

The Runner Post



RUNNER POST No. 13 (ISSN No. 0953-3354)

WINTER ISSUE - DECEMBER 1988

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LIST OF OFFICERS

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EDITORS' COMMENTS

The Runner Post - our unsung heroes. It is time that credit is given to Andy Andersson and Hamish Campbell for their considerable help with the Runner Post. The first two copies of each issue are sent to Andy and Hamish respectively, who produce and distribute copies for members in their area: in Andy's case he not only does this without cost to us, but also remits their subscriptions, whilst Hamish is self-financing from the subscriptions which he collects in Rand. The saving to the Society in printing and postage is considerable, and the rest of us are beholden to these stalwarts - not forgetting Hamish's able assistant, Howard Cook. We thank you all!

Now to a sadder note - we have been informed of the death of our member, Bernard Martin, who surprised us all by producing an example of a Banks Drift at our meeting in March 1988. We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs Martin.

And now for a slight gripe! The Runner Post can only be as good as you make it - your Editors can only print what members send in and apart from a few stalwart members comprising less than 10% of the membership but who supply 90% of the content of each RP, little material seems to emanate from anyone else. It is hard to believe that with close on 100 members collecting Bechuanaland or aspects of Bechuanaland, that so few have anything of interest in their collections or ever buy anything new which may be of even passing interest to other members.

We know this is not the case and that many of you are sitting on superb collections and individual items which (we presume) for reasons of modesty you think not worthy of sharing. Go on, have a look through your collections and send us a photostat of that stamp, cover, postmark, revenue or whatever that you have always admired. As a Society, we are supposed to be expanding our collective knowledge of that wonderful territory - the Bechuanalands.

In future RP's we are planning articles or even 'numbers' on the following topics:
The Warren Expedition and Stellaland - either together or separately, with notes on Goshen Republic.

The history of Railways in Bechuanaland, primarily from the philatelic connection.

A mini catalogue or listing of all known revenues of the Bechuanalands.

However, we need help, if you can contribute in any way, with pictures or information on any of these subjects or if you have suggestions or topics you would like to see covered, please let us know. We are waiting to serve you!

A Message From Our New Chairman

In the last edition of the Runner Post, Brian Trotter gave a 'progress report' of the Society to date. This was also a valedictory message, for after 3 years as Chairman, Brian was about to pass on the baton of office to me. The first thing I wish to say is that our Society owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Brian for all that he has done to guide and encourage us in the early years of the Society's existence. He has managed to do this despite a hectic work schedule that would finish off most mere mortals in no time at all! I am indebted to him for agreeing to continue to serve on the committee, where his wise counsel will be invaluable.

What, then, of the next two years? Firstly I look forward to the continued growth of the Society - both in membership and esteem. We can continue with the massive task of completing the postmarks study of the Bechuanalands, parts of which have already been published in the R.P. We can extend that study to include the numerous and fascinating postmarks of Botswana - and an introductory article is contained elsewhere in this edition - all with the eventual aim of a full and separate publication in 'book' form. With the co-operation of you the members, articles on other aspects of philately will continue to make the Runner Post a model of what a Society journal should be. In this regard we are eager to hear from everyone - just as everyone has (allegedly!) at least one book inside them, I believe that every member has at least one article worthy of publication just waiting to be written! Why not make a resolution for 1989 to do just that?

Finally, on a personal note, I look forward to meeting as many members as possible during my term of office as Chairman. With any luck this will include Southern African members too: having 'collected' Bechuanaland for over 30 years it is high time that I set foot in Botswana! I also very much hope that those UK members who have not yet made it to one of our meetings will make every effort to come along to our next meeting, to be held on the Saturday of Spring Stampex (March 4th). Our Hon. Secretary will have complimentary tickets available (on receipt of an SAE please, to conserve our limited funds), so why not come along and meet us in March. Having been a 'solitary' collector, not a member of any P.S., my own knowledge and interest have taken what I believe is known as a quantum leap over the past 4 years. The same could happen to you! If you have any suggestions as to how the Society could help you more, please write to me or to the Hon. Sec. and your ideas will be considered enthusiastically. I am confident that the B.B.S. will go from strength to strength!

Mike George

REPORT OF GENERAL MEETING FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS, ETC.

STAMPEX, Horticultural Halls, London, Tuesday 27th September, 1988.

Our General Meeting was preceded by a Committee meeting where it was decided that in the absence of both Brian Trotter and Mike George the meeting would be Chaired by John Inglefield-Watson who opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

APOLOGIES were received from our Chairman, Brian Trotter and from Mike George, John Coates, Ker Macrossan, Steve Wallace and Philip Kaye.

ELECTION OF SOCIETY OFFICERS:

Our outgoing Chairman, Brian Trotter, having completed his term had suggested and proposed Mike George as his replacement for the next two years. There being no other nominations, this was seconded by Alan MacGregor and approved unanimously.

Brian Trotter also suggested the election of existing officers 'en bloc'. This was proposed by Richard Stroud, seconded by John Inglefield-Watson and carried.

Chairman:	Mike George
Secretary:	Roy Setterfield
Treasurer:	Aubrey Glassborow
Editors:	Alan MacGregor and Roy Setterfield
Auctioneer:	Tony Chilton
Southern African Representative	Hamish Campbell

Richard Stroud was re-appointed as Auditor.

John Inglefield-Watson proposed adding the following 'Members of Committee':

Brian Trotter (seconded: Aubrey Glassborow)

Dennis Firth as Minutes Secretary (seconded by Jim Catterall), this was subject to his acceptance which has now been obtained.

Both appointments were carried.

John Inglefield-Watson then read the minutes of the 15th October 1986 Annual General Meeting, adoption was proposed by Alan MacGregor, seconded by Richard Stroud and carried. John Inglefield-Watson also read the minutes of meetings held on 4/3/87, 23/9/87 and 2/3/88, adoption of each was proposed by Aubrey Glassborow, seconded by Alan MacGregor and carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Hon. Secretary reported that membership fluctuated slightly but currently stood at 91.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Hon. Treasurer presented a statement of accounts (reproduced following this report). Some points mentioned: The cost of producing The Runner Post is not quite met by subscriptions and in this connection the possibility of increasing

subscriptions was raised. As agreed at a previous meeting, subscriptions shall be sufficient to cover all the Society's normal running costs. Income from Auction commissions was a welcome bonus but should only be treated as just that and should not be relied on to balance the accounts. It was also reported that the BBS South African Auction had two items go astray in the post, which is noted in the accounts.

To summarise: Our current balance may appear respectable, but we should avoid complacency as increasing production costs of the RP mean that a few years ahead we could face a crippling cash crisis.

The accounts to 30/6/88 were approved - proposed by Jim Catterall and seconded by John Inglefield-Watson.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A proposal to increase the subscription to £8 for the year 1989-90 with the exception that the subscription for Southern African members remain at £5 or equivalent as at present, was put forward. Further, that if practicable, the same subscription be made payable for the following year with the proviso that if, in the light of the financial position during the year 1989-90 the Committee deems a further increase necessary for 1990-91 (up to a maximum subscription of £10) then this may be instituted without further reference to a General Meeting. This was proposed by Aubrey Glassborow, seconded by Jim Catterall and carried.

The Society Library: It was decided that this must be run by someone other than the Hon. Secretary (who has more than enough on his plate). No service could be provided unless some member volunteered to act as Librarian. The matter was referred to the Committee for further action.

StampWorld 90: The idea that various Southern African specialist Societies jointly hire a 'hospitality' room at StampWorld 90 in order to offer somewhere for our respective members and overseas visitors to meet and also to promote Southern African philately was first proposed by the BBS. This idea has been generally well received by the relevant Societies. However, as a relatively young and small Society it was agreed that the BBS should not take the lead in this and it was hoped that a larger Society would run the organisation. The Hon. Secretary was instructed to inform other interested Societies accordingly. He was also authorised to make a separate provisional booking for a meeting room for the BBS for May 9th 1990. This could later be incorporated in the Southern Africa project or partly exchanged with another Society's booking to afford the BBS meeting facilities on more than one day even if the more ambitious Southern African project did not materialise. It was further noted that the B&B Society's maximum financial commitment in this venture will not exceed £100.

Discussion then followed on the merits and otherwise, of publishing a membership list, particularly with regard to the inclusion of addresses. It was decided to publish a simple list of members names only, without addresses, but a full list of names and addresses will be prepared for publication at a later date, which will exclude addresses of those members who advise that they wish to 'opt out'. A note will appear in The Runner Post before such publication giving ample time for members to so advise.

Jim Catterall was congratulated by all present on gaining a Silver Award for his exhibit at Stampex.

Jim Catterall then proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Officers, and in particular to Brian Trotter, this was seconded by John Inglefield-Watson - and carried with acclamation.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

<u>Income</u>	
Subscriptions	330.00
Auction Commission	170.80
Donations	4.67
Postage (net)	3.05
Photocopying (net)	<u>10.80</u>
	519.32
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Subs to B.P. Fed'n	14.00
Meeting Room Hire	40.00
Runner Posts -	
Issue No. 8 £ 73.10	
Issue No. 9 71.50	
Issue No. 10 114.23	
Issue No. 11 <u>85.61</u>	
Stationery	344.44
Miscellaneous	<u>9.54</u>
	408.47
Surplus for year	<u>£110.85</u>

BALANCE SHEET

<u>Liabilities</u>	
Surplus Income at 30/6/87	£119.15
do do to 30/6/88	<u>110.85</u>
Sundry Creditors	230.00
	<u>253.03</u>
	483.03
<u>Assets</u>	
Current a/c Midland Bank PLC	343.58
Cash in Hand	2.40
Sundry Debtors	<u>137.05</u>
	483.03

SUB CAPRICORN ACCOUNTS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

<u>Income</u>		<u>R</u>
Subscriptions		563.00
Auction Commission		103.10
Donation		4.00
Building Soc. Int.		17.04
Miscellaneous		<u>2.00</u>
		689.14
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Runner Posts (inc. postage)		
Issue No. 8 R90.59		
Issue No. 9 74.89		
Issue No. 10 86.84		
Extras		<u>49.99</u>
Surplus for year		<u>302.31</u>
		R386.83

BALANCE SHEET

<u>Liabilities</u>	
Surplus Income b/f R255.13	
do do for year	<u>386.83</u>
	641.96
<u>Assets</u>	
Deposit A/C	
*Natal Building Soc.	577.96
*Sundry Debtor	<u>64.00</u>
	641.96

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30/6/88

(SA Rand converted at nominal 4=£1)

<u>Liabilities</u>		£	£	£
Surpluses to date:				
Principal a/c		230.00		
Sub-Capricorn		<u>160.47</u>		
			390.47	
Sundry Creditors				
Principal a/c			<u>253.03</u>	
				643.50
 <u>Assets</u>				
Bank balance				
Building Soc. balance		343.58		
Cash		<u>144.47*</u>		
		2.40		
			490.45	
Sundry Debtors				
Principal a/c		137.05		
Sub-Capricorn		<u>16.00*</u>		
			<u>153.05</u>	
				<u>£643.50</u>

RESULTS OF POSTAL AUCTIONS

Second UK - Sept/Nov 1987

Gross sale Receipts	£690.50
Vendor Payments & contras	<u>521.45</u>
Commission to Society	<u>69.05</u>

Third UK - May/June 1988

Gross sale Receipts	£1017.50
Vendor Payments & contras	<u>915.75</u>
Commission to Society	<u>£101.75</u>

First Sub-Cap. - May 1988

Gross sale Receipts	R1017.50
Vendor Payments	<u>914.40</u>
Commission to Society	<u>R103.10*</u>

* Sdy Dr in a/cs represents debt by purchaser whose stamps have gone astray in (SA) post and Building Society deposit includes R30 paid for stamps which are similarly missing.

(Accounts signed by Honorary Treasurer - A B Glassborow
FCIS and Honorary Auditor - Richard Stroud)

Future Meetings

Future meetings have been booked for:

March 4th, 1989, Saturday afternoon at 2.00pm, Stampex, London.

October 18, 1989, Wednesday at 2pm, Stampex, London.

May 9th, 1990, Wednesday at StampWorld, London.

The next meeting will be held at Stampex, Horticultural Halls, London, on Saturday March 4th, 1989, at 2pm. This is a week-end meeting especially for those who cannot attend a meeting in London during the week. We hope to see you there - a short business meeting followed by installation of Chairman, then a display by Dennis Firth and general discussions. Members are always welcome to bring along any items of Bechuanaland or Botswana interest.

Members' Comments and Queries

Postal Rates - Information Requested

Jim Catterall is researching postal rates in Bechuanaland and would welcome any information members could contribute. He would particularly appreciate hearing from a 'volunteer' in South Africa who is in a position to do some research in the Archives on this topic. Jim would collate any such information with a view to publication. Replies via the Editors, please.

The 1913-24 1/- Shades

John Inglefield-Watson has drawn attention to the review of the 1989 Stanley Gibbons Part 1 Catalogue (RP 12, page 206) and points out that the comments on changes to the colour descriptions of the 1/- value (SG 82 & 82a) may be misleading. John was closely involved with the SG Catalogue Editor in revision of the descriptions and says "...that the revisions were purely and simply changes in the shade descriptions in order to reflect more accurately their relative appearance in relation to the SG Colour Key. The shades selected were something of a compromise as they had to be applied to all GB and GB overprint listings, not merely to Bechuanaland. It is perhaps unfortunate that the 'bistre-brown' formerly applied to SG 82 has now been adopted for SG 82a. However, I would stress that the stamps concerned have not been re-numbered, i.e.:-

SG 82, 'bistre' is still the original printing with Control C13 and remains the shade with the 'SPECIMEN' overprint (SG 82S).

SG 82a 'bistre-brown' is still the second printing with Control U23 (refer to my article in RP 7, page 114)."

Inoculation Siding

Andy Andersson has conveyed some comments made to him by Jim Haskins, including the following information on Inoculation Siding (RP 11, p181):

"This was a veterinary camp on the main Francistown-Plumtree road, established for the investigation and inoculation of lung sickness in cattle, during the period early March to late September 1898. It is now known as BISOLI (anglicized version was BOSOLE)."

Frank Oates F.R.G.S.

Jim Haskins also passed on some information on Frank Oates, to whom we first referred to in 'Editor's Comments' in RP11, p179:

"Frank Oates, brother of Capt. L.E.G. Oates of the Scott Antarctic Expedition, did not, as stated, die at Tati, but on the bank of the Tjigwenchena Spruit (stream), a tributary of the Shashi River, in February 1875. He, assisted by hunter Selous, had come back from Victoria Falls, along the old Hunters Road suffering from a very heavy bout of malaria from which he did not recover.

He was buried on the bank of the Tjigwenchena Spruit, but the very heavy rains of 1929-30 caused the flooding of the stream and the erosion of the gravesite. His remains were exhumed and removed for burial on higher ground further from the riverside. The grave is marked with a Rhodesian Early Pioneers Society metal cross suitably inscribed, the site is approx. 5km from Beacon BB1 Shashi Drift.

The Matange alluded to is of course MATENGE, for the Matenge family was known over the whole area. They lived at KALAKAMATI, situated on the Tati Concession side of the Shashi River, but gave their name Matenge to the whole area."

Many thanks for this additional information. (Also see RP12, p209 and the review of 'The Oates Correspondence', below - Ed)

New Books and Background Reading

THE OATES CORRESPONDENCE - A Postal History of Frank Oates' Travels in Matabeleland and Zambesia 1873-75 / E Kenneth Wright and Alan R Drysdall. With a Foreword by Robson Lowe. 48 pages with 13 illustrations, 4 tables and two maps. Price £6.50 postage paid (UK).

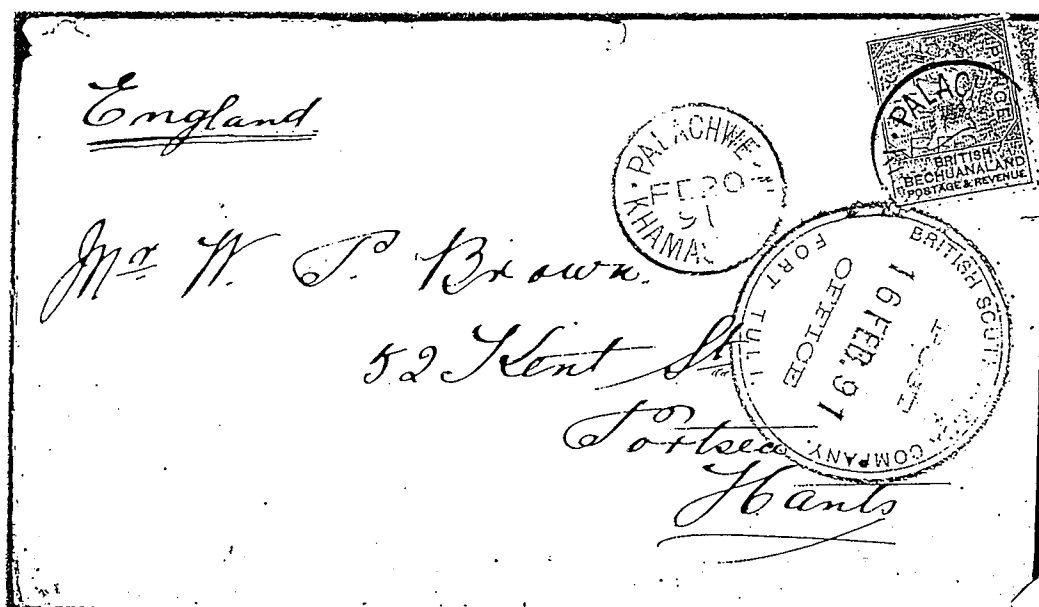
Frank Oates was an early explorer in the areas of what were to become known as Bechuanaland and Rhodesia (Matabeleland) and it was his letters back to England which have inspired this monograph. His is a sad story, for after several abortive attempts to visit the Victoria Falls, after almost two years he eventually succeeded, only to die from malaria on the return journey.

Outwardly, the envelopes - of which only fifteen are known to have survived and nine of these are illustrated - give no hint of their far northern origins, as, apart from four posted in Natal, the only official postal markings and stamps present are those of the Cape or a combination of the Cape and Z.A.R. along with the UK arrival marks. The fact that more than half the Oates correspondence originates from such places as Tati, Shoshong and Pandamatenga within the boundaries of the future Bechuanaland makes these covers amongst the earliest, if not the earliest, Bechuanaland postal history items.

Of equal importance to this 'earliest of Bechuanaland mail' is the discovery of the existence of a 'Runner Post' mail service organised by missionaries employing runners who conveyed mail between Kuruman and Shoshong, probably with some sort of connection to Linokana and/or Zeerust in the Z.A.R. which lay almost at the halfway mark of the 400 mile route. It is recorded that as early as 1860 an irregular service operated from Kuruman to Inyati (Matabeleland).

Alan and Kenneth have meticulously researched their subject and have matched the surviving envelopes with the original letters held in the National Archives in Zimbabwe. Also fully discussed are the conflicting and confusing postal rates, the cancellations, transit and accountancy marks. The mail steamers which carried the letters from Cape Town to England are also identified.

Robson Lowe writes "Kenneth and Alan are to be congratulated on their work and warmly thanked for the pleasure that they will give every reader, and particularly those interested in the postal history of Rhodesia, Bechuanaland, Transvaal and Cape Colony. They have brought to life the era when the thrill of discovery in Africa was the ambition of every adventurer".



In The Auction Room

Sotheby's Postage Stamp auction held in London on the 24th November contained one of those items of interest to collectors of both Bechuanaland and Rhodesia. Lot 263 (illustrated above) was the star item in eight lots of covers from the same correspondence and was described as follows:

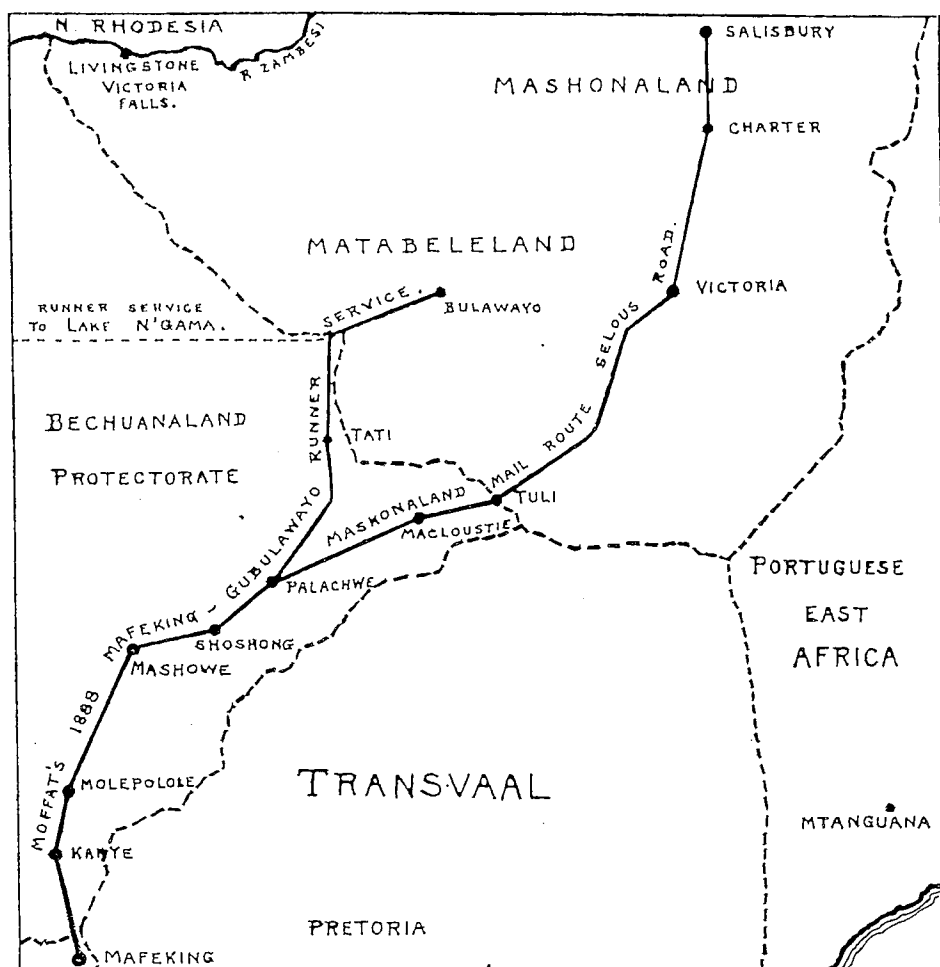
"BECHUANALAND 1891 February 16 cover from Jack Brown to his father in Portsea, England, with Bechuanaland 1887 6d lilac and black tied by Palachwe Khamas Town c.d.s. of 20 February, slightly below this adhesive is the exceptionally rare Rhodesian violet cachet 'BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY./POST/16 FEB.91/OFFICE/FORT TULI.', backstamped Mafeking 1 March, Cape Town the 5th and Portsmouth the 31st.; some faults. Dann recorded only two examples of the Fort Tuli cachet."

The estimate was £500-£700, but spirited bidding soon reached £2000 (£2230 including premium). I understand the cover has since been resold at £2700.

This cover is most intriguing and prompts a few questions about the postal arrangements at that time and place, one question arises from the fact that the Fort Tuli mark is under the Bechuanaland stamp. To try and find some answers I started to look up whatever references I could find on Tuli.

Tuli has an interesting history - in Robson Lowe's 'Volume II, The Empire in Africa' - the following appears:

"The Mashonaland Mail service was first opened by Selous in the eighties, when he opened up the road to Fort Tuli in the extreme south of the country. The Southern terminus was Mafeking (in British Bechuanaland) and it coincided with the route to Matabeleland through Kanye and Molepolole to Palachwe (Bechuanaland Protectorate) where it branched off east along the northern bank of the Limpopo. The next post town was Macloutsie (the last in the Protectorate) and the road then crossed the Shashi river to Fort Tuli. The extension of the road north to Hampden Hill was organized by Rhodes and his colleagues, and the party left Tuli on July 11th 1890. Huts were erected every twenty miles to serve as postal relay stations and Forts established at Victoria (August 13th), Charter (September 3rd) and Salisbury (September 11th). A regular horse post service was immediately established and at first the stamps of British Bechuanaland were used".



And in their book 'The Postmarks, Postal Routes and Principal Postage Rates of Southern Rhodesia to 1924' Richard Knight and Don Mitchell (page 3) state:

"From the occupation of Mashonaland in September 1890 until about 1891 mails were carried by Police despatch riders down the "Pioneer Road" (the route taken by the Pioneer Column) as far as Tuli, whence they were carried by ox cart to Macloustie in the Bechuanaland Protectorate. During 1891 the despatch riders were replaced by carts drawn by running oxen."

And on page 146: "As an initial measure, the [Pioneer] Column carried with it supplies of Bechuanaland stamps which were made available to members to pay postage on letters. The Company arranged for mail to be carried as far as Mafeking and posted there and no charge was made by the Company for the carriage of mail. When the Bechuanaland Government took over the carriage of mail from Tuli to Mefeking, the postage rate for letters - payable in Bechuanaland stamps - was 4d per half-ounce to the Cape and 6d per half-ounce to Great Britain. Only Bechuanaland stamps were available until 6th May 1891, when the first consignment of the Company's stamps reached Salisbury."

I understand from our good friend Kenneth Wright that only five examples of the Fort Tuli cachet are recorded, though why so few, is at present unknown. In the Rhodesian Study Circle Journal (No.134, p83) Kenneth quotes H. R. Holmes on a similar cover: "[The cover] bears the first postal mark used by the British South Africa Company. It was employed at Fort Tuli before Rhodesian stamps were issued, and was struck in violet on the envelope, the British Bechuanaland stamps paying the postage, not being cancelled until the mail reached Palachwe".

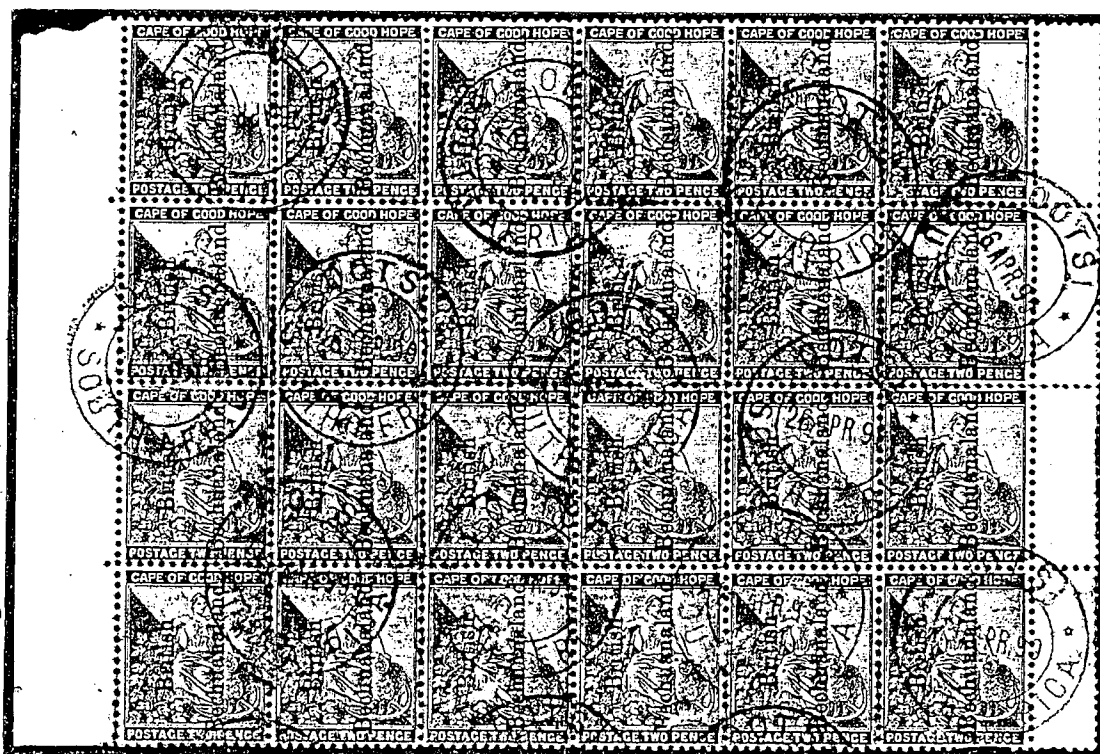
The importance of the Tuli route diminished with the opening of the mail route via Umtali and Beira in January 1892 and the office closed in 1910. (AMG)

7 - 12

13 - 18

19 - 24

25 - 30



Items of Interest

Illustrated above is a spectacular item which has just come to light. It is a block of 24 of the Cape 2d with overprint reading up (SG 32) with margin at left and gutter margin at right. From a study of flaws in the overprint the stamps plate as being positions 7-30 from the left hand pane and show all but one of the flaws discussed by John Inglefield-Watson in his article 'The Provisional Issues of Nov. 1891 and 1893-5' (RP5, page 13). Using John's numbering of the repetitive flaws, stamps 7 and 9 in the block show flaw 1 but this is not present on stamp 11. However flaw 4 does occur on stamps 14, 16 and 18, and flaw 3 does occur on stamps 25, 27 and 29.

Stamp 15 shows the well known 'No stop after Bechuanaland' (SG 32a).

Just as interesting is the fact that the whole block is cancelled by 12 full strikes of the hitherto unknown (at least to me) 'OOTSI/SOUTH AFRICA' double circle dated '26.APR.99.' This cancel is very similar to the well known CROCODILE POOLS cancel which saw service during the Boer War and which, until now was believed to be the only double circle cancel with the words 'South Africa' at base. One difference between them is that there are small stars between 'Ootsi' and 'South Africa' instead of dots, though the presence of small stops after the day and month are similar.

The late date of this cancel and the notable presence of gum on the reverse would tend to suggest that this was a 'by favour' cancel of some remaindered stock of the 2d. But why has this cancel apparently not been seen before? Part cds's at the bottom suggest that this was part of a bigger cancelled block. Is it perhaps a telegraphic cancel used by the railways? The wording 'S.Africa' at base is usually associated with use by offices along the railway, though why the other early version - single circle and spelling - of 'OUTSI' has 'CGH' at base, is a bit of a mystery. Can anyone shed any more light on this canceller?

(AMG)

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE POSTMARKS OF BOTSWANA

by Mike George

This article attempts to set out a basic framework and typology of the postmarks and other postal markings used in Botswana since Independence. I am grateful to John Inglefield-Watson, Aubrey Glassborow and Roy Setterfield for access to material in their collections. Comments, further examples of material recorded here and details of additional will be welcome. The intention is to set about the systematic recording of all postmarks used in Botswana, office by office, with a view to the eventual publication of a definitive illustrated checklist of this material. Any member of the Society who has used Botswana material in his collection and who would be interested in joining a Working Group to collate examples should write to me. Members in Botswana would be especially useful!

The typology used is directly related to that employed by Brian Trotter in his on-going study of the postmarks of the Bechuanalands, with the intention (when both studies are eventually complete) of a joint publication in book form. Put simply, the Botswana typology starts at number 100, whereas the Bechuanalands typology starts at number 1. Thus a double circle cds with office name at top and blank lower half is Bechuanalands Type 2A and Botswana Type 102A. A full explanation of typology numbers is set out as an Appendix.

Datestamps continuing in use after Independence

Many datestamps continued to be used after Independence and some of those used in Protectorate times still see service today. Where the cancellers showed no territorial name they could continue to be used unamended as the following examples illustrate. Their post-Independence use is shown by the Botswana type numbers.

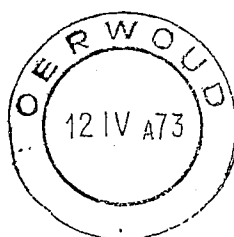


Type 102 A



Type 102 E63

At other offices, the canceller in use at Independence was amended by excising 'Bech Prot'. The excision is indicated in the typology by the suffix 'X':



Type 102 B14X

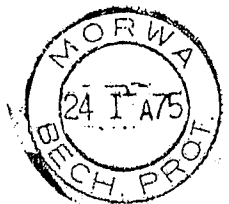


Type 102 B13X



Type 102 B18X

In a few cases, the original Protectorate canceller appears to have continued in use without the excision of the old territory name for some considerable time without apparently exciting the new postal authorities!

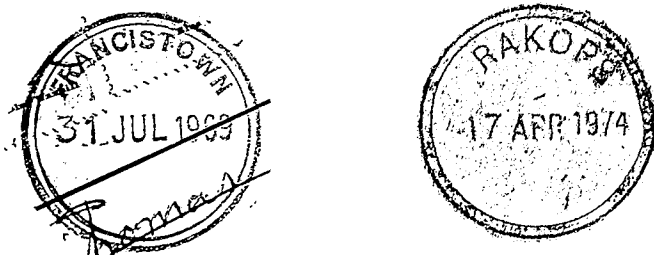


date 24.1.75

Type 102 B14

Temporary Rubber Datestamps

The need for replacement datestamps appears to have given rise to the use of temporary rubber cancellers at some offices. The precise status of these is at present uncertain and they have accordingly been allocated a separate typology number until and unless they are proved to be relief cancellers. Those seen are basically of one type, namely a large 'double outer ring' cds as shown:



Type 120 A

A curious but related sub-type, showing marked deformation of the outer circle, is known from two or three examples only: these have been dubbed 'Oysters' by Roy Setterfield:



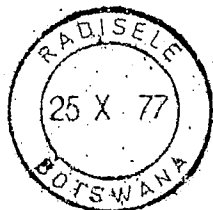
Type 120 A

New Botswana Cancellers

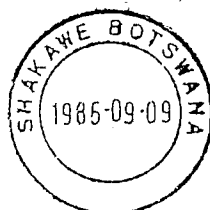
As new cancellers were introduced, a number of different types emerged. One common type, employing a distinctive new typeface, continues to show no territorial name (Type 102A) while others incorporate BOTSWANA at the base (Type 102B101) or top (Type 102J) of the canceller. A less common type incorporates a 'cross pattee' decorative motif at the base. (Type 102D52)



Type 102 A



Type 102 B101



Type 102 J

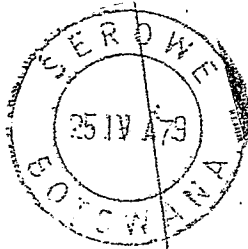


Type 102 D52

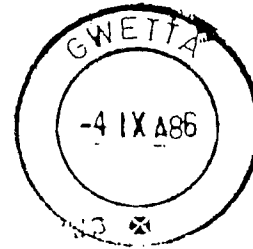
Although many of these double circle types conform to a standard size of about 26mm outer circle x 18mm inner circle, larger cancellers of the same basic format are not uncommon:



Type 102 A



Type 102 B101



Type 102 D52

In at least two instances, names other than 'Botswana' appear at the base of the canceller. At Gaborone a single circle cds with vertical spacer arcs exists, as does a double circle type with horizontal lines above and below the date. The latter may be a special canceller used at the Philatelic Office as it has been seen on cto miniature sheets.



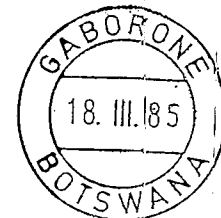
Type 102 C131



Type 102 C132
Seretse Khama
Airport/Gaborone



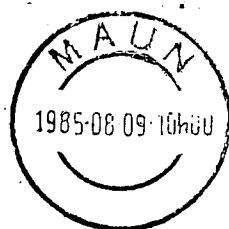
Type 101 B102



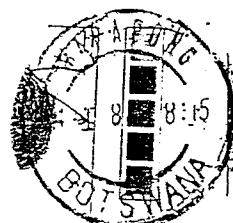
Type 102 B103

More recently, an attempt at standardisation of cancellers appears to be taking place, as many offices are now using a new type, similar to Bechuanaland's Type 3: this is a single circle canceller with horizontal spacer arcs above and below the dateline, which itself extends through the inner arcs. In this (Type 103) type, the extended dateline gives space for the time of posting to be incorporated - usually expressed on the 24 hour time principle, e.g. 0815hrs - thereby doing away with the old handset code letter.

(Note: Mention of the continental clock reminds me to record that since about 1985 there has been a move towards expressing dates on American or continental lines, e.g. 1987 10 14 for the more familiar 14 X 87.)



Type 103 A



Type 103 B101

Marapong/
Botswana

Counter Branch ('CB') Datestamps

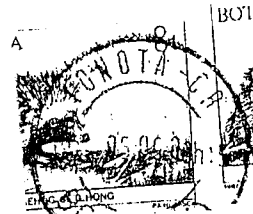
Larger post offices may have cancellers with the letters 'CB' added. These Counter Branch datestamps are presumed to be reserved for use at post office counters to cancel items of mail handed across the counter, other than registered items (see below). The letters 'CB' are placed at the foot or at the top of the cds.



Type 102 K



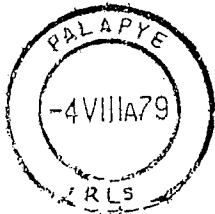
Type 103 K



Type 103 L

Registered Letter Section ('RLS') Datestamps

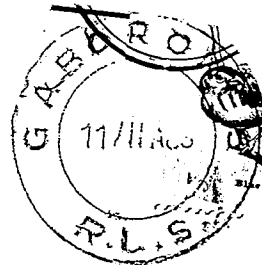
These are similar in character to the 'CB' cancellers mentioned above and are presumably intended for use solely on items of registered mail. However, numerous items of unregistered mail have been seen cancelled with 'RLS' datestamps. Early examples, using a large typeface, have dots between the letters (e.g. GABERONES (sic)/R.L.S. and R.L.S. ORAPA/-----) while all later examples seen have RLS without dots. The letters may occur at either top or bottom of the canceller, depending on its type, in the same way as 'CB' occurs (see above).



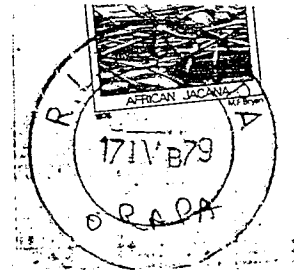
Type 102 M191



Type 102 N196



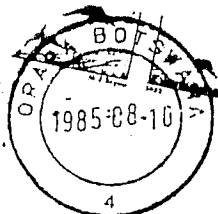
Type 102 M192
GABERONES R. L. S.



Type 102 N197
R. L. S. ORAPA

Numerals on Datestamps

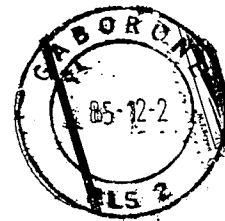
Larger post offices may have more than one datestamp in use at any one time and the addition of a number to the canceller is not uncommon. The numeral may be placed at the top or bottom of the canceller, depending on its type. The existence of 'RLS 1' and 'RLS 2' datestamps at Gaborone leads one to surmise that numbered 'CB' cancellers may exist although no examples have been seen to date.



Type 102 G



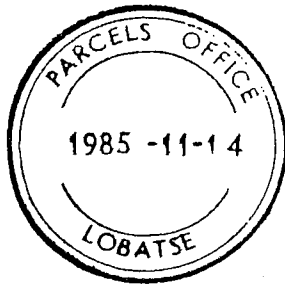
Type 102 H



Type 102 G181

Parcels Office Datestamps

As with registered mail, so parcels may be cancelled with special cancellers. Only one example has been recorded to date and it is clearly not possible to state with any certainty that Parcels Office cancellers are of a standard format. More examples are needed urgently!



Type 115

Dated Office Stamps

Each Post Office and Postal Agency appears to have been issued with a dated office stamp, presumably for official rather than postal use. However, they are frequently found used as cancellers, especially by smaller offices where, one suspects, the original cds has been mislaid or lost. Their use is sufficiently widespread to warrant inclusion in this study. They appear to fall into two main categories, an earlier oval type and a more recent rectangular type, each of which has several subtypes. Both are usually struck in red or purple, occasionally but rarely in black.

(i) Oval Dated Office Stamps:

The following subtypes have been seen:

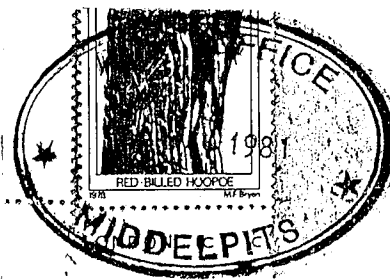
- (a) A large triple oval, with two stars between the outer double oval and the inner oval.
- (b) A large double oval, again with stars
- (c) An intermediate size with stars (double oval)
- (d) An intermediate sized double oval without stars

All the above show POST OFFICE above and the office name below a central dateline.

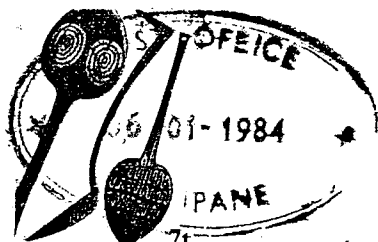
- (e) An intermediate size, double oval, showing POST OFFICE above and BOTSWANA below and with the office name in much smaller typeface set horizontally below the dateline. (The illustration below reads MOENG).
- (f) A small double oval, lettered as (a) to (d).
- (g) A large double oval, with stars, reading DEPT OF POSTS & TELECOMMUNICATIONS above and post office name below, with REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA in smaller print set as a straight line under the dateline.



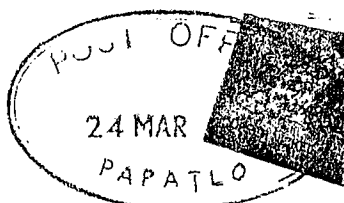
Type 106 B



Type 106 C



Type 106C
MODIPANE



Type 106C



Type 106B
MOENG



Type 106C



Type 106C
RAMOKGWEBANE

(Note: A detailed typology has not been attempted at this stage)

(ii) Rectangular Dated Office Stamps

Again there are numerous subtypes and many different sizes, as would be expected for rubber handstamps made up to separate orders. For typological purposes therefore it seems most appropriate to identify types according to the content of these and the oval types rather than devise a typology combining size and content. Illustrated is an example from Mogorosi which is perhaps typical in size (50mm x 30mm is common) and content (the great majority of examples seen so far has this simple POST OFFICE / dateline / NAME format.)



Type 118

Nine subtypes have been seen to date and further examples will be welcomed:

- (a) POST OFFICE / dateline / NAME
- (b) POST OFFICE / dateline / NAME / BOTSWANA (4 lines)
- (c) POST OFFICE / dateline / NAME BOTSWANA (3 lines)
- (d) POST OFFICE / COUNTERS / dateline / NAME
- (e) NAME / dateline / BOTSWANA
- (f) NAME / BOTSWANA / dateline / POST OFFICE
- (g) NAME / dateline / POST OFFICE / BOTSWANA
- (h) NAME / dateline / POST OFFICE
- (j) NAME / dateline / POSTAL AGENCY

A detailed typology is yet to be worked out for these markings, but they have been assigned type number 118

(iii) Circular Dated Office Stamps (?)

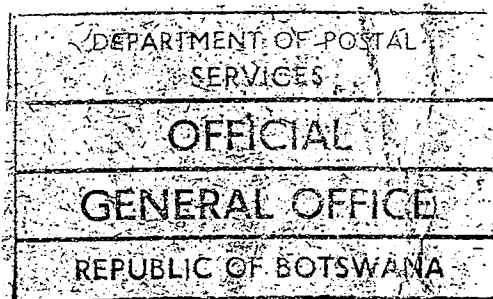
One part strike has been recorded of what appears to be a large, double outer circle dated office stamp for Kalakamati. This has BOTSWANA curved at base, with the name set in smaller typeface as a straight line below the dateline. The upper part of the datestamp is missing but is assumed to read POST OFFICE. This solitary example is not capable of reproduction here and confirmation of this datestamp is urgently sought - with other examples if they exist.

Official Free Markings

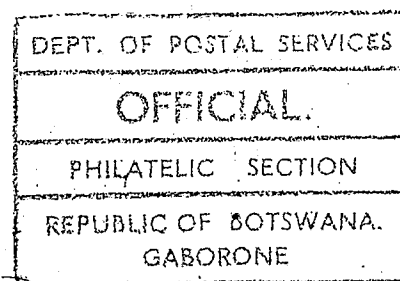
The use of Official Free handstamps continued after Independence and a number of these exist. Where the date of the letter or package is known it is possible to allocate a Botswana (100 series) typology number, where no territorial name is given, e.g. the previously unrecorded Weather Bureau marking illustrated. New rectangular types incorporating REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA are in use at Gaborone as shown:



Type 110



Type 119



Type 119

(Note: Detailed sub-types have not been allocated until further information has been analysed.)

First Day of Issue and Special Event Cancellations

There are several types of postmarks incorporating the words 'First Day of Issue' to be found on Official FDC's. In addition to these are several examples of pictorial First Day cancellations without the words 'First Day of Issue'. Some of these cancellations were used at several offices with a common design varying only in the name of the post office. There is also at least one example of a limited edition special FDC produced by the Botswana Philatelic Society. This is clearly too large a topic to be dealt with in detail here and will form the basis of a separate article to appear in Runner Post at a later date. Members who have examples of non-official FDC's are asked to let me have details, together with news of any Special Event markings which may exist.

Illustrated is the special datestamp used at Gaborones Agricultural and Trade Show in May 1968, when a special post office operated at the Showgrounds. No typology number has been allocated at present.



Registration Cachets and Registration Labels

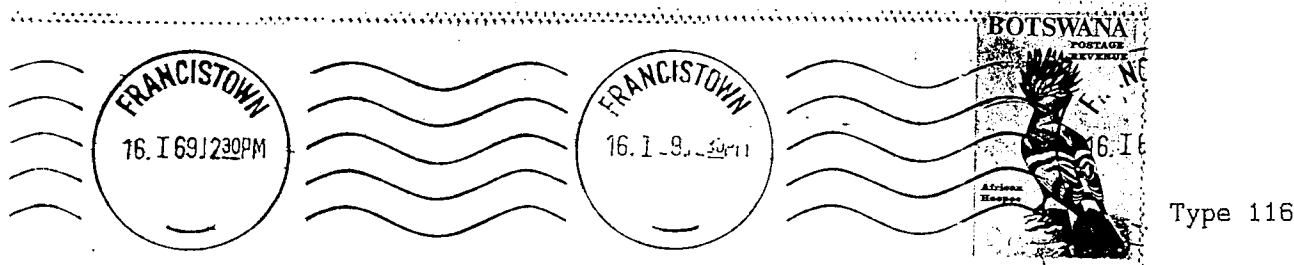
Handstruck boxed Registration cachets continue in use and can be allocated Botswana typology number 111 where the date of usage is known. No new sub-types have been seen by the author and information on this aspect would be particularly welcome.

Several larger offices now use perforated coil registration labels and a separate article on these is in course of preparation by John Inglefield-Watson.

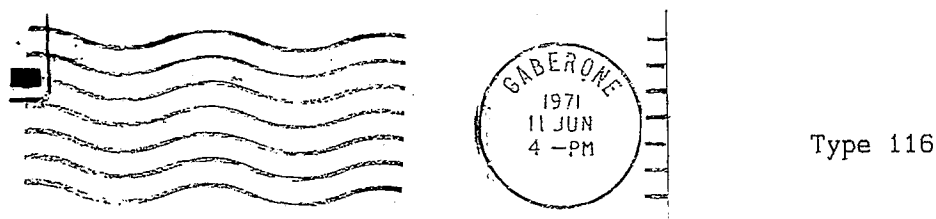
Machine Cancellers

These may not be to everyone's taste, but any bundle of incoming mail (or kiloware) now contains a fair proportion of them.

The earliest machine cancellation seen dates from 1969 and comprises a continuous roller with repeated single circle datestamps separated by a short five line wavy pattern as shown below. The cds shows office name above and a short arc at base. Heavily inked examples also show as a row of faint dots the outer guidewheels of the roller. This is assumed to be a machine operated cancellation rather than a hand-held roller - confirmatory details welcomed!



The machine cancellers now in use have a small single circle cds combined with a seven-line 'wave' element to the left of the cds and seven short straight lines to its immediate right. Variations occur both in the 'wave' and in the circular canceller. The wave element may appear either as 'two troughs and one and two half peaks' (see below) or as 'two peaks and one and two half troughs' (invert the illustration!). The cds element may be blank at base (illustrated), or read Botswana at base with short lateral spacer arcs, or show office name only but with an arc extending around the lower part of the circle linking the first and last letters of the office name. Detailed sub-types have yet to be devised.

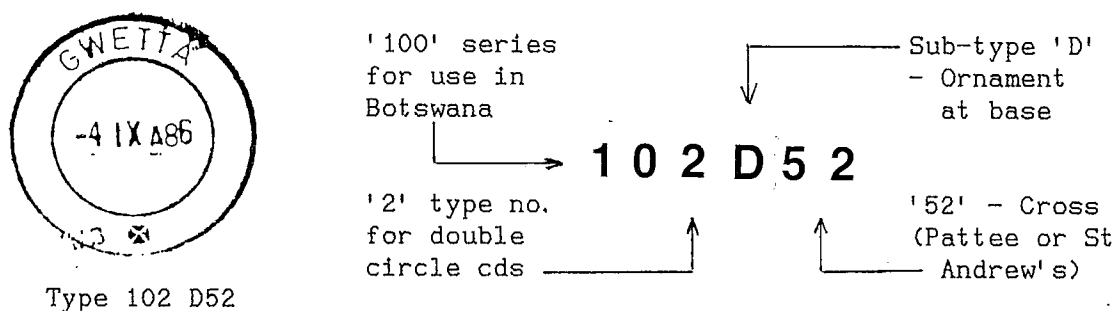


APPENDIX

NOTES ON TYPOLOGY

The typology for Botswana postal markings conforms wherever it is appropriate with the existing Bechuanalands typology previously published in the 'The Runner Post' by the simple expedient of adding 100 to the existing type number, as explained in the diagram below:

HOW THE TYPOLOGY WORKS



The following ADDITIONAL TYPE NUMBERS have been utilised for the postal markings of Botswana which have no equivalent in the typology of the Bechuanalands:

Type 115	Parcels Office Cancellers
Type 116	Machine Cancellations
Type 117	Meter Marks
Type 118	Rectangular Dated Office Stamps
Type 119	Rectangular Official Free Markings
Type 120	Temporary Rubber Datestamps

Similarly, the following ADDITIONAL LETTERED SUB-TYPES are used:

Sub-type H	Numeral at top
Sub-type J	Territory name at top
Sub-type K	'CB' at base
Sub-type L	'CB' at top
Sub-type M	'RLS' at base
Sub-type N	'RLS' at top

The SUFFIX 'X' is used to denote a Bechuanaland Protectorate cds which continued in use after Independence with the former territory name excised.

Although much of the detailed typology clearly remains to be finalised the following provisional sub-types have been identified in the preceding article. They should be treated as provisional only at this stage as further evidence may lead to some revision at a later date.

SUB-TYPE B	<u>add</u>	101	'Botswana' at base
		102	ditto (with spacer arcs)
		103	ditto (horizontal lines above and below dateline)
SUB-TYPE C	<u>add</u>	131	'Serowe' at base
		132	'Gaborone' at base
SUB-TYPE G	<u>add</u>	181	'RLS' with numeral at base
SUB-TYPE M		191	'RLS' (without dots)
		192	'R. L. S.' (with dots)
SUB-TYPE N		196	'RLS' (without dots)
		197	'R. L. S.' (with dots)

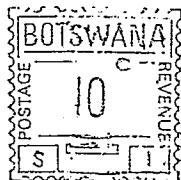
The following sub-types have been recorded to date:

- (a) Continuous roller type, five line wave element (2 peaks, 1 trough), short arc at base. Illustrated.
- (b) Seven line wave element (2 troughs, one and two half peaks), circle blank at base. Illustrated.
- (c) Seven line wave (2 peaks, one and two half troughs), circle blank at base.
- (d) Seven line wave (2 troughs, one and two half peaks), circle shows BOTSWANA at base, two short lateral spacer arcs.
- (e) Seven line wave (2 troughs, one and two half peaks), circle has continuous spacer arc around base.

And finally - until you rush to tell me otherwise! -

Meter Marks

These are now appearing in Botswana and, although unpopular among most philatelists, warrant inclusion in any full study of its postal markings. The illustration shows meter mark S1 (the users' code appears in the lower corners). A list of users' names and codes would be a useful piece of research for any member so minded!



Type 117

Conclusion

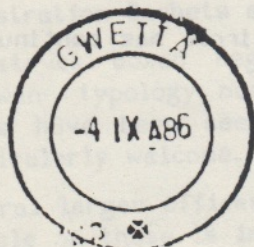
This article is intended to 'set the scene' only; it in no way claims to be a definitive account. Some of its conclusions and statements may be incorrect and there will undoubtedly prove to be omissions. Please write to me with offers of advice, examples of new material etc. In due course it is hoped to publish a checklist of all postmarks known to have been in use at each post office and agency since Independence. The success of that enterprise really depends on you the members!

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HOW THE TYPOLOGY WORKS



Type 102 D52

'100' series
for use in
Botswana

Sub-type 'D'
- Ornament
at base

'2' type no.
for double
circle cds

'52' - Cross
(Pattee or St
Andrew's)

102 D52

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