

# The Runner Post



RUNNER POST NO. 5

(NEWSLETTER NO. 8)

AUTUMN ISSUE 1986

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## THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY - LIST OF OFFICERS

Honorary Life 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: Aubrey Glassborow,  
156 Reading Road South, Church Crookham,  
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Southern Africa Representative: Dr. 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.

### EDITORS COMMENTS

We make no apology for including reports of three Occasions in this issue. Only two years ago, we were discussing the possible formation of a study group: now, we have had our second General Meeting in London and, at almost the same time, an inaugural meeting in Johannesburg; an afternoon with our President; and a reference to us in the philatelic press as a 'specialist.society'. Truly, we have arrived ! Therefore, we think it right that the minutes of these meetings should be given in full. Our next General Meeting, with Business and Election of Officers, will not be held until October 1988, thus giving more time at our other meetings for philatelic matters. Or natters.

Two other events which we are assured were completely non-philatelic: Our Congratulations to Anne Southwood, formerly Anne Fitzgerald; and to Aubrey Glassborow, on their recent marriages. Our very sincere wishes to them both. Further congratulations to our President, Bob Holmes, on being elected Honorary Member of the British Philatelic Foundation. And More.... five of our members who exhibited at Johannesburg 100 - a superb group of entries - with a Small Gold to Vic Visser and Silvers to Hamish Campbell and Brian Fenemore. can we Poms have a more detailed report please, Hamish ?

Finally, our next (U.K.) meeting will be at Stampex, Wednesday March 4th, in the Orchid Room, when Mr. Kenneth Wright will take us to the Disputed Territory - Tati District. Please come, and bring any Tati items you may have, for further discussion. Unofficially, 12 noon in the bar; officially, 2 p.m., Royal Horticultural Society's New Hall.

(E.S.)

As I was lucky enough to be at the Johannesburg 100 Exhibition I can report on some of the Bechuanaland exhibits. The following members exhibited:

Mrs. B. Andersson	Silver Bronze
R.J.F. Andersson	Certificate
Hamish Campbell	Silver
Brian Fenemore	Silver with Felicitations
Karl Seligmann	Silver Bronze
Vic Visser	Small Gold
Cedric Roché	(Court of Honour)

In addition, several collectors from Botswana exhibited (I have no members list from Botswana to hand so please forgive me if in fact Andy Andersson has twisted your Arm!): D.C. Evans who showed Jamaica and M.J. Taylor who showed Overprints and Surcharges of the World.

Apart from the above members, several non-members (currently!) exhibited Bechuanaland or Bechuanaland orientated collections, namely:

Mr. Leo Miles, who exhibited 10 frames of Bechuanaland - more than any member!, and who received a Silver; Mr. B. Illman, who received a Small Gold for his superb collection in six frames of the Unappropriated Dies, which had a more than healthy content of Bechuanaland - mint, Specimens, Fiscals and covers, including Puzey correspondence, poor Hamish (who has a fondness for the Unappropriated Dies) went temporarily speechless\* when I showed him the exhibit, which was put in a corner under the heading "Collections not included elsewhere!".

Mr. Richard Knight showed Rhodesian Postal History to 1924 which included the very rare cover from Tati with the stamps cancelled in Manuscript "Tati-15/9/(88)" and subsequently cancelled in transit at Mafeking. Bechuanaland again reared it's head in the form of a "Crocodile Pools" cover in Mr.E. Bowman's collection of Cape 1792-1910.

All in all a superb show and a treat to all who attended. We hope to be able to illustrate excerpts from some of the above collections in a future edition of the R.P.

\* - Roy does not believe this!

(AMG)

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE BECHUANALANDS & BOTSWANA SOCIETY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15th OCTOBER 1986,  
AT THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL HALL IN LONDON.

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PRESENT

The following members of the Society were present:

Brian Trotter (Chairman), Roy Setterfield (Hon. Sec.), Philip Kaye, Violet Williams, John Inglefield-Watson, Harry Brush, Aubrey Glassborow, Jim Catterall, Mike George, Richard Stroud, Dennis Firth, Gren Eaton (visitor).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

Alan MacGregor, Mr. and Mrs. W. Martin, Mike Hall, Dave Matthews, Birgit Sten Jensen, Philip Cattell.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on 16th October 1985, and of the meeting held on 5th March 1986 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S  
REPORT

The Chairman reported a very successful inaugural year for the Society. Membership had grown beyond all expectations and now stood at 68, of whom 27 were in Southern Africa where our Representative, Hamish Campbell, had been recruiting actively. The ten members in Botswana were being co-ordinated locally by Andy Andersson.

The Chairman reported on his recent visit to South Africa, where he had the pleasure of meeting some members for the first time. He had visited the Johannesburg 100 Exhibition, which had included five major exhibits of Bechuanaland material. He concluded his report by stating that the prospects for the Society were very promising.

SECRETARY'S  
REPORT

The Hon. Secretary presented his report. The Society was now affiliated to the British Philatelic Association and will be listed in the BPA Handbook as a specialist society, receiving a free copy of Stamp News. A Society Archive was to be established, to contain back copies of all Newsletters and Runner Posts, together with copies of other background material and articles as acquired. Copies of major auction catalogues and prices realised would be held, as well as copies of the books by H.R.Holmes and Jurgens.

A report on the successful Society Tea Party, given to mark the occasion of the President's 90th birthday was given.

The Hon. Secretary was thanked by all present for his generous gift to the Society's Archive of a copy of the President's book which Bob Holmes had autographed and which founder members present were also asked to sign. His personal generosity in organising the Tea Party was also gratefully acknowledged.

TREASURERS  
REPORT

The Hon. Treasurer presented the Society Account for the period ended 31/7/86. The sum of £83.24 was in hand. The cost of production and distribution of The Runner Post meant that there was very little in hand for other expenses of the Society unless other sources of income were found.

It was agreed that the Runner Post was the key to the Society's financial position and Aubrey Glassborow stated that he would produce an interim financial report for the next (March 1987) meeting. This was agreed.

The Treasurer's report was accepted subject to audit and a copy of the financial statement is bound with these minutes.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chairman proposed that elections of Officers should be held every two years rather than annually. this was agreed. It was further agreed that the office of Chairman should be limited to a maximum of two consecutive terms of two years, the Chairman then to stand down for at least one term.

It was agreed that the outgoing officers be re-elected, with the exception of the Hon. Treasurer, who wished to stand down because of business pressures. Philip Kaye was thanked for his services in the office and Aubrey Glassborow was elected in his stead.

It was agreed that an Auditor be appointed and Richard Stroud agreed to take on the duty. It was further agreed that the Committee of the Society should comprise of Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Representative for Southern Africa, Joint Editors of the Runner Post and two members of the Society. John Inglefield-Watson and Mike George were elected to serve on the Committee, the latter agreeing to serve as Minutes Secretary.

The Officers and Committee of the Society for the period October 1986 to October 1988 are therefore as follows:

Chairman:	* Brian Trotter
Hon. Secretary:	* Roy Setterfield
Hon. Treasurer:	* Aubrey Glassborow
Southern African: Representative	* Hamish Campbell
Editors of The Runner Post:	Roy Setterfield and * Alan MacGregor
Auditor:	Richard Stroud
Committee Members:	* John Inglefield-Watson * Mike George (Minutes Sec)

\* denotes members of Committee

It was agreed that a quorum of the Committee be three.

## RUNNER POST

The Hon. Secretary reported on the production and distribution methods employed; draft copy was sent from the Editors to Brian Trotter who did the layout on a word processor and sent master copies to Roy Setterfield and Hamish Campbell for photocopying and distribution. Costs of copying and postage were high.

It was suggested that the inclusion of advertisements would bring in some income: the Committee was instructed to pursue this idea.

The present format of the Runner Post met with general approval, the meeting felt that philatelic content should be as high as possible. It was reported that there was a considerable backlog of material awaiting publication at present, which augured well.

The Runner Post was seen as the key to the Society's financial viability; since numerous requests were likely to be received for back issues of the Runner Post and the earlier Newsletters, it was agreed that the introduction of a charge for back copies be investigated. The Hon. Secretary said that he hoped that it would be possible eventually to produce an index of articles which could be made available singly for a suitable charge.

It was agreed that complimentary copies be sent regularly to the Royal Philatelic Society of London and to the National Philatelic Society. A copy of each issue also to be lodged with the British Library.

#### DISPLAYS

The Hon. Secretary raised the matter of displays of members material at meetings of the Society. It was agreed that displays had been rather disappointing to date and that some agreed format should be sought. This could be on the basis of displays of general interest - each member being free to bring something along as at the first meeting - or on an agreed theme or topic. It was suggested that a particular topic could be notified in the Runner Post prior to the meeting and that one member acted as co-ordinator and prepared a follow-up item for publication. A visitor would display Tati at the next meeting.

#### AUCTION

The Hon. Secretary reported that the member who had previously offered to act as Society Auctioneer had disappeared and that Tony Chilton had been approached and had agreed to perform this task. He was already experienced in auctions of this type and although not a member of the Society it was agreed that this arrangement should be instituted. At present, only two or three members had sent material for sale to the Hon. Secretary. It was agreed that the Auction be publicised in the Autumn copy of the Runner Post, with a closing date for receipt of material by the end of the year.

The complications of material coming to UK from members in South Africa was discussed; it was suggested that a sensible format would be to hold two Auctions a year, one in South Africa and one in the UK, with bidding in both sales open to all members. It was agreed that the Committee should look into this without delay.

#### SOCIETY

The following amendments or additions to the Rules, (as already published in Runner Post 4), were agreed:

#### RULES

- (i) The Chairman to serve for two consecutive 2 year terms only, before standing down for at least one term of office
- (ii) The annual subscription, currently of £5.00 or equivalent, be reviewed annually by the Committee: any increase in the subscription to be notified to all members and to be endorsed at the next meeting of the Society before being implemented.

(Note: This change was agreed because of the two year interval between General Meetings)

- (iii) That Mr H.R.Holmes be Honorary Life President of the Society.
- (iv) That if in the considered view of the Committee it was in the best interests of the Society that a member should be removed from Membership, then his/her membership be terminated forthwith.
- (v) That all Resolutions should be notified to the Hon. Secretary in sufficient time for inclusion in the Agenda of the GM and that any other items should be notified to the Chairman before the start of the meeting: the Chairman to rule whether the item is of sufficient urgency to be included in the agenda

ANY OTHER  
BUSINESS

The Chairman stated that Karl Seligmann was soon to publish a book on aspects of the Postal History of the Bechuanalands which would be of significant interest to the Society.

NEXT  
MEETING

It was agreed that the next ordinary meeting of the Society be held on Wednesday 4th March 1987 at the Royal Horticultural Hall, London during STAMPEX 87.

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MINUTES OF JOHANNESBURG MEETING

Minutes of the Inaugural meeting of the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society (Botswana and South African areas) held at 4.30 p.m. Thursday 9th October 1986, Hall F/B, Nasrec Exhibition Centre during 'JOHANNESBURG 100'

PRESENT

Brian Trotter, Chairman	Zurich
Karl Seligmann	Gaborone
R.J.F.Andersson, Botswana convenor	Gaborone
Alan MacGregor	Croydon, Surrey
Philip Cattell	Weston-Super-Mare, U.K.
Howard Cook	Gillitts, Natal
Terry Hamlett	Transvaal
Mike Nethersole	Johannesburg
Peter van der Molen	Transvaal
<u>Hamish Campbell</u>	<u>Durban</u>

OBSERVERS

Tony Chilton	Mitcham, Surrey
Wilhelm Grutter (Reijger Publishers)	Cape Town
Mrs Maureen Waters	Pietermaritzburg

APOLOGIES

J.L.Visser, Rustenburg; David Evans, Gaborone; Brian Bellard, Gaborone; Anne Southwood, Hilton, Natal.

#### JOHANNESBURG MEETING (Cont.)

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present. In the course of informal discussion, it was decided that Botswana and South African centres would be run separately. The Botswana convenor to be R.J.F.(Andy) Andersson of PO Box 1240 Gaborone, Botswana. The South African convenor to be Hamish Campbell of 145 Ridge Road, Durban 4001, R.S.A. Each centre is to make its own arrangements with the U.K. "Secretariat" with regard to Subscriptions and distribution of the Runner Post.

It was decided to explore the possibility of running a B & B Society Postal Auction. Tony Chilton who attended by invitation already runs the Transvaal and O.F.S. Study Circle auctions said he would be prepared to help if the Society could liaise with him.

#### H.R.HOLMES'S 90th BIRTHDAY

The members sent their love to their Philatelic "Godfather" and expressed the hope that some of us might be around when he celebrates his 100th.

#### GENERAL

Dr. Karl Seligmann's forthcoming book on the Postal History of the Bechuana territories. Dr. Seligmann showed the meeting a small part of the research material in which he has collated all the earlier writings and research with the massive Botswana postal archives to which he has had access.

Those present were bowled over by this magnum opus, nearing completion and publication, and all offered Dr Seligmann any assistance he wanted, provided that it would not delay the publication, but would hasten it.

Dr Seligmann asked for advice on publication. Reijger Publishers, who had been awarded 2 Gold medals for their publications at JHB 100 were felt to be the firm most likely to do such a book proud.

Andy Andersson told the meeting that he had sufficient material to be able to put together a Botswana Colour Catalogue in the near future. Once again those present offered their help if necessary. Lutz Heffermann of the S.A. Colour Catalogue was suggested as a suitable publisher for such a practical reference book.

The meeting was adjourned at 5.45 p.m.

Hamish Campbell  
S.A. Convenor.

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#### A SOCIETY TEA PARTY

On the 6th September 1986, the Society entertained the President and Mrs. Holmes to tea at the Passford House Hotel in the New Forest. The Tea Party was held in honour of H.R.H.'s 90th birthday as a small token of the affection and esteem in which we hold him. His book has helped so many of us to a fuller understanding of the hobby - and no one will ever equal his collecting achievement in the Bechuanalands.



Many members who were unable, by reason of distance, to be present sent their apologies: Hamish Campbell, writing from South Africa, summed it up well for our absent friends when he said how splendid it was that Bob Holmes was still able to contribute letters to the Runner Post and to keep us all on our toes!

I can report that Bob was remarkably sprightly - a positive mine of information with total recall of detail on many issues and varieties. The Hon. Secretary had most generously donated a copy of "The Book" to the Society's library, suitably dedicated and inscribed to Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, who both autographed the fly-leaf. By some mysterious process, three other copies then appeared and were inscribed for the fortunate owners - something to treasure! Our guests' health and happiness were duly toasted.

Thanks to Roy's great generosity - for he had personally organized the day - an enormous tea was produced, and a bouquet was presented to Mrs. Holmes. The afternoon concluded all too soon, but those present will remember it as a very special occasion for the Society, and one which we hope will be repeated. Members and friends present were Roy Setterfield, Commander Bill Collins, Harry and Mrs. Brush, Roger Howard, Gren Eaton and Mike George.

(M.G.)

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#### MORE ON THE 'BARRED B' CANCELLATION

John Inglefield-Watson points out that some gremlins must have been at work in Runner Post 1 (Newsletter 4):- Mr. Holmes' specimen was on SG 31 not SG 34 as published; and in the following line '...in letter to John I-W.' - not from, 'in which he also mentions seeing it on SG 21'.

Hamish Campbell sends the following: ...'Barred B'...

1. Is not a Cape Postmark (\*);
2. Is not a Rhodesian Postmark (\*\*);
3. The Bechuanaland B/O 'B' bears no relation to the very coarse 'B' in the Barred Oval 'B's of early Bulawayo (\*\*\*);
4. The Bechuanaland B/O 'B' does resemble the single-lettered vertical Barred Ovals shown under British Post Offices Abroad, e.g. C for Constantinople, G for Gibraltar, S for Stamboul. Could there have been a similar B for Bechuanaland, and if so, why is it so rare ?

(*)	Robert Goldblatt, personal communication;		
(**)	Richard Knight,	"	"
(**)	Don Mitchell,	"	"
(***)	Knight and Mitchell,	"	"
	Robert Goldblatt,	'Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope'	
	Knight and Mitchell,	'Postmarks of Southern Rhodesia'	

And from Mike George:

Two or three copies of a Barred B cancellation are known, one of which was in the Holmes collection



The cancellation is oval type with 4 bars above and below, with solid verticals at the centre.

## 'BARRED B' (Cont.)

In answer to Peter Berry's query, the second cancellation appears to be a repeat of the main strike: the small mark at the top right of the illustration appears to be the same as bottom left corner of the 'B'.

Other 'Barred B' cancellations are shown below, unfortunately our copy of the Bulawayo 'B' will not reproduce.



Blantyre, B.C.A.



Somaliland



Bahamas

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## BOOKS

Two books to hand, are, I think, worthy of a mention: The first - 'Third Report of the Place Names Commission (Sep. 1984)', published in Botswana. My copy was a kind gift from Dr Karl Seligmann during my recent visit to Botswana. It's 160 pages are packed with place names divided alphabetically by District, with Recommended spelling, Description (eg Valley, Pan, Village etc.) and Derivation by language, (some 30+ are spoken in Botswana!). It makes intriguing reading... my favourite name must be 'BODIAKHUDDU' - a Pan, and means 'A place which delays a tortoise!' Every place has a map reference, which is extremely useful, as is the master index. I would be happy to look up any members' queries.

The second, a new publication by Ralph Putzel - 'Encyclopaedia of South African Post Offices and Postal Agencies Volume I, (A-E)', pub. by Hale & Putzel of Cape Town. This is the first of three volumes - a mammoth work which has taken 9 years to research. 200 of its 458 pages are devoted to historical background of the constituent territories of Southern Africa, including short lived Republics and of the Anglo-Boer War. The alphabetic listing includes opening & closing dates, a brief background history of PO's and a scarcity rating. There is also a postal history introduction to each territory and numerous illustrations. The Bechuanaland section includes copies of Cape P.O. Guides for different years showing the rise and fall of some of the smaller agencies. The letters 'A' to 'E' are covered in this volume and include such Bech. Agencies as Bailey Brith, Bloemfontein, Crocodile Pools, Devondale, Dry Hartz etc.

(AMG)

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## BOTSWANA NEWS

We are very happy to receive the following news from Andy Andersson in Gaborone of the Botswana Philatelic Society, and hope this will be the first of a regular report in the Runner Post of Botswana News and Views:

Runner Post No.4 - re:- The Editors Correction Section, Page 2.

When Rodney Crouch first suggested that the BotsPhil. Soc. hold a mammoth exhibition of the Botswana Postal Museum material in the week following upon the 'Johannesburg 100'; and combining this with land and air safaris to the Kalahari, to Maun, to Chobe... the idea set us all on fire.

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa was advised, the Post Office unofficially gave us the nod, and immediate application was made through the Postal Services Director, for Cabinet approval. This was May 1985. I agreed to be available for the six months needed to arrange the display of stamps, covers, postal history, artwork and back up material: everyone else in the Society was earmarked for aspects of effort and all was set fair for a really intense period of philatelic activity - all felt sure that it would be a tremendous success. Just Cabinet approval awaited.....

Unfortunately, after the SADF raid which occurred in June 1985, all these proposals were shelved.

#### NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM

I can now bring you up to date with information of our Postal Museum. The Director of Postal Services called me in to assist the architect in the design of the museum area. Apart from the high-security windowless permanent exhibition room we will have a larger, natural-light display area for short-term displays for schools and stamp clubs where current and other local philatelic events can be held. Also, offices for the curator, secretary-typist, a large workroom, and an ultra-safe strongroom. All of this on the ground floor for easy access by the public.

This Postal Services HQ building is scheduled for 8 floors, but I heard more recently that possibly another SIX STORIES may be added. Can't quite believe that somehow. Building starts soon so maybe we should be ready for occupation in 18 months and possibly the first exhibition in say 2 years.

#### THAT JESTING WORD; ..... so lightly written.....

Roy's wistful recall of the Bechuanaland stamp display at the National Museum and Art Gallery strikes a rather sombre note here. Now while I cannot recall ever wanting to "grab a set", having had Bechuanaland complete in my time, two teenagers (expatriate) thought it a splendid idea, and one Saturday afternoon they cleared the lot, leaving only the artwork behind.

On the Monday morning after the CID had been scouting around on a very cold trail, I was told of the loss by a very distressed Alec Campbell, and asked to spread the news through philatelic circles in the hope of discovering some clues.

In the meantime I had been invited to a "stamp tea party and exhibition" by one of the junior stamp clubs. Acting on a hunch I had the invitation extended to include David Evans and David Finlay, both of whom would also give short talks. We viewed the exhibits, gave the talks, enjoyed the tea and delicious cakes, looked through all the stockbooks, positively identified every missing stamp by its BLACK paper adhesion (David Finlay had been responsible for the purchase of the original material and fortunately remembered the black paper adhesions from the albums where the stamps had been stored). Anyway the CID then moved in. All the stamps were recovered, no charges were pressed, but the parents of the boys terminated their contracts and left Botswana. The Stamp club went into a decline from which it was revived last year to take second place in the Junior Stamp Clubs National Competition. So all is forgiven, but I guess I won't get any more invitations to tea parties.....

Many a true word Roy, spoken in jest!.

(A.A.)

## AND FROM SOUTH AFRICA .....

Hamish Campbell has sent the following extracts from the Editorial notes of the 'Rhodesian Philatelist' of April 1913. I think members will agree it makes fascinating reading, and almost casually answers questions we have painstakingly been trying to answer - 73 years later!, I just wish the comments about dealers stocks were still true!. (AMG)

### Bechuanaland Protectorate.

The old postmark of "Francetown, S. Africa" has recently been brought into use again, the Postmaster finding it heavier and more suitable than the later one, which bears the inscription "Francistown, Bechuanaland Protectorate". The latter spelling is of course the correct one. The 1/- King Edward stamp is now in use in this Protectorate, and as the next supply of 1/- stamps may bear King George's effigy, there is quite a chance that the former may become scarce. It is safe to assume that a very large proportion of those printed have been secured by the dealers. Then, there is the possibility that both the original and retouched 1d of King George have been overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate", in which case one of them is almost certain to become rare. From every standpoint, this colony appears to have a most interesting philatelic future before it. But we would warn our readers against investing in its unused stamps, with which dealers are well supplied. Well-postmarked specimens should be sought for - if on original covers, so much the better.

### Postal Difficulties.

We have become so accustomed to expect our mails to be delivered with punctuality and regularity that we are apt to forget the difficulties experienced by the postal services in less settled places. Only last month a correspondent in Northern Rhodesia wrote that their postboy had been attacked by a lion while sleeping in a hut some miles from his destination. There was a great scramble, resulting in the collapse of the hut, which caught fire. The mail bag and its contents were burnt to cinders. A friend of the post-boy, who happened to be staying with him at the time, was so severely mauled that when our correspondent wrote he was in a dying condition.

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Roger Howard has sent the following two items on Revenues:

### REVENUE QUESTION

At BPE 1986 I acquired a copy of a COGH "Stamp Act" type revenue overprinted BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE. The overprint itself is unlike the other overprints. It has a pen cancellation 30/1/02.

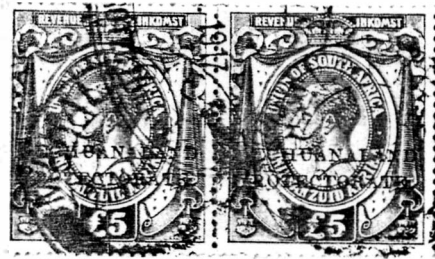
The B & H catalogue (3rd edition) refers to an overprinted £10 violet "Hope" type revenue (B & H 3) issued in 1903. However, there is no £10 Hope listed under COGH. Am I right in assuming that my copy is B & H 3 ?

I have several copies of B & H 2 as a "Hope" type but has anyone seen B & H 1 or B & H 3 as Hope or Stamp Duty Types ?





(Fig. 1)



(Fig. 2)

#### THE £5 ON 1/- POSTAL FISCAL (F2)

I was not surprised to read that H.R. Holmes does not now consider that his former F2 with a Gaborones date stamp was used postally.

I refer to "British Central Africa and Nyasaland Protectorate" by Fred J. Melville, Chapter VII in which he quotes correspondence from the Postmaster General regarding cancellations in Nyasaland.

"The Postmaster and Revenue Officer were one and the same individual, it was an easy mistake to use the tax cancellation in lieu of the postal one and vice versa".

Could the same thing have happened at Gaborones, or elsewhere in Bechuanaland?

To illustrate the possibility I enclose a photocopy of B & H 5 with a MOCHUDI postal cancellation (Fig. 1), and a pair of B & H 22 with both a revenue cancellation and a MAHALAPYE postal cancellation (Fig. 2). I sincerely hope that none of our members have paid top prices for "postally" used SG 19, 20 or 21 etc.???

Editors' comments - I have a particular interest in the revenues of Bechuanaland and I spent some time examining all the Johannesburg 100 exhibits with great interest, (3 of the collections having very good revenues), and noted all the variations of overprints and on what stamps they occur. I can agree with Roger's comments in that I have only ever seen the £10 violet with Queen Victoria's head, and suspect there is no "Hope" £10 - either as Cape or overprinted for use in Bechuanaland, neither have I seen the £1 Hope overprinted. perhaps it was listed in error years ago and has been perpetuated down the years - or has any member seen either?. There are quite a few other anomalies in the Revenue listings and I would welcome information on what revenues members may have - perhaps we can compile our own listing ?

I plan to list all the £5 on 1/- Postal Fiscals (SG F2 = B & H 23) we know of, in the next R.P., with as many illustrations as possible. To date, I know of 22 copies - 2 mint and 20 used (including a strip of 4 !) and am hot on the trail of some others, including a possible third mint copy. I would welcome hearing from anyone with copies of this stamp in any condition, or who know the whereabouts of any. Also of any forgeries.

(AMG)

## THE PROVISIONAL ISSUES OF NOV 1891 AND 1893-95

### 'British Bechuanaland' Reading Up and Down

by J.F. Inglefield-Watson

Some members may have read the excellent article by Douglas Roth in the December 1981 issue of 'The Philatelist and PJGB' on the subject of the provisional issues of November 1891 (SG 31 & 32) and 1893-95 (SG 38 & 39). By kind permission of the publishers, Christies Robson Lowe, and with acknowledgements to its author I am now able to reproduce or summarise the salient points of the article and to add my own observations as a basis for further studies. Thanks are due to the Editor, Peter Collins, for making this possible.

It has previously been assumed that the 1891 overprint 'British Bechuanaland' reading up was typeset from loose type in a forme consisting of two horizontal panes of 60 units and that this was repeated on the two lower panes of each sheet of four panes of 60 stamps. Furthermore, it has been assumed that the type was dispersed after the 1891 printing and later re-set to produce the reading down overprint of 1893-95, though it has been shown that some reading up overprints plate with the equivalents reading down and these have been presumed to come from sheets fed in upside down during the 1893-95 overprinting. In point of fact it can be shown that these assumptions are not entirely correct.

Roth's first conclusion is that most of the 1891 2d value (SG 32) were overprinted from stereo plates showing characteristic repetitive flaws, whereas the 1d value (SG 31) and both values of the 1893-95 issue were typeset, as was a relatively small quantity of the 1891 2d. The latter could have resulted from a few sheets of the 1893 printing being fed into the press inverted. An alternative explanation is that the stereo method was abandoned by the printer because of the poor results and that the 1891 printing was completed by typesetting. The two types of printing can be distinguished by the letter 'e' in 'Bechuanaland': in stereo the tail of the 'e' closes almost to the top of the loop, in typeset there is an open gap (Fig.1).

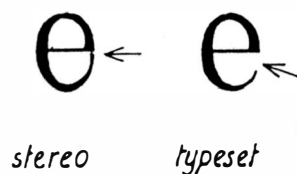


Fig. 1

#### Stereo

From his examination of an almost complete sheet of four panes of the stereo 2d value (SG 32) Roth states that it is clear that the overprint forme did cover two horizontal panes of 60, the complete sheet being overprinted in two operations. Corresponding upper and lower panes are identical but there are slight differences between left and right hand panes. The repetitive flaws indicate that the basic unit from which the stereos were made was a setting of 12

covering two vertical strips of 6 stamps. This was used to make 12 or more stereos, damage during their casting giving rise to the flaws. Some of these were reduced to a setting of 8, identical to the full 12 with the top two rows cut off, in order to cover the remaining 4 stamps in each vertical strip of 10. This arrangement was repeated three times across the pane to cover the whole 10 horizontal rows of 6 stamps. Confirmation of this arrangement is shown by the vertical spacing between the overprints which is constant within each unit of 12 or 8 but is variable and appreciably larger where two units adjoin. In the right hand pane the middle unit of 8 has been nailed down at a slight angle and is not parallel to the rest of the setting. Furthermore, a nailhead appears and has printed at the junction of the last four stamps in rows 7 and 8 of both top and bottom right hand panes.



Fig.2

The characteristic repetitive flaws are illustrated in Fig.2 and their positions are shown in Fig. 3. They are described as follows:

	<u>Stamp Nos.</u>	
	<u>Left Pane</u>	<u>Right Pane</u>
1. Defective top to 'B' in 'British'	7, 9, 11	NIL
2. Dent in back of 2nd 'a' in 'Bechuanaland'	2, 4, 6	6
3. Defective upper right of 'B' in 'Bechuanaland'	25, 27, 29 49 & 53	25, 27, 29, 51 & 53
4. Stop and broken tail at base of 's' of 'British'	14, 16, 18, 38 & 42	14, 16, 18, 40 & 42
5. Open 3rd 'a' in 'Bechuanaland'	31, 33, 35, 55 & 59	31, 33, 35, 57 & 59

There are other flaws that may be constant but are not repetitive, resulting from damage to the stereos during use. The more noticeable ones are listed by Holmes on page 56 of his book but one of these, as described later in this article, may perhaps be from the typeset printing.

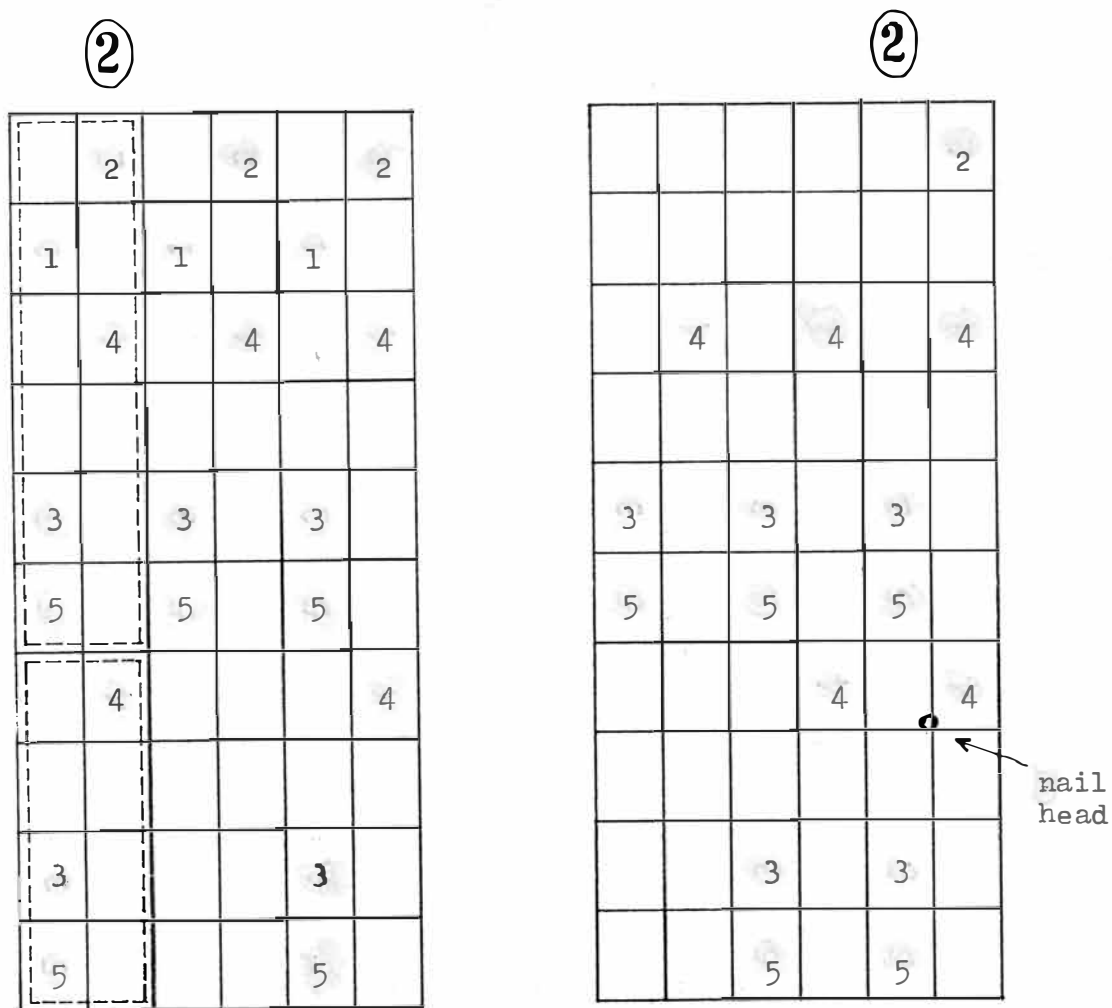


Fig.3 - Stereo plate layout

### Typeset

The typeset forme, like the stereo, covered two horizontal panes of 60 stamps. The typeset printings contain some constant flaws and varieties but these differ from the stereo flaws and are not repetitive. They make it possible to compare and plate complete panes and positional blocks. Both Roth and I have been able to do this, though we have not examined each other's holdings. His included a top left pane of SG 31, a large block from a right hand pane of SG 38 and top left and right panes (less 14 stamps) of SG 39; mine included a bottom right pane of SG 31, a bottom left pane of SG 32 (typeset), bottom left and right panes (less top rows) of SG 38 and a top left pane of SG 39. We reached the same conclusion that our panes of SG 31/32 plate with the corresponding panes of SG 38/39, our panes of SG 31 and mine of SG 32 evidently having been fed into the press inverted. We found no examples of SG 31/32 failing to plate with SG 38/39 though it is, of course, possible that such panes and positional blocks exist. If not, then the indication is that the type was not dispersed and re-set between the reading up and reading down printings. However, the typeset forme may perhaps have been stored, sustaining damage as a result, because some of the constant flaws and varieties found on SG 38 and 39 do not always occur on SG 31 and 32 (typeset) and the type is generally more worn and broken.



As already mentioned, one of the flaws listed by Holmes in respect of SG 32 is perhaps from the typeset printing, but I do not have a stereo pane to check. This is described as "first 'i' in 'British' is faint or does not print on No.44 of the right hand pane". It may therefore only be coincidence that I have examples (Fig. 4) answering this description on:

SG 31	single.	
SG 32 (typeset)	No. 17 of left hand pane	} Positions are consistent
SG 38	No. 44 of right hand pane	} with inverted feed of SG 32
SG 39	single.	



Fig.4

#### Dates of Use

Roth states that dated used examples of all four stamps are "exceedingly scarce, as indeed are covers". From examples known to him he concludes that at least SG 32, 38 and 39 were in use at much the same time. I would dispute the first statement, having some 27 dated examples including several on cover, but I concur with his second. Putting our limited information together, the earliest and latest dates recorded are:

SG 31	8 Feb 92 - 7 Mar 92
SG 32 (stereo)	2 Mar 93 - 18 Apr 99
SG 32 (typeset)	None recorded.
SG 38	4 Apr 94 - 12 Oct 98
SG 39	13 Oct 95 - 31 Dec 98

On the same subject Holmes states that SG 31 and 32 were initially not long in use, as supplies of the overprinted British stamps arrived from London, and it is exceptional to find them with dated cancellations showing use in either 1891 or 1892. Later, remaining stamps were used up, and these two stamps are more frequently found used after 1895 with Protectorate postmarks. In respect of SG 38 and 39 he quotes issue dates of Dec 1893 and 15 Mar 1895 respectively and goes on to say neither is common with a British Bechuanaland postmark, both being more usually found used in the Protectorate after 1895.

### Printer

It is not known who did the overprinting. Holmes suggests Messrs. Townshend & Co. of Vryburg, but Jurgens opts for W.A. Richards & Sons of Cape Town. Both states that he was informed by the printing trade in Cape Town that stereo equipment was certainly not available at that time up country and probably only in Cape Town itself.

### Problems

Several interesting questions emerge from this study:

1. Is there any evidence that, in addition to SG 32, either SG 31 or indeed SG 38 and 39 were overprinted from the stereo plate ?
2. Why were two different printing techniques used ?
3. Were the typeset printings all carried out at the same time ?
4. Who were the printers ?
5. Has anyone got any panes or large positional blocks of SG 31 and 32 (typeset) that could be examined for evidence of a first setting that does not plate with SG 38/39 ?
6. Has anyone got an example, positional or single, of the faint/missing first 'i' of 'British' on SG 32 (stereo) ?
7. Can anyone extend the earliest and latest recorded dates of use ? In particular has anyone got dated examples of SG 32 (typeset) ?

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### MEMBERS ASK

#### Bechuanaland Revenue Stamps Wanted

I have the following spare: (B & H Nos. ex the 3rd edition) - Protectorate: 2, 9, 11, 17, 19; and am seeking - British: 1, 2, 3; and Protectorate: 1, 3, 7, 12, 13, 14, 20, 21, 25, 27-36; Stellaland used or indeed Bechuanaland or Botswana Local Government Tax, and postal stamps with fiscal cancellations.

If anyone has items from the above list to swap or sell, please contact me (Roger Howard) at: c/o Clivedon Technical Recruitment, 92, Broadway, Bracknell, Berks, RG12 1AR (tel 0344 55980 evenings). Many thanks.

#### Does Anyone Recognise This Cancellation ?

Roy Setterfield asks if anyone can shed any light on the origin and/or use of the oval cancellation illustrated at right. It is struck in purple, has 'Bechuanaland' curved at top left and 'BULAWAYO' at the base and is dated '16 DEC 05'. There was a manuscript note on the original album page which stated that "Dann and W" Richardson considered this to be a Railway postmark", or is it a bank or Company fiscal mark ?

