCTION PRIVATE BAG 0011 LETLHAKANE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA	119
[STRUCK IN VIOLET]	
Letlhakane 13-10-2004 (Violet)	
Rectangle 57mm x 32mm	

Changes
For changes (new examples/colours) only the changed part is shown. Assume the same town and struck in black unless otherwise noted.


Ordering in this supplement
Showing only new and changed markings. In revised numeric order.

RP#63 - New colour	
[example STRUCK IN BLACK]	43
23-10-1965 (Black)	

RP#63 CORRECTION - Size	
	75
Double Oval 49mm x 30mm	

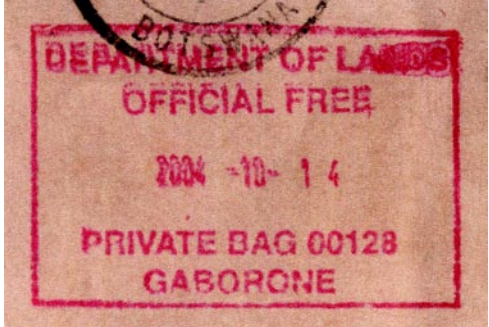
	
WELFARE OFFICER Bechuanaland Protectorate	112
[STRUCK IN VIOLET]	
Lobatsi 28-09-1965 (Violet)	
Triple Oval 43mm x 31mm	

	
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS CIVIL REGISTRY GABORONE	124
Gaborone <i>Date not known</i>	
Double Oval 55mm x 35mm	


	
BOIPELEGO EDUCATION PROJECT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION	132
Place/Date not known	
Rectangle 69mm x 23mm	

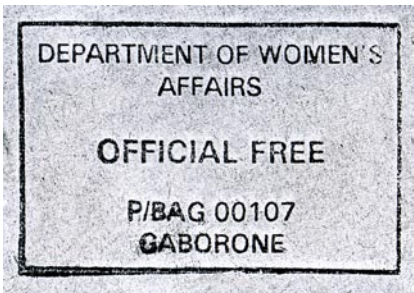
	
BOTSWANA NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE H/QUARTERS PRIVATE BAG 0036 GABORONE	134
Gaborone 03-02-2000	
Rectangle 44mm x 32mm	

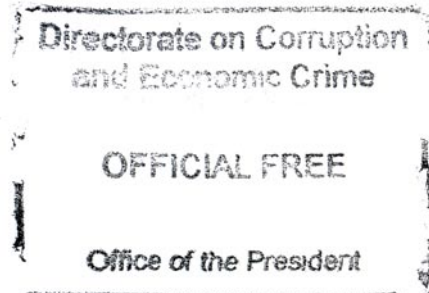
	
CLERK OF COURT GABORONE	168
Gaborone <i>Date not known</i>	
Double Oval 53mm x 33mm	

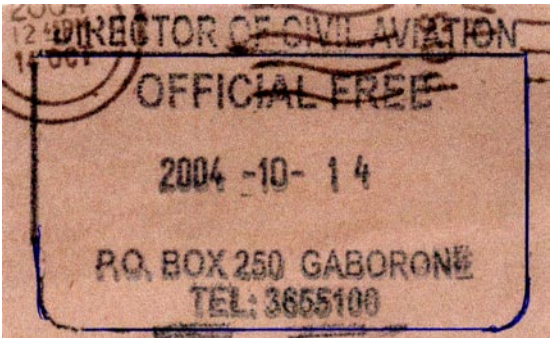
	
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS PRIVATE BAG 00128 GABORONE [STRUCK IN RED]	192
Gaborone 14-10-2004 (Red)	
Rectangle <i>size not known</i>	


	
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRIVATE BAG 0097 GABORONE BOTSWANA	207
Gaborone 21-09-2006	
Rectangle 55mm x 35mm	


	
DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS PRIVATE BAG 0029 GABORONE BOTSWANA	221
Gaborone 09-11-2004	
Double Oval Size <i>not known</i>	

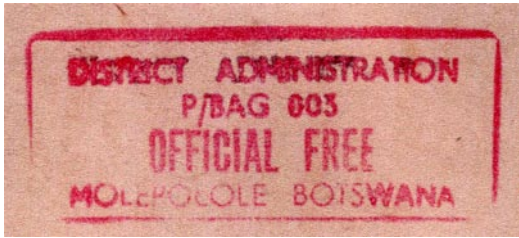
	
DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS P/BAG 00107 GABORONE	231
Gaborone <i>Date not known</i>	
Rectangle 50mm x 33mm	

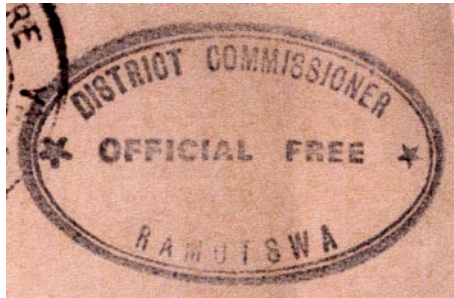
	
Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime Office of the President	242
Place/Date <i>not known</i>	
Rectangle 54mm x 48mm	


	
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION P.O. BOX 250 GABORONE TEL: 3655100	243
Gaborone 14-10-2004	
Rectangle <i>Size not known</i>	

	
DIRECTOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING P/BAG 0062 GABORONE TEL: 3655000	251
Gaborone 02-03-2007	
Rectangle 59mm x 34mm	

	
?Dept? Vocational Education and Training NORTHERN REGION Private Bag 450 Francistown [STRUCK IN GREEN]	252
Francistown 17-11-2004 (Green)	
Oval <i>Size not known</i>	

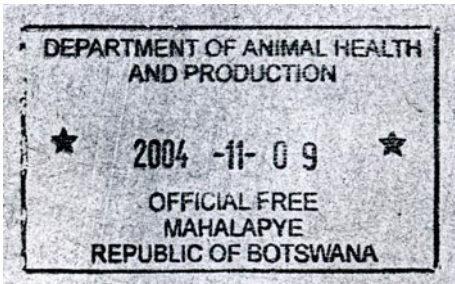
	
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION P/BAG 003 MOLEPOLOLE BOTSWANA [STRUCK IN RED]	253
Sorting Centre, Gaborone 20-10-2004 (Red)	
Rectangle Size not known	

	
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER RAMOTSWA	258
Sorting Centre, Gaborone 03-11-2004	
Double Oval Size not known	

	
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER SEROWE [STRUCK IN RED]	260
Sorting Centre Pota 12-10-2004 (Red)	
Double Oval Size not known	


RP#67 - New colour	
[examples STRUCK IN GREEN]	272
27-10-2004 and 29-10-2004 (Green)	


RP#67 - Dates	
	277
12-10-2004 to 08-11-2004	

	
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION MAHALAPYE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA	280
Palapye 28-10-2004 to 09-11-2004	
Rectangle 55mm x 32mm	


RP#67 - New colour	
[example STRUCK IN GREEN]	300
Pota 13-10-2004 (Green)	

RP#67 - Dates	
	285
04-11-2001 to 20-10-2004	


	
Director Of Animal Health And Production REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA	302
Place/Date not known	
Double Oval Size not known	

	
DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL OFFICE BAROLONG	308
Good Hope 11-10-2004 to 08-11-2004	
Rectangle Size <i>not known</i>	

RP#67 - Dates	
	310
08-11-2004 to 09-11-2004	


	
Director Of Animal Health And Production REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA	317
Place/Date <i>not known</i>	
Double Oval Size <i>not known</i>	

RP#68 - New colour	
[example STRUCK IN RED]	380
26-11-2002 (Red)	

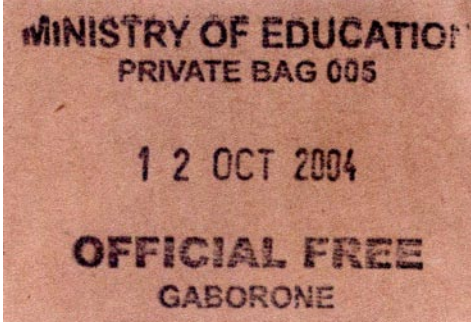
	
Director Of Animal Health And Production REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA	382
Place/Date <i>not known</i>	
Double Oval Size <i>not known</i>	

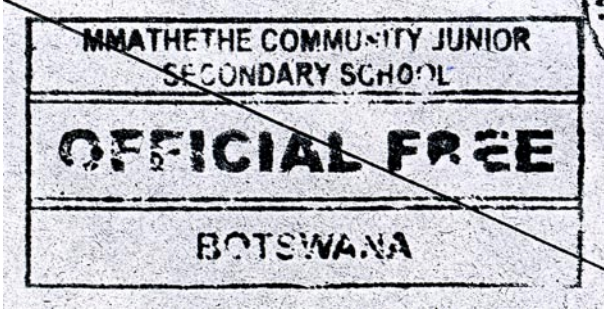
RP#68 CORRECTION - Size	
	405
Rectangle 50mm x 24mm	

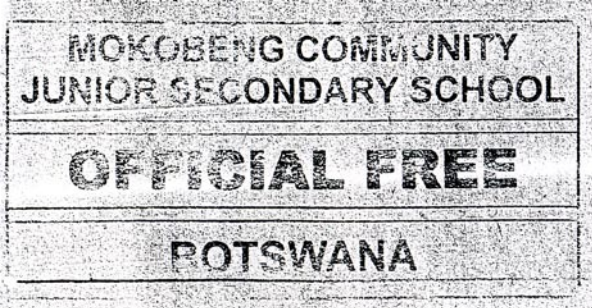
RP#68 CORRECTION - Size New dates, locations, colours	
[examples STRUCK IN RED] [example STRUCK IN GREEN]	409
Middlepits 08-11-2004 (Red) Mojane 08-10-2004 (Black) Tutume 08-11-2004 (Green)	
Rectangle 52mm x 26mm	

	
DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL OFFICE BAROLONG	428
Good Hope 11-10-2004 to 08-11-2004	
Rectangle Size <i>not known</i>	


RP#68 CORRECTION - Date	
	430
should read: Palapye 08-10-2004 to 05-11-2004	

	
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PRIVATE BAG 005 GABORONE	447
Gaborone 12-10-2004	
Rectangle Size not known	

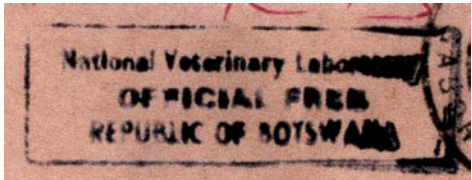
	
MMATHE THE COMMUNITY JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL BOTSWANA	476
Place not known 12-10-2004	
Rectangle 73mm x 35mm	

	
MOKOBENG COMMUNITY JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL BOTSWANA	477
Place/Date not known	
Rectangle 75mm x 36mm	

	
MOSETLHA CJSE BOTSWANA	478
Central Sorting Centre Pota 30-09-2006	
Rectangle 45mm x 15mm	

	
MOTAUNG C.J.S.S. BOTSWANA [STRUCK IN BLUE-GREY]	479
Place/Date not known (Blue Grey)	
Rectangle 75mm x 35mm	

RP#66 CORRECTION - No.120 becomes	
NATIONAL HEALTH INSTITUTE P.O. Box 985 GABORONE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA	482

	
National Veterinary Laboratory REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA	494
Southern Sorting Centre Gaborone 08-01-2002	
Rectangle Size not known	

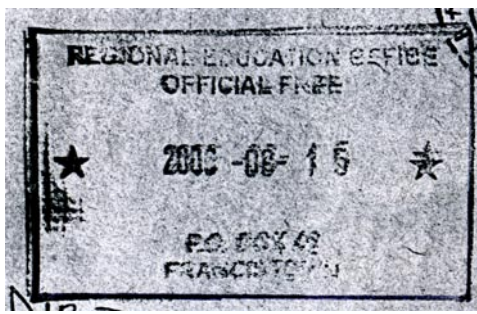
RP#69 - New colour	
[example STRUCK IN GREEN]	505
09-11-2004 (Green)	

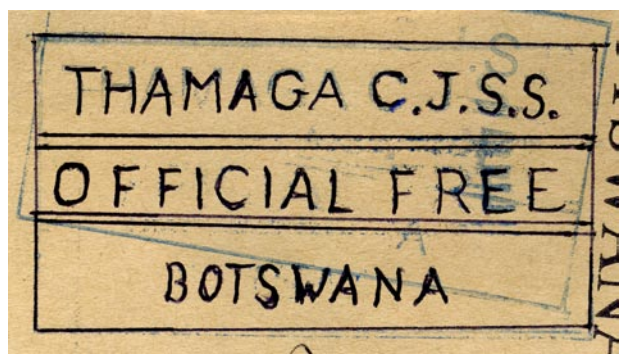
RP#69 CORRECTION - Size	
	510
Rectangle 58mm x 21mm	

RP#69 CORRECTION - Size	
	520
Double Oval 53mm x 34mm	


RP#69 - Dates	
	527
22-04-2002 to 24-09-2005	

RP#69 - New colour	
[example STRUCK IN DARK GREEN]	547
Pota 11-10-2004 (Dark Green)	


	
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION P.O. BOX 47 FRANCISTOWN	548
Tatitown 15-08-2006	
Rectangle 57mm x 35mm	

	
THAMAGA C.J.S.S. BOTSWANA [STRUCK IN BLUE]	572
Place not known 04-08-2004 (Blue)	
Rectangle 74mm x 38mm	

	
TLOGATATLOGA C.J.S.S. BOTSWANA	573
Gaborone 15-09-2006	
Rectangle 50mm x 30mm	

	
VETERINARY OFFICE RAMOTSWA REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA	586
Place/Date not known	
Rectangle Size not known	

Part 3 - Straight Line Markings

	34mm x 3mm	604
<i>not known</i> [STRUCK IN REDDISH PURPLE]	IMMIGRATION DEPT REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA (sent from Southern Sorting Centre, Gaborone)	

	89mm x 8mm	658
10-05-2007	JWANENG TECHNICAL COLLEGE PVT BAG 009 JWANENG	

RP#70 - New user		660
	ACCOUNTING UNIT, BOTSWANA POLICE COLLEGE, P.O. BOX 25001, OTSE	

RP#71 - New users		685
14-May-2007	MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT, DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS AND, ENGINEERING SERVICES, P/BAG 0066 GABORONE	

If any member has items in their collection which are not listed in this or in the early installments appearing in Runner Post #63 to #71, or are used outside any date range shown, or differ in user, place used or ink colour - please send me full details.

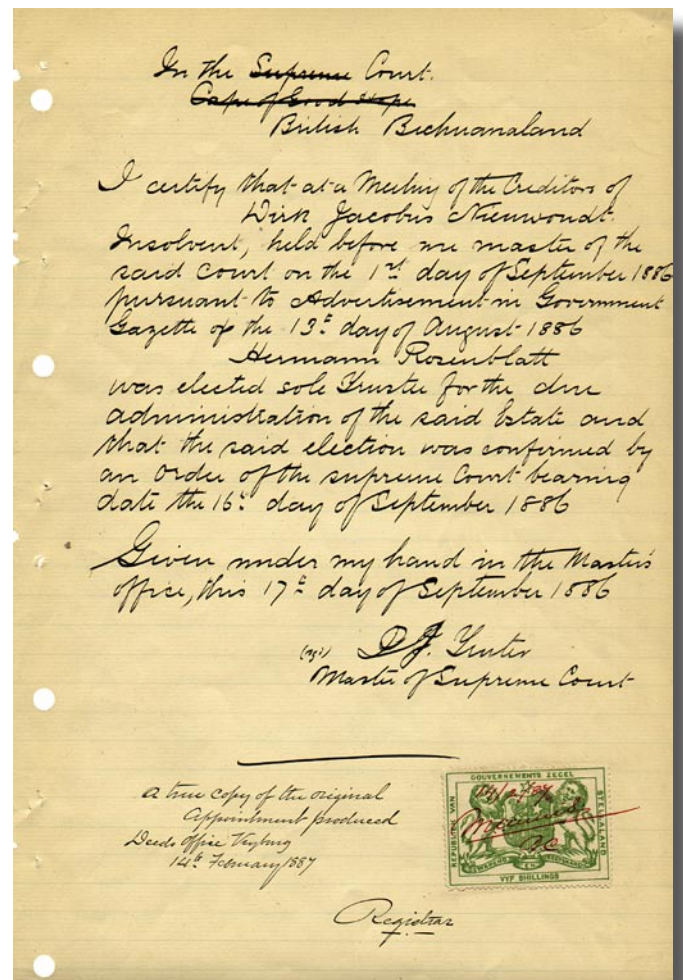
Photocopies of unlisted items would be appreciated which show the date and place of use and the colour of marking if other than black.

Images, scans and e-mails can be sent via the Editor.

Dennis Firth, 28 Greenside Drive, Wortley, Leeds. LS12 4SF, UK.

The Runner Post

THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY



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