

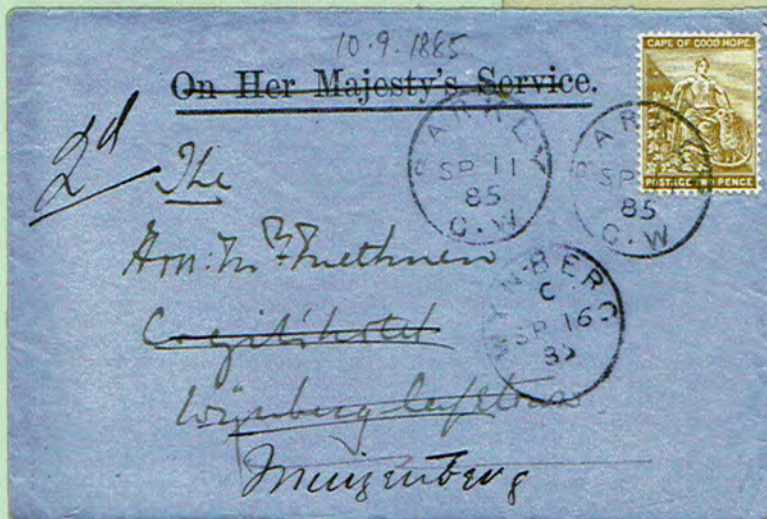
THE RUNNER POST

The Bechuanalands & Botswana Society



WIRSIING BROS., GENERAL MERCHANTS, MARIBOGO B. BECHUANALAND.

PROPRIETORS N. E. LINE ROYAL MAIL COACHES, VRYBURG TO MACLOUTSIE.



- Bechuanaland SG 29a used
- Botswana 1c SG 220a
- 1888 New Postal Agencies
- 1934 Royal Tour
- KEVII Overprints
- Botswana New Issues
- 2018 Society Accounts
- Bechuanaland at Auction
- 1879 - 81 Old Bulawayo
- Gubulawayo
- H.R. Holmes Collection
- Botswana Postmarks



David Feldman
INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS

Supporter of The Runner Post & Southern Africa Philately



No 100

www.bechuanalandphilately.com

February 2019

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The Society thanks Graham Edwards (Graphic Designer) for the front cover design

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A copy of
*Southern Africa
Philately*
accompanies each
Edition of
The Runner Post

Editorial

Looking back - 1984 onward

(See *The Runner Post* No 95)

In Spring 1984 the first Society *Newsletter* reared its head and its fourth edition (Autumn 1985) was dubbed *The Runner Post* No 1. All was well and good up to 1997 (No 48) and then the society went through its first 'wobble'...erratic publishing dates of the journal followed by a 'return' to *Newsletters* (No's 4 to 12) issued from 1999 to 2003.

After six years of instability journal No 58, in January 2004, signalled a return to 'normal' which lasted until 2012 when another 'wobble' surfaced...not quite the same as the last one...but instability, confusion and complacency played its roll until 2015.

Radical changes became necessary, some objected, others 'spat their dummy out' and a few resigned...however the Society survived and membership participation, in terms of contributions to the journal, has more or less evaporated.

It might be regarded as 'good news' that other philatelic societies are perhaps worse off than our humble group.

The end of 2018 signalled 97 journals and 12 Newsletters in 35 years. As I pointed out in Issue No 99 the 100th is in fact journal number 98 as two versions 'pretended' to be double issues! (No's 49/50 & 64/65).

Our Usual Philatelic Forum

Includes updates such as Botswana 1 cent Watermark Variety, another used copy is illustrated on the next page.

Brian Fenemore sent in two interesting snippets from 1888 and a short piece on the 1934 Royal Tour completes the page.

Other Articles

A search through my literature brought a 1912 view of the KEVII overprints to my attention and I added relevant information to the foregoing.

The usual Botswana Stamp Issues update is followed by the 2018 Society accounts.

David Feldman (Switzerland)

An advertisement in our last journal announced the 'Koi' collection to be sold on 4 December 2018. Their catalogue dropped through my letter box in November with 148 lots of Bechuanaland on offer.

A review is included in this journal plus the prices realized.

Bechuanaland Postal Auction

This is another society activity that has been on the 'Back-burner' for almost a decade...it is the usual problem...no one wants to do it! Perhaps understandable, a 132 lot sale has taken 7 days to do and an internet version required a further 4 days...however should it prove worthwhile...I might do more of them.

Gubulawayo/Bulawayo

Although it lies across the border, the early history and mail services are very much intertwined with Bechuanaland.

The Boer Republics influenced a 'British Corridor' from the Cape Colony, via Bechuanaland into Matabeleland. Although Rhodesia introduced their own stamps on 2 January 1892, they were initially only valid within the country. Thus Bechuanaland stamps, in combination with Rhodesia continued - See Feldman lot 30484.

Lobengula's reign came to an end in early November 1893. On 15 May 1894 the Rhodesian Postal Administration took over Gubulawayo and renamed it Bulawayo.

This journal was to be 16 pages, but I ended with 17 and needed to fill three more pages.

I decided that a review of the 1981 Harmers 'Holmes' sale might bring back memories for some of our members. Secondly, this sale has not received 'Press' in *The Runner Post* and ought to fill a small 'Historical Gap'.

The second column on page 2439 has been filled with a bit of 'This and That'.

John Horner, Pinelands, South Africa
I noticed an obituary for John in *The South African Philatelist* (Oct). Alan MacGregor also mentioned it in an email. Thus our South Africa group is down to 14 members.

Bechuanaland Philatelic Forum

BECHUANALAND 1888 SG 29a Used

During the latter part of last year I received an email from George James at Stanley Gibbons who directed my attention to their website re the above variety...described as...1888 (7 Dec) 'One Half-Penny' on 3d pale reddish lilac and black, from R5/11 of the setting showing the celebrated variety Broken 'f' in 'Half', very lightly cancelled by large part VRYBURG cds.

Barest trace of perf toning (mentioned for accuracy) and a tiny puncture caused by the hyphen of the surcharge, still fine fresh appearance. Just twelve panes were surcharged, with this being the ONLY KNOWN USED EXAMPLE, and one of just five examples recorded in private hands (plus another in the Royal Collection). A great rarity. BPA certificate (2017). Catalogued £17,000 unused.



Sam Edwards of Tati - Memorial Plaque

In an article in *The Runner Post* No 96, Sam Edwards obituary suggests he was born on 27 November 1827. During my research I became aware of a Commemorative plaque in St Guthlac Church in Passenham village - C11 a tablet on the south wall in front of the pews. The text on the internet that suggests his birth date is 17 November.

Sam Edwards continued

I made contact with the local Vicar and asked if he could verify the date on the plaque, he said he would, but heard nothing more. During November 2018, out of the blue, Andrew Metcalfe sent me an email wishing to locate a copy of our article and for good measure sent me a photograph of the Sam Edwards memorial. This seems to confirm that Sam was born on 17 November 1827 and not on the 27th as previously stated.



Botswana 1 cent
Watermark Variety
(SG 220a)

Clive Carr sent in his illustration of a 1c used with a Maltese Cross Watermark. See previous issue.



Postmarks in Feldman's Bechuanaland 'Koi' Collection

In *The Runner Post* No 96 on page 2381 John Coates sent in a scan of a second example of the MOSITA postmark dated NO 75 5 (1895) on SG39. It features in lot 30486 in the Feldman auction on 4 December 2018 being the 'Koi' Collection (Ex Coates?)



Tati 'Excised' OC 5 97 on BSAC 1d Large Arms

This item is included in Feldman lot 30492 and I have not previously recorded this example See *The Runner Post* No 90, page 2270. Year '9' above & '7' below 'OC 5'.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN MEMORY OF
MAJOR SAMUEL HOWARD EDWARDS,
SOUTH AFRICAN PIONEER EXPLORER AND SOLDIER,
A FREQUENT WORSHIPPER IN THIS CHURCH.
BORN 17TH NOVEMBER 1827. DIED 21ST JUNE 1922
AT PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA.

This Tablet, a tribute to a beloved brother and much valued friend, is placed here by Janie Edwards his sister, and Annie Capell and her children formerly of Passenham Rectory.

The Eternal God was his refuge.

Bechuanaland Philatelic Forum

Brian Fenemore sent scans of a few notes from the archives in Cape Town which are reproduced below:-

General Post Office, Vryburg, 1 August 1888 - From Ernest Baxter, Acting PMG to the Acting Secretary, Vryburg
Sir, I have the honour to enclose herewith copy of letter from the Post Contractor for Conveyance of Mails between Kimberley & Mafeking giving 4 months notice that he will discontinue to convey mails from 30th November next, and one week's notice of reversion to terms of contract to convey mails once a week each way instead of thrice as subsequently agreed. I should be glad if you would kindly wire the contents of this communication to His Honour the Administrator and ask him for instructions for calling for tenders for conveyance of mails from 1st December.

It appears probable that Geeringh is afraid of the next horse sickness season.

Respecting the second portion of the letter Geeringh will now be limited to 60 hours between the terminal stations & I would suggest that he be directed to leave Kimberley on Sunday morning and arrive Mafeking Tuesday evening, returning from Mafeking Friday morning to arrive at Kimberley Sunday night.
Signed Ernest Baxter

1888 Two New Postal Agencies

General Post Office Vryburg 19 June 1888 to Sidney Shippard
Sir, I have the honour to recommend the establishment of Postal Agencies at 'Mooifontein' on the Kuruman route and at 'Vygeboomsvalkte' in the line from here to Taung's, with Messrs. Hendrik Van Rooyen and Johan Adam Raubenheimer as Postal Agents respectively - such appointments to date from today, without any fixed allowance except the usual percentage (2½% on all Postage Stamps sold).

I have the honour to be... Signed PMG

From the Civil Commissioner, a Reply to the above dated 19.6.88. Headed 'Postal Agencies at Mooifontein and Vygeboomsvalkte to The PMG, Vryburg...H.H. approves of the establishment of these agencies on the terms specified in your letter of 19th Instant... Signed Herbert Greener, Acting Secretary...received 21.6.88

Neither of these two agencies feature in the 2005 Cumulative Index for *The Runner Post*

Note - Vygeboomsvalkte is not listed by Holmes in his 1971 publication and suggests it had a limited period of opening. Proud (1996) omits British Bechuanaland.

Mooifontein Postal Agency

Holmes (1971) notes...*The Cape Town Post Office Guide for October 1888 gives a postal agency as existing here at that date, but in the issue for September 1889 it is omitted. It is shown on the Cape Postal Route Map of February 1889...*

The 1934 Royal Tour - 5 February to 10 April

Prince George, the Duke of Kent, arrived on board the Carnarvon Castle in Cape Town on 5 February 1934. His journey onboard a special train left Cape Town on 13 February. The train was in Bechuanaland on 20 March and reached Bulawayo the following day.

Included under 'Miscellaneous' in the 1934 *Annual Colonial Report* that reads...An outstanding event during the year was the visit to the territory of His Royal Highness Prince George, fourth son of His Majesty the King, and who has since been created Duke of Kent by His Majesty.

The visit was extremely short, but an opportunity as afforded at Gaborones for His Royal Highness to meet and have presented to him both European residents and Native Chiefs of the Protectorate, after which an excellent programme of native sports was arranged, which included drill displays by troops of Pathfinders and Wayfarers, and the dance of the Bakgatla Regiment. An extremely pleasant and enjoyable day was spent as a result of the efforts of all concerned, and His Royal Highness expressed his regret that he was unable to stay longer...

An oval datestamp inscribed ROYAL TOUR H.R.H. PRINCE GEORGE - KONINKLIKE TOER S.K.H. PRINS GEORGE - SUID AFRIKA - SOUTH AFRICA plus a boxed registration handstamp ROYAL TOUR - KONINKLIKE TOER was in use throughout the tour.



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KEVII Stamps Overprinted Bechuanaland

Collated by Otto Peetoom

Introduction

A booklet entitled 'Edwardian Stamps of the British Empire', (1912) by D.B. Armstrong Part I was published by Bright & Son, 164 Strand in London. The Bechuanaland section is based on an article by the same author that appeared in the 9 October 1909 edition of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*.

The above makes interesting reading and is worth repeating.

H.R. Holmes in his 1971 book¹ quotes Armstrong in his bibliography but does not add a great deal to the story.

Holmes is more specific about the overprint trials, Controls plus a minor overprint variety on the 1d value.²

Chapter V - Bechuanaland Protectorate

A curious fact in connection with the postal issues of this Protectorate is that throughout the twenty odd years of its existence as a separate stamp-issuing country it has never been furnished with a permanent distinctive stamp design of its own, but has contented itself with the stamps of some other country, chiefly those of Great Britain, overprinted for local use with the title of the Protectorate.

No satisfactory explanation of this anomaly has yet been forthcoming, although it has been suggested that it is out of deference to King Khama, the local potentate, who, in the event of the issue of a permanent series might consider that his own portrait should find place thereon. A more likely explanation is that owing to the limited resources at the disposal of the local administration the authorities are unwilling to incur the expense attendant upon the manufacture of special plates from which to print the stamps required to meet the somewhat limited postal demands of the Protectorate.

Three low values only of the contemporary King's Head series of Great Britain were overprinted for use in this Protectorate, and for the remaining denominations up to and including 5s stamps of the previous issues bearing a portrait of Queen Victoria are still current. The first of the Edwardian stamps to be placed on sale was the 2½d on 29 November 1904, the 1d followed early in 1905, and the ½d last of all, in the year following.

With the appearance of these stamps a new form of overprint was adopted, consisting of the official designation of the Protectorate in two lines of small sans-serif capitals, applied vertically in order not to impinge upon the King's head, reading up on the left and down on the right-hand side of the stamp.

Illustrated 'Stop after P' on 2½d.

Note - The 'Stop variety in used condition is regarded as a Bechuanaland rarity as only five examples are recorded.³



The only known variety occurring in this issue is found in the ninth stamp in the fifth row of the bottom pane of all sheets of the first printing of the 2½d, value only.

2½d Variety continued - It comprises a small dot, resembling a full stop, which shows between the letters P and R in 'Protectorate.' This is constant in its position and is probably caused by a piece of metal projecting from the electrotype plate used for overprinting the stamps or by the presence of some foreign matter on the surface of the plate.



1d Scarlet
April 1905



½d Blue-green
March 1906



½d Yellow-green
November 1908

In connection with the issue of the halfpenny value with the King's Head it is said that in the first instance only 50 sheets in all, amounting to £25 face value, were put on sale, merely in order to familiarize the natives with the new stamp, as there were still large quantities of this value on hand with the portrait of Queen Victoria; and that after this first printing had been exhausted no further supplies were overprinted until the entire stock of Queen's Head stamps of the same denomination had been used up. When first issued this stamp was of the old *blue-green* shade, showing it to have been overprinted previous to November, 1904. In 1908, however, it appeared in yellow-green, and all subsequent printings have been in that shade.

Revenues

High value stamps for Revenue purposes having been provided for use in the Bechuanaland Protectorate by overprinting certain of the handsome contemporary Revenue stamps of the Transvaal; these began to appear about the end of 1905 and beginning of 1906, with postal cancellations, and were for a time regarded as legitimate Postal Fiscals. On inquiry being



made of the Protectorate postal authorities, however, it was definitely stated that the stamps were never authorised, and could not be legally employed for postal purposes, and that such copies as had passed through the post had done so by oversight, or by favour of some Post Office clerk.

Illustrated - KEVII 2/6 Revenue cancelled MOCHUDI 5 JY 05.

1910 KEVII Postal Fiscal - See *The Runner Post* No 91

Of a more legitimate character is the 6d stamp of the Transvaal (Postage and Revenue series, 1912), overprinted 'Bechuanaland Protectorate' ostensibly for fiscal use, but used postally at Francistown, Lobatsi, Gaberones and Mochudi, Bechuanaland, in July, 1910, the history of which is as follows:-

A supply of 6d stamps was obtained from the Transvaal

Treasury by the Government of Bechuanaland in January 1907, amounting to 1,500 copies in all, which were overprinted by the Transvaal Government Printing Establishment at Pretoria in blocks of 30 and forwarded to the Resident Commissioner at Mafeking.



KEVII Stamps Overprinted Bechuanaland

1910 KEVII Postal Fiscal continued

The Resident Commissioner subsequently distributed the stamps to Assistant Commissioners in various parts of the Protectorate in filling requisitions for stamps of this value for use in affixing to documents, etc.

Note - Armstrong in his 1909 GSW article suggested the Postal Fiscal appeared...towards the end of 1905 during 1906 copies of these stamps with postal cancellations were frequently reported... Yet the earliest 'Postal' date is July 1910!⁴

Holmes in his book¹ appears to follow Armstrong suggestion and notes....Towards the end of 1906...

I believe it is fair to say that the actual date when this Postal Fiscal became available has not been established with certainty.

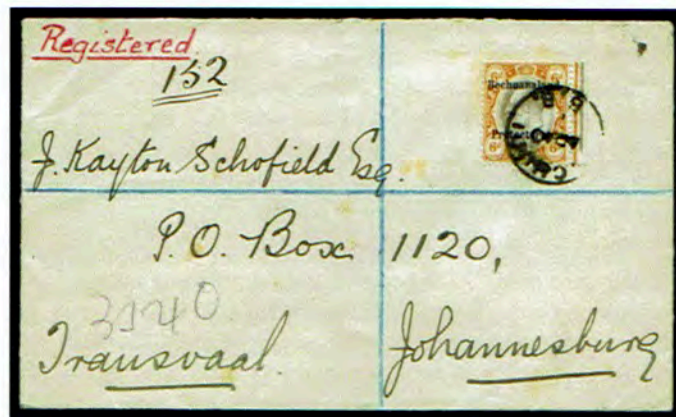
Constant Overprint Varieties

First stamp, raised 'B' in Bechuanaland and 5th stamp, raised 'a' (first 'a' in Bechuanaland)



Feldman in their 4 December 2018 sale offer both such examples in Lot 30460. They also offer the stamp on a registered envelope in lot 30461. This is considered as 'late use' (ex Holmes) see *The Runner Post* No 91, page 2284.

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Registered MOCHUDI AP 10 - Kimberley 15 AP 11 Transit



Notes¹ *The Postage Stamps, Postal Stationery and Postmarks of the Bechuanalands* (1971) by H.R. Holmes

² Last letter 'E' in PROTECTORATE appears as 'F'

³ See *The Runner Post* No 92, page 2309

⁴ See *The Runner Post* No 91

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Recent and Forthcoming Botswana Issues



Incorrect Stanley Gibbons Numbering

A comment on the above appeared in our last issue (page 2420) Subsequently I sent an email to Hugh Jefferies, the catalogue editor, making him aware of this minor mistake.

Back on track

The 'Catalogue Supplement' in the December 2018 GSM correctly lists the 1 July 2018 commemorative issue 'First Death Anniversary of Sir Ketumile Masire' as SG 1312 - 14.

Botswana Post GSM Advert (December 2018)

Date of Issue 22 November 2018 - MS with additional info on the back.

A ¼ page advert by the Philatelic Bureau caught my eye being a forthcoming miniature sheet 'The Big Five in Botswana' with five designs of stamps from previous Wildlife issues with minor differences and values. To appreciate this, see illustrations on this and the following page. Note on the publicity brochure the Lions (P7) and Rhino (P5) are placed the other way around e.g. Lions at right and Rhino at left.



Bechuanalands & Botswana Society - 2018 Financial Reconciliation

By Otto Peetoom

2018 BBS Accounts

2017 End of Year	4513.15
2018 Subscriptions in advance	22.00
2018 Opening balance	4535.15

Date	Description		Sub T	In	Out	Balance
January	Subs by DD (4)	$\pounds 15 \times 3 + \pounds 23 \times 1 =$	68.00			
January	Subs banked (42)	$23^1 \times \pounds 15 = \pounds 345, 4 \times \pounds 20 = \pounds 80, 15 \times \pounds 23 = \pounds 345$	770.00			
February	Subs banked (15)	$4 \times \pounds 15 = \pounds 60, 11 \times \pounds 23 = \pounds 253$	313.00			
April	Subs banked (6)	$2 \times \pounds 15 = \pounds 30, 1 \times \pounds 20 = \pounds 20, 3 \times \pounds 23 = \pounds 69$	119.00	1270.00		5805.15
	Journal Advertising	MacGregor $\pounds 150 +$ Bodily $\pounds 60 =$	210.00			
		Feldman $\pounds 30 +$ Briscoe $\pounds 20 +$ Botswana Post $\pounds 20 =$	70.00	280.00		6085.15
	Interest			16.80		6101.95
January	Page Sponsor SA Philately				20.00	6081.95
January	<i>The Runner Post</i> No 97	$\pounds 104.60 + 100$ (Postage)			204.60	5877.35
February	Stampex	<i>The Runner Post</i> $\pounds 25 + \pounds 3$ (return postage)			28.00	5849.35
April	Website				300.00	5549.35
April	Annual Administration				100.00	5449.35
April	SA Philately	$34 \times \pounds 12 = \pounds 408, 37 \times \pounds 18 = \pounds 666$			1074.00	4375.35
May	<i>The Runner Post</i> No 98	$\pounds 85 + 100$ (postage)			185.00	4190.35
September	<i>The Runner Post</i> No 99	$\pounds 104.60 + 100$ (Postage)			204.60	3985.75
		¹ One subscription in advance			15.00	
						2018 Actual End of year Balance
						£3970.75

2018 Summary	
Opened	4535.15
Income	1566.80
Disposable Income	6101.95
Outgoings	2116.20
Closed	3985.75
Nett loss for year	(549.40)

The 2014 EOY balance was £4778 and the 2015 arrears campaign increased that figure to £5185 thus over the past three years the bank balance has been reduced by £1199 or an average of £400 per annum. Members ought to bear in mind that in those three years they received, in addition to *The Runner Post*, nine copies of *Southern Africa Philately* bringing the total to 18 journals in three years.

2019 Projection	
Open	3986
Advertising	240
Auction income	?
Disposable Income	4226
Outgoing	2109
Close	2117

2019 Looking Ahead

The only 'unknown' factor for the coming year is a postal auction which may bring in additional income, if by year end, we still maintain £2000 + I feel there is still 'leeway' in our financial status.

Anything as low as £10 per member will still represent a positive figure...but do not let me get ahead of myself...

As announced in the previous journal I am not asking for a subscription this year, thus the membership numbers remain stable at 71 - 1 (deceased) = 70 for 2018/19.

The breakdown being UK (34) Europe (6) Botswana (4) South Africa (14) North America (11) and Australia (1)

'The Big Five in Botswana' Set of 5 plus a MS



This set includes 2011 White Rhino (P2.60) now P5.00, 2014 Lions of Chobe (P8.00) now P7.00, 2017 Leopard (P5.90) now P8.00, 2016 Elephants (P10.00) now P9.00 and 2015 Buffalo (P4.00) image facing right instead of left now P10.00.

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Bechuanaland At Auction - A Review

David Feldman - December 2018 Auction (148 Lots)

Dubbed as the 'Koi' Collection of the Bechuanalands and begins with **Stellaland** - Estimates in £ Sterling

Lot 30357 - A Fiscal collection and includes inverted 'JPM' overprints on 1/-, 2/6, 10/- & £5 (mint) plus 1/- & £1 (used)

Lot 30358 - Collection of mint stamps plus Forgeries

Lot 30359 - 3d, 4d and 6d used

Lot 30360 - Marginal 4d Imperforate between, horizontal pair



Lot 30361 - 6d Imperforate between, horizontal pair

Warren Expedition

Lots 30362/63 - Military Telegraphs, includes £1 SPECIMEN

Lots 30364/65 - Two covers from the Methuen correspondence



For more detail on the Methuen correspondence see *Southern Africa Philately* No 4 pages 136/137

British Bechuanaland

Lots 30366/67 - 1885-87 Issue including blocks & multiples

Lots 30368/71 - 1885-87 varieties SG 1b (mint), SG 4a (mint), SG 5a 'ritish' (mint) very rare - SG 6c (used) double overprint



30370 'ritish'



30371



30384 Green Ovpt

Lot 30372 - 1885-87 2d watermark inverted SG 6w used, only known example - See *The Runner Post* No 73

Lot 30373 - 1888 ½d SG 9 Blocks and controls

1888 Unappropriated Dies

Lots 30374/75 - Specimens Plate Proofs & issued stamps

Lots 30376/81 - The stamps to £5, mint & used, specimen and overprinted 'CANCELLED'

Lot 30382 - 1888 Overprints SG 22/28 mint & used

Lot 30383 - 2d on 2d 'curved foot' SG 23b mint & used

Lot 30384 - 2d on 2d green overprint SG 23c used

Lots 30385/86 - 4d on 4d SG 25 - Small study of SG 29

COGH 1888 Overprints

Lots 30387/88 - 1888 Group of SG 30 plus double overprint SG 30c (mint)

COGH 1891 Overprints (SG 31 - 32)

Lots 30389/97 - A good coverage of mint and used, multiples and varieties including SG 31b (used) - Lot 30391 estimate 1000 - 1500. Also SG 32a & b (Lots 30392 onwards)



30388



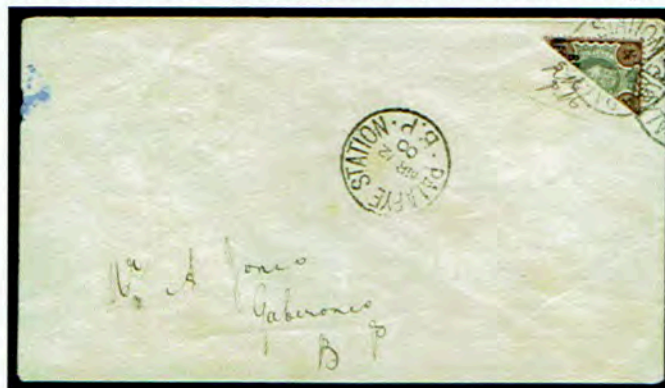
30391



30407

1891 1904 GB Queen Victoria Overprints (SG 33 - 37)

Lots 30398/30400 - Stamps, specimens, controls and multiples



Lot 30401 - 4d SG 35a bisected on cover at Palapye Station

COGH 1893 - 95 Overprints (SG 38 - 39)

Lots 30402/14 - A comprehensive range including numerous varieties SG 38b, d & e plus 39a, b, d, e & f with estimates up to £800.

Bechuanaland Protectorate

Lots 30415/17 - 1888 Protectorate overprints including a half sheet of the ½d (SG 40, 44 & 51 - 52)

Lots 30418/19 - 1888 - COGH overprint varieties SG 52a & c

Lots 30420/21 - 1889 ½d Overprint Essays for SG 53



30420 Essay



30421 Essay



30424- SG 53c

Lots 30422/25 - 1889-90 ½d vermilion fourpence & ½d SG 53, 53c, 54 & 55

Lots 30426/27 - 1897 COGH overprints SG 56 - 58 including multiples and varieties

Lots 30428/29 - 1897 - 1902 Jubilee issue ½d block of 40, specimens etc

Lots 30430/32 - KEVII A collection, specimens & 2½d 'stop' variety (69a)

KGVI - **Lots 30433/35** - A collection of Simple Cypher controls specimens and 2d Inverted watermark used (SG 76aw)



Bechuanaland At Auction - A Review

David Feldman - December 2018 Auction continued

Bechuanaland Protectorate

Lots 30436/44 - KGV Seahorses mint & used plus re-entries

Lots 30445/47 - KGV Block Cypher, a collection of controls plus inverted watermarks 1d (used) 3d (mint) SG 92w, 94w

Lots 30448/50 - KGV Pictorial definitives, specimen set plus mint & used

Lots 30451/52 - 1935 Silver Jubilee plus varieties

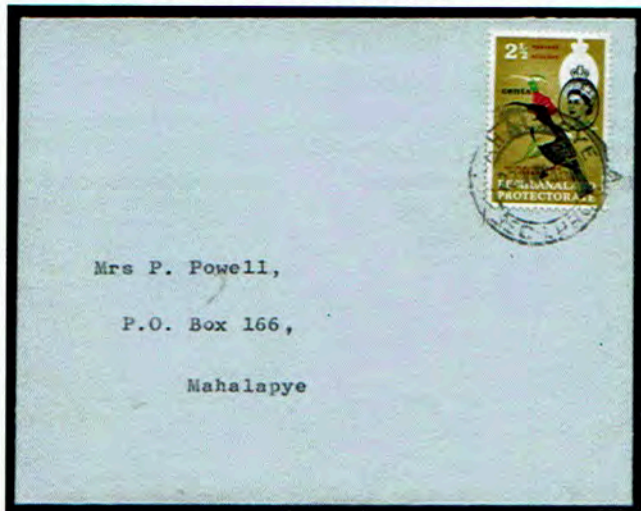
Lot 30453 - KGVI Group of 10 covers including War Fund Label



Lot 30454 - 1961 QEII Decimal surcharge 2½c on 3d, imprint block of 12, including 'spaced c' SG 160/160a

1961 Pictorial Definitives

Lot 30455 - 2½c Sunbird with dramatic shift of black on cover addressed to Mrs Powell who discovered it.



Lot 30456 - Colour shifts on 2½c Sunbird (block of 4) 5c Bee eater and R1 Lion



Ex 30456



Ex 30457

Lot 30457 - 1961 25c Imperforate progressive proofs (3 pairs)

Postage Dues

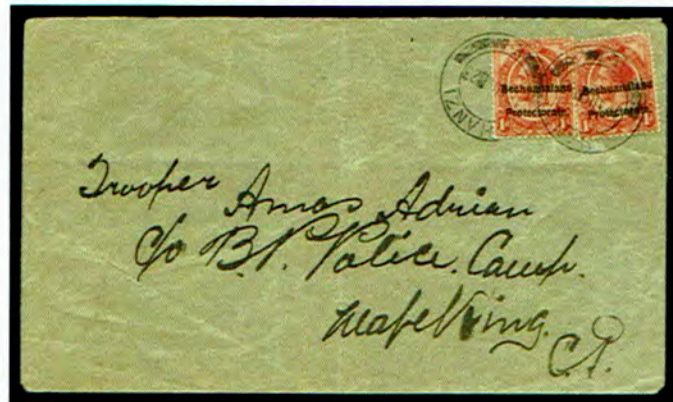
Lots 30458/59 - 1926 - 61, A collection of the various dues plus two covers with decimal postage dues

Postal Fiscals

Lot 30460 - KEVII 6d Three mint example including the two noted 'raised letter' varieties (SG F1) - See our page 2426

Lot 30461 - KEVII 6d on a registered cover ex Mochudi

Lots 30462/63 - 1921 SA King's head (SG F3) 1d block of four plus two used on cover (1923)



Lot 30464 - Tati Concessions set 1/- to £5 mint

Cancellations & Postal History

Lot 30465 - An A to Z collection (Artesia to Zanzibar) on 120 pages including covers

Lot 30466 - A collection of rare cancels (Bailey Birth to Zwart Modder) on 13 pages includes a part strike of Bloemfontein

Lot 30467 - Army Telegraphs (1900) on cover



Lots 30468/69 - CROCODILE POOLS One cover cancelled 28 APR 00 (Illustrated below) and the other ex Mafeking with Crocodile Pools transit 25 APR 00 backstamp



Bechuanaland At Auction - A Review

David Feldman - December 2018 Auction continued

Cancellations & Postal History

Lot 30470 - COGH Reply card from DEVONDALE JY 29 96



Lot 30471 - Francis town, a collection on 21 pages



Lot 30472 - A Registered parcel label from Francistown shipping Bullion to Bulawayo (1915)

Lot 30473 - Gaborones, a collection on 28 pages

Lot 30474 - GUBULAWAYO DE 24 93 Registered Postal stationery envelope - An early example sent after Lobengula abandoned Bulawayo in early November 1893 (See page 2436)

Lot 30475 - Kanye, two interesting Postcards 1900 & 1902

Lot 30476 - Kuruman, a collection on 4 pages

Lot 30477 - Keimoes, a collection on 4 pages

Lot 30478 - Lobatsi, a collection on 23 pages

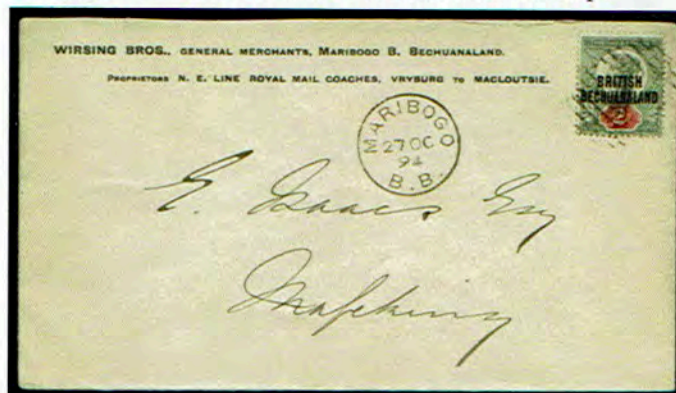
Lot 30479 - Macloutsie, a collection on 8 pages

Lot 30480 - MACLOUTSIE NO 20 99 'On Active Service' cover

Lot 30481 - Mafeking, a collection on 16 pages

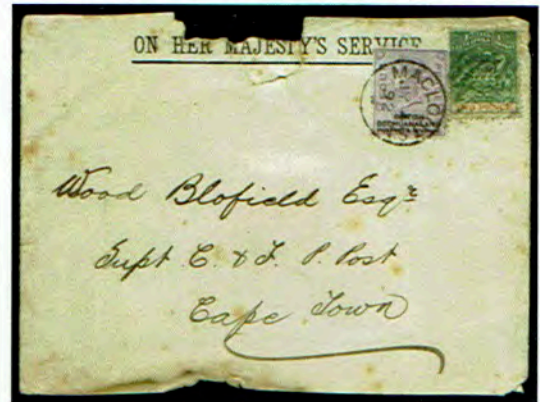
Lot 30482 - Mahalapye, a collection on 13 pages

Lot 30483 - MARIBOGO 27 OC 94 Commercial envelope



30483

Lot 30484 - BSAC - Bechuanaland combination cover



Rhodesia 2d cancelled Barred diamond H (Fort Tuli) plus Bechuanaland 4d cancelled MACLOUTSIE JY 4 92

Lot 30485 - Mochudi, a collection on 9 pages

Lot 30486 - MOSITA postmark, illustrated on our page 2423

Lot 30487 - Palachwe/Khamas Town, a collection on 7 pages

Lot 30488 - PALLA ROAD MY 23 1922 Relief cancel on registered postal stationery envelope

Lot 30489 - Setlogi, collection on 3 pages

Lot 30490 - TATI 1893 cover with BONC '679'

Lot 30491 - Taungs, collection on 5 pages

Lot 30492 - Gubulawayo, Tati, Tati (excised) used at Francistown plus FRANCISTOWN SOUTH AFRICA (115 items on album pages)

Illustrated TATI excised OC 5 97

See comment on our page 2423

Lot 30493 - Vryburg, collection on 15 pages

Lot 30494 - Incoming cover from Cape Town 'Unknown' with RETURNED LETTER OFFICE VRYBURG MR 1 93



Collections - Lot No's in brackets Lots 30495/30504

1884 - 1961 on album pages (30495), 1885 - 1907 (30496)

1887 - 1961 Revenues (30497), Postal Stationery (30498),



KGV group (30499), Specimens (30500), KGV1 group (30501) 1940-50 Labels, described as 'Vignettes' (30502), QEII group (30503) and Botswana (30504)



David Feldman 'Koi' Collection - Prices Realized

Hammer Prices excluding 22% Buyer's Premium

Lot	Estimate	Sold £	Lot	Estimate	Sold £	Lot	Subject	Estimate	Sold £
Stellaland			30407	400-500	850	30455	QEII Variety cover	100-150	150
30357	400-600	400	30408	200-300	300	30456	QEII Varieties	150-200	160
30358	300-400	320	30409	120-180	150	30457	1961 Printer's proofs	400-600	400
30359	180-240	240	30410	180-240	420	Postage Dues			
30360	200-300	280	30411	180-240	480	30458	1926-61 Collection	400-600	280
30361	200-300	200	30412	180-240	280	30459	Two covers	100-150	120
Warren Expedition			30413	300-400	300	Postal Fiscals			
30362	200-300	220	30414	150-200	240	30460	1910 6d F1	260-320	320
30363	200-300	1050	Bechuanaland Protectorate			30461	F1 on cover	300-400	380
30364	200-300	200	30415	200-300	440	30462	1921 1d F3	200-300	240
30365	70-80	220	30416	150-200	200	30463	F3 on cover	200-300	200
British Bechuanaland			30417	50-60	Unsold	Tati Concessions			
30366	300-400	300	30418	150-200	200	30464	Set 1s to £5	240-300	600
30367	400-600	480	30419	200-300	700	Postal History & Postmarks			
30368	200-300	240	30420	1000-1500	1900	30465	Artesia-Zanzibar	1000-1500	1200
30369	800-1000	800	30421	600-800	900	30466	Bailey B-Zwart Modder	600-800	950
30370	1500-2000	1700	30422	70-100	85	Boer War			
30371	800-1200	800	30423	600-800	950	30467	Army Telegraphs	1000-1500	1200
30372	100-150	320	30424	1000-1500	1700	30468	Crocodile Pools	300-400	Unsold
30373	70-100	140	30425	150-200	150	30469	Crocodile Pools	600-800	600
1888 Unappropriated Dies			30426	120-180	Unsold	Cancels & Covers by Place Name			
30374	300-400	400	30427	300-400	300	30470	Devondale Postcard	900-1100	Unsold
30375	300-400	400	30428	70-100	320	30471	Francistown Coll	200-300	215
30376	300-400	Unsold	30429	50-70	50	30472	Francistown Label	300-400	Unsold
30377	300-400	Unsold	KEVII			30473	Gaberones Coll	150-200	150
30378	600-800	640	30430	300-500	550	30474	Gubulawayo Cover	200-300	1100
30379	300-400	340	30431	150-200	200	30475	Kanye Postcards	100-150	Unsold
30380	1500-2000	Unsold	30432	300-400	460	30476	Kuruman Coll	300-400	Unsold
30381	600-800	Unsold	KGV Wmk Simple Cypher			30477	Keimoes Coll	200-300	200
30382	240-300	220	30433	700-1000	850	30478	Lobatsi Coll	200-300	320
30383	100-150	100	30434	600-800	600	30479	Macloutsie Coll	200-300	Unsold
30384	1500-2000	1500	30435	100-150	170	30480	Macloutsie Cover	300-400	Unsold
30385	60-80	Unsold	KGV Seahorses			30481	Mafeking Coll	200-300	200
30386	1000-1500	800	30436	300-500	300	30482	Mahalapye Coll	150-200	320
COGH Overprints			30437	200-300	Unsold	30483	Maribogo Cover	140-200	160
30387	200-300	200	30438	80-100	110	30484	Combination Cover	1000-1500	1000
30388	300-400	550	30439	120-160	160	30485	Mochudi Coll	150-200	340
30389	300-500	300	30440	90-120	Unsold	30486	Mosita Postmark	200-300	280
30390	200-300	340	30441	300-400	400	30487	Palachwe/Khamas	200-300	260
30391	1000-1500	1900	30442	150-200	Unsold	30488	Palla Road Cover	120-180	280
30392	200-300	380	30443	100-150	80	30489	Setalogli Coll	100-150	100
30393	200-300	220	30444	600-800	Unsold	30490	Tati cover	400-500	380
30394	140-160	Unsold	KGV Wmk Block Cypher			30491	Taungs Coll	100-150	100
30395	150-200	240	30445	700-1000	800	30492	Trans Protectorate	400-600	460
30396	120-180	Unsold	30446	100-150	190	30493	Vryburg Coll	400-600	600
30397	80-100	110	30447	50-60	50	30494	Vryburg RLO cover	300-500	Unsold
GB Queen Victoria Overprints			KGV Pictorial Definitives			Collections			
30398	300-500	550	30448	100-150	340	30495	1884-1961 stamps etc	900-1200	950
30399	300-400	320	30449	300-400	320	30496	1885-1907 stamps	150-300	100
30400	300-400	400	30450	100-150	100	30497	1887-1961 Revenues	400-600	750
30401	500-700	700	1935 Silver Jubilee			30498	Postal Stationery	200-300	180
COGH 1893 - 95 Overprints			30451	200-300	150	30499	1912-27 KGV	300-350	250
30402	80-100	100	30452	240-300	200	30500	Specimens	200-300	260
30403	600-800	600	KGVI Covers			30501	KGVI collection	150-200	150
30404	200-300	300	30453	150-200	160	30502	1940-50 Labels	50-70	50
30405	400-600	400	1961 QEII			30503	1953-1966 QEII	400-600	460
30406	600-800	650	30454	200-300	180	30504	Botswana	300-400	Unsold

David Feldman's 'Great Britain & British Empire' Auction on 4 December 2018 included 148 Lots of Bechuanaland and a three page 'Pre-Sale' review is included in this journal. On the day I followed the sale on the internet and noted the 'hammer' prices, all subject to 22% Buyer's premium. 22 lots are unsold and 11 sold below their lowest estimate. 31 lots sold at their lower end, 31 in between the two estimates.

16 lots sold at the top end and 37 exceeded expectations. Lot 30363, Military Telegraphs (£200-300) sold for £1050 and a 'Methuen' cover, lot 30365, made £220 (£70-100). Lot 30419, SG 52c, sold for £700 (£200-300) Lot 30428 ½d SG 59 in a block of 40, made £320, estimate £70-100. The Postmark collections and covers sold quite well and those making above their top estimates are lots 30466, 478, 482, 485 & 488

Lot 30474, a Gubulawayo cover, dated 24 DEC 1893, estimate £200-300 made £1100. Obviously the buyer appreciates the significance of the date...I was the under bidder! Lot 30464, a set of Tati revenues made double estimate, selling for £600. A collection of Revenues, lot 30497, sold for £750 (£400-600). All prices quoted are on the hammer and exclude the 22% premium.

1879 - 1881 Appreciating 'Old Bulawayo'

Collated by Otto Pectoom

Introduction

An insight into life in Rhodesia with Lobengula is taken from the *Diaries of the Jesuit Missionaries at Bulawayo 1879 - 1881* Published in the fourth edition of *Rhodesiana* in 1959.

The Journey from Belgium to Matabeleland

In 1875 the need to send Jesuit Missionaries to Central Africa had been agreed in principle.

At the end of December 1878 Father Depelchin, along with three other Belgians left Brussels for London. There they obtained tins, cooking utensils, scientific instruments etc. They sailed for South Africa on the 2 January 1879 and reached Grahamstown on the 13 March. They were joined by the rest of the members of the expedition which included three Germans, two Italians and two Englishmen.

North through Bechuanaland to Matabeleland

After weeks of preparations, they set off from Grahamstown for the north with four oxwaggon on 16 April 1879 and reached Kimberley on 12 May and crossed the Limpopo by 17 July. Shoshong, the residence of King Khama, on 23 July and finally Tati on 17 August 1879.

After a temporary halt at Tati and before the start of the rainy season Father Depelchin with Father Law and Brother Sadeleer pushed on to Gubulawayo so that they might meet Lobengula.

On **23 August 1879** the missionaries reached Ramaquabane, on the Bechuanaland Rhodesia border. Two days later the party

stopped on the banks of the Kwesi river and Depelchin wrote...*It is usually that travellers stay in quarantine awaiting the pleasure of His Majesty Lo Bengula to send the permission to advance. One cannot penetrate the interior without the authorisation of the king. We are naturally a little anxious: travellers have found themselves stopped at the frontier for several weeks...*



Father Depelchin

Friday 29 August...*The royal messenger has at last arrived: he announces that Lo Bengula, happy to meet us, has opened the road to Gubulawayo for us. The letter is written by Mr Fairbairn, who seems very favourably disposed towards us...*

Destination Gubulawayo

In the afternoon of Tuesday 2 September 1879 Depelchin's party reached Lo Bengula's kraal and were welcomed by James Fairbairn. The following day, along with Fairbairn, they went to greet King Lobengula and offered their gifts being a fine Martini rifle, a music box, two fine blankets and some trinkets. The diaries describe their early days at Gubulawayo and their attempt to befriend Lobengula with the aim of a Mission.

Late November...*We await with impatience the arrival of the post, due in a week's time. The last post brought nothing, neither for Father Depelchin, nor for myself. It is the first time for a long while that we have had no news from our native land...*

31 December 1879

We have just bought, for 500 pounds sterling, an excellent house; it is one of the best in Gubulawayo, though, to tell the truth, that is not saying much. It is in an excellent, roomy situation a little distance from the huts in which the king Lo Bengula resides when he is living at his capital. African monarchs are content to have for palaces a few small cabins worth no more than the most wretched cottages in Europe...

The house is built on the plateau of Gubulawayo, in a most delightful position: we are, as it were, inundated with the healthy air from the Matoppo Hills, whose altitude is 5,245 feet. At the moment we are in the middle of the rainy season. But the waters flow away swiftly, and our dwelling-place is very healthy...

Awaiting a mail delivery

28 February 1880...*You in Belgium, who receive the post some six or even seven times per day, you would never believe the great interest which we, two thousand leagues from home, take in the arrival of the black postman who brings news from Europe fairly regularly once a fortnight. When the end of the fortnight approaches, the post is the usual subject of all our conversations. At the least delay - When will it arrive...Is the Koumallo river in flood...Have the black postmen had an accident - they are usually mounted on horseback or on oxen...We start making guesses...Did the post-bearers from Shoshong reach Tati before the Tati postmen left that town... In addition, Kaffir officers are not always exactly punctual... There is also the fear that they may have met a lion...It is fine to-day in the Matoppo Hills...the Koumallo must be low enough to cross. - Oh yes...the post will arrive in time. - Every white person you meet talks of the same subject...One can think of nothing else...*

Now in the distance, we see all at once, in the bush which covers the hill northwards, the white caps of the black riders. Then we see Mr Helm, the Gubulawayo postmaster, going to meet them ...Yes...It is he...Everyone rushes to our house where Mr Helm dismounts...He distributes the letters...What news of Europe, of England, of Belgium, of the Transvaal, of the Cape - Nobody listens...The happy people who have received letters go off into a quiet corner: they cannot read fast enough these dear letters from parents and relatives, friends and colleagues. Everyone is quiet.

After a few minutes, the silence is broken. - Well? What news? Thank God, all is well. - Everyone tells everyone else of his happiness. Then they open the newspapers and hastily read the headlines, leaving until more at leisure the pleasure of reading them in detail.

Ownership of a house at last

During the week of 19 to 26 February 1880 every European in the area came to Gubulawayo as the departing Mr Greite sold by auction everything he wished to leave behind. From Shilo there was Mr Thomas, who had arrived with Moffat and Mackenzie. Sykes and Elliott arrived from Inyati along with Mr Helm from Hope Fountain. Lobengula bought a horse for £200.

With the house in possession it became a Catholic mission and the residence of the Jesuits. It had taken six months of patience and perseverance since their arrival in early September 1879. Their tranquillity at the house would not last long.

Lobengula moves to Umganin

In early April 1880 the diary notes that the King has left his Kraal and moved to the neighbourhood of Umganin which is about 24 miles from Gubulawayo. However during 1880 and most of 1881 the capital remained where it was. A party of four Europeans paid the King a visit on 19 April. Much of the Jesuits work entailed looking after sick people and Lobengula paid their mission an 'official visit' on 27 November.

War in Transvaal delays the mail

The first Anglo Boer War took place from 16 December 1880 to 23 March 1881.

1 March 1881 notes...*Because of the events in the Transvaal, our post now only goes once a month, instead of once a fortnight; for some weeks we have had no letters either from Europe or from the Cape.*

We must hope that our communication with the civilized world will soon be re-established.

5 May 1881...*For five months now no letter from Belgium has been able to reach us: the Boers have occupied Zeerust and intercepted all communication. We hope soon to receive all the delayed mail together. The latest post brought news that service has begun again through the Transvaal, between Kimberley and Shoshong.*

10 June 1881...*Recently we received, all at the same time, the 'sixteen' mails which we missed during the Transvaal war. It was a great joy, after many months of waiting, to have news of our relatives and friends, of our country and of the Church.*

Gubulawayo is no more

28 August 1881...*Amazing news and which will doubtless greatly astonish you in Belgium. Gubulawayo, the city of Lo Bengula, founded by him in 1870, Gubulawayo, the capital of the Empire of the Matabele, and the queen of the Matoppo Mountains, Gubulawayo no longer exists! Three weeks ago, Lo Bengula informed his subjects that it was his pleasure to transfer the capital to a league beyond his residence of the 'White Rocks, Amatsche Amhlope', to a locality called Umhlabatine. Gubulawayo consisted only of some 200 huts and a thousand inhabitants. But, for the annual feasts of the Great and Little Dance and for ceremonial occasion, the population mounted sometimes to more than 12,000 souls. Lo Bengula has committed to my care his arsenal and his goods.*

The transfer of the capital will be carried out without great difficulty. You must not imagine anything similar to the removal of a European capital. Here all is simple and primitive. Already most of the families have gone off to build their bamboo huts at the new site. Soon the others will follow, and Gubulawayo will become a desert like Nineveh and Babylon. Only it will leave no ruins behind, nor traces of its ephemeral existence.

These changes of capital are frequent in the negro kingdoms; and here is the reason. After some years, the kaffir kraals begin to have difficulty in subsisting due to the lack of the necessities of life, and the inhabitants must emigrate rather like nomads. After ten or twelve years, all the woods near the village have become despoiled; the trees and scrub have been used for their fires, and it is necessary to go very far indeed to procure the daily requirements of wood for the kitchen. The Court burns a great deal of wood, and the stocks become particularly exhausted during the feasts which last one or two weeks.

In addition, the Kaffirs do not manure their lands, and the soil becomes exhausted so that it no longer produces even the poor crop of millet necessary for the subsistence of the inhabitants. They must then think of moving their tents elsewhere. Lo Bengula, making the great decision, has decided to move to a district fairly near one of his more customary residences. Umhlabatine is situated a good league from the 'White Rocks' and six leagues from our house in Gubulawayo.

We do not yet know what we shall do, and whether we shall follow the king to his new capital. The other white people are in a similar state of indecision. For them, as for us, to move house is not so easy and would necessitate great expense.

Total destruction of 'old' Gubulawayo

20 September 1881...*I have just been present at a most moving spectacle! Five days ago, on Thursday the 15 September, Gubulawayo was officially destroyed. On the seventh day after the full moon, Makwekwe, the former Induna or governor of the capital, received from the king the order to go to the old town and to set all the dwellings on fire. Makwekwe therefore set about burning the king's palace, the queen's huts, all the buildings in the royal kraal, sheds, stables, coaches, and even the chariot of the old king Mosilikatsi. At first I accompanied Makwekwe in his work of destruction and then I retired to a little hill in order the better to view this spectacle.*

I fear that, in a few weeks, the inhabitants of the neighbouring kraals will imitate the example of the citizens of Gubulawayo and go off also to settle down near the new capital. We shall find ourselves very isolated and shall find it difficult to keep in close contact with the Matabele nation, with their chiefs and with their king... Besides we shall soon be plunged, owing to the removal of the capital, into a profound solitude. Several of the English people living here will probably be obliged to follow the king to his new capital and then the good God alone knows what will become of us.

21 October 1881...*Gubulawayo no longer exists: we are now in a veritable desert. Since the destruction of the town, the Europeans spend much of their time with the king; the natives are no longer to be seen at all in this neighbourhood; weeks pass by without our seeing a living soul... No further incident interrupts the monotony of our days. The natives have, little by little, abandoned the neighbourhood of Gubulawayo, still occupied by the white people, and settled near the new capital.*

18 November 1881...*Every day we expect to get news from the Upper Zambesi. This is Father Depelchin's second expedition to the banks of the great river, in the Empire of the Marotse... After Father Depelchin's return, we shall have to think about founding another residence in the country of the Matabele. Our stay in Gubulawayo is becoming impossible: for three leagues around us, there is not a living soul, not a kraal, not a hut. It is like a desert around us and we have not come here to be like the monks of the Chartreuse. Soon, I hope, you will receive more news from us and good news, too! May God keep you all!*

The above is the final page in Rhodesiana No 4 - the entire journal may be viewed on the internet in PDF format, go to...

<http://www.rhodesia.nl/rhodesiana/volume4.pdf>

The Rhodesian Philatelist No 38 (July 2016)

A more comprehensive article was published in this journal.

The Bechuanaland Connection with Gubulawayo

By Otto Peetoom



GUBULAWAYO BECHUANALAND - TATI BECHUANALAND - SHOSHONG - MOLEPOLOLE - KANYE

Preamble

Since 1998 I have published several articles in connection with Gubulawayo during its 'Bechuanaland era'. This latest effort aims to concentrate on the foregoing.

Gubulawayo datestamps are far more common than some people think. I have at least 40 examples. Some ten years ago I studied the early Bulawayo cancels followed by an article.¹

Bulawayo Post Office 1888 to 1894

Established in August 1888 the Gubulawayo office was at the northern end of the Mafeking-Gubulawayo Runner Post and regarded as a Bechuanaland office.

Knight and Mitchell in their book² quote from a Cape Post Office Circular No 150 of the 1 June, 1894 that...*The agency at Gubulawayo continued as an office of the Bechuanaland Postal Administration until the 5 May, 1894, when the British South Africa Company took over the Administration of Matabeleland and the Postal Agency became a Rhodesian Post Office...*

On the 18 May 1894, a new post office was opened. Thus all Gubulawayo cancellations up to that date either appear as dispatch strikes or are on Bechuanaland adhesives.

1888 - The First Postmark

The infamous myth, which persisted until 1997, that a single circle GUBULAWAYO/BECHUANALAND saw postal use for 'one day only' on AU 21 88 was finally laid to rest.

The First Postmark continued - Alan Macgregor acquired two strips of Bechuanaland stamps (ex the Tamsen/Hunt collection) of which one (a strip of five) included a strike of each of the five offices along the Runner Route all dated AU 21 88.³

Since the above discovery it has been established that the TATI and GUBULAWAYO date stamps (with BECHUANALAND at foot) never saw postal use in their original state.

GUBULAWAYO - Blank at foot - BECHUANALAND excised The earliest confirmed date is NO 10 88 on a cover from 'Matabele' Thompson to his wife in Cape Town, a further two covers are dated NO 1 89 & DE 7 89 both ex Holmes.⁴

A SP 27 8 strike on a Bechuanaland stamp may represent either 1888 or 89. Any undecipherable date of a Gubulawayo cancel seen on a Bechuanaland stamp is more than likely pre 1894.



GUBULAWAYO - FE 4 89 & OC 8 89 on Bechuanaland stamps



GUBULAWAYO JY (inverted) 11 (No year) - MAFEKING JY 30 90 transit

The Bechuanaland Connection with Gubulawayo

Date Settings on the Gubulawayo Date Stamp

Whilst many comments have been published they frequently reflect incorrect statements or are subject to unsubstantiated supposition. For instance Bernard Livermore published an article in the September 1936 GSM on 'The Postmarks of Bulawayo' and wrote...*The Gubulawayo single circle without name of country continued in use for two or three years. It may be found with or without numbers above the date...*

Livermore illustrated a sketch of the postmark dated NO 28 95 with a code '2' above the date (Illustrated below) Code '2' above the date has only been seen on 1894 dates.

Other Inconsistencies

A statement that all 1894 dates appear with a dash after 9- is incorrect or that the 4 in 94 in all cases being omitted is also not true. The most erratic date settings I have noted occurred at the end of 1893 and the beginning of 1894. This period coincides with the first Matabele War and the subsequent occupation of Bulawayo after Lobengula set his kraal on fire and fled in early November 1893.

1893 - The Invasion of Matabeleland ⁵

In October 1893 two separate columns set off for the invasion of Matabeleland, one from Victoria under command of Major Allen Wilson and the other from Salisbury under Major Forbes. They were to meet at the Iron Mountain called Iron Mine Hill.

It is said that Lobengula had had 20,000 gun men and 80,000 men with spears and thousands of the enemy were gathered on the edge of the Samabula forest, not far from Iron Mine Hill. Lobengula's boundary was the little Shashani River and on 12 October 1893 the Pioneers crossed the river. On the 24th they reached the bank of the Shangani River and early the following morning they were attacked by Matabele, their advance was constantly hampered by the Matabele shadowing the flanks of their columns.

A decisive battle was fought on 1 November at Imbembese when the King's Imperial Guard suffered defeat. The following day the forces were within sight of Thabas Indunas, the mountain of the Chiefs and were again attacked by Lobengula's Impis. Then a huge explosion was heard from the direction of Bulawayo and they saw huge columns of smoke rising into the air. Major Wilson dispatched two of his scouts Burnham and Ingram to investigate and to ascertain whether the King was still present in the town.

They found Bulawayo burning with no native in sight, two European Traders emerged from a hut, they had been held prisoner, but on the orders of the departing King were to be left alive. Thus the population of Bulawayo was down to two!

Invasion of Matabeleland continued

Lobengula had fled into the jungle to the North and the forces entering Bulawayo on 3 November 1893 found that the retreating Matabele had not only set fire to their huts but had also burned an immense amount of ivory, valuable hides and horns. One trophy they managed to salvage was Lobengula's immense four foot long knobkerrie, beautifully manufactured from a single Rhinoceros horn. Bain, a Canadian scout, secured the item for Rhodes and I assume it survives in some museum.

After the fall of Bulawayo, Jameson was anxious to get important dispatches to Rhodes and also wanted to locate the whereabouts of the Imperial forces under command of Major Goold Adams who were coming up from the South as reinforcements. Captured natives had related that Gamba, Lobengula's son-in-law, had been sent to intercept Adams and had indeed killed or scattered that force.

Again the scouts Burnham and Ingram were given the task of assessing the truth regarding the Imperial force and to deliver dispatches to the nearest telegraph station at Tati. South of the Mangwe Pass they ran into some natives who proved to be friendly subjects of King Khama from Bechuanaland. From them they learned of an engagement in the Mangwe Pass whereby Adams's forces defeated those of Gamba. Shortly afterwards Burnham and Ingram rode into Adams's camp and after a few exchanges continued to Tati, but before reaching their destination they encountered two famous scouts Johann Colenbrander and Fredrick Courtney Selous travelling north with dispatches for Adams and Dr Jameson.

On their return to Bulawayo they learned that Forbes and Wilson had taken off after Lobengula who, with seven wagons was trekking north towards the Zambesi River and by the 1st December the pursuers had trailed the King to within a few miles of the Shangani River.

On the 3rd Major Wilson and his men made their last stand on the bank of the Shangani and were slaughtered by the Matabele. Major Forbes on the opposite bank then retreated to Bulawayo; on 14 December the exhausted men reached Inyati, where they were met by Selous with food and medical supplies. On their return to Bulawayo they were welcomed by Rhodes and Dr Jameson. Lobengula died in January 1894 and by their tribal custom his place of burial was kept a secret.

The Aftermath of the Occupation of Bulawayo

During November 1893 Bulawayo must have been a shambles, the pursuit of Lobengula was under way and no one quite knew what the final outcome would be. Until the arrival of the Victoria and Salisbury columns, the total European population in the town was two Traders, hence there was no mail service.

2 digit year



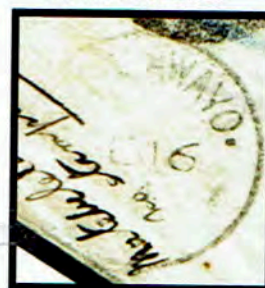
DE 24
93

4 from 94 omitted



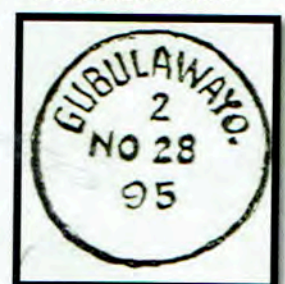
JA 15
9

9 from 94 omitted



FE 16
4

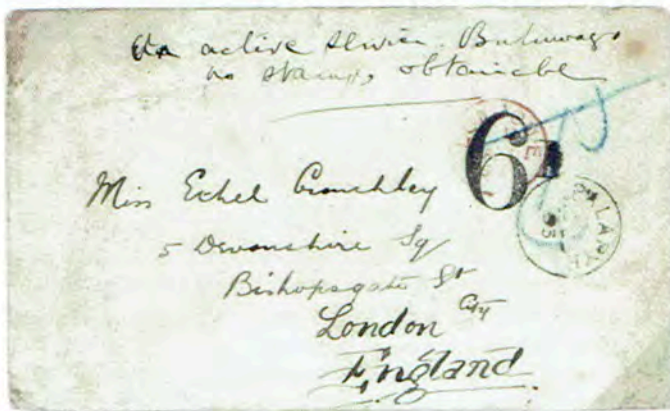
Code 2 used in 95 ?



Livermore's
Illustration

The Bechuanaland Connection with Gubulawayo

The Aftermath continued



It took time to return to normal and possibly the earliest surviving campaign cover to be sent South during November is a stampless envelope endorsed 'On active service Bulawayo - no stamps obtainable', without a Gubulawayo dispatch datestamp, but with a PALAPYE NO 23 93 transit.

From the above it appears that the mail service took several weeks before it resumed. Currently I am only aware of one item posted in Bulawayo during late December 1893.



A registered envelope No '9' cancelled GUBULAWAYO DE 24 93. ⁶ Addressed to the Cape Times, it is possible that the envelope contained 'News from Matabeleland' for publication in the Cape Town newspaper.

A Campaign cover cancelled JA 15 9 (no dash after 9) the backstamp proves 1894. I had a similar campaign cover cancelled Gubulawayo FE 16 4 (no 9 in year) the backstamp proves 1894 (See illustrations on previous page).

Spink 20.3.2003, lot 537 (ex Knight) offered a stampless cover FE 11 (1894) - I do not know how the year was set. From the beginning of 1894 the variations on the date setting become erratic and interesting.

Observations on the Illustrated and Other Dates

From 15 JAN 1894 the last year digit is omitted - blank after 9. By 16 FEB only the last digit (4) is in place and at sometime between then and 15 MAY a dash is added after a 9- that denotes 1894.

By 4 JUN there is a code 2 above the year & its use continued until around the end of 1894 (DE 19). During December 1894 there are several erratic settings which are rather intriguing.

Observations on Dates continued

During 1895 the year is indicated by '95' and no code '2' has been seen above the date.

Two January Gubulawayo covers cancelled JA 4 & JA 11 95 do not include a code 2 above their dates.

A 2 AU 95 is the only example I have seen with the day before the month.

The Knight collection included a registered cover also dated in August - 5 AU 95 (Spink 20.3.2003 lot 550).

The last date I have seen is NO 8 95 which is later than Proud's 13.10.95.

Livermore's sketch illustrates NO 28 95, the date might be feasible, but I am sceptical of his code 2 above it.

Recorded dates in Literature

Proud (1997) records Gubulawayo from 10.11.88 to 20.2.93 and then from 15.10.94 to 22.3.95 plus 13.10.95.

Hoyte & Lashbrook in their 'South of the Zambesi' (2003) date Gubulawayo from NO 10 88 to 2 DE 97.

I am sceptical of Hoyte & Lashbrook's late (1897) date. By early 1895 two new BULAWAYO MATABELELAND datestamps were in service (February/March) and by late 1895 (September) a third datestamp - BULUWAYO with two 'U's' came into use. All the foregoing cancellers, along with the GUBULAWAYO saw service during 1895.

An Appreciation of 1894 - 95 Gubulawayo Cancels

Gubulawayo cancels on BSAC (Rhodesian) stamps may be anticipated from 18 May 1894. I have numerous cancellations dated from MY 22 9- (1894) to MR 22 95 (1895)

I have a MY 28 9- without a Code 2 above the date and seen a JU 4 9- with the code in place

4 of 94 omitted
Replaced by -



MY 22 9-

Code 2
Above Date



JU 15 9-

1895 Code 2
Omitted



2 AU 95

Comments - A dash after 9 introduced between 16 FEB and 15 MAY 1894. Code 2 above date ERD JU 4 94 - LRD's DE 7 & DE 19 1894 - No Code above date seen during 1895. Note 2 AU 95 (day before month) Latest date seen NO 8 95.

The above suggests that from 15 JAN 1894 the last year digit is omitted i.e. blank after 9. By 16 FEB only the last digit (4) is in place and at sometime between then and 15 MAY a dash is added after a 9- that denotes 1894

Notes

¹ *The Rhodesian Philatelist* No 30 - January 2011

² *The Postmarks, Postal Routes and principal Postage Rates of Southern Rhodesia to 1924* (1984) by Knight & Mitchell

³ *The Rhodesian Philatelist* No 16 - April 1998. The first article is entitled 'The Discovery of the Century for Rhodesia & Bechuanaland, the end of a Myth'

⁴ See Rhodesia Study Circle Journals No's 133/38 & 139/114

⁵ 'Scouting on Two Continents' by Frederick Russell Burnham (1927)

⁶ Grosvenor auction 16 May 2003 - Feldman 4 December 2018

1981 Harmers - H.R. Holmes Collection

Collated by Otto Peetoom

Preamble

The Harmers 'Holmes' sale took place some three years prior to the formation of our society. Thus it is hardly surprising that very little about the sale has been published in the pages of *The Runner Post!*

My search for relevant information was rewarded by an overview of the sale in the January 1982 *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* (GSM) plus two reports published in *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle* (RSCJ).

Introduction

The Harmers 'Holmes' sale in London on Thursday 29 October 1981 ought to have been one of the highlights for collectors of Bechuanaland and Rhodesia. However the Postal Authorities in Botswana had their own agenda. They were set to buy 'at any price' a substantial portion of what was on offer, much to the dismay and indignation of the Collector.

I recall Robin Hillman, who is no longer with us, expressing his disappointment to me that the Botswana buyers were pushing some of the prices through the roof.

The Botswana Involvement - A Coincidence

A letter from Roy Setterfield was published in RSCJ 117 (March 1982) who wrote...I sent a copy of the catalogue, for interest, to the *Botswana Philatelic Society*, with the unexpected result that about half the lots have been acquired by the Botswana Government...This was only my third attendance at a philatelic auction, and the first at Harmers, so it was most interesting to me. On entering the sale room, I noticed some one wave, and I realized it was one of my recent bosses in Botswana, Mr D.W. Finlay, the Permanent Secretary for Agriculture, and with him was someone whose face I knew, but couldn't place; however, he greeted me warmly - it was not until I reached home, several hours later, that I remembered it was Mr Butale who had been Postmaster at Mahalapye when one evening in 1977 I first introduced him, in our house, to stamps and philately other than over the counter, showing him my modest Bechuanalands.

As reported in RSCJ 116, the sale was remarkable, the only items not strongly contested being British Bechuanaland cancellations, as these are outside Botswana territory.

On a few occasions only the Botswana Government was outbid usually items in which they were not particularly interested.

I was told that the Botswana Government hope to establish a Postal Museum in two or three years time, when some of the items acquired will be displayed, but most will surely disappear into the archives. On the other hand, the proper home for many of these items is surely Botswana's capital city, and I've no doubt some of the postal history will soon be on display at the present (and good) museum in Gaborone, which already has a basic display including un-appropriated dies up to £5. Whether these items will ever be seen outside Botswana seems doubtful.

I estimate that the Botswana Government spent at least £87,000 - how could they afford it? I expect the answer is - their new found diamonds.

I was sorry that time did not permit me to catch up on news of my recent colleagues and Botswana affairs. Mr Finlay did, however, say that if I hadn't sent the catalogue, they would never have known about the sale.

Gibbons Stamp Monthly (GSM) - January 1982

A report under a regular feature 'Stamp Market' with a headline '*Holmes' Bechuanalands to form nucleus of Botswana Postal Museum*' which opens with...Any specialised auction at Harmers Bond Street Galleries is an event, but few have caused more excitement than the sale of H.R. Holmes collection of The Bechuanalands...

The staggering total of £135,436 against a pre-sale estimate of £52,125 confirms the strength of the market for genuine collections and many new records were set.

A major buyer was the Botswana Post Office...represented by the Director of Posts, Mr P.W. Butale and Mr D.W. Finlay. Their purchases will form the basis of a new Postal Museum to be set up in Botswana.



Highest price at the auction was £6250 for a proof set of the 1887 issue of British Bechuanaland which was originally in the Earl of Crawford's collection. Other outstanding prices included £2900 for an o.g. block of four of the 1885-87 1/- green; £2200 for a part o.g. pair of 1888 (7 August) 1/- green; one stamp with 'o' omitted (cat. £2045); £3800 for the 1918 postal fiscal £5 on 1/- green and black.

In the postmark section four items carried by local bearers on the Mafeking to Gubulawayo 'Runner Posts' in 1888 fetched a total of £11,500.¹

Ian Glassbarrow, Managing Director of Harmers of London, telephoned the result to Bob Holmes, whose comment was 'I'm going to open a bottle of champagne!'

Note

¹ £11,500 paid for lots 1390, 1391, 1395 & 1396.

The foregoing being Gubulawayo & Tati Bechuanaland AU 21 88 cancellations on stamps, a Gubulawayo NO 1 89 cover with BONC 678 to Ed. Lippert and a 6d pair on piece with manuscript 'Tati



1390

1396



1395

H. R. HOLMES COLLECTION



THE BECHUANALANDS



THURSDAY
OCTOBER 29
1981



HARMERS of LONDON

486 Lots - From 1001 to 1486

1981 Harmers - H.R. Holmes Collection

Another Review of the Harmers 'Holmes' Sale

Kenneth Wright (EKW) presented a write-up in RSCJ 116 (December 1981) As may be anticipated, his main focus centred on the Rhodesian related items.

He wrote...This was, as befits a remarkable philatelist and remarkable collection, a remarkable auction. The room was full and the bidding was lively and prolonged - so prolonged that what was expected to be a normal afternoon's sale lasted for well over four hours. Prices were high and those for covers and cancellations generally exceeded the valuations by a substantial margin...The twenty-odd lots covering the Trans-Protectorate Postal Agencies are of particular interest to the RSC... (Rhodesian Study Circle). A review of lots 1390, 1391, 1395 and 1396 follow.

EKW continued...The hopes of lesser mortals who looked for crumbs from the rich man's table were dashed. For example, a piece of 1889 addressed to Miss Cooper-Chadwick at Tipperary (presumably a sister or aunt of the 25 year old member of the Boggie, Cooper-Chadwick, Matabele Wilson Concession Syndicate) was estimated at £75 but soared to £480 (Lot 1392).

The sale was attended, with the view to establishing a postal museum in Botswana, by Mr P.W. Butale, Botswana's Director of Posts. His representative led the bidding strongly and usually successful. He was responsible for a substantial part of the afternoon's total, but he was pressed strongly by more than half a dozen other bidders. For every high price there is an under-bidder just behind.

It is difficult to judge how far the success of this auction represents a fundamental upturn in the market and how far it reflects a rather special collection coupled with the determination of a number of buyers to satisfy their requirements with little regard for the cost...

The Holmes Collection on View?

This headline appeared in *The Runner Post* No 1 (1985) on page 13...We are informed that 'The Famous Holmes Collection' of British Bechuanaland and Bechuanaland Protectorate, now in a Bank vault pending the establishment of a Botswana Postal Museum, will be on view for the first in October 1986, at Gaborone. The Holmes Collection? Well, possibly about two-thirds of it. Nice to know that it will see daylight for a short time after five years...

Rhodesian Collections - H.R. Holmes

Holmes passed way in January 1989 at the age of 93. In RSCJ 146 (June 1989) Kenneth Wright presented a two page write up in the form of an obituary plus a write up on the Holmes collection. It obviously makes reference to the 1981 Harmers sale. Wright concluded...*Although the Bechuanalands were his first concern, Holmes deserves premium ranking as a pioneer of Rhodesian philately...*

H.R. Holmes Obituary - *The Runner Post* No 14

March 1989 A half page by Jim Catterall. States he passed away on 22 January aged 92 (not 93)

The writer concluded...On a personal level I corresponded with Mr Holmes for some years on Bechuanaland matters and was fortunate enough to visit his home on two occasions to see parts of his collection. He was unfailingly courteous and patient with queries. Henry Robert Holmes was a giant of Philately...

Tailpiece - Gubulawayo - Tati - Bechuanaland

The Late Kenneth Wright (EKW) 1909 - 1991

Kenneth was fascinated by Gubulawayo and Tati. He recorded all the known examples of both cancels inscribed Bechuanaland and noted past and present owners. He also recorded the sale of each cancellation at auction.

In September 1979 he published a 33 page paper on 'The Early Bulawayo Posts and Postmarks' issued as a supplement with RSCJ 108. In March 1987 he presented a display on Tati to the Bechuanaland Study Circle in London which was reported in *The Runner Post* No 7 followed in 1988 by an article on Tati in RSCJ 141 and 142.

All the known AU 21 88 cancels occur on ½d, 1d and 2d adhesives. The letter rate out of Matabeleland started at 4d and there was no ½d letter rate. If the stamps had been postally used, it does not appear plausible that every sender used multiples of low values.

The above meant that Kenneth had a complete rethink on the Tati and Gubulawayo Bechuanaland question. Alan Drysdall recalled having long discussions with Kenneth on the subject. Kenneth became convinced that neither cancel in its original state ever saw genuine postal service. He wrote a three page draft dated 25 January 1988 in which he debated the CTO theory and he marked his paper 'Confidential - not for publication'. EKW thought that Emil Tamsen had an involvement with the CTO's.

At the end of his article he wrote 'Conclusion. In the absence of contemporary records no final verdict is possible'.

It is with a note of sadness that Kenneth did not live long enough to see the proving strips that would have provided the necessary confirmation for him to write a concluding chapter on Tati and Gubulawayo Bechuanaland.

His obituary appeared in RSCJ 157 (June 1991)

Botswana Postmark Update by Bruce Warrender



Office	No	Type	Diam	Date
Gaborone	334	1 M 28	50	05 JAN 2017
Gaborone	335	1 M 71(1)	36	28 SEP 2014
Pota	18	1 M 77(1)	44	09 OCT 2017
Pota	19	1 M 77(2)	44	04 MAY 2017
Serowe	45	23 M 76	38	14 JAN 2016

Comments

No - Is the number of Office cancels on record

Type - (2) donates Code 2

Diam - Diameter of circle

Date - Date recorded on postmark

Note - Latest date seen. Colour of postmark cancel e.g. Red.

Postmark shape other than circle e.g. Oval



BRITISH BECHUANALAND 1894 1/- dull green. An upper marginal block of 16 showing the centre 'arrow'. Stamps are all superb fresh unmounted mint. A spectacular and very scarce multiple. SG 37

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