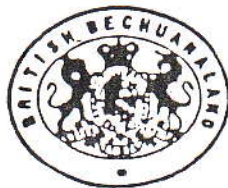


# The Runner Post



RUNNER POST NO. 6

(NEWSLETTER NO. 9)

WINTER ISSUE - FEBRUARY 1987

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### EDITORS COMMENTS

GUBULAWAYO / TATI Should these be the prerogative of the Rhodesian Study Circle or the Bechuanaland and Botswana Society ? Truly Disputed Territory ! Come to our next meeting at Stampex, London, March 4th, when Mr. Kenneth Wright of the R.S.C. will enlighten us.

Seriously, you are requested to bring along any items bearing on Tati, or Gubulawayo; however insignificant it may appear, it may be the one piece still missing, and afford useful information.

Business meeting will be short, so we shall have time to devote to Mr. Wright's display, and for discussion.

This issue has a distinct Tati flavour and contains several articles which aim to provide background reading on Tati and Disputed Territory - one being mainly historical background by Alec Campbell, and the other, by H.R.Holmes, is based on a paper read before the Royal Philatelic Society, London in December 1956, which is more philatelically orientated.

### CHARLES BARKAWAY

It is with deepest regret that we report the death of Charles Barkaway, an enthusiastic student of Bechuanaland Philately for many years and who won many awards for his exhibits of this territory. While I never had the pleasure to meet him, on enquiring at dealers for Bechuanaland at Stampex or BPE, I was informed more than once that "Mr Barkaway has beaten you to it" Mr Barkaway had been ill for some time and was unable to attend the sale of his collection at Harmers in June last year.

On behalf of the Society we extend our deepest sympathy to his family.



## Auction

With this issue comes our first Society Auction list, please study it carefully .... and support it with liberal bids!, you, the vendors, and (not least) your Society will benefit. The success or (otherwise) of this auction will determine the desirability of holding future sales. Good luck !

## Mafeking and Bechuanaland Philatelic Society Covers.

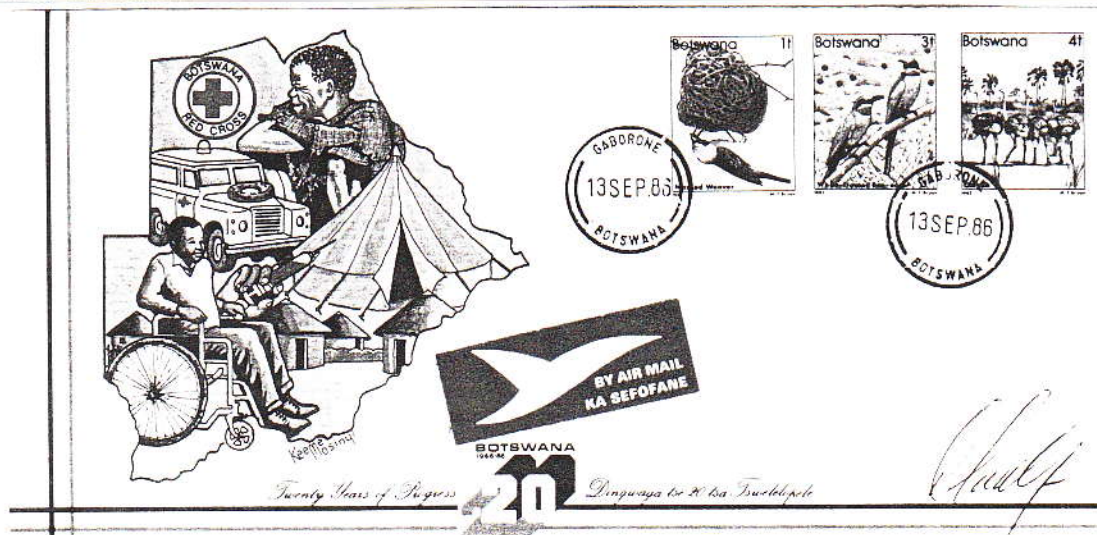
These are 1960 (Foundation Year) Covers, gifted to us by the Botswana Philatelic Society for sale at £1 each for our Society Funds.

1. Unaddressed Covers, cancelled Mafeking 31.v.A60, bearing South Africa 1960 3d stamp (SG 184);
2. Addressed Covers as above and also bearing Lobatsi 31 MAY A60 cancellation on 3d B.P. 25th Anniversary stamp (SG 155).

## Botswana Red Cross Balloon Covers, 1986.

Unaddressed covers, illustrated by Keeme Mosinyi, commemorating 20 years of Red Cross work in Botswana, and bearing current 1t, 3t, and 4t stamps, dated Gaborone 13 SEP 86, the date when they were franked, bagged and sealed by the Philatelic Bureau, Botswana Dept. of Postal Services. They were then taken to the Balloon basket and handed over to the pilot for the flight; the balloon duly descended near Bontleng post office the same day, 13th, but as this was Saturday, and because of insufficient staff, the covers were not backstamped until the 19th, with the datestamp for that day. Also bearing the pilot's signature, a Balloon Post cachet in red, and airmail etiquette (does not reproduce on illustration) - - the lot !

Obtainable from Secretary, £2.50 each including postage, all proceeds to the Red Cross, Botswana.



## Waterlow Printings.

Colin Hoffman of the Rhodesian S.C. enquires whether we have any members who have a particular interest in the Waterlow printings of Bechuanaland stamps. Do we ? You do ! Then you are invited to attend the R.S.C. meeting on 'Waterlows in Africa' on 28th February in London, when you would be more than welcome, as well as being our link with the Waterlow S.C.

## Books

HISTORY OF BOTSWANA, by Tlou and Campbell, 1985. Obtainable from Macmillans, or from Leishman and Taussig, 19 The Rise, Northampton, NN2 6QQ post free @ £9.95. 250 pages, profusely illustrated, dealing in simple language with Bechuanaland/Botswana from Pre-history to the late 1980's. Essential reading for an understanding of the country.

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## Military Telegraphs

Dennis Firth sends a photocopy of Military Telegraphs stamps clearly cancelled with single-ring Vryburg of DE 5/95, and writes the following:



6d and 1/- Cape stamps were overprinted 'Military Telegraphs' for use by the Warren Expedition in 1884/85. Does anyone have any information as to how some of these stamps came to be 'used' in Vryburg in 1895? I know of two examples of this:

- (1) In an article in the South African Philatelist in September 1937, Major Harrington referred to a pair of 6d, and a block of four of the 1/- values, used on 4th April, 1895.
- (2) I have one of each value dated DE 5/95, with Vryburg single-ring cancellation. As the 6d stamp overlaps the 1/- stamp, these do not appear to have been used philatelically.

Also, a 1/- copy appeared in Sotheby's recent South African auction, with squared-circle cancel clearly dated AP 4/95. Could this be one of those mentioned in (1) above?

(DWF)

Information, please. I can find no reference to 'postally used' copies. Robson Lowe (1949) states 'These stamps have only been recorded on telegraph envelopes and telegrams'.

(RRS)

## 'Bechuanaland' / Falls 1/-

Don Mitchell writes to say that the cancellation illustrated in RP 5 (p.17) is definitely not a postal or railway cancellation and adds that many Govt / Municipal / Private offices had oval cancellers or more properly 'Office Stamps' and that occasionally these were used to cancel mail (at Plumtree Railway Station on occasion) but unless on cover must be considered as fiscals.

## MACLOUTSIE STATION B.B.P

Has anyone seen a copy of this cancellation?, it is listed in Holmes (p.126) and illustrated in Dann as one of many early BSAC cancels (incl. four Bech. "settlements" - Palla; Palapye Station & Shoshong Road) discovered in Salisbury in 1939 and says that they were "used on the mail train on letters collected at those stations"





## THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE TATI DISTRICT

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By H. R. HOLMES, F.R.P.S.L.

*(A paper read before the Royal Philatelic Society, London, on December 6, 1956)*

The Tati District is a triangular-shaped piece of land, with an area of roughly 1,324,000 acres, lying between the old Matabeleland of Lobengula and the lands in Bechuanaland of Khama the Great, Chief of the Bamangwato. Until 1887 it was considered 'disputed territory', both native monarchs claiming it as their land. In February 1887, however, Lobengula conceded the land to the late Mr Samuel H. Edwards. Shortly afterwards a company called Tati Concessions Limited acquired the concession from Mr Edwards, and the successors to this company, The Tati Company Limited, are the present owners of the territory. For administrative purposes the Tati District forms part of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, though in 1938 the residents petitioned for incorporation with Southern Rhodesia, but without success.

Some writers have assumed that because the postage stamps of the British South Africa Company were used in the Tati District from 1894 to 1898 that the Company administered the territory during that period, but the Colonial Office and the Company have both denied it. Writing to the late Mr W.A. Town in 1914 the then secretary of the British South Africa Company said: 'The Tati District was never under the administration of the Company', while the Colonial Office, in a letter dated April 2, 1914, was equally emphatic: 'The Tati District forms part of the Bechuanaland Protectorate and the British South Africa Company have never exercised any administrative authority there'.

The reason for the use of the Chartered Company's postage stamps in the Tati District will be dealt with later in this paper, in which it is proposed to trace the postal history of the territory from 1888 to 1920.

The first official postal service to and from Tati was in connection with the famous Native Runner Service organised in 1888 by Mr J.S. Moffat and Mr E.C. Baxter, acting Postmaster-General of British Bechuanaland, which operated between Mafeking, in British Bechuanaland, and Gubulawayo (Bulawayo), in Matabeleland, calling at three places in Bechuanaland Protectorate. Arrangements for the service were announced in a notice, dated July 28, 1888, giving the postal charges and the names of the new postal agencies. The notice stated that:

'Postal agencies are being opened at the undermentioned places:-

'Within the present limits of the Protectorate at Kanye, Molepolole (Secheli's), and Shoshong (Khame's),

'Beyond the present limits of the Protectorate at Tati and Gubulawayo (Lobengula's),'

The service was a weekly one as far as Shoshong and fortnightly from there to Gubulawayo (via Tati), and the return mails were at similar intervals. British Bechuanaland stamps overprinted 'Protectorate' (SG Nos. 40-55) were used for prepaying the charges.

When the first mail left Tati no datestamp or numeral canceller had been received and the stamps were cancelled in manuscript 'Tati 15/8/88'. Two 'pieces' with this pen-and-ink cancellation are known; one, illustrated on page 37 of H.C. Dann's *Romance of the Posts of Rhodesia*, has a 2d. (SG 42) and a 1s. (SG 46) used together, and the other, in my collection, has a pair of 6d. (SG 45). Both 'pieces' are additionally obliterated with the Mafeking numeral canceller '638'. It is known that Mr J.S. Moffat arrived at Tati on August 15, 1888, on his way to Gubulawayo, and the 'piece' in my collection shows the letter to have been addressed to one of the Moffat family, probably by J.S. Moffat himself. The manuscript cancellation is believed to be in the handwriting of Mr S.H. Edwards, who had been appointed acting-postmaster at Tati.

The next post from Tati was on August 21, 1888, and by then a datestamp had been received; this had 'TATI' round the top and 'BECHUANALAND' round the base, with the date in two lines in the centre. Almost certainly only this one mail was cancelled with the datestamp in its complete form, as the few stamps known with it are dated '21 AU 88'.



Apparently, there was some objection to the use of the word 'Bechuanaland' for territory that had been conceded by Lobengula, Chief of the Matabele, so the offending word was cut from the datestamp, and thereafter it was used in its mutilated form conjointly with a numeral canceller '679'. Stamps of the Protectorate are known cancelled with the datestamp and the numeral canceller. From June 1890 the stamps of British Bechuanaland were also valid in the Tati District.

In April 1894 the post office at Tati was handed over to the British South Africa Company and the Company's stamps supplanted those of the Bechuanalands, though the district remained under Bechuanaland administration. The change was probably made because the telegraphs were in the Company's hands and the twin duties of postmaster and telegraphs agent were performed by the same person. At the same time a new datestamp was introduced, lettered 'TATI, MATABELELAND', of similar type to those used at the Company's post offices in Matabeleland and Mashonaland. The numeral '679' continued to be employed.

By 1897 the railway from the South had reached the Tati District, but it bypassed the settlement at Tati, running west of that place and continuing to Francistown, further north. Francistown, now the chief town in the District, is named after Mr Dan Francis, one of the original founders of Tati Concessions Limited. This routing of the railway resulted in the post office at Tati being transferred to Francistown in July 1897. At first, it is believed, the old Tati datestamp was used here with the name of the office cut away, leaving only the word 'MATABELELAND'; examples of this imperfect postmark are so rare, however, and none is known on cover, that it is not possible to be definite about its use.

A new datestamp was soon introduced for the office, but it had the name wrongly spelt 'FRANCESTOWN' and the territory was widely designated as 'S. AFRICA'. Several theories have been offered to explain the use of 'S. Africa' as a territorial designation instead of the actual name of the country. The real reason was that as the telegraphs and the railway pushed north they frequently had to share office accommodation and local representation with the new postal agencies that were opened. As the railways belonged to the Cape Government, the telegraphs to the British South Africa Company, and the postal agencies were in Bechuanaland, and the same datestamp would be used for all three, it was advisable not to be too definite about the location of the offices. The result was that more than half a dozen Bechuanaland post offices along the railway had datestamps that included the words 'S. Africa' or 'South Africa', while many more had merely the name of the office.

The post office in Francistown reverted to Bechuanaland Protectorate control in September 1898, and Bechuanaland postage stamps were substituted for those of the Chartered Company. The old erroneous Francetown datestamp continued in use, until about 1915, although another one was introduced in 1904. The new datestamp gave the name correctly as 'Francistown', and the name of the country was given as 'BECH<sup>o</sup>, PROTEC.'. Similar datestamps followed, the only difference being in the variations in abbreviating the name of the territory.

A second post office was opened in the Tati District at Tsesssebe, and this was issued with a datestamp incorporating the inscription 'S. Africa'.

In writing about the Tati District reference must be made to the set of fiscal stamps issued by the Tati Concessions Limited. These stamps are the only fiscal stamps issued by a private company in the Empire, and are therefore a unique example of a fiscal 'local'. They were engraved and recess printed by Messrs De La Rue and form a very handsome set, ranging in six values from 1s to £5. The elephant shown in the vignette is a tribute to Lobengula, who granted the original concession, and whose personal seal depicted an elephant. In my collection is the engraver's progress die proof of the vignette, printed in black, with the dates when the engraver worked on the die in manuscript. Plate proofs of all values are known in sage green.

*(This article is published by kind permission of the Editor of the London Philatelist)*  
*(NB - SG Nos. have been updated to coincide with the 1997 Cat. - Ed)*



# THE TATI COMPANY LIMITED

Down the years - illustrated here are two of the 1897 Tati Concessions Ltd 'stamps'; a cheque drawn in 1955 still showing Lobengula's elephant seal and two photographs taken in Oct 1986; The sign to Tati is actually to 'Tati Siding' - quite a big settlement about 14km south of Francistown and 80km NW of 'Old Tati', (There is also a 'Tatitown' - a suburb of Francistown), The other photograph is taken at the turn off to Tati (Siding), I wonder where the name 'Sam Estates' comes from - after Sam Edwards the agent at Tati in 1888 ?? (Photo's by A R Chilton)

(AMG)



Postal Address:  
P.O. Box 3,  
Francistown,  
Bechuanaland  
Protectorate



Nº 461

21th January, 19 55.

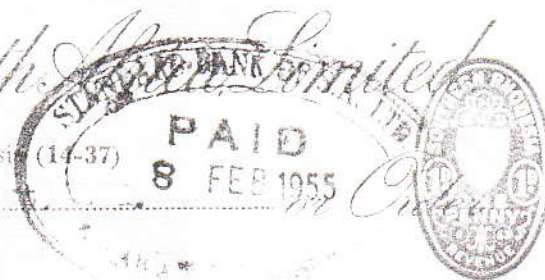
*The Standard Bank of South Africa Limited*

BULAWAYO Southern Rhodesia (14-37)

*Pay*

Two Pounds Eight Shillings

*L* 2 : 8 : 0



and on behalf of TATI COMPANY LIMITED.

*W. Watson*  
RESIDENT GENERAL MANAGER.  
*adhesions*  
LOCAL ACCOUNTANT.





Whilst visiting Botswana last year I had the pleasure to meet Alec Campbell, Director of the National Museum, Monuments and Art Gallery in Gaborone, before I left I was 'persuaded' to part with 4 Pula for a 1985 First Day Cover commemorating the 'Declaration of Protectorate 1885'. It was only later that I read the enclosed Post Office pamphlet and found the contents fascinating. I reproduce the historical section below and gratefully acknowledge both the Botswana Department of Postal Services and the writer - Alec Campbell. (AMG)

## DECLARATION OF THE PROTECTORATE, 1885

### *Introduction*

During the early 1800s, Batswana States stretched from the Orange River northwards to the Okavango Delta, and from near modern Pretoria westwards through the Kalahari into Namibia.

The names of these States appeared, often inaccurately, on those maps that existed, 'Bathlaping, Baralong, Bamangwato and so on', but no boundaries were shown and the States themselves were flexible, expanding, contracting and sometimes splitting with new States establishing themselves within the general area.

The arrival of the Voortrekkers north of the Vaal River in 1836 and the subsequent establishment of the South African Republic brought European colonization into the interior of Southern Africa and with it a major threat to the independence of traditional societies.

The constant threat of Voortrekker (or Boer) expansion into their lands led the Batswana living to the westwards to look to the British for protection as early as 1852. But at that time, British policy was one of consolidation rather than expansion and the official feeling was that colonies should pay their own way. The British also saw some form of unification between the Cape English and the Boers as the ultimate solution for Southern African development and did not intend to involve themselves in the 'native problems' of the interior.

It was not until diamonds and gold were discovered in the interior in 1867 that Britain began to appreciate the possible wealth of those remote areas beyond her control. The 'Scramble for Africa' commenced in the 1870s as European Powers began to seize and claim rights over vast areas of land. In the Cape of Good Hope, Cecil John Rhodes had already made his plans for the future expansion of British influence; his dreams envisaged an all-British route from the Cape to Cairo.

Early in the 1880s Boers from the South African Republic established two new small republics on Batswana lands to the south of the Molopo River and the Germans established a settlement at Angra Pequena (Luderitz). The two republics, Stellaland and Goshen, lay right across the road to the rich interior and the possibility of a Boer-German alliance foreshadowed the possible closure of British access to the north.

For some time missionaries to the Batswana had been pointing to Boer invasion of Batswana lands and pressing Britain to act. In 1882 John Mackenzie coopted many powerful friends and mounted a major campaign in Britain to secure intervention in Boer land grabs. Finally, in 1884 Britain decided to act.

### *The First Declaration*

Early in 1884 the British decided to establish a protectorate over the country outside the Transvaal (South African Republic) and appointed John Mackenzie as Deputy Commissioner. Mackenzie immediately left for the area south of the Molopo River and secured treaties from the two major Batswana *Dikgosi* (Chiefs) ceding extensive rights of jurisdiction to Britain. He then announced a British Protectorate over the area south of the Molopo and informed the Boer Republics that their governments (Stellaland and Goshen) had ceased to exist.



Mackenzie's actions, for which he was criticised and replaced by Cecil Rhodes, stirred the British into real action. General Warren was sent to the Protectorate when it was found Rhodes was incapable of controlling the Boer settlers. He took a force with him and restored order without a shot being fired. On the 27th of January 1885, by order of the council, Britain declared a protectorate over 'the Territories of South Africa lying to the northward of the colony of the Cape of Good Hope and to the westward of the South African Republic'. The line drawn in the north was the 22nd Parallel of South Latitude because it was considered it cut the most northerly point on the Limpopo River where Batswana lands were adjacent to the South African Republic.

Warren and Mackenzie then set out to inform the Batswana *Dikgosi* that Britain had declared the Protectorate and would now 'protect' them. Chief Gaseitsiwe accepted the Protectorate without complaint, but Sechele was not happy saying he would first like to see what the British would do to help the Batswana now protected south of the Molopo. Khama of the Bangwato was pleased but pointed out that South Latitude 22° cut his country in half and, in any event, was not a physical boundary like a river and how could it be recognised on the ground.

In fact, although the declaration had the effect of bringing some British administration to Bechuanaland south of the Molopo, it had little effect on the area to its north and the Batswana continued as they had in the past with the exception that the immediate threat of Boer occupation had ceased.

### *The Second Declaration*

During the first months of 1885 plans were drawn up for the administration of Bechuanaland, discussed, torn up and rewritten. Basically, the intention was to spend as little of the British tax-payers money as possible and anything which appeared expensive, even though it might prove efficient, was discarded.

The High Commissioner noted 'Our obligations and interests in Bechuanaland are limited to securing suitable locations for allies Montsioa and Mankoroane (*Dikgosi* located south of the Molopo), and to keeping open the trade road to the interior of the country'.

With this in mind it was felt that the area of Bechuanaland south of the Molopo where diamonds had been discovered, some white settlement had already taken place and many Batswana had already been deprived of their land, should eventually be incorporated in the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope; while the area north of the Molopo where there was no white settlement and the land was both still occupied by the Batswana and valued only as a route into the interior, should remain as a protectorate with as little spent on it as possible.

Thus, by Proclamation No.1 of the 30th September, 1885 the land to the south of the Molopo was declared British territory and named British Bechuanaland, while that lying to the north of the river up to Latitude 22° remained 'under Her Majesty's protection', as Bechuanaland Protectorate.

Thus the Protectorate came into existence, although only half of its future extent. On its south western border it extended as far south as the Orange River in a strip some 200 kilometres long by less than 50 wide. Shortly afterwards, this strip was excised and included in British Bechuanaland. When the excision was made, it was decided to use the Nosop River as the boundary instead of the Aup, consequently British Bechuanaland ended with a strip excised out of the Protectorate possibly because of a confusion in river names.

### *The Third Declaration*

A vast area, including half of Bamangwato country, still lay open to control north of Latitude 22°, in fact, the whole of northern Botswana and modern Zimbabwe. On the 9th May 1891, an order in council gave the High Commissioner certain powers of administration over this vast area. Because a charter had been granted to the British South Africa Company (BSA Co) of Cecil



Rhodes to exploit the area now known as Zimbabwe, the High Commissioner exercised his new powers only in the areas where the charter was not in force, that is in northern Botswana. Even so, certain areas of modern Botswana were still either not included - the Tati District - or only vaguely included - the Disputed Territory lying between the Motloutse and Shashe Rivers.

### *The Tati District*

The Tati District (now known as the North East District) lies between the Shashe and Ramokgwebane Rivers. The ancients had mined gold there six centuries earlier and Whites had rediscovered it in 1867.

The area was claimed by the Amandebele then living to its northeast in what is now Zimbabwe although occupied by Balilima and two Batswana groups, the Bakhurutse and some Barolong.

In 1880 the area had been granted as a mineral concession to the Northern Light Company by Lobengula, *Kgosi* of the Amandebele. In 1888 the concession was bought by the Tati Concessions Mining and Exploration Company and its original constituents widened to include white settlement and general administration of the area.

Because it was already under white administration, it was not included specifically in the 1891 Order in Council.

### *The Disputed Territory*

The Disputed Territory consisted of the area lying between the Motloutse and Shashe Rivers. Both Khama of the Bangwato and Lobengula of the Amandebele claimed the area as their hunting grounds, although neither group occupied it. It was in fact occupied by groups of Bakalanga and others who lived mainly by hunting and owed allegiance to Khama.

It is probable that the land would have remained undisputed had it not been for the British desire to know exactly where her authority started and ended. Britain wanted to see clear boundaries on maps, not nebulous areas described as 'the countries of the Batswana' or areas occupied by the Amandebele.

As it was, the matter was brought to a head by some whites applying to Khama first for prospecting rights in the area and on refusal going to Lobengula who did grant them a concession. They returned then to Khama to say they had the concession and when Khama became angry suggested they could bring an army to control Lobengula.

### *The Fourth Declaration*

The fourth declaration was made on the 27th of September 1892, when, by Proclamation, the Bechuanaland Protectorate was described as:

- (a) The Territories lying between the Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland, the 22nd parallel of South Latitude and Macloutsie (Motloutse) River,
- (b) The Territory known as the disputed Territory lying between the Shashi (Shashe) and Macloutsie Rivers, excepting the area included in the Tuli District,
- (c) The Tati District,
- (d) Such Territories north of the 22nd parallel of South Latitude as belong to the Chief Khama of the Bamangwato,
- (e) Such Territories lying to the north and west of the Territories of the Chief Khama as do not belong to the Chief Lobengula.



Even then, precise boundaries remained to be drawn and it was not until 1899 and well after the Matabele Rebellion and the crushing of Lobengula that a final boundary was drawn between the lands of the Amandebele and those claimed by Khama in the Protectorate. A part of this description reads '...until such watershed strikes the Hunter's Road (called the Pandamatenga Road), thence by that road to the River Zambezi'.

### Conclusion

The 30th of September 1885, is recognised as the date on which the Bechuanaland Protectorate came into being although some of its area was declared 'Protectorate' eight months earlier, and it was to take a further seven years to include the whole country which now forms the Republic of Botswana.

At the time of the Declaration the Batswana had no idea what would be finally involved and probably the British had little idea either. The first administrator, Sir Sidney Shippard, was appointed administrator of British Bechuanaland and Deputy Commissioner of the Bechuanaland Protectorate on the 1st of October 1885. It was his duty to explain what *protection* meant to the Batswana and this he tried to do. In effect, there was little change and the *Dikgosi* continued to administer their own areas. It was not until 10 years had elapsed and Britain was considering handing the Protectorate to the BSA Co, that any real changes took place, but that is another story.

For many years Britain saw the ultimate fate of the Protectorate as one of incorporation in the Union of South Africa and the constitution of that country was framed for possible incorporation of the Protectorate.

Had the Protectorate been declared British Territory like British Bechuanaland there is little doubt it would now form part of the Republic of South Africa. Because it was a *Protectorate* the British always insisted on asking the Batswana's opinion whenever the question of incorporation arose, which it did with some frequency until 1948 when the National Party came to power in South Africa. Invariably the *Dikgosi* rejected the idea of incorporation and Britain respected their rights to the land.

The Protectorate's boundaries, drawn along rivers, watersheds, roads and lines on the map cut through peoples, dividing groups into different countries, half in one and the rest in another. On the other hand, it did have the effect of uniting groups under a common loyalty. When on the 30th September 1966, exactly 81 years after the original declaration, the Protectorate achieved independence becoming the Republic of Botswana, the people were one people with a common destiny and anxious so to remain.





# DISTANCE TABLE. BULAWAYO—MAFEKING.

## TRAVEL IN THE 1890's

I recently came across a 'Books of Zimbabwe' reprint of "Davis' Bulawayo Directory" for 1896. Amongst the wealth of information are the distance and Coach Fares tables reproduced here, which help to position such elusive places as 'Sandpits'. Also note the alternate spellings - 'Makalapye' - yet another version of Mahalapye and 'Mochurdi' for Mochudi.

Continuing this theme I also illustrate some early Coach passenger tickets which I managed to beg, borrow or... They are, in order of appearance:- an 1892 ticket issued by 'The Bechuanaland Exploration Co' from Ramoutsa to Fort Tuli costing £17, NB 'Motshodi' and 'Malmani' (Gold Fields), (courtesy of Dennis Monaghan); An overprinted 'Hollins & Zeederburg' ticket for 1896 (what happened to Hollins?) from Bulawayo to Gwanda for £4 (RRS), and an unused 'Northern Express Line' for the 1890's (AMG). Do members know of any other mail/passenger companies? (AMG)

From	To	Distance.	Stores.
Bulawayo .. ..	Khame River	13 miles	Dawson's.
Khame River .. ..	Bukutwani	8 "	Dawes.
Bukutwani .. ..	Fig Tree	10 "	Mansfield & Ellis.
Fig Tree .. ..	Shashani	10 "	Needham.
Shashani .. ..	Matole	5 "	Rainsburg & Pearson.
Matole .. ..	Stockstown	6 "	Grasberg.
Stockstown .. ..	Dawsons	7 "	Dawson.
Dawsons .. ..	Mangwe Camp	2 "	Saunders.
Mangwe Camp .. ..	Greenwood	9 "	Nil.
Greenwood .. ..	Impuesi	13 "	Kolinberg.
Impuesi .. ..	Impakwe River	11 "	Nil.
Impakwe River .. ..	Rumakwaban	10 "	Mansfield & Ellis.
Rumakwaban .. ..	Tati	19 "	Tati Concession.
Tati .. ..	Plaatklip	12 "	Nil.
Plaatklip .. ..	Macoutsie River	13 "	"
Macoutsie River .. ..	Lotlakani	10 "	"
Lotlakani .. ..	Gowke	10 "	"
Gowke .. ..	Bushman's Pit	8 "	"
Bushman's Pit .. ..	Seruli	14 "	"
Seruli .. ..	Lotsani	20 "	"
Lotsani .. ..	Palapye	9 "	Khama's Township.
Palapye .. ..	Letchane	9 "	Nil.
Letchane .. ..	Nakora Kop	14 "	"
Nakora Kop .. ..	Weber's Grave	19 "	"
Weber's Grave .. ..	Wegdraai	14 "	"
Wegdraai .. ..	Makalapye	15 "	"
Makalapye .. ..	Dopper's Pan	13 "	"
Dopper's Pan .. ..	Sasas Post	15 "	McArthur.
Sasas Post .. ..	Palla	16 "	Weil.
Palla .. ..	Masama	16 "	Nil.
Masama .. ..	Lokala	12 "	"
Lokala .. ..	Hamerkop	12 "	"
Hamerkop .. ..	Suswani	10 "	"
Suswani .. ..	Kalihani	9 "	"
Kalihani .. ..	Notwani Bend	3 "	"
Notwani Bend .. ..	Mochurdi	12 "	Weil.
Mochurdi .. ..	M-tz-imaclawa	14 "	Nil.
M-tz-imaclawa .. ..	Gaberones	12 "	Weil.
Gaberones .. ..	Pullas Kraal	12 "	Nil.
Pullas Kraal .. ..	Ramoutsai	15 "	Weil.
Ramoutsai .. ..	Aasvogel Kop	15 "	Kemp.
Aasvogel Kop .. ..	Boulder Pits	8 "	Store.
Boulder Pits .. ..	Oliphant Pit	8 "	Nil.
Oliphant Pit .. ..	Sand Pits	8 "	"
Sand Pits .. ..	litsani Pothlago	9 "	Transveldt.
litsani Pothlago .. ..	Ruma hlaban	9 "	"
Ruma hlaban .. ..	Mafeking	16 "	"

49

No.           

BW

**BECHUANALAND EXPLORATION COMPANY, LIMITED.**

**The Interior Line of Royal Mail and Passenger Coaches and Carts**

Between **KIMBERLEY** and **BAMANGWATO** via Taung, Vrijburg, Mafeking, Malmani, Kanya, Molopolole and Motshodi.

**PASSENGER TICKET.**

*Ramoutsai*

From ~~BARKLY WEST~~ to *Fort Tuli*

Name *W. E. Thomas*

Fare £ *17.0.0* *Seventeen Pounds*

Overweight-Luggage.....lbs., at.....s.....d.

Date *August 2nd* *1892*

Seat No.....

*W. E. Thomas* Agent.

FOR CONDITIONS ON WHICH THIS TICKET IS ISSUED SEE OVER.



# COACH FARES.

From			Excess Parcels Rates.	£ s. d.
Bulawayo	to Tati	and vice versa	6d. per lb.	5 10 0
Tati	„ Palachwe	„ „ „	„ „	5 0 0
Palachwe	„ Palla	„ „ „	„ „	6 0 0
Palla	„ Mochudi	„ „ „	„ „	4 10 0
Mochudi	„ Gaberones	„ „ „	„ „	1 10 0
Gaberones	„ Ramoutsi	„ „ „	„ „	1 5 0
Ramoutsi	„ Aasvogel Kop	„ „ „	„ „	0 15 0
Aasvogel Kop	„ Boulder Pits	„ „ „	„ „	0 15 0
Boulder Pits	„ Sand Pits	„ „ „	„ „	0 10 0
Sand Pits	„ Potzani Pothlago	„ „ „	„ „	0 10 0
Potzani Pothlago	„ Ramathlaban	„ „ „	„ „	0 10 0
Ramathlaban	„ Mafeking	„ „ „	„ „	0 15 0

Intermediate Stations not mentioned in above list, 1s. per mile or fraction of a mile.

LUGGAGE.—30 lbs. Free to each Passenger. All excess at Parcels Rates.

NOT TRANSFERABLE.  
Issued subject to the Conditions printed at the back hereof.

## No. 2356

# TRANSVAAL-MASHONALAND MAIL & PASSENGER SERVICE.

HOLLINS & ZEEDERBERG, Contractors.

No. of Seat 7 Jan 2/1896

### PASSENGER TICKET.

I hereby certify that Mr. Yoster  
has (subject to the Conditions at the back hereof) engaged a seat in the Coach from Bul to Graham and has paid the Fare for the same, together with £..... for ..... pounds Excess Luggage (30 lbs. being allowed), which is carried at the sole risk of the owner.

Passage ... £ 4-0-0 PRO. HOLLINS & ZEEDERBERG, & CO.

Luggage ... £ ..... Wester Agent.

## No. THE NORTHERN EXPRESS LINE

Of ROYAL MAIL & PASSENGER COACHES and CARTS,  
BETWEEN VRYBURG, MAFEKING, MACLOUTSIE & BULUWAYO.

### PASSENGER TICKET.

Date 1896

From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Fare, £ \_\_\_\_\_

Excess Luggage, \_\_\_\_\_ lbs. at £ : s. d.

Agent.

This Ticket is subject to the conditions printed on the other side.



The following article is the first in a series of "Notes", summarising various aspects of Bechuanaland Philately. Descriptions of forgeries are given to assist those having to make decisions "in the field"; they are not intended as a substitute for expert opinion.

Note 1                      THE DECEMBER 1888 PROVISIONAL:  
UNAPPROPRIATED DIE 3d OVERPRINTED  
"One Half-Penny"

**PREVIOUS WORK**

This issue, first reported in the Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly (1921), is discussed at length by Jurgens (1945, p.76-80). That worker argues, from the evidence of letters written by Government officials, that varieties in spelling ie. Ponny for Penny, and inverted overprints are printers waste. Holmes (1971, p.53-54) rightly considers that these varieties, which are to be found both upright and inverted with genuine Vryburg postmarks, are forged. As stated by Holmes, and more recently by Inglefield-Watson, genuine copies are recognised by plating.

This provisional was required to satisfy the rate for the local carriage of newspapers, and preceded a second provisional issued in January 1890 (SG 30). The setting was made to overprint a half sheet of the Unappropriated Dies 3d, which comprised 60 stamps in five horizontal rows of 12. It is uncertain whether 6 or 12 full sheets were overprinted, constituting 720 or 1440 stamps.



Row 1, Nos. 1 + 2  
Row 2, Nos. 1 + 2



Row 2, Nos.10 + 11  
Row 3, Nos.10 + 11



"One Hal Penny"  
Row 5, Nos.11 + 12  
(ex Holmes)



Type 1  
Forgery  
inverted



Type 1 Forgery  
"Ponny", inverted



Type 2  
Forgery



## PRESENT WORK: - THE GENUINE OVERPRINT

Comparison between the genuine and forged overprints is as follows:-

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Genuine</u>	<u>Forged</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Shade	Pale lilac	lilac	Used forged copies, and mint copies bleached by sunlight, approximate to the genuine shade. This is not a definitive classification.
Vertical rules	10,75-11,25mm	11-11,75mm	Not definitive
Rule width	13,75-14mm	13,75-14mm	Not definitive. Rules are essentially parallel on the genuine and Type 1 forgeries, but may converge on Type 2 forgeries.
Breaks in rule	(See table 1)	Not found	Breaks in the vertical rule are diagnostic of genuine stamps, but not all genuine stamps have such breaks (Table 1)
Inking	Clean	Dry	Diagnostic in separating the genuine from Type 1 forgeries. The dry inking gives rise to numerous broken letters, and especially the "D" in "One". Type 2 forgeries are slightly over-inked in comparison with the genuine. Vertical rules on Type 1 are very fine and have a pale "steel blue" colour. Those on the genuine, and Type 2 forgeries, are black.
Print	-	-	No differentiating characteristics in type and size. Small variations in spacing and the slope of letters allows plating of the genuine to all positions.
Setting	-	-	On the genuine and Type 2 forgery, a line drawn between the tops of the vertical rules just brushes the top of the "D" in "One". Similarly, a line drawn between the bottoms of the vertical rules just intersects the lower curve of "y" in "Penny". Deviations from this are diagnostic for Type 1 forgeries.



TABLE 1 - PLATE FLAWS

Frame breaks					One Half- Penny
Row	No.	Left	Right	Other observations	
1	1	3,5	3,5		
1	2	7,25	7,25		
1	3	7	-		
1	5	7	-		
1	6	3,5	-	Major break top "P" in "Penny",	
1	7	4	-		
2	1	3,5	7,25	P slopes to right	
2	2	3	3,5	"n" of "One" leans slightly to left	
2	3	-	1	Serif to left foot of "P" weak	
2	5	1,3	-		
2	6	7	3,5		
2	7	-	7,5	"P" in "Penny" broken at top, Lower curve of "e" in "Penny" truncated,	
2	8	6,5	3		
2	9	3,5	3		
2	10	6	3,5	No serif to top of "P"	
2	11	7	3	Serif weak to right foot of 2nd "n" in "Penny",	
2	12	-	3,5	Serif weak to foot of "P"	
3	1	-	-	"en" of "Penny" close,	
3	3	-	-	"e" of "Penny" slightly truncated,	
3	4	-	-	"n" of "One" slopes to left,	
3	9	-	-	Upper serifs to "H" not touching, Cross to "H" weak or broken,	
3	10	-	-	Top "P" of "Penny" broken	
3	11	-	-	Right rule is 7,5mm, on 1st(?) sheet, upper 0,75mm of right rule is printed,	
4	4	-	-	Top "P" of "Penny" broken,	
4	9	-	-	Right foot of "n" in "One" broken, Serif to foot of "P" broken,	
4	10	-	-	Serifs to top of "H" not touching, "e" in "Penny" truncated,	
5	2	2(join)	-		
5	5	-	-	"H" overlies "P" in "Penny",	
5	6	-	-	Base "Q" in "One" broken, Right part of serif to foot of "P" weak or absent,	
5	11	-	-	"Hal" variety	
5	12	3,5	10		

Note; Breaks in the vertical rules are measured in millimetres, from the base to the first occurrence of the break, There are undoubtedly many plate flaws not mentioned above, Refer to Holmes (1971, plate 6),

Of the many forgeries, type 1 - mint or used - is by far the most common. Within this family are found the inverted overprints and the "artistic illiteracy" which includes "Ponny, Panny, Pneny, Helf, Halp and Hafl". (The forger cud spell "wun" ?!).

Type 2 forgery could be dangerous 'used', but it is not found on the pale shade. Breaks in the vertical rules, which may not be parallel, have not been seen. Slight overinking is common.

## POSTMARKS

Exercise caution with examples used in Vryburg on the following dates:-

14 DE 88 (Code A), 17 DE 88, AU 11 90 (Code D), AU 22 90 (Code A)



## RELATIVE SCARCITY

The relative scarcity of genuine used examples is gauged from the following auction occurrences:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Auction House</u>	<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Oct 29 1981	Harmers	1092	
Apr 1982	Interstamps	903	
Jun 15 1983	Robson Lowe	1054	Genuine ?
Sep 22 1983	Sotheby's	80	Kuruman 23 Apr 90
Jun 24 1986	Robson Lowe	628	Vryburg 88 Row 2, No.8

Mint singles in good condition will realise approximately 50% of catalogue in auction. A similar price will be paid for a forgery, mint or 'used', but a premium is added to forgeries with spelling varieties. If you manage to purchase a genuine used copy below catalogue value - well done ! (KOI)

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## Note 2      SUPPLEMENT TO THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE TATI DISTRICT

The manuscript cancellation (Fig.1) applied to the first post leaving Tati, on 15 August 1888, was superceded by the circular datestamp reading "Tati Bechuanaland" (Fig.2). This datestamp was used on only one day - 21 August 1888 - before the word "Bechuanaland" was diplomatically filed off to avoid trouble with Lobengula who, as Chief of the Matabele, regarded the Tati District as part of Matabeleland (Fig.3). This modified datestamp was used from the end of August 1888 to April 1894, when the agency was taken over by the British South Africa Company. As the Tati canceller had a life of five and a half years, why is it that examples are so scarce ?

On taking over the agency at Tati, the B.S.A.C. introduced a second datestamp reading "Tati Matabeleland" (Fig.4). This cancellation is found on the following Rhodesian issues:-

1892 (Jan); 1892-94; 1895; 1896-97 (Dies I and II) and the 1896 issue C,6,H, overprinted "British South Africa Company".

In similar manner to the old "Tati" cancellation, examples of the second datestamp are extremely scarce prior to March 1896 (Approximate relative scarcity 1:100). The marked increase in mail passing through the agency from March 1896 is tentatively attributed to the start of the Matabele rebellion, which lasted from 24 March to 24 August 1896. Soon after the start of hostilities, the Matabele successfully gained control of the roads leading from the Tati District to Bulawayo, thus preventing resupply of Rhodesian stamps at Tati. The Rhodesian issues continued to be used up to April 1896, and were temporarily replaced by British Bechuanaland stamps (Unappropriated Die and Jubilee ovpt. "British Bechuanaland") which are known used on 2nd and 10th June 96 (Fig.5).

On, or slightly before, 17 June 96, the Tati office received a supply of the emergency provisionals with the Cape of Good Hope issue overprinted "British South Africa Company". (Fig.6. Coincidentally, Rhodesian stamps were used - or cancelled in transit - at Mafeking, the administrative capital of Bechuanaland, between February and July 1896).



Rhodesian stamps remained in use until July 1897, when the office was transferred to Francistown, a newly created town situated by the railway line. Before Francistown received its own datestamp, the Tati stamp was used with the word "Tati" removed (Fig.7). Although this shows only the word "Matabeleland", it is characterised by the the dot separation of 17mm (measured as a straight line between the outer edges of the two dots) and the distinctive shape of "D" in "Matabeleland". There must have been an overlap in the use of this datestamp and that reading "Francestown S. Africa", as the former is known used on 5 October 1897 (Code 9). Although the Francistown office was officially transferred to Protectorate control at the end of August 1898, old habits persisted and Rhodesian stamps continued to be accepted until 21 December 1899 (1898-1908 and 1896 Die I issues). (KOI)



Fig.1 'Tati/15/8/88'  
Manuscript cancellation  
'638' transit of Mafeking  
(ex H. R. Holmes)

Manuscript cancellation 'Tati/15/9/88'  
on a cover to F.R. "Matabele" Thompson.  
Was the Tati canceller in Vryburg having  
'Bechuanaland' removed? (ex R.C. Knight)



Fig.2



Fig.3



Fig.4



Fig.5



Fig.6



Fig.7



## THE 1960 AND 1961 BISECTS

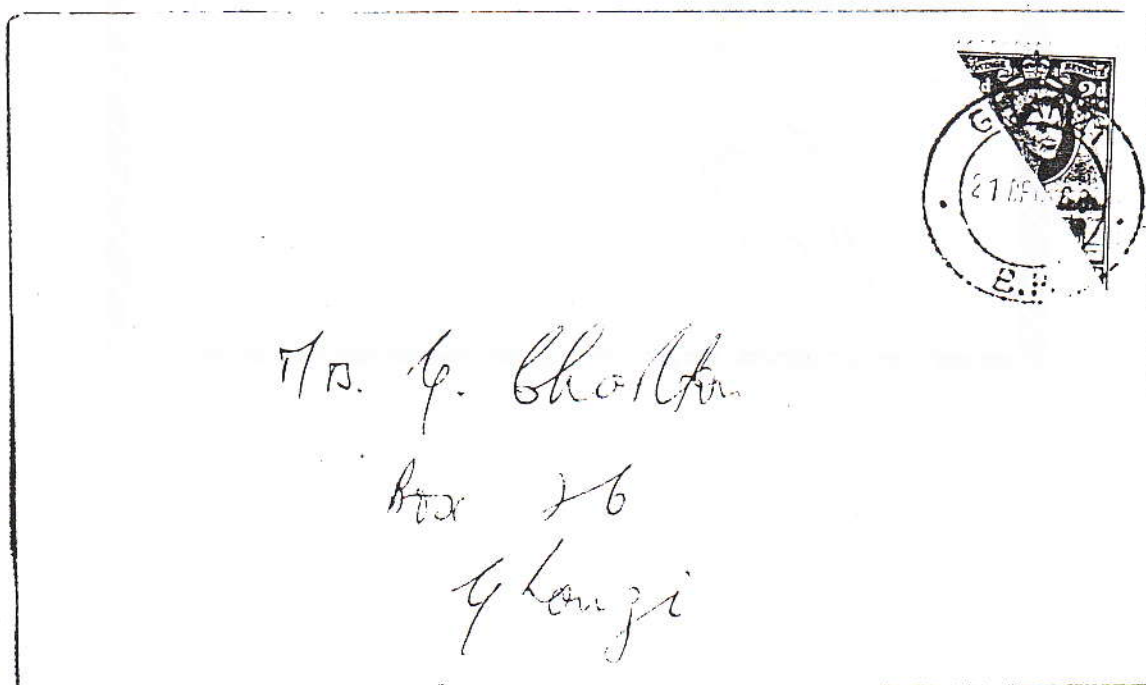
By J. F. INGLEFIELD-WATSON

The bisected 4d and 1/- values of the 1891-94 GB stamps overprinted 'BRITISH BECHUANALAND' have achieved catalogue status as SG 35a and 37a respectively. H.R.Holmes states in his book that although it would seem that these bisects were accepted as having paid the requisite postal rates, it is doubtful if there was any actual shortage of 2d or 6d stamps at the post offices concerned, the bisects being allowed to prepay postage through the connivance of the local postmasters at Palapye Road and Kanye respectively.

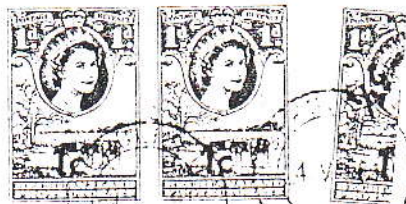
More recently, examples are known of bisected values of certain of the 1955 definitives and 1961 provisionals. These are said to have been used during temporary shortages of stamps of the required denomination, especially of the values for inland postage. The first shortages arose late in 1960 when most stocks of the 1955 definitives had been withdrawn for decimal currency surcharging. Then, during 1961, supplies of some of the decimal currency provisionals proved inadequate and others were bisected, the new values being shown by manuscript surcharge. In all cases the bisecting is said to have been carried out without proper official approval and to have been stopped by the Postmaster General after a few days use. Can any member throw any further light on the status of these bisects which would seem to be at least as good as that of their Victorian predecessors?

I have the following examples on cover; can anyone add to this list?

<u>Franking</u>	<u>Bisect</u>	<u>Surcharge</u>	<u>Origin &amp; Destination</u>
½ x 2d (SG 145)	Diagonal	-	Ghanzi: 21 DEC 60, local.
2½ x 1c/1d (SG 157)	Vertical	½c	Seruli Sta: 24.V.61 to Bulawayo.
½ x 5c/6d (SG 162a)	Vertical	2½c	Seruli Sta: 28.V.61 to Bulawayo.
½ x 5c/6d (SG 162)	Vertical	2½cts & Initials	Tsessebe Sta: 29.V.61 to Bulawayo.



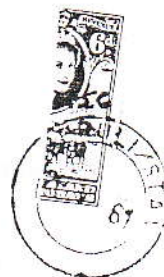




*Kingstons Ltd*

*P. O. Box 1498*

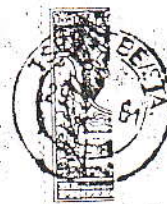
*Bulawayo*



*Haddon & Sly*  
*Box 582*

*Bulawayo*

**BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION  
PER LUGOS**



*The Accountant*  
*Kingstons Ltd*

*P. O. Box 1498*

*Bulawayo S. R.*



## POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS AND VIEWS

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By J. F. INGLEFIELD-WATSON

This first instalment of what may become an occasional series mainly comprises additional information about the Postal Stationery of the Bechuanalands that is not included in H.R.Holmes' book. The related pages of the book are quoted for reference.

### BRITISH BECHUANALAND

#### 1. Registered Envelopes

Pages 67 and 72 of the book show an inconsistency in respect of the mid-1889 4d vermilion envelopes overprinted 'SPECIMEN' in that the latter page lists an additional date of 1.3.89 for size H. I can confirm that this exists with the Type 2 'SPECIMEN' handstamp but have not yet recorded it with the Type 5 overprint. Size K (1.3.89) also exists with the Type 2 handstamp.

#### 2. Newspaper Wrappers

(a) Two essays exist of the Jan 1887 ½d grey-green on buff wrapper (page 72) showing the 'BRITISH BECHUANALAND' overprint in two types that were not adopted. These were illustrated in the 24/25 June 86 Harpers sale catalogue of the 'Barkaway' collection:

(1) In tall thin seriffed capitals about 2mm high,

(2) In small seriffed capitals just over 1mm high,

(b) The Oct 1888 1d brown on buff wrapper (page 72) exists with the Type 2 'SPECIMEN' handstamp double inverted. Being handstamped this is not an error of any great significance.

(c) The end-1889 ½d red-brown on buff wrapper (page 72) exists with Type 4 'Specimen' handstamp in violet.

#### 3. Postcards

The Sept 1894 overprinted Cape of Good Hope 1d red-brown on white card (page 73) exists with Type 4 'Specimen' handstamp in violet.

### BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE

#### 4. Registered Envelopes

(a) There are two types of the 1918 4d on 2d + 1d brown Size G envelope with straight cut flap (page 122). They differ in the size of the lettering in the space for the registration label and in the text on the reverse of the envelope. The commoner is in the same size as other envelopes of this period; the other has larger lettering in a paler shade of blue. Both have the same date code letters 'EM' under the flap.

(b) The following additions can be made to the list of date code letters on page 123:

1925 (K,G,) Size G; Code letters 'BU' and 'HU' have been recorded,

(c) The Oct 1961 5 cents rose envelope is listed on page 175 in Size H2. I have reason to doubt its existence. Can anyone confirm it?



## POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS AND VIEWS

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### 5. Postcards

The 1905 issue date for the 4d green card (page 123) is wrong. I have an example used at Gaborones Station on 1 June 1904, this date being confirmed by the sender's dating of the text and by the arrival c.d.s.

### 6. Aerogrammes

(a) The Dec 1958 6d violet on blue aerogramme is listed on page 159 with the 'Gateway' paper watermark containing the control letters 'I', 'K' or 'L'. Higgins & Gage list only 'K' (HG 7) and 'L' (HG 6). Similarly on page 175 the Feb 1961 surcharged 5c on 6d provisional aerogramme is listed with the same three control letters. Higgins & Gage agree (HG 8, 9, 10) but add a further letter 'T' (HG 11). The control letters represent the year of manufacture of the paper: 'I' - 1956, 'K' - 1957, 'L' - 1958. Assuming that the sequence continued, 'T' could not have been reached by 1961 and I would therefore discount the HG listing - unless someone knows better! Indisputable examples of the two 'I' watermarked aerogrammes seem very difficult to find. Despite some 25 years of searching I have yet to see an example of the unsurcharged 6d version and I have learnt that the 'L' can sometimes look deceptively like an 'I'. Can anyone confirm its existence?


(b) To complete the Protectorate listing the 1962(?) aerogramme should be added to page 175. It is similar to the 1958 6d violet on blue but has a rectangular space for an adhesive stamp in place of an imprinted stamp and has red lettering, etc, instead of violet. In the early printing(s), seen used in 1964 and 1965, the paper is a deeper blue and is unwatermarked. A later printing, seen used in 1967, is in a slightly different shade of red on thinner, paler paper which has the 'Imperial' watermark, as on the earlier 6d and 5c/6d aerogrammes. Watermark code letters 'Y' and 'Z' have been recorded. Can anyone be more precise about issue dates?


### BOTSWANA

My next project is to complete a listing of Botswana postal stationery. One postcard, eight aerogrammes and three registered envelopes have been issued to date, two of the aerogrammes and all the registered envelopes being without any imprinted stamp. The main gaps in my knowledge are in respect of issue dates and printers. I would be grateful to any member who can contribute information.



# POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS AND VIEWS

<p>This space is reserved for Official Registration Label</p>	<p><b>REGISTERED LETTER.</b></p> <p>THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT TAINED FOR IT.</p> <p>THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.</p> <p>McKENNAN &amp; Co., Ltd.</p>	
<p>FEE PAID</p>	<p>CONTRACT FIVE</p> <p>E.V.</p>	

<p>This space is reserved for Official Registration Label.</p>	<p><b>REGISTERED LETTER.</b></p> <p>THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT TAINED FOR IT.</p> <p>THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.</p> <p>McKENNAN &amp; Co., Ltd.</p>	
<p>FEE PAID</p>	<p>CONTRACT FIVE</p> <p>E.V.</p>	

1918 Registered Envelope - two types





BECHUANALAND  
PROTECTORATE.

## Registration.

Compensation is given for loss or damage in respect  
of Inland Registered Letters and Packets of all kinds,

and for the loss of Foreign and Colonial Registered Letters  
and Packets, subject to the limitations and conditions  
notified in the Post Office Guide.



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1918 Registered Envelope - two types