

# The Runner Post



RUNNER POST No.9

(NEWSLETTER No.12)

WINTER ISSUE - DECEMBER 1987

## Contents

## Page

Editors' Comments & report on September 1987 meeting	141
Report on BBS Meeting - September 1987	141
Next Meeting (March 2nd 1988)	142
First BBS auction in South Africa	142
Visit to Luton & District P.S. by Mike George	142
B.B.S. Expertising?	142
Stanley Gibbons Discount Scheme	142
Members Comments:	
S.A. Mounted Rifles at Taungs / Brian Fenemore	143
Edward VII 1/- Specimen / Steve Wallace	143
Protectorate 4d Surcharge / Dennis Firth	143
Revenue 2/6 used at Mochudi / Roy Setterfield	144
Tati/Gubulaway CTO's ? - Comments J Catterall	144
Edward VII 1d Forgery / Mike George	144
In The Auction Room	145
Botswana Recent Issues	146
Curved Foot to '2'	147
Postmark Scarcity Table / Mike George	147
Banks Drift / Brian Trotter	148
Warren Expedition/Military Telegraphs Update/J.F.I-W	149
Provisional Overprints 1891, 1893-95 / KOI	151
Crocodile Pools & Mafeking Siege / Jim Catterall	153
Index to Volume 1 (RP 1-6, pp 1-100A)	Supplement page 1
BBS Auction No.2 - prices and report	Supplement page 2



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EDITORS' COMMENTS

Another successful year in the short history of the BBS, and of the Runner Post. Your Editors would like to take this opportunity to thank members (and many non-members) for their support and help in the past and for bearing with us as we 'learn the ropes'. Please remember it is your Newsletter and we are always open to constructive criticism and welcome hearing from members worldwide with any queries/comments/articles/general news you may have.

With best wishes for 1988.

Roy Setterfield and Alan MacGregor

BBS Meeting - September 1987

An Ordinary Meeting of the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society was held at Stampex, Horticultural Halls, London, on September 23rd 1987 at 2 pm, following a Committee Meeting at 12 noon.

There were 12 members present, and two visitors, with three apologies.

Brian Trotter welcomed members from the Chair, and formally congratulated Jim Catterall on the award of a Silver-Gilt Medal for his excellent display of 'Postal History of Bechuanaland' at this year's Stampex. Mr. Catterall was warmly applauded by all present.

The Chairman commented on the success of our first Society Auction; material for the second auction was available for viewing after the meeting.

The Hon. Sec. reported on the earlier Committee Meeting:



- 1 We are attempting to arrange a Saturday meeting at Spring Stampex, if a suitable venue can be found. Otherwise....Wednesday March 2nd 1988.
- 2 A 10% discount is available to our Society members from Stanley Gibbons on most of their products.
- 3 A recommendation that Subscriptions be raised to £8 or the equivalent, will be put before the General Meeting in September 1988.

The short official meeting gave ample time for a most interesting and informative display by John Inglefield-Watson, followed by a showing of photographs etc. by Brian Trotter during his recent visit to Botswana.

### **First B.B.S. Auction in South Africa**

We have just heard that Howard Cook has agreed to act as the 'Sub-Capricornian' Auctioneer for the BBS and intends holding our first postal auction in South Africa in mid 1988. Howard says that he would need to receive material for the sale by the end of March to allow items to be lotted up. Would members who have material they wish to sell please contact Howard at:-

P O Box 118, Gillitts, Natal, 3603, (South Africa)

Please note that all purchases and proceeds from BBS auctions held in South Africa will be payable in South African Rand.

### **Visit and Display to Luton & District P.S.**

On 4th September 1987, the new 'season' of the Luton & District Philatelic Society opened with a display and talk on Bechuanaland given by Mike George, who lives nearby. Mike exhibited some 170 sheets, designed to cover the period 1885-1966, and lectured what he describes as "a captive audience of about 35 philatelists" for an hour and a half. Since no one left during this marathon, and he received generous applause, this new venture for the B.B. Socy seems to have gone off with some success! (Don't ask me too often Roy! - M.G.)

### **B.B.S. Expertising ?**

The idea has been raised that the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society form its own expertising committee to give opinions and issue certificates for philatelic items specifically relating to the Bechuanalands. We would welcome hearing from any members who have thoughts on this subject - one way or the other, on the feasibility (including those who feel that they may be able to contribute to such a project). Depending on the response, we will then decide whether to take it further.

### **Stanley Gibbons Discount Scheme**

Stanley Gibbons offer to Society members 10% Discount on most of their catalogues, albums, and accessories, when ordered through the Society. This covers all publications and accessories as shown in their Mail Order Price List, with the exception of Exeter, Oriel, Philatelic and Plymouth albums and leaves, and Morley-Bright detectors and Uvitec lamps.

Any order must be processed through the Society with payment in advance; orders will be sent post free in U.K. and surface post abroad (airmail extra).

Further details from Roy Setterfield.

## Members Comments and Queries

### SOUTH AFRICAN MOUNTED RIFLES AT TAUNGS

Brian Fenemore has sent in several interesting items including an excerpt from a book on the life of Sir Charles Warren/The Bechuanaland Campaign in which a letter from Warren to the Colonial Secretary is quoted referring to "...Captain Trotter, lately acting for me in Stellaland...", Brian wonders if this could be an ancestor of our Illustrious Chairman?

Brian also sent a photostat of a picture postcard showing a mounted column passing through Bloemfontein with the caption "ORDERED TO TAUNGS/THE DETACHMENT OF S.A.M.R. (South African Mounted Rifles) PASSING THROUGH MAITLAND ST B'F'N". The card is unused and has a divided back (1904+?). Was there a small uprising in Taungs in 1904 or thereabouts? Perhaps this detachment was deploying at Taungs en route to South West Africa at the beginning of the 1914-15 campaign? What are your views?  
Brian Fenemore

### EDWARD VII 1/- 'SPECIMEN'

I have recently received a letter from Mr Aggersberg. S.G. Cat Editor, regarding Bechuanaland specimen overprints. I quote from his letter:-

"I am pleased that we have been able to provide contact addresses for the various specialist Societies within our catalogues. Much of the revision now undertaken on the listings is provided by Societies, or by their members."

Here he refers to the Samuel book:-

"--is quite explicit that the U.P.U. specimen occurs on the 1/- green and scarlet shade, but the relationship between the two 1/- stamps in this series has not been satisfactorily explained and it is possible that the Specimen does also occur on the carmine". It will be interesting to know if any member has a confirmed example on the carmine". Many thanks for bringing this to my attention,  
D.J. Aggersberg

In the light of J.F. Inglefield-Watson's comments on R.P. page 125, regarding Holmes type 12 and 13, I thought you may find this of interest. I would be most interested in your thoughts on this and also Lt. Col. Inglefield-Watson.

Mr Aggersberg has always seemed most enthusiastic regarding Bechuanaland and I'm sure would be delighted with a reply.  
Steve Wallace

### PROTECTORATE 4d SURCHARGE (SG 53)

Dennis Firth has written in response to John Inglefield-Watson's article in Runner Post 7 (p117) on the 1889 Protectorate Fourpence surcharge:

I have ten examples in my collection and all have 'Protectorate' 15mm long, and all (including my Specimen Type 2) are spaced 6mm between the lines. One stamp has 'Fourpence' 16mm in length (see illustration), but whether this is genuine or not, I do not know.

Also illustrated is my only known forgery, as it may be of interest. This is really SG 54 (Protectorate 15mm and the wrong type for this issue) apparently used at Palachwe but unfortunately the date is not clear. It also has two 'Fourpence' overprints added after use (does this make the face value 8d?!). D.F.



'Fourpence'  
16mm long



FORGERY  
'Fourpence'  
double



### REVENUES WITH POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

Roy Setterfield recently bought the EVII 2/6 revenue illustrated here (B&H 5), used with a postal cancellation. It bears a strike of the single circle MOCHUDI B.B cds dated 9 JY 0(5?)



This compares with that in Roger Howard's collection (illustrated in RP 5, page 12) - also a 2/6 revenue stamp cancelled with the same Mochudi cds. There is yet another example of this postmark, again on a copy of the same 2/6, in the collection of David Crocker.

### GUBULAWAYO AND TATI 'CTO's'

In response to the article published in the September Runner Post (No.8, p.126) by Colin Fraser who speculated that the Gubulawayo and Tati cancels may be CTO 'Souvenirs', Jim Catterall was stimulated to write the following:

After reading Colin Fraser's piece on the first Tati and Gubulawayo Cancels of 21 Aug 88, I am inclined to agree with him that all the examples known are cancelled to order "souvenirs".

Firstly, all the examples - (mostly of course, photographs) - that I have seen have been carefully and centrally struck usually with one or more small sections of the circle showing from adjoining strikes.

Secondly, all the examples are on low value stamps such as the ½d and 1d Protectorate values as if prepared by someone with an economical mind wanting the cancels but not wishing to waste too much money on the actual adhesives, i.e. the maximum number of cancels for the minimum price!

Thirdly, the manuscript cancels known on piece dated earlier the same month carried higher value stamps showing that these were available - as also did later covers.

The postal rates for ½oz letters at August 21st 1888 were 4d to the Protectorate, 6d to the Cape and 1/- to the U.K. so why use a mass of low values if the higher values were available as they apparently were. Admittedly the postage for letters within the Transprotectorate was only 2d, but how much mail could there have been between the two Agencies?

It would be nice to find at least one complete cover from either of these offices with the 21-August cancel genuinely used. Until then I remain sceptical.

Jim Catterall

### FORGERY ON KEVII 1d SCARLET

Mike George reports having been asked for an opinion on a used copy of KEVII 1d scarlet bearing a very curious overprint.

Although correctly reading up and down the sides of the stamp, the overprint was in largish capital letters of a type found quite different to the genuine overprint. Not only was the type quite wrong, but the overprint was not 'square' on the stamp.



Also, although the two words were aligned at the foot of the stamp they were not so at the top, which seems to indicate an 'amateur' compositor at work. The final giveaway was the presence of a GB postmark! One is left again to wonder who, if anyone, such an abomination could have fooled.

Mike George

## In the Auction Room

Sotheby's auction in London on 12th and 13th November contained only one lot in the Bechuanaland section, however, lot 394 (illustrated here) was of particular interest and was described as follows:

"Bechuanaland: 1932 ½d green, imperforate between vertically, S.G. 99var., horizontal pair and block of 4 comprising three pairs of this previously unrecorded variety, the pair is defective at the lower left and has a small separation tear between at the top whilst the block is very fine apart from a few short perfs., unused unmounted o.g.; from a sheet format of 60 - ten horizontal rows of six, it is quite likely that only ten pairs of this variety ever existed. We understand that it will be listed in a future edition of Stanley Gibbons Part 1 catalogue as S.G.99a. Both items with B.P.A. certs. 1987."

I understand from Mike Deverell of the Zimbabwe Stamp Company that these items were originally sold through the Salisbury Stamp Company by Auction some seven or eight years ago but nothing more seems to be known of their history or if any others from the sheet still exist.

The estimate was £6000 to £8000 and realised £8920 (including buyers premium).



Another item of interest on offer recently was lot 109 in the Christies Robson Lowe Auction on 15th December, which was described as follows:



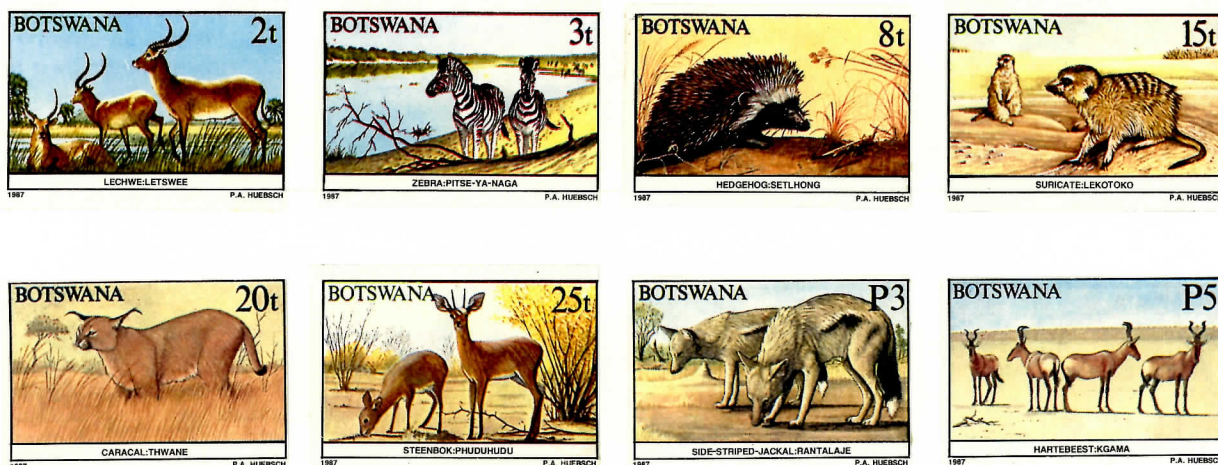
"1888 (21st Aug) 'Gubulawayo/Bechuanaland' c.d.s. Bechuanaland Protectorate 1888 ½d vermilion, c.d.s. virtually complete and clearly struck, the stamp with small tear at left. Rare.

*Note: Eleven examples of this postmark are recorded; this is a previously unrecorded example and is only the second impression on a ½d stamp. The postmark was used at the Postal Agency established at Hope Fountain Mission, 14 miles south of the present site of Bulawayo."*

The estimate was £750 and it realised £836 (including premium).

(AMG)





### Botswana Recent Issues and 1988 Stamp Programme

The 3rd of August was the release date for a new definitive issue comprising 20 values from One Thebe to Five Pula portraying a small but very attractive selection of the diversity of Botswana's 160 species of mammals and 540 species of birds. Botswana has a conservative stamp issuing policy - this being only the fifth definitive issue in the 21 years since independence. The artist is P. Huebsch and the stamps are printed by Harrison and Sons by the Photogravure process in panes of 50 (2x25). Mint sets, FDC's, booklets with mint and used sets and picture postcards are available.

Francistown commemorated its 90th Anniversary with the issue on 17th October of 5000 First Day Covers bearing the 35t and 40t definitive stamps, with special cancellations. The informative leaflet gives a fascinating insight into the Town's early history and the associated Tati Goldfields.

The Christmas issue of four values (8t - 750,000, 15t - 265,000, 30t - 125,000 and P1 - 100,000) were issued on 26th October. The stamps and FDC (6000) depict vegetation associated with wetlands, tall grasses, sedges, rushes and reeds and were designed by artist Julia Cairns. There is also a miniature sheet (5000) of the four values. They were printed by Lithography by Natprint, Harare.

The 1988 Stamp Programme is given as follows:

- 1 14th March 1988 - Traditional Cultivation
- 2 April 1988 - Official Opening of Sir Seretse International Airport (covers and special cancellations).
- 3 6th June 1988 - Endangered Species (WWF)
- 4 22nd August 1988 - Runner Post Centenary.
- 5 30th September 1988 - 20th Anniversary of National Museum and Art Gallery.

Issue (4) above, should be of particular interest to members! (I understand that August 21st is a Sunday, hence the issue date being the 22nd)

Full details and prices of all the above may be obtained from:

The Philatelic Bureau  
P.O. Box 100  
Gaborone  
Botswana

## The Curved Foot to '2'

The illustrations in 'KOI's' article on the B.B. 2d issue of August 1888 (R.P.7), did not reproduce very well, and as there is some ambiguity and confusion over what a true 'curved foot to 2' variety on the B.B. or Protectorate 2d surcharges (SG 23b & 42) actually look like, we illustrate here an enlargement of this variety (on the left) alongside a 'normal'. This variety could be called 'small figure 2' and is distinguished from other pretenders in the setting by having a short shank, short foot and a wide loop.



'Curved foot to 2'

## A Postmark Scarcity Scale

Those much involved with the recording of postmarks have pondered, from time to time, on some form of numerical 'scarcity factor'. It would (so it is argued) be helpful, once postmarks held by members of the Society have been recorded on Brian Trotter's computer, to have a 'scale of scarcity' so that a simple numerical factor can be applied to (say) Sandpits or Serowe.

The following is offered for comment, opinion and debate.

### Scarcity Factor

1	VERY COMMON:	very many copies exist				
2	COMMON:	many copies exist				
3	UNCOMMON:	less than 200 copies recorded by the BBS				
4	SCARCE:	less than 100 copies	"	"	"	"
5	VERY SCARCE:	less than 50	"	"	"	"
6	RARE:	less than 25	"	"	"	"
7	VERY RARE:	less than 10	"	"	"	"
8	EXTREMELY RARE:	less than 5	"	"	"	"
9	UNIQUE:	only one recorded copy known				
10	UNRECORDED:	postal agency/office recorded but no postmark yet seen.				

Thus Mafeking 'squared circle' might be Scarcity Factor (SF) 2, Serowe 'double circle' types SF 2 to 4 depending on type, and Sandpits SF 8.

Mike George



## Banks Drift and other Early Postal Agencies

by Brian Trotter

With the proclamation of British Bechuanaland as a Crown Colony on the 30th September 1885, postal services nominally came under the Civil Authorities, and the Magistrates at Vryburg, Mafeking (15th December 1885) and Taungs (25th March 1886) were appointed Postmasters in their respective districts. At the time of the proclamation the mails were carried by the Bechuanaland Border Police; the Police, however, took the liberty of opening the post bags and removing letters addressed to members of the Bechuanaland Border Police, the Police believing that since the mails were being carried at their expense, they were entitled to do this. The Authorities decided that this was not in their best interests, so, on 1st January 1886, the Civil Post Office concluded their own contract to convey the mail from Kimberley to Vryburg. This was a once a week service, taking 37 hours, but the Vryburg to Mafeking stretch continued to be operated by the Police.

During 1886 Postal Agencies were established at Banks Drift, Kuruman, Poedomoe, Setlagoli and Groot Chooing (!) On the 10th of June 1886 the Postmaster General at Vryburg advised his counterpart in Cape Town that the Police cart carrying mails from Vryburg to Mafeking also stopped at Groot Chooing and Setlagoli to receive and deliver letters, and that postal Agencies would shortly be established at these two stopping points. Also, the Civil Post Contractor starting from Kimberley, passed through Barkly West, Banks Drift, Taungs and Poedomoe on his way to Vryburg. The same route was taken on the return trip.

On the 29th of April 1886, George F. Hudson was appointed Post Office Agent at Banks Drift, without salary. This appointment was officially confirmed on 7th May 1886. On the same date he was advised that an obliterating stamp had been ordered for his use, and that, until such time as he received this he was to cancel all stamps on letters posted at his office in pen and ink, and to mark such letters "Banks Drift Postal Agency" together with the date.

It appears that, with the exception of the Post Office Agencies established in some of the larger settlements, most of these new Agencies were initially supplied with the obliterating Barred Oval Numeral Cancellor (BONC) only. On the 30th July application was sent to Cape Town for an additional three obliterating stamps with pads and ink, and four letter scales. All these, it was stated, were required for new Postal Agencies. No mention was apparently made as for which Agencies they would be required, so it is reasonably safe to assume that date and place cancellers were not included.

Since Banks Drift is believed to have been closed around 1892, and as far as I know, no circular date and place cancellations of Banks Drift have been found, we can assume that none was ever supplied. This means that the only positively identifiable cancellation from Banks Drift would be the manuscript cancellation. A June 1979 article in the South African Philatelist by Werner Seeba (one of our members) illustrates a manuscript cancellation on a 2d bistre SG 6 showing "Banks Drift 15/5/86". I purchased this stamp from Werner Seeba some years ago (see illustration).



### Bibliography:

- A.A. Jurgens, The Bechuanalands etc (as above)
- W.K. Seeba, The South African Philatelist, June 1979 (Article).

## THE WARREN EXPEDITION - MILITARY TELEGRAPHS - 2

by John Inglefield-Watson

Further information has come to light since the publication of my article in 'Runner Post' No.8, PP 128-9

### Egypt

Thanks to Peter Langmead, a military telegraphs specialist and a fellow member of the Sudan Study Group, I now have details about the Military Telegraph stamps used in Egypt. The only used examples known to have survived are on a presentation sheet prepared by the then Director of Army Telegraphs in Egypt. The set of eight stamps plus an additional 1d value bisected as two ½d values are cancelled with a c.d.s. of superficially similar appearance to those used in Sudan and Bechuanaland but with several significant differences. It is worded 'ARMY TELEGRAPHS' instead of 'FIELD TELEGRAPH' at the top and has 'CAIRO' in place of the 'No.' at the bottom. The separators are quatrefoils instead of stars. There are no office code letters in the centre and the date is expressed in one line with the month in French: 9 MAI 86. It is slightly larger than the others, having a diameter of 34mm compared with 31.5mm.

### Bechuanaland

First, it is apparent from the evidence of examples now recorded that the statement in the third paragraph of my previous article that manuscript cancellations were the normal form of cancellation found on the manuscript surcharged stamps is wrong. It only applies to the overprinted Cape stamps. The surcharged stamps were usually cancelled with the 'FIELD TELEGRAPH' c.d.s. but occasionally in manuscript.

Only two members and Peter Langmead have so far sent me details of datestamps in their collections. Surely there must be other examples within the Society - please let me know about them! There is one addition to my previous list of recorded datestamps:

Code: SH    No. 92

Unfortunately it was not made clear in my previous article that the illustration is a composite made up from a complete Sudan and a partial Bechuanaland example. It is now known to be inaccurate in that all Bechuanaland c.d.s. so far recorded, unlike those of Sudan, have the date expressed in one line instead of two and the year abbreviated to the last two figures. The sequence of the date varies as follows:

TS No. 44 - Day Month Year.

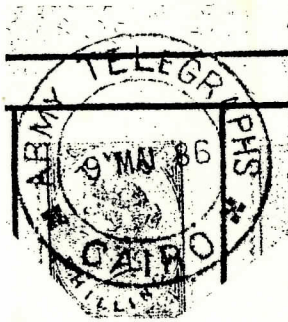
VR No. 32 - Month Day Year.

VR No. 71 - Month Day Year.

SH No. 92 - Month Day Year.

Furthermore, in the Bechuanaland c.d.s. the 'o' of 'No' is larger than in the Sudan, is not underlined but is followed by a stop.





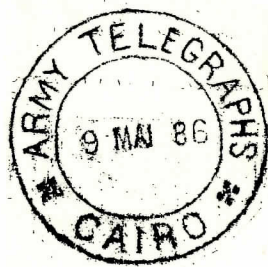
Egypt



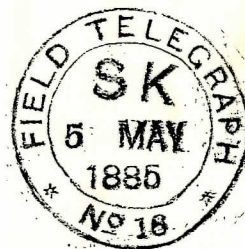
Sudan



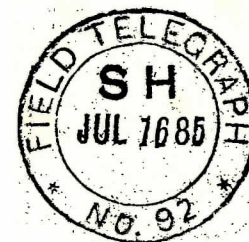
Bechuanaland



Egypt



Sudan



Bechuanaland

I am now able to provide accurate illustrations for comparative purposes of the type of datestamp used in each of the three countries under discussion.

## ALBINO OVERPRINTS

by J.F. Inglefield-Watson

Albino overprints are not popular with some collectors and are excluded from consideration by some Expert Committees. Nevertheless many of us seek to include examples in our collections and we look to a combination of the catalogue and Holmes's book to tell us what is known to exist. Even these sources are incomplete and can be supplemented as detailed below:

(1)	1897	1/2d yellow-green	SG 57	Double, one albino, inverted/reversed,
(2)	1912	1/- green & scarlet	SG 70	Double, one albino,
(3)	1920	1/2d red-brown	SG 75	Double, one albino (indistinct),
(4)	1926	6d purple	SG 81a	Double, one albino,
(5)	1919	5/- brt carmine (DLR)	SG 87	Treble, two albino,
(6)	1920	5/- rose-red (BW)	SG 89	(Double, one albino,) - see (Treble, two albino,) - below
(7)	1926	3d violet (inv wmk)	SG 94a	Double, one albino (indistinct),

With regard to the varieties at (6) above, some members will be aware that the catalogue does not adequately cover the full range of shades to be found on the 'Sea Horse' high values from all three printers, but that is another story. My examples of these two albino varieties occur on an intermediate shade that I would describe as rosine or, perhaps, rose-carmine. I feel that it is closer to SG 89 than to SG 90 but accept that the opposite opinion may account for the treble, two albino, already catalogued as SG 90a.

## THE PROVISIONAL ISSUES - 1891 - 1893-95; USAGE

These notes supplement the authoritative review by John Inglefield-Watson (Runner Post 5, page 13) based on the work of Douglas Roth (1981).

1. The following dates and offices of issue are recorded in chronological order:-

<u>SG</u>	<u>TYPE*</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
32	T	Vryburg (Dot)	JA 12 92
31	T	Vryburg (Dot)	FE 26 92
31	T	Vryburg (Dot)	MR 7 92
32	T	Macloutsi	?U 20 92
32	T	Macloutsi	? 5 92
32	T	Taungs Bech	MR 27 93
38	T	Mafeking Bech	AP 4 94
38	T	Geluk	MY 17 94
39	T	Vryburg (Dot)	FE 3 95
39	T	Mafeking (Dot)	AP 12 95
39	T	Mafeking Bech.	OC 1 95
39	T	Bailey Brith	7 NO 95
32	T	Mosita	NO 25 95
38	T	Taungs	DE 13 95
39	T	Mochuli	AP 2 96
39	T	Palla	JU 14 96
39	T	Kanye	DE ? 96
32	S	Ramoutsa	JA 19 98
32	S	Francestown S. Africa	SP 21 8 (no 9 slug)
32	S	Lobatsi R.S. S. Africa	JA 1 99
32	S	Lobatsi R.S. S. Africa	JA 21 99
39	T	Francestown S. Africa	MR ? 99
32	S	Lobatsi R.S. S. Africa	AP 1 99
32	S	Francestown S. Africa	SP 11 99
38	T	Palapye Station	JY 17 (no year)
38	T	Lobatsi B.P.	MY ? 12 (Philatelic?)

\* T : Typeset  
S : Stereo

From the distribution above, it is seen that SG 31 and 32 (T) were in use well before the first reported occurrence of SG 32 (S) in March 1893 (JIW in RP 5). Furthermore, the early use of SG 31 is restricted to the period February-March 1892. I do not know the office of issue in February, but in March it was Vryburg. The sequence becomes more interesting with the use of SG 32 (T) in Macloutsi in June or August 1892. It might be suggested that the provisional was prepared for use by the Pioneers, but this is doubtful. When the office opened in Macloutsi, on 10 June 1891, Unappropriated Dies were used before being replaced by the Jubilee Issue overprinted 'British Bechuanaland'. There is post-mark evidence that the 2d Jubilee Issue was in use at Macloutsi on 1 AP 1892, when its use overlapped with that of the Unappropriated Dies.





Fig. 1

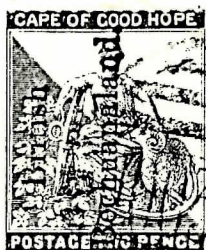


Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

It would seem that the provisional issues were requested to fill a shortage of 1d and 2d values, this shortage lasted for only a short period before arrival of the Jubilee stamps. Remaining stocks were then stored and only retrieved to supply temporary shortages, the most serious being in Lobatsi and Francistown towards the end of the century.

John Inglefield-Watson raises several very pertinent questions regarding this issue. Although the answers to some will never be known with certainty, I will 'chance my arm' with the following replies:-

i) *Is there any evidence that, in addition to SG 32, either SG 31 or indeed SG 38 and 39 were overprinted from the stereo plate? - No!*

ii) *Why were two printing techniques used?*

(Crystal ball answer!) Tenders were received from two companies who supplied 'trial' overprints. The typeset overprint was accepted and despatched to Vryburg and Macloutsie. At a later date, resort was made to the stereo 'trials' to fill a temporary shortage. There is a problem here - we know that the typeset issues were available at the end of the century, therefore why were these not used to fill the shortage? The use of two printers is indirectly supported by the slightly different shade between SG 32 typeset and stereo. The latter is yellowish bistre in comparison to the former which is bistre.

iii) *Were the printings carried out at the same time?*

Difficult one again. No. The first printing of SG 31 - reading up - is typically a bright shade compared with the later printing, reading down, which is duller and more 'pinkish'. This suggests separate stocks of the basic stamp.

iv) *Who were the printers?*

Very tentatively, the use of the Type 2 specimen on the typeset issues suggests Holmes's proposal of Townshend and Co. The stereo printer is unknown.

v) *Is the missing first 'i' in 'British' found on SG 32 (stereo)?*

There are many varieties on the stereo printing with weak letters due mainly to 'dry' inking. These include weak 't', broken 'B' in 'British' and the 'striking' missing 'r' (Figs 1-3).

It is interesting to note that the genuine specimen overprint (Fig 4 - NB weak 'i') is ONLY found on the typeset issues reading up (I wonder why?). A used example of a 2d is shown in figure 5 also showing the weak first 'i' in 'British'.

Crude forged overprints are known with the following measurements:-

	<u>Forged</u>	<u>Genuine</u>
British	8.5mm	8.5mm
Bechuanaland	17mm	19.5mm
Spacing	4.5mm	6.5mm

(KOI)



## CROCODILE POOLS AND THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

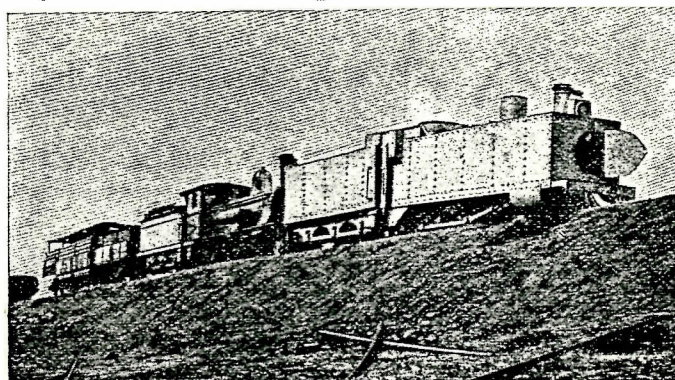
by J A Catterall

First a brief historical background mainly condensed from the Times 'History of the War in South Africa'

The siege of Mafeking began on Oct 13th 1899 when Boer forces cut the railway to both the north and south of the town. The garrison commanded by Col. Baden-Powell amounted to about 1200 men including members of the Protectorate Regiment, Protectorate Police and Cape Police plus some civilians. One of the unique features of the Anglo-Boer war was the use of armoured trains both for transport and defensive and offensive operations. These met with mixed success in various parts of South Africa but the three trains fitted out at Bulawayo had a more successful life than most. They were manned by men of the Rhodesia Regiment which had been raised in August by Col. Plumer and their task was to patrol the line southwards from Bulawayo towards Mafeking.

A Cycle Corps was also formed at this time, from Rhodesian volunteers, to maintain communications with distant outposts. This would include collection and delivery of mail to & from the nearest railway stations where contact could be made with the armoured trains.

Civilian mail must also have travelled on the trains and this could account for mail with Bechuanaland stamps cancelled at Bulawayo.



THE ARMoured TRAIN DESTROYED BY THE BOERS AT KRAAIPAN. The destruction of this train was the first overt act of war (see page 49). Kraaipan is a station between Mafeking and Vryburg on the Cape to Cairo Railway.

During October and November the Boers advanced north along the Mafeking - Bulawayo railway almost to Magalapye (Mahalapye) about 200 miles from Mafeking (presumably overrunning in the process Crocodile Pools amongst other places.) - see map (1).

However by the beginning of January Col. Holdsworth with the Rhodesian volunteers had advanced south again to within four miles of Crocodile Pools and by the middle of January Plumer had established his H.Q. at Gaberones. Sporadic fighting continued around Crocodile Pools until the Boers finally relinquished the position in order to take part in the assault on Mafeking scheduled for Feb 28th.

Prior to the siege all mail from Mafeking, Bechuanaland and Rhodesia to the Cape and overseas had been routed south via Mafeking. Now this was not possible and mail from the country north of Mafeking had to travel north via Bulawayo, Salisbury and Beira and then on to Durban and the Cape.

At some stage during the siege a postal agency was opened at Crocodile Pools about 80 miles north of Mafeking and this became the collecting point at the southern end of the postal route.

There is still some mystery about the Crocodile Pools agency as the exact opening is not known.

From the historical résumé given above it would appear impossible for it to have operated before the end of Feb. 1900 and even then only if the datestamps etc were already prepared. However, I have in my collection a strip of Protectorate stamps on piece cancelled with the Crocodile Pools datestamp of 30 DEC 1899 - a time when one would have expected Crocodile Pools to be in Boer occupied territory. Well, a cancel on a loose stamp or piece is not firm evidence so I



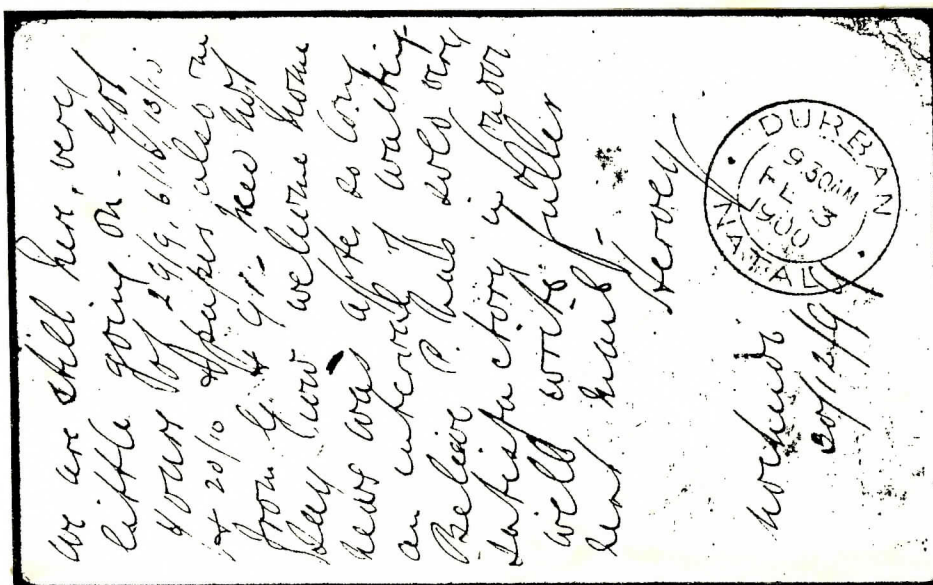
was delighted to find recently at an auction an item which confirmed this date beyond doubt. This was a Mashonaland postal stationery card plus an additional B.S.A. Company adhesive with 2 Crocodile Pools cancels dated 30 DEC 1899 (see illustration). The card originated in Mochudi and also bears the appropriate transit and arrival strikes of Bulawayo (11 Jan), Durban, Warrenpoint and London.

Does this mean that Crocodile Pools was by-passed by the Boer advance, at least for a time? Also how did the card travel from Crocodile Pools to Bulawayo? It can be seen to have taken 12 days which is a few days longer than usual. The armoured train service must at best have been discontinuous at this time. It is also likely that the Crocodile Pools agency was out of action for many weeks in early 1900 as so far I have not found any Crocodile Pools cancels dated between 30 DEC 1899 and 20 MAR 1900. More information would be welcome.

So Crocodile Pools postal agency was established by the end of 1899 and issued with a double circle datestamp, as shown in the illustrations, reading: CROCODILE POOLS SOUTH AFRICA with the date in a single line across the middle. There had been a telegraph office at Crocodile Pools since 1897 but we do not know whether the postal agency was under civil or military control.



Front and back of card cancelled CROCODILE POOLS 30 DEC 99





Turn now to mail out of Mafeking during the early and middle parts of the siege i.e., up to late March 1900. Mail out of Mafeking was sporadic and unofficial but unstamped mail did get out by privately engaged runners or anyone else who had a reason to risk escaping from Mafeking. Such mail is rare and may be difficult to identify. These covers have sometimes been known as Kaffirgrams. The situation changed in March 1900 when it was decided to start an official regular postal service from the besieged town.

I now quote from Rich's 'Philately of the Anglo-Boer War' (page 47). Referring to Mafeking Rich writes:

"In mid-March plans were made by Lt. Col. Lord Edward Cecil in charge of communications, for postal service to the outside by means of Kaffir runners. The risks of the service made high pay to the runners necessary; hence the rates were set at 1/- per half ounce to the north and 6d per half ounce to the south. Mail to England could evidently be sent out either way - to the north via Bulawayo in Rhodesia or to the south via Kimberley. Evidence of covers known, would indicate that the overwhelming bulk of mail to England or elsewhere overseas, went via Bulawayo."

Rich continues:

"Mail was sent out in batches of about 30 pieces. Runners left twice weekly for the north and once a week for the south. Some of the runners were captured by the Boers, and their loads of letters seized. Many such letters, stamps removed, were found when Snyman's Camp was captured during the relief of Mafeking".

At the same time as this runner service was being planned the famous Mafeking siege stamps were prepared - stamps of the Cape and Bechuanaland surcharged and overprinted 'Mafeking Besieged'. Presumably the reason for this was to increase the value of the stamps available and thus economise in their use. It is not clear whether this was strictly necessary or whether it was a piece of Baden Powell publicity. The stamps were issued on March 24th 1900 (according to Gibbons, Andries van der Walt in his paper on Mafeking says March 23rd) It is almost certainly correct to say that the runner post did not start before the stamps were ready. Since the siege of Mafeking ended on the 17th May this service could only have operated for about eight weeks. Although the service started with two runners per week to the north each with 30 pieces of mail the number of runners and the amount they carried were both increased with 100 and more letters at a time being carried.

The mail out of Mafeking by the northern route at this period went by Crocodile Pools and Bulawayo to Salisbury then on to Beira in Mozambique and Cape Town and beyond. Covers were franked with stamps bearing the Mafeking siege overprints and cancelled with Mafeking C.G.H. datestamps and usually bore the transit stamps of Crocodile Pools and Bulawayo but some missed the Crocodile Pools transit stamp and went on to Bulawayo before stamping. The tables list the covers found by me so far in auction catalogues and collections etc. Many more must be contained in Boer War and military mail collections even taking into account the large number captured by the Boers, lost or simply destroyed after removing the adhesives.

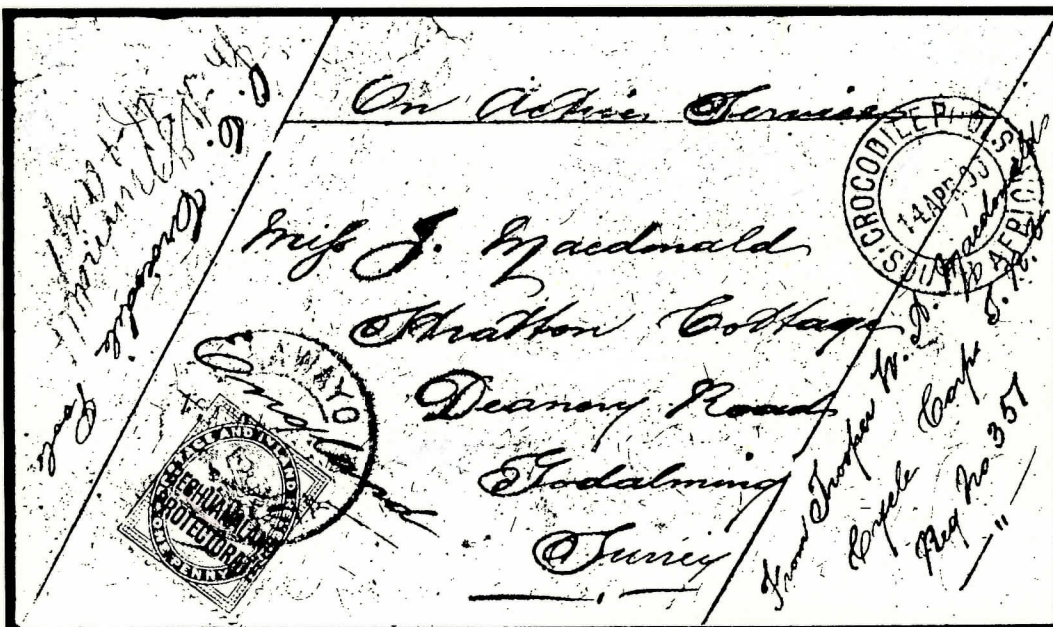
Bibliography:

Rich's 'Philately of the Anglo-Boer War'  
The Times 'History of the War in South Africa'  
H.W. Wilson 'With the Flag to Pretoria'

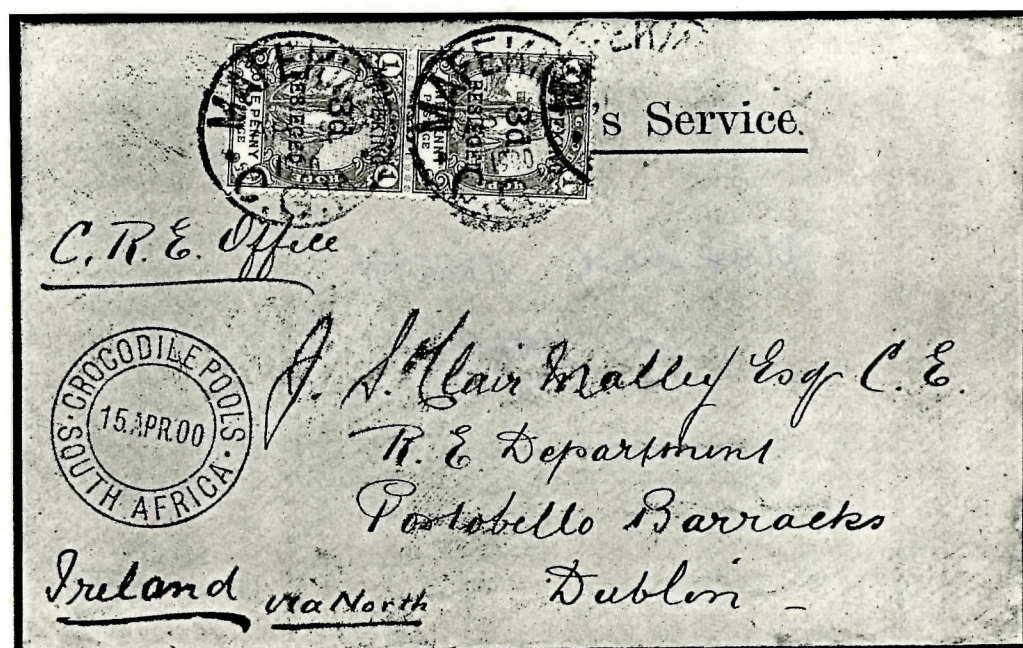
And thanks due to many people who helped with information - Brian Trotter, Alan MacGregor, J.R. Stroud, Roy Setterfield et al.

Jim Catterall

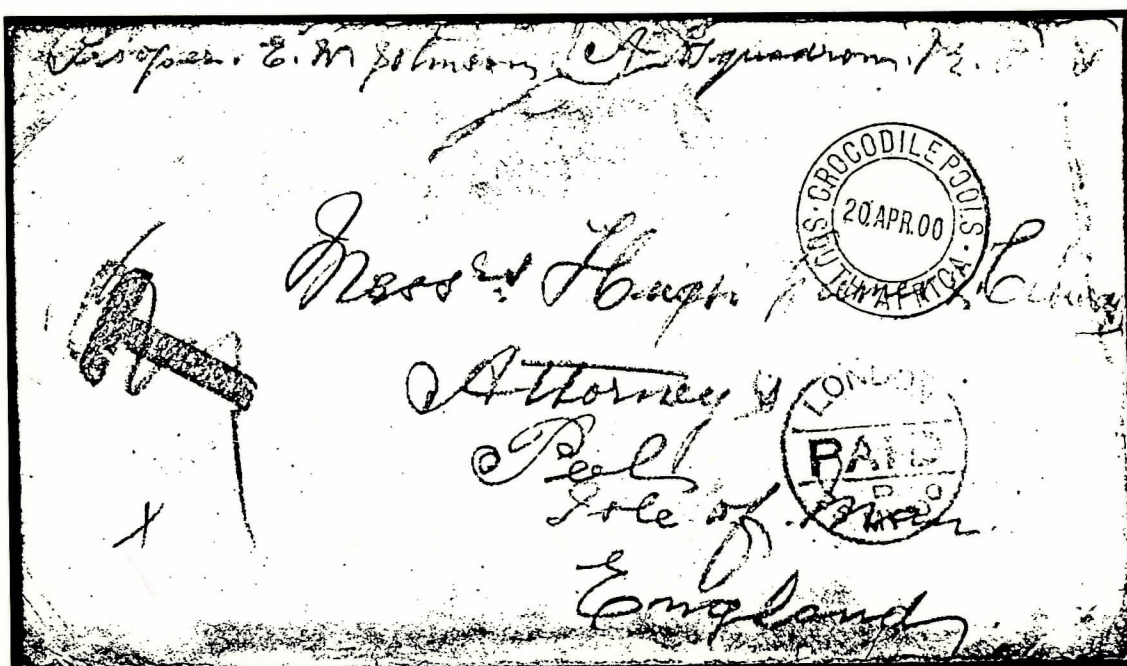




'On Active Service' 1d rate Soldiers letter to UK from CROCODILE POOLS 14 APR 00. From trooper MacDonald of 'Cycle Corps S.R.V.' (Southern Rhodesia Volunteers) The letter is countersigned by the O.C. at Crocodile Pools. (Ormskirk Stamps 4/87)



'Siege Cover' ex Mafeking (AP 9 1900), 6d stamp removed, sent via north with CROCODILE POOLS 15 APR 00 transit cds. (Ex Maxwell Joseph sale Lot 1199)



1900 Stampless envelope from a member of the R.F.V. (Rhodesian Field Volunteers) From Conway Camp Nr. Thanyes (?) Cancelled 'CROCODILE POOLS 20 APR 00' Charge 'T' erased. Conway Camp was a rest camp before the relief of Mafeking. (ex J.R. Stroud)



(1) COVERS ORIGINATING FROM CROCODILE POOLS

ORIGIN	ADHESIVE	CROC POOLS CDS	TRANSIT CDS BULAWAYO	DESTINATION	SOURCE OF INFORMATION
OOTSI No. 1 A.T.	BP 1d lilac	20 APR 00	PRESENT, date not visible	LONDON	CRL 15/7/86
OOTSI	BP 1 x 4d 2 x 2d	20 APR 00	23 APR	ENGLAND	Holmes 29/10/81
OOTSI No. 1 A.T.	NIL (STAMPLESS)	16 APR 00	23 APR	ENGLAND	CRL 24/3/87
ARMoured TRAIN	2 x ½d (SG 59)	16 APR 00	23 APR	ENGLAND	Gibbons 8/9/76 (via BJT)
CROC POOLS	BP 1 x 1d	4 MAY 00	NOT KNOWN	AUSTRALIA	Ashworth coll.
MOCHUDI	MASHONALAND 1d PS CARD + BSA CO 1d	30 DEC 99	11 JAN	ENGLAND VIA IRELAND	Ormskirk Stamps 4/87
CROC POOLS	BP 1d lilac	14 APR 00	PRESENT, date not visible	ENGLAND	Ormskirk Stamps 4/87
CROC POOLS	BP 1d lilac	Not decipher- able, maybe Bulawayo. Date unknown		ENGLAND	Ashworth coll.
CONWAY CAMP	STAMPLESS	20 APR 00	Not on front, back not seen	ENGLAND	Ex J.R. Stroud

LOOSE STAMPS ETC.

	BP 1d lilac (SG 61)	20 MAR 00			JIC
	5x1d lilac (SG 61) on piece	30 DEC 99			JIC

(2) COVERS FROM MAFEKING VIA CROCODILE POOLS

MAFEKING DATE	ADHESIVES	CROC POOLS CDS	BULAWAYO	DESTINATION	SOURCE OF INFORMATION
AP 9 1900	}	15 APR	23 APR	IRELAND	} Maxwell
AP 17 1900	}	28 APR	30 APR	ENGLAND	} Joseph
AP 19 1900	} All	28 APR	30 APR	ENGLAND	} Catalogue
AP 16 1900	} Siege	28 APR	PRESENT	LONDON	CRL 22/7/86
AP ? 1900	} Adhesives	20 APR	PRESENT	LONDON	Putzel
AP 10 1900	}	25 APR	30 APR	ENGLAND	BJT
AP 16 1900	}	28 APR	30 APR	CAPE TOWN	AMG

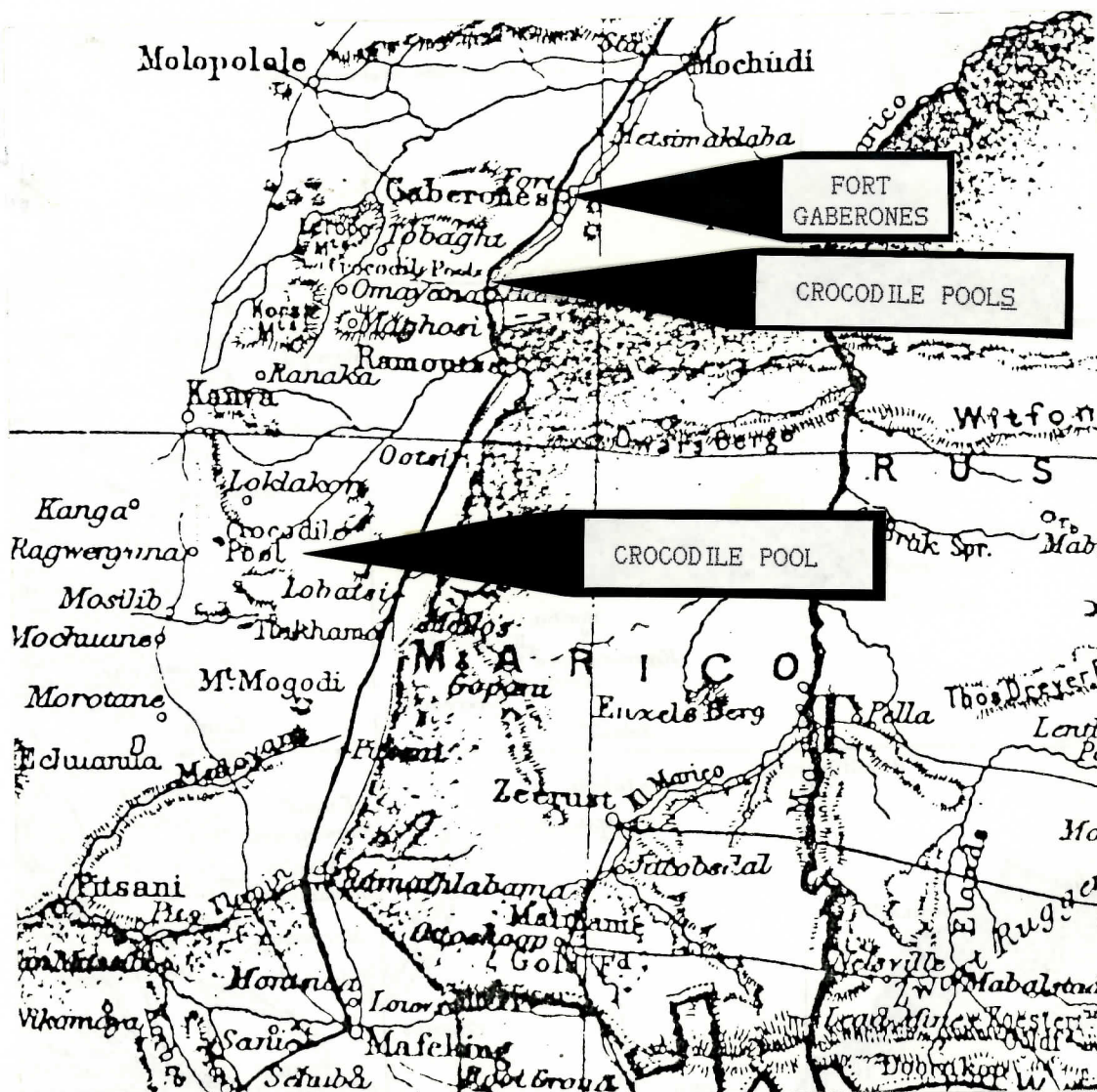


### (3) COVERS FROM MAFEKING WITHOUT CROC POOLS CDS

MAFEKING DATE	ADHESIVES	CROC POOLS CDS	BULAWAYO	DESTINATION	SOURCE OF INFORMATION
AP 23 1900	}	-	6 MEI	ENGLAND	}
MR 26 1900	} ALL	-	4 APR	ENGLAND	} Maxwell
MR 29 1900	} SIEGE	-	12 APR	BULAWAYO	} Joseph
MY 7 1900	} ADHESIVES	-	21 MEI	GRAAFF REINET	} Catalogue
AP 18 1900	}	-	26 APR	BULAWAYO	}



MAP 1



MAP 2

Since receiving this article from Jim Catterall a few further points relating to Crocodile Pools have been brought to our attention which, we feel are worth repeating here:

Crocodile Pools was the place where, in 1890, the Governor of Bechuanaland, Sir Henry (later Lord) Loch held talks with the Chiefs Sebele (Bakwena), Bathoen (Bangwaketse), Lentswe (or Lenchwe) (Bakgatla) and Ikaneng (Bamalete).

The site of Crocodile Pools is generally accepted as having been situated South of Gaborone on or near the railway line, see map (1). However, it is worth mentioning that an undated 'Phillips Library Map of British Southern Africa' of approx 1903-04 shows a 'Crocodile Pools' in the expected place - South of Fort Gaborone, but also shows a 'Crocodile Pool' to the South-East of Kanya, see map (2) for relevant portion enlarged. It has been suggested that runners leaving Mafeking via the North would have taken a more Westerly route away from the ZAR border and the Boer controlled railway, to this more Southerly collection point.

A further point on this subject is found in the Rhodesian Study Circle Journal of 1984 (Issue 126) where Bob Holdeman in an article on 'The British South Africa Police - Anglo-Boer War' refers to a "Letter from Trooper Ingpen, BSAP at Kanya, near Crocodile Pools where Plumer had established a hospital and depot". Can anyone confirm that the former site was the one where the cancelling of mail was carried out?

Members may be interested to know that three of our Botswana members - Alec Campbell, 'Andy' Andersson and David Finlay, have property on or adjoining the original site of Crocodile Pools, to the south of Gaborone.

(RS/AMG)



# THE RUNNER POST - Index to Volume One

Auction Sales	47	Meetings, Inaugural	10
Balloon Covers	81	AGM	63
Barkaway, Charles	79	Johannesburg	67
Sale,	26, 47	Mier	05
B in Barred Oval	13, 29, 69	Military Telegraphs	82
Bechuanaland Cancel on BSACo Falls	78, 81	Native Mail	40
Bisects 1960-61	96	Ngamiland	22
Botswana News	70	One Half Penny Forgeries (SG 29)	91
C - Dot in,	03	Overprint Forgeries	18, 44, 50
Cancels	28	Philatelists' Psalm	21
Charles Hill	14	Postal Stationery	98
Coach Travel 1890's	89	Postal Markings, Typology	14, 35
Crash Cover	01	Postal Markings, Francistown	53, 72
Crocodile Pools	48, 49	Provisionals, 1891 & 1893-95	74
Declaration of Protectorate	85	Protectorate, Declaration of	85
Dot in C,	03	Railway, Letter Post	30
Elusive 9 - missing year digit	03	Relief Cancels	26, 28
Fiscals	39, 45	Representative, RSA (H. Campbell)	27
Forgeries, Overprint	18, 44, 50,	Revenues	72, 73, 78
Francistown, High Values used at	53, 59	Sandpits	29
Postmarks	72	Shoshong Road	04, 06
History & Postmarks	54	Stationery, Postal	98
Gold Bars	08, 15, 16	Stellaland	47
Groot Chwaing	49	Tati Company	84
Gubulawayo AU 21/88	01, 47	Tati District	47, 82, 94
Holmes, H.R.,	01, 17, 68	Typology	35
Johannesburg 100	67	Unappropriated Die 8d	13
Kasane	46	<u>Contributors of Articles</u>	
K, Edward VII 2½d 'Stop'	45	Catterall, J.,	13
Lugard	22	Hagen, H.,	30
Lyons Post	01, 06	Campbell, A.,	85
Macloutsis	07	Holmes, H.R.,	48, 82
Macloutsis Station	81	Inglefield-Watson	50, 74, 94, 96
Magalapye	14, 24, 41	KOI	93, 94
		Trotter, B.J.,	14, 35, 53

The Runner Post has developed somewhat haphazardly from a two-page News-sheet to a regular 20 page issue, so we must bring it up to the standard set (and expected) by our contributors. The first step was to correct the pagination as was done with Runner Post No. 10, starting at page 101, conveniently leaving 100 pages for Volume I. This will consist of the issues of Newsletter and Runner Post from the first, to the Summer 1987 issue, Runner Post VI. For the benefit of those who may in future years consult this index, it is necessary to add this Conversion Table for convenience in reference,

<u>Newsletter No.</u>	<u>Runner Post No.</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>New numbering</u>
1.	-	2	1 - 2
2.	-	3	3 - 5
3.	-	4	6 - 9
4.	(I)	7	10 - 16
(5)	II	9	17 - 25
(6)	III	17	26 - 42
(7)	IV	19	43 - 61
(8)	V	17	62 - 78
(9)	VI	22	79 - 100A

# PRICES REALISED IN AUCTION 2/87

<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	66	19	n/s	37	4.50	55	11
2	n/s	20	22	38	10	56	2.50
3	15	21	45	39	10	57	11
4	11	22	n/s	40	n/s	58	3.50
5	6	23	22	41	n/s	59	10
6	2	24	6	42	n/s	60	3
7	1	25	19	43	1	61	3
8	2.50	26	16	44	1	62	7
9	4	27	16	45	1.50	63	8
10	3.50	28	33	46	2.50	64	5
11	3	29	6	47	47	65	9
12	6	30	n/s	48	2	66	n/s
13	6	31	n/s	49	9	67	30
14	8	32	4	50	6	68	7
15	12	33	4	51	10	69	8
16	2.50	34	n/s	52	10	70	8
17	2.50	35	n/s	53	6	71	7
18	7	36	6	54	10		

Another very satisfactory result with only eleven out of the seventy one lots unsold. Twenty one members joined in the bidding and only two (who both went for only one lot each) were completely unsuccessful.

Bidding was strong on the 'non-catalogue' items, the specimen overprints, postmarks and Tati Company cheques though the top prices were paid for the Holmes 'Bechuana-lands' and for the overprinted Cape revenues. Most of the postal stationery also did well though there was little interest in the more modern varieties on stamps

I hope both buyers and sellers are pleased with the results and with the rules which were circulated in the last 'Runner Post'. If anyone has any comments or grouses, no doubt they'll let me know! As for the next auction, if you let me or the Secretary have the material (with description and reserve, don't forget) then I'll put the list together as soon as I have enough lots.

Tony Chilton