

The Runner Post

R P 1



NEWSLETTER NO. 4

AUTUMN ISSUE 1985

CONTENTS

Page

Society Inaugural Meeting	1
Results of Questionnaire	3
Barred Oval Cancellor with letter "B"	4
Holmes Collection on view ?	4
8d Unappropriated Die	4
How about our own auction ?	4
Charles Hill	5
Magalapye BBP	5
Typology for B.B. and B.P.	5
Gold Bars by mail	6
Stop Press on gold bars	7

The Inaugural Meeting of the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society

This was held in the Orchid Room, Horticultural Halls, London, during British Philatelic Exhibition, on October 16th, 1985. Eight intending members were present and two sent apologies from their stands in the Hall. Nine other apologies for inability to attend have been received.

Brian Trotter acted as Convenor, and welcomed those present, then outlined the aims and objects of the proposed society. The Proposal that "This Society be Formed" was put, seconded, and carried unanimously.

A Questionnaire had been previously circulated (copy and results attached) to ascertain the general opinions as to the scope etc. of the Society, and after considering the results, it was decided that Botswana be included, but not Bophuthatswana; also that all aspects of the philately and postal history of the area be covered.

A Name for the society was discussed, about 15 variations being considered before agreeing that the title of the Society be The Bechuanalands and Botswana Society. It was felt that this name would avoid any restrictions, and would not confuse with any other group.

Officers

It was proposed that H.R. Holmes be invited to be Life President of the Society. Seconded and agreed.

It was proposed that Brian Trotter be Founder Chairman. Seconded and agreed.

It was proposed that Roy Setterfield be Honorary Secretary. Seconded and agreed.

It was proposed that Philip Kaye be Honorary Treasurer. Seconded and agreed.

It was agreed that in view of the difficulties of meeting, the formation of a Committee of Management be left in abeyance, but that a special Representative for Southern Africa was highly desirable, and that the Hon. Sec. should write to a certain person inviting his acceptance.

Subscription

Agreed that this should be Pound Sterling 5 and reviewed at A.G.M.

Communications

Having regard to our scattered membership, a Newsletter is essential, to be issued quarterly, by Airmail where necessary. The next issue (No. 4) to include the report of this meeting, to be improved in appearance, and to be entitled 'The Runner Post'. The style, content, format, costs of production and postage were discussed, also editorship.

Affiliation

to B.P.F. etc. It was preferred to leave this in abeyance for the present.

Bank Account

To be opened with Midland Bank plc. This Bank makes no charges provided the account is in credit. Three signatories, any two to sign cheques etc.

Meeting

It was proposed that the Society meets during B.P.E. and Stampex in London, i.e. twice yearly. It is well understood that attendance will be very limited, but at least worth trying. Agreed. And it is hoped that meetings may also be arranged for South Africa. Opinions of members to be sought via the Runner Post. Therefore ...

Next Meeting arranged for Wednesday, March 5th, 1986 at Stampex, London.

A.G.M. provisionally October 15th, at B.P.E. London.

After those present had paid their initial subscriptions, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

Present:

Philip Cattell, Somerset
Jim Catterall, Cornwall
Aubrey Glasborow, Hampshire
Alan Macgregor, London
Mike Nethersole, Johannesburg
Roy Setterfield, Sussex
Brian Trotter, Switzerland
Gren Eaton (Visitor)

Apologies have been received from:

H.R. Holmes, Hampshire
Hamish Campbell, Durban, RSA
John Coates, London
Brian Fenemore, Cape Town
John Inglefield-Watson (Col)
Scotland
Mrs. Sten Jensen, Denmark
Dave Matthews, Scotland
D. Painter, Hampshire

Unable to leave their stalls:

Bill O'Connell, I.o.Man
Philip Kaye, Sussex

P.S. The meeting was far more lively than these formal minutes might suggest!

RESULTS OF QUESTIONNAIRE

34 completed questionnaires have been returned. Owing to slight ambiguity in the phrasing of question 4, it was difficult to ascertain the correct intentions in 6 cases, therefore these are not considered in the results under question 4. They were, however, in line with the other replies and do not affect the overall interpretation.

Questionnaires returned 34

Questions 1 and 2:
would you be in favour of a Bechuanalands/Tswanalands Collectors' Group or Society and paying a subscription

yes	30
no	3
follow the majority	1

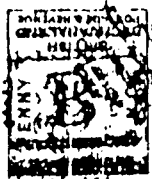
Question 3:
would you be willing to help with

a) newsletter	7
b) advisory	15
c) info/photocopies of own collection	26
d) organising regional activity	4

Question 4:
what do you think should be the scope of the group

	positive	negative
BB & BP	26	-
Botswana	18	8
Stamps	26	-
Postal History	26	-
Stellaland	24	2
Mafeking	24	2
Bophuthatswana	11	13
Revenues	24	1
Forgeries	25	-
Errors	26	-

Barred Oval Cancellation with letter "B"



Mike George sends a photocopy of B.B. 1d on 1d SG 22 with Barred Oval cancel, but letter B in place of the expected numeral. Not the upright oval of Cape Colony etc, with three short bars at each side, but an upright bar. Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia states 'Bulawayo also used a barred oval containing B', repeating Dann's 'Large thick B in barred oval - Bulawayo'.

John Inglefield-Watson has one on SG 34, and Holmes had a copy on SG 34: in a letter from John I.-W. he says 'If...a Bulawayo cancellation, there would be plenty of Rhodesian stamps with it and surely a cover would exist. Instead it is apparently a very rare one found only on B.B. stamps'.

Further comments and/or examples, please. And are there any similar ovals with other letters?

The Holmes Collection on view ?

We are informed that 'The Famous Holmes Collection' (sic) of British Bechuanaland and Bechuanaland Protectorate, now in a Bank vault pending the establishment of a Botswana Postal Museum, will be on view for the first time in October 1986, at Gaborone. The Holmes Collection? Well, possibly about two-thirds of it. Nice to know that it will see daylight for a short time after five years.

MATTERS ARISING

1. 8d Unappropriated Die.

I hang my head in shame for not doing my homework properly. I have been gently chided by H.R.H. for not referring to his book p. 46:-

'In the Ferrari collection there was what purported to be an un-issued 8d; it reappeared when the Burrus collection was sold, but on examination it proved to be a fake, (being) parts of two stamps joined together.' So what happened to it? Did someone have the courage to tear it up, or is it still lurking somewhere? Caveat emptor. - R.S.

2. How about our own auction?

We hope to try an "in-house" Society auction in 1986, so get your duplicates ready. More about this next time.

3. Charles Hill

Dr. Seligmann writes: The Charles Hill postal agency, named after Charlie Sharp, Kgalagadi trader, was opened in the desert store of Mr. Sharp in north-eastern Kgalagadi. Ten pounds worth of stamps and Pds20 worth of postal orders were issued to the agency. Mrs. Elizabeth Johanna Kotze was the delegated agent.

Charles Hill is about 3 miles from Mamuno, the border post. In 1962 the agency was transferred to nearby Xanagas school. On April 1, 1967 and on September 12, 1978, reopened at Charles Hill (what happened in the interim?) where the Mamuno date stamp was used for quite a number of years. A new post office has been erected here.

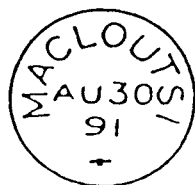
4. Magalapye BBP

Was this uncommon cancellation used on general (mail), or reserved for counter use on registered mail? With one exception, the ones we have seen have been on higher value ("Seahorse") stamps. The exception is Brian Fenemore's KE 1/- dated May 22, 1914. It may be that Mahalapye Siding was used until approximately 1914 and Mahalapye from around 1920 onwards, leaving a gap in between for the Magalapye version. Much more information is required, and examples of strikes. Who can help?

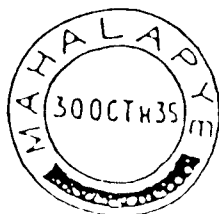
5. Typology for B.B. and B.P.

This was reviewed at BPE with Mike Nethersole, who is (somewhat of an expert in postmark typology. Once the small modifications discussed have been made, it shall be available to any interested member - although the sub-type illustrations and classifications shall still be incomplete. This typology is foreseen as one of the possible topics for our next meeting, to be held at "Stampex" in March.

A typology appetizer



Type 1 D 53



Type 2 E 61



Type 1 B 2

Gold Bars by mail

As promised, Charles Barkaway's 'gold bar' label - a beauty !



Whoops! Sorry, that is not Charles Barkaway's gold bar label after all. We first need a better photocopy for the illustration, so we replaced it with one belonging to Brian Fenemore. Also a beauty, but we don't know what is on the reverse side (to which bank(?) it was sent). Brian, how about a copy of the other side for the next issue?

And a footnote from Hamish Campbell: "I was so pleased to see that gold bars really were sent by post... When we still had a weekly mailship ex Durban to Southampton, we used to see the gold coming in.. in a couple of railway coaches bristling with policemen armed to the teeth."

Subscriptions Please!

Would those interested in joining the Society please send their subscriptions (5 Pounds Sterling) to the Treasurer or Secretary as soon as possible.

Stop Press !

A better photocopy of Charles Barkaway's "gold bar" label has just been received. So here it is.



13/1/1916. Registered Parcel Label from Tati Co. Ltd. Francistown to African Banking Corporation, Bulawayo franked by 5/- rose carmine (2) SG 84, 2/6 deep sepia brown (2) SG 83; 1/- bistre brown (4, inc 3 on reverse) SG 82 4d slate green (on reverse) SG 80 and 10/- green and black of British Bechuanaland SG 19. All tied by Francistown c.d.

Unfortunately even the second copy of the reverse side of this label is not readable, so hopefully we can offer a better copy in the future.

Chairman:	Brian Trotter Im Ruehrets 3, 8803 Rueschlikon, Switzerland
Secretary:	Roy Setterfield 18 Goldsmid Rd, Hove (East Sussex) BN3 1QA, UK
Treasurer:	Philip Kaye 9 Avondale Rd, Hove (East Sussex) BN3 6ER, UK