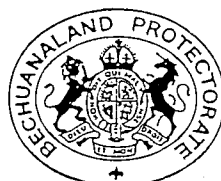


# ***The Runner Post***



RUNNER POST No. 11      (ISSN No. 0953-3354)

SUMMER ISSUE - JUNE 1988

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EDITORS' COMMENTS

Collecting postmarks has been described as the Poor Man's Postal History. So I decided that it would be a good idea for me to see how 'the other half' lives, and visited 'InterPostal 88' in London in May taking of course the rudimentary precaution of only taking a couple of £10 notes with me, so that I would not be over-tempted. (There are ways of getting round that, of course). Fifty-odd stands, rather cramped, but ready to do business: one gentleman seemed actually pleased to accept my £1 coin for a Manzini cover.

Against this, only 16 exhibitors, but all of high standard. The catalogue did not suggest any particular interest for us, apart from 'Early Rhodesian Postal History' by Edmund K. Wright. However it eventually penetrated my brain that this must be our good friend Kenneth Wright, and I made a bee-line for it.

The first item in the 32 sheets was a lovely cover from the naturalist, Oates, carried south from Matange by Frederick Selous and entering the post at Marico, Transvaal JA 15 75. Sadly, Oates died at Tati in February 1875, but my interest was also that if the cover originated from Matenge (Maitengwe, Meitengwe, take your choice) then we can claim it as an early Bechuanaland cover ?

This was followed by some of the items Mr. Wright displayed to the B&BS recently, especially of Gubulawayo/Bechuanaland and Tati/Bechuanaland (See The Runner Post pp 109-110) with photocopies of all the known examples, and examples of the 'mutilated' cancellations, plus a Puzey cover and 678 'BONCs'; also a cover to remind us that much Bechuanaland mail was sent north during the Boer War which received only the Bulawayo/Rhodesia DC cancel. The remainder of this exhibit was, naturally, of early Rhodesian interest. It was very pleasant to study these items at leisure - for me, a second bite at the apple, so to speak, and a nice juicy apple, too!

RRS

## Notice of General Meeting

On Tuesday afternoon, September 27th 1988, at Autumn Stampex, Horticultural Halls, London.

According to our Rules, we hold our General Meeting biennially, as distinct from Ordinary Meetings which are held six-monthly.

So in September we shall elect our Chairman for the ensuing two years, and other Officers. Please send your nominations for Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Editor NOW.

After the Business Meeting, Chairman Brian Trotter has been instructed that as his swan song, he will give us a display (of stamps, of course).

## Annual Subscription

It is always difficult to remember just when Subscriptions are due. Our Subscription runs from October 1 to September 30, so both our Hon. Treasurer Aubrey, 'Andy' Andersson in Botswana and SubCapRep (as he calls himself) Hamish tell us that far from being offended, they will be positively delighted to receive your £5 or equivalent. So why not send it right away?

## Society Library

For the benefit of members, a Society Library is being established. The basic or essential books already available are listed here, also some historic catalogues:

1. Jurgens, A.A. 'The Bechuanalands 1836-1895'.
2. Holmes, H.R. 'The Postage Stamps...of the Bechuanalands'.
3. Robson Lowe. Encyclopedia, Vol. II, Africa.
- also 4. J. Easton. 'De La Rue History of...Postage Stamps'.
5. Rosenthal & Blum. 'Runner & MailCoach'.

### Catalogues:

Silk & Town Collections	Robson Lowe 1943
A.H. West Collection	Harmers, 1949
Granger Collection	Harmers, 1949
Burrus Collection	Robson Lowe, 1962
Abbott Collection	Harmers, 1968
Brownlow Collection	Harmers, 1970
Davison Collection	Robson Lowe, 1971
Sale,	Robson Lowe, 1978
Sale,	Harmers, 1979
Holmes Collection	Harmers, 1981
Sale,	Christies Robson Lowe 1986
Barkaway Collection	Harmers, 1986

(The first 7 catalogues donated by our President).

A Bibliography of books of historical interest will be available from the Secretary, indicating those which are in our possession, e.g. Reprint of Andersson's 'Twenty-Five years in a Waggon' first published in 1888, and John Moffatt's 'Lives of Robert and Mary Moffatt'; those whose availability is known, e.g. Thomas Baines' 'Northern Goldfields Diaries' 1870-71. Also books relating to Botswana, such as Guides, Merriweather, Bessie Head, Place-names etc. It is hoped that members will be able to add to this list, and maybe make further publications available. We have access, courtesy of Dennis Firth, to many past issues of 'The South African Philatelist', and hope to receive a full list of these from another source.

## Floods in Botswana

We diverge here briefly from matters philatelic to bring some news of Botswana:

Although a drought situation has existed in Botswana for seven years the recent floods in Southern Africa have not left Botswana unscathed and rivers normally dry and sandy have come down in flood, causing, in several cases, loss of life and much damage, particularly to bridges and roads. To quote excerpts from the Botswana Daily News:

"24 December: Torrential rains have seriously disrupted road and rail traffic in the east of the country. The Potsane road bridge on the Lobatse Gaborone road was completely destroyed."

"4 January: The Gaborone dam now has sufficient water to meet the city's needs until well into 1990 even if there is no further inflow. It is now 64% full."

"26 January: Heavy rains have fallen in many parts of the country."

"29 January: The 7 years drought seems to have been ended by the recent torrential rains."

"19 February: Heavy rains continue in most parts of eastern Botswana. The Tswapong has suffered extensive damage to its roads."

"9 March: Gaborone Dam is now 95% full with sufficient water to last until 1992."

"22 March: ...Sekoma Pan is reported to be full as well as many other pans in the Kalahari."

RRS & AMG

## Inoculation Siding

Jane Lashbrook, Hon. Secretary of the Rhodesian Study Circle asks if any BBS member may know the whereabouts of 'Inoculation Siding' which was a short lived telegraph office (March-September 1898), apparently between Tsessebe (Tati district) and Matopo's (siding in Rhodesia). The whereabouts are deduced from the Postmaster's report in the BSAC reports on the Company's administration 1897-8, where it is listed, apparently in geographical 'order' - "The offices at: 1. Bonapitsi; 2. Tokwani; 3. Tsessebe; 4. Inoculation Siding; 5. Matopo's...were closed during the half year." Can anyone help? Replies via Roy Setterfield please.

## Members' Classifieds

This issue sees the start of what may be a regular feature (see Runner Post 10, page 161) where members may advertise specific wants @ 30p per line (payable in current, mint, G.B. stamps):

Specialist QE2 Defin. collector seeks unusual material, especially sheets/multiples ranging from SG 143 to SG 219, incl. Dues, Revenues etc. Specific 'wants' include: SG 150 1/3d with re-entry in pos. piece, SG 159b, 2½c/2d pair one with overprint missing, SG 164 12½c on 1/3 first (narrow) setting with re-entry in pos. piece, SG D7b 1c II Ord. Paper with broken 'c' varieties, SG D8b 2c Ord. Paper with thick 'd' varieties, B&H 34 £1 revenue, Aerogramme H&G 10 5c on 6d Wmk. 'I', Reg. Envelope 5c on 6d H2 used, Reg. Envelope 5c 'H' McCorquodale mint, Reg. Envelope stampless used before indep.(?). Also interested in QE2 defin. of Basutoland and Swaziland. Contact P.W. van der Molen, P.O.Box 12508, BENORYN 1504, South Africa.

Wanted: Gaborone Dam sheet, SG 186-9, any value, mint or used. - Roy Setterfield

Wanted: Revenues - overprints on Transvaal EVII £1, B&H 6 & 10, offer up to £30 each in good condition - Alan MacGregor, P.O. Box 330, Croydon, CR9 2ZF, U.K.

## Members' Comments and Queries

Howard Cook's request for information on Sitwell (RP 10, page 163) turned up much information - thanks to all concerned.

### THE SMALL FIGURE '1'

In response to the article on the Small Figure '1' in the last Runner Post (RP 10, page 164) John Inglefield-Watson has written the following:

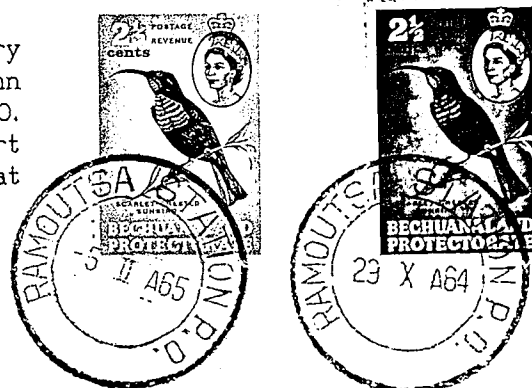
It is perhaps worth a reminder that there are three types/settings of the small figure '1'. 'Stamp no.' refers to the position in the setting (of 120):

- |               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| Stamp no. 52  | - | tops of the '1' and the 'd' aligned. The '1' is in a different fount from the normal, noticeably the sloping top serif. |
| Stamp no. 74  | - | bottoms of the '1' and the 'd' aligned, as illustrated in the article.  |
| Stamp no. 110 | - | the '1' in an intermediate position in relation to the 'd'. Another different type of '1'.                              |

Nos. 52 and 74 are shown in Holmes, plate 9. Unfortunately he does not illustrate No. 110 and I have no example, so my description is based on notes of one that I have seen. Can anyone provide an illustration? J I-W

### POSTMARKS (p.163).

Mike Nethersole's ---DIOMA remains a mystery but photostats from Roy Setterfield and John Inglefield-Watson of RAMOUTSA STATION P.O. cds's would seem to confirm that Mike's part strike 'ATION P.O.' is indeed from that office.



### 1953 CORONATION (p.166).

Brian Trotter comments that he has two First Day Covers of the 1953 Coronation both of which are dated 3rd June 1953. We would still welcome hearing from anyone with information regarding Howard's FDC's dated 2nd June 1953 (RP 10, p167).

### FORGERIES ON THE GB JUBILEE 6d (p.164).

John Inglefield-Watson comments "though I can't be sure from the illustration, it appears that the tips of the letters of the overprint are not cut square on the suspect example. If so, this could be the same forgery as on the 1d value, described in my article in R.P.4 (p.52). photocopy herewith."



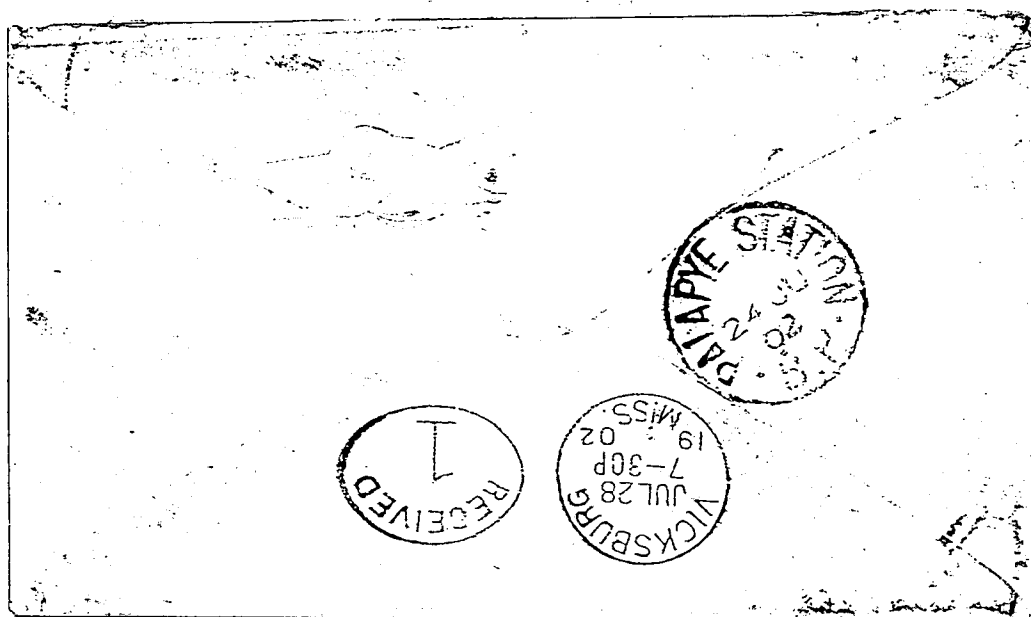
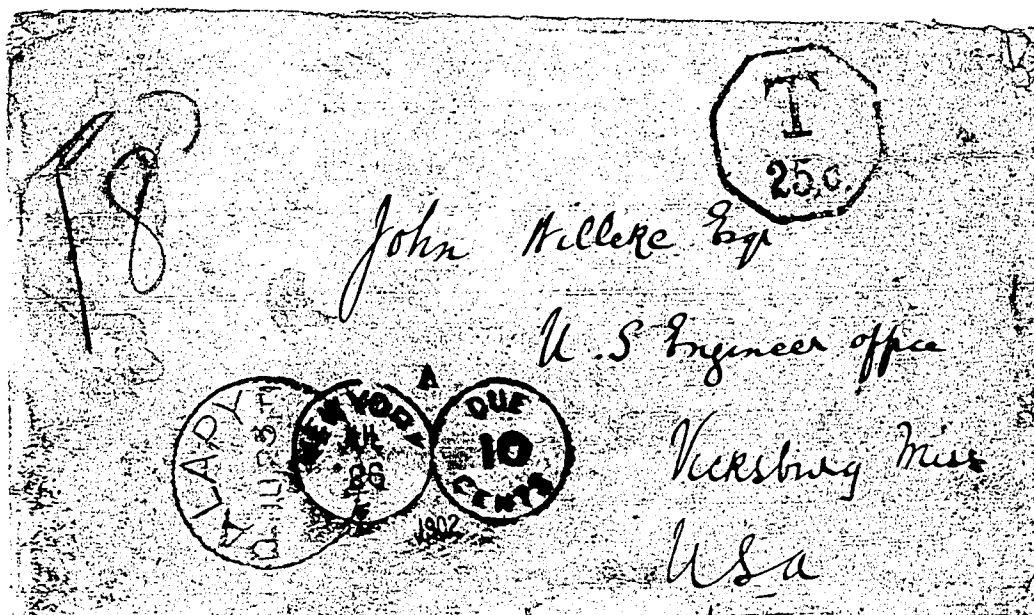
GENUINE



FORGED

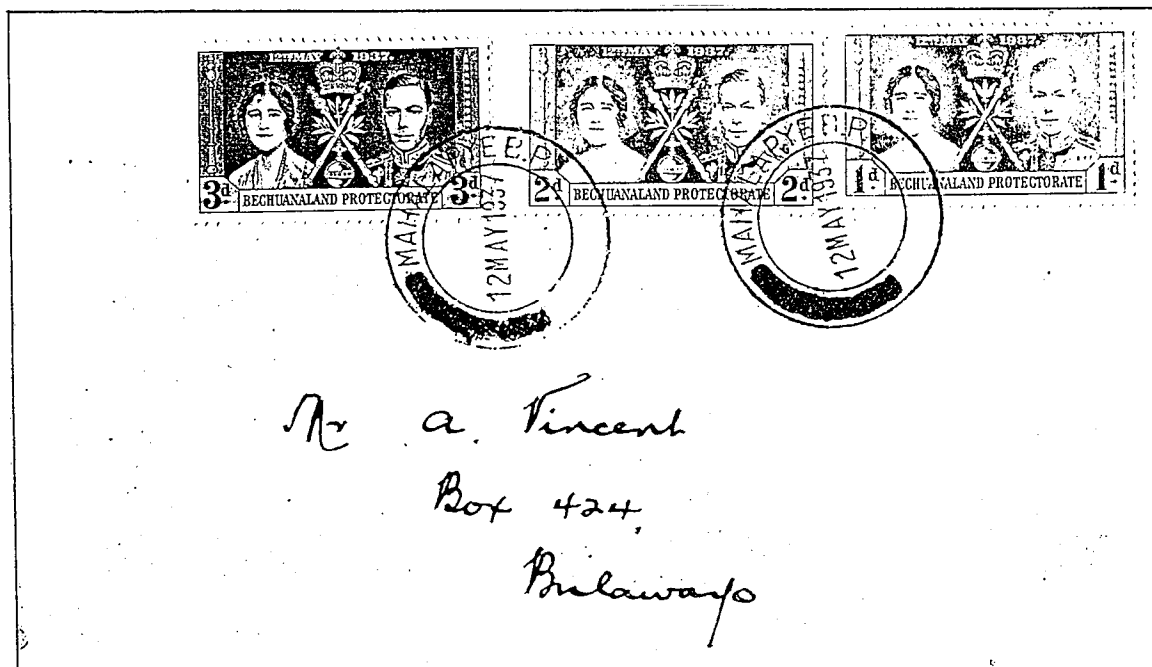
## Members' Comments and Queries (Cont.)

David Wessely has sent photostats of a stampless cover he recently came across in the USA (illustrated below). Posted from Palapye on June 23rd 1902 and back-stamped Palapye Station on June 24th, it arrived at its destination in the USA on July 28th but does not have the usual UK transit. As there seems no good reason that the sender should be allowed to send mail free of postage it has been taxed 'T/25c', 'T8d' and 'New York/Due/10/cents'. Perhaps the sender assumed that because the letter was on 'semi-official' business (perhaps on behalf of the Protectorate authorities) to the 'U.S. Engineers office' he was entitled to this concession? The Boer War was over almost a month but if it was on official or military business it should have had the necessary endorsements. At the very least the cover prompts a study of postal tax markings!



## Members' Comments and Queries (Cont.)

Another cover of interest I recently found is the 1937 Coronation FDC illustrated here, cancelled with double circle datestamps of MAHALAPYE B.P. preceded with what appears to be some obliterated/erased wording of about 9 letters in length. There are no backstamps. Can anyone shed any light on what the missing word/ing might be? Perhaps 'REGISTERED' or 'R.L.SECTION'? AMG



### "Varieties Unchronicled,

#### Uncatalogued or Not Generally Known"

This was the heading of an article written by the well respected old time philatelist A.L. Pemberton. Unfortunately we do not know in which magazine this appeared or when but it was probably in the 1920's.

"I have been shown a copy of the one penny British stamp of the King Edward VII type of Bechuanaland, in which the lower serif of the last 'E' of PROTECTORATE is entirely missing. There is no sign of the type having been broken, and the letter is clearly printed as an 'F' causing the word to appear 'PROTECTORATF'. The only other variety of which I know in this issue is the 2½d value with stop after 'P' in PROTECTORATE...." Mr. Pemberton went on to ask if readers had seen any similar examples; have you?



'PROTECTORATF'

### Correction

At the bottom of page 170 in the last Runner Post (No.10) we reported and illustrated a 'new' Palapye postmark. Please disregard this as this is in fact a Mahalapye postmark inadvertently identified as Palapye. Your Editors had been informed of the correction but the article still managed to slip into print! Our apologies.

We reproduce here an issue (reduced) of 'The Mafeking Mail - Special Siege Slip' for March 27th 1900 (during the Siege) as it contains many references to Bechuanaland, and gives an insight into the (British) thinking/attitudes of the time. If members find it of interest we may reproduce further issues in the future.

# THE MAFEKING MAIL

## SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 101

Tuesday, March 27th, 1900.

166th Day of Siege

The Mafeking Mail.

TUESDAY, 27TH MARCH, 1900.

HIC JACET Z.A.R. O.F.S.

In another column will be found the text of Lord Salisbury's reply to the dispatch from Presidents Kruger and Steyn, in which they offer to stop the war if Great Britain guarantee the independence of the two Republics. In the opinion of any right-minded man the suggestion is an impertinence and it is a source of gratification that Lord Salisbury, backed up by a unitedly firm Cabinet, takes the only view of this proposal likely to be appreciated by those it affects, i.e. the present and future colonists of the whole of South Africa. The most corrupt autocracy and its hideous abuse of trust and the disgusting duplicity with which it has plotted the overthrow of the power on which its existence depended, must have been for the past fifteen years an object lesson for those would-be Republicans whose visionary ideal should, supposedly, effect an improvement upon the constitution we are proud to exist under. His Lordship's declaration that the great calamity we have suffered is the penalty for having hitherto acquiesced in the existence of these "Republics" will strike a unisonant chord in the breast of every loyal subject of the Empire; and the logically following statement that "Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to assent to the independence of either of the Republics" will cause profound gratification throughout that Empire and especially in this portion of it.

By the courtesy of Capt. More we are enabled to publish the following communication which he received from Mr. H. Wallis:—

Goode Siding,  
Sunday, 11th March, 1900.

I received yours of the 6th inst. and was awfully glad to hear about you again. On the night of the 25th February the wily Boer evacuated his strong position on the hills round Crocodile Pools and consequently did not reply to our Monday morning's shelling from a brand new bomb proof I erected on Forther's Kopje. We have since moved on steadily, leaving the Johnnies in charge of their positions. The 20 ft. South of Crocodile Pools was messed up in their usual hearty manner and they took out about sixteen pairs of rails between that point and Ramoutsa, and dragged the material with oxen to different places, varying from fifty yards to a mile and half away. From there to 923 miles no damage was done by Boers, but the weeds and grass have grown enormously all along right up to as far as we have got. I do only five miles a day, weeding. The stuff is quite three feet high and it is impossible to see the road. At 923 miles several pairs of rails were artistically removed and the culvert at Kruger's cottage—just North of Ootsi—was destroyed and a cattle truck of wood tipped into it. Ootsi bridge was all right and so was the road up to a few miles of Lobatsi, where some more rails were taken out and two culverts destroyed. The double culvert at 918 was messed up and seventeen pairs of rails taken out and two sheep trucks buried in the permanent way and filled with muck. Then we came to Lobatsi, which was untouched as far as the road and pumps were concerned;

but the double 20 ft. South of the Siding was blown up and the girders damaged. Singularly enough they did not touch the pier. In the gorge the miserable offenders had irretrievably damaged and blown up three pairs of rails and blown two holes, five feet deep, into the rock formation. This we overcame and proceeded here without further inconvenience, other than the weed nuisance. The Colonel still makes me stable at Lobatsi for the night. He sent out a strong patrol yesterday to Pitsani Potlugo, when two Boers saw them and bunked like mad. We are told by Natives that the Boers from Crocodile Pools are divided. Some are at Korwe, some at Swatz's farm; some were said to be at Gopani, but we sent two squadrons there and didn't find any. About Natal and Colony nothing but good and heart-inspiring news has arrived. Buller has relieved Ladysmith and killed about 2,000 Boers, but this is not confirmed by the High Commissioner as yet. Lord Roberts is moving on Bloemfontein and has received Cronje's surrender with nearly 10,000 Boers. The old d— surrendered unconditionally, and all outlying Boers are being entreated to fall back on Bloemfontein where they are going to make a stand under Gen. Joubert, of the Transvaal. Kruger has gone to Natal to inspire his forces there with the smug countenance and classical oratory. I fancy they are beginning to pray for the earth to open and swallow them up. Native reports state that they intend clearing across the Kala hari to the German Colony at Wal-fish Bay.

We are now 36 miles from you and are straining our ears to hear the bellow of the 94-pdr.; we have



not been successful as yet. The two niggers you sent me turned up as hungry as blazes, and spake darkly about *soup* and the flesh of the noble companion of man, as food. You people seem to get a heap of news and photos through, for the illustrated papers teem with photos of all you celebrities and your doings. Mr. T is coming down here in a day or two, and I will give him your latest despatch. G. might have written to me as he is doing no travelling at present and one can duck for a shell just as well sitting as standing. I *do* hope the Colonel will make a speedy move and bunk into Mafeking with a crowd of good scoff for you people, and we can stand by and see you feeding once again.

### LORD SALISBURY'S REPLY.

London, March 11, 1900.

From Lord Salisbury to the Presidents of the South African Republic and the Orange Free State.

I have the honour to acknowledge Your Honours' telegram dated the 5th of March, from Bloemfontein, of which the purport is principally to demand that Her Majesty's Government shall recognise the incontestable independence of the South African Republic and Orange Free State as Sovereign International States, and to offer on those terms to bring the war to a conclusion. In the beginning of October last, peace existed between Her Majesty and the two Republics under the Conventions which then were in existence; a discussion had been proceeding for some months between Her Majesty's Government and the South African Republic, of which the object was to obtain redress for certain very serious grievances under which British residents in the South African Republic were suffering. In the course of these negotiations the South African Republic had, to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Government, made considerable armaments, and the latter had consequently taken steps to provide corresponding reinforcements to the British garrisons of Cape-town and Natal. No infringement

of the rights guaranteed by the Conventions had up to that point taken place on the British side. Suddenly, at two days' notice, the South African Republic, after issuing an insulting ultimatum, declared war against Her Majesty; and the Orange Free State, with whom there had not even been any discussion, took a similar step. Her Majesty's dominions were immediately invaded by the two Republics; siege was laid to three towns within the British frontier, a large portion of the two Colonies was overrun, with great destruction to property and life, and the Republics claimed to treat the inhabitants of extensive portions of Her Majesty's dominions as if those dominions had been annexed to one or other of them.

In anticipation of these operations the South African Republic had been accumulating, for many years past, military stores on an enormous scale which by their character could only have been intended for use against Great Britain. Your Honours make some observations of a negative character upon the object with which these preparations were made. I do not think it necessary to discuss these questions you have raised but the result of these preparations carried on with great secrecy has been that the British Empire has been compelled to confront an invasion which has entailed upon the Empire a costly war and the loss of thousands of precious lives. This great calamity has been the penalty which Great Britain has suffered for having in recent years acquiesced in the existence of the two Republics. In view of the use to which the two Republics have put the position which was given to them, and the calamities which their unprovoked attack has inflicted upon Her Majesty's dominions, Her Majesty's Government can only answer Your Honours' telegram by saying that they are not prepared to assent to the independence either of the South African Republic or of the Orange Free State.

Mr. Escombe, ex-premier of Natal is dead.

### RELIEF! AT LAST!! HURRAH!!!

Corroboration has been received from several sources that our relief, from the South, is now well this side of Vryburg. Some boys who came in last night with letters for Mr. Weil, reported having seen British soldiers at Vryburg last Tuesday. They are accompanied he states, by many wagons of food.

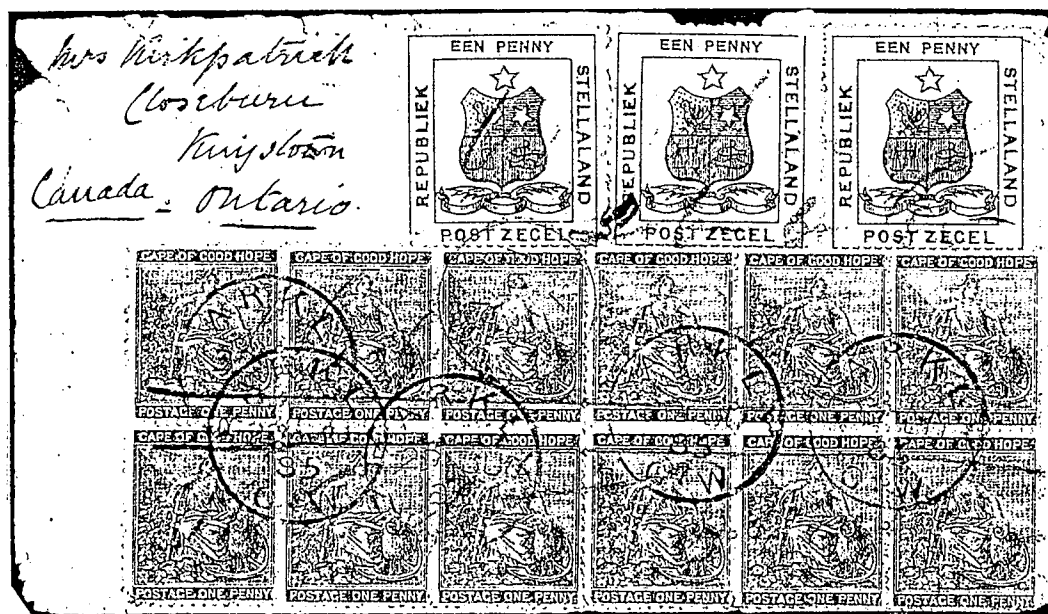
### Our Thermometer of Hope.

Miles from here.		
0.	Mafeking.	
11.	Madibi.	
24.	Maritzani.	
38.	Kraaipan.	
50.	Maribogo.	
65.	Doornbult.	
80.	Devondale.	
96.	Vryburg.	March 20th
139.	Taungs.	
153.	Phokwani.	
179.	Vaal River.	
223.	Kimberley.	Feb. 9th
247.	Modder Rvr.	Nov. 29th
279.	Belmont.	Nov. 23rd
300.	Orange Rvr.	October.

### NOTICE.

AS a register is desired of all horses in Mafeking broken to the saddle and fit for immediate work, in case extra horses should be required by Government for a few hours at a time, all persons having any coming up to the necessary standard, are requested to communicate at once, with the Brigade Transport Officer.

The rate paid by the authorities will be 8s. per diem, and the owner must state the price he wants for his horse if killed whilst in Government employ.



### In The Auction Room

Serious collectors of Stellaland recently had another chance to purchase the marvellous cover illustrated here which was first reviewed here in RP 4, page 5. Then it had been on a Proud Bailey auction in Chicago in May 1986. It does not appear to have sold then as it was available by private treaty at Proud Bailey's stand at 'Johannesburg 100'. The cover next appeared on Stanley Gibbons Prestige Auction in London on May 19th this year (Stanley Gibbons recently acquired the stock and goodwill of Proud Bailey) with an estimate of £20,000. The cover opened and closed 'on the book' at £16,000. We have not heard if it sold this time. Both auction descriptions are worth repeating here as they differ in some important points, both from each other and from what appears on the actual cover. First the Proud Bailey description:

#### "STELLALAND

208 1815(!) To Canada franked with 3x1d Stellaland used in combination with 12x1d Cape all the stamps are cancelled in manuscript - "Vryburg, 26,6,85 Stellaland, J.W. Oats (?) Postmaster". The Capes are additionally cancelled by Barkly G.W., 27,6,85. The Stellaland are additionally tied by the Canadian arrival d/s of 3,8,85 which is also on the front with the Capetown & London transits & 2d a/c mark. With B.P.A. Cert - a most important cover. The only recorded cover with multiple franking and the only recorded example with a Stellaland stamp being tied, £28,000"

Apart from a misprint (?) for the year, only the date of the Barkly G.W. cancels - 27.6.85 instead of 29.6.85 and the P.M.'s name are wrong (should be F A Eaton), otherwise an accurate description. Secondly the Stanley Gibbons description:

#### "BECHUANALAND

382 Stellaland; 1885 cover to a Mrs. Kirkpatrick in Ontario, Canada bearing 1884 1d (S.G.1) single and pair in combination with CGH 1d all cancelled by blue crayon "Vryburg/26-6-85 J.W.Eaton/Postmaster". Cape stamps also cancelled by six strikes of the Barkly/G.W., c.d.s. for 3 August which also cancels one of the Stellaland adhesives, red 2½d, account h/s on back with Capetown and London transits; some faults incl, one Stellaland stamp with small tear but the only recorded cover with multiple franking and with Stellaland stamps being tied and thus a very important piece, B.P.A. Cert, (1983)... £20,000"

This time the Cape datestamps are stated to cancel both the Cape and Stellaland stamps and to be dated 3 August whereas in fact only the Canadian arrival (not mentioned) is dated 3 August (and which is the only c.d.s. to tie the Stellaland stamps). No mention is made of the June date. Also the third line of the crayon m/s cancellation is omitted, namely the word "Stellaland".

Despite the variable descriptions this must rank as one of the great rarities of the Bechuanalands and remains a very desirable cover - at a price! AMG

by

John Inglefield-Watson

The previous part of this occasional series was published in 'Runner Post' No.6 (Feb 87).

BRITISH BECHUANALAND

1. **Registered Envelopes**

Mid-1889 4d vermilion registered envelope, Holmes page 72, Higgins & Gage Nos. C-7, 7a and 7b. The printer's imprint under the flap of this envelope reads on the left 'McCORQUODALE & CO/LIMITED' in two lines and on the right 'CONTRACTORS' or 'PATENT REGISTERED ENVELOPE' (abbreviated to 'C' or 'PRE' in the table below). The Higgins and Gage catalogue lists three variants of punctuation mark after '& CO' but does not indicate which of these occur on the three sizes of envelope. My own findings are:

- a. That there are indeed three punctuation variants, namely:
  - 1) Stop, followed by comma,
  - 2) Stop only (H&G state comma only),
  - 3) No mark.
- b. That the type of marking is constant on each envelope of a particular size and die date, as follows:

<u>H&amp;G No.</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Die Date</u>	<u>Imprint Punctuation</u>	<u>Imprint Wording</u>
7	G	28.2.89	.,	C
		2.3.89	.	C
		28.4.90	None	C
7a	H	28.2.89	.	C
		1.3.89	.	C
		28.4.90	.	C
7b	K	1.3.89	.,	C
		28.4.90	.	PRE

Does anyone have examples that differ from this list?

2 **Wrappers**

1889 ½d grey-green on buff wrapper, Holmes page 72, Higgins & Gage No. E-5.. A dealer/member's recent list of offers included a wrapper with R.P.S.L. certificate stating that the large red overprint is a forgery. In spite of this my own examination indicates that it might well be a genuine trial overprint as it appears to be identical in size and typeface to the black overprint on the Jan 1887 registered envelope, size G (H&G No. C-2). Both the envelope and the issued wrapper are said to have been overprinted by the same printer, W.A. Richards & Sons.

**3. Registered Envelopes**

- (a) 1913 3d on 2d + 1d brown registered envelope, size G, Holmes page 122, Higgins & Gage No. C-11a. This envelope with date code 'LK' has now been recorded with the larger, paler blue lettering, etc., as described and illustrated for H&G No. C-12a in 'Runner Post' No.6.
- (b) Feb 1961 5c on 6d rose registered envelope, Holmes page 175, Higgins & Gage Nos. C-21, 21a and 21b. Higgins & Gage list sizes G and H on cream paper and size H on buff paper. Can anyone confirm their existence? They do not list size H2 which is the only size of this envelope that I have seen. A variety exists with the surcharge double, one being overinked and virtually illegible.
- (c) Oct 1961 5c rose registered envelope, size H, Holmes page 175, Higgins & Gage No. C-20a. This envelope has now been recorded, used in December 1966, printed by McCorquodale instead of by De La Rue. The 43mm long imprint under the flap reads 'McCORQUODALE & COMPANY LIMITED' in sans-serif capitals. As illustrated, there are several other noticeable differences, especially the shape of the flap, the position of the imprinted stamp, the thickness of the crossed blue lines and the vertical relationship of the setting of the lines of wording on the front. Has anyone got any earlier used examples that might help indicate the date of change of printer ?

**4. Aerogrammes**

- (a) Feb 1961 5c on 6d aerogramme, watermark code 'T', Higgins & Gage No. F-11. My previous article questioned the existence of this aerogramme with code letter 'T'. Information has now been obtained from Wiggins Teape, manufacturers of the paper, that this code letter indicates paper made in 1963. The Higgins & Gage listing can therefore definitely be discounted.
- (b) 1962(?) aerogramme with no imprinted stamp. Wiggins Teape state that the watermark code letters 'Y' and 'Z' on this aerogramme, recorded in my previous article, indicate papers made in 1965 and 1966 respectively. They also state that it is likely that the printer was McCorquodale but that the Dec 1958 6d and Feb 1961 5c on 6d aerogrammes were printed by Waterlow. This information does not rule out the tentative 1962 issue date for the first printing on unwatermarked paper. Its earliest date of use known to me is 3 Jul 64 - can anyone improve on this ?

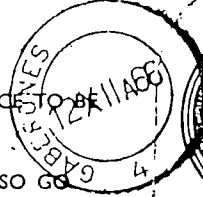

McCORQUODALE →

*To.*

**R** GABERONES  
No 8850



**REGISTERED**  
LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN  
REGISTERED AND A  
**LOKWALO LO LO**  
LOKWALO LO LO CHWANETSE GO  
LETLAMELA A BO A NTSHE

**LETTER**  
OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE  
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.  
**TLAMELWANG**  
NEELWA MODIREDI WA POSO GO  
SESHUPO SA LONA.

**REGISTERED**  
THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN  
REGISTERED AND A  
**LOKWALO LO LO**  
LOKWALO LO LO CHWANETSE GO  
LETLAMELA A BO A NTSHE

**LETTER**  
OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE  
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.  
**TLAMELWANG**  
NEELWA MODIREDI WA POSO GO  
SESHUPO SA LONA.

The Stamp to  
pay postage  
must be placed  
here.  
Setempe sa  
tuelo ea tiro  
ea poso a  
chwanela go  
manegwa  
momo.

← DE LA RUE

## THE CONTROVERSIAL PALAPYE BISECT

by Brian Trotter

Bechuanaland bisects have long been a subject of debate. At our Autumn 1987 Society meeting in London, John Inglefield-Watson displayed an impressive variety of bisects on cover, ranging from the Palapye bisect, and the very rare Kanye 1/- bisect of 1904, to the 1960/1961 bisects which he wrote about in the Runner Post earlier in 1987 (RP 6, February 1987).

The best known, and probably the most controversial of these, is the Palapye bisect - really the Palapye Station bisect. Holmes, referring to SG 35 and SG 37, the 4d and 1/- Great Britain stamps overprinted BRITISH BECHUANALAND says:

"Two values of this issue are known bisected and used for half their value. Both instances occurred after British Bechuanaland had been annexed to the Cape Colony in 1895, and the 'splits' were used from Post offices in the Protectorate. In November and December 1899 the Postmaster at Palapye Station allowed bisects of the 4d to be used to prepay the 2d rate, and he initialled ('R.W. Postmaster') all letters franked in this manner. Again, in 1904, the Postmaster at Kanye permitted 1/- stamps to be bisected and used for half their value, and he also initialled the letters where this had been done. In neither case were the recipients of the letters called on to pay any postage-due charge, and it would seem that the bisects were in both instances accepted as having paid the requisite postal rates, but it is doubtful if there was any actual shortage of stamps at either office, the bisects being allowed to prepay postage through the connivance of the two local Postmasters."

It would appear that Holmes judges these as legitimate usage, though rather "philatelic" in nature. Jurgens, on the other hand, is not so kind. He says:

"Collectors of the stamps of Bechuanaland would have been able legitimately to have included a bisected stamp with the issues of the overprinted 2d stamps of Great Britain had it not been for the cupidity of certain members of the B.B. Police. When it was discovered that the Postmaster at Palapye had genuinely used bisected 4d stamps during a temporary shortage of 2d stamps he (the P.M.) was besieged with applications from friends in the Police. Had these people stopped there, things might not have been quite as bad, but hundreds of bisects were then made, the Postmaster allowing these people to do the cancellations themselves. And all the P.M. really did was to initial each item as he had done with the few genuine letters bearing this 4d bisected stamp in the first instance. What is more, most of these bisects were made at a later date and the date stamp was set back to correspond with the date upon which the P.M. first made use of them. From what I could gather from an old member of the B.B. Police who was in Palapye at the time, the majority of the covers made were destroyed after the bisected stamp had been cut off showing the full Palapye postmark and the Postmaster's initials. This was done because it was discovered that the original letters first sent out by the Palapye Postmaster would naturally be backstamped by the office where the letter was received. The situation might still have been saved if only backstamped covers were accepted as genuine, but unfortunately some of the more enterprising spirits secured the services of obliging postmasters to do the necessary backstamping to their covers by setting the date back to correspond with the genuine ones. It then became impossible to distinguish between the original genuine covers and those made to order. For this reason philatelists lost interest, and it will be noted that this item is not listed by Gibbons in their catalogues, and the bisect became merely a philatelic curiosity."

Jurgens's book was published in 1945. By the time Holmes published his book in 1971, the much maligned (by Jurgens) Palapye bisect had a much improved stature. It has been listed as SG 35a in the Gibbons catalogue (Part I), British Commonwealth for many years. I note that it was listed at £170 in 1976, but at £1200 in 1988. So, however controversial this 4d Palapye Station bisect is, it continues to be a soughtafter item.

I recently acquired a Palapye bisect cover (illustrated), and tried to determine whether mine could have done legitimate postal service, or was one of the many Jurgens referred to which were subsequently "manufactured".

My cover appears to have a number of minor differences when compared to the classical recorded Palapye bisect.

1. Bisect is diagonal instead of vertical.
2. It is initialled 'R.W. P.M.' instead of 'R.W. Postmaster' (Holmes).
3. It is dated March 12 1900, while Holmes says they occurred in November and December 1899.
4. It does have a backstamp (Mochudi March 20 1900), so could have gone through the post. (Jurgens)

If my cover did go through the mail from Palapye Station to Mochudi, it took eight days. Palapye is roughly 250km from Mochudi. On the good tarred road that runs along the line of rail, only a few hours drive today. But at that time the Boer War was in progress, and Mafeking was not yet relieved. Also Mochudi lies a few kilometres from the railway line. So eight days may not seem as extreme as it might today.

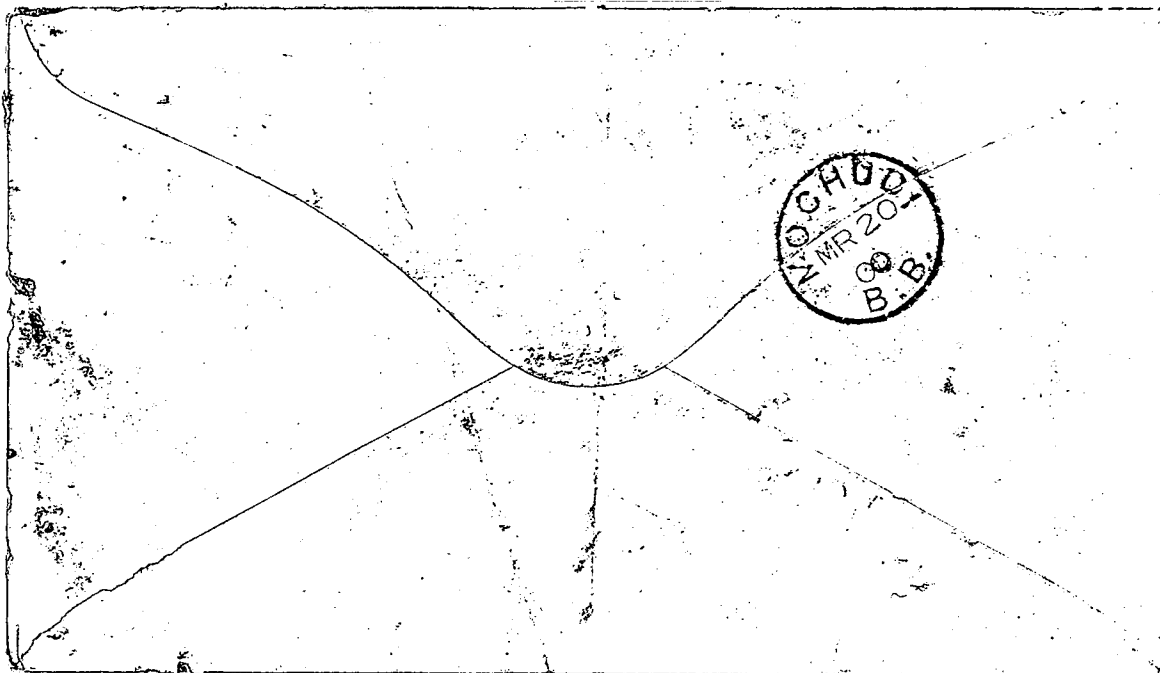
It is impossible to conclusively prove that this cover did or did not go through the mails. We do, however, now know that covers do exist after November and December 1899, and are not always initialled 'R.W. Postmaster', but also 'R.W. P.M.' Incidentally the 'W' of R.W. could also be 'M', as the manuscript style could be interpreted either way.

We, as a society, should try to record all known bisect covers. In order to compile this listing, could any members having or knowing of Palapye and other bisect covers please let me know details of postmarks and dates, arrival/transit backstamps, postmaster initialling, destinations, stamps bisected, vertical or diagonal bisect, and any other data of interest.

#### Bibliography.

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| H.R. Holmes,  | The Postage Stamps, Postal Stationery and Postmarks of the Bechuanalands. The Royal Philatelic Society London, 1971.              |
| A.A. Jurgens, | The Bechuanalands. A brief history of the countries and their postal services to 1895. The Royal Philatelic Society London, 1945. |

THE PALAPYE BISECT





There follows an extract from Dr Alan Drysdall's work for the Transvaal Study Circle's forthcoming 'Magnum Opus'. This is only a small part of the whole Transvaal revenue picture, which also covers the overprinting of Transvaal stamps for use in Swaziland. This being (the currently numbered) Chapter 13, and concerns the overprinting of Transvaal revenue stamps for use in Bechuanaland Protectorate.

We are indebted to Dr Drysdall for allowing us to publish this part of the manuscript, who in turn would be most interested to hear from any members with any comments and/or constructive criticisms they may have (please send via Alan MacGregor).

## TRANSVAAL STAMPS USED FOR FISCAL PURPOSES IN BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE

by

Dr. Alan Drysdall F.R.P.S.,L.

Transvaal stamps were also overprinted for fiscal use in Bechuanaland Protectorate, which prior to their issue utilised overprinted Cape of Good Hope revenue stamps. There is little published information, and the present author can only note that these issues provide a promising field for further research.

Holmes (1971, p.116) notes that the Transvaal 6d postage and revenue stamp issued in 1907 (Issue 4) was overprinted in a distinctive shade of "deep bronze-blue" (possibly more accurately described as bluish black) by the Transvaal Government Printing Works in Pretoria. Although different fonts were used for the overprint on preceding issues, the bluish black colour of the impressions of Issue 3 in particular suggests that it was also overprinted in Pretoria.

The Transvaal revenue stamps which were overprinted were the large format design featuring a portrait of King Edward VII printed on paper watermarked Crown CC. They were replaced in Transvaal by stamps of the same design printed on paper watermarked multiple Crown CA in 1906-7. It is probable therefore that the issues overprinted for use in Bechuanaland date from no later than 1907.

Since no dates of issue are known, the order of the issues described below is based on dated cancellations, most of which have been reported by members of the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society.

Issue 1 comprised two duties, 2s 6d and £1, overprinted 'Bechuanaland / Protectorate.' (with stop) in seriffed type in black. The earliest recorded dated cancellations - June(?) 1906 for the 2s 6d duty and January 1907 for the £1 - suggest an issue date in 1906. The Royal collection includes a copy of the 2s 6d duty cancelled with a 'MOCHUDI / B.B.' single-circle postal mark, but the date is only readable as '29 AU / ?' (See also RP9, p144 & RP10, p162).

Issue 2 comprised three duties, 2s 6d, £1 and £5, overprinted 'BECHUANALAND / PROTECTORATE' (without stop) in seriffed type in black. (The letters are of the same size throughout the overprint). The Royal collection includes unused blocks of four of the 2s 6d and £1 duties. The earliest cancellations recorded are: 2s 6d - prior to 1910 (a cancellation dated 15th January 190?); £1 - August 1907; and £5 - January 1908. The issue date may therefore have been 1907.

Issue 3 consisted of the £5 duty overprinted 'BECHUANALAND / PROTECTORATE.' (with stop) in seriffed type in bluish black. (The initial letters are in larger capitals than the rest of the overprint.) The Royal collection includes an unused marginal block of four. Barefoot and Hall (1986, p.29) list a £1 duty similarly overprinted, but its existence is not confirmed by any other source. The earliest recorded cancellation is dated January 1911, but the issue date was probably much earlier (see above).

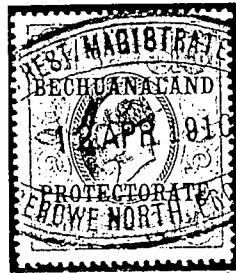
Holmes (1971, p.116) records that towards the end of 1906, the Transvaal Government was asked to supply 6d stamps overprinted for use in the Protectorate. The current 6d postage and revenue duty on chalky paper watermarked multiple crown CA (SG 266a) was therefore overprinted 'Bechuanaland / Protectorate' (without stop) in "deep bronze-blue" by the Transvaal Government Printing Works at Pretoria.

Holmes further records that the number of impressions in the setting - 30 (6 x 5) - is proved by a constant variety at position 1, which shows the 'P' of 'Protectorate' slightly raised. The variety therefore occurs twice in each pane at positions 1 and 31 (stamp 1, rows 1 and 6). The total number of stamps overprinted was 1,500. They were despatched in January 1907 to the Resident Commissioner at Mafeking, who distributed them to Assistant Commissioners. A copy further overprinted 'Specimen' was included in the set of Bechuanaland stamps presented to the Royal Empire Society in 1911.

These stamps were never on sale at post offices but, because they carried the word 'postage', they were valid for postal use. Holmes (1971, p.116) reports copies used postally at Francistown, Gaberones, Lobatsi, Mochudi and Palapye Station during a period of more than a year starting in July 1910. His collection included two examples on covers registered at Mochudi in November 1910 and April 1911 (Harmers, 29.10 81. lots 1274 and 1275). The Royal collection includes a cover registered at Francistown on 22nd October 1910. By the time the authorities decided to withdraw the issue - presumably in mid-1911 - almost all the stamps had been sold.



Issue 1



Issue 2



Issue 3



Issue 4

# Check List

- |         |       |  |
|---------|-------|--|
| Issue 1 | 1906? | Transvaal King Edward VII revenue stamps on paper water-marked Crown CC overprinted 'Bechuanaland / Protectorate.' in black  |
| 2s 6d   |       | grey-black and brown-orange  |
| £1      |       | grey-black and yellow-green  |
| Issue 2 | 1907? | Transvaal King Edward VII revenue stamps on paper water-marked Crown CC overprinted 'BECHUANALAND / PROTECTORATE' in black   |
| 2s 6d   |       | grey-black and brown-orange  |
| £1      |       | grey-black and sage-green  |
| £5      |       | grey-black and purple  |
| Issue 3 | 190?  | Transvaal King Edward VII revenue stamp on paper water-marked Crown CC overprinted 'BECHUANALAND / PROTECTORATE.' (with larger initial letters) in bluish black                                      |
| £5      |       | grey-black and purple  |
| Issue 4 | 1907  | Transvaal King Edward VII postage and revenue stamp on paper watermarked multiple Crown CA overprinted similarly to Issue 1 but in smaller type without a full stop and in bluish black (SG type F1) |
| 6d      |       | grey-black and brown-orange (SG 266a)  |
|         |       | a) 'P' slightly raised (1 and 31)  |

# PRICES REALISED IN AUCTION 3/88 (U.K.)

<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE (£)</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
2	16	20	2	59	3.50	98	13
3	9	21	1	60	10	99	6
4	3.50	30	3	61	10	100	45
5	3.50	34	.50	70	60	101	15
6	6	35	41	74	37	102	21
7	3	43	9	78	1	103	8
9	11	44	30	87	1.50	104	2.50
10	4	47	61	90	4	105	96
11	1	52	6	91	19	106	110
12	1	54	2	92	12	107	30
13	4.50	55	2	93	19	108	35
14	4.50	56	27	94	46	109	12
16	3	57	9	95	8	110	24
17	15	58	3.50	97	8	111	47

First of all, my apologies to anyone who was confused by the Society running two auctions number 3 at the same time. It wasn't intentional, I can assure you! Fortunately there was no real duplication of lots in the UK and RSA auctions. In terms of prices realised, this was our most successful auction yet, with sales of over one thousand pounds. We sold however only 56 out of the 116 lots (48.3%) which is the lowest proportion of the 3 auctions I have run. It is perhaps not surprising that in a specialist society, we find little interest in bidding for basic single stamps and modern commemorative sets. As before, bidding was strong on the fiscals, the postal stationery and the postmarks, with the two postmark collections (lots 105 and 106) going way above estimate. Any member who has suitable material for auction can of course send it to myself or our Secretary (with description and reserve/estimate). When I have enough material, I'll get going with auction number 4 (or will it be 5 ?). Tony Chilton

## PRICES REALISED ON FIRST BBS AUCTION IN SOUTH AFRICA HELD ON 28 MAY 1988 (In Rand)

<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE (R)</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
2	5	22	25	34	30	48	5
12	5	23	35	36	15	54	25
13	250	27	35	38	5	55	25
16	45	28	45	42	16	56	30
17	15	29	20	43	10	58	90
18	7	30	30	44	8	63	10
19	25	31	85	45	5	64	10
20	20	32	20	46	15	65	10
21	20	33	20				

A fairly pleasing outcome for the first attempt with 34 lots being sold. My apologies to those members who were confused by the omission of the currency of the estimates and reserves - they were in South African RAND. The same trend as with the auctions held in Britain was apparent in that the most interest was shown in the more unusual items (covers, revenues and postmarks) and a list of the lots sold and the prices realised are given above. Howard Cook

Our congratulations to our two Volunteer Auctioneers on the results of their hard work. Lots not shown were unsold.