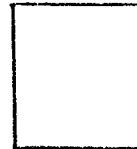


The Runner Post



RUNNER POST NO. 4

SUMMER ISSUE

AUGUST 1986

Contents

page

Editor's Notices and Comments	1
The 5 Pounds on one shilling postal fiscal	3
K.E.VII 2½d with 'stop' after 'P' of Protectorate	3
Relief Cancellers	4
In the auction room	5
Bechuanaland stamps used on Rhodesian Mail	7
Forged overprints and surcharges on stamps of the Bechuanalands by J.F. Inglefield-Watson	8
Francistown and its postmarks by Brian Trotter	11
Proposed Rules	17
Questionnaire	19



THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY

President: H.R. Holmes, Esq., F.R.P.S., L.

Chairman: Brian Trotter,
Im Ruhrets 3, 8803 Ruschlikon, Switzerland

Secretary: Roy Setterfield,
18 Goldsmid Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 1QA, U.K.

Treasurer: Philip Kaye,
9, Avondale Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 6ER, U.K.

Southern Africa
Representative: Hamish Campbell
145 Ridge Road, Durban 4001, South Africa

Editors: Roy Setterfield,
18 Goldsmid Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 1QA, U.K.

Alan MacGregor,
56 Framfield Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2AL, U.K.

EDITOR'S NOTICES AND COMMENTS

First, Official Notice of the General Meeting of the Bechuanaland and Botswana Society to be held at B.P.E., London, on Wednesday the 15th October, 1986, at 2 p.m. Nominations for the Election of Officers to the Hon. Secretary, please. The present Officers as published are offering themselves for re-election, with the exception that Aubrey Glassborow (Hampshire) is proposed as Honorary Treasurer.

Secondly, as some of you will be aware, we are having a Tea-party Meeting on Saturday September 6th at Lymington, Hampshire, to mark the recent occasion of our President's 90th birthday. As Mr. Holmes cannot now travel to London to meet us, it seems only right that those of us who are able, should go to Lymington to meet him and Mrs. Holmes. The New Forest should then be beautiful, and less crowded, so how about a week-end there with your lady? Overseas members visiting U.K., please note! Information from Hon. Secretary.

Hamish Campbell, our very active Sub-Capricornian Representative, is endeavouring to arrange a meeting of our members in Southern Africa at the time of the Johannesburg 100 Exhibition. We believe this is set for Tuesday 7th October.

Society Rules. Your Society has developed faster than the Founding Fathers anticipated, much to their pleasure: latest score - over 50 paid-up members. But as we are so wide-spread, most of the communication between your Officers has to be by mail, and consequently takes much time. In theory, the Rules of the Society should have been

prepared for the Inaugural Meeting; in practice, the proposed Rules are published in this issue. Please read through and consider, and forward any comment/criticism to the Secretary; these, together with the Rules, will then be put forward for discussion at the General Meeting, followed by the ratification of the Rules. We have thought it practical to have, not an A.G.M., but a General Meeting with Elections every two years; also for the Chairman to hold office for two consecutive years only, but to be eligible for re-election again after a 2 year break.

Forgeries. We make no excuse for having another article on Forgeries, as John Inglefield-Watson's article makes an excellent follow-up to that by Jim Catterall. On this subject we have read of another method for the detection of forgeries. With a genuine example, bisect it by cutting straight through the middle, lengthwise, along the overprint. Then match the half-overprint, to the overprint under examination. If genuine, there will be an exact match; if not, if there is any deviation, then consider it a forgery. Now, who is there with the courage to mutilate a genuine specimen? and with the generosity to afterwards donate at least half of it to the Society for other less courageous members to borrow?

Editor's Correction Section. It was rumoured, and reported in The Runner Post, that the Botswana Government's collection (based in part on the Holmes collection), might be on display or on view at the time of the Johannesburg 100 Exhibition. We now hear that this will not be so, as at present it is just that: a collection of items from various purchases, and a great deal of work will probably be required before it can be displayed in whole or in part. Some day, perhaps? It may be worth pointing out that for some years there has been on display at Gaborone Museum, a straight set from 1885 to date. I wonder how many other collectors besides your editor have studied these: not only the stamps, but also the frames and whether one could grab the set of Unappropriated Dies and get away with it? Anyone who says he has never thought of that, is open to disbelief....

Another Questionnaire -- Why? Because a List of Members and their particular interests in our area will be for the mutual benefit of our membership, to know who shares their particular interests; to know to whom they can turn for advice, etc. For security reasons, it is intended that only the 'country' of residence will be published, e.g. Scotland, Natal, Denmark; the actual addresses obtainable from the Hon. Secretary -- or not at all, if you so indicate. To those who completed the previous questionnaire, thank you. Our membership has doubled since then, and it will only take a minute or so to do this one, and return it -- with your Subscription for 1986 - 1987. The Questionnaire will be on the last page.

Postal Auction. We regret that our Volunteer for the post of Auctioneer has disappeared, so no progress as yet. But we think we have another, a non-member, who shall take on this task. In anticipation of finally getting our first postal auction "off the ground", please send any items that you may wish to offer for sale to Roy Setterfield.

Auctions. Three recent Auctions by London houses included much good and some superb Bechuanaland material. (See "In the Auction Room") Following the Barkaway Sale at Harmers, seven members gathered for a natter over tea/coffee; we were delighted to make the acquaintance of Roger Howard and Dennis Firth. Also, another new member, you will be interested to know, is from the Moffat family: welcome, Chris! Regretfully, before you all ask. No, he has no hoard of unrecorded mail from his ancestors, Robert or JS!

Our President, H.R. Holmes, writes:

THE 5 POUNDS ON ONE SHILLING POSTAL FISCAL

The report in the last issue of 'The Runner Post' concerning the sale by auction in South Africa of two examples of this stamp I found very interesting, as it recalled the memory of the two I had in my collection.

When I obtained my unused copy of this stamp I saw that on the reverse were the lightly pencilled initial 'T.A.'. I asked Mr. T. Allen what he knew about it, and he told me that he only had two copies of it, one he sold to Mr. Edward Moseley of Johannesburg and the other to Mr. W. Twemlow. The Moseley copy is now with the rest of his collection in the British Library. Mr. P.L. Pemberton bought the Twemlow collection, and I acquired my copy from him.

My used example came from the collection of Mr. J.W.H. Scofield, and although it is cancelled by the Gaberones datestamp, I do not now believe that it was used for postal purposes. However, that is nothing against it, as it could have been used in the post, and it is just as entitled to be listed among postage stamps as the Pounds 25 of Northern Nigeria and many other high value British Colonial stamps inscribed 'Postage and Revenue'.

The A.B. Kay collection of Colonial fiscal stamps now in the British Library contains a fiscally used example.

In addition to the two examples sold recently in South Africa there are probably a few more copies known to our members, and it would be interesting to have a record of existing copies of this rare stamp.

H.R. Holmes

K.E. VII 2½d. WITH 'STOP' AFTER 'P' OF PROTECTORATE.

One of the most curious minor varieties to achieve catalogue status is the K.E. VII 2½d. ultramarine, S.G. 69, overprinted BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, with a 'Stop after letter P'. Of course it is not

really a 'Stop', but was caused by an irregularly shaped piece of metal getting on the surface of the overprint stereo at some time during the first overprinting, and lodging after the 'P'.

Shortly after my book on the Bechuanalands was published, the late Anthony Rigo de Righi, then curator of the Post Office Museum, arranged for me to examine the Bechuanaland Registration sheets.

I found when I checked the Edwardian 2½d. sheet that No. 57 of the lower pane did not have the 'stop' after the 'P', and I now believe that the intrusive piece of metal did not get on to the surface of the stereo before the overprinting began, but did so during the overprinting.

However, one can be certain that when the first overprinting on the Edward VII 2½d. was completed, the piece of metal was removed from the stereo and that it did not reappear on any subsequent overprints.

The shape of the 'Stop' is so distinctive that I believe it is virtually impossible for the variety to be successfully forged. I have seen about twenty genuine examples and the seven or eight attempted forgeries that I have examined were such pathetic efforts that nobody should be taken in by them.

H.R. Holmes

Mr. Holmes also wishes the following to be noted: In the last issue of 'The Runner Post' (No. 3, page 17) Mr. Berry wrote that I had 'stated that the forme was broken up shortly after the overprinting of the issue'. As I have no recollection of having said or written this, would Mr. Berry kindly give the source of his statement?

RELIEF CANCELLERS

No response as yet to the last issue's enquiry, except that Howard Cook has sent - and its about time we mentioned Botswana - a Botswana Secretary Bird with Temporary Rubber Date-stamp for Kasane, double circle blank at base, Jan 1970 in violet. Diameter is 30 mm. This is surprising, as we already have temporary rubber date-stamp for Kasane, but 37 mm, and struck in red, for 13 5 1974. Presumably the normal handstamp (Protectorate Type 2 E 62) was away for repairs, being already over 50 years old; but it was back again in use in 1974 and 76.

IN THE AUCTION ROOM

Considering the general lack of interesting Bechuanaland material on the market since the fabulous "Holmes Collection" appeared in late 1981, we have seen a veritable deluge on the market in the last eight months.

The first item of interest to us appeared on a Robson Lowe auction catalogue for 11th December 1985 as Lot No. 1563. This was a copy of the 1d on 1d (SG 41) with two part strikes of the 'Gubulawayo/Bechuanaland' postmark and was estimated and knocked down at 500 Pounds (from memory - to the book).

Many Auction Houses held prestige sales during the "AMERIPEX" show in May of this year, including Proud Bailey whose Sale contained this amazing cover:-

Lot 208 - Stellaland 1885 cover to Canada franked with 3 x 1d Stellaland used in combination with 12 x 1d Cape, all the stamps are cancelled in manuscript "Vryburg/26.6.85/Stellaland/J.W. Oats (?) Postmaster". The Capes are additionally cancelled by "BARKLY /26 6 85/G.W" cds's. Cape Town and London transits & Canadian arrival of AU 3 85 tying the stamps. Stated to be the only multiple franking, and example of a Stellaland stamp being tied. BPA Certificate. Estimated 28,000 Pounds (Yes --- thousand!). I have not heard what it realised.

The Robson Lowe "Rhodesia" sale on 10th June contained 2 items of interest:-

Lot 3 - 'GUBULAWAYO/BECHUANALAND' almost complete postmark on the 1888 Protectorate ½d vermilion (SG 40), apparently the only impression on a ½d stamp. Estimate 500 Pounds, realised 1100 Pounds.

Lot 4 - 'TATI/BECHUANALAND' postmark on the Protectorate 1d on 1d (SG 41), almost full, clear strike. Five copies stated to exist. Estimate 1750 Pounds, realised 2000 Pounds.

Harmers Sale on the 25th June saw the "Charles Barkaway Collection" on offer including second copies of the above postmarks, this within two weeks! It is hard to give an overall impression of the auction, one could say the results were 'mixed' with most (about 60%) of the items going at quite a lot over estimate and the balance at or below estimate. The pre-sale estimate was 19,158 Pounds and the total knock-down price was 22,511 Pounds (plus commission & VAT on commission = 11.5%). Highlights included:-

Lot 615 - A mint pair of the 1888 ½d on 3d (SG 29a and 29), the left-hand stamp showing 'F' in Half almost completely omitted. It was stated that only one other pair is known and that is the Royal collection. (Please note "pairs". Other examples of singles are known e.g. Holmes Sale lot 1092. H.R. Holmes also

states that he has recorded 5 other singles - Editor). The estimate was 2000 Pounds, and it realised 2800 Pounds.

Lot Nos. 639 & 640 - trial overprints in capitals on 1d GB wrappers, both estimated at 50 Pounds and each realised 130 Pounds.

Lot 649 - The 'Protectorate' overprint on the 10/-, mint, with faults, catalogued at 2750 Pounds. Estimate 440 Pounds, realised 340 Pounds.

Lot 656 - 1889 4d on 1d surcharge inverted (SG 53a), used. R.P.S. cert. Ex Maria de La Queillerie. Estimate 600 Pounds, realised 460 Pounds.

Lot 665 - E.VII 2½d with 'stop after P' (SG 69a), mint, R.P.S. Cert. Estimate 200 Pounds, realised 210 Pounds.

Lot 670 - A u/mint block of 8 of the 5/- 'Seahorse' (SG 84), from the top of the sheet. Estimate 500 Pounds, realised 440 Pounds.

Lot 690 - A used strip of 3 of the 6d Postal Fiscal (SG F1), used on piece with 'PALAPYE STATION' triple circle cds. Estimate 150 Pounds, realised 280 Pounds.

Lot 692 - A 'used' pair of the 5 Pounds on 1/- Postal Fiscal (SG F2), one with corner fault, also Cape 5 Pounds, 6d & 1/- overprinted or hand-stamped, the last two with 'Specimen' overprint. Estimated 100 Pounds, realised 320 Pounds.

Lot 705 - A copy of the Protectorate 1d (SG 41) with a central strike of 'GUBULAWAYO/AU 21/88/BECHUANALAND'. Estimate 1200 Pounds, realised 1200 Pounds.

Lot 707 - A copy of the same stamp with a neat central strike of 'TATI/21 AU/88/BECHUANALAND'. Estimate 1400 Pounds, realised 1550 Pounds.

Lot 717 - The book 'The Postage Stamps, Postal Stationery, and Postmarks of the Bechuanalands' by H.R. Holmes. Estimate 20 Pounds, realised 80 Pounds.

Small collections and mixed lots did very well, usually selling at multiples of estimate.

Robson Lowe's Postal History Sale on the 15th July contained a superb cover described as follows:-

Lot 452 - 1900 (20th Apr.) Soldier's letter to London from a sergeant with No. 1 Armoured Train at Ootsi bearing Bech.Prot. 1d lilac cancelled by cds 'CROCODILE POOLS/SOUTH AFRICA' with another strike alongside, Bulawayo transit on reverse. Rare. Estimate 500 Pounds, realised 900 Pounds.

Robson Lowe's 'Southern Africa' sale on 22nd July contained 41 items of Bechuanaland interest, including 9 items ex the 'Methuen Correspondence'. A few items of note:-

Lot 17 - an 1887 4 colour combination cover to Germany from Mafeking bearing the 1885 ½d, 1d, 2d, & 6d making up a 9½d rate, and with the Cape '2½d' accountancy mark. R.P.S. certificate. Estimate 750 Pounds, realised 550 Pounds.

Lot 23 - 1d Postcard cancelled part BONC and 'KURUMAN/BECHUANALAND', both in blue. Estimate 35 Pounds, realised 55 Pounds.

Lot 30 - 1895 1½d Postcard add. to the O.F.S., clearly cancelled with BONC 478 and 'GROOT CHWAING/B.B.'. (As far as we know - the only known example of either strike on cover or card - Eds.) Estimate 70 Pounds, realised 500 Pounds!

Lot 31 - 1895 cover with 1891 2d (SG 34) cancelled 'MARIBOGO/B.B.' and BONC 209 in thin bars. Estimate 100 Pounds, realised 135 Pounds.

Lot 39 - 1890 'Tamsen' cover to Waterberg with 4d on ½d (SG 53) cancelled 'KANYE/BECHUANALAND'. Estimate 70 Pounds, realised 170 Pounds.

Lot 46 - 1895 Tati Concession stamps, 1/- to 5 Pounds, set of six, mint. Estimate 85 Pounds, realised 115 Pounds.

Lot 47 - ditto, the 1/- (thinned) with (very) light oval hand-stamp, 2/6, 1 Pound and 5 Pounds each with manuscript 'July 1st 1897'. Estimate 80 Pounds, realised 115 Pounds.

Lot 112 - Mafeking 3d on 1d (SG3) strip of 4 on cover cancelled at Mafeking with 'CROCODILE POOLS/SOUTH AFRICA' double ring cds below. Estimate 500 Pounds, realised 900 Pounds.

All the prices quoted are exclusive of the Auctioneers' Commission (plus VAT on commission), and VAT where applicable.

BECHUANALAND STAMPS USED ON RHODESIAN MAIL

Those of us who are members of the Rhodesian Study Circle will have greatly enjoyed the articles with the above title by Kenneth Wright, which appeared in their last two Journals. These cover the use of Bechuanaland stamps in Matabeleland (Gubulawayo) and Mashonaland (Pioneer Column), 1888 - 1894. More information in the next issue of The Runner Post.

FORGED OVERPRINTS AND SURCHARGES
ON STAMPS OF THE BECHUANALANDS

by J.F. Inglefield-Watson

By fortunate coincidence with Jim Catterall's interesting article in 'Runner Post' No.2 (Winter 85/86) about the forged overprints of the 1885-87 British Bechuanaland issue, I showed examples of these and other Bechuanalands forgeries at the March 86 meeting. This article includes a record of the items displayed so that all members are aware of the existence of such forgeries. It does not claim to be a comprehensive listing. In trying to produce sufficiently clear illustrations I encountered similar difficulties to those experienced in the production of Jim's article and I therefore abandoned the attempt in favour of written descriptions.

British Bechuanaland

1885-87 Overprints (SG 1-8). Jim Catterall identified 8 different types of forged overprint. My own study has so far revealed more than 20 types, mostly distinguished by the overprint measurements but some also by differences in the basic stamps. Rather than attempting to describe each type in detail, I am offering a check list of tests for genuineness. Before doing this I would like to make one comment on Jim's method of measurements. We both measure the spacing between the two lines of overprint in the same way but, whereas he states the overall length of each word inclusive of serifs, I prefer to measure exclusive of the serifs which are, in my view, prone to variation and damage. Using this method the genuine overprints consist of 'British', 7.25 - 7.5 mm, and 'Bechuanaland', 15.25 - 15.5 mm, in two lines just under 4 mm apart, subject to slight variations within the setting.

The test to be applied are:

1. Is the basic Cape of Good Hope stamp correct? Forged overprints were applied to genuine stamps that were 'wrong' in respect of:
 - a. Value. 2½d and 5/- values seen.
 - b. Watermark. Crown CA or Crown CC instead of Anchor or vice versa.
 - c. Design. The 4d value seen with outer frame-line (SG Type 4) instead of without outer frame-line (SG Type 6) and the 1/- value with the reverse. Note that both these Types occur within the genuine list of values.
 - d. Shade. Study the Cape of Good Hope shade listings. Be suspicious of those that differ significantly from the Bechuanaland listing, e.g. ½d black instead of grey-black and 1d carmine-red instead of rose-red.

2. Are the overprint measurements correct? Measuring under magnification is recommended. Most forgeries are obviously wrong in one or more of the three dimensions. A few fall within the genuine measurements and can only be detected by other tests.

3. Is the typeface of the overprint correct? Again, some forgeries are crude but others need careful comparison with the genuine article, e.g. Caterall Type 4.

4. Is the overprint setting correct? The following indicate forgeries:

- a. Stop after 'Bechuanaland'.
- b. 'B' of 'British' over 'ch' of 'Bechuanaland' or otherwise misplaced instead of being over the 'h'.
- c. Mis-alignment off the horizontal.

5. On used stamps be suspicious of any that do not appear to have Bechuanaland cancellations. Check whether the cancellation date, if any, is earlier than the date of issue of the genuine stamp. Use high powered magnification to determine whether the overprint is on top of the cancellation. Remember that genuine Vryburg and Mafeking cancellers were misused to postmark some forgeries, e.g. Caterall Type 2, though fortunately these are usually detectable by too large an overprint.

6. Be suspicious of double and/or inverted overprints and examples of the missing 'B' in 'British' variety. Don't buy these without a certificate of genuineness.

1888 Surcharges (SG 22-28). Inevitably, the two rarities (SG 24 and 27) have attracted the attention of forgers but their authentication is best left to the Expert Committees. Other forgeries known to me are:

1. 4d value surcharge in black instead of red. The typeface is not quite right.

2. 1d value with a double surcharge, one perhaps genuine but the other crude and over-size.

1888 Provisional Surcharge (SG 29). A brief reminder of the existence of many forgeries of this surcharge and its varieties, often with genuine Vryburg cancellations dated in 1890 - see Chapter 8 of Holmes' book. Genuine examples should plate into the setting of 60 illustrated by Holmes. With care even single stamps can be plated.

1889 Overprinted (SG 30). One 'used' forgery seen. The general appearance is deceptive but the overprint is in the wrong typeface and shade of green. 'British' measures 7.6 mm instead of the genuine 7 mm, exclusive of serifs.

1891 and 1893-95 Overprints SG 31/32 and 38/39). Three different forgeries have been seen, all on 'used' stamps:

1. A crude overprint reading up that is in the wrong typeface and much too long, 'Bechuanaland' being some two letters longer than the height of the stamp.
2. A bogus 1d slate value with overprint reading down. The typeface is superficially deceptive but there is no stop after 'Bechuanaland'.
3. 2d values reading up and down, the latter with double overprint, both forged. Both words of this overprint are about 0.5 mm too long and the typeface bears only superficial resemblance to the genuine type.

1891-94 Overprints on GB Stamps (SG 59-65). Surprisingly, even this issue has been forged. The one example seen is a 'used' 1d value with overprint on top of the postmark. The quality of the overprint is poor and the tips of the letters are not cut square.

Bechuanaland Protectorate

1888 Overprints and Surcharges (SG 40-50). Three different forgeries have been seen, all on 'used' stamps, some with apparently genuine Mafeking or Vryburg postmarks:

1. 2d value with '2d' in red instead of black, appearing to be a genuine British Bechuanaland surcharge as on SG 23, and with 'Protectorate' measuring the genuine 15 mm, less serifs, but in too small a typeface and positioned below instead of above the value.
2. 6d value with the figure '6' too small and the overprint 'Protectorate' fractionally too long. The typeface is superficially deceptive.
3. Crude overprints 2 mm too long and in the wrong typeface on the 3d, 4d, 2/-, 2/6 and 10/- values. The surcharge on the 3d and 4d is much too large and is wrongly positioned above the overprint.

1889 Overprint (SG 52). One example seen with the overprint double and inverted. 'Bechuanaland' measures 17 mm instead of 15 mm and 'Protectorate' 15 mm instead of 13.5mm, exclusive of serifs. The lines of overprint are much too close together.

1889 Provisional Surcharge (SG 53). Forgeries of the rare inverted 'Fourpence' surcharge exist and can usually be detected by size, spacing and appearance. According to information given to me by our President, the known genuine inverted surcharges all occur on stamps that have the watermark well off centre to the right when viewed from reverse. Expertisation is recommended.

FRANCISTOWN AND ITS POSTMARKS

by Brian Trotter

Francistown, situated in what is today Botswana's North Eastern District (often referred to as the Tati district), lies on the railway line linking Mafeking to Bulawayo.

The Tati district was the subject of a disagreement between Lobengula and Khama. Lobengula claimed this land for no better reason than the crossing of it by his father, Moselikatse, at the end of his trek from Zululand. While Khama's claim was based on occupation by his forefathers.

Since the Tati district was known to be gold bearing, both the Transvaal Boers and various hunters and traders were interested in it. Neither Khama nor Lobengula had any liking for the Boers. They both preferred the British, but distrusted each other. Khama did not like the idea of gold miners working in his territory, and refused them permission to dig in Tati. Lobengula, however, had no such inhibitions, especially as it was not his land. This dispute appears to have finally been resolved in Khama's favour in 1896.

The Tati district was where Africa's first modern gold rush took place. It also has mine workings thousands of years old. Its modern history began in 1866, when the elephant hunter Henry Hartley discovered the ancient mine workings. He invited the German adventurer Karl Mauch to investigate. The gold-bearing rock brought back by Mauch triggered the gold rush.

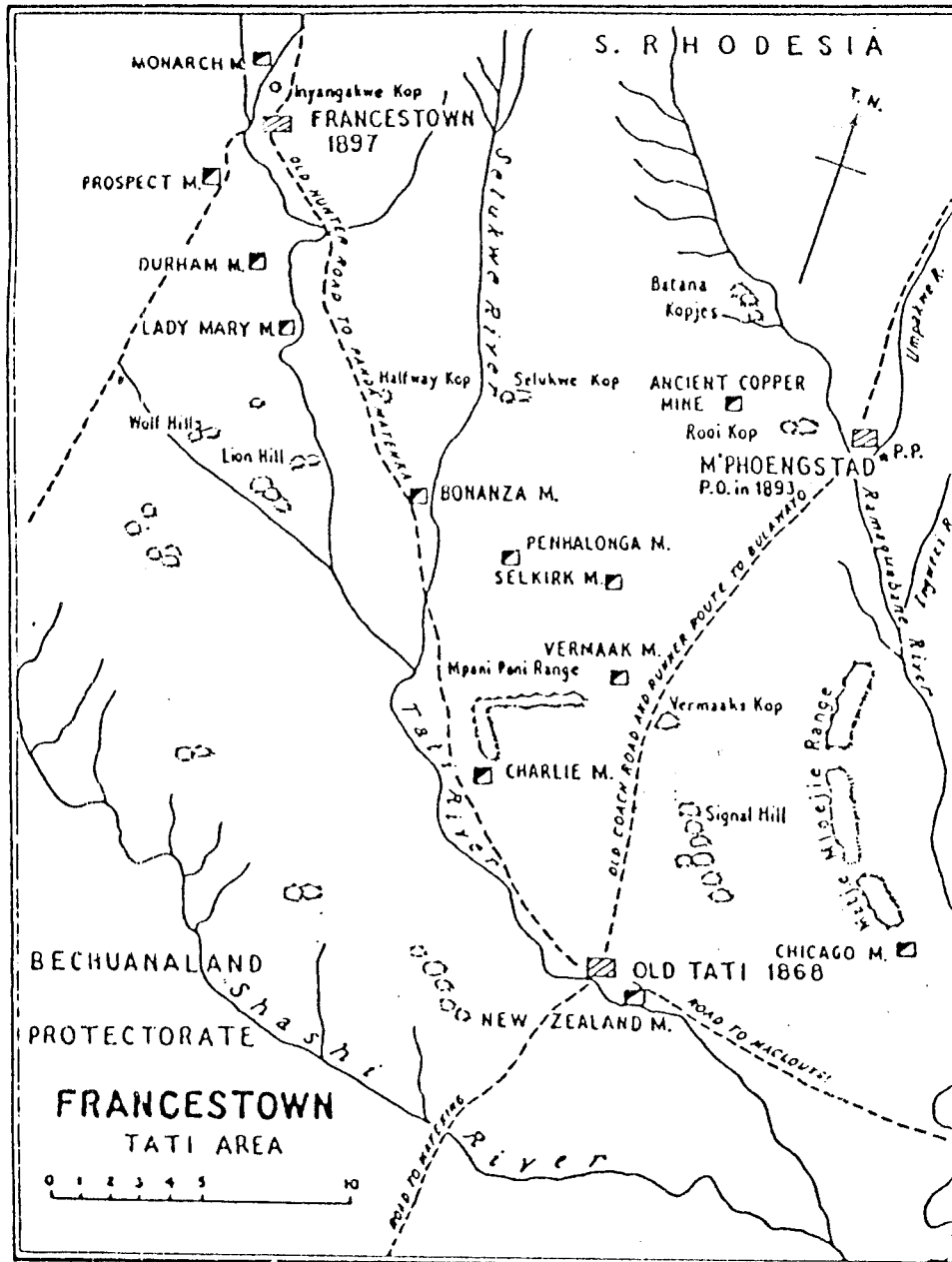
At the height of the rush, in 1869, the settlement at the gold fields was named Francistown, after Daniel Francis (1840-1920), an English trader and sometime prospector. By the end of the 1870's, many of the mines were no longer economical, and the miners moved on. However, gold mining lingered on until 1964, when the last of Francistown's 45 mines was shut down.

For the postmark collector, the history of Francistown begins with the coming of the railway. This was in July 1897, when, the railway having by-passed the settlement at Tati, the Tati agency was closed and its business transferred to Francistown. At first the old "Tati Matabeleland" datestamp was used, but with "Tati" removed. We don't know when the first Francistown datestamp was introduced (the well known "Francetown S.Africa" datestamp), but it must have been soon afterwards, as we have recorded one used on September 8th 1897.

British South Africa Company stamps were used until September 1898, when the office reverted to Protectorate control. Although BSAC stamps were also used subsequent to that date, as I have a cover dated December 21st 1899 bearing BSAC stamps. (Or was this just a necessity

caused by the Boer War?). The fact that the new datestamp showed "S. Africa" instead of Bechuanaland may have been due to the fact that the office was still under BSAC control at the time the datestamp was provided.

All in all, Francistown is one of the richest of Bechuanaland's post offices in terms of the number and variety of postal markings used over the years. It provides a fascinating study opportunity for postmark and postal history enthusiasts.



Map reproduced from "The Post Office Stone" September 1983

FRANCISTOWN POSTMARKS

With the help of some of our members, we have been able to record the following basic postmarks of Francistown:



No. 1 Type 1 C 35

Earliest Recorded Date : Sep 8, 1897
Latest Recorded Date : May 4, 1915
Codes : None
Number recorded so far : Over 50



No. 1 F Type 1 C 35 (Forgery)

"Fournier" Forgery (date in 3 lines).
Only this copy recorded so far.



No. 2 Type 1 B.8

Earliest Recorded Date : Nov 11, 1902
Latest Recorded Date : Feb 9, 1921
Codes : A
Number recorded so far : Over 50



No. 3 Type 2 B 7

Earliest Recorded Date : Jun 20, 1904
Latest Recorded Date : Nov 27, 1933
Codes : None
Number recorded so far : Over 50



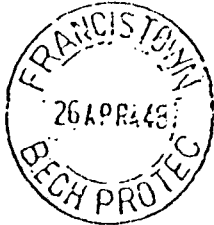
No. 4 Type 2 B 8

Earliest Recorded Date : Feb 19, 1923
Latest Recorded Date : Jun 9, 1947
Codes : A, B, and "blocks"
Number recorded so far : Over 50



No. 5 Type 2 B 6

Earliest Recorded Date : Mar 27, 1935
 Latest Recorded Date : Feb 17, 1965
 Codes : A and C
 Number recorded so far : Over 50



No. 6 Type 2 B 13

Earliest Recorded Date : Apr 4, 1942
 Latest Recorded Date : Jun 25, 1956
 Codes : A and B
 Number recorded so far : Over 50



No. 7 Type 2 B 12

```

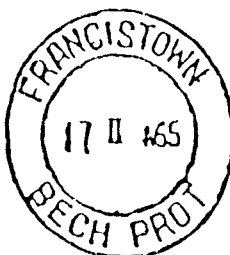
Earliest Recorded Date : Jan 29, 1960
Latest Recorded Date   : Jan 31, 1966
Codes                   : A, B and C
Number recorded so far : 12

```



No. 8 Type 2 B 14

Earliest Recorded Date : Apr 23, 1958
 Latest Recorded Date : Feb 17, 1965
 Codes : A, B and C
 Number recorded so far : 14



No. 9 Type 2 B 15

```

Earliest Recorded Date : Aug 30, 1963
Latest Recorded Date   : Feb 17, 1965
Codes                  : A
Number recorded so far : 3

```



No. 10 Type 2 A

Presumably No.8 with "Bech. Prot." removed. Three recorded with last day before independence (illustration)

Relief Cancellations

Two relief cancellers with similar lettering but a different date format have been noted. Only one of each have been recorded so far (Types 1 F 73 & 1 F 72)



No. R 1



No. R 2

Agricultural Show

A temporary office was opened for what was presumably an annual agricultural show in Francistown. Two cancellers (in use at the same show, at least in 1960) have been recorded. Postmarks from shows in 1960, 1962, and 1965 are the only ones recorded so far.



No. S 1 Type 2 C 39

Earliest Recorded Date : Jun 5, 1960
Latest Recorded Date : Jul 10, 1965
Codes : A and B
Number recorded so far : 8



No. S 2 Type 2 C 38

Earliest Recorded Date : June 5, 1960
Latest Recorded Date : June 7, 1960
Codes : A
Number recorded so far : 3

Another Francistown Cancellation

We have also recorded a single double circle postmark (Date: 1 VII A 59) with "Bech Pr..." at the base and arc separators. Can anyone help with more information on this one?

Railway Letter Cancellations

We have also so far recorded 5 different railway letter cancellations incorporating the name "Francistown". These, as well as the hand-stamped registration markings, shall be covered separately.

Note:

1. Numbers 7, 8, 9 and 10 are more "modern" than the collections of the members consulted.
2. Dimensions of illustrations tend to be slightly enlarged or distorted due to photocopying.
3. Illustrations for numbers 1 & 2 are from the Holmes book on the Bechuanalands. Numbers 4, R 1 & R 2 are "touched up" photocopies of original cancellations, while the rest are photocopies of original strikes.

APPEAL TO ALL MEMBERS

If you have clear, unambiguous Francistown strikes of:

1. Earlier or later dates than those already recorded
2. Markings where less than 50 have so far been recorded
3. Any railway letter or relief cancellers
4. Handstamped registration markings
5. Unrecorded cancellations

Please let me have details, and if possible, photocopies of these items. All help is greatly appreciated.

Valuable assistance and suggestions for the recording of these postal markings was received from Hamish Campbell, Jim Catterall, John Coates, Howard Cook, Mike George, John Inglefield-Watson, Alan MacGregor, and, of course, Roy Setterfield.

THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY

Proposed Rules

1. The TITLE of the Society shall be 'The Bechuanalands and Botswana Society'.
2. The OBJECTS of the Society shall be to encourage study of all aspects of the Philately and Postal History of these Territories.
3. The Secretary may (at his discretion) admit to Membership an applicant on payment of the Annual Subscription at any time in force and thereafter payable on 1st day of October each year. A Member more than 6 months in arrear will be deemed to have resigned.
4. The Annual Subscription (currently 5 Pounds Sterling), shall be reviewed at the General Meeting.
5. A General Meeting of the Society shall be held in alternate years following that to be held in 1986. It will normally be in the month of October on a date to be determined by the Committee. It shall
 - a) Receive the Reports of the Officers for the two preceding years;
 - b) Review and approve as necessary the Statement of Accounts presented by the Treasurer;
 - c) Elect Officers for the ensuing two years;
 - d) Decide the rate of Subscription;
 - e) Decide on any other appropriate Resolutions and Matters Arising.
6. The Officers of the Society, who will be Honorary, shall consist of:

Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor and Auctioneer, plus any others it is deemed desirable to appoint, these to include the Librarian.

These Officers and Members shall constitute the Committee and will have power to co-opt helpers as necessary. They shall be elected at a General Meeting where any postal votes previously received from Members unable to attend in person shall also be valid.

The Chairman may not be elected for consecutive periods in office, but may stand for election again after a two year interval.

7. The Chairman shall conduct Meetings, but in his/her absence the Committee shall elect one of its number to act. The Chairman shall have a second or casting vote where this is necessary.
8. The Secretary shall conduct the Correspondence of the Society, keep a Register of Members and maintain a Minute Book. The latter shall be available for reference at General Meetings.
9. The Treasurer shall have charge of the Funds of the Society, maintain a Bank Account in the name of the Society depositing therein Annual Subscriptions and other income and paying thereout all sums validly due. He shall present at a General Meeting a Statement of the Society's Accounts, duly audited, for the two twelve month periods ended on the preceding 30th June.
10. An Honorary Auditor shall be appointed.
11. An Auctioneer shall (under direction of the Committee) organise and control Auction or Exchange Packets whether postal or otherwise, on behalf of the Society. The Committee shall have power to make and vary Rules necessary for these purposes which will then be deemed a part of the Society's Rules.
12. The Editor will be responsible for production of the Society's newsletter entitled 'The Runner Post' and such other publications as the Society may require to issue.
13. The Librarian shall retain for reference purposes at least one copy of every Publication of the Society together with similar material acquired by the Society in connection with its Objects.
14. The Committee shall be the sole authority for interpretation of these Rules and shall decide on all relevant matters affecting the Society not provided for within them.

Q U E S T I O N N A I R E

Please cross out those aspects in which you are not interested. Indicate below under "Other Comments" if you do not wish your special interests to be published, or if you do not wish to enter into correspondence.

Stamps only	British Bechuanaland	Revenues/Fiscals
Postal History	Bechuanaland Protectorate	Forgeries
Covers	Botswana	Errors
Postal Stationery	Stellaland	Railway
BONCS	Warren Expedition	Air Mail
Cancellations:	Mafeking	Trials/Proofs
B.B.	Trans-Protectorate	Specimens
B.P.	Tati Concessions	
Botswana	Boer War	

Related interestes not catered for elsewhere e.g. 'Used Abroad', Bophuthatswana Forerunners; etc.

Other Comments:

I enclose my Subscription of 5 Pounds to the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society for 1986-7.

(Note: Members in Southern Africa may send their subscription of 20 Rand direct to Hamish Campbell.)