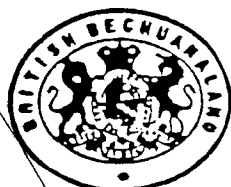


The Runner Post



RUNNER POST NO. 7

NEWSLETTER NO. 10

SUMMER ISSUE - JUNE 1987

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EDITORS COMMENTS

A successful meeting at Stampex, London, Wednesday March 4th, 1987. After an impromptu Committee Meeting with sandwiches, we met and after a very short business session, had the pleasure of listening to Mr. Kenneth Wright discoursing on Tati, illustrated with some superb examples, including the first, manuscript, cancel 'Tati 15/8/88'. Those who were unable to attend can now obtain part of the enjoyment by reading his article in this issue, but will of course miss the delightful personal touch.

There were two items missing from the collection, which were represented by photocopies, and Mr. Wright offered to come back and talk to us again if we could fill either of these two vacancies. Happily for all those concerned, we were not entirely unprepared for this, and John Inglefield-Watson was able to produce one of these items, and after some gentle haggling, both parties were very satisfied. So were we... see you here again, Kenneth!

Ten members signed the book, including our Chairman Brian; there were four visitors, one of whom joined the Society, and apologies from 6 members. And how good it was to have Howard Cook, all the way from Durban, with us.

A word of thanks to our member in Ohio - David Wessely - who has been working hard promoting the BBS by writing to various libraries and magazines, including Linns - the main philatelic magazine in the USA, and generally spreading word of our existence to those solitary Bech. collectors out there. Thanks David.

Pagination

This issue sees another change to the Runner Post in the form of our pagination. As is customary in Society Newsletters/Bulletins we will be numbering all issues of the Runner Post consecutively, and as we have so far produced a round 100 pages, we feel it is opportune to start this issue with page 101. This will make referring to a particular article easier by just quoting the page number. We hope this meets with the approval of members.

Information Wanted

The Transvaal Study Circle is currently working towards publication of a definitive handbook on Transvaal, and in this connection Alan Drysdall, who is writing the chapter on revenues, telegraphs and railway stamps would welcome information on areas of mutual interest to our two Societies, in particular:

1. The Bechuanaland Postal Fiscal (SG F1) which Gibbons list as being issued in July 1910 (technically Union period). Does anyone have any information regarding its authorisation - perhaps in the form of Post Office Notices/Circulars or any official mention of this issue ?
2. Transvaal Revenue stamps of EVII were overprinted for use in Bechuanaland, information is a little patchy on exactly which overprints occur on which stamps. There follows illustrations of the types of overprints (as far as a word-processor can reproduce them) and which stamps they have been recorded on. Again any comments/additions members can supply would be gratefully received and full acknowledgement given.

Replies via Alan MacGregor please.

<u>OVERPRINT TYPE</u>	<u>ON STAMPS OF</u>	<u>RECORDED VALUES</u>	
BECHUANALAND	TVL EVII	£5	(Barefoot & Hall list a £1 but this has not been confirmed)
PROTECTORATE.			
BECHUANALAND	TVL EVII	2/6, £1, £5	
PROTECTORATE			
Bechuanaland Protectorate.	TVL EVII	2/6, £1	

Information Wanted (Cont.)

Ken Baker is hoping to start work shortly on the History of the Postal Routes of the Bechuanalands. He would welcome any information on this subject from members or others, particularly as to the operation of routes; conveyances used, times and distances of routes, terminal join ups with other countries' routes. If members can recall the names of books etc which might contain some of the above information, would they please mention these.

Replies to: K.A. Baker, 31 Graham St., Bedford 5780, South Africa.

Botswana Column ?

We would welcome hearing from anyone who would like to contribute an article(s), possibly on a regular basis, on the stamps/postmarks/varieties of Botswana, in fact anything you think that may be of interest to members. Perhaps you have made a 'find' or have a query which other members may be able to answer. The Runner Post is your forum and we would only be too happy to publish your contributions.

Background Reading Ancient and Modern

The Journals of Elizabeth Price, letters written in Bechuanaland 1854-1884. (Edited Una Long, Published Edward Arnold, London 1956). These are family letters on family letters on family affairs, with occasional comments on local chiefs, people and events.

Elizabeth Moffat was the ninth child of Dr. Robert Moffat and was sister to Mary (Livingstone) and John Smith Moffat; born on a sailing ship in Table Bay, brought up at the Kuruman Mission and spent nearly all her life in Africa, mostly in the 'Interior' at Molepolole and Shoshong. She married the Rev. Roger Price after his return from the disastrous trans-Zambesi mission at Linyanti, and had fourteen children, almost all born in the Interior with no medical help and two weeks journey by ox-cart from the nearest white woman. Yet the impression comes over of a wee timid woman, sustained only by three things - the love of and unconventional belief in her God; love of her husband and family; and the longed-for arrival of any mail, erratic and unorganised. Repetitious but fascinating.

Members' Comments

MILITARY TELEGRAPHS

Reference to the query in 'Runner Post' No.6, the following appears in 'The Bechuanalands' by A.A.Jurgens:

"The 6d and 1s current issues of the Cape Colony stamps were overprinted 'MILITARY TELEGRAPHS' in two lines in black. These were however used exclusively by the Military on telegrams, and although specimens showing a postal cancellation have been seen, no authentic proof, so far as I know, has ever been produced that these stamps were used to prepay postage on letters; besides, at that time there was no such thing as a date stamp in use at Vryburg for defacing stamps on letters, and all cancellations of the stamps used on telegrams were made in manuscript, with pen and ink, usually just a line drawn through the stamp, or a small cross."

Two facts may be relevant:

1. It is on record that at least one type of genuine datestamp was misused to produce cancellations on Bechuanaland stamps with forged overprints - see 'Runner Post' No.6 and Holmes page 54 in respect of SG 29.
2. After 1885 payment for telegrams was receipted by affixing postage stamps to the telegraph form and these were cancelled by the ordinary post office datestamps. I have examples of the 'Unappropriated Dies' stamps on small pieces of telegraph forms used at Mafeking in 1891 and at Vryburg and Vryburg Station in 1892.

The existence of military telegraph stamps datestamped in 1895 might therefore result from either:

1. Misuse of genuine datestamps.
2. The stamps being accepted, perhaps by favour, for payment of telegrams.
(J.F. I-W.)

THE DECEMBER 1888 ½d ON 3d PROVISIONAL

Comments on the Article by 'KOI' in 'Runner Post No.6, by J.F.Inglefield-Watson.

General. A most useful article which should prove of great assistance to anyone trying to plate individual examples and to identify forgeries.

Present Work - The Genuine Overprint

1. Rule Width. Though this is not a definitive diagnostic feature, I feel that it is misleading to state that the "Rules are essentially parallel on the genuine" surcharges. I have noticed and confirmed by measurement at least one example of convergence in the genuine setting - Row 1, No.9. I could accept "mostly" instead of "essentially".
2. Setting. Though not definitive, I would add another pointer to potential forgeries. In the genuine setting the 'H' is directly above the 'P' on only one stamp - Row 5, No.5. However it occurs on quite a high proportion of the forgeries that I have seen, too many for the 12 or 24 half-sheets surcharged.

Table 1 - Plate Flaws

1. I am curious to know the source of the measurements, etc. Are they taken from actual stamps or from reproductions such as Plate 5 of the Holmes book? The article wrongly refers to the latter as Plate 6.
2. I have only checked the entries for those individual stamps of which I have genuine examples. One error in the Table comes to light. Row 5, No.12, Right, should read '9' (mm). This is confirmed by measurement of this stamp in Holmes Plate 5 and the ex-Holmes example illustrated in the article.
3. I would add 'Other Observation' for Row 4, No.12, which shows the 'spaced hyphen', i.e. hyphen further to the right than normal.
(J.F. I-W.)

Macloutsi 1892

We are grateful to the POST OFFICE, London, for allowing us to reproduce the following poem from their Archives. The letter accompanying it was headed 'Macloutsi, British Protectorate, South Africa' and dated 27th March 1892. The letter, and poem, were written by J.E.Symons, the new P.M., who had arrived at Macloutsi at 8.00 p.m. on 3rd January, 1892, having left Vryburg seven days before. We also reproduce extracts from his description of his journey. Mr. Symons evidently lost no time in starting work at Macloutsi, as evidenced by the CDS shown here.

Our thanks to David Hardwick for introducing us to Symons.

The P.M. sat on his old camp chair
And indulged in a very modest swear,
For he never let out a great big whooper,
Never cussed like a first class trooper.

Only a mild and a modest swear,
Nothing more than a girl might hear,
But he had reason enough I trow,
Working in such a sad P.O.

He sat at a table that shook and groaned,
He sat on a chair that creaked and moaned;
He worked in a hut that was three years old,
That let in the heat and retained the cold,

The thatch of which had long since decayed,
Where scorpions, rats, etcetera played,
And the rain, when it rained, came thro' in streams,
And the wind rushed through with such startling screams.

And snakes crept around in the stilly night
To obtain a mouse - their favourite mite,
And all around in the bushy veldt,
Which circled the camp somewhat like a belt.

The wolves, of a night, would stand and howl,
Hyænas and jackals would sadly prowl,
For they had little to satisfy them,
Only the P.M. to defy them.

Who stood outside, with his head all bare,
And levelled at them a mild, mild swear,
Which slowly raised the hair on their backs,
Which caused them to falter, and then "make tracks."

The P.M. sat on the cold, cold floor,
The chair was defunct - it would moan no more,
The table collapsed and was ruined quite,
And part of the roof gave way in the night.

The rain poured on his devoted head
And saturated his rough camp bed,
So pass the night on the floor he must,
And he struck a light while he mildly cussed.

He sorted the mail bags - some were dry -
And passed the night in damp misery,
Vowing he'd alter the state of affairs
And get a new hut and table and chairs.

The P.M. sat on a stump and smoked,
His long moustaches he stroked;
He thought of the pitiful tale that he
Had woven and sent to the powers that be,

Which brought him the longed-for power to build
Another hut, and his heart was filled
With content, and he said it will keep out the draught,
And the rain, and the rats - and the P.M. laughed.

Extracts from 'Making for Macloutsi' by J.E.Symons:

. . . "Setlagoli was originally an out-station during the expedition under Sir Charles Warren; it boasts now a post and telegraph office combined, a store, a house, and a hut, the remains of a fort, and a couple of members of the Bechuanaland Border Police. The acting Postmaster, Mr. Knott, sorted his mail - a few minutes' work - and retired again to rest." . . .

. . . "I paid a visit to the Post Office [Mafeking], where the officials were working in their shirt sleeves, sorting the Mashonaland mail - a heavy one. I clambered over a mountain of newspapers to shake hands with my colleagues, nearly maimed myself by tumbling over the parcels, and was thankful to escape by a back door." . . .

. . . "We arrived at Ramoutsa at 9.40 a.m. 30th December; this is a large Kaffir stad (town), containing some 10,000 natives, a few traders, and the British South African Company's Telegraph Office, a small galvanised iron building." . .

. . . "There are no Post Offices at these small places in the Protectorate; a storekeeper is generally appointed postal agent and does the little postal work that is to be done; Macloutsi indeed is the only Post Office in the Protectorate." . . . "Fort Gaberones is a police station, manned by K Troop of the Bechuanaland Border Police." . . .

. . . "Macloutsi is the most northerly camp of the Bechuanaland Border Police in the Protectorate, and is manned by three troops, viz., E, F and G, some 250 men altogether, who mostly live in huts, but some few in tents." . . . "The post office was a round hut, somewhat larger than the ordinary Kaffir hut, but totally unfitted for the postal work, and I found that it leaked somewhat after the manner of a vegetable strainer. The wind troubled not to go round but came right through, and there were no conveniences for the performance of postal work. Macloutsi is a busy office on mail days, as the whole of the mail going into British South African Company's territory is dealt with here; and the manner in which letters, papers, parcels, mail bags, &c., were strewn over the floor thoroughly distracting. This has, however, been altered, and Macloutsi now boasts a very decent post office, with pigeon holes, sorting table, and necessary office gear. It is a longish, roomy hut; and for the place and the times it is sufficient. A money order branch will, I think, be opened here before this reaches you." . . .

Boer War Cover from Lobatsi, 1900

Illustrated here is a page from Kevin Ashworth's collection of Campaign Mail which shows an interesting cover cancelled with the single circle LOBATSI/B.P but without any date slugs. Was this standard practice while on Active Service, and does anyone know of any other cancellers so treated ?



Cover addressed to London from Lobatsi in the Bechuanaland Protectorate. This cover has been franked with a combination of Cape adhesives paying a 2½d postage rate. The cover has been cancelled with the undated Lobatsi cancel, on the reverse is the Mafeking 15th Oct 1900 transit cancel plus the London arrival cancel of the 16th Nov 1900.

TATI

Notes for the display to the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society

Stampex - 4th March 1987, by E. Kenneth Wright

I welcomed your invitation to be with you this afternoon because it provided me with the incentive to sharpen up my ideas about Tati. I have been interested in that territory since 1979 when I was studying the early Bulawayo postal history and the Runner Post. I then read Moffat's diary, the journal of the Rudd concession party and Holmes' article in the London Philatelist. Gerald Simpson told me that the manuscript Tati cancellation of 15 August 1888, and not that of Gubulawayo of the 21 August, was the first Rhodesian postmark; he added that he hoped to write an article giving authentic information about the pre 1888 postal services; sadly he did not live to do so.

A year ago a correspondent wrote to the Rhodesian Study Circle Journal asking for an article bringing Tati up to date and I resolved to make this my assignment for 1987. I obtained a number of examples of the stamps, including a lot of about fifty which originally came from the W.A.Town collection. I built up a file of cuttings and correspondence - Roy Setterfield sent me a number of photocopies and Arnold Berman provided me with a list of fourteen books in his library which I hope to examine shortly. I obtained a copy of Professor Gelfand's book on the Jesuit mission to Zambesia which contains 150 references to Tati. Now I have just received a copy of the excellent Runner Post No.6 which is largely devoted to Tati - to some extent it preempts what I had in mind; at the same time it absolves me of the necessity of explaining the historical background to the display I am offering this afternoon.

The dozen sheets I am showing were put together in some haste in order to make up the exhibit of Rhodesian Postal History which I sent to Johannesburg 100 in October 1986. They have not been fully researched - I made the cake before I wrote out the recipe. Nevertheless I hope that they will be of some interest and they raise some questions you may be able to answer.

Sheet 1 The first sheet is a map of the Tati area. You will recognise that it is the rough draft of the more polished version which was included in Mr Trotter's article on Francistown postmarks in Runner Post 4. It presumably dates from about 1880. I find it useful because it clears my mind about the confusion caused by the number of contexts in which the name 'Tati' is used. We understand what is meant by 'Tati District' - the territory that was in dispute between Khama and Lobengula. How its boundary came to be so precisely defined is something of a mystery, given the lack of surveying equipment - presumably the rivers and the desert were enough.

The 'Old Tati' on the map is the place most think of as 'Tati' or 'Tati Settlement' or 'Tati Agency'. It is the place where Henry Hartley in 1866 found early mine workings which offered the prospect, sadly disappointed, of a new El Dorado. The Anglicans and Jesuits established mission stations there, similarly unsuccessful. It was the place where, on 3 December 1874, Selous shot his first lion.

Tati was never of religious or economic consequence. Its importance lies in its geographic situation as a meeting place for four routes. The road from Mafeking came from the south-west and that from Macloutsie from the south-east. To the north-west ran the road to Pandamatenka and the Zambesi; over this route the Jesuits conveyed a small amount of mail during their attempt to found a mission north of the river between 1880 and 1883. To the north-east ran the road to Mangwe and Gubulawayo. In effect Tati was the Piccadilly Circus of this part of darkest Africa - which of course is something of an exaggeration. I doubt whether there were more than a dozen Europeans there or whether a traveller a week passed through. There was certainly no need for traffic wardens or traffic lights. For philatelists, Tati is known as one of the postal agencies on the Mafeking Gubulawayo Runner Post route. The legendary Sam Edwards was the first official postmaster.

TATI

In addition to 'Tati District' and 'Tati' I learn from AMG's note in the Runner Post that there is a 'Tatitown' which is a suburb of Francistown and also a 'Tati Siding'. For good measure he illustrates a cheque drawn in 1955 by 'Tati Company Ltd., Tati, Matabeleland'.

Sheet 2 The second sheet has a photocopy of the well known piece with the manuscript cancellation 'Tati 15/8/88'. It was in the Holmes collection and was sold at the Harmer auction on 29 October 1981 to the Botswana Postal Museum.

This piece raises two questions. The first is why Sam Edwards cancelled the stamps in manuscript. We know that James Moffat was in Tati on that day en route to Gubulawayo. He is believed to have had the postal equipment - stamps and cancellers - with him. Edwards certainly had the stamps; perhaps he wanted to get Moffat's letter off promptly and had not unpacked the canceller. From his photograph in Marshall Hole's book he does not look the kind of man to be concerned with the niceties of administration.

The second question concerns the date - the 15 August 1888. Normally the mails were sent at regular weekly (or fortnightly) intervals. On this basis the next post would have left Tati on 22 August. In fact as is well known, the next mail was dated 21 August. Why was there only a six day gap?

Sheet 3 The third sheet illustrates two stamps. The first is the 'Tati 21 AU 88 Bechuanaland' which I bought at Harmers on 25 June 1986. It came from the collection of the late Charles Barkaway. Gerald Simpson maintained that it was a much rarer stamp than its 'heavenly twin' - 'Gubulawayo AU 21 88 Bechuanaland'. In view of its rarity it is remarkable that another copy should have come onto the London market a fortnight earlier at Robson Lowe's, from the Harry Birkhead collection.

The second illustration is a photocopy of the mutilated postmark with 'Bechuanaland' excised. The original was kindly lent to me for the Johannesburg exhibit by Mike George. I share the problem posed by the writer of the note on page 16 of the Runner Post: '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?'. I would add that this is in contrast with the similarly mutilated Gubulawayo of which examples, although not common, are relatively easily come by.

It will be evident that I would like to obtain a copy of the Tati postmark with 'Bechuanaland' deleted. If any member of the B and B can help I would be grateful.

Sheet 4 The fourth sheet provides photocopies of the five copies of the full 'Tati 21 AU 88 Bechuanaland' which were known to me in July 1986, together with notes of their provenance. It will be seen that the present whereabouts of four of the five was known.

Since this sheet was prepared it has been reported in the Rhodesian Study Circle Journal (No. 136, December 1986, p. 129) that at Johannesburg 100 Don Mitchell reported: 'that another example of the 22mm single circle TATI BECHUANALAND (T 4;2) was recently discovered in a dealer stock in Durban by Brian Kirsch'. I am trying to obtain a photocopy.

Sheets 5 - 7 These three sheets show copies of the 'Gubulawayo 21 AU 88 Bechuanaland' and of the mutilated postmark, together with photocopies of the eleven known examples. Here again a further example was reported. It had been shown to Richard Knight and Don Mitchell by John Roberts of Johannesburg. Although not directly relevant to a Tati display they are useful for comparison.

Sheet 8 The eighth sheet shows a photograph of part of Richard Knight's cover posted by 'Matabeleland' Thompson at Tati on 15 September 1888 and addressed to his wife at Cape Town. The full cover is illustrated on page 2 of the Knight/Mitchell book.

TATI

The stamps were cancelled in manuscript at Tati; subsequently the Mafeking postmark was applied in transit. Why did Sam Edwards revert to a manuscript cancellation? We know that at Gubulawayo the Rev Charles Helm excised the offending 'Bechuanaland' from his datestamp after despatching the first mail on 21 August. It would seem, as Richard Knight suggests, that Edwards did not do the same, but instead returned the datestamp to Vryburg for correction so that on 15 September he was without it and had to use a pen instead.

Sheet 9 The illustrations on the top row of sheet 9 (2 of them are photocopies) show the 'Tati Matabeleland' cancel used from April or May 1894 until July 1897 when the Agency was closed. This was the period during which the British South Africa Company was responsible and the Company's stamps were used.

The second row shows the use of the Tati obliterator '679' on stamps of Bechuanaland Protectorate, British Bechuanaland and the BSAC.

Sheet 10 The tenth sheet is concerned with Francistown. The postal service was transferred there in July 1897 when Tati was closed. Mr Holmes records: '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 are so rare, and none is known on cover, that it is not possible to be definitive about its use.'

It is certainly rare; I have been unable to find a copy. My illustration is a photocopy; the original was lent to me by Hal Hoyte. If any member of the BBS can help me to find one I shall be grateful.

The sheet also shows the use of the canceller 'Francetown S, Africa' on stamps of the BSAC and on those of Bechuanaland after the transfer of control in September 1898. Note that one of the latter bears the date 'Sep 21 98'. It is one of the stamps I acquired which had earlier been in the W.A.Town collection. On his album sheet and in the catalogue of the Robson Lowe sale on 15 December 1943 specific attention is drawn to this date. What is its significance? In that month the control of the postal service reverted from the BSAC to the Bechuanaland authorities. Perhaps the 21st was the first day. You may be interested to glance at the catalogue.

Sheets 11 - 13 These three sheets show stamps (from the W.A.Town collection) cancelled at Francistown and Tsessebe. They cover the period after Tati ceased to be disputed territory and do not form part of my Rhodesian postal history collection. If any of you would be interested in taking them in exchange for the two stamps I need I would be glad.

Sheet 14 This sheet shows a set of the beautiful stamps of the Tati Concessions Ltd. They show that 'privatisation' is not a recent development!

Sheet 15 My final sheet is another example of private enterprise. They are the Matabeleland Telegraph stamps produced in 1894 by Reuters agent in Gubulawayo, C.L. Norris Newman. He used them to charge other individuals for carrying their communications to the advancing telegraph stations at Ramaquabane.

Norris Newman was a colourful character. He had been correspondent of the Illustrated London News covering the Zulu wars. He was later Intelligence Officer at Bulawayo at the time of the Matabeleland Rebellion. His reports on the First Bulawayo Provisionals of 1896 are the most important source of information.

For good measure I show a copy of my article on Bechuanaland stamps used on Rhodesian mail.

E. Kenneth Wright

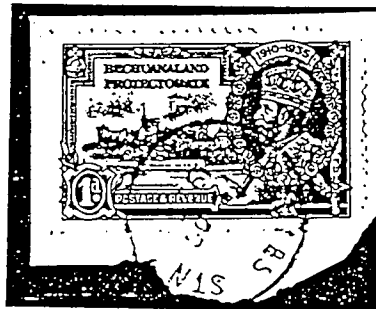
Single Circle 'Relief' Cancellers

These were first mentioned in RP 3, page 3, since then several more have been recorded (including three covers in our Chairman's collection!), new points have emerged and as many questions:

1. The diameter is 24mm and not 25mm, though heavily inked copies may appear larger.
2. Their period of use appears to range from 1916 through to 1960, though individual cancels appear to have been used for less than a year at a time. (Two MAHALAPYE'S recorded 22 years apart!)
3. John Inglefield-Watson asks if 'MOCHUDI VILLAGE' falls into this category, it does appear very similar though it is listed as having a diameter of 25mm which would be larger than usual, but the letters appear similar. It is interesting to note the similarities between this cancel and 'MOCHUDI' - illustrated below. Another cancel which may qualify is the well known 'TSESSEBE' single circle cancel, though here the letters are larger and more regular.
4. A number of widespread offices employed this type - perhaps all agencies were issued with a blank 24mm cancel and a set of dates and letters, which the local P.M. could press into service when the usual cancel was lost/withdrawn/being repaired until a standard type was again ready for use ?, this may account for the many different styles of lettering. (AMG)



FRANCISTOWN



GABRONES STN



KANYE



KANYE



MAHALAPYE



MAHALAPYE



MOCHUDI



MOLEPOLOLE (?)



SEROWE (?)



TSESSEBE - RELIEF ?



PITSANI
RELIEF (?)

Single Circle 'Relief' Cancellers

POSTMARK	DATE	COMMENTS
FRANCISTOWN	17 JA/3 5 21 DE/1934	year at base on rim - RS year at centre - JIC
GABRONES STN	8 OC/1935 11 OC/1935	on cover - BT inverted '11' or '4's? - JC
KANYE	13 J(?) / 19/5 3 8 J(?) / 19/??	year at base on rim - JC on GVI stamp - JC
MAHALAPYE	2 III/1938 30 VII/1960	NB years of use - RS " " " " "
MOCHUOI	AP 6/16	NB large date slugs - RS
MOLEPOLOLE (?)	XXII 31/1934 (?)	cancel very smudged - RS
PALAPYE	(-) XII/1936 FE 3/1937	on cover - BT JIW
PALLA ROAD	MY 23/1922	on cover - BT
(SERQ)WE (??)	(J)A 26/1922	only 'WE' showing - RS

References: BT - Brian Trotter; JIC - Jim Catterall; JC - John Coates;
RS - Roy Setterfield; JIW - John Inglefield-Watson.



GABRONES STN / 8 OC 1935

Single Circle 'Relief' Cancellers

MOCHUDI VILLAGE / 2 DE 24 - RELIEF (?)



Miss Steffen Franko
Post Office

REGISTERED

This Letter must be given to an Officer registered and a Receipt

LOKWALO LO LO

Lokwalo lo lo chwanetse go neelwa letlamela a bo a ntshe

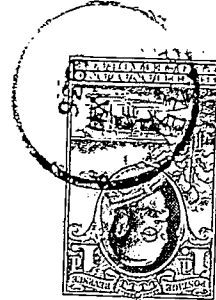
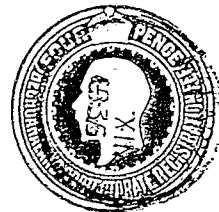


LETTER.

of the Post Office to be obtained for it.

TLAMELWANG.

modiredi wa Poso go seshupo sa lona.



PALAPYE / (?) XII 1936

This space is reserved for Official Registration Label.

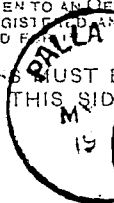
67

The Manager

REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.

THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE

PALLA ROAD / MY 23 1922

Standard Bank
Palla Road
P.O.

FEE. PAID.

CONTROLS AND PLATE NUMBERS

by J.F.Inglefield-Watson

In the text of his book Holmes records details of the Controls found on the GB stamps overprinted for use in the Bechuanalands and of Plate Numbers found on later issues. The Controls are also included in his check lists. This article provides some additional information.

Controls

a. King George V stamps, 1914-24. It may be helpful to identify the Controls that relate to the catalogued major shades of the basic stamps. Single examples of these shades are often wrongly identified by collectors and dealers alike.

SG 76a 2d orange (Die I)	Control	R 21
SG 78a 2½d blue		C 14
SG 81a 6d purple		W 23
SG 82a 1/- olive-bistre		U 23

If any member would like me to check his identification of these shades against the Control blocks in my collection, I would willingly do so (return postage, please).

b. King George V stamps, 1925-27

(1) SG 97 6d purple on ordinary paper is found with Control L 29.

(2) SG 98 1/- bistre-brown. It may be worth pointing out, in case they are overlooked, that the Controls found on this value have been omitted from the check list on page 120 of Holmes, though they are detailed in the text on page 114.

Plate Numbers

Red Cross Centenary, 1963. The 2½c value (SG 183) is recorded by Holmes with Plate Numbers '1 1'. It also exists with Plate Numbers '1a 1a'. From the latter plate comes a flaw showing a break in the bottom of the 2nd 'O' of 'PROTECTORATE' on stamp no.49, which is immediately above one of the Plate Numbers.

Due to the difficulty in recognising the pence values of the Unappropriated Dies, issued in November 1887, it was decided to overprint the value from 1d to the 1/- denomination. This work, carried out by Townshend & Co in Vryburg, was achieved through a setting of 120 (ten horizontal rows of 12) which overprinted a complete sheet of the basic stamp (Holmes, 1971. Chapter 7, p.48-50).

The 2d value was overprinted in red, and displays many type varieties, only one of which has reached catalogue status - the "Curved foot to 2" (Fig.1). More precisely, this variety might be described as "Short foot to 2" or "Small figure 2". It is often confused with other stamps in the setting, which display a curved foot (Fig.2), but the wide loop, short shank and short foot are quite distinctive. In addition, the bottom of the loop of "P" of "Postage", on the basic stamp, is curved upwards sharply where it joins the upright. Other varieties include comma after surcharge (Fig.3), ghost double (Fig.4), long shank (Fig.5), bent shank (Fig.6), long foot (Fig.7) and two stops after "d". There are undoubtedly many others - possibly a "normal" overprint is very scarce.

(KOI)

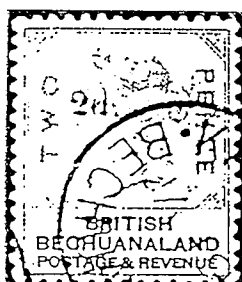


Fig.1



Fig.2

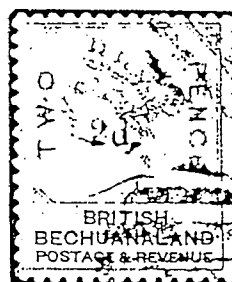


Fig.3

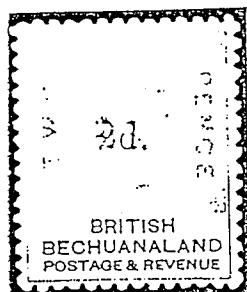


Fig.4



Fig.5

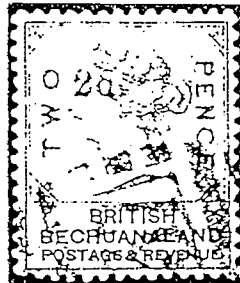


Fig.6

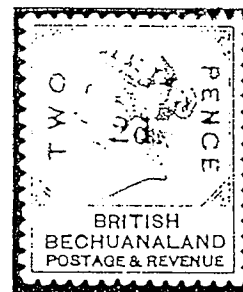


Fig.7

THE DE LA RUE ARCHIVES

HINTS FOR FIRST TIME RESEARCHERS

By J. F. INGLEFIELD-WATSON

A glance at the catalogue reveals that two British Bechuanaland and several Bechuanaland Protectorate postage, postage due and postal stationery issues as well as the Tati Concessions stamps were printed or overprinted by Thomas De La Rue & Co, Ltd. Research in the De La Rue Archives held by the National Postal Museum, King Henry Street, London EC1A 1LP, may therefore bring to light hitherto unpublished information about these issues, even though it is evident from his book that our President made use of this source. This article offers hints to members planning to make a research visit for the first time.

The first point to stress is that it is of little value going along without contacting the Museum beforehand to make an appointment so that the relevant records can be made ready for you. Not all of them are stored on the premises.

Entry is by the normal public entrance to the Museum proper. Make your way to the upper gallery and state your purpose to one of the custodians who will check your appointment and show you through to the 'back-room' offices used by the Museum staff where you will be shown a place where you can work and the location of the records that you asked to see. Don't expect the staff to have detailed knowledge of the content of the Archives. Take a large notebook and be prepared for as many hours as you can spare of reading and note taking. The Museum opens at 10 a.m. and researchers are asked to leave by 4 p.m. If you want to take a break for a pub lunch, try the nearby 'Lord Raglan'.

The Archives likely to be of interest fall into two main categories. First, the 'Correspondence Books' which are the files of incoming and outgoing correspondence between De La Rue and their customers, pasted into books instead of being filed in the ordinary way. They cover the period up to 1945. There are various series of books for different customers. The Bechuanalands are to be found in the voluminous 'Colonial' series. They are not stored on the premises and it is therefore essential in making your appointment to state that you wish to examine the 'Colonial Correspondence Books' and to specify the year(s) or period in which you are interested. Without the latter limitation you could well be faced by dozens of books that you could never read through in a day. The 'Correspondence Books' will provide information on the initiation, design and ordering of an issue, including additional printings. It was from these books that the De La Rue file copies of essays, proofs, colour trials, etc, were removed and sold but these are, of course, mentioned in the related letters and photocopies of some items have been retained.

The other useful records, lodged permanently in the 'office', are the 'Day Books'. These are, in effect, the file copies of invoices for the stamps and postal stationery actually supplied. The general series and, for the 'Unappropriated Dies' of 1887, the 'Inland Revenue' series cover the Bechuanalands. They run in chronological order and have an index within each volume, though this is not entirely reliable. They cover the period up to 1937, inclusive. Later invoices are in the 'Correspondence Books'. The 'Day Books' provide reliable information on the number of printings, quantities printed and dates of despatch, though not, of course, dates of issue. The quantities printed almost invariably differ from those ordered by the customer as shown in the 'Correspondence Books'. The latter were usually in round figures of hundreds and thousands and were adjusted by De La Rue to make a suitable printing run, related for stamps to the number in a sheet. It is therefore pointless to spend much time recording quantities ordered when you are studying the 'Correspondence Books' except as a rough cross-check of the quantities actually printed.

I hope that this article will stimulate other members to undertake research in the De La Rue Archives and to publish their findings in the 'Runner Post' but do first make an appointment specifying which records you wish to examine.

THE 1889 'Protectorate Fourpence' SURCHARGE

by J.F. Inglefield-Watson

Little is known about the setting for the 1889 'Protectorate Fourpence' surcharge (SG 53) except that it covered a complete pane of 120 stamps in 10 horizontal rows of 12. The Ferrari collection, sold in the 1920's, contained a complete pane but this has not been heard of since then and must be presumed to have been broken up. Even small blocks now seem to be scarce: a block of 9 is the largest known to me - perhaps someone can better this? It is thus difficult, if not impossible, to establish many of the details about the setting that would make it easier to distinguish the genuine from what Holmes calls in his book "the many forgeries and fakes", though in a letter to me he did say that "forgeries do not come as frequently as genuine".

This article is concerned with the genuine measurements. There seems to be no dispute about the length of 'Protectorate' being 15 mm, exclusive of serifs. Similarly, on the 30-odd examples examined by me 'Fourpence' consistently measures 15.5 mm with only one exception within a top left corner block of 9 where it measures 16 mm in a vertical strip of 3, flanked by 15.5 mm strips. This might, of course, be a forgery. It is of interest to note that Jurgens, whose views on forgeries are dubious, gives 15 mm as the genuine measurement. If this was the case I would expect to find at least one example amongst the quantity of stamps that I've examined!

The main area of doubt is in respect of the spacing between 'Protectorate' and 'Fourpence'. Jurgens states 6 mm as genuine and cites 3.5 mm as a forgery. Certainly my own examination supports 6 mm in the great majority of cases but also throws up two other measurements that appear to be genuine. One is just over 5 mm, including examples with Holmes Type 2 'SPECIMEN' overprint in his collection and in mine. The other is 4.5 mm. If these three measurements are all good, did they all occur within the one setting? Has anyone any evidence of the different spacings on adjoining stamps?

In furtherance of this small study I would welcome relevant information from members, especially from anyone in possession of blocks or multiples or of established forgeries.

RULES OF THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY

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

Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Auctioneer;

plus any others it is deemed desirable to appoint, e.g. Librarian.
- These Officers and Members shall constitute the COMMITTEE, and will have power to co-opt helpers as necessary. They shall be elected at a General Meeting where any postal votes previously received from Members unable to attend in person shall also be valid.
- The Chairman shall serve for a maximum of two consecutive two-year terms only, before standing down for at least one term of office.
7. The Chairman shall conduct Meetings, but in his/her absence the Committee shall elect one of its number to take the Chair. The Chairman shall have a second or casting vote where this is necessary.
 8. The Secretary shall conduct the Correspondence of the Society, keep a Register of Members and maintain a Minute Book. The latter shall be available for reference at General Meetings.
 9. The Treasurer shall have charge of the Funds of the Society, maintain a Bank Account in the name of the Society, depositing therein Annual Subscriptions and other Income, and paying thereout all sums validly due. He shall present at General Meeting a Statement of the Society's Accounts, duly audited, for the two twelve-month periods ended on the preceding 30th June.
 10. An Honorary Auditor shall be appointed.

RULES OF THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY

11. An Auctioneer shall (under the direction of the Committee) organise and control Auctions or Exchange Packets whether postal or otherwise, on behalf of the Society. The Committee shall have power to make and vary Rules necessary for these purposes which will then be deemed to be a part of the Society's Rules.
12. The Editor will be responsible for production of the Society's Newsletter entitled 'The Runner Post', and such other Publications as the Society may require to issue.
13. The Librarian or other appointed Officer or Member shall retain for reference purposes at least on copy of every publication of the Society, together with similar material acquired by the Society in connection with its objects.
14. That if in the considered view of the Committee it be in the best interests of the Society that a Member should be removed from Membership, then his/her Membership be terminated forthwith.
15. That all Resolutions should be notified to the Hon. Secretary in sufficient time for inclusion on the Agenda of a General Meeting, 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 on the Agenda.
16. The Committee shall be the sole authority for interpretation of these Rules and shall decide on all relevant matters affecting the Society not provided for within them.

PRICES REALISED IN POSTAL AUCTION No.1 (closed 18th April)

<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
1	27	18	19	35	-	52	10
2	3.50	19	106	36	31	53	8
3	3.50	20	-	37	8	54	3.50
4	31	21	-	38	-	55	7
5	35	22	1.50	39	-	56	-
6	14	23	-	40	6	57	5
7	-	24	4	41	7	58	1
8	10	25	-	42	7	59	2
9	-	26	19	43	6	60	1
10	-	27	6	44	4.50	61	.50
11	6	28	1.50	45	4.50	62	-
12	-	29	-	46	-	63	1
13	7	30	-	47	-	64	7
14	-	31	6	48	-	65	-
15	6	32	-	49	9	66	-
16	-	33	.50	50	-	67	-
17	36	34	19	51	22	68	2.50

The total sales amounted to £519.50 and 44 out of the 68 lots sold (64.7%).

All in all, a very good result and if any members like to send me or the Hon. Secretary more material (with descriptions and reserve prices please) we'll hold another auction as soon as there are enough lots to hand.

Tony Chilton
(HON. AUCTIONEER)