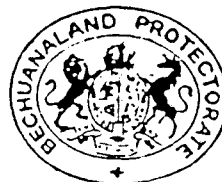


The Runner Post



RUNNER POST NO. 3

SPRING ISSUE 1986

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THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Stampex Meeting. We had a most successful meeting at Stampex (Secretary's report follows). It was a good turnout especially as our members live in such far-flung areas.

A.G.M. Our next A.G.M. will be held as part of our next meeting on Wednesday, 15th October 1986 during B.P.E.

List of Members. We intend to publish a list of members (without addresses) but would like to get an up to date list of collecting interests, in this regard we will be preparing a questionnaire.

Major Bechuanaland Sale. Harmers have announced that they will be auctioning the Charles Barkaway collection of Bechuanaland as part of their British Commonwealth sale on June 10th and 11th. I have not seen this collection but understand that it contains some marvellous items including a copy of 'GUBULAWAYO BECHUANALAND'. Arrangements are being made for members to receive a copy of the catalogue. Coincidentally Robson Lowe are holding a sale of the Harry Birkhead collection of Rhodesia on June 10th which also contains a copy of 'GUBULAWAYO BECHUANALAND' - it's either a feast or a famine!

Still on the point of auctions, I would like to record Bechuanaland items of interest that come up for sale by auction with a brief description of the item, the estimate and the realisation, this should help to give members who don't receive all the London catalogues an idea of the market.

Runner Post. As mentioned in the Hon. Secretary's report, we are planning to vary the content of the Runner Post by publishing alternatively one comprising short 'newsy' reports and articles with one containing longer articles in the form of a journal. That is the plan anyway, and there are sure to be exceptions. To those of you who have sent in articles which do not appear here please be patient, they will appear in Runner Post No. 4.

Southern Africa Distribution. Hamish Campbell has written to say that copies of the last Runner Post were despatched promptly to all Sub-Capricornian members, some with the self-explanatory cover note "they are all there but you must just sort the order out!!" Hamish says he has now got the hang of his new photostat machine and assures us that all is under control. Our sincere thanks to Hamish for taking on this portfolio, thus helping to save our society valuable funds. Oh for the days of Universal Penny Post!

Southern African Representative. Hamish Campbell has agreed to take on this additional responsibility, many thanks Hamish. This means that members in Southern Africa may, if they wish, now pay their membership subscriptions in Rand locally direct to Hamish, and not have to bother with the difficulties of paying in Sterling. The equivalent to the 5 Pounds Sterling subscription shall, for the present, be 15 Rand.

Railway Letter Post Article. We are delighted to have received this article from Helmuth Hagen for first publication in the Runner Post. Helmuth is the author, with Stan Naylor, of the excellent book published last year titled "Railway Stamps of South Africa". We are truly happy to have received this interesting and informative article from such a well known expert in this field.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Meeting of the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society held at STAMPEX, Horticultural Halls, London, on March 5th, 1986

There were 12 members and two visitors present; Chairman Brian Trotter welcomed the new faces -- John Inglefield-Watson, Tim Mahon, Richard Stroud, Mr. & Mrs. Martin, Rev. P. Strickland and Mrs. V. Williams.

Apologies from our President, H.R.Holmes, from Philip Kaye, Philip Cattell, John Coates, Harry Brush and Richard Johnson.

Minutes of the last meeting were deferred until next A.G.M. (October).

Position of Hon. Treasurer. As a Standholder, Philip Kaye finds it difficult to attend meetings and give reports. Aubrey Glassborow agreed to take over the Treasurership from Philip at the end of the year.

Representative for Southern Africa. As there had been no reply from the person originally approached by a joint letter from the Chairman and Hon. Secretary, the nomination of Dr. Hamish Campbell of Durban was made, and the Chairman would officially invite him to accept the post.

Newsletter, now The Runner Post, was improving in appearance and content. Production is now a co-operative affair, which helps to keep down costs. Over 55 copies of the last edition had been sent out, but with the exception of a few complimentary copies, it will in future be sent only to paid-up members. It was suggested that there should be four issues per annum, two being a Newsletter proper, and two being articles. Alan MacGregor offered to act as co-editor - this was quickly accepted.

The Secretary/Hon. Treasurer's Report. Briefly, 33 paid-up members, and a credit balance. (Membership has subsequently risen to 43 - Editor).

Postal Auction was discussed, Rules to be drawn up and Insurance to be investigated. A cardinal rule to be that payment must be received before lots are despatched to successful bidders. Tim Mahon offered to take on the job of Auctioneer, and this was gratefully accepted.

Chairman Brian then produced the proposed Typology, or system for classification of postmarks, for the Bechuanalands. This will enable all postmarks to be described and computerised. After general discussion on this, the Meeting closed and was followed by a display of forgeries by John Inglefield-Watson, which made an excellent follow-up to Jim Catterall's article in The Runner Post.

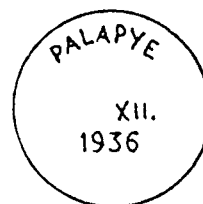
Next Meeting at B.P.S., Wednesday, 15th October

SINGLE CIRCLE "RELIEF" CANCELLER

Occasionally one comes across cancels of the type illustrated, I am curious to know how many towns or villages were issued with this type and the dates when they were used. They all comprise a single circle about 25mm diameter with the name across the top. The letters appear very poorly arranged and are shorter than one usually sees. Indeed I have seen one for Gaberone Station spelt "GABEONES STN" (the 3rd & 4th letters are unclear but only comprise part of an 8 letter word). Most of those seen are dated around 1935 but at least one was used in the early 1950's. The month occurs either in letters or in Roman form and the year in full or shortened, when it seems positioned on the rim.

Others seen include Mahalapye, Mochudi, Molepolole and Kanye. All information (especially clear photostats) would be gratefully received for an article which I hope to publish in a future Runner Post.

Alan MacGregor



BARRED OVAL CANCELLER WITH LETTER "B"

Further to the query about this canceller in Runner Post 1 (Newsletter 4), Peter Berry makes the following points:

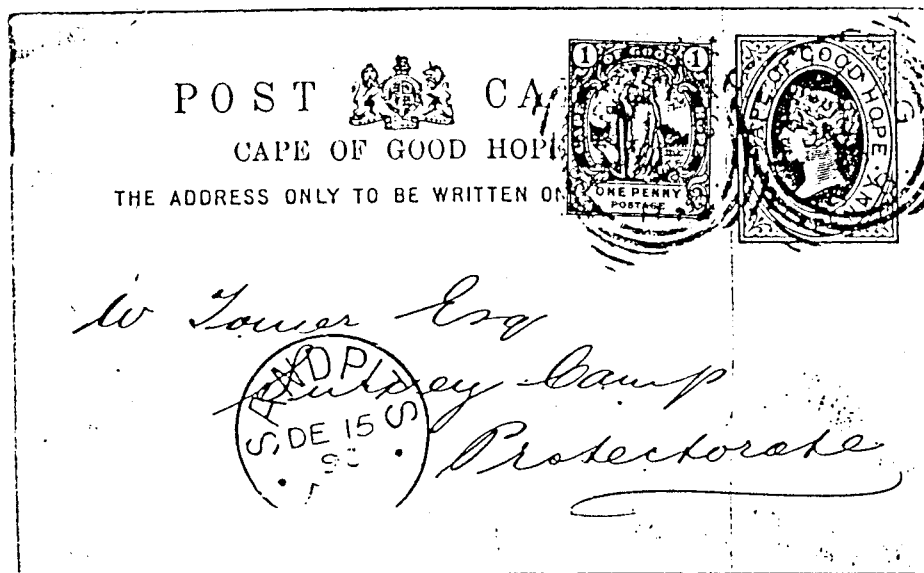
"There appears to be another cancel on the stamp illustrated; is this so? and if so can it be identified?"

"This is definitely not the thick barred oval of Bulawayo mentioned in Dann and Robson Lowe. This is a very distinctive cancel, thick, ugly, often overinked and heavily applied, but easily identifiable."

"Upright ovals with letters such as this were used in Ceylon at this period. I would suggest, if only for elimination purposes, that it be shown to an expert on that country."

Peter also asks if the one John Inglefield-Watson has is the same as the one that H.R.Holmes had (both on SG 34) as two copies would increase the possibility that it may be an undiscovered Bechuanaland, Rhodesia or South African (Cape) cancel.

SANDPITS



Bill Hart has sent a photostat of a postcard showing the rare SANDPITS/ B.B. postmark which is illustrated here. Bill describes it as:

"Bechuanaland, 1895, December 14. Cape 1d Postcard with 1d added used from Mafeking to 'W. Tower, Survey Camp, Protectorate' with 'SANDPITS/ B.B.' single circle datestamp. Holmes records 'An office was opened (in Sandpits) in 1895 but was closed in July 1896. No postmark has been seen.'"

This is only the second example I have seen of this postmark, the other being on a cover with the numeral canceller '699' or '669', which was posted from Sandpits and is, to the best of my knowledge, the only cover known with that combination. It must rank as one of the rarest Bechuanaland postmarks.

THE RAILWAY LETTER POST IN BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE

BY HELMUTH HAGEN

Collectors of Bechuanaland Protectorate stamps may have encountered oval, circular and rectangular cancellation marks that appear unfamiliar, or certainly different, from the usual circular marks. The chances are that they are date stamps applied by the South African Railways (SAR) on Rail Letters.

Until 1959 the South African Railways (and before 1910, the Cape Government Railways) operated the line through Bechuanaland as far as Bulawayo, although the railway had always been owned by Rhodesia Railways. In 1959 Rhodesia Railways took over the operation of the line from Bulawayo to Mahalapye and virtually at the same time SAR exercised an option to purchase the section of line from Vryburg up to the border of the Protectorate at Ramatlhabama. However, SAR continued to operate the line up to Mahalapye.

With the emergence of Botswana in 1966 Rhodesia Railways turned the tables, as it were, by taking over the operation of the line as far south as Mafeking (now Mafikeng) including the short, now SAR owned, portion between Ramatlhabama and Mafikeng.

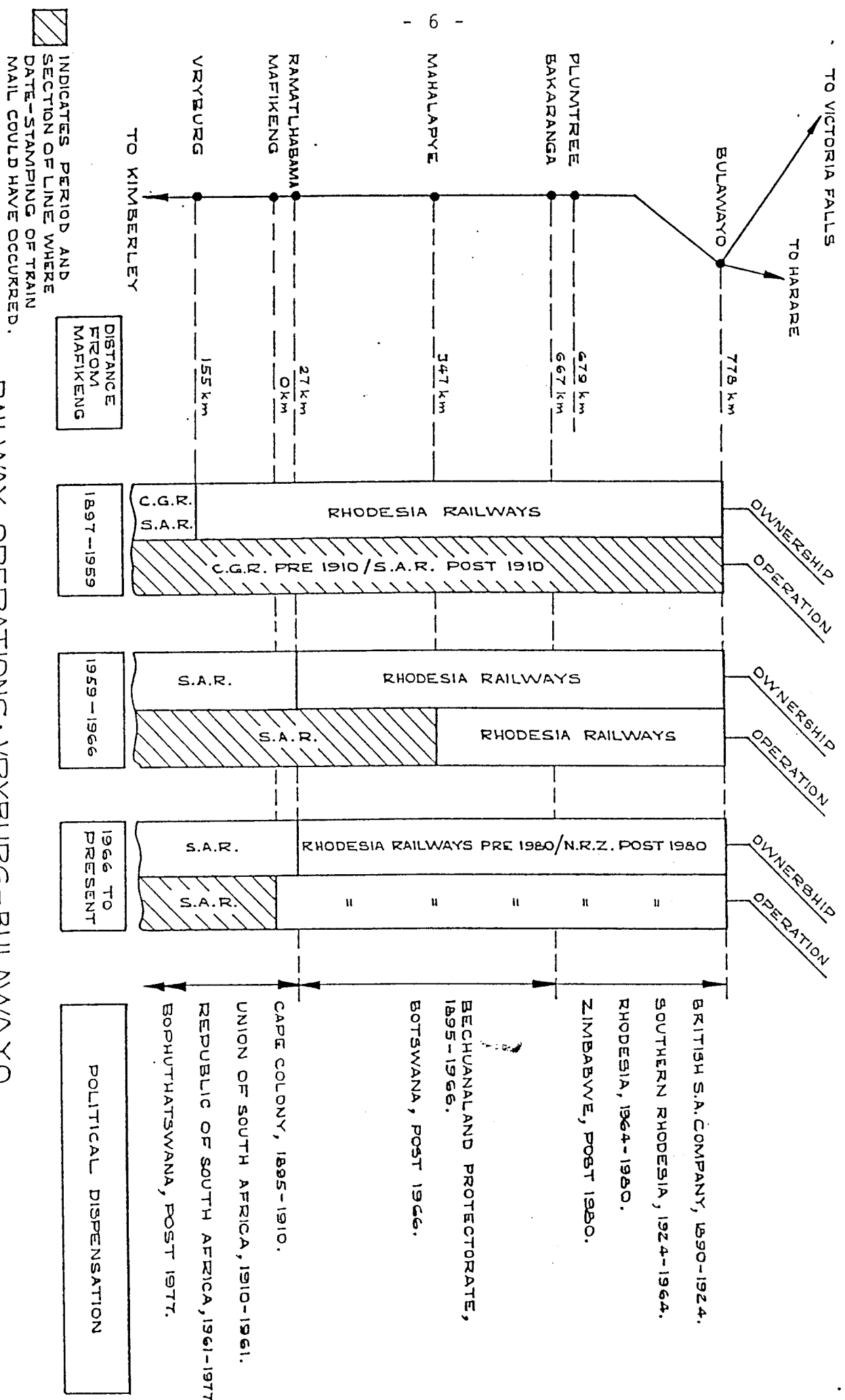
This remains the position at present except that in the meantime Rhodesia Railways have become the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ), South African Railways have become S.A. Transport Services (SATS) and Mafeking has of course become Mafikeng as part of the independent republic of Bophuthatswana. SATS operates all railway lines in the latter state in accordance with a formal agreement.

The creation of an independent railway system within Botswana has been mooted for a long time; 1987 has been set as a target for the creation of Botswana Railways but only time will tell whether this hope will be realised.

The somewhat confusing changes in ownership and operation are depicted in the accompanying diagram.

The Rail Letter system operated by SAR was instituted to satisfy the needs of the rural population for a type of "express" service and can best be described by the following reproduction of the relevant railway regulations (General Appendix No. 2, January 1930).

Of particular interest to postal historians are regulation 58(6) and the reference in regulation 55 to the application of the T.110 label. The former provides the answer to the application of railway cancellation marks to Bechuanaland Protectorate stamps, but space does not permit a detailed description of the changes in the size, format and method of application of the T.110 label. Suffice to say that after 1934 the T.110 label had to be affixed to the flat of the envelope.



RAILWAY OPERATIONS: VRYBURG-BULAWAYO

55. Rail Letter Post.

(1) ACCEPTANCE OF LETTERS AT STATIONS.—Letters having stamps affixed to the value of postage payable under the general regulations of the Post Office, and additional stamps to the value of 2d., may be accepted at the booking office at any railway station within the Union of South Africa, South-West Africa, Mozambique, or the section of line Ramathlabama to Bulawayo (inclusive), for conveyance by the next available passenger or mixed train to the place of their destination, or to the railway station nearest thereto, or situate most conveniently for the transfer of letters to the ordinary postal channel. Before being despatched a T. 110 label must be attached to the top left-hand corner of each letter.

(2) Guards of trains must not accept letters for conveyance by rail from the public at stations where there is a staff on duty except under the terms and conditions set forth in clause 58 hereof.

56. When Letters may be Accepted.

Letters must be presented at the booking office of a railway station during such hours as the station is open to the public, but unless tendered within a reasonable time before the advertised time of departure of a train, their despatch by that train cannot be guaranteed. Such letters cannot be accepted at a post office or by an officer of the post office.

57. Letters Addressed care of Station Master.

(1) To facilitate delivery, letters addressed to a railway station "To be called for," should be legibly addressed to the care of the station master of the particular station, and marked in the left-hand corner: "To be called for." If not called for within six weeks, such letters will be sent to the nearest post office for return to the senders through the "Returned Letter Office."

(2) Letters addressed to the actual residence or private box of the addressee should, in addition, be legibly marked: "Via.....station; to be posted on arrival."

58. Acceptance and Delivery of Letters at Stations, Sidings, etc.

(1) Letters accepted by guards at unattended stations or sidings without extra stamps must be kept separate from railway post letters proper, and must be posted in the nearest pillar box or post office.

(2) No articles other than letters or small packages bearing the letter rate of postage will be accepted for transmission by train under the railway letter post arrangement.

(3) The following letters must *not* be accepted as "railway letters":—

- (a) If the postage and fee prescribed is not prepaid.
- (b) If addressed to places outside the Union of South Africa, South-West Africa, Mozambique, and the section of line Ramathlabama to Bulawayo (inclusive).
- (c) If they bear words or marks indicating that they are intended to be registered.
- (d) If they contain, or appear to contain, jewellery, coin, or other article which, if sent through the post unregistered, would be subject to registration.
- (e) If they contain, or appear to contain, any article or thing which may not be sent by letter post.

(4) Any letter found by an officer of the post office to have been accepted contrary to the provisions of sub-clause (3) (c), (d) hereof will be charged with a fee of 8d., and if contrary to the provisions of sub-clause (3) (e) hereof, will be sent to the "Returned Letter Office" for disposal.

(5) On arrival at the destination station, railway post letters will be handed to the post office official calling for or with mails, or transferred to the nearest post office or post office letter box for delivery in the course of post.

(6) The official in charge or other official at the station of acceptance will cancel the stamps by means of a date stamp at places where such is in use, and where there is no date stamp, by means of three horizontal lines, in ink or blue pencil, drawn across the stamps.

Over the years the SA Postal Guides have made similar provision for the service and it is still in existence, although the price has recently gone up to R1.70 per letter in addition to the normal postage. At present about 150,000 rail letters are handled every year.

Obviously letters could only be handed in at stations where staff were on duty. As train services increased it was necessary to open additional stations and over the years, halts, sidings or stopping places were added. Furthermore, Botswana did not escape the African fashion for changing names! The following is a list of stations from which rail letters could probably have been sent in SAR times. The numbers are SAR numbers which on this particular line start with 001 at Cape Town. The names marked with an asterisk* are those for which illustrations of SAR date stamps are shown.

<u>Old Name</u>	<u>SAR Station Number</u>	<u>New Name</u>
Mafeking	089	Mafikeng
Pitsani		Pitsane
Lobatsi	090	Lobatse
Ootsi		Otse
Ramoutsa*	091	Ramotswa
Gaberones*	092	Gaborone
Pilane*	093	
Mochudi		Malotwana
Artesia*		
Debeeti	094	Dibete
Palla Road		Phala Road
Mahalapye	096	
Towani		Tewane
Palapye Road	097	Palapye
Topsi		Topisi
Seruli	098	Serule
Macloutsi*		Motloutse River
Francistown*	099	
Tsessebe*	100	Tshesebe
Plumtree	101	
Figtree	102	

The writer has prepared a typology of SAR station date stamps as part of a far more comprehensive study of the railway-associated postal history of South Africa. In short it may be stated that these date stamps can be broadly classified into three very basic types viz

Circular : Type C : A wide variety exists and this type is sub-grouped according to numbers of rings, legend and diameter. These are steel daters and were invariably used with black ink.

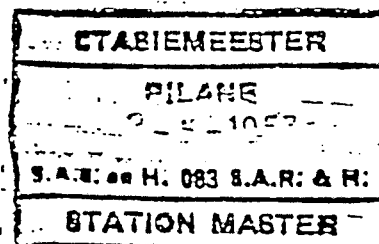
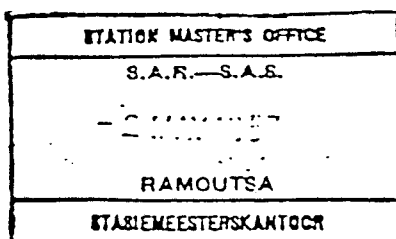
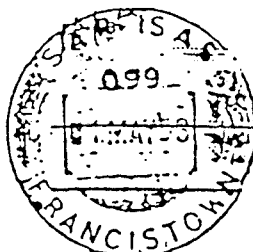
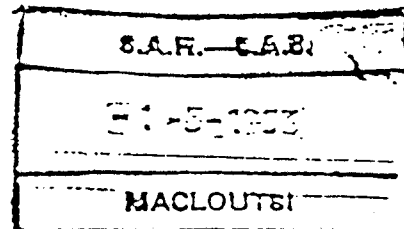
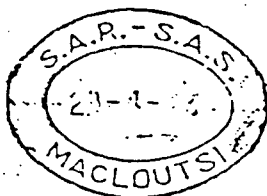
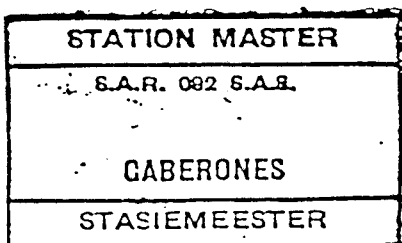
Oval : Type O : Ditto. The degree of ovalness varies considerably.

Rectangular : Type R : These are rubber daters and are usually used with lilac or purple ink pads. They are sub-grouped according to the numbers of parts in the rectangle i.e. one part or three part. Legends differ widely.

NRZ also operate a Rail Letter Service within Botswana only. Postage stamps to the value of the postage payable under the Botswana postal regulations must be affixed to the letter and in addition a charge of 85 cents per letter for the Railway conveyance must be paid by the sender to the Railways at the time of acceptance. A similar system existed in Zimbabwe but was abolished on 1 February 1982.

Editor's Note

As Mike Nethersole points out, the name of the station with SAR Station number 095 is not listed, since Helmuth Hagen has not been able to establish to which station it was allocated. Since the numbers were sequentially allocated, and 094 was for Debeeti and 096 for Mahalapye, the station receiving number 095 must lie between these two stations. In a 1958 Standard Railway Map of Southern Africa, only 3 stations appear between Debeeti and Mahalapye - Mamabula, Palla Road, and Bonapitsi. We know rail letters were sent from Palla Road (Helmuth Hagen lists and illustrates a SAR datestamp from Palla Road). So, does anyone have a cancellation that can confirm to which station number 095 was allocated?



NOTE : As photocopying was involved in reproduction, horizontal dimensions are not "true".

BECHUANALANDS POSTAL MARKING STUDY

BY BRIAN TROTTER

This is what started it all. In 1983 Roy Setterfield and I decided to embark on a project to study the postal markings of the Bechuanalands. Since neither of us had ever done anything like this before, had not even met each other, and were trying to do it all by correspondence, you can imagine that we did not progress very rapidly.

What we soon discovered, was just how difficult it can be to describe a postmark if one does not have a good photocopy to send (or, of course, send the original). So we first set out to develop a "typology". This is now in an advanced stage, and was briefly discussed at our last meeting at Stampex. Part 1 is in this issue of the Runner Post, and part 2 shall follow in a future issue.

We intend seeking the help of our membership (that's you!), to move forward with this study. We shall generally use the Runner Post to report progress and seek help, although we shall contact those of you who have volunteered directly. So, dust off your FANCISTOWN postal markings, as we hope to do the first bit of "help seeking" on these in the next issue.

POSTAL MARKING CLASSIFICATION (OR TYPOLOGY)

This is based on permanent structural appearance (i.e. permanent geometrical shape or form), and is adapted, with permission, from the Nethersole/Frescura CGH postmark classification, published in the "Post Office Stone" in December 1983.

Postal Markings are those handstruck or machine applied on postal items.

Bechuanalands postal markings are those used within the territories of British Bechuanaland and the Bechuanaland Protectorate, and those used subsequently in the C.G.H., Botswana, and elsewhere which bear the name "Bechuanaland" in some form (e.g. B.B., B.P. etc).

CLASSIFICATION PART 1

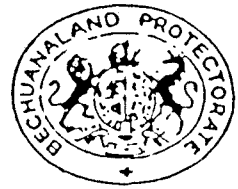
The six basic types of Post Office Markings are illustrated as types 1 to 6 on the following 2 pages, with the 7 sub-types following on the lower part of the second page and numbered A to G. Further specific identification is provided for on the next pages where sub-type variations are listed.

NOTE: DIMENSIONS OF THE ILLUSTRATED POSTMARKS TEND TO BE SLIGHTLY ENLARGED OR DISTORTED DUE TO THE PHOTOCOPYING.

BECHUANALANDS





POSTAL MARKING CLASSIFICATION



PART 1 : POST OFFICE DATESTAMPS





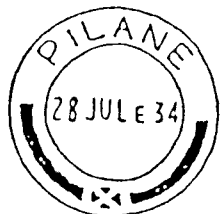


Postmark	Type Number	Goldblatt Type	N/F Type	Description and Other Data
	1	CDS	5 19	Single Circle Office Datestamp
Postmark	Type Number	Goldblatt Type	N/F Type	Description and Other Data
	2	DCDS	20 21	Double Circle Office Datestamp
Postmark	Type Number	Goldblatt Type	N/F Type	Description and Other Data
	3	DDS	17	Divided Inner Circle Office Datestamp
Postmark	Type Number	Goldblatt Type	N/F Type	Description and Other Data
	4	SC	12	Squared Circle Office Datestamp

Postmark	Type Number	Goldblatt Type	N/F Type	Description and Other Data
	5			Triple Circle Office Datestamp

Postmark	Type Number	Goldblatt Type	N/F Type	Description and Other Data
	6		22	Oval Office Datestamp

SUB-TYPES

For each of the basic types of Office Datestamps, one or more sub-types may exist. Examples of these sub-types are illustrated below, with the recorded variations listed on the following pages.

 <p>A</p> <p>Blank at base</p>	 <p>B</p> <p>Territory name at base</p>	 <p>C</p> <p>Other name at base</p>	 <p>D</p> <p>Ornament at base</p>
 <p>E</p> <p>Spacer arcs at base</p>	 <p>F</p> <p>Relief datestamp</p>	 <p>G</p> <p>Numerals at base</p>	

BECHUANALANDS POSTAL MARKINGS CLASSIFICATION

Listing of Part 1 Sub-type variations

TERRITORY NAME AT BASE (SUB-TYPE B)

- 1 Bechuanaland - with dot separators
- 2 Bechuanaland - without dot separators
- 3 B.B. - with dot separators
- 4 B.B. - without dot separators
- 5 B.B.P.
- 6 Bech^d Protector^e - with dot separators
- 7 Bech^d Protector^e - with cross separators
- 8 Bech^d Protec.
- 9 Bech^d Pro^t
- 10 Bechd Prot
- 11 Bech. Protectorate
- 12 Bech. Protec.
- 13 Bech Protec (no stops)
- 14 Bech. Prot.
- 15 Bech Prot (no stops)
- 16 Bech Prot - with arc separators
- 17 B.Prot.
- 18 B.P. - with dot separators
- 19 B.P. - with arc separators
- 20 B.P. - without separators

OTHER NAME AT BASE (SUB-TYPE C)

- 31 Matabeleland
- 32 Khamas Town
- 33 C.G.H.
- 34 South Africa
- 35 S. Africa
- 36 Bechd Rly
- 37 H. O. Mafeking
- 38 Francistown - with block separators
- 39 Francistown - without separators
- 40 Lobatsi B.P.
- 41 Ramoutsa Stn
- 42 Peleng
- 43 Vryburg

ORNAMENT AT BASE (SUB-TYPE D)

- 51 Dot
- 52 Cross (Pattee or St. Andrews)
- 53 Compressed Cross
- 54 Multiplication Cross

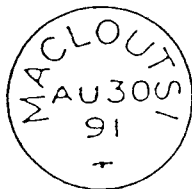
SPACER ARCS AT BASE (SUB-TYPE E)

- 61 Unbroken Arc
- 62 Thick - separated by a cross
- 63 Thin - separated by a cross

RELIEF DATESTAMPS (SUB-TYPE F)

- 71 S.A. at base
- 72 Year in numerals at base (e.g. 35)
- 73 Full year in numerals at base (e.g. 1934)

Example 1



Type 1 D 53

Type 1 : Single Circle Office Datestamp

Sub-type D : Ornament at base

Variation 53 : Compressed cross

THE PDS5 ON 1/- POSTAL FISCAL (SG F2)

This stamp is scarcer and more popular than I thought - 2 examples were offered on auction recently in South Africa described as:

"REVENUE 1918 Two copies of the Pds 5 on 1/- on piece, purple oval Assistant Resident Magistrate / 13 MAR 1919 / LOBATSI, superb and very scarce, B & H 51 Pds 50++"

The estimate was R265 (about Pds 85). I sent in a 'reasonable' bid and was not a little surprised when I received a polite note informing me that it went for R800 (about Pds 260) !! I 'phoned the auctioneer who was equally surprised, and he told me he had no less than 12 bidders! Unfortunately the illustration was too faint for reproducing here.

DIFFICULTIES WITH NATIVE MAIL

BY RICHARD STROUD

The October 1901 Post Office Circular of the Orange River Colony contains an instruction that "Unclaimed native letters must in future appear under a separate heading on the list of unclaimed correspondence published monthly". I had not been aware that sufficient native mail was handled at that time to warrant a separate "unclaimed" heading in the returns. Could such mail be recognised?

The Cornish Stamp Company included in one of their auction catalogues of 1981 what was described as native letters of the Anglo-Boer War period. They kindly provided me with photocopies of the two items - both appeared to fit the description - and both are worthy of a few notes, especially as they relate to Bechuanaland destinations.

The first (in date order) is postmarked Bloemfontein JU 5 00 and is addressed to Mr.(?) Matiti, Bicianalanta, Maritsan Siedeing, ORF (?). The name Matiti, which appears at first sight to be a place name, is I believe a surname. Maritzani Siding is just south of Mafeking (near the Setlagoli Native Reserve) and this, with the weird spelling of Bechuanaland, should have identified the destination adequately, even so, the many backstamps indicate that the postal officials forwarded the letter to the Basutoland area. These backstamps in date order are:

Aliwal North	JU 14
Mafeteng	JU 17
Aliwal North	JU 22
Bloemfontein	JU 24
Vryburg	JU 30
Mafeking	JY 2

There is a further backstamp of Bloemfontein but the day is undecipherable. I am intrigued with the shuttle between Aliwal North and Mafeteng and back, and also with Aliwal North itself. There is nowhere in this area that remotely resembles the address. Why also the transit of Vryburg between Bloemfontein and Mafeking? Certainly this item became almost "Undeliverable" rather than "Unclaimed".

The second item (postmark undecipherable) is addressed to "Mas R Philip Gasemotho, c/o H Kend Esqre, Madibi, Mafekeng, B Bechianaland". (Note the African spelling of Mafeking.) This to me is a fairly accurate address as Madibi Station is also just south of Mafeking. There is a backstamp Mafeking OC 22 00. However, Mafekeng was deleted and "Mzani" added in manuscript. (Where is Mzani?) A further manuscript note added later indicates "Try Madibi" and a Mafeking transit of OC 25 00 appears on the front of the cover.

These two items illustrate the difficulty that the postal sorters must have had with such mail. Perhaps similar items are in members' collections awaiting notice and recording.

Ex "Anglo-Boer War Philatelist" (Vol 25 No 1) Spring 1982

MAGALAPYE

There has been a good response to Brian Trotter's request for information on the MAGALAPYE BBP postmark. Peter Berry writes to say that he purchased a cover on the Holmes sale (I presume this was lot 1476 which contained a 1918 registered cover with GV values to 1/- - ED) this has several strikes of MAGALAPYE BBP - all with code letter 'O'. Peter considers that this cover is probably philatelic and points out that most postmarks appear neat, clean and well centred on the stamps, which one would not expect in a frequently used commercial canceller. There appears to be a few exceptions however, as both Brian Fenemore and Jim Catterall have part strikes on a QV 2d (SG 32) and a GV 1d respectively, the latter with a 1914 date. Jim also has a seahorse 5/- on piece dated July 23 1918 leading him to believe that contemporary philatelists were attracted to the Post Office in 1918 perhaps due to the "wrong" spelling.

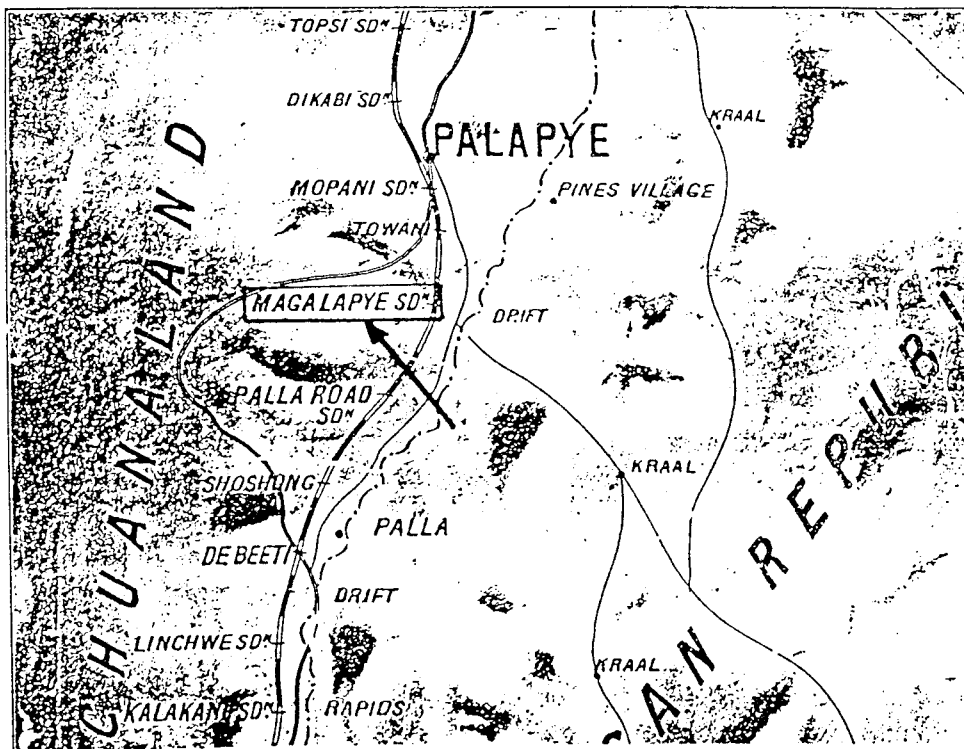
Mike George also points out that his copy has the code letter "broken" vertically, so that the 'O' is clearly in 2 parts. A bit like the left and right side brackets being typed close together without any space between ().

As a matter of interest both spellings would be pronounced the same way - with the hard 'H' or the guttural 'G', indeed, in the case of many town names there appears to have been at least two alternative spellings and as an example I am showing part of a map ex 'Black and White' - February 3rd 1900 which shows MAGALAPYE SDⁿ (Siding)!

We would welcome hearing from any other members who have examples - even a blurred copy would help prove a point! (Clear photostats would be most welcome.)

VIII

SUPPLEMENT TO BLACK AND WHITE FEBRUARY 3, 1900



QUERIES

Several members have sent in queries and would welcome any information that readers can supply.

John Inglefield-Watson writes:

- 1) "I have a mint pair and marginal single, both imperforate, of the 25 cents value (SG 177) of the 1961 Protectorate definitive issue. Has any member information about this variety, especially in respect of its status?"
2. "In 1976 I was informed by a collector resident in Botswana that one imperforate sheet of the 3 cents value (SG 294) of the 1972 Runner Post commemorative issue was sold at Francistown to a messenger of the Tati Company and that one vertical strip was known to have survived. Can any member confirm this report?"

I have had two queries from Peter Berry passed to me for publication:

- 3) "The stop after P variety on the Ed VII 2½d is well known. Bob Holmes states that the forme was broken up shortly after the overprinting of the issue. How is it that Bridger & Kay (alone) list this same variety on the George V 1914-24 2½d? A very similar variety to this is known on the GV 1½d"
- 4) "The 1896 British Bechuanaland overprint on Cape ½d green is frequently found with albino double overprints, usually inverted and reversed. This would seem to indicate that parts at least of the sheets were folded back during overprinting?"

With regard to this last query, two possibilities were proposed by John Coates over a 'philatelic lunch' - one being that the printers may have used the uninked plates to flatten out curling panes from the heat before overprinting, and the second (and in John's opinion the most probable) is that the printers, having little room for error regarding the positioning of the overprints, particularly on the 13mm & 13½mm settings, either horizontally or vertically would take a 'dry test run' and use the albino impression as a guide. John says he has not seen an albino overprint on the 10½mm setting where, presumably, there would be more room for error, at least vertically.