

The Runner Post



RUNNER POST No.8

(NEWSLETTER No.11)

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LIST OF OFFICERS

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

Chairman: Brian Trotter,
Im Rührets 3, 8803 Rüschlikon, Switzerland

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

Treasurer: Aubrey Glassborow,
156 Reading Road South, Church Crookham,
Hants. GU13 0AH, U.K.

Botswana Representative: R.J.F. 'Andy' Andersson
P.O. Box 1240, Gaborone, Botswana

South African Representative: Dr. Hamish Campbell,
145 Ridge Road, Durban 4001, South Africa

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

Alan MacGregor,
P O Box 330, Croydon, CR9 2ZF, U.K.

EDITORS' COMMENTS

Firstly, apologies for the mistakes in Runner Post 7, but thanks to Roy, members were not exposed to the full array of typographical errors for he managed to perform amazing surgery - correcting most bloopers whilst leaving no trace, though some, like the memorable phraseology on page 103 under 'Background Reading' line 4, defied even his experienced hands. Indeed, if Roy had not managed to do as much as he did we could have had a special edition of 'out-takes'! However, one mistake has to be corrected now - on page 116 I typed the address of the National Postal Museum as being on 'King Henry' street, this should read 'King Edward street'. The reason for this misprint totally escapes me!

The 1988 edition of the Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth (Part 1) Catalogue is just to hand and two points deserve mention - one is that there is now a listing of contact addresses for Specialist Philatelic Societies, and where, we are proud to say, the BBS is listed. The Catalogue Editor is to be thanked on providing this new service.

The other point concerns the Botswana listing of the 1976-77 Decimal surcharges, the Editor acknowledges "Much useful information has been received from Mr. R.J. Andersson with the result that we are now able to list the scarce Second Pretoria printing of the 1976 New Currency surcharges."

Pricing for Bechuanalands stamps show a slight upward trend rather than the general trend of downward or static prices of recent years. The Editorial states that there are "encouraging signs" and a "new mood of optimism" reflected mainly in the market for better material.

Some of the illustrations in the last Runner Post were decidedly poor, this being the result of trying to conserve precious Society funds and opting for cheaper printing quotes. The Relief Cancellations in particular were very faint on some copies, and clearer photocopies of these illustrations are available, free of charge to any member - please let us know. (In many cases other pages can be re-photocopied, though when a page contains original material this will normally have been returned to the owner). Meanwhile we are exploring new avenues to try and improve the quality of the Runner Post, please bear with us.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held during Stampex at 2.00pm (informal meeting in the bar at 12.00pm) on Wednesday 23rd September in the Orchid Room (3rd Floor). There will be a display by Lt. Col. Sir John Inglefield-Watson Bt., and our Chairman, Brian Trotter. If you can make it we would love to see you, please bring along anything of interest - new finds, purchases, queries, yourselves etc.

BBS Auction No.2

Included with this issue is our second Postal Auction which again sees a wide variety of interesting material on offer. Closing date: 23rd October. Our thanks to Tony Chilton for doing such a splendid job organising the last Auction and getting this one on the road so quickly and efficiently. Lots will be on view at the Stampex meeting. Please bid liberally and good luck!

Members' attention is drawn to the Auction Rules (Pages 139-40), which have been formulated after much consultation and discussion. Please read these carefully.

Subscriptions

Yes, it's that time of year again - subscriptions are due in September (excepting those who have paid several years subscriptions in advance). Still £5, or for members in Southern Africa the amount specified in Pula or Rand by our local Representatives - Andy Andersson and Hamish Campbell (addresses on page 120). As a young Society we would welcome prompt payment to help keep things moving.

Botswana Traditional Medicine

A set of four stamps was issued by Botswana on 2nd March 1987 which had as its theme 'Traditional Medicine'. Designed by Keeme Mosinyi, the values were (with printing quantities in brackets):- 8t (580,000), 15t (365,000), 35t (205,000) and 50t (135,000) and featured 'Divining', Lightning Prevention, Rain Making and Blood Letting respectively. The informative leaflet accompanying the FDC gives a fascinating insight into each of these topics.



Harold Criddle,
André Bezuidenhout
and The Roll.



Harold Criddle FRPSL and now RDPSA

André Bezuidenhout of the Orange Free State Study Circle visited the U.K. from South Africa recently and brought with him the Roll Of Distinguished Philatelists Of Southern Africa. At a ceremony held on 26th July, attended by members of various Southern African Societies, Harold Criddle, the doyen of Transvaal Philately and a member of this Society was asked to sign the Roll. Both Harold and David Crocker who is also a member of the BBS, were given this honour at 'Johannesburg 100' in October 1986. Harold is only the second person outside South Africa to be so honoured, and a very worthy recipient he is too. Congratulations to you both!

'TATI BECHUANALAND' - Seventh Copy Found

It is almost 3 years since Roy reported his 'find' in the first Newsletter - a GUBULAWAYO/BECHUANALAND postmark which he found in a small lot he bought in Brighton. I can now report that I too have made a 'find' - this time a strike of TATI/BECHUANALAND on a copy of SG 40 - the Protectorate ½d vermilion, the seventh recorded Tati postmark and the second recorded on a ½d stamp. I was viewing the Bechuanaland lots in a London auction and there it was, in the third mixed lot, on the top line! I nonchalantly returned the lot trying not to look excited, and waited 3 anxious days for the auction and an even more anxious hour and a bit for the lot to come up. I was expecting half the BBS to be in the back row, but no, just some well known London dealers who I was sure had spotted the hidden treasure. The first Bechuanaland lots went high so I feared the worst, but when the lot came up it opened at about ¾ estimate and was chased to a little over its £90 estimate, an eternity seemed to pass while the auctioneer asked "any more bids?" but no, nothing else, and the lot was mine. I could hardly believe it - my first such find. Which just goes to show not all has yet been discovered - but what else is still lurking out there?



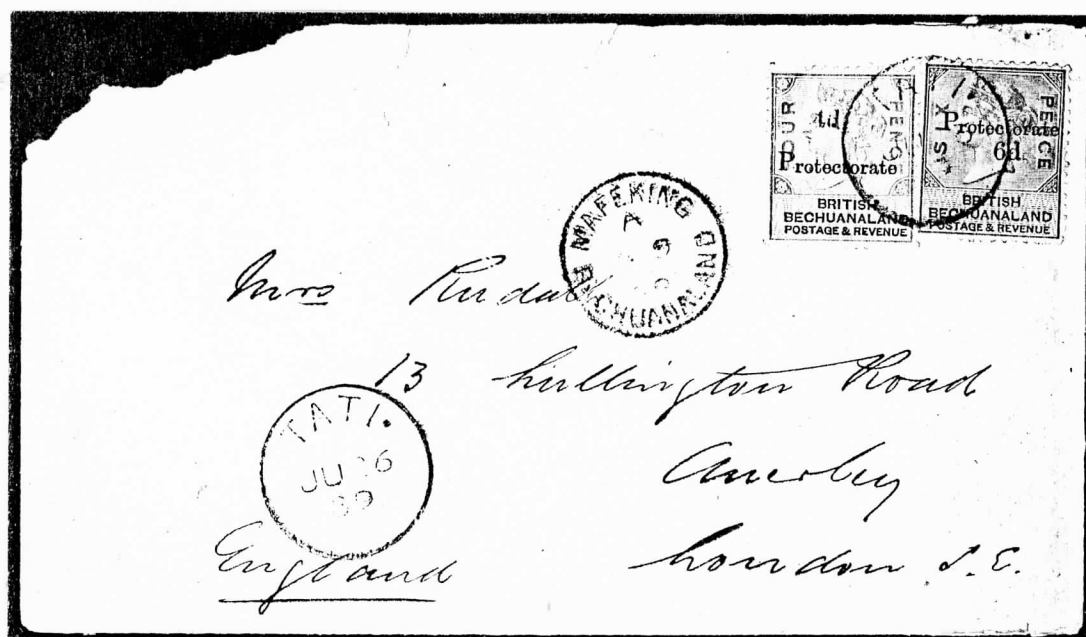
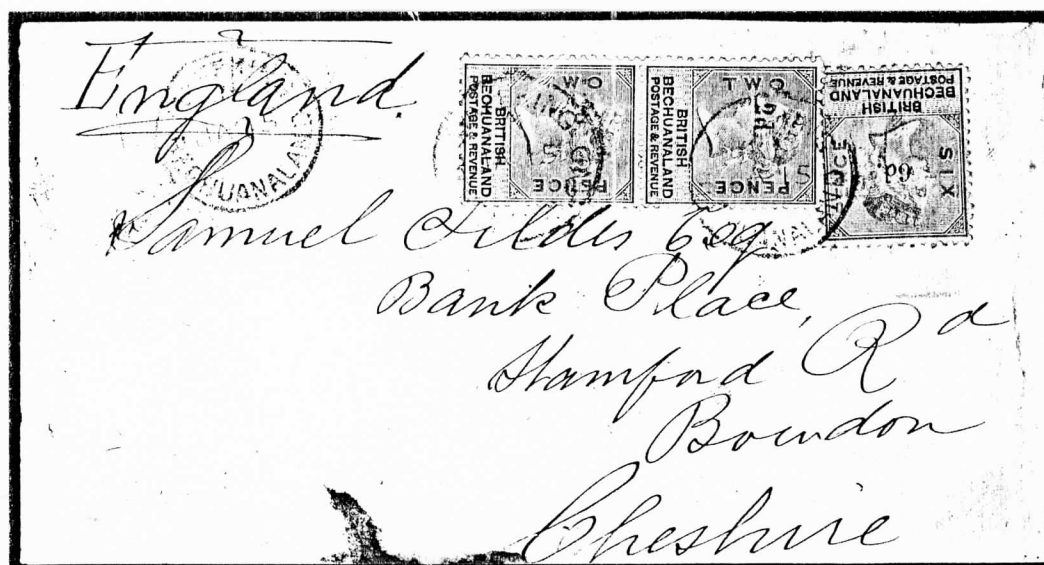
Since writing this I have just read an article in the September issue of the Rhodesian Study Circle Journal by Colin Hoffman who says that another strike of TATI/BECHUANALAND was noticed in the Bechuanaland section of the Tapling collection at the British Museum. Apparently 'TAT...BECH..' could be seen on a copy of the 1887 6d (SG 14), although the date does not appear. I have since examined the relevant stamp and am convinced that it is in fact a strike of TAUNGS/BECHUANALAND with just 'TA...' and the left upright of the 'U' showing, (with no sign of the top of a 'T'). There is no dot before 'TA...', the letters are considerably shorter than those of Tati, and the spacing of the letters matches that of the Taungs postmark. The first letter of the date may just be made out - an 'M', presumably the start of MR or MY which would also preclude it from being Tati. (AMG)

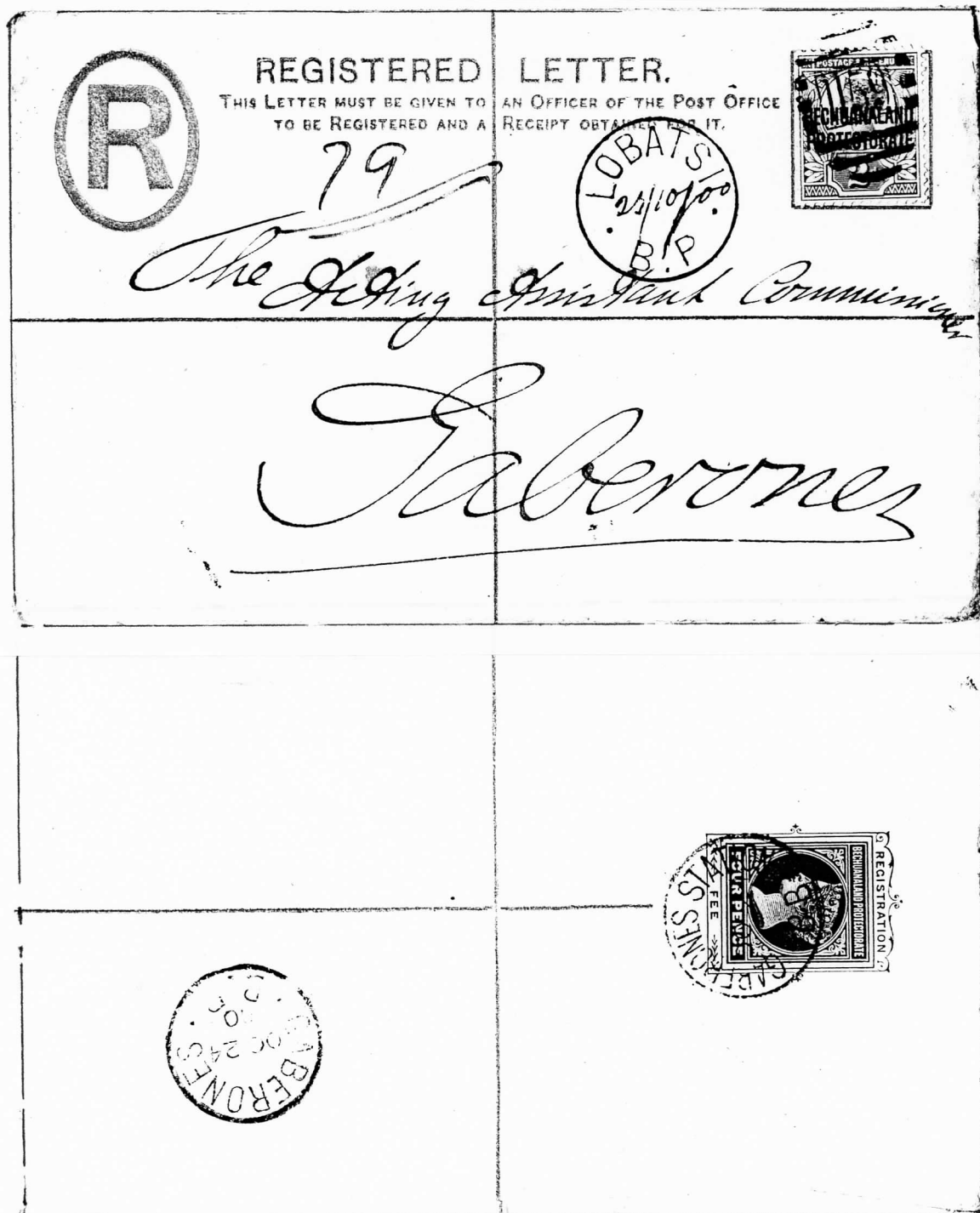
In The Auction Room

Sotheby's South Africa (trading as 'Stephan Welz and Co. (Pty) Ltd' from September 1987) held an auction in Johannesburg on 19th August which had several items of interest to Bechuanaland collectors, including an 1890 cover from Mafeking to the UK with a vertical pair of the 2d on 2d surcharge (SG 23) and a single 6d on 6d (SG 24) making up a 10d rate.

Another 10d rate cover also addressed to the UK was lotted under Rhodesia (no comment!), posted from Tati with copies of the 'Protectorate' 4d and 6d surcharges (SG 44/5) cancelled with a 'TATI JU 26/89' postmark ('BECHUANALAND' removed). A clearer strike also appears on the cover. I have looked through most of the major sales of Bechuanaland/ Rhodesia and can find no other reference to this version of the Tati postmark used on cover, card or piece. This has been confirmed in correspondence with Kenneth Wright, though we would welcome hearing from anyone who knows otherwise.

Illustrations courtesy of Sotheby's South Africa. (AMG)





Lobatsi Dateless Cancel (Re Runner Post 7, page 107)

Brian Trotter writes in response to the cover illustrated in Runner Post 7:

"I have a cover (illustrated above) with exactly the same LOBATSI B.P postmark, also without date slugs, that Kevin Ashworth has. Mine, however, has the date inserted in manuscript as 23/10/00. and is backstamped on arrival with a GABERONES B.P OC 24/00 datestamp and also has a GABERONES STATION B.B transit stamp.

The cover is registered (using 4d registration fee postal stationery envelope H&G No.7), plus a Bechuanaland Protectorate 2d (for local postage) cancelled by a nice clear BONC 1159 for Lobatsi.

This cover was cancelled at Lobatsi only about 10 days after the one in Kevin Ashworths' collection. Since my cover is not an Active Service one, I don't think the lack of date slugs was Active Service related. Perhaps some difficulty with the Lobatsi canceller, and, due to the Boer War, some time was required before repairs could be made."

(Brian Trotter)

STAMPS OVERPRINTED 'SPECIMEN' OR 'CANCELLED'

by J.F. Inglefield-Watson

Marcus Samuel's book 'Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies, 1857-1948' (R.P.S.L. 1976) contains only a "Simplified listing of Bechuanaland which includes those items which are generally obtainable by collectors and the overprinted stamps which were distributed as specimens via the U.P.U." The listing by Holmes in Chapter 49 of his book is more extensive. Samuel's book is worth consulting, not least because it contains a comparative table relating the Holmes overprint type numbers to those used by Samuel. It is the latter that usually appear in auctioneers' and dealers' descriptions.

Some additions can be made even to the comprehensive listing by Holmes. These are as follows:

'SPECIMEN' Overprint

Holmes Type

2	1887 10/- green & black	Exists with purple overprint as well as black.
5	1887 £1 lilac & black	Exists with Holmes Type 1 'CANCELLED' overprint in black below the 'SPECIMEN' overprint.
6	1887 £5 lilac & black	Exists with this overprint in black.
12	1913 1/- green & carmine)Holmes lists both these types on the)1912 1/- green and scarlet. Can any-)one confirm its existence? Mine are)definitely on the green and carmine.
13	1913 1/- green & carmine	

'CANCELLED' Overprint

Holmes Type

3	1912 1/- green & scarlet	Exists with this overprint ex-National Postal Museum. Samuel equates this to his Type GB 19 but it has also been described as GB 25. The overall length of 13mm shows that GB 25 is correct: GB 19 is about 1mm longer.
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Holmes records but does not illustrate a Type 16 'SPECIMEN' overprint in black on the Mar 1887 ½d grey-black. Samuel equates this type to his Type FF 1, an old-time bogus overprint. I have an example measuring 15½ x 2mm, as illustrated, that appears to match this bogus Type, though with the 'C' of 'SPECIMEN' missing, on the typeset 1891 2d provisional with 'British Bechuanaland' reading up. It is worth mentioning that Samuel also considers that Holmes Type 15 is another bogus overprint.



The following article appeared under the 'Empire Echoes' column of 'Stamp World' (June, No.2, 1987 issue) and is reprinted here by kind permission of the Author and Publishers, as we feel it would be of interest to members, though some may not share its conclusions! We would welcome hearing any comments members may have one way or the other.



EMPIRE ECHOES

Gubulawayo Bechuanaland - A Rhodesian Rarity or Cancelled To Order Souvenir ?

The early postal history of the Rhodesias was closely bound in with that of Bechuanaland. In 1888, a runner post service was established between Mafeking and Gubulawayo with additional intermediate agency offices at Tati, Shoshong, Molepolole and Kanye. Postmarks (cancellers) inscribed Bechuanaland were prepared for use at the trans-protectorate agencies at Tati and Gubulawayo and these were brought into use on 21 August 1888 although each was only used on that day and the territorial designation was then chipped away at each office. The reason why the country name was removed was simply that the postal agents at Tati and at Gubulawayo each thought that Lobengula, the Matabele King, would be offended by the use of the name Bechuanaland when both settlements were, at least in Lobengula's opinion, within his kingdom.

Until recently few examples of the Gubulawayo and Tati Bechuanaland postmarks dated August 21 were known although no covers were recorded. Surprisingly in each case at Gubulawayo and at Tati each impression of the postmark was clearly and centrally struck on the stamp which would seem unlikely to happen for stamps used on commercial mail.

In June, 1986 eleven examples of the Gubulawayo postmark and five examples of the Tati postmark were known making each of considerable rarity. However in recent months further examples of each postmark have come to light and one suspects that the numbers now known far exceed the numbers which might have come from covers genuinely used from either Agency on that one day. In June 1986 one example only of the Bechuanaland 1888 1d was known cancelled at Gubulawayo on 21 August although two further examples have now been discovered.

A more likely explanation for the preponderance of these alleged rarities is that each was prepared as a cancelled-to-order souvenir by the postal Agents - The Rev. C.D. Helm at Gubulawayo and Sam Edwards at Tati perhaps at the request of early collectors.

(Colin Fraser)

More on Relief Cancels...

I recently came across a Basutoland 1937 1d Coronation stamp and the Swaziland 1935 Silver Jubilee set on cover both cancelled with single circles of what appear to be relief cancels of the type that I recorded in the last Runner Post (page 111).

They are: LERIBE 22 JY/37 and STEGI 5 OC/1937 and as can be seen from the illustrations, both are composed of rather poorly aligned type with two styles for the year.

It is interesting to note that in his work 'Postmarks of Basutoland/Lesotho' Aubrey Scott records this type of Leribe as a relief cancel and also records that two version of the date exist - day first, then month and vice versa (Types 23 & 23A). J.H. Harvey Pirie in his work 'Swaziland and New Republic' lists Stegi as being a "Temporary 'Relief' mark similar to that described as (h) under Mbabane, dated 6 OC 1937", and under the relevant section of Mbabane states "Temporary Relief mark such as is used throughout the Union of South Africa when a stamper has to be sent for repair or at some very temporary office. A single circle 24mm mark with crude, rather irregular lettering of 'Mbabane' at top. Date in two lines in centre. Two occurrences seen, one with 'MY-/1937', the other with '5 X/43'."

Well, that seems to answer a lot of questions, all that remains to be done is to see how many Bechuanaland offices actually used this type of canceller.

(Italics are my own - AMG)



Mr O. Tugwell,
Ezulwini.
Swaziland.

THE WARREN EXPEDITION - MILITARY TELEGRAPHS

by J.F. Inglefield-Watson

Some recent articles and exhibits indicate that not all collectors of the G.B. Military Telegraph stamps used during the Warren Expedition are aware that the same stamps were also in use at much the same time in Egypt from September 1884 until July 1886 when the same stamps surcharged in Egyptian currency replaced them and during the Suakin Expedition in the Sudan in 1885. The same eight values of the 'Unappropriated Dies' types inscribed 'MILITARY TELEGRAPHS' were supplied to all three places. To the best of my knowledge there is no record that they were used anywhere else. The later four manuscript surcharges and the two Cape stamps overprinted 'Military Telegraphs' are, however, unique to the Warren Expedition. 'Unappropriated Dies' types inscribed 'ARMY TELEGRAPHS' were not issued until 1895 when they were used in the Ashanti War in the Gold Coast and subsequently on manoeuvres in U.K. in 1896 and during the Boer War.

It is, of course, only possible to identify the origin of used examples of the eight 'MILITARY TELEGRAPHS' values and then only if the significant portions of the cancelling datestamp are visible. I have been unable to trace any information on the cancellations used in Egypt but have never seen any suggestion that they might be confused with those used in the Sudan and Bechuanaland where the same type of 'FIELD TELEGRAPH' datestamp was employed. The distinguishing features of this datestamp are the two code letters above the date, denoting the telegraph office, and the No. at the base of the datestamp, said to denote the number of the operating Royal Engineers Telegraph unit. The date alone is only relevant if it is outside the period of overlapping use.

Official records list the code letters allotted to many of the telegraph offices in the Sudan and Bechuanaland but examples of datestamps are known for only a few of them as detailed below. Perhaps manuscript cancellations, which almost certainly would be unidentifiable, were used at some offices though I have not seen examples on any of the eight values. They are, however, the normal form of cancellation found on the later manuscript surcharged stamps and overprinted Cape stamps of the Warren Expedition.

Sudan. The period of use was from March 1885 to at least May 1885. The Expedition was then greatly reduced in strength, perhaps affecting the telegraph units and facilities.

a. Offices and Code Letters

Suakin	SK	Co-located with Eastern Telegraph Company's Office
Quarantine Island	QI	
Headquarters	HQ	
Western Redoubt	WR	Open until 15 April 1885
No.1 Post)	ZA	(6-11 April 1885.
2nd Brigade HQ)	ZA	(From 18 April 1885

b. Recorded datestamps and Periods of Use

<u>Code</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Earliest and Latest Dates</u>
SK	16	18 March - 8 May 1885
QI	3	20 March - 15 May 1885

Bechuanaland. The code letters listed are extracted from the official report dated 26 June 1885 by Captain R.H. Jelf, RE, Director of Military Telegraphs, Bechuanaland Field Force. This report covers telegraph operations up to 31 May 1885 but in it Jelf states that "the line was subsequently extended to Molepolole" via Kanye, i.e. during June 1885. The monthly Cape P.O. Circulars list the names, but not codes, of offices opened and closed but do not give dates. Each such event can only be dated as having occurred before the date of the Circular unless it is recorded in Jelf's report. By October 1885 the offices underlined in the following list had been categorised as 'permanent', the others being 'temporary'. Spelling of office names varies from source to source.

a. Offices and Code Letters

Barkley Camp	BL	Opened 9 Jan. Closed 23 Feb 85. Line connected to S. African Telegraphs at Barkley West.
Muller's Store	ML	Opened in Jan. Closed before 1 Oct 85.
<u>Wittefontein</u>	--	Opened before 1 Oct 85. Closed before 1 Sep 86. Not listed by Jelf.
Gunning's Store	GU	Opened 26 Jan. Closed before 1 Oct 85.
(Moir &) <u>Drake's Store</u>	--	Opened 28 Jan 85. Moved to Bank's Drift 8 Mar. Re-opened during Aug 85. Closed before 1 Sep 86.
Bank's Drift	BK	Opened 8 Mar. Closed before 1 Sep 85.
<u>Taungs</u>	TS	Opened 31 Jan 85.
Dry Hartz	DH	Opened 8 Feb 85. Not listed in P.O. Circulars.
Brussels Farm	BR	Opened 9 Feb. Closed before 1 Sep 85.
<u>Vryburg</u>	VR	Opened 16 Feb 85.
Leeuw Pan	LP	Opened 25 Feb 85. Not listed in P.O. Circulars.
<u>Groot Choing</u>	GC	Opened 28 Feb 85. Closed before 1 Sep 86.
<u>Sitlagoli</u>	SH	Opened 6 Mar 85.
<u>Maritzani</u>	MZ	Opened 18 Mar 85.
Madibi	--	Opened 22 Mar. Closed 2 Apr 85.
Sanies	SA	Opened 2 Apr 85. Not listed in P.O. Circulars.
<u>Mafeking</u>	MF	Opened 2 Apr 85.

The Molepolole extension.

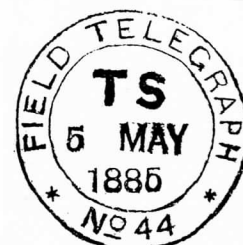
No known code letters. All offices closed before 1 Oct 85.

Korwe
 Ramatlabama
 Kanye (Kanye)
 Pilan's Kraal
 Molepolole

b. Recorded Datestamps

<u>Code</u>	<u>No.</u>
TS	44
VR	32
VR	71

Another TS datestamp with No. appearing to be in the 30s has been seen.



There does not seem to have been any extensive survey of recorded datestamps and earliest and latest dates of use. I would be willing to collate all such information supplied to me by other members. (J. F. I-W)

Check list of Post Offices and Postal Agencies

in Bechuanaland Protectorate in 1965

This check list (with typology of all date-stamps in use at that time) was compiled by Robert Brownlow, when working in the Protectorate, for the Mafeking and Bechuanaland Philatelic Society. In early 1965 he organised the collation of a complete set of strikes of all cancellers then in use at all the offices and agencies. This was a difficult task, as some of the native clerks in the postal agencies were not very clear about what was required! In all, four complete sets of covers were prepared in this way: one of these sets I still have and the typology of the strikes will form a useful data base for postmark enthusiasts amongst the Society's members.

(Mike George)

<u>PRINCIPAL P.O.</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>VILLAGES/AGENCIES</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
FRANCISTOWN	2 B 6 2 B 12 2 B 14 2 B 15	Mathangwane Meitengwe Nkange Ramaquabane Sebinas Shashi Shashi Drift Totume Madinare Seruli	2 B 14 2 B 14 2 B 14 2 B 14 2 B 14 large circle ¹ 2 B 20 2 B 14 2 B 14 2 B 14 2 B 14
		¹ also 2 B 14 smaller circle ?	
GABERONES		Artesia	2 B 15
Type G Numeral 1, 2, 3		Gabane	2 E 62
Type G (smaller d.c.) No's 4, 5			
GABERONES VILLAGE	Type 3		
GHANZI	2 B 18	Kanagas	2 B 14
KANYE	2 B 9 or ? 10		
KAZANGULA	2 B 14		
LOBATSI	2 B 14 2 E 62	Kakia Mankgodi Middlepits Tsabong Hukuntsi Morwa Sedibeng Ootsi	2 B 14 2 A 2 B 14 2 B 14 2 B 14 (or 13 ?) 2 B 14 2 B 14 Type 3
MACHANENG	2 B 14		

<u>PRINCIPAL P.O.</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>VILLAGES/AGENCIES</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
MAHALAPYE	2 B 2 2 B 14 2 E 61	Baines Drift Debeeti/Sta Mookane Palla Road Pilikwe Sefhare Shoshong Zanzibar Oerwoud Sherwood Ranch Kalamare Parr's Halt	2 B 14 2 A 2 A 2 A 2 B 14 2 E 62 2 B 14 2 B 13 2 B 14 2 B 13 2 B 2 2 B 13
MAUN	2 B 2 2 B 18 2 E 62	Sehitwa Shakawe	2 B 14 2 B 14
MOCHUDI VILLAGE	2 A 2 B 14		
MOLEPOLOLE	2 B 2 2 B 14	Letlhakeng Khudumelapywe	2 B 14 2 B 14
PALAPYE	2 B 17 2 E 63	Bobonong Moeng	2 A 2 A
PITSANI	2 B 13		
RAMOUTSA STATION P.O. -	2 A	Thamaga	2 B 14
RAMOUTSA/STA	2 A		
RAMOUTSA VILLAGE	2 B 14		
MOSHUPA	2 E 62		
SEROWE	2 B 14 2 E 62	Moiyabane Tsienyane	2 A 2 A
TATITOWN	2 B 14		
TONOTA	2 B 14		
TSESSEBE	2 B 14		

PALAPYE AND ITS POSTMARKS

By Brian Trotter

Palapye (or rather Palachwe, as it was first known) was just bare veld when Khama, in need of a better water supply, decided to move his people, the Bamangwato, there from Shoshong. The dwellings were built in August and September of 1889, and its inhabitants moved in a body from Shoshong to Palachwe. By 1890 the new home of the Bamangwato covered 20 square miles and had 30,000 inhabitants. Quite an impressive achievement.

Palachwe almost immediately became an important centre for the 'Pioneer Column' setting out to occupy Mashonaland. With the signing of the BSA Company Charter on 29 October 1889, work was begun on extending the telegraph lines to the north. Construction started from Mafeking on 12 May 1890, reaching Ramoutsa on 13 June, Palla on 16 August, and then Palapye on 12 October.

The contract made between Cecil Rhodes on behalf of the BSAC and Major Frank Johnson to occupy Mashonaland, called for Major Johnson to receive stores and arms for the expedition delivered to Palapye, and for him to build a good wagon road from Palapye to Mount Hampden (Salisbury). So Palapye was first 'jumping off' point for the Pioneers.

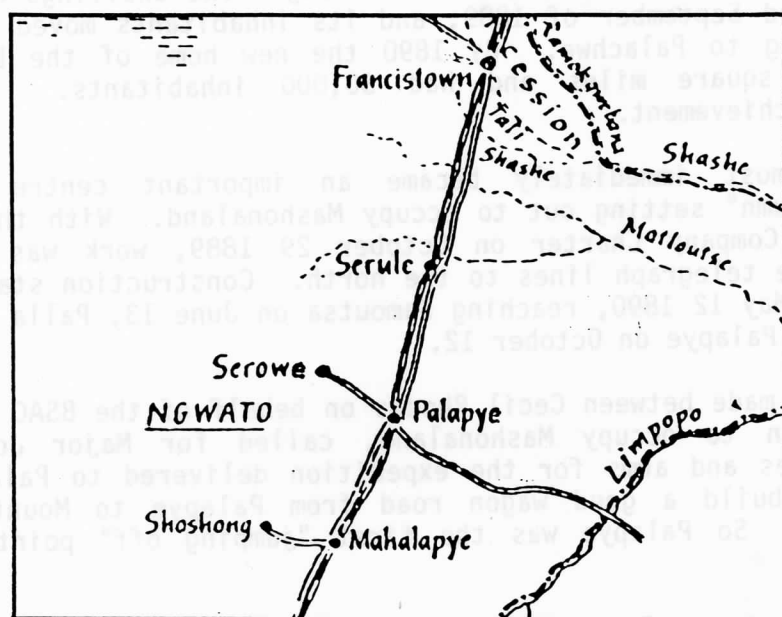
When Khama and the Bamangwato abandoned Shoshong, the postal agency there was closed and moved to Palapye. A new canceller, honouring Khama, was supplied by the Bechuanaland Postal Administration in September 1890, inscribed 'PALACHWE KHAMASTOWN'. The Barred Oval Numeral Canceller (BONC) number 676 from Shoshong continued in use at the new postal agency in Palachwe.

Until a postal agency was opened at Macloutsi in June 1891, all mail originating from BSAC Pioneers was sent to the postal agency at Palachwe, where it was post-marked and entered the postal system. At first the old 'SHOSHONG BECHUANALAND' canceller was used, then, from September 1890 the new 'PALACHWE KHAMASTOWN' canceller was applied.

Palapye must have been a bustling town during this period. Mathers, on visiting Palapye in early 1891, describes "the great outfitting store of the Bechuanaland trading Association... the shop, an oblong building of solid masonry, is 60 feet long by 30 feet wide. Behind this is a large compound containing various warehouses stocked with goods; while nearby is a large smithy and wheelwrights yard, where blacksmiths and carpenters are perpetually hard at work." Mathers goes on to mention two other old established traders, Clark and Blackbeard. He also talks of "nine or ten different schools, where the children are taught.... by native teachers, trained by Mr. Hepburn" (a missionary). Mathers also visited Shoshong, which he describes as "a mere heap of charred ruins".

The railway to the north reached Palapye at the end of June 1897, and a postal agency was opened at Palapye Station on 1st July 1897. This was probably necessary since the railway passed more than 10 miles west of 'old' Palapye (Palachwe).

The importance of Palapye declined after Khama III moved the Bamangwato tribal headquarters from Palapye to Serowe in 1902. Today Palapye is a growing agricultural centre, and has its own airstrip.



The name Palachwe appears to have been used into the early 1890's, but reference is also made to Palapye as early as January 1st 1890. (The BSA Company contract with Johnson of that date.) The Cape Post Office Listings show the name Palachwe last in October 1893, with the January 1894 Listing showing Palapye for the last time.

The first appearance of the Palapye Station agency in a Cape Post Office Listing is in October 1897, and from then on until at least October 1902 (perhaps even later), both Palapye and Palapye Station are listed. But as of the January 1904 Cape Listing neither of them appear, the only Palapye office being Palapye Road. My data now becomes very sketchy, but Palapye Road is still listed in 1912, and at some later date reverts to the name Palapye again.

Presumably the importance of 'old' Palapye (Palachwe) had declined with the departure of the Bamangwato to Serowe, and the gravitation of activities towards the railway. Possibly Palapye Road was a new office in 'new' Palapye which replaced both the post office at 'old' Palapye and the one located at the station. (Apparently Palachwe or Old Palapye was razed on the move to Serowe, unlike Shoshong which was later re-inhabited. The settlement alongside the railway station appears to have taken on the name Palapye and postmarks variously depict it as, Palapye Road and Palapye Rail (the latter as a Registration cachet), though as mentioned, there appears to be some overlap of 'Palapye' being used at both places. Today Palapye refers to the town near the station and Old Palapye/Palachwe lies abandoned about 10 miles to the East - Ed)

References:

- E.P. Mathers, Zambesia - England's El Dorado in Africa, 1891
- F. Johnson, Great Days, 1940
- A.A. Jurgens, The Bechuanaland - A Brief History etc., 1945
- H.R. Holmes, The Postage Stamps etc. of the Bechuanaland, 1971

PALAPYE POSTMARKS

With the help of some of our members (Hamish Campbell, Jim Catterall, Howard Cook, Mike George, John Inglefield-Watson, and Roy Setterfield) I have recorded the following postmarks of Palapye.



No. 1 Type 1 C 32

Dimensions: Circle diameter 22mm

Earliest recorded date : Sept 18, 1890

Latest recorded date : May 7, 1898

Codes recorded : None

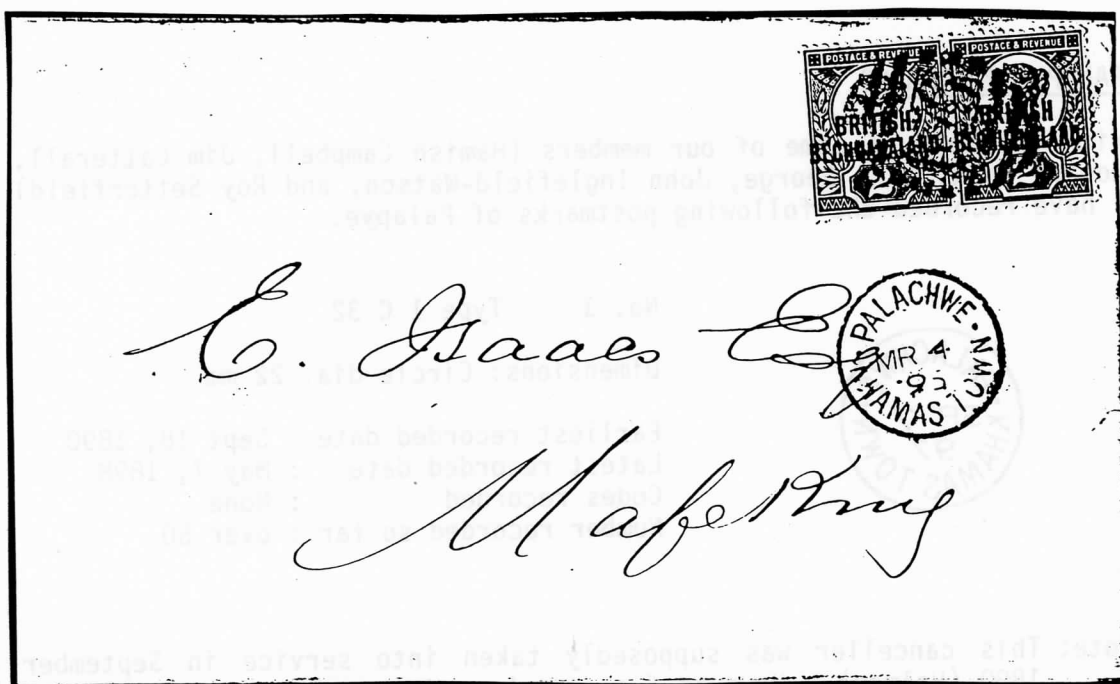
Number recorded so far : over 50

Note: This canceller was supposedly taken into service in September 1890 (Holmes). However 6 postmarks prior to September 1890 have been uncovered by John Inglefield-Watson (the earliest is Jan 27, 1890). One of these was sold in the auction of the Holmes collection in October 1981. However all 6 are on SG 54a, b or c. Even though the dates are different, we suspect these are 'favour' cancellations. Especially since I have an entire from the Pioneer Column entering the postal system in "Shoshong" postmarked Aug 29, 90. Shoshong had been abandoned a year earlier and the post office moved with the Bamangwato to Palachwe. If this Palachwe Khamastown canceller was in use before September 1890, then both this one, and the Shoshong canceller could have been in use simultaneously. It seems unlikely that the volume of mail would have necessitated using both cancellers.



Barred Oval Numeral Cancellation (BONC) 676 from Shoshong continued in use at Palachwe.

Number recorded so far : 20



Cover showing the combination use of the Palachwe canceller and the BONC 676.



No. 2 Type 1 A

Dimensions: Circle diameter 22mm

Earliest recorded date : Aug 1, 1893
 Latest recorded date : Jul 20, 1894
 Codes recorded : None
 Number recorded so far : 20



No. 3 Type 1 D 51

Dimensions: Circle diameter 25mm

Earliest recorded date : Apr 28, 1897
 Latest recorded date : Apr 10, 1902
 Codes recorded : None
 Number recorded so far : Over 50



No. 4 Type 2 E 63

Dimensions: Circle diameters 17 & 26mm

Earliest recorded date : Feb 27, 1937
 Latest recorded date : Nov 11, 1965
 Codes recorded : None, A,B,C,D,F
 Number recorded so far : Over 50



No. 5 Type 2 B 17

Dimensions: Circle diameters 17 & 26mm

Earliest recorded date : Feb 25, 1948
 Latest recorded date : Feb 22, 1965
 Codes recorded : A,B,C,E
 Number recorded so far : 18



No. 6 Type 1 B 18

Dimensions: Circle diameter 25mm

Earliest recorded date : Jul 24, 1897
 Latest recorded date : Mar 24, 1906
 Codes recorded : None
 Number recorded so far : Over 50

Railway Letter Cancellation



No. RR 1

This is the only one recorded
(Helmuth Hagen)

General Notes

1. Number 5 is more 'modern' than most of the collections of the members contributing.
2. Dimensions of illustrations tend to be slightly enlarged or distorted due to photocopying.
3. Illustrations for numbers 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 are from Holmes book on the Bechuanalands. The rest are photocopies of original strikes.

APPEAL TO ALL MEMBERS

If you have clear, unambiguous Palapye or related strikes of:

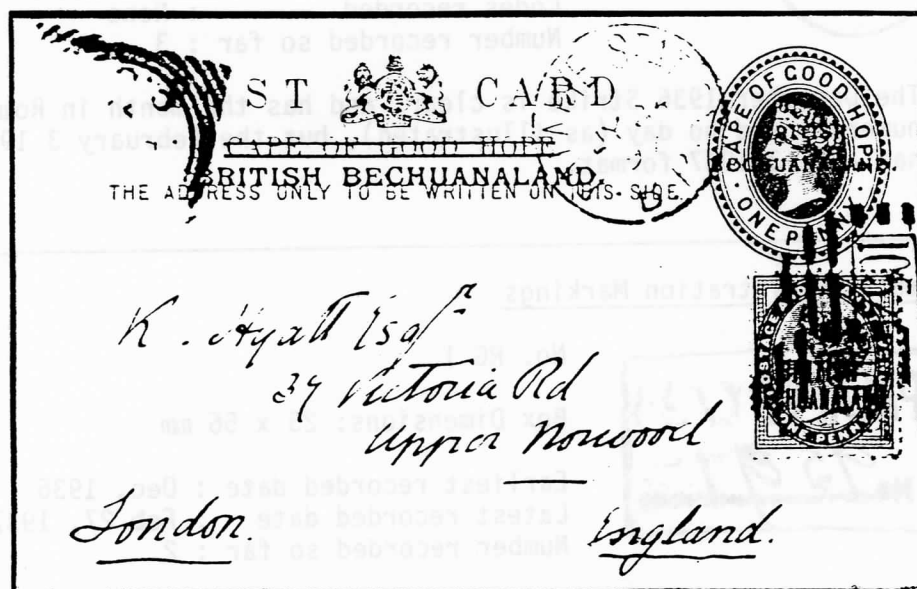
1. Earlier or later dates than those already recorded;
2. Markings where less than 50 have so far been recorded;
3. Unrecorded cancellations;

Please let me have details, and if possible, photocopies of these items to help improve our knowledge.

(Brian Trotter)

Barred Oval Numeral Cancellor (BONC) 1052 was allocated to this post office at Palapye Station.

Number recorded so far : 5



Postcard showing the combination use of the Palapye Station canceller and the BONC 1052 (Cedric Roché).



No. 7 Type 5 B 21

Dimensions: Circle diameters 15, 24 & 26mm

Earliest recorded date : Nov 22, 1906

Latest recorded date : Dec 27, 1916

Codes recorded : None

Number recorded so far : Over 50



No. 8 Type 2 E 63

Dimensions: Circle diameters 19 & 28mm

Earliest recorded date : Feb 18, 1914

Latest recorded date : Oct 30, 1935

Codes recorded : None

Number recorded so far : 26

Relief canceller



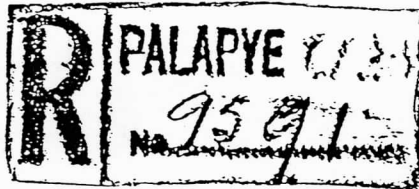
No. R 1 Type 1 F 73

Dimensions: Circle diameter 24mm

Earliest recorded date : Dec, 1936
Latest recorded date : Feb 3, 1937
Codes recorded : None
Number recorded so far : 3

Note: The December 1936 Strike is clear, and has the month in Roman numerals and no day (as illustrated), but the February 3 1937 has a FE 3/1937 format.

Hand-stamped Registration Markings



No. RG 1

Box Dimensions: 23 x 56mm

Earliest recorded date : Dec, 1936
Latest recorded date : Feb 27, 1937
Number recorded so far : 2

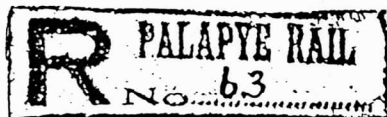
Note: The word 'ROAD' or 'RAIL' has been excised.



No. RG 2

Box Dimensions: 23 x 60mm

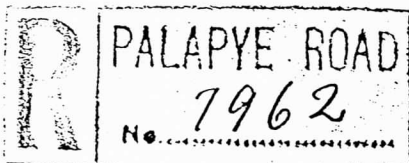
Earliest recorded date : Feb 25, 1948
Latest recorded date : Feb 11, 1949
Number recorded so far : 2



No. RG 3

Box Dimensions: 14 x 51mm

Earliest recorded date : Apr 9, 1916
Latest recorded date : Jul 9, 1928
Number recorded so far : 3



No. RG 4

Box Dimensions: 22 x 55mm

Earliest recorded date : Jun 29, 1935
Latest recorded date : Jun 29, 1935
Number recorded so far : 1

Bechuanalands and Botswana Society

Postal Auction Rules

1. General

- (a) Each auction shall be open to all members of the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society, both as vendors and bidders.
- (b) The submission of a lot for inclusion in an auction or of a bid signifies acceptance of these rules.
- (c) Neither the Society nor its Officers shall be held liable for any loss of or damage to lots whilst in the care of the Society although all reasonable precautions will be taken to safeguard such lots.
- (d) The Auctioneer acts as agent only and therefore shall not be liable for any default of the purchaser or vendor.
- (e) Clause 5 of the "Philatelic Auctioneers' Standard terms and Conditions of Sale (1973 Revision)" shall apply as if the auction were open to members of the public, present in person.
- (f) A list of prices realised at each sale will be distributed to all members, usually with the next 'Runner Post'.
- (g) In the event of any dispute arising from these Rules which cannot be resolved between the Auctioneer and the buyer or vendor, the matter shall be referred to the Officers of the Society whose decision shall be final and binding.

2. Vendors

- (a) Lots for inclusion in the auction shall be sent to the Auctioneer with a written description of each lot and an estimated valuation or reserve price.
- (b) The Auctioneer shall have the right to make alterations to the lotting, the descriptions and the estimates and to reject part or all of any lot.
- (c) Vendors shall give the Auctioneer prior notice of intent to submit numerous or bulky lots and await the Auctioneer's confirmation that he can accept such material.
- (d) The acceptance of lots from non-members shall be at the discretion of the Auctioneer.
- (e) Vendors who require acknowledgement of receipt of lots shall include a self-addressed post card with their submission.
- (f) Lots that fail to reach their reserve price and those that attract no bids will be returned to the vendors.
- (g) Vendors will be charged 10% commission on all lots sold plus the cost of returning any unsold lots by registered or insured post. No lotting charge shall be imposed.
- (h) Vendors will be paid by Sterling or Rand cheque according to the country in which the auction is organized.
- (i) No lot may be withdrawn from an auction once the auction list has been sent to members.

3. Bidders

- (a) No bid shall be accepted which is below the reserve price imposed by the vendor.
- (b) All bids shall be in sterling (for auctions organised in the UK) or South African Rand (for auctions organised in the RSA) and shall arrive with the Auctioneer not later than the specified closing date for the acceptance of bids.
- (c) To the best of the Auctioneer's ability, damaged or defective stamps will be identified as such in descriptions, except in mixed lots or collections and lots offered on covers or pieces or for for their postal or other markings where the condition of the stamps may not be faultless.
- (d) Estimated valuations (prefixed 'Est') are for guidance only but no lot shall be sold at less than half the estimated value indicated.
- (e) Each lot shall be sold at one bidding step above the second highest bid. if there are two or more equal highst bids, the earliest received shall be successful. Bidding steps shall be 50 pence up to £5, £1 up to £100, £10 thereafter (for auctions organised in the UK) or R1 up to R10, R5 up to R50, R10 thereafter (for auctions organised in the RSA). Any bids not in accordance with these steps will be rounded down to the highest acceptable step.
- (f) "Buy" bids shall not be accepted.
- (g) Members may limit their total expenditure by stating clearly on their bid sheet "Total expenditure not to exceed....." This limit shall be exclusive of postage, insurance or other charges.
- (h) At the Auctioneers discretion, and subject to all costs being paid by the member concerned, the postal viewing of suitable lots may be available to members living in the country in which the auction is organised.

4. Buyers

- (a) Buyers will receive a pro-forma invoice showing their successful bids and the total payment required including the cost of postage, insurance and any other charges.
- (b) Payment shall be despatched to the Auctioneer within seven days of receipt of the invoice.
- (c) The Auctioneer will despatch the buyer's purchases upon receipt of full payment.
- (d) If payment is not received within a reasonable time, the Auctioneer may re-sell the lot or lots and seek from the original buyer any deficiency on the transaction.
- (e) At his discretion, the Auctioneer may despatch lots with the invoice to known buyers with satisfactory references or an established history of prompt payments.
- (f) All payments shall be made to "The Bechuanalands and Botswana Society" in sterling (for auctions organised in the UK) or Rand (for auctions organised in the RSA) by cheque, postal order, international money order or bank draft. Cheques or drafts which are not drawn upon the UK or RSA (as appropriate) branch of a bank shall include a sufficient extra amount to cover any bank charges.
- (g) In the absence of specific instructions from the buyer, which shall include an acceptance of any loss or damage in the post, all lots will normally be despatched by registered post (inland) or by insured airmail (overseas).

THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY

POSTAL AUCTION no.2/87

CLOSING DATE 23 OCTOBER

Welcome to our second postal auction, bids for which must be with the auctioneer, Tony Chilton, 56 Framfield Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2AL, UK by 23 October 1987. The rules under which this auction is run are published with the current (September 1987) Runner Post. Please pay special attention to the bidding increments and the method of despatch of lots.

Literature

- 1 Holmes' Bechuanaland. Published by the Royal Philatelic Society. very good condition Res £30

British Bechuanaland

stamps

- 2 1885 2d on Cape SG6 mint Est £11
- 3 1885-7 4d(x2 different), 6d and 1/- on Cape with forged overprints. Three different types of overprint. all 4 "used". Est £20
- 4 1887 2d and 6d handstamped SPECIMEN Holmes Type 2 Res £5
- 5 1887 2d, 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 5/-, 10/-, £1 and 1888 1d on 1d all fiscally used Est £12
- 6 1887 1/- used fiscally on piece with 1891 4d(x2) Est £3
- 7 1887 1/- vertical pair used fiscally, on piece. Court of Assistant Commissioner, Northern Protectorate cancellation Est £1
- 8 1887 5/- used fiscally Est £1
- 9 1887 10/- used fiscally Est £7

postal stationery cards

- 10 July 1886 1d on Cape H&G1 mint Est £1
- 11 Sept 1894 1d on Cape H&G5 mint Est £1
- 12 July 1886 1d on Cape H&G1, Jan 1888 1d on GB H&G4, Sept 1894 1d on Cape H&G5, Sept 1894 1½d on 1d GB H&G8. All mint Est £4

registered envelopes

- 13 1889 4d vermilion size G. Die dated 28/2/89. H&G7 mint Est £6
- 14 1889 4d vermilion size H. Die dated 28/2/89. H&G7a. Envelope addressed but otherwise unused. Est £6
- 15 1889 4d vermilion size K. Handstamped SPECIMEN Type 2. Also the same envelope as issued, fold at left. unused. Both dies dated 1/3/89 H&G7b Est £5

wrappers

- 16 1887 ½d grey on Cape H&G1 mint Est £1
- 17 1887 1d on Cape H&G2 mint Est £1
- 18 1888 ½d brown on GB H&G3, 1888 1d on GB H&G4, 1889 1d on Cape H&G6 all mint Est £2.50

- 1888 3d on 3d SG43 mint East £30
1888 1/- handstamped SPECIMEN Holmes Type 2 SG46 Res £15
1889 4d on 4d handstamped SPECIMEN Holmes Type 2 SG53 Res £45
1897-1902 set of 7 mint SG59-65 East £12
1897 4d unmounted mint bottom right corner block of 4 with control Q Res £16
1897 3d SG63 overprinted SPECIMEN Holmes Type 7 Res £5
1902 4d blue-green SG60, handstamped SPECIMEN Holmes Type 9 Res £18
KE7 4d blue-green SG66, overprinted SPECIMEN Holmes Type 11. Minor crease and small stain at top. Ex National Postal Museum East £18
KE7 1d SG68 overprinted SPECIMEN Holmes Type 10. Ex National Postal Museum East £18
KE7 1/- green and carmine SG71 overprinted SPECIMEN Holmes Type 13 Res £30
KC5 cypher wmk mint set 1d to 1/- including all 3 2d, both 2½d and both 6d East £11
KC5 cypher wmk 4d, 1d and 3d in mint blocks of 4 East £7
KC5 cypher wmk set including both 6d East £8
KC5 block wmk 1d mint marginal single with control 031 (margin trimmed) East £3
KC5 block wmk 1/- used East £10
1932 definitive wmk set to 3/- East £20
1937 Coronation 2d used with type 2a MAKGBRIS STADT cds East £1
15 4/- KC6 used fiscally including 1887 1/- pair, KC5 2d orange die 1, KC6 1/- strip of 3 and 10/- East £6
1961 1c on 1d used on cover Lobatse 15 JUL 61 Res £8
1961 2½c on 2d used on cover Lobatse 28 JUN 61 Res £8
1961 3½c on 4d Types I and II in u/m vertical pair with part inscription in bottom margin, the type II with thick c (row 9 stamp 3) SG161 and 161aW2 East £15
1961 3½c on 4d Type I wide setting, u/m top right corner single with margins SG161b East £3.50
1961 3½c on 4d Types II and II wide in mint horizontal pair, mounted in right margin SG161a and 161c East £10
1961 12½c on 1/3 mint bottom right corner single with plate number 1 Perf through right margin, mounted in margin East £1
1965 New Constitution 2½c used right margin single with "Lake Plav" SG186V7 East £1
1965 New Constitution 5c and 12½c used, both with "Map Plav" SG187V6 and 188V6 East £3
2c on 2d postage due Type II u/m right marginal single with thick d on basic stamp SGDB4V4 East £1.50
Revenues, 1903 £5 (overprint on Cape Hope Standing) and 1906 5/- (on Cape KE7). both used Res £8
postal stationery cards

- 1901 1d on GB HG62 overprinted SPECIMEN top left corner damaged East £1
1913 4d on GB HG65 and 1921 4d on GB HG66 both mint East £10

Tati Company

- 69 Large red Tati Company cheque drawn on the Standard Bank of South Africa, Francistown in 1955. Company emblem at top. 1d QE2 stamp on reverse. (See illustration on page 6 of Runner Post number 6.) Res £5
70 A similar cheque, numbered consecutively to lot 69. Res £5
71 Smaller blue Tati Company cheque, dated 1960. Design similar to previous lots. 2d QE2 stamp on front. Res £5

Stellaland

- 66 3d type I unused, very little gum and 4d type 8 unused, faint rust stains Res £7

Rhodesia

- 67 1909 4d with RHODESIA overprint inverted. Unlisted by Gibbons but mentioned in the Robson Lowe encyclopaedia and priced by Scott at \$150. Res £30
68 Five postmarks. 5 examples of the Matabeleland single circle on BSAC and Double Heads; 7 examples of the Rhodesia double circle on Double Heads and Admirals and on S.R. Falls and Coronation. All clear strikes. East £12

Botswana

- 59 1944-45 South African 3d sheets overprinted: English inscription on stamp coarse buff paper with serial number HG62; Afrikaans inscription on stamp, smooth buff paper with serial number HG65, plus another in different shade of blue. All 3 mint East £4.50
60 1945 South African 3d sheet overprinted. English inscription on stamp, smooth buff paper HG64 mint East £5
61 1945 South African 3d sheet overprinted. Afrikaans inscription on stamp, smooth buff paper with serial number HG65 mint East £5
62 Feb 1961 5c on 6d wmk year code L HG66 one mint, one cancelled (no message) at Francistown 14 II 61 (day of issue) East £5

air letter sheets

- 50 Jan 1889 4d ultramarine, green overprint on Cape size H unused HG3
51 1899 definitive envelope size F HG7a overprinted SPECIMEN East £4
52 1907 4d on 2d+1d brown size G HG9a date code EA Used 1915 from Lobatse to England with boxed LOBATSE registration cachet in violet. Additional adhesive has been removed East £20
53 1907 4d on 2d+1d brown size G Used 1908 from Mochudi to Meking. Additional adhesive (?) and registration label removed East £12
54 1913 4d on 2d+1d brown size G HG11a date code KF mint Res £8
55 1920 5½d on 2d+2d green size F HG14 date code BP mint Res £10
56 as lot 55 but with horizontal crease East £5
57 1920 5½d on 2d+2d green size G HG14a date code DO mint Res £10
58 Oct 1961 QE2 5c size G HG20 unused, minor gum stain on flap East £4

registered envelopes