TheRunnerPost









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Contents	Page
Editors' Comments Members' Comments and Queries:	257
Taungs Station / BONC 1154	258
Info wanted on LGT's and War Fund Labels	258
Late Use of Setlagoli Cancel	258
Military Telegraphs / Howard Cook	259
Items of Interest:	
1960 and 1961 Bisects	260
BP 'Fight Tuberculosis' labels	260
Francistown - The Tati Excised Canceller / O Pee	toom 261
Postal Stationery News & Views-3 / J Inglefield-	Watson 263
African Auxiliary Pioneer Corps / Philip Cattell	265
Registration Labels - A Tentative Typology / J I	- W 270
Auction 4 (UK)	Supplement 1 Supplement 2 Supplement 3

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EDITORS' COMMENTS

Trying to catch up on the late appearance of the last Runner Post this should reach you early in July. With luck, we'll surprise you and get the September issue out in September!

We hope that you find this issue interesting, and we are particularly pleased to publish Philip Cattell's interesting article on the AAPC (Philip won a Silver Bronze at 'Johannesburg 100' for 'Basutoland's Postal History' which included AAPC). As Philip points out, Bechuanaland material emanating from this Corps is very elusive and we hope that this article will stimulate members to keep their eyes open — forewarned is forearmed — now when <u>is</u> that next Stamp Fair!

We are also grateful to Otto Peetoom of Ormskirk Stamps for his article on the 'Tati Excised' canceller, and not least to our Stalwart - John Inglefield-Watson, for his well researched articles on Postal Stationery and Registration Labels.

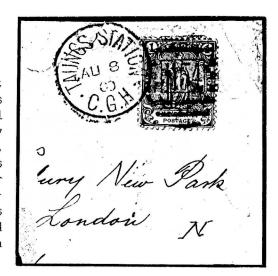
Several supplements are enclosed — one being indexes to Volumes II and III and another is a copy of Auction No.4 in which we hope you find items of interest — please support BBS funds and bid liberally! On the same topic, Howard Cook informs us that he is preparing the next BBS South African Auction (SA No.2) and is aiming to hold it towards the end of the year. Howard invites members with material that they wish to submit (with description and reserve) to please contact him at: P.O. Box 118, Gillitts, Natal 3603, South Africa.

As before, this auction will be conducted in South African Rand and all sales and purchases will be payable in that currency. Prospective vendors outside South Africa should be aware that philatelic imports attract a 60% duty — please contact Howard in the first instance before sending items.

Members' Comments and Queries

Taungs Station / BONC '1154'

Illustrated is a piece Roy Setterfield bought recently at a small stamp fair. The Cape 1d is tied by a clear strike of the BONC (Barred Oval Numeral Canceller) '1154' alongside an equally clear 'TAUNGS STATION/CGH' cds dated AU 8/00. Although no longer British Bechuanaland Roy asks if this can be regarded as a 'proving piece' for this hitherto un-assigned numeral? Before annexation the numeral '172' was assigned to this Agency - why the change? Were BONC's issued after annexation (1895) or was this numeral in use prior to that date?

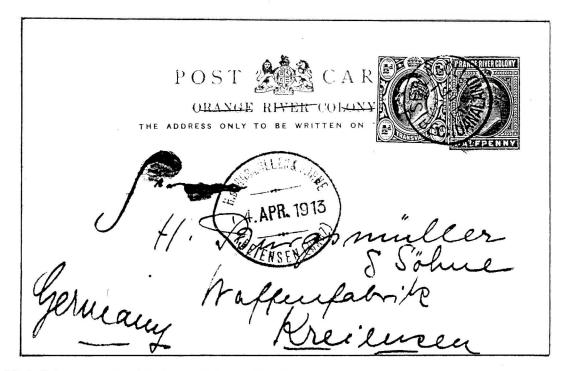


Information Wanted on Local Government Tax Revenues and War Fund Labels

Our member, Vic Visser of P O Box 1119, Rustenburg, 0300, South Africa, asks if anyone has any information on the Bechuanaland Protectorate Local Government Tax stamps, (this same design was later inscribed 'Botswana'), particularly with regard to printer, quantities and issue date(s). Vic would also appreciate hearing from anyone who could supply similar information on the War Fund labels.

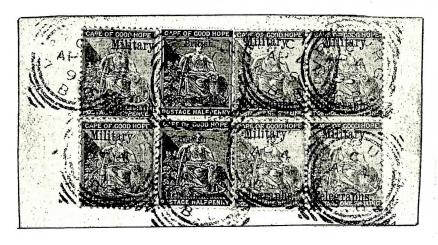






'Double' Inter-provincial Card / Late Use Bechuanaland Cancellation
Illustrated above is an Orange River Colony %d postcard with an additional
Transvaal %d stamp used inter-provincially in the Cape Province (then Union of

Transvaal ½d stamp used inter-provincially in the Cape Province (then Union of SA). The cancellation 'SETLAGOLI/-/MR 24/13/BECHUANALAND' shows late use of the old British Bechuanaland cancel - almost 18 years after annexation! The message, in German, is from a 'Frau Ullmer' to a weapons manufacturer in Germany (private cachet on front) requesting a catalogue. (An Armscor forerunner!)





Military Telegraph Stamps 'Used' Vryburg 4th April 1895 - Howard Cook

In Runner Post No 6 (page 3) Dennis Firth raised some questions regarding Military Telegraph stamps cancelled by Vryburg datestamps in 1895. John Inglefield-Watson's prompt reply was published in Runner Post No. 7 (pages 103-104) and I now have the following comments to add, which hopefully will not add to any confusion!

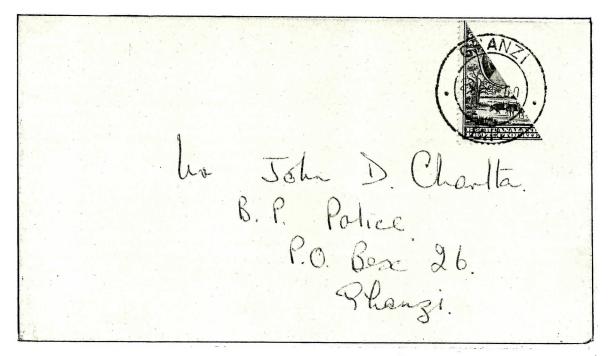
In his article in the September 1937 issue of the South African Philatelist (page 138), Major Harrington stated "As a matter of fact, a piece is known with a vertical pair of 6d, a block of four 1s., and a pair of ½d green overprint 'British Bechuanaland' of 1889 ISG 301, the whole postmarked at Vryburg on the 4th April 1895." I was fortunate enough to purchase this item a few years ago from an eminent British dealer and it is ironic that I was offered it because SG 30 had been on my out-dated 'wants' list!

Nevertheless, it can be seen from the photocopy that the Vryburg squared circle datestamp (Type 4 B 4 with Code C) was used to cancel the eight stamps. The piece has nothing, only a few hinge remainders, on the reverse and the plain paper is fairly 'thick' - not what I would expect a telegraph form to be like. In this instance the evidence would tend to dismiss the second hypothesis (namely telegram payment) put forward by John Inglefield-Watson and favour his first hypothesis (namely datestamp misuse). Another possibility is that the datestamp utilized could have been forged.

I feel that the datestamp (with Code C) provides a clue for further investigation — would those members who have an example of the Vryburg squared circle Code C datestamp please let me know, noting the date and what stamp/item it is cancelling. Furthermore, can anyone explain why postage stamps were 'used' together with Military Telegraph stamps?

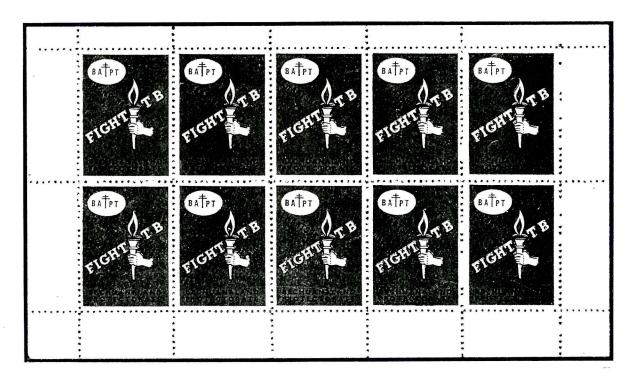
The last question asked by Dennis Firth (RP 6) has therefore been answered and the piece is intact. I should however note that the item sold on Sotheby's (SA) 24/6/86 auction was a copy of the 6d value and not 1/- as stated in RP 6. I purchased the item and although a single copy, it has a clear datestamp impression - the same date and code as that used on the large piece. Strange ??!!

The reason for the postal (?) use of these stamps 10 years after the Warren Expedition may always remain a mystery but further comments and the dates of use of the specific Vryburg datestamp will be welcomed.



1960 and 1961 Bisects

Further to John Inglefield-Watson's article on the 1960 and 1961 bisects which appeared in Runner Post No.6, page 18, we can now report the discovery of another example on cover. It is the 2d (SG 145) bisected diagonally and used locally at Ghanzi on 21st December 1960. Not only is this bisect used on the same date to the same P O Box as that recorded on the cover illustrated in RP 6, it appears that it may well be the other half of the same stamp!



Bechuanaland Protectorate TB Labels

Howard Cook reports the existence of a complete sheet of Bechuanaland Protectorate 'Fight TB' (Tuberculosis) labels. They are printed on gummed, perforated paper in black and yellow on a red background (hence the poor reproduction) and are inscribed 'LWANTSHA T B / FIGHT T B', with the 'BA‡PT' logo at top (Bechuanaland Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis?) and the territory name at base. The year of issue is not known but they were probably contemporary with similar South African labels of the mid-1950's and 1960's. They carry no value and were presumably intended to be affixed on mail to publicise the campaign, though I haven't seen any so used. Does anyone have any information on this or other types or can they confirm the date of use?

FRANCISTOWN - THE 'TATI EXCISED' CANCELLER

by Otto J Peetoom

According to Holmes and other sources the Post Office at Francistown was opened during July 1897. The Railway line having been completed, it bypassed the settlement of Tati, thus mail activity moved from Tati to Francistown and the Postal Agency at Tati was closed.

As no 'Francistown' canceller was immediately available, the 'Tati Matabeleland' canceller which had been in use at Tati was brought to Francistown and the name 'Tati' was excised and put into use at Francistown as a 'Dumb' canceller. The 'Dumb' cancel on a stamp may be recognised by the two dots, with a distance of 16mm between them, and the position of the second 'L' in Matabeleland, the foot of which runs into the 'A' in 'Land'.

The earliest recorded date for the well known single circle 'Francestown S.Africa' is 6th September, 1897 (strike on BSAC Large Arms 2d SG 30, in my possession).

Illustrated on the facing page is the first recorded proving cover. It is a BSAC 1½d Mashonaland Postal Stationery card (H&G 6) with two additional BSAC ½d Large Arms adhesives SG 41, so making up a 2½d post card rate to Europe, clearly cancelled by no less than four strikes of the Tati excised dumb cancel 'SP 3/7' (being 1897). Also noteworthy is the combination of a 'Mashonaland' card being used in 'Disputed Territory' with a Matabeleland cancel!

Addressed to Germany with a Charlottenburg 28 (Sept?) 97 (month unclear) arrival cancel, the reverse side is written in German at Francistown dated 3rd September 1897. Roughly translated it says the writer is in the best of health, leaving on the 11 o'clock train on Friday. His homeward journey is to be via Kimberley and Cape Town. After a few days stay in Cape Town he will leave on the 15th on the Hawarden Castle. His things will be sent after him.

By logical deduction the mail route for the card was as follows: The card went by rail, probably leaving Francistown on Sept. 3rd, reaching Cape Town in time for the sailing of the Union Line's 'Norman' which departed Cape Town on Tuesday 8th September, calling at Madeira on the 21st and arriving at Plymouth on 25th September. UK/Europe mails were fast and efficient, making Charlottenburg by 28th September quite possible.

The sender wrote his card on Thursday 3rd September, left Francistown on Friday the 4th and after a few days stay in Cape Town took the following week's sailing on Tuesday 15th September on board the Donald Currie Liner, 'Hawarden Castle', calling at Madeira on 28th September, and at arriving Plymouth on 2nd October.

LATE DATES

The dumb cancel is recorded with dates after September 1897. On a stamp dated 5th October 1897, and on cover to Pietermaritzburg (with Bulawayo transit) dated 4 April 1898. It suggests an overlapping use with the Francestown S. Africa cancel. A most interesting theory/speculation has been put forward that this same dumb cancel may have been given to another agency, after its use at Francistown was no longer required. It is to be hoped that another proving cover will one day be found to prove or disprove this speculation.

My thanks to Alan MacGregor for his assistance. Ref Sources: The Postage Stamps, Postal Stationery and Postmarks of The Bechuanalands / H R Holmes; British Maritime Postal History Vol.3 / P.Cattell; Postmarks of the COGH / R. Goldblatt; Postmarks of S. Rhodesia/Knight & Mitchell. The Runner Post, Issues 4, 7 & 10.



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FRANCESTOWN S.AFRICA SE 6 97 (Earliest date)

POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS AND VIEWS - 3

by John Inglefield-Watson

Another new discovery seems sufficient reason for a further instalment of this occasional series, the previous part of which was published in Runner Post No.11 (June 88).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE

1. Registered Envelopes. A hitherto unrecorded type of the KGVI 4d carminerose registered envelope has been found. As illustrated, the printer's
imprint under the flap is in the same seriffed typeface as Holmes Type I
(Higgins & Gage Type 4) but reads 'THOMAS DE LA RUE & CO. LTD PATENT'
with 'THOMAS' in full instead of 'THOS.' and no stop after 'LTD'. The size G
example seen was used on 16 May 1945. Holmes (page 157) states that the
first despatch of envelopes with his Type II imprint was on 13 July 1945.
The newly discovered imprint therefore presumably comes from at least one
of the five consignments ascribed by Holmes to Type I. It would seem
logical to designate it for future reference as Type 1A. Please report any
examples with earlier dates of use.

BOTSWANA

2. <u>Aerogrammes.</u> The current design, with stylized trees and aeroplane in the imprinted stamp, first appeared in 1977. So far, six different denominations and a further two colour changes have been issued. The latest of these, probably released in 1988, are:

 $\underline{20t}$ in new colours - deep blue trees and yellow-brown aeroplane (previously vice-versa) on much paler blue paper than before.

35t new denomination - same colours and paper as the 20t above.

The $\underline{10t}$ has also appeared, probably contemporarily, in the same colours (deep blue and yellow-brown) and on the same much paler blue paper as the two denominations above. This is a significant change in the shades of printing and paper from the second colours of the 10t that first appeared circa 1984/85 and were the reverse of the original 1st colours of 1977.

These issues have recently been followed by a reversion to the earlier much bluer paper:

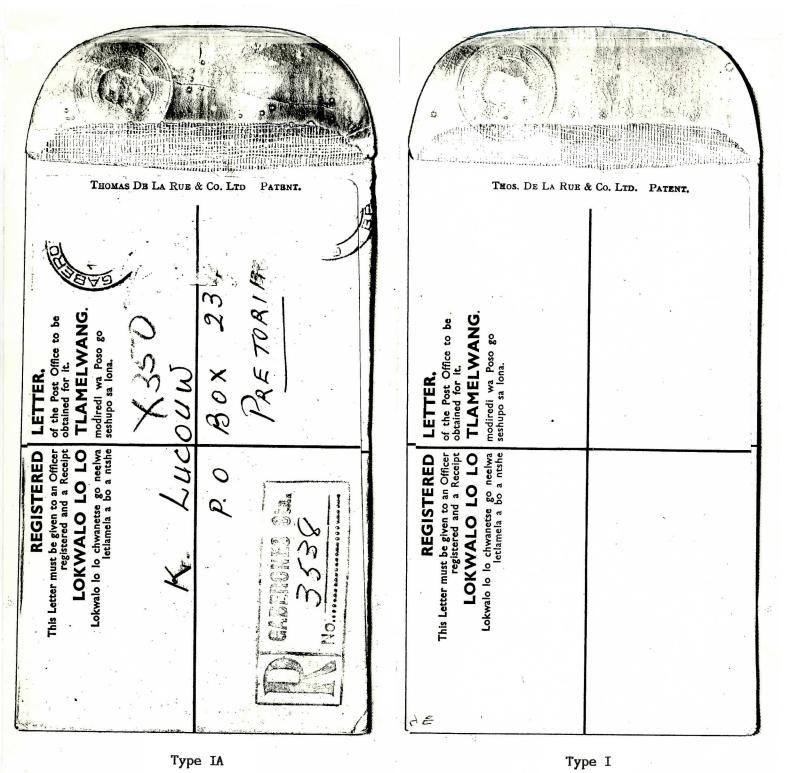
 $\underline{20t}$ in the original colours (yellow-brown trees and ultramarine plane) but slightly different in shade from the 1st printing of 1982. This has not yet been confirmed as a new printing but the reversion to the original colours seems logical in order to eliminate the potential confusion that existed between the two current denominations on the paler paper which were identical in all respects except the printed value.

35t new printing with the trees and blue lettering, etc, in ultramarine instead of deep blue. The plane remains in yellow-brown.

Among the earlier issues several shades of printing and a few of paper can be found. There are also two very distinct forms of printing, most noticeable in the coat of arms and lettering, found so far as follows: a. Coarse and 'fuzzy' - 5t, 7t, 10t (1st colours - yellow-brown trees and blue plane), 15t.

b. Sharp and well defined - 7t, 10t (2nd colours - blue and yellow-brown), 20t (1st colours - yellow-brown and blue), 20t (2nd colours - deep blue and yellow-brown), 35t.

It may be possible to attribute these variations to different printers or printings. A detailed study has been started but it may be some time before results become known. Anyone who feels able to contribute to this study is asked to get in touch with me.



THE AFRICAN (AUXILIARY) PIONEER CORPS

by Philip Cattell

It is obvious from the number of questions asked that members have a good deal of interest in Bechuanaland's soldiers of the 2nd World War and the manifestations of them which occur all too rarely as postmark and postal history items.

My personal connection with them is tenuous indeed but ought to be mentioned briefly.

Early in 1942 a draft of 9 Royal Army Pay Corps (RAPC) private soldiers were on their way to Singapore but got no further than Durban where the Tannoy called us to the purser's office. A W.O. from Durban Pay Office explained the situation and after a typical Pay Corps debate, including some coin tossing, we decided which two should go to Lobatsi leaving the rest of us to go to Maseru, Basutoland.

Our job was doing the pay accounts of the AAPC of Basutoland and Swaziland at Maseru and the Bechuana at Lobatsi. Both offices and staff were moved to Durban by the end of April 1942 and the records offices followed six months later.

In 1941 the Imperial Government decided that there was a role for an African contingent in the Middle East and in June a recruiting drive was started in the three High Commission Territories. In order to avoid confusion recruits were allotted prefix letters to their army numbers; AS for Basutos, EC for Bechuanas and SW for Swazis.

The Bechuanaland Depot was a large disused cold store (where else?) at Lobatsi and a large camp was built around it by the early recruits. There was a subsidiary camp at Serowe, where up to 1000 were in training when Lobatsi overflowed with recruits.

The Corps was formed of companies of around three hundred African OR's commanded by British Army officers and WO's and African WO's. Bechuanaland's companies were numbers 1966 to 1990 and each company was usually composed of men from the same tribe. After a minimum amount of training at the Depot, companies were sent to Egypt and given further training and rifles at the main Pioneer Corps Depot at Qasassin. Before the end of 1941 seven companies No. 1971 to 1977 were in Egypt.

From then until the end of the war they saw service with the British Army in the Mediterranean area from Syria to Libya and Malta to N. Italy. The original intention was to use them for purposes usually associated with the Pioneers; pick and shovel, guarding, moving supplies and so forth. By 1943 however manpower resources were becoming tight and several AAPC companies were retrained and regrouped to replace RA gunners in AA gun crews. These were termed 'Dilution Companies'. They were in most of the major operations in Italy and at crucial times used their guns with depressed barrels as field artillery. After the war in Europe ended, the men of the APC (Auxiliary was dropped in August 1944) came back to their demob at IFTC (Imperial Forces Transshipment Camp) Clairwood (south of Durban), where their Pay and Record Offices were housed by then, and were sent home as quickly as trains could be found for them.

The British Army soon realised that there was a black hole in their resources and in May 1946 recruiting opened for a new force, the High Commission Territories Corps (HCTC). Many ex-pioneers re-enlisted and the Corps helped to man our base in the Canal Zone for several years.

That is a very brief synopsis and if you would like to read more about Mochuana soldiery you should get a sight of a copy of TEN THOUSAND MEN OF AFRICA by R A R Bent. HMSO 1952 but long out of print.

The philatelic interest rests in the mail to and from these soldiers and their units. As I hinted in the opening paragraph, such items are not easily found and one reason for writing this piece is to enable some of those which have survived to be recognised for what they are and diagnosed.

There are four main categories:-

- 1) South African ACTIVE SERVICE LETTER CARDS (ASLC) and AIR MAIL LETTER CARDS (AMLC) with 3d Groote Schuur stamps imprinted were authorised for use in the Protectorates, unoverprinted, to forces up north from 12th November 1941. Air letter forms for use in the Protectorates were not overprinted until October 1944.
- 2) Letters from soldiers in the Mediterranean area which would mostly be British Army Air Letter forms with GB adhesives and British FPO datestamps.
- 3) Mail from the Depots/Training Centres in the Protectorates, personal and official.
- 4) Mail to and from HCTC troops from 1946 to possibly 1955, when it was finally disbanded.

Before going on I have to confess that although I am interested in the postal matters of all 3 territories, Bechuanaland comes a poor third and that Basutoland took up most time and spare cash. Bearing that in mind, my comments on the above classes are:

- 1) After 30 years of fairly diligent looking I have one ASLC and one AMLC from Basutoland and not a single one from either Bechuanaland or Swaziland. As I am unable to illustrate a Bechuana item, a Basuto may be better than nothing if the Editors agree. (They do, they do Ed's!).
- 2) I have about 40 items from Basutos, one from a Bechuana and no Swazis. As you see from the illustration the only clue on the front is the note 'written in Sechuana'.
- I have one envelope from the Bechuanaland Depot which is illustrated. I know of one other to the same addressee and several are known addressed Messrs Kodak Ltd. Some dealers and collectors would view these covers with some suspicion because there is no date or postmark on them. The oval rubber stamp was in the nature of a free frank for servicemen then in Southern Africa. It gave us free postage for surface mail both inland and overseas. I have seen a franking stamp with a blank centre similar to this one used on mail from IFTC Clairwood. I feel sure that the lop-sided appearance of this stamp is due to the word LOBATSI having been removed from the blank area at 3.25. I must admit that I have not seen an impression with the name there and a rummage through the file at the Public Record Office was no help at all. My best theory is that it was taken out because the depot at Serowe was using one of them there would have been more than one made I think.
- 4) Once again I have no items from Bechuanas or Swazis and very few from Basutos, most of which are only identifiable from the addressee and the letters MELF (Middle East Land Forces) appearing somewhere. I did however, find one with the sender's name and address in an exchange packet, described as 'scarce GB postal stationery'. My word! Yes it is indeed scarce and with the Editor's consent I illustrate it as the final page of my

Basutoland entry at 'Johannesburg 100'. I wonder if the judges thought anything of that particular page? Or anybody else come to that.

If anyone has anything to add to this meagre account in the form of facts or material I would like to hear about it with the hope of a fuller coverage at a later date.

Philip Cattell, 42 Upper Bristol Road, Weston-super-Mare, U.K.



South African Active Service Letter Card, posted at the postal agency at Khabos on the 10th November 1944. At this date 1915 Company was a 'dilution' company with HAA/RA batteries defending Haifa, Palestine.

AIR MAIL
LUGPOS
LETTER (ARD

BY AIR MAIL

BRIEFKAAKI

If anything is enclosed, this Card | As enigiets ingestuit wont, sal hier

will be sent by ordinary mail | kaart per gewone pas gestuur word

A. S. 28212 Notabi

1143 Canadocoy A.A. pc

6. At . Fotse.

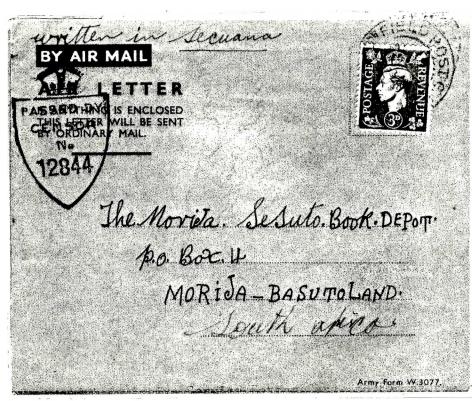
South African Airmail Letter Card, posted at the postal agency of Pitseng on 1st September 1944. At that date 1943 Company was in the vicinity of Terni/Ostia, Italy, moving ammunition, petrol etc up

to forward gunsites.

(1)

When folded, the letter Card must conform in size and shape to the blue border, within which the address only may be written

Wanneer gevou, moet die Briefkaart die grootte en vorm van die blou rand hê, waarin alleenlik die adres geskryf moet word...



At the date this was written 1966 Company was road building at Castel del Rio, high the mountains between Bologna and Florence. A few days earlier they suffered casualties from German heavy shelling.

Date 22/1/45.

EC13172. Tremogang. Ogotseng 1966. Coy: Bechuana. A. P.C. C. M.F.

Mototehi. Book DEPOT.

Ke goitsese sha ke Sale ke romella. lo kwalola
English. Sesuto. Vocabulary. me ke tsile ka ka bona
phetolo. ea lona e.e reng le vorrye letter order eame
me le bolela go re letter order eame e shithetse le kwa
lo sa ntse lo le ga tisa e ta re sha le ka spela. lo
belesse ko o. kano me ke santse ke ntse ke di le. A
ga tisiwe me kentse ke lebelesse go go roga ga
lone kwano. kene ke rometse ka kgwedi ea. april.
month ke ntse ke lebelesse go go roga ga
month ke ntse ke lebelesse. go goroga ga. vocabulary.

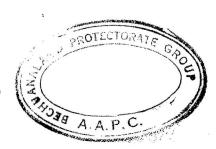
Suspenso as is 1860.

On Active Service

H.Suklje,

1 Somerset Avenue,

Benoni.



(3)



A.S. 40999 ARiel Gobele 23/3 (Basuto, Co) H. C.T. C M. E. L. F

Compen|sation.

Office Guide, the registration fee for loss or damage of an Inland the entire loss of a Registered

Subject to the limitations and conditions notified in the Post of 3d. covers compensation up to £5 Registered Letter, and up to £2 for Letter sent to a place abroad.

(4)

In 1946 when the African Pioneer Corps was disbanded, it was replaced by the High Commission Territories Corps which served with the British forces principally in the Middle East and finally disbanded in 1955.

This registered letter is from British Field Post Offices No. 235 which, at that time, was at Geniefa Canal Zone, Egypt.

REGISTRATION LABELS - A TENTATIVE TYPOLOGY

by John Inglefield- Watson

The current Bechuanaland postal markings studies include handstamped registration marks but do not extend to printed registration labels.

These were first introduced at a few of the larger offices in the Protectorate in the 1950's. Since Independence their use has become more widespread.

With a view to their eventual inclusion in the postal markings studies for the Protectorate and for Botswana, this article sets out a tentative typology. To date all recorded types of label are from gummed, perforated coils. If self-adhesive labels are introduced, a means of distinguishing them will be added to the typology.

Members are requested to send me any additions to the lists of offices of use of the recorded types and details, with photocopies, of any additional types.

Typology. Four main features suffice to identify the types so far recorded:

a. The 'R'

- Type A Medium thickness (1.5 to 1.75mm vertical stroke), seriffed, flat-footed.
 - B Medium thickness (1.5mm), seriffed, sliced foot to vertical stroke.
 - C Medium thickness (1.5mm), seriffed, broken lower right serif showing as dot.
 - D Medium thickness (1.75 to 2mm), seriffed, hooked foot at bottom right.
 - E Squat and thicker (2.5mm), seriffed, flat-footed.

b. The Office Name. All types are in capital letters:

- Type 1 2.5mm sans-serif letters.
 - 2 2mm sans-serif letters.
 - 3 1.75mm sans-serif letters.
 - 4 2.25mm sans-serif letters.
 - 5 Initial letter(s) 2.25 to 2.5mm, others 1.75 to 2mm, sans-serif.

Note: Types 4 and 5 are described as sans-serif which is how they appear to the naked eye. However, under magnification the extremities of some letters may show slight widening or very small serifs.

- c. The 'No.' preceding the individual registration serial number:
 - Type A Seriffed without stop, tall (4.5mm) 'N'.
 - B Seriffed without stop, smaller (4.25mm), thicker 'N'.
 - C Sans-serif without stop, narrow 'N' (under 2mm overall width).
 - D Sans-serif without stop, wider 'N' (2 to 2.25mm).
 - E Seriffed with stop under 'o' of 'No.'.

d. The Serial Number

- Type 1 Up to four 4.5mm sans-serif digits.
 - 2 Up to four 4.5mm mostly sans-serif digits ('1' & '4' known to be seriffed).
 - 3 Up to five 4.25mm sans-serif digits.
 - 4 Up to five 5mm slim seriffed digits.
 - 5 Up to five 4.25 to 4.5mm seriffed digits.
 - 6 Up to five 3mm seriffed digits.

These four typology elements are combined in the above sequence to form individual type descriptions. All are prefixed 'RL' to avoid any possibility of confusion with similar postmark type numbers.

Additionally there are some differences in the dimensions of the printed blue frame, as shown in the list of types below. It should be noted that within a particular type these dimensions may vary slightly (usually by up to Plus/minus 0.5mm) between one office and another.

Shades of blue printing of otherwise identical labels are outside the scope of this typology.

Recorded Label Types. Office names printed in two lines are listed accordingly. The relative setting(s) of the two lines are shown, normally by the position of the first letter/figure of the second line, e.g. N/T indicate that the 'T' is under the 'N'. In a few cases where the subsequent spacing of letters differs it may also be necessary to show the position of the final letter of the second line, e.g. A/V & N/E.

Type No.	External Dimensions of blue frame (mm)	Recorded Offices of Use	<u>Settings</u>	Recorded Overall Period of Use	
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE					
RL A1A1	39 x 15.5	Francistown Mahalapye Serowe		1952-58	
RL A2B2	38.5 x 15.5	Lobatsi Palapye Serowe		1953-61	
RL A3C5	36 x 16	Lobatsi Mafeking		1965–66 (Lobatsi also after Independence)	

BOTSWANA

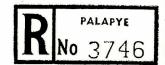
RL A3C5 (continued)	36 x 16	Francistown Gaberones 1 Gaberones 2 Molepolole Palapye	R/1 R/2	1966-69 (Some probably also pre-Independence)
RL A4C5	35.5 x 15.5	Pitsani Francis— town Gaborone Gaborone 1	R/T, RA/T OR/1	1968-83
		Gaborone 3	OR/3	
		Gaborone Village Ghanzi	A/V	
		Kanye Lobatsi 2	A/2	
		Lobatse 1	AT/1, BA/1	
		Lobatse 2	A/2	
		Mahalapye Maun Mole- polole Moshupa	O/P	
		Ootse Palapye Pitsani Ramotswa Station Serowe Shoshong Tatitown Tsabong	1st A/S	
RL A5C5	36 x 16	Gaberones 2	ER/2	1968-75
		Gaberones Village Machaneng Mahalapye	AB/V & NE/E	
		Mochudi Village	MO/V	
RL A4D4	34 x 15	Orapa Ramotswa Village Selebi	13.5mm long 1st A/V & W	1979 I/E
		Pikwe		

RL A4D5	35 x 15	Francis-	N/T, RA/T	1976-79
		town Gaberone	R/1	
		1 Gaberone 3	ER/3	
		Gaborone 2	1st O/2, OR/2	
		Lobatse 2	A/2	
		Mochudi Orapa	17.5mm long	
		Selibe- Pikwe	B/P	
		Sherwood -Ranch	E/R	
RL A5D4	34.5 x 15	Mahalapye		?
RL A5D5	34.5 x 15.5	Mahalapye		?
RL B4C5	34.5 x 15.5	Lobatse 1	A/1	?
		Gaborone 3	OR/1	
RL C4C5	36 x 16	Gaborone Village	A/V & N/E	?
RL C5C5	36 x 16	Mahalapye		?
RL D4D3	35 x 15.5	Selebi Phikwe	1st E/P	?
RL D4D4	35 x 16	Gaborone 1	OR/1	1979-85
		Gaborone 2	OR/2	
		Gaborone Village Jwaneng	A/V & N/E	
		Kanye Lobatse 1	AT/1	
		Lobatse 2	AT/2	
		Maun Mochudi Palapye	15mm long	
		Selebi- Pikwe	2nd E/P	
		Serowe Tatitown Tsabong		

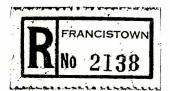
RL D4D5	35 x 16	Bontleng Francis- town Gaborone 1 Gaborone 2 Gaborone 3 Gaborone Village Jwaneng Kasane Maun Orapa Palapye Selebi Pikwe Selebi	N/T, AN/T, N slightly rt of T OR/1 OR/2, R/2 OR/3, R/3 A/V & N/E 10.5mm long L/P LE/P	1982-86
RL D4E6	35.5 x 16	Phikwe Broad- hurst Gaborone 1 Gaborone 3	O/H OR/1 OR/3	1985-86
RL D5D4	35 x 16	Hukuntsi Mahalapye Molepolole		?
RL D5D5	35 x 15.5	Ramotswa Village	RA/V & SW/E	?
RL E5E6	36 x 16.5	Gaborone 2 Gaborone 3 Hukuntsi Mahalapye	OR/2 OR/3	1986-88



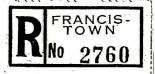
RL AlAl



RL A2B2



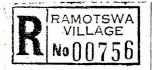
RL A3C5



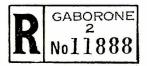
RL A4C5



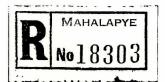
RL A5C5



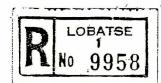
RL A4D4



RL A4D5



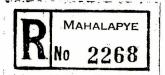
RL A5D4



RL B4C5



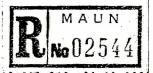
RL C4C5



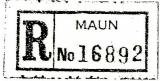
RL C5C5



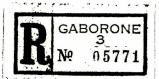
RL D4D3



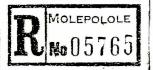
RL D4D4



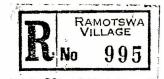
RL D4D5



RL D4E6



RL D5D4



RL D5D5



RL E5E6

THE RUNNER POST - INDEX TO VOLUME II

Issue Nos. 7, 8 and 9, June - December 1987 pp 101 - 159

Albino Overprints	150	Taungs	143
Auction Rules	140	Twopence 2d. on 2d.	115
Auction Sales	123, 144		
Banks Drift	148		
Controls	114		
Crocodile Pools	153		
Curved Foot to '2'	115, 147		
De La Rue Archives	116		
Gubulawayo	103, 126, 144, 145		
Literature Elizabeth Price	103		
Lobatsi c.d.s.	107, 124		
Macloutsi	105		
Military Telegraphs	128, 150		
One Half-Penny on 3d. (SG 29)	104		
Palapye	132		
Protectorate Fourpence Surcharges	117, 143		
Plate Numbers	114		
Provisionals 1891 and 1893-5	151		
Registration	137		
Relief Cancellers	111, 127 (137)		
Rules, Auction	140		
Specimens	125		
Tati	108, 122		

THE RUNNER POST - INDEX TO VOLUME III

Issue Nos. 10, 11 and 12, March - September 1988 pp 160 - 216

Auction Sales	157, 209	Small Figure '1'	164, 182
Banks Drift	165	Stationery, Postal	188
Botswana Floods	181	Stellaland	187
Bisects	191, 202	Tati	167, 168
Botswana 1d P.D.	200	Transvaal Fiscals	104
Cancels	163	used in B.P.	194
Dry Hartz	214	Typology, Letter S	172
Forgeries	164, 182		
Fiscals, of Transvaal overprinted for BP	194		
Francistown Showgrounds	169		
Literature Stanley Gibbons Putzel Encyclopaedia Visit to Lobengula Sir Charles Rey Oates Correspondence	206 206 207 207 209		
Lobengula	207		
Mafeking H.O.	213		
Mafeking Mail 27.3.1900	185		
Palapye	170		
Parcel Post Proclamation	205		
Postcards, illustrated	210		
Proclamation 1890	205		
Provisionals 1891 and 1893-5	162		
Relief Cancels	165		
Sitwell	163		



DEPARTMENT OF POSTAL SERVICES

MAFEKING-GUBULAWAYO RUNNER POST CENTENARY









Date of issue: 22nd August 1988

Printers : National Printers, Zimbabwe

Process : Lithographic

Stamp Size : 26 mm x 30 mm in two panes of 25

Perforation : 14

10t — 900 000

15t — 300 000

30t — 175 000

60t — 125 000

Souvenir Sheet: 30 000 P1.15 each First Day Covers: 6 000 P2.00 each

RERUN OF THE 1888 RUNNER POST

Background

On August 21st, 1972 the Republic of Botswana commemorated by the issue of four stamps the inauguration of the first official postal service within its boundaries. The original service commenced on the 7th of August, 1888 and comprised a bag or bags of letters and newspapers carried by teams of runners who sped from Mafikeng (Mafeking) in the Northern Cape (British Bechuanaland) to Hope Fountain near Bulawayo (in modern Zimbabwe), taking 22 days to cover the 900 kilometre journey.

Although separate stamps, when fitted end to end, as they appeared in the mininature sheet, they depicted the entire route traversed, and illustrated the runners, a British Bechuanaland stamp specially overprinted 'Protectorate', and a number of postal cancellations used at different places along the route.

The issue was very limited in numbers, lasted for less than six weeks, and included only 5 000 of the miniature sheets showing the entire route.

This year, 1988, is the 100th Anniversary of the Inauguration of the Runner Post, as it came to be called. The 1972 Issue, originally designed by

Michael Bryan, is being reissued on the 22nd August in honour of its 100th Anniversary, but the stamps and miniature sheet have been subtlely altered to reflect new information recently uncovered by Karl Seligmann, and have been draughted by Lucy Phalaagae.

Earliest Postal Services

The earliest posts, they can hardly be called a service, go back to the 1840s and 1850s, long before declaration of the Protectorate; to a time when this country consisted of a number of autonomous states linked by language, custom and royal marriages. Missionaries like Moffat, Livingstone and Schroeder held post for travellers, arranged for its transfer between themselves in the hands of other travellers, and occasionally employed runners to carry it to the next station. Beyond Kolobeng, large hollow trees, like the boabab near Gutshaa Pan, were used as postboxes, travellers from the south leaving post in them for those known to be in the area; and those returning south collecting mail from them and transporting it to the first official post office, sometimes more than 1 200 kilometres distant. It could take 12

taken from a number of maps existing at the time, and show the spellings most commonly used.

Both routes are shown. At the initiation of the service, the post travelled through the British Bechuanaland and South African Republic services from Mafikeng to Zeerust where it was collected (by Jensen?) and taken to Linokana. Thence it travelled northwards by runners via (Ramotswa?) and Mochudi to Shoshong. On 18th October, 1888 this route was abandoned in favour of the direct Mafikeng, Kanye, Molepolole, Shoshong route as depicted on the 1972 stamps.

The surround to the miniature sheet now carries six agency canceller postmarks used at the time and five 'killer cancellers', 677 — Kanye, 674 — Molepolole, 676 — Shoshong, 679 — Tati and 678 — Gubulawayo. (Gubulawayo was spelt in two ways depending on the writer.)

10 t Depicts the route north of Tati to the LMS

Mission at Hope Fountain just outside Gubulawayo. The Monarch Mine, where gold was discovered in 1866, is included, a major cause of the disagreement between Khama and Lobengula. The offending GUBULAWAYO — BECHUANALAND cancellation is also shown.

- 15 t Depicts the route north of Shoshong to Tati and passing through Palachwe where Khama moved in 1889. It also carries an illustration of the Six Pence British Bechuanaland Stamp overprinted 'Protectorate' specially for use with the new service.
- 30 t Depicts the two routes wouth from Shoshong, one to Mochudi (sometimes then spelt 'Mochodie') and the other to Molepolole. It also carries a contemporary drawing of the runners.
- 60 t Depicts the southern end of the route including Linokana in the South African Republic and the Mafeking (Mafikeng) killer postmark.

Alec Campbell and Karl Seligmann

Credits — Stamps and Souvenir Sheet

Design: 1988 — Andy Andersson

Drawn by: 1972 — Mike Bryan

Redrawn by: 1988 — Lucy Phalaagae

Alternate route (blue): Dr Karl Seligmann

Old spellings used in 1888: Alec Campbell

Special Cancellers will be available at the following places:

Tati and Monarch Mine (Francistown), Palachwe (Lerala), Seroe (Serowe), Shoshong, Gaberones (Gaborone), Mochodie (Mochudi), Kanye, Molepolole and Ramucwa (Ramotswa).

Philatelic Bureau P.O. Box 100 Gaborone Botswana

BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY POSTAL AUCTION NUMBER 4 (UK) Closing Date August 11th 1989

My thanks to all of you who responded to the plea for auction material in the March Runner Post, which has resulted in the following 113 lots. I'm still experimenting with the way the lots are listed, whether to do so by issuing territory (which provides difficulties when items are used out of period) or by theme (but do I put used items under eg stamps or postmarks ?). Perhaps you could let me know which you find easier to deal with.

Please send your bids to me at 56 Framfield Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2AL, U.K. The auction rules were circulated with Runner Post number 8. Please remember the bidding steps and that no bids can be accepted below the reserve (Res) or half the estimate (Est). All bids for this auction must of course be in Sterling. Tony Chilton

Literature and Mixed Lots

- 1 1988 edition of the Post Office list for RSA and the neighbouring countries, including Botswana. 134 pages containing masses of information. As new Res £1
- 2 The Shelley Catalogue of the Decimal Surcharges on the Stamps of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. 1962 with later articles and 1966 supplement. Priced listing of varieties, stationery, quantities etc. As new Res £7.50
- 3 Used collection of 76 Bechuanaland stamps between SG 3 and SG 201 including 1888 Protectorate 1/- and KGVI 10/-. Catalogued over £400 Est £50
- 4 Collection of 41 different postmarks on BB or BP stamps including Bobonong, Debeeti, (D)evondal(e), Francestown & Francistown (2 types), Gaberones Station, Gaberones Village, Geluk, Gubulaw(ayo) (on BSAC), Kanye, Keimoes, Kuruman, Lobatsi, (Ma)chaneng, Macloutsi, (Ma)dinare, Mahalapye, Makgobis stadt, Maun, Mier, Moeng, (Mo)chudi Village, Moshupa, Ootsi, Palachwe Khamas Town, Palapye, Palla Road, Pilikwe, Pitsani, (Ram)aquabane, Ramoutsa Sta, Ramoutsa Village, Sefhare, Serowe, Sherwo(od), Shoshong, (T)sabong, (To)nota and Tsessebe (2 types) Res £40

British Bechuanaland

- 5 1887 ½d vermilion SG 9 complete unmounted mint upper pane of 120 with all margins. Est f20
- 6 1887 6d SG 14 fine used block of 4 with Mafeking/Bechuanaland DE 18 92 cds, code A Est £20
- 7 1887 6d SG 14 fine used block of 4 with Vryburg Station DE 20 91 cds. Est £25
- 8 1887 6d SG 14 fine used block of 4 with Vryburg Station DE 19 91 cds. Est £25
- 9 1887 6d SG 14 fine used vertical pair with part (Vryburg) Station cds. Est £10
- 10 1887 6d SG 14 fine used vertical pair with part Vryburg (Station) cds. Est £10
- 11 1887 6d SG 14 fine used horizontal pair with faint Vryburg Station cds. Est £10
- 12 As lot 11 Est £10
- 13 1887 6d SG 14 fine used single with Vryburg Station DE 26 91 cds. Est £6
- 14 1887 6d SG 14 fine used horizontal pair with 1892 Vryburg Station cds in blue. Est £20
- 15 1887 6d SG 14 fine used horiz. pair with part Vryburg Station cds in blue. Est £15
- 16 As lot 15 Est £15
- 17 1887 1/- SG 15 fine used horizontal pair with Mafeking/Bechuanaland DE 14 91 cds, code A $\,$ Est £10 $\,$
- 18 1887 1/- SG 15 fine used horizontal pair with Mafeking/Bechuanaland DE 8 91 cds, code A $\,$ Est £10 $\,$
- 19 1887 1/- SG 15 2 used singles with part 1892 Vryburg/Bechuanaland cds, codes A & B Est £8
- 20 1887 1/- SG 15 fine used single with Vryburg/Bechuanaland JA 6 (no year slug) cds, code A $\,$ Est £4
- 21 1887 1/- SG 15 fine used single with Mafeking/Bechuanaland DE 18 91 cds, code A Est £4

- 22 1887 1/- SG 15 fine used single with Vryburg/Bechuanaland DE 22 91 cds (dot at base) code A $\,$ Est £4 $\,$

- 26 Mint overprints on Cape ½d (u/m), 1d; unappropriated dies 1d, 2d (stained), 3d (2 shades), 6d (no gum), 1/- (2), 2/- (u/m but creased), 2/6 Est £40
- 28 1888 6d black on 6d used, red crayon mark Est £5
- 29 1887 2d and 3d (2) SG 11a, 12, 12a mint Res £18
- 30 1887 1/-, 2/-, 2/6 mint Res £50
- 31 1887 1/- superb mint Res £10
- 32 1888 4d on 4d mint, slightly rough looking Res £20
- 33 1891 2d bistre fine mint, no stop variety SG 32a Est £20
- 34 1891 2d SG 34 on stained cover from Vryburg (type IIIa cancellation) to Port Elizabeth, Midland TPO mark on reverse Res £5
- 35 Unappropriated Dies fiscally used 1/- (2), 2/6, 5/- (2), 10/- (2), £1 (stained), £5 (2, small tears), plus SG 37 fiscal used and KEVII Cape £1 revenue ovptd. Res £8
- 36 Cape QV 6d and 1/- (2) revenues used on piece in British Bechuanaland. Red oval Mafeking cancellers of 1893/4 Est £3
- 37 British Bechuanaland (with stop) on Cape 1½d grey postcard (H&G 6a) unused, some staining at top Est £8
- 38 1888 overprint on GB 1d postcard (H&G 4) mint Est £1
- 39 1894 overprint on Cape 1d postcard (H&G 5) Vryburg/BB NO 14 95 cds Est £1
- 40 1887 overprint on Cape 1/2d wrapper (H&G 1) mint Est 50p
- 41 As lot 40 Est 50p
- 42 Overprinted Cape 1d postcard (H&G 5) used to Palapye Road, with Palapye Station/BB DE 19 02 cds, no message Res £30
- Overprinted Cape 1d postcard (H&G 5) used to England with additional %d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d adhesives (SG 12, 35, 59-61) Mochudi MY 20 0(1) cds. Bottom corners of card missing Res £40
- 44 1889 registration envelope size H, (H&G 7a) unused, some crease marks. Stamp die dated 28/2/89 Est £6
- 45 1894 1½d on GB 1d card (H&G 8) used with Lobatsi R.S./South Africa SP 20 96 cds, no message Res £6

Bechuanaland Protectorate

- 46 Mint collection of 13 stamps, SG 43, 45, (rubbed), 46, 51 (small stain), 52, 56, 58 (2), plus SG 22, 23, 26 Est £40
- 47 Mint collection of 20 stamps, SG 59, 65, 71, 73, 81, Bradbury 5/- seahorse (pinhole), 1932 KGV ½d (3), 2d, 3d (5), 4d, 6d, 2/-, 1938 KGVI 1d, 10/- Est £70
- 48 QEII 1953 definitive set mint Est £5
- 49 QEII 1961 decimal definitive set used Est £5
- 50 Collection of about 90 stamps including KGV to 2/6 mint, KGVI to 10/- (less 3/-) mint, 1948 Silver Wedding set mint, decimal definitive set mint, plus range of QEII used. Also some Botswana Est £25
- 51 1897 12d SG 56 and 58 mint Res £10
- 52 1888 Protectorate 6d on 6d (SG 45) superb mint Res £8
- 53 1897 2d horizontal pair (SG 62) with very good strikes of Lobatsi R.S./South Africa. Stamps a little faded Res £2.50
- 54 1897 1d horizontal pair mint (SG 61) Res £1
- 55 1891 1d (SG 33), 1897 1/2d (SG 56) and KEVII 1/2d yellow-green (SG 67) mint Res £2.50
- 56 1905 1d (SG 68) with part Mahalapye Siding/C.G.H. 20 JU 12 cds Res 50p
- 57 1960 75th Anniversary set mint Res 50p
- 58 1902 QV 1/2d blue-green (SG 60) overprinted SPECIMEN Holmes type 9 Est £20
- 59 1906 KEVII ½d blue-green (SG 66) mint left marginal block of 42, showing POSTAGE Wmk in margin Slight creasing and small stain on margin Est £25

- 60 1945 Victory 3d mint horizontal pair with basic stamp variety 'hyphen between 3 and D' on the right hand stamp Est £5
- 61 1897 4d (SG 64) with Crocodile Pools/South Africa 21 APR 00 cds Res £28
- 62 KGV ½d Script wmk mint bottom left block of 6 with control C 13, perf margins Est £8
- 63 KGV ½d Script wmk mint bottom left block of 6 with control J 17 imperf margins Est £8
- 64 KGV ½d Script wmk mint bottom left block of four with control 0 20, perf margins Est £7
- 65 KGV ½d Script wmk mint bottom left block of 6 with control S 22 imperf margins Est £8
- 66 KGV ½d Script wmk bottom left strip of 3 with control 0 20, perf margins Est £6
- 67 KGV Block wmk mint marginal singles with controls: ½d E 26, 1d A 24, 1d E 26, 1d K 29 imperf margins Est £8
- 68 1935 Silver Jubilee 1d, 2d and 6d each perforated SPECIMEN. No gum Est £12
- 69 1961 Decimal overprints: All values in mint blocks, strips including plate and imprint blocks, showing various settings of surcharges and large number of listed varieties, including R1 on 10/- in corner blocks of 1st and 2nd printings of type II. 150 stamps plus another 11 used singles Res £50
- 70 1961 postage due 2c on 2d type II, right marginal mint horizontal pair with basic stamp variety 'thick d' on right hand stamp Est £3
- 71 As lot 70 but a mint marginal single Est £2
- 72 1932 KGV 6d on cover Kasane to Francistown. Envelope has 2 folds (clear of stamp) Res £15
- 73 KGV ½d (SG 73) on cover Ramoutsa to Gaberones, red ink identification of pmk in bottom left of envelope Res £6
- 74 Three registered covers, KGVI 6d to UK with Ghanzi cds and manuscript registration mark, plus Gobabis SWA transit on back showing route; Royal Visit set to USA with Lobatsi cds and cachet; KGVI 1d and Silver Wedding 1½d strip of 3 to UK with Mahalapye cds and cachet Res £3
- 75 1953 Coronation, 1961 Anniversary and 1965 Self Government FDC's Est £1
- 76 Front to UK with horizontal pair of 1897 1d (SG 61) and 2 x ½d (SG 59) (1 badly damaged) cancelled with Serowe/B.P MR 23 06 and Palapye Station/B.P MR 24 06 alongside Res £20
- 77 OHMS official envelope registered to Port Elizabeth with KGV 2d and 3d SG 101-2 cancelled Bech. Prot/H.O. Mafeking 6IIIB38 Post Office cachet at bottom left Est £6
- 78 KGVI 1½d dull blue on postcard (showing native children) to USA with Mahalapye 13 APR A39 cds. Message reports that these stamps cancelled are rare! Est £4
- 79 KGVI 2d on stained cover to Johannesburg with Mochudi Village 14 APR A45 cds. Stamp also stained and damaged but a scarce pmk Res £15
- Victory set in horizontal pairs on cover Mafeking to Johannesburg (folded, 2 stamps affected); UPU set in horizontal pairs on FDC Lobatsi to Johannesburg (3 lower values on back); UPU set on registered cover Molepolole to Switzerland; 1953 Coronation horizontal strip of 3 on commemorative first day air letter Lobatsi to UK; QEII 2d (SG 145) on cover Francistown to Johannesburg Est £3
- 81 KGVI 1d horizontal pair on cover to Pretoria with Lobatsi Bech. Prot (all at base) 17 MAR A54 cds Est £4
- 83 Decimal surcharges 1c, 2c and 2½c on 2d on registered cover Lobatsi to Johannesburg. Dept of Posts & Telegraphs oval handstamp on reverse Est £3
- 84 Decimal surcharges 2c and 3½c on registered cover Lobatsi to Johannesburg. Dept of Posts & Telegraphs oval handstamp on front. Different cds to previous lot Est £3
- 85 Decimal surcharges 12½c on registered cover Lobatsi to Johannesburg. Handstamp and cds as lot 84 but smaller registration cachet without R. Envelope folded (clear of stamp) Est £3
- 86 Revenues, overprints on KEVII Cape £1 and Transvaal £5; on KGVI Union 5/- (3), 10/-, £1, £5. All used and in bad condition Est £5

- 87 Bechuanaland hand drawn registration of birth (split and sellotaped) dated 1906 and signed by Asst. Commissioner with pair of QV 1/- unappropriated dies cancelled oval Gaberones datestamp. In damaged envelope with 2xGV ½d's with m/s 4/3/38 Est £15
- 88 Two Protectorate Motor Vehicle licences, each bearing KGVI 3d or 2 x 1½d stamps cancelled District Commissioner or B.P. Police Kanye for each month 1941-44 Est £6
- 89 1905 postcard (GB QV) ovptd. SPECIMEN diagonally across the card, mint Est £15
- 90 As lot 89 but card a little stained and frayed Est £7
- 91 1921 1/2d postcard overprinted on GB KGV small repaired tear at top H&G 6 Est £4
- 92 1897 registered envelope (on Cape) H&G 5 used to Kimberley with 2 QV 2d (SG 62) cancelled by 1003 BONC's and Lobatsi R.S./South Africa alongside. Envelope split across front, but rare used Res £60
- 93 1906 registered envelope, GB type with R in oval at top left. Handstamped SPECIMEN across stamp. Envelope slightly ragged at edges $\,$ Res £8 $\,$
- 94 1953-9 postmarks, 21 different plus 4 code differences, representing 14 different offices. Mostly complete strikes on definitives on piece Est £12

Botswana

- 96 1974 Minerals definitive issue in official booklet, each stamp stuck down alongside the description $\mbox{Res } \pounds 3$
- 98 78 Commercial covers and cards, mainly registered from the 1980's (one dated 1998!) from a variety of towns/villages with different registration labels/cachets/straight line name etc. Est £30
- 99 1981-7 postmarks, 42 different representing 21 different offices, mostly complete strikes on definitives on piece Est £10
- 100 1985-6 postmarks on 6 'Hinchcliffe' covers from Mabeleapudi, Pilikwe, Serowe, Tsabong, Tshimoyapula and Zwenshambe Est £4
- 101 3 covers as lot 100 from Kapong, Mahikana and Mathubantwa Est £4
- 102 41 different postmarks on stamps on piece comprising Bobonong, Bontleng, Broadhurst, Botshabelo, Francistown, Gabane, Gaborone, Gaborone Village, Ghanzi, Gwetta, Kanye, Lobatse, Mahalapye, Mathubantwa, Maun, Mochudi, Mogoditshane, Molepolole, Moshupa, Orapa, Palapye, Ramotswa Village, Selebi Phikwe, Seleka, Serowe, Shashi, Tatitown, Thamaga and Tlokweng Est £40
- 103 Kiloware. About 100 grams of stamps on piece, mostly recent low values, plenty of postmark interest $\;$ Est £4
- 104 As lot 103 Est £4
- 105 As lot 103 Est £4
- 106 One Pula Road Traffic Act token. Issued in 1988 for a temporarily imported vehicle at Mamono Est 50p

Others

- 107 Stellaland set of 5 unused with gum, 1d slightly stained, 4d-1/- small thins but good looking Res £20
- 108 Stellaland 3d left margin mint horiz. pair imperf vertically, some gum creasing and writing on back which shows through to front if you look hard enough Res £50
- 109 Military Telegraphs ovpt. on Cape 6d, 1 used, 1 unused, average condition Est £9
- 110 Tati Co. cheque, large size (red) dated 1955. Vert. fold, QE2 1d on reverse Est £7
- 111 Mafeking Siege Note 10/- green No.6261 dated 'March 1900'. Embossed 'Bechuanaland Protectorate One Penny' (control?), condition rather crumpled and creased. Est £15
- 112 Bophutatswana Independence set; first definitives (all bottom right corner marginal copies); Blood pressure set, SG 1-24 all unmounted mint Res £6