

# ***The Runner Post***



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## **Contents**

## **Page**

Editors' Comments	198
Chairman's Comments	199
Minutes of BBS Meeting 2nd March 1988	199
Information Wanted - Botswana 1t Postage Due Shade	200
Members' Classifieds	200
Items of Interest - Ghanzi 1997	201
- Malformed 'P'	201
Members' Comments	202
Palapye and Kanye Bisects	202
Bisect Table	203
Revenues with Postal Cancellations	204
'Bechuanaland Paquebot'	204
1890 Proclamation	205
New Books and Background Reading	206
Stanley Gibbons Part 1, 1989	206
Encyclopaedia of SA Post Offices Vol II/Putzel	206
A Visit to Lobengula in 1889/Vaughan Williams	207
Monarch of All I Survey/Sir Charles Rey	207
KEVII 1d PROTECTORATF / J Inglefield-Watson	208
In The Auction Room	209
Picture Postcards of Bechuanaland	210
Mafeking - Head Office for B.P.	213
Dry Hartz & Dry Harts Covers	214
The Mafeking Mail - 152nd Day of Siege	216

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### EDITORS' COMMENTS

It would be easy to use the recent UK postal dispute as an excuse for the late appearance for the Runner Post though this has obviously delayed some incoming contributions. However, a trip to the USA in August, and more recently, a philatelically oriented Court case have taken up time. The Crown Court case (the defendant having elected trial by jury rather than in a Magistrates Court where, I understand, the rate of convictions are around four times higher) involved myself and two other dealers giving evidence for the prosecution in the case of a gentleman (a printer by trade) who was accused of offering for sale covers and 'pieces' bearing Rhodesian Double Heads and Admirals all bearing forged cancellations (thus raising the market value of hitherto second rate and unused stamps without gum). The result: the gentleman in question received a 6 month jail sentence suspended for two years and was ordered to pay £800 costs, as well as his own defence costs, which must be considerable, as the case lasted four days, and involved both a solicitor and Barrister (under English Law, only the latter may represent you in court). All in all a very interesting though frequently frustrating experience, especially when one must stay outside the court until called to give evidence - in my case after a day and a half, after which you can sit in the public gallery.

Members who also collect BSA Co issues may be relieved to hear that these forged postmarks are detectable, the impressions are invariably 'blobby' as though the ink used was too thick to give sharp impressions (we are unsure of the method used, though probably by lithography), some have impossible dates and/or spellings and frequently 'cancel' stamps which were never officially sent to Rhodesia. We understand all the exhibits have now been destroyed, which, after having been coated with a purple (fingerprinting?) die, are no loss to posterity!

(AMG)

## **Chairman's Comments**

It has been a great privilege and pleasure to be one of the founders and the very first Chairman of the Bechuanaland and Botswana Society. We have come a long way from that first meeting three years ago which seven of us attended to found the Society. We now have close to 100 members. Roy Setterfield, who was the prime mover in getting us to the point of forming our Society, started by writing an occasional one page newsletter to the small group of identified Bechuanaland and Botswana enthusiasts nearly five years ago. We now have our excellent little journal (if I may call it that), the RUNNER POST, published four times per year. The very appropriate name is again, thanks to Roy Setterfield.

The standard of the RUNNER POST is, I feel, quite impressive for so new a Society. Alan MacGregor, with able assistance from, yet again, Roy Setterfield, is doing an absolutely superb job as our Editor. Our main bodies of membership are scattered around the U.K. and Southern Africa, but we have others dotted around Europe, North America, and other corners of the globe.

The RUNNER POST is our only real means of communicating with our far-flung Society. It is therefore essential to cover as many aspects of philately as we can to provide news and views to as many of our members as possible. With that in mind, I would encourage all our members to use the RUNNER POST as their means of communication within the Society. Contributions, however short or long, questions and responses to items appearing will help broaden the interest and expand our knowledge. This way our already excellent RUNNER POST, will be even better.

We have advanced to the point of holding Society postal auctions both in the UK and in South Africa, thanks to Tony Chilton and Howard Cook, and also have local distribution of the RUNNER POST and subscription payments in Botswana and South Africa, thanks to Andy Andersson and Hamish Campbell. We also have a written up and approved Society constitution, have begun to put together a small 'library', and have embarked on a study of Bechuanaland postal markings. Not bad for a fledgling Society! All in all, we can be extremely proud of the progress we have made, and I am convinced that we shall go on to even greater things in the future.

Brian Trotter

## **Minutes of BBS Meeting 2nd March 1988**

An Ordinary Meeting of the Bechuanaland and Botswana Society was held at Stampex, Horticultural Halls, London, on Wednesday, 2nd March, 1988, at 2 p.m.

Brian Trotter took the Chair, and there were 12 other members present:- Lt. Col. Sir John Inglefield-Watson, Bt., Mike George, Philip Cattell, Bernard Martin, Harry Brush, Dennis Firth, Roger Howard, Aubrey Glassborow, Alan MacGregor, Jim Catterall, Arnold Berman and Roy Setterfield, with one visitor, Grenville Eaton. Apologies were received from Dave Mathews.

Minutes of the last Meeting were agreed and signed.

### **REPORTS:**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Chairman.      | Little to report apart from the next meeting to be a General Meeting with election of Officers etc.   |
| Hon.Secretary. | No urgent matters to report.  |
| Hon.Treasurer  | The Society is financially afloat, if rather low in the water, with auction results providing what buoyancy we have.  |
| Editors.       | The present style and format of 'THE RUNNER POST' to continue; some articles in hand, but more contributions are always needed, not least smaller notes or 'fillers'. |

## **Minutes of BBS Meeting 2nd March 1988 (Cont.)**

### **REPORTS Cont.):**

**A.O.B.** Following the success of the U.K. Auction, further material for future auctions is required. Please send to: Tony Chilton, 56 Framfield Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2AL.

The main Business having been expeditiously concluded, the following Displays were given by Members:

Philip Cattell: Six interesting early Bechuanaland covers.

Bernard Martin: 3 Maps of Bechuanaland, illustrated by postmarks on stamps, and a nearly complete 'Banks Drift, Bechuanaland' c.d.s.

Dennis Firth: Six covers, including a 'proving cover' for Macloutsie / 968.

Aubrey Glassborow: Selection of stamps, mint & used, on Album sheets.

John Inglefield-Watson: Presentation Booklets.

Mike George: Overprints and Varieties on the QV 'Jubilee' series.

Roy Setterfield: Bophuthatswana/Botswana forerunners, covers and postmarks (and Inter-Territory lack of recognition).

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### **Information Wanted**

#### **BOTSWANA 1t POSTAGE DUE SHADE**

Some members are aware that a distinct paler shade exists of the 1t value of the 1977/78 postage due issue, perf 12½. The catalogued stamp (SG D20) is black and vermilion, the shade is black and orange.

The SG catalogue Editor now accepts that the orange shade merits listing but he seeks the Society's help in providing any information that may be relevant to dates of issue. In particular, details are required of:

- a. All 1t values used before 1 January 1979, stating date of use and shade (vermilion or orange).
- b. Dates of use of all 1t values in the orange shade used before 1 July 1981 and on or after 1 January 1979.

Incomplete dates of use, showing month and year or year only should be included.

Reports direct to me, please, as soon as possible - the deadline for the 1990 catalogue already approaches. Lt. Col. Sir John Inglefield-Watson Bt., The Ross, Hamilton, Lanarkshire ML3 7UF, Scotland.

### **Members' Classifieds**

Botswana wants:- <u>Mint</u> : SG MS303, 367, 374, 375, 376, MS576; <u>Used</u> : SG 210, 214, 215, MS340, 353, 365, 368, 379, 393, 404, 572-5, MS576, 594, 603. A. B. Glassborow, 156 Reading Road South, Church Crookham, Hants GU13 0AH. He has large quantities of many issues from 1979 onwards,
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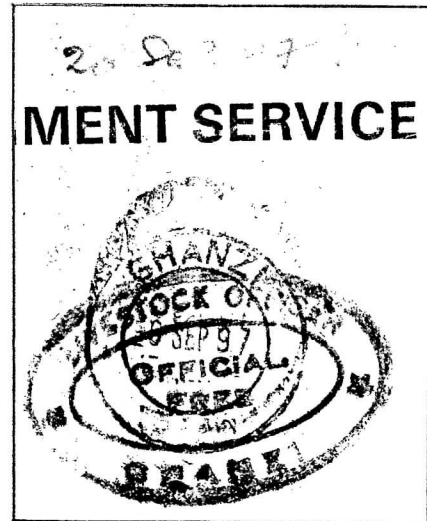
Wanted: Neat commercially used envelopes with 2½c Sunbird (SG 170) cancelled by any clear Bech. postmark - Howard Cook P.O. Box 118, Gillitts 3603, South Africa
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## Items of Interest

### FUTURE PLANNING!

Roy Setterfield came across the item shown here (looks suspiciously like a cut-out from official mail - possibly the addressee was a certain veterinary surgeon at Mahalapye in 1979 ?! - AMG). One of the strikes is an oval 'LIVESTOCK OFFICER/OFFICIAL FREE/GHANZI' cachet and over/under lying this is a double circle datestamp 'GHANZI' with the date 20 SEP 97!



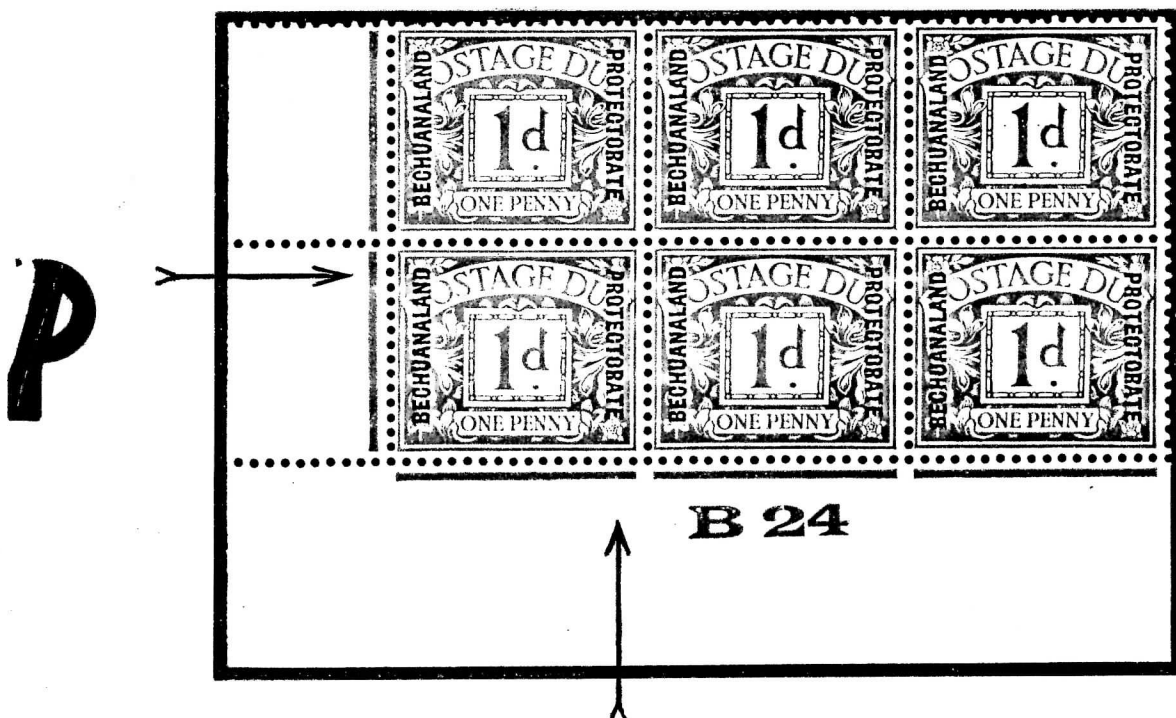
### MALFORMED 'P'

I recently purchased a collection of Bechuanaland controls which included a block of six of the Postage Due 1d (SG D2), with control B 24, along with a photographic enlargement of a single 1d (illustrated here). On examining the photograph I noticed that the 'P' of 'PROTECTORATE' was malformed in that the upper 80% of the vertical stroke of the 'P' slopes to the right and there is a minute remnant where the top of that stroke should be. My control block shows the identical variety on the lower left stamp.

There is no mention of this variety in Holmes though it would appear to be at least 'semi-constant' as the photo shows the existence of a second example and John Inglefield-Watson informs me that he has the same variety (complete with small dot to the left) on his 1d B 24 control block. However, John says that the variety is not present on his 1d C 25 control block nor on his ½d B 24.

John also informs me that these postage due stamps were all printed in sheets of 240 (20 x 12). He has no information about the sheet being sub-divided into panes and can only assume no sub-division and a forme of 240 for the B.P. overprint. Our 'variety' therefore occurs on Row 12, No.1 or stamp No. 221.

Can anyone confirm a forme of 240 - has any member seen this variety on a position other than the lower left corner? AMG

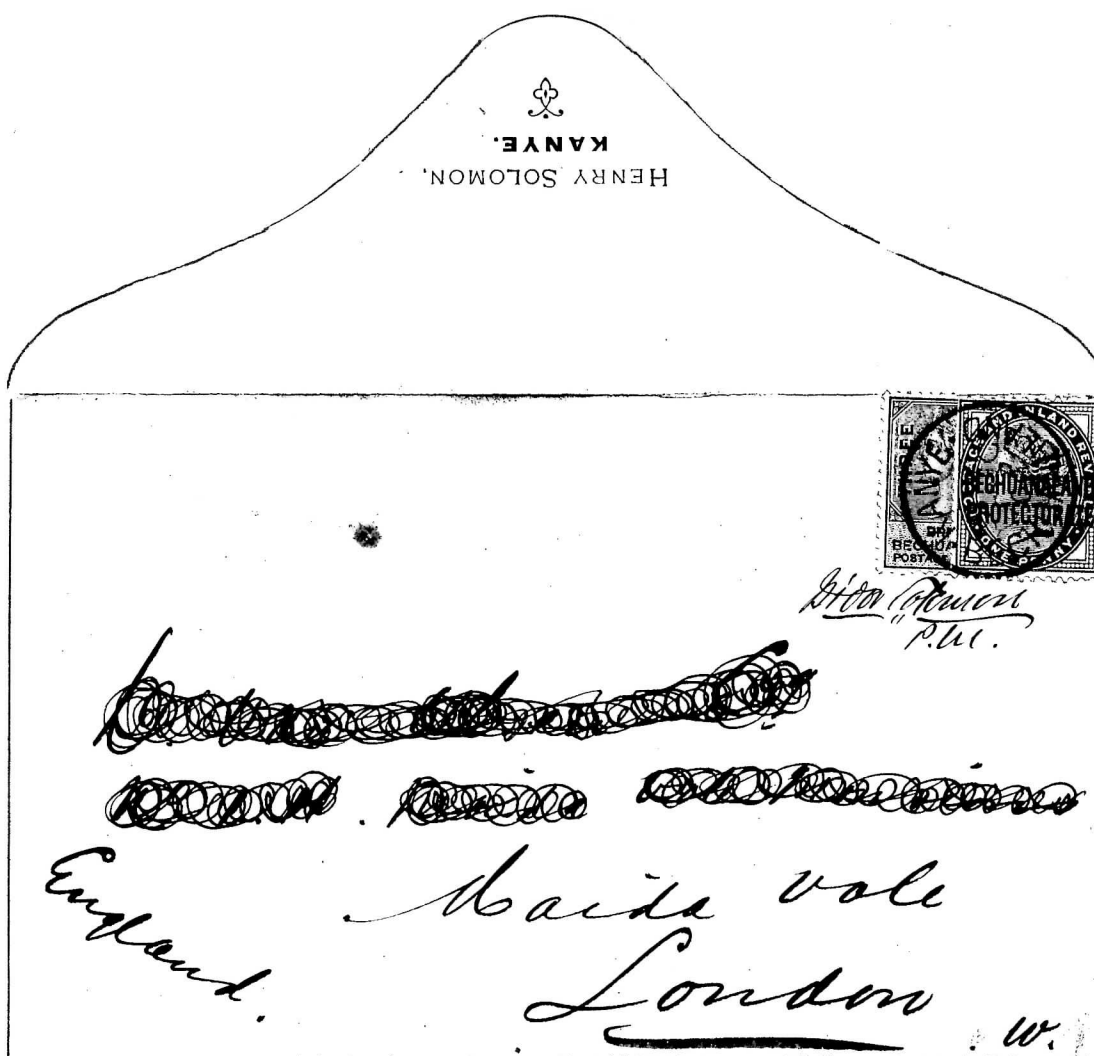


## Members' Comments

### PALAPYE AND KANYE BISECTS

John Inglefield-Watson has written with further details relating to Brian Trotter's article on Palapye Bisects (RP 11, p191).

John points out that unfortunately he doesn't possess an example of the Kanye 1/- bisect of 1904. The item displayed was a cover, ex the Danson collection, franked with a bisect of the 1887 3d (SG 12) and a complete 1897 1d (SG 61) postmarked at Kanye on 6 December 1904 (illustrated below). This is contemporary with the use of the 1/- bisect. The cover is signed by the postmaster. Perhaps someone can tell us his name and also that of the Palapye postmaster?



No backstamps

PALAPYE 4d BISECTS (SG 35a)

Schedule compiled by John Inglefield-Watson from Auction catalogues and his own cover.

Serial	Stamp		Date of Palapye Station Postmark	Place and Date of Backstamps	Postmaster's Endorsement		Addressee (if on cover)	Photo Available (Note 2)	Source	Remarks
	Bisect Diag (D) or Vert (V)	Left or Right Half			Initials	Appt (Note 1)				
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(j)	(k)	(l)
1	V	R	22 NO 99	?	Yes	Postmaster	? (Name inked over) Esq, ?	Part	Collectors Mail Auctions 17 Feb 69	Cape Govt Rlys. O.H.M.S. envelope
2	V	R	22 NO 99	-	Yes	Postmaster	Local	Part	SG Auctions 22 Sep 72; Cavendish 7 Nov 87	O.H.M.S. envelope Stamp on piece cut out & later replaced
3	V	L	22 NO 99	-	Yes	Postmaster	On piece	Part	R.Lowe 5 Nov 80	
4	V	R	13 DE? 99	-	Yes	Postmaster	On piece	Part	Harmers 1 Feb 71	
5	V	R	13 DE 99	?	Yes	Post master	?	Part	R.Lowe 16 Jun 71 (Danson)	Part envelope.
6	?	?	13 DE 99	?	Yes	?	?	No	Harmers 29 Oct 81 (H. R. Holmes)	Cover folded vertically
7	V	L	13 DE 99	-	Yes	Postmaster	Local	Part	R.Lowe 14 Dec 82	Cover folded. Collectors note on face. Small fox mark on stamp
8	V	L	13 DE 99	None	Yes	Postmaster	H. C. Werner? Esq, Palapye	Front	JFI-W's Collection	RPSL cert No. 51777
9	D	L	MR 12 00	?	Yes	P. M.	Mr. A. Jones, Gaberones	Front	Phillips 7 May 87	
10	D	R	MR 12 00	Mochudi MR 20 00	Yes	P. M.	Mr. F. Thomas, Mochudi	Front	Phillips 7 May 87	Now in BJT'S Collection

NOTES: 1. When expressed in full 'Postmaster' is usually written as one word with the first 't' linked to the 'm'. Sometimes, although linked, there is a space between these two letters. In serial 5 they are spaced and unjoined.

2. Availability of a 'Part' photograph means that the catalogue illustration only covers the area of the stamp, including postmark and postmaster's endorsement.

## Members' Comments (Cont.)

### REVENUES WITH POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

John Inglefield-Watson writes "Further to RP 9, p144, RP 10 p162 and RP 11, p194-5, I have found in my files a 1981 dealer's list which includes the same type of overprinted Transvaal KE VII 2/6 revenue stamp (Issue 1) cancelled by a single-circle Francistown Pmk No.2 dated 31 AU 06.

Unfortunately the illustration will not reproduce satisfactorily. 'Use' at Francistown doesn't seem to have been mentioned so far."

### DID THE 'QUEEN ELIZABETH' SAIL UP THE MOLOPO? (!)

Mike George records a real curiosity - a Bechuanaland Paquebot Cover!

The cover (illustrated below) is franked by a pair of KGVI Silver Wedding 1½d blue cancelled PAQUEBOT - POSTED AT SEA in two lines and with the Southampton/Paquebot c.d.s. dated 26 SEP 1949.

Additionally, the cover bears the single line cachet 'QUEEN ELIZABETH' A one-off by an idle cruising philatelist perhaps, or one of many? Anyone else seen one?

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**



A.E.Austin.Esq.

30 Chapmans Walk.

Leigh-on-Sea.

ESSEX.

### 1890 Proclamation

Illustrated on the following page is the first page (of seven) of an 1890 Proclamation by the Governor of the Cape of Good Hope relating to Postal matters between British Bechuanaland and the United Kingdom by way of the Cape.

Reproducing seven pages may not rivet every member to their seat so we thought we would start with one, and, if overwhelmed with requests for more can oblige at a later date! The full set will be lodged with our honorary Librarian - Roy Setterfield, who can make copies available for the price of a photostat (payable in mint GB stamps) to prospective researchers.

# PROCLAMATION

BY HIS EXCELLENCY SIR HENRY BROUGHAM LOCH,

Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Colony of the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa, and of the Territories and Dependencies thereof, and Her Majesty's High Commissioner, &c., &c., &c.

**U**NDER and by virtue of the powers vested in me, I do hereby proclaim, declare and make known that so much of the Postal Convention appended to Proclamation No. 188, 1885, as shall be at variance with the Convention hereto appended is rescinded, and that the British and Foreign Parcel Post Convention entered into with His Honour the Administrator of British Bechuanaland, and hereto appended, shall come into operation on and after the 1st day of August, 1890.

**GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!**

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, this 20th day of August, 1890.

HENRY B. LOCH,

Governor of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope.

By Command of His Excellency the Governor,

J. W. SAUER.

No. 220, 1890.

## CONVENTION.

His Excellency the Governor of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope and His Honour the Administrator of British Bechuanaland, being desirous of promoting greater facilities than at present exist for the exchange of parcels between the said countries respectively, and between British Bechuanaland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and certain Foreign Countries through the intermediary of the Postal Department of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, have agreed, on behalf of their respective Governments, to the following articles:—

### Article 1.

The Parcel Post between British Bechuanaland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and Foreign Countries shall come into operation on the First day of August, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety.

### Article 2.

There shall be a regular exchange of parcels between the Post Office of British Bechuanaland and the Post Offices of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and those Foreign Countries with which an exchange of parcels shall from time to time be arranged through the Central Office of Exchange at the General Post Office in Cape Town.

### Article 3.

The exchange shall be effected by means of the ordinary postal service between British Bechuanaland and the Cape Colony.

### Article 4.

Parcels from British Bechuanaland for the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries shall be forwarded from the Offices in British Bechuanaland to the Office of Exchange of the Cape Colony at Cape Town, and parcels from the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries for places in British Bechuanaland shall be forwarded direct from the Office of Exchange at Cape Town to the Post Office in British Bechuanaland nearest to the residence of the addressee.

### Article 5.

In the event of its being necessary to provide receptacles for the exchange of parcels under this Convention the cost of such receptacles shall be equally shared between the Post Offices of British Bechuanaland and the Cape Colony.

### Article 6.

A parcel must not exceed three feet six inches in length or six feet in girth and length combined.

### Article 7.

The maximum weight of a parcel must not for the present exceed seven pounds avoirdupois, and the scale of weight shall advance by even pounds beginning with the first pound.

### Article 8.

The postage for the conveyance of a parcel from the place of posting to the place of destination must in all cases be prepaid by means of postage stamps which must be affixed by the sender.

### Article 9.

Parcels of the following description must not be accepted for transmission by Parcel Post:

- (a) Parcels which bear on the outside any writing or drawing of an indecent or offensive nature or within which any contents of a like nature may be observed, and parcels containing gunpowder, cartridges, lucifer matches, or anything explosive or liable to sudden combustion, bladders containing liquid, live animals, grossly offensive or filthy matter, and anything in a condition likely to injure other parcels or any Officer of the Post Office, are prohibited.

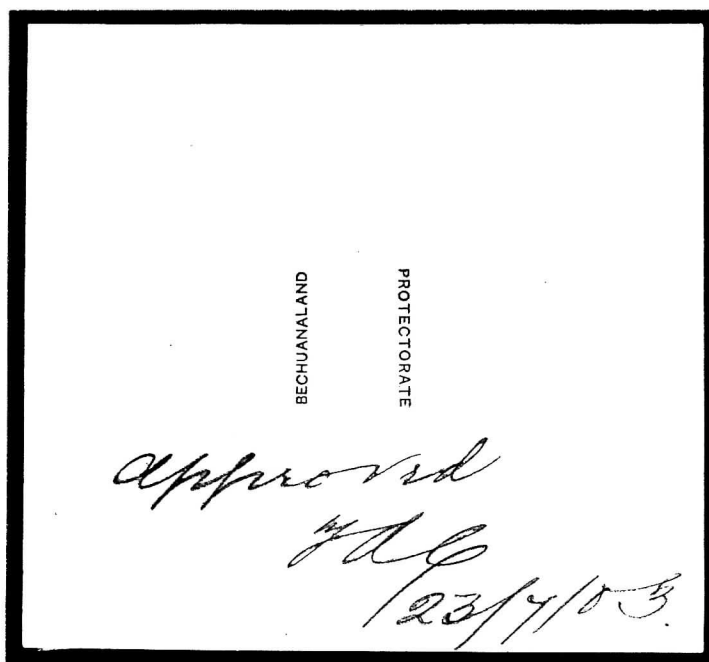
Should any parcel such as is described above be tendered for posting in British Bechuanaland, it must be refused, or, if detected in transit, it must be detained and the sender communicated with. If this cannot be done, the Postmaster must report the circumstance to the Superintendent, Parcels Office, Vryburg, stating the address of the parcel, the number of the letter bill or parcel bill on which it is entered, the office from which it was received, its supposed contents, and request instructions. If, however, such a parcel should contain perishable matter which has become offensive, the Postmaster may use his own discretion if the immediate destruction of the parcel be imperative.

KING EDWARD VII 1d 'PROTECTORATF' AND COMPARABLE VARIETIES OF THE OVERPRINT

by John Inglefield-Watson

The 'PROTECTORATF' overprint variety on the KE VII 1d recorded by A.L. Pemberton in the article quoted on page 184 of 'Runner Post' No.11 is also mentioned on pages 109/110 of Holmes who describes it as "a broken type variety" that "occurred on some sheets but was soon corrected". The method of overprinting from a plate manufactured from a master die supports this description rather than Pemberton's implied suggestion that an 'F' had been substituted for an 'E' in error. The approved master die proof, initialled by F.A. Colls, Inspector of Stamping, is illustrated.

The only comparable variety that I have seen and the only other one recorded by Holmes (pages 111/112) occurs on the 1913-24 KG V issue. It is the so-called inverted 'V' for 'A' in 'PROTECTORATE' caused by the cross-bar of the 'A' failing to print on some stamps in the first printings of the ½d (illustrated) and 1d values due to a worn plate. It would seem that this wear had already begun to show in some of the KE VII printings as I have a KE VII 1d with a faulty 'A' as illustrated.



BECHUANALAND

PROTECTORATE

BECHUANALAND

PROTECTORATE

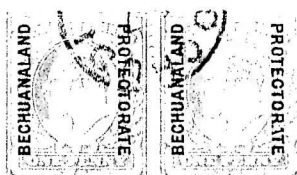


BECHUANALAND

PROTECTORATE

BECHUANALAND

PROTECTORATE





## **New Books & Background Reading**

**'STANLEY GIBBONS STAMP CATALOGUE PART 1 BRITISH COMMONWEALTH 1989, Ninety First Edition'** / Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd. Price: £21.

The annual appearance of the 'Part 1', in August signals the start of the 'new season'. The 1989 Edition doesn't see many significant changes to the Bechuanaland or Botswana listings or to the pricing.

A good number of the cheaper stamps have moved up & down by between 25 pence and £3 though the high values remain largely unchanged. Some of the more notable changes include: The 1885 Cape 6d overprint (SG 7) moves up £8 to £48 mint; Used prices for the Unappropriated Die 6d and 1/- (SG 14/15) drop to £6.50 and £5.50 from £11 and £8 respectively, while the 1/- mint drops £8 to £32. The 1888 2d and 6d surcharges in blue-green and blue (SG 24 & 27) both increase by £100 to £1300 and £1500 respectively. The Protectorate 3d (SG 43) (always a scarce stamp) increases by £10 to £70 mint and by the same amount to £80 used. The Cape ½d green overprinted (SG 57/8) move up used by £5 each to £40 and £20. The EVII 1/-s (SG 70/1) add £2 to their mint prices (now £24 and £28) and £5 when used (now £40 and £45) but more significant is that the specimen overprint is now listed against the carmine 1/- (SG 71) rather than the scarlet. The GV set price for SG 73-82 used goes up £10 to £60. An addition here is the word 'shades' after the 1d (SG 74) while the 2d Die II (SG 77) increases by £3 to £20. Here again, there are changes to the description of the 1/- resulting in the 'bistre-brown' being renumbered from SG 82 to SG 82a while the former SG 82a 'olive-bistre' is renamed 'bistre' and becomes SG 82 - the shade on which the specimen overprint occurs. The main reason for this change is that the SG Colour Key now gives the correct relative colour impression for the specimen shade. The other GV set price (SG 91-9) also rises but by only £5 to £80 for used. A new price entry is for SG 99a - the GV ½d 'cattle' with variety 'imperf between horizontal pair' which is now priced at £5000 mint (listed but unpriced last year). The only new additions are varieties on the 1935 1d Jubilee: SG 111c ('Lightning conductor') and SG 111e ('Double flagstaff'), both are priced at £40 each mint. The 1932 Postage Due set used increases by £2.50 to £12. Postal Fiscals in used condition also see some upward movement with SG F1 going up £10 to £150 and SG F3 up £7 to £55. (AMG)

**'THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF SOUTH AFRICAN POST OFFICES & POSTAL AGENCIES (Vol.2 F-M)'** / Ralph Putzel, Tokai, South Africa, 1988. Available from Vera Trinder, 38 Bedford Street, London, WC2E 9EU at £25 plus P&P.

This, the second of three volumes (? - still half the alphabet to go!) follows on from Ralph Putzel's very well received first volume which included background information to the territories covered as well details of PO's and Agencies for the letters 'A' to 'E' (reviewed in RP 5, page 9). This volume maintains that high standard of painstaking research, and includes in its 405 pages, references to the following Bechuanaland/Botswana Agencies (amongst others): Francistown, Gabane, Gaborone / Gaberones, Gaberones Village, Gaborone Village, Gaberones Station, Geluk, Genesa, Ghanzi, Gomare (Gumare), Goshwe, Groot Chwaing, Gubulawayo, Gweta, Hartbeeste Pan, Hebron, Jwaneng, Kakia, Kang, Kanye, Karakubis, Kasane, Kavimba, Keimoes, Khakhea, Khumaga, Kudumelapye, Kule, Kumakwane, Kunana, Kuruman, Lecheng, Lehututu, Lentsweletau, Letlakeng, Letlhakane, Lobatsi/e, Machalapsie River (?), Machaneng, Macloutsi/e, Madinare, Mafeking, Maggwe (?), Mahalapye, Makaleng, Makgobistad, Mankodi, Mante (?), Maribogo, Maritzani, Morokwen, Maun, Maunatlala, Middlepits, Mier.

As the book has drawn on numerous sources including Post Office Guides there are undoubtedly references to Agencies whose opening was planned but never actually took place. All in all an invaluable and fascinating compilation. (AMG)

## New Books & Background Reading (Cont.)

**'A VISIT TO LOBENGULA IN 1889'** / H. Vaughan Williams. Shuter and Shooter, Pieter-Maritzburg, 1947. Via Hove Public Library.

His brother was involved in the negotiations with Lobengula in 1888, and Vaughan-Williams interrupted his medical studies to accompany him. These reminiscences give a lively account of a youngster's travels through Bechuanaland to Gubulawayo, and his prolonged and often boring stay at Gubulawayo. Not being personally involved, he gives unbiased views of people he met, from Rhodes in Johannesburg, via Khama and Sam Edwards, to Lobengula, who called him his 'Little piccanin white man'.

Completely non-philatelic, but very readable and interesting.

(RRS)

**'MONARCH OF ALL I SURVEY The Bechuanaland Diaries 1929-1937 of Sir Charles Rey'**; / edited by N. Parsons and M. Crowder for the The Botswana Society. pp 230 plus 50 pages of notes etc. Published 1988.

Sir Charles Rey was appointed Resident Commissioner of the Bechuanaland Protectorate in 1930, following a series of not very good Commissioners. He brought fresh ideas and a new broom to the Protectorate, resulting in many improvements, although whether he should be given as much credit as he gives himself, may be open to question (I have a letter from an old professional colleague who worked under him at the time, and he refers to Rey as.. 'just a Piccadilly Johnnie who was full of bounce'). This being Rey's own personal diary, it is full of caustic opinions on his staff, and especially the Colonial Office ('brainless visionless dunderheads'), but this does add spice to his dealings with local Chiefs, Tshekedi, the Tati Company, locusts and other 'arch villains'. Intermingled are descriptions of his travels all over the country, including crossing the Kalahari (but only just!) in his faithful Armstrong-Siddely. Anyone with knowledge of Bechuanaland or Botswana will find it interesting at least, fascinating at best, and their reading will probably be accompanied by snorts of disagreement and/or chuckles of amusement.

There are not many philatelic references but these few are worth quoting:

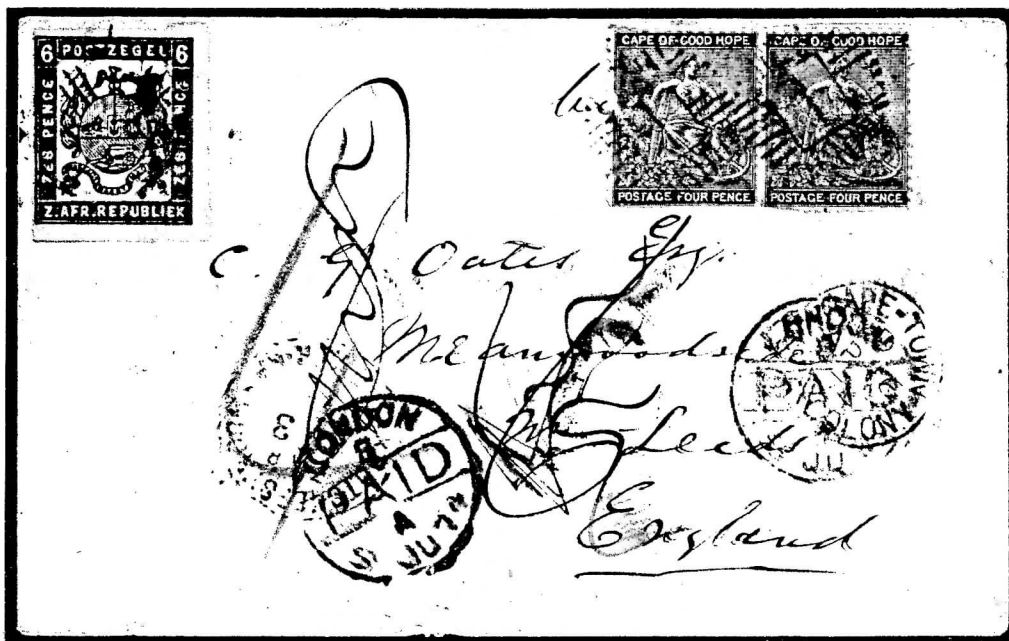
1932 p97. 'I'm getting £8000 (I hope) from my new issue of stamps, and £6000 from a tax on railway tickets';

1933 p131. 10 June. 'The scenery was lovely and the track good as we rolled along by the river. We passed our old friend the giant baobab tree that I photographed three years ago, and which figures on our new stamps.'

Editorial note to p131: 'Rey was responsible for producing the Bechuanaland Prot.'s first definitive issue of its own postage stamps, rather than an overprinting of Cape Colony or South African stamps' (Holmes states '..from a photograph by W. & D. Downey'.)

S.G. Catalogue states 'Des. from a photo by Resident Commissioner Ngamiland'. Rey was Resident Commissioner, B.P. There was no Commissioner for Ngamiland at that time, only R.M. - Resident Magistrate.

(RRS)



### In The Auction Room

Harmers of London auction on the 26/7 July 1988 contained one cover of particular interest to collectors of Bechuanaland, Rhodesia, Transvaal and Cape of Good Hope. Lot 1516 (under Transvaal) was a Transvaal (ZAR)/Cape combination cover written at Mangwe in 1874 by Frank Oates to his brother Charles Oates. Frank Oates travelled through Bechuanaland and Matabeleland at this time, and, after several abortive attempts, eventually reached the Victoria Falls, travelling the last 60 miles on foot from Pandamatenga. Tragically, on the return journey early in 1875, he fell ill with malaria and died at the age of 35 and is buried near the headwaters of the Shashi River. 11 covers are recorded which carried some or all of the 22 letters in the National Archives of Zimbabwe (often more than one letter would be sent in an envelope). Of these 22 letters about half were written in Bechuanaland, and most at Tati.

As no formal postal system existed this far north at that time, mail was usually entrusted to traders, missionaries or hunters travelling in the desired direction. In the case of this letter, it would probably have been carried just over the border into the ZAR where it probably entered the official postal system at or near Zeerust in the north-west. A ZAR 6d stamp was affixed which conveyed it via Potchefstroom - where it received the first postal marking - as far as the ZAR/Cape border (ZAR stamps were not valid outside that territory). The Cape stamps were most likely affixed at the same time as the ZAR 6d and these pre-paid it through the Cape and Griqualand West (where they were cancelled) and by ship on to England.

The great rarity of this cover was not reflected in the estimate (£200) but it soon found a more realistic level when it was knocked down at £2007, including the buyers premium.

A fascinating 48 page study entitled 'THE OATES CORRESPONDENCE - A POSTAL HISTORY OF FRANK OATES' TRAVELS IN MATABELELAND AND ZAMBESIA 1873-75' by E. Kenneth Wright and Alan R. Drysdall with illustrations, maps and tables is nearing completion. A full review will appear in the December issue of the *Runner Post*. Publication date is mid November when it will be available via Alan MacGregor at £6.50 including P&P (advance orders welcome!).

## Items of Interest - Picture Postcards of Bechuanaland

Postcards depicting scenes of Bechuanaland are scarce so it was with considerable interest that we learnt of the existence of 11 unused cards (a set?) published by Townshend & Sons of Vryburg, apparently around the turn of the century.

Some of the views are admittedly of more general Southern African interest e.g. 'Crossing a Drift' and a scene of cattle in Vryburg but others such as 'Groot Chwaing Salt Pan: Near Vryburg' are certainly most unusual. We are not sure how they will reproduce here but we will give it a go as we feel that they should be recorded. Have any members seen any of these cards used?

Special thanks to Argyll Etkin Ltd who kindly supplied these photocopies and gave permission for us to illustrate them in the Runner Post.



MEMENTO OF WAR: BURGER CAMP, VRYBURG.



SOLDIERS' GRAVES, VRYBURG CEMETERY.



CROSSING THE VAAL RIVER.

TOWNSHEND & SON, VRYBURG.



A CAPE POLICEMAN'S HOME, KURUMAN.

TOWNSHEND & SON, VRYBURG.



VRYBURG: THE WILLOWS.



AFTER HEAVY RAINS: VRYBURG, 1903.

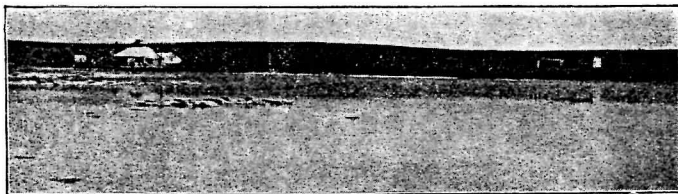
TOWNSHEND & SON, VRYBURG.



CROSSING A "DRIFT": SOUTH AFRICA.

TOWNSHEND & SON, VRYBURG.





GROOT CHWAING SALT PAN: NEAR VRYBURG.

TOWNSHEND & SON, VRYBURG

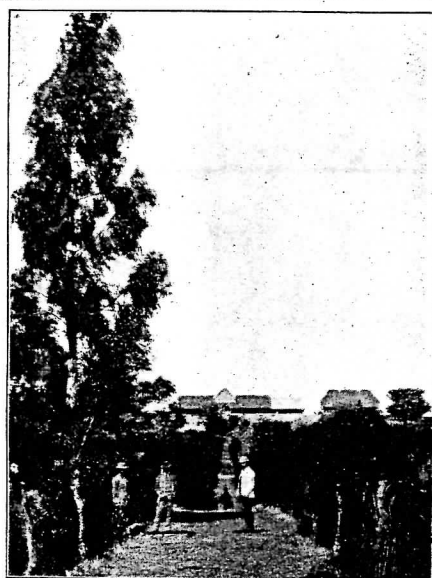


NATIVE HUTS: A BECHUANALAND SNAPSHOT.



THE HOSPITAL, VRYBURG.

TOWNSHEND & SON, VRYBURG.



THE GARDEN WALK, KURUMAN.  
TOWNSHEND & SON, VRYBURG.



CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

# POST CARD.

Only the Address to be Written on this Side.

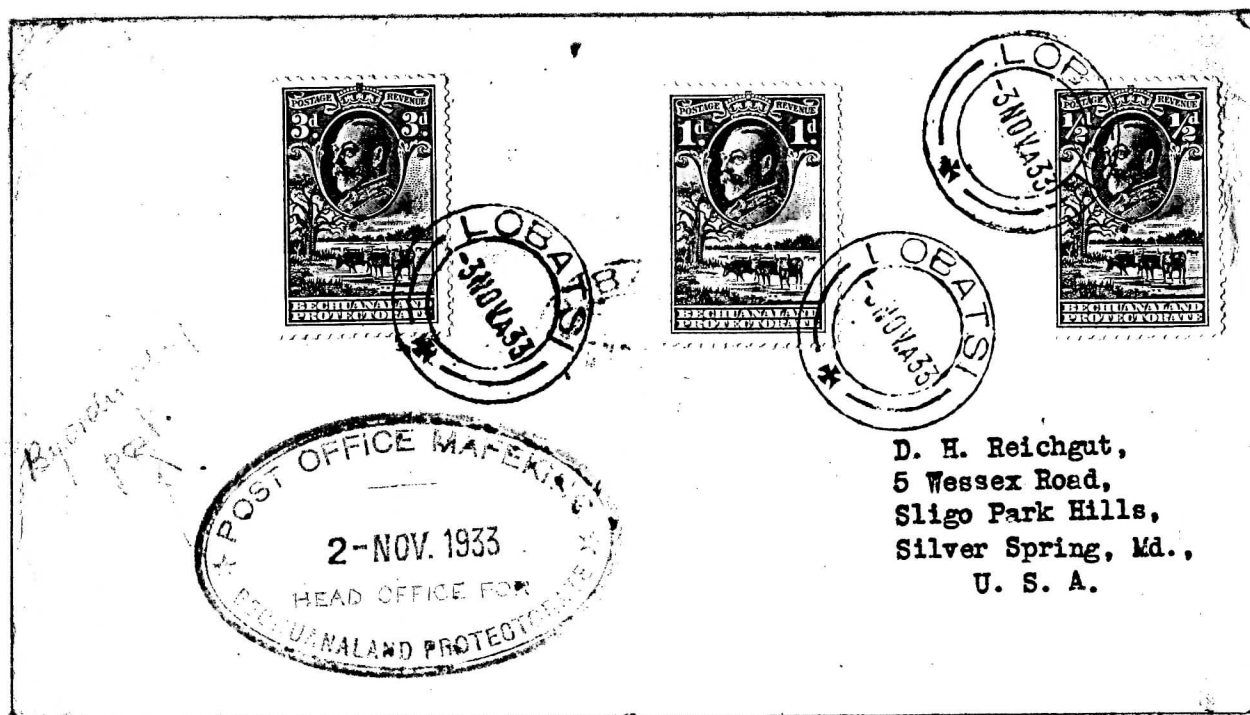
A PENNY  
STAMP TO  
BE PLACED  
HERE.

Reverse of postcards. The undivided back indicates publication prior to 1902

## Mafeking - Head Office for the Protectorate

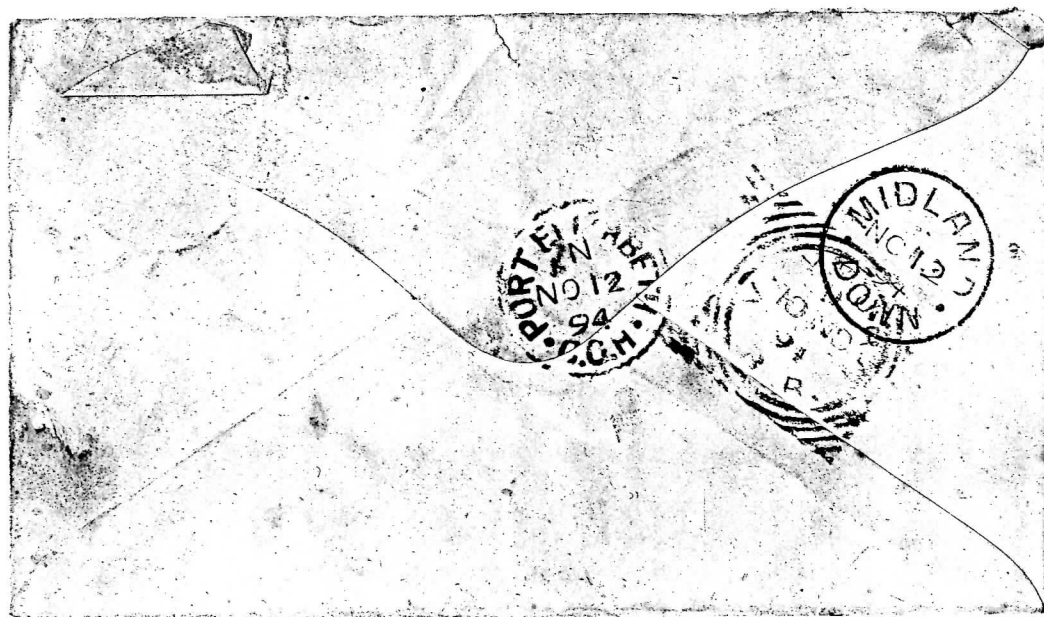
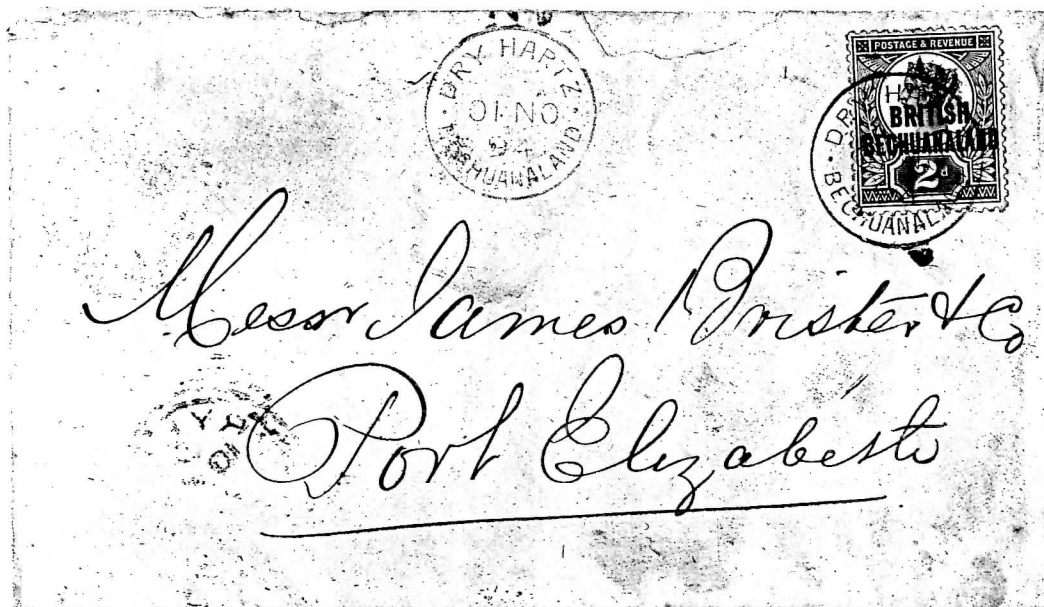
In spite of the fact that with the formation of the Union of South Africa in 1910, Mafeking remained the administrative capital of Bechuanaland Protectorate until 1966. Since this meant that both South African and Bechuanaland stamps were legal tender in Mafeking, a distinction had to be made for stamps used in South Africa and those used in Bechuanaland Protectorate. Stamps used in Mafeking for South African postal use were therefore cancelled with the normal 'Mafeking' datestamp while Bechuanaland Protectorate postal items were cancelled with a special 'Mafeking Bech. Prot. H.O.' circular datestamp.

Why this cover, posted in Lobatsi, shows an oval cachet in purple 'POST OFFICE MAFEKING/2-NOV. 1933/HEAD OFFICE FOR BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE' is more of a mystery.



## Items of Interest - Dry Hartz Cover

Brian Trotter has supplied photocopies of a recent acquisition which we illustrate here - An 1894 cover bearing the QV Jubilee 2d (SG 34) neatly cancelled with the single circle DRY HARTZ/BECHUANALAND cancellation dated 01 NO/94, there is also a second strike away from the stamp. As far as we know this is the only example of this cancel on cover though a few covers showing the alternative (and earlier) spelling DRY HARTS are known. Strangely enough, though both cancellations are scarce, it is the 'Z' rather than the 'S' spelling that one usually encounters on loose stamps. It may be opportune to also illustrate here the relevant album sheet in Cedric Roché's collection containing a marvellous 'DRY HARTS' cover as it gives relevant details of the two types of cancellers.



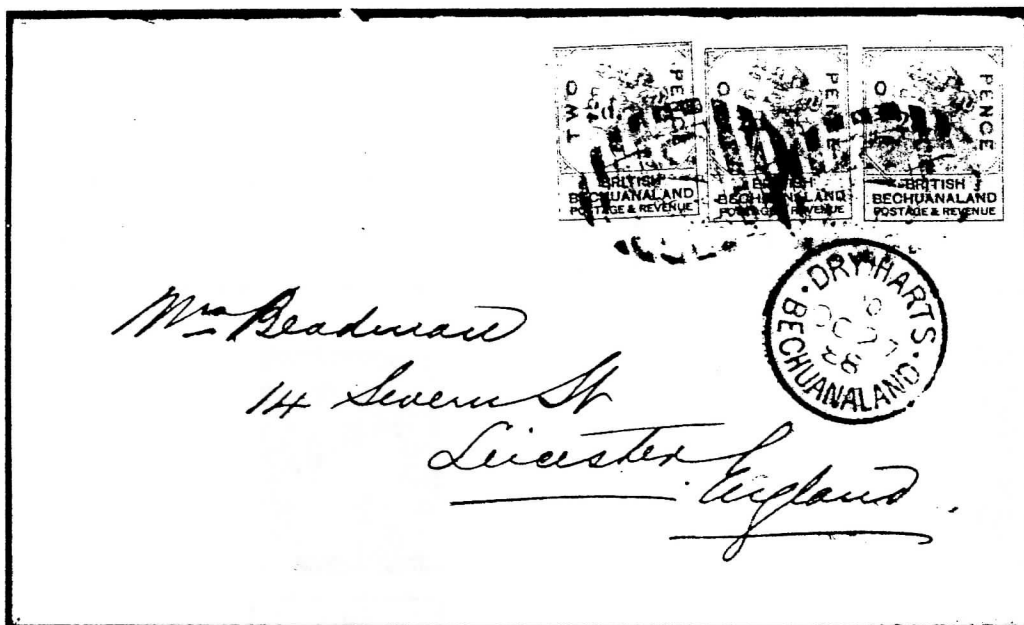
# DRY HARTS

POA Opened: 1888  
Closed: 1889



'675'

Datestamp: Type 1  
Canceller: 675



Envelope to Mrs Beadwall, Leicester, England. Stamped with three 2d on 2d surcharges cancelled '675' and with datestamp 'Dry Harts/Bechuanaland/Oc 27 88'. Very early usage of these surcharges which were placed on sale on the 7th August 1888. Shows the 6d per ½oz letter rate to the United Kingdom.

Backstamped: Kimberley/F/Oc 28 88.

G.P.O./Capetown/D/Oc 31 88.

Leicester/AY/No 27 88.

# DRY HARTZ

The office was reopened in 1891 with the name spelled with a 'Z' instead of an 'S'. A new Type 1 datestamp was issued with the changed spelling. Note that the lettering is in much smaller characters.

? .3.92



25 Sep 94

# THE MAFEKING MAIL

## SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 91

Tuesday, March 13th, 1900.

152nd Day of Siege

The Mafeking Mail.

TUESDAY, 13TH MARCH, 1900.

### THE END IN SIGHT.

We may congratulate ourselves in the phrase now classical. "We are getting on very nicely all round." Ladysmith effectually relieved is by far the most welcome piece of intelligence we could have. Had it been possible for the Boers to take Ladysmith and the force we had there, as they so lippily explained in Nov., that they were about to do, the outlook would have been much more serious for us. The duration of the campaign would have been greatly prolonged and we should have had much more trouble. The news of to-day brings the termination of this war within estimatable distance. The final outcome none but the misguided fools who started it, failed to discern, but its duration could not be measured and that exceedingly momentous matter for us depended greatly upon our success or unsuccess on the Eastern side. Our position now:—with the Boers in Natal, practically smashed; the key to the Western Border having been, and still being, held by us; while the principal Southern force of the enemy has been overthrown and our troops advancing in to the enemy's country from the Central Southern points,—is so greatly improved that the most lugubrious can but rejoice. A most satisfactory feature of our successes, is that they have taken place in our own territory. Our friends at home, who with cheers for us drowned the hysterical squeaks of the "Little Englander," have an answer to objectors who prate of the "injustice of this war" in the fact that it was our own homes, the lives and limbs of our woman-kind and their babes, at their own hearths, that our troops were called here to battle for and defend. Where the injustice of this war will arise is if Britain in its far too humane remembrance of her own mightiness, will stay her hand before the *coup de grace* is given and in too merciful consideration of a fallen foe, not proceed to those extremities which any other power would regard as just retribution and which we would rejoice to see.

### Mafeking Garrison.

#### GENERAL ORDERS

By Colonel R. S. S. Baden-Powell, Commanding Frontier Force.

MAFEKING, 10TH MARCH, 1900.

The Colonel Commanding wishes to place on record his deep regret at the death of Private Sydney Webb, Cape Police, D. 2, for a long time employed as his Orderly at Headquarters.

Private Webb left Headquarters at his own request as he preferred to fight in the Brickfields with his comrades. By his death a gallant and plucky soldier has been lost to Her Majesty's Service.

*Promotion.*—Sergt. Currie to be Local and Provisional Lieutenant while in command of the Colonial Contingent.

*Pay.*—Postal and Telegraph Staff (*Correction*).—With reference to General Order No. 4, of the 6th March, Mr. A. Thomas's name should have appeared as entitled to Trench Allowance at the rate of 2/6 per diem from the 13th October, 1899, inclusive.

MAFEKING, 12TH MARCH, 1900.

*Notice.*—The Col. Commanding wishes to warn the inhabitants of Mafeking that although the water is now flowing through the pipes from the Waterworks, it should not be used at present for cooking or drinking purposes.

*Visiting Justice.*—The Visiting Justice to the Mafeking Gaol for the ensuing week is Major Lord Edward Cecil, D.S.O.

*Hospital Assistant.*—Ferdinand Jacobs, Town Guard, is appointed Extra Hospital Assistant for temporary duty in the Brickfields; while actually employed outside the limits of the Town Defences he will receive an allowance of 5/- per diem in addition to his Trench Allowance of 2/6.

*Signallers.*—No. 49, Trooper E. A. Dawson, Protectorate Regiment, is granted Extra Duty Pay at the rate of 8d. per diem from the 13th October, 1899, inclusive to the date he was wounded, namely, the 26th December, 1899. No. 41, Trpr. E. Bones, Prot. Regiment, is granted First Class Rate of 1/- per diem from the 1st March, 1900, inclusive.

*Horses on Duty.*—Seven pounds of Oats will be issued daily for the following proportion of horses from this day's date inclusive:

Protectorate Regiment	100
B.S.A.P.	10
Cape Police	10
Staff	6

These horses are to be kept as fit as circumstances will allow; to be shod; and regularly exercised under the saddle ready for service.

*Sale of Spirits, Beer, etc.*—No further orders for private persons, merchants, hotel-keepers, etc., to purchase Spirits, Beer, etc., in cases or bulk, will, in future be issued, as the present stock in town does not admit of such authority being given for the present.

*Matches.*—All persons requiring to purchase are requested to apply to A.S.C. Depot, Isaacs' Store, and not Court House Office.

By order,  
E. H. CECIL, Major,  
Chief Staff Officer.

### LATEST NEWS.

A despatch confirming a previous one, which has not come to hand, was received this morning. It tells of Ladysmith being relieved after great slaughter. No less than two thousand Boers being destroyed and three thousand taken prisoners. The total of our casualties were 1,100. It was reported that the Boers were massing at Bloemfontein and expected to make a stand there.

President Kruger has gone to the Natal Front.

Colonel Plumer is reported at Lobatsi Siding with the armoured train. About three hundred Boers are lying in wait for him at Ramathlabama.

Some of our local boys, under Sergt. Abrams, went out last Friday night and turned the Boers from the trench out West, beyond Fort Cronje. On Sunday night we occupied Jackall Tree and attacked Fort Snyman but were repulsed, although not before several Boers were shot. On the same night, beyond the Brickfields, some Boers were observed in the moonlight, crawling under the shelter of the bush and trees towards our most advanced trench occupied by Cape Boys, under Corpl. Diepenaar. Coolly abstaining from firing till they got well up, he let them have a volley. Of course, as usual they tried to bolt while their friends at the fort turned on a Maxim and a 5-pdr. as fast as it could be loaded. Diepenaar withdrew his men from the fort, five each side, in open order and got a volley or two into the retreating Boers, with the happy result of seeing them carry away two men wounded.

Some Baralongs went out for cattle last night; not being able to agree as to the best road, they divided into two parties; one found themselves observed by some Boers who fired upon them. They returned the fire and selecting a suitable place, flattened down the grass so that they could see any body approaching and lay down waiting for the Boers, who were following their spoor, to come upon them. When they arrived the Natives let fire with such good result that they disabled seven Boers, capturing two horses, rifles and ammunition bandoliers.

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