

The Runner Post



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Editor's Comments

Very little original research appears to have been published on the philately of Stellaland, especially with regard to the postage rates and routes of this short lived Republic. We are therefore particularly pleased to include in this issue a major article on that territory by Dr Alan Drysdall.

Also in this issue we cover the letter 'K' in our ongoing typology study; We report the discovery of another 'Tati excised' canceller on postcard; and we have some interesting Members' correspondence.

RUNNER POST: REPRINTS OF ARTICLES

Our Hon Secretary, Mike George, advises that he will arrange for photo-copies of back articles for recently joined-members at a charge of 10p per single-sided sheet plus postage. If you are interested, let Mike know and he will provide copies of Indices I to IV (up to RP 16): Index V is in preparation and will be published shortly. (We are unable to supply complete back copies of the Runner Post).

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to a new member - Mr Charles A Temple Jr, c/o Aramco, Box 8016, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia, whose interests include proofs/essays, issued stamps, postmarks and postal history. Mr Temple is also a member of the Rhodesian Study Circle.

NEXT BBS (UK) AUCTION

Our Hon Auctioneer - Tony Chilton - appeals to members to please submit lots to him for the next auction by 10th June after which he will prepare a list which we plan to distribute with the June issue.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

HELD AT THE BRITISH PHILATELIC CENTRE, 107 CHARTERHOUSE STREET, LONDON E.C.1,

ON SATURDAY 2nd MARCH 1991, COMMENCING AT 2.00pm

Members present:

John Inglefield-Watson (Chairman), Philip Cattell, Tony Chilton, Rodney Crouch, Alan Drysdall, Dennis Firth, Mike George, Aubrey Glassborow, Roger Howard, Alan MacGregor, Roy Setterfield and Richard Stroud.

Apologies for Absence: Jim Catterall, Mike Hall, David Hardwick, Dennis Preddy and Brian Trotter.

Business of the Meeting:

An appeal was made for material for the next auction, the closing date will be published in the next issue of Runner Post.

The Treasurer appealed for member's subscriptions.

It was reported that Kenneth Wright, who gave the display on Tati in 1987, had died. A letter of condolence would be sent to his widow.

Displays:

- 1) Roger Howard. Roger described himself as a collector, not a specialist, and said he was interested in three areas, Stellaland, Bechuanaland Protectorate 1888-1890 and Revenue stamps. Most 'types' of Stellaland stamps were included in the display, including some used, also used and unused Revenue stamps. The 2nd section included a selection of most issues of the period, with many varieties. Highlights included an 1888 1/- stamp with manuscript Tati cancellation, examples of Francistown postmarks on Rhodesia and Bechuanaland stamps, Macloutsie postmarks and a '678' Gubulawayo postmark on a Bechuanaland stamp. Roger's display concluded with a good selection of Revenue stamps and Postal Fiscals.
- 2) Alan Drysdall. Alan showed a selection of 'types' of unused Stellaland stamps, with some forgeries. He displayed a piece with three Transvaal stamps used in combination with 2 x 3d Stellaland stamps which had not been cancelled, also photocopies of a number of Stellaland covers. Alan had studied the Stellaland covers that were available, and had not been able to ascertain any accurate information regarding rates, due to there being no consistency in the value of stamps used. [Alan has subsequently made great headway in this study and an article by him appears in this issue - Ed]
- 3) Philip Cattell. Philip's subject was World War 2 aspects of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. He showed mail to and from the territories addressed to and sent by members of the African Auxiliary Pioneer Corps, also the High Commission Territories Corps after the war.
- 4) Mike George. Mike's display included two top panes from sheets of SG 39, the 2d with overprint reading down, also a pane of SG 32, the 2d with overprints reading up.

BBS LIBRARY APPEAL

Can anyone kindly donate copies of the following to Society archives please?:

The 'Barkaway' sale catalogue (Harmers, June 25 1986)

The 'Dale-Lichtenstein' British Africa sale catalogue (Harmers, (NY) March 14 1991)

Any offers to the Hon. Secretary please.

OBITUARY - J G HASKINS

James George Haskins died suddenly on 22nd October 1990 in Nyangabwe hospital in Francistown, Botswana. He was born in Bulawayo, on 24th April 1914, at a time when no hospitals existed in Northern Botswana. He was the grandson of a pioneer trader who came to the Bechuanaland Protectorate shortly after the Protectorate was proclaimed. He did much to develop the operations of the family business, J N Haskins and Sons (Pty) Ltd, the establishment founded by James Haskins senior in 1897. The successful enterprise spread far beyond the boundaries of Francistown to many of the smaller centres in Botswana, as well as to Palapye and Gaborone.

Jim Haskins (or Jimmy, as he was affectionately known), was educated at St Peter's Primary School (which later became Bulawayo Adventist Secondary School) and later at Plumtree High School. For some time after completing his education, he joined the Jagers group of companies in South Africa where he received training in wholesale management. He served in the army during the Second World War. After this, he was a member of the European Advisory Council in Bechuanaland Protectorate and played a major role in the formation of the non-racial legislative council of which he was a member, and also chairman from 1955 to 1960. He was a member of the legislative council for the Batawana and Chobe districts from 1961 to 1964 and also served as chairman of the finance and public accounts committees. This organisation was instrumental in obtaining independence for the new nation of Botswana in 1966.

Jim Haskins was an early supporter of the Botswana Democratic Party of Sir Seretse Khama and at independence was nominated to the first national assembly and served in different cabinet posts. He was the first Minister of Commerce and Industry and Water Affairs and later held the posts of Minister of Finance, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Works and Communications, respectively.

In 1980, he was elected speaker of the House of Assembly. At the age of 75, during 1989, he resigned from active politics.

For his contribution to the people of Botswana he received the Order of the British Empire from the British Government. Zaire also recognised his major contribution to Botswana and Africa by awarding him the Order of the Leopard.

Jim Haskins served as chairman of Standard Chartered Bank of Botswana, chairman of the Francistown Club, chairman of the Botswana Bowls Association, vice-chairman of the Society for the Deaf and a trustee for the museum. He also played an important part in philately serving on the committee that planned the stamps for Botswana for many years, and a specialist philatelist of vast knowledge who had an excellent collection of postal history, especially of the Tati area. He had numerous other interests in farming, sport (he was a keen bowler), etc and was chairman of the Francistown Agricultural Society, founder member of the Botswana National Sports Appeal Foundation, life member of the Botswana Red Cross Society, treasurer of the Botswana Democratic and numerous other clubs. Botswana can truly be proud of this illustrious son of theirs.

He was managing director of J N Haskins and Sons up to his death. He was buried at Francistown on 28th October 1990 and is survived by his wife Dorothy and his daughter Patricia Soutereau.

(We are indebted to Dr Karl Seligmann for compiling this obituary.)

Members' Comments and Queries

1888 B.B. 2d SURCHARGE WITH DOUBLE DOT

John Inglefield-Watson writes in response to Stephen Smith's queries in RP 21 (p378):

I have seen no evidence for disputing Holmes' statement that, except for worn or broken type, there are only two surcharge varieties in the 1888 B.B. issue - the 'comma instead of full stop' after 'd' or 's' on all five values and the familiar 'curved foot to 2' on the 2d.

Stephen's extra stop was probably caused by a fragment of broken type or dirt lodging in the narrow space between the '2' and 'd'. I have a similar flaw with a smaller stop, not joined by ink to the adjacent characters.

I would not be too concerned about the 'rusty red brown colour' of Stephen's surcharge. The redness and brownness of the surcharge do vary due, I suspect, to inadequate cleaning of inking rollers after printing a black surcharge. I have one or two examples of the 2d value with blackish flecks in a red-brown surcharge.

J.F.I-W.

THE 'STAMPLESS' REGISTRATION ENVELOPE

Philip Cattell has supplied a copy of his letter to Peter van der Molen which sheds some light on Peter's stationery queries (RP 21, p379):

Early in 1967 I wrote to GPO Lobatsi for examples of the new Botswana postal stationery which I thought would, by then, be on sale. When they arrived, instead of being stamped, the Registered Envelopes (REs) were size 'G' only and unstamped. To the best of my recollection (24 years ago) the message was that these were the only REs now and I feel fairly sure that there were no plans to have them stamped. The last of my spares from this batch was included in Lot 72 in our recent auction. I would have been hard put to tell recall the date correctly but fortunately the order included some Hoopoe cards which I asked to be cancelled. The date is 22.3.67.

Looking at all three High Commission Territories it seems to me that in 1966 they all switched from DLR to McC (did DLR give up?), that Botswana and Swaziland decided to cease using stamped REs but Lesotho continued using the new arms design. For some reason the Swazi pattern is quite different to the others in several ways, principally in that the flap is on the back but perhaps more significantly that there is nothing to connect with Swaziland or any other territory - might even be GB stock! My own collection of Swaziland indicates that they used DLRs to September 1966 and McC from October. The other two had to change because of independence but Swaziland did not.

We are left with your question, why did McC not put their imprint on their supplies to Botswana? I have no answer to that one. I will just register my firm vote that they were produced by McCorquodales.

Philip Cattell

John Inglefield-Watson was shown Philip's letter and commented that while Philip's recollections provide useful support for the supposition that the stampless registration envelopes were the first Botswana issue, they don't prove it. However, John adds that Philip's letter is sufficient confirmation of 1967 as the year of issue for the first RE. [REs and other 'stampless' stationery are discussed in a forthcoming article by John Inglefield-Watson, entitled THE 'POOR RELATION' - POSTAL STATIONERY WITH NO IMPRINTED STAMP, the first part of which will appear in RP 23 - Edl.

John also suggests that as the Hoopoe postcard to which Philip refers was issued on 1 Mar 67, perhaps the registered envelopes were issued on the same date?

Members' Comments and Queries (Cont.)

PHILATELIC OR NOT PHILATELIC?

We have received a long letter from one of our new members in the USA - Lt Col Frederick P Lawrence, USAF, who joined at the London 1990 show. Frederick says that as a new member of the BBS, he felt very hesitant in voicing a criticism, however small, of a journal contributor, especially when that contributor is none other than our newly elected Chairman, Lt Col Sir John Inglefield-Watson.

Frederick has been a student of the Philatelic history of Mafeking for over thirty years and says he "...couldn't help but notice Sir John's faux pas in mis-describing one of the covers [Cover No.3] illustrated in his article, 'More Postage Due Covers' which appeared in The RP, ...as 'philatelic'." (RP 21, p384-5).

Frederick points out that the sender, Stephen G Rich was the famous philatelist and author of 'Philately of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902' (pub.1943). Essentially, Frederick says that Mr Rich's primary reason for writing the letter (also illustrated in RP 21) in 1938 was "...to obtain information about the Protectorate's postal operations, not to obtain an underpaid cover from Mafeking. That the stamps he used had been demonetized and that his reply envelope, therefore, was processed as a due cover were incidental to his purpose in writing to Mafeking." Frederick would accept "philatelically related" but not "philatelic" in the pejorative sense of "philatelically inspired" and adds that if the cover is too philatelic for our Lt Col he would be delighted to give it a new home!

Frederick also states that this cover is ex the Earl of Crawford collection, but, like Dr Rich's research material, was not included with the bulk of the philatelic holdings when auctioned by the now defunct Scott Auction Galleries, in New York in 1981. That research material is probably no longer intact but dispersed among numerous private collectors such as Sir John.

John Inglefield-Watson replies:

"I am delighted that my article provoked some response and I am grateful to Lt Col Lawrence for the information about Dr Rich. I do not dispute that much of the Doctor's letter to the Director of Posts & Telegraphs comprised questions of philatelic research. However, to send an envelope franked with old stamps (two B.B. and two B.P.) believed still to be valid but long since unavailable or withdrawn from sale, and to request a specific cancellation is in my view 'philatelic', a term that I regard as descriptive rather than derogatory. That is, of course, a matter of opinion rather than fact. I therefore do not admit to any 'faux pas' and leave it to other readers to make their own assessment of the cover.

I am only sorry that Lt Col Lawrence felt hesitant to write to the Editor and am glad that he decided to do so. I would be unhappy to learn that any member had been deterred from responding to an article by the fact that the author happened to be one of the Society's office-bearers - administration and philatelic study are separate matters. I welcome comment, including constructive criticism, on any of my articles. All too often my conjectures and opinions go unchallenged and my requests for feedback of information go unanswered."

BROKEN 'B' ON SG 56

Mike George records a distinctive broken letter on the 1897 ½d green, SG 56. The 'B' of 'BECHUANALAND' has a marked break in the vertical stem, giving it the appearance of a '3'. An interesting variety to look out for!

MG



ITEMS OF INTEREST



ANOTHER 'TATI EXCISED' CANCEL FOUND ON CARD

Arnold Berman has provided an illustration of a BSA Company 1d postcard with additional 1d + ½d adhesives (2½d to Germany) all cancelled with the Tati excised (or 'dumb') cancel. The card recently surfaced in Germany and was on offer on the ADPS auction which Arnold runs. Unlike the card which Otto Peetoom described in his article in RP 15, p261, which proved the use of the cancel at Francistown on Sep 3rd 1897, this one throws a spanner in the works as the message on the reverse (in German) is headed "Matoppo Siding" and is dated over a month later on Oct 12th 1897. The message translates as "...Everything is all right. I am fine. The heat is great. The travelling is slow. Yesterday the first rain fell this year. In one hour I will travel to Bulawayo from there I will send more. Many Greetings to you all".

Many questions arise: 1) Where in Rhodesia was Matoppo Siding; 2) Where was the rail head on Oct 12th; 3) Was there a postal agency by this name on the railway; 4) Was this canceller applied to incoming mail arriving at Francistown or had it by this time been re-assigned to another agency along the ever extending railway (which reached Bulawayo on Oct 19th)?

This card was also discussed in The Rhodesian Study Circle Journal (RSCJ 155, p265) where it was suggested that Matoppo Siding may have been later renamed Westacre Junction (17 miles from Bulawayo). They also proposed the hypothesis that this canceller could have been used as a 'receiving datestamp' and kept at the railhead as it moved northwards or possibly on a train that shuttled between the railhead, Plumtree and Francistown.

The card was estimated at £400 and realised £1020!

CHECKLIST OF BECHUANALAND POSTMARKS: THE LETTER 'K'

Mike George & Brian Trotter

This checklist covers all the postal markings so far recorded for post offices and agencies in the Bechuanalands that begin with the letter 'K'. It continues with the same format as the previous checklists published in the Runner Post.

KAKIA



No. 1 Type 2 B 14

Circle diameters : 21mm & 30mm
 Earliest recorded date : Sep 2, 1963
 Latest recorded date : Mar 6, 1965
 Codes recorded : A, B, H
 Number recorded so far : 5

KALAMARE



No. 1 Type 2 B 2

Circle diameters : 17mm & 26mm
 Earliest recorded date : Oct 20, 1964
 Latest recorded date : May 4, 1965
 Codes recorded : A
 Number recorded so far : 3

KANAGAS



No. 1 Type 2 B 14

Circle diameters : 21mm & 30mm
 Earliest recorded date : Apr 4, 1962
 Latest recorded date : Feb 18, 1965
 Codes recorded : A, G, Block
 Number recorded so far : 4

KANYE



No. 1 Type 1 B 1

Circle diameter : 23mm
 Earliest recorded date : Feb 10, 1897
 Latest recorded date : Feb 22, 1926
 Codes recorded : None
 Number recorded so far : 23

One recorded item has the day inverted, another has day and month inverted. A blue strike is known, but date is unclear, so it has not been recorded.



BONGC No. 677 was allocated to this office

Number recorded so far: 3



No. 2 Type 2 B 23

Circle diameters : 17mm & 26mm
 Earliest recorded date : Feb 1, 1921
 Latest recorded date : Nov 24, 1952
 Codes recorded : A, B, Block, none
 Number recorded so far : 28

One recorded item has code letter after the year.



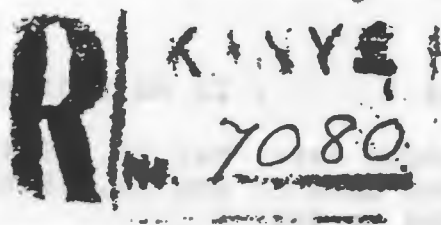
No. 3 Type 2 B 10

Circle diameters : 19mm & 30mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jun 9, 1953
 Latest recorded date : Feb 27, 1965
 Codes recorded : A
 Number recorded so far : 20



No. 4 Type 2 B 14

Circle diameters : 21mm & 30mm
 Earliest recorded date : Mar 20, 1963
 Latest recorded date : Jul 11, 1966
 Codes recorded : A, D
 Number recorded so far : 3



No. RG 1

Box dimensions (unclear) : 29mm & 58mm?
 Earliest recorded date : Jun 14, 1935
 Latest recorded date : Jun 14, 1935
 Number recorded so far : 1

KASANE



No. 1 Type 2 E 62

Circle diameters : 17mm & 26mm
 Earliest recorded date : Mar 7, 1922
 Latest recorded date : Apr 7, 1948
 Codes recorded : A, C, Block
 Number recorded so far : 15

Blocks appear on recorded items before the single digit day 3 times, between day and month twice, and after the year five times. Code A appears after the year three times in the recorded items. Also a manuscript registraton is recorded.

KAVIMBA

No postmark recorded yet

KAZUNGULA

No. 1 Type 2 B 14

Circle diameters : 21mm & 31mm
 Earliest recorded date : Nov 14, 1959
 Latest recorded date : Apr 12, 1966
 Codes recorded : A
 Number recorded so far : 10



No. RG 1

Box dimensions : 22mm & 51mm
 Earliest recorded date : May 23, 1964
 Latest recorded date : Nov 23, 1965
 Number recorded so far : 3

KEIMoes

No. 1 Type 1 B 1

Circle diameter : 22mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jan 11, 1892
 Latest recorded date : Jun 27, 1923
 Codes recorded : None
 Number recorded so far : 18

Recorded items dated after the Annexation of British Bechuanaland to the Cape in 1895 are not on Bechuanaland stamps. One recorded item has day and month transposed.

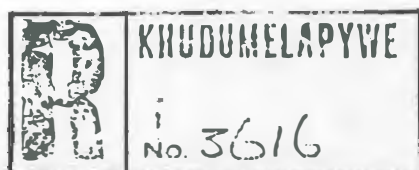


Until recently, it was not known if a BONC had been allocated to this office. However, the Stephan Welz sale of 25 June 1990 featured 2 proving covers with BONC 995. (See RP 20, p359)

KHUDUMELAPYWE

No. 1 Type 2 B 14

Circle diameters : 21mm & 31mm
 Earliest recorded date : Oct 19, 1963
 Latest recorded date : Apr 27, 1965
 Codes recorded : A
 Number recorded so far : 4



No. RG 1

Box dimensions : 22mm & 55mm
 Earliest recorded date : Oct 19, 1963
 Latest recorded date : Oct 19, 1963
 Number recorded so far : 1

KURUMAN



No. 1 Type 1 B 2

Circle diameter : 23mm
Earliest recorded date : Jul 3, 1889
Latest recorded date : Jul 17, 1917
Codes recorded : None
Number recorded so far : 18

Recorded items dated after the Annexation of British Bechuanaland to the Cape in 1895 are not on Bechuanaland stamps. One recorded item has the second year digit omitted, but has the digit '4' above the date. This is assumed to be (18)94. One recorded strike is in blue.



BONC No. 534 was allocated to this office.
Number recorded so far: 11. Five of these recorded BONC's are struck in blue.

We have received help in recording these postmarks from Hamish Campbell, Jim Catterall, Howard Cook, John Inglefield-Watson, Alan MacGregor and Roy Setterfield.

Note that illustrations can be slightly enlarged or distorted due to photocopying.

Our continuing postmark Typology study has prompted several members to write in with such comments as "Hey, I have one (or more) of those" and details of postmark or BONC examples that you have in your collections, especially when the typology lists only a low number for a particular type or Agency under 'Number recorded so far'.

It should be pointed out and even stressed that the number given in each case is that recorded between members of the BBS Typology group and does not normally take into account other examples outside the group. This figure will therefore often appear to be lower than that which you might expect and it should not be inferred that a low number implies a scarce or rare postmark. This particularly applies to the later (QE2 period) double circles which probably exist in greater numbers and in many cases may push the 'Number recorded' to 'Over 50'.

Obviously there will be cases when low numbers really do reflect scarcity (usually on the earlier cancels) but we don't want to mislead you into thinking you have a rarity on the basis of a quoted number. We hope these comments will be of some help in putting the quoted numbers in perspective and that you won't be too unhappy that your '4th or 5th recorded may in fact fall into the 'over 50' category!

Having said that, please don't stop writing and sending details of what you hold as all information will be channelled to the relevant 'department'.

Still on the topic of Typology, Note 1 concerning TATI postmarks (RP21, p387) and Holmes' mention of the two manuscript cancellations known to him. FIVE are in fact known (In total - anywhere, i.e. Rare!). Apart from the two mentioned by Holmes dated 15/8/88, Roger Howard has an item cancelled 'Tati 8/9/88', Richard Knight has a cover (Illustrated in RP 6, p17) with the stamps cancelled 'Tati 15/9/(88)' and Sir John Inglefield-Watson has one which appears to have initials rather than a date. (refer RP 18, p316 and RP 20, p356).

A PREVIOUSLY UNDESCRIBED STELLALAND ITEM

Alan R. Drysdall

The few known covers franked with Stellaland stamps, usually in combination with Transvaal or Cape stamps, are 'heavyweight' items which few collectors could ever aspire to own. They are nevertheless the forerunners of Bechuanaland's postal history, and record an important, though rather confused chapter of that story.

Introduction

The franking of the piece illustrated as Figure 1 comprises two Stellaland 3d stamps in combination with three stamps of the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek (Transvaal) - 1d black and 3d pale red of the reprintings made between 1883 and 1885 by J.F. Celliers from the plates which had been made by Adolph Otto in 1869, and a 6d of the Bradbury, Wilkinson 'Queen's head' issue. The Transvaal stamps are all cancelled with the target-type obliterator coded '6', which was issued to Christiana. The Stellaland stamps are uncanceled, but the 3d Transvaal stamp does overlap to a very minor extent onto one of them and the other, which overlaps the first, is 'tied' to the piece by rust marks. There is therefore the possibility that the item was posted at Vryburg sometime during the period 1883-85, and forwarded via Christiana in the Transvaal. The alternative explanation is that the Stellaland stamps have been added to a piece torn from a cover which originated from Christiana.

The history, and in particular the postal history, of the independent Republic of Stellaland is remarkable in several respects, and not least for its brevity. The Republic was established by Boer freebooters in 1882, but only two years later, on the 8th September, 1884, they signed the Stellaland Agreement, indicating their acceptance of "provisional arrangements for the regulation of affairs and the government of Stellaland pending Annexation of Stellaland to the Cape Colony". The Agreement was signed by the President, Secretary and Members of the Volksraad of the erstwhile Republic, Cecil Rhodes as Commissioner of Bechuanaland and Matabele Thompson as his Secretary. The neighbouring Republic of Goshen refused to enter into a comparable agreement, hence the recourse to military action. The Expedition led by Sir Charles Warren reached Vryburg on the 7th February, 1885, but when they advanced into Goshen it was only to find that the Boers had returned to the Transvaal. Stellaland itself ceased to exist on the 30th September, 1885, when the Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland was formally proclaimed.

Postage stamps, which could only be used to receipt payment of inland (internal) rates, were delivered in February 1884. (The earliest recorded usage is the 29th February, 1884.) They remained in use until replaced by Cape stamps overprinted 'British / Bechuanaland' on the 2nd December, 1885, that is for less than two years. The Transvaal stamps franking the piece illustrated as Figure 1 indicate only that it was probably posted prior to 13th March, 1885, when the first of the Vurtheim definitives were placed on sale. The combination thus suggests that the letter from which it was torn was posted sometime during the year March 1884 to February 1885. (The first name of the addressee was evidently Theodore, and there is a remote possibility that this may have been Theodore Doms, who had been a member of the Stellaland Volksraad.)

Known Stellaland covers

The known covers, other than military mail, franked with Stellaland stamps are listed in Table 1. The first item, a registered letter addressed to Cape Colony, is probably the most relevant in the present context, and is certainly the most controversial. It has been previously illustrated in two forms, firstly as an opened-



Figure 1 The composite franking suggests that this piece was torn from a registered cover which originated in Stellaland, possibly in 1884 (Illustrated courtesy of Maj. H. Criddle)



Figures 2A & B (Ref.1) Two views of a registered cover posted on 5th June 1884, addressed to Cape Colony, franked with three Stellaland 1d stamps in combination with Transvaal stamps totalling 10d receipting payment of the 4d half-ounce letter rate to Cape Colony and 6d registration fee (Holmes, 1985, fig.1 and 2)



out cover from which two square pieces have been cut (Fig. 2A), and secondly as viewed from the front, but with the two Transvaal stamps which were folded over the edges of the envelope opened out (Fig. 2B). (The pieces which have been cut from the cover were probably blank as there is no reason to suspect that datestamps have been removed.) The franking comprises three 1d Stellaland stamps and 10d in Transvaal stamps - a single 1d plus three 3d Celliers reprints - the latter receipting payment of the half-ounce letter rate to Cape Colony (4d) plus the registration fee (6d).

Table 1

DATE OF POSTING	ADDRESSED TO	VIA	FRANKING		REFERENCE
			Stellaland	Transvaal / Cape*	
letter post					
5. 6.84	Cape Colony	Christiana	3d	6d + 4d (a)	1
30. 9.84	Pretoria	Christiana	4d	3d	2
2.12.84	Pretoria	Christiana	4d	3d	3
?	Pretoria	Christiana	3d	?	4
19. 6.85	Cape Colony	Barkly West	2d	none	5
26. 6.85	Canada	Barkly West	3d	1s*	6
6.85	Setlagohli		2d	none	7
9.85	Pretoria	Barkly West	2d (b)	2d*	8
9.85	Pretoria	Barkly West	2d (b)	2d*	9
book post					
2.12.84	Pretoria	Christiana	1d	1d	10

(a) 6d registration plus 4d postage (b) the 'Twee' provisional

The Stellaland stamps are cancelled in manuscript, in one case this reads "½ oz" and in the other two "5/6/84". (The date on the stamp at top-right may have been originally written as "2/6/84" in error.) This can only indicate that the letter was posted on the 5th June, 1884 - a Thursday - and prepaid at the half-ounce rate. The Transvaal 3d stamps were cancelled with the target-type obliterator coded '6' at Christiana, but the 1d stamp, which was affixed separately - presumably in order to avoid obscuring any part of the address - was overlooked and cancelled later with a manuscript cross in red ink, probably in Cape Colony.

The deep rose registration label was almost certainly a private issue, as no such labels were used by Transvaal and there is no other cover to prove that they were used in Stellaland. The blue crayon lines across the cover and the boxed handstamp at top-left, in which the registration number has been entered in manuscript, conform to normal Transvaal practice for registered mail. (The registration number, 334, is also written in red crayon in the centre of the face of the cover.) The date in an incomplete strike of a Christiana datestamp on the reverse is readable only as 'JU / 84'. The Somerset East backstamp is also poorly struck, but in this case the date is decipherable as 'JU 15 / 84'. The total transit time was therefore 10 days.

The cover carries a Diena authentication, and in 1984 the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society issued certificate no. 127065 confirming that in their opinion it was genuine. This certificate was, however, withdrawn in 1985. Holmes, who had evidently been consulted by the Expert Committee, published his reasons for regarding the cover as faked in a short article in the *London Philatelist* (1). "The dates of the obliterations made it impossible for a registered letter to have travelled from Stellaland to the Cape, having regard to the transport conditions prevailing in that part of Africa in 1884. . . What the faker did was to remove two of the Transvaal 3d stamps and replace them with two Stellaland 1d stamps, affixing the

Transvaal stamps along with another Stellaland 1d lower down." In subsequent correspondence Chilton (11) questioned Holmes' reasoning, and pointed out that the consistent orientation of the numeral '6' cancellations was evidence that the two Transvaal 3d stamps at bottom-left had not been moved and rotated. Holmes in his reply (12) concentrated on the significance of the dates and referred to a route "from Vryburg to Christiana, when the mail had to be carried by ox-wagon, and then on to Johannesburg". However, this letter could not have been forwarded via Johannesburg, which did not exist until 1886, and would have been sent directly south from Christiana which lay on the Pretoria - Potchefstroom - Cape Town mail route. A transit time of 10 days from Vryburg to Somerset East was certainly possible (see below). (This cover now has a BPA certificate.)

The second cover listed above (2) is addressed to the Pretoria newspaper *De Volksstem*. It is franked with a Stellaland 4d stamp in combination with a Transvaal 3d duty. The Stellaland stamp was cancelled in manuscript with the initials "F H" and the date of posting, Tuesday "30/9/84". The Transvaal stamp, which receipted payment of the Transvaal inland half-ounce letter rate, was cancelled at Christiana with the target-type obliterator coded '6'. Although the franking totals 7d, the cover is annotated "paid 2d". Holmes (13) states that, following the reduction in the inland rate to 2d, and "pending the issue of 2d stamps, letters were franked with a 4d stamp and marked '2d paid'". This statement appears to be based solely on the evidence of this cover. It seems an improbable procedure, particularly as a similarly franked cover posted only two months later (3) is not annotated. The sender would in any case have paid more than 2d, as he would have had to have purchased the Transvaal stamp regardless of whether it was affixed at Vryburg or Christiana. The significance of the annotation therefore remains problematical.

The cover was backstamped at Christiana - unreadable day in October 1884 - and on arrival at Pretoria on 'OCT 10 / 84'. The total transit time was thus 10 days.

A similarly addressed cover offered in a Harmer's sale in November 1975 (3) is also franked with a 4d Stellaland stamp - again cancelled in manuscript with the initials "F H" and the date, "2/12/84" (also a Tuesday) - in this case in combination with three 1d Transvaal stamps. These were cancelled with the '6'-coded obliterator at Christiana. (None of the stamps are tied to the cover, but the ink of the manuscript cancellation on the Stellaland stamp has penetrated through to the envelope.) Backstamps record that this letter passed through Christiana on '9 DEC 84', and was received in Pretoria three days later. The total transit time was therefore again 10 days.

Harvey Pirie and Redford (4) refer briefly to a Stellaland cover in the Curle Collection, lodged with the Africana Museum in Johannesburg. They describe it as, "a very uncommon form of combination cover sent from Christiana to Kimberley, which has a 3d Stellaland stamp (cancelled in manuscript) in addition to the Transvaal stamp".

Christie's Robson Lowe sale of the 22nd January, 1990 (5), included a cover addressed to the Cape franked only with a pair of 1d Stellaland stamps. It is, however, annotated "4d" in manuscript at top-left, and it is therefore possible that the sender paid the Cape half-ounce inland letter rate in addition to the Stellaland rate. The date of posting is recorded by the manuscript cancellation of the Stellaland stamps as "19.6.85", a Friday. The letter passed through Barkly West in Griqualand West on Monday '22 JU / 85'. (The date of the Kimberley and Burghersdorp backstamps is not known.)

A second cover offered at a different auction on the same day (6) - a remarkable coincidence - is addressed to Canada and franked with three 1d Stellaland stamps and a block of twelve Cape 1d stamps. All the stamps are cancelled in

manuscript (blue crayon) to record where and when the letter was posted, namely "Vryburg / 26.6.85 / Stellaland / F.A. Eaton / Postmaster". The Cape stamps were cancelled at Barkly West on '29 JU / 85'. (A Canadian datestamp ties one of the Stellaland stamps to the block of Cape stamps.) This letter was therefore posted at Vryburg, and also passed through Barkly West, precisely a week after the cover addressed to the Cape described immediately above. The address is also written on the back of the cover, which bears a 2½d accountancy mark, and strikes of Cape Town, London and Canadian datestamps. The date in the Cape mark is unreadable. The London mark is dated 'JY 21 / 85'. The Canadian mark is the same as that struck on the face of the cover, and is coded and dated '7 / AU 3 / 1'.

The last of the three covers dated June 1885 (7) is addressed to "Col. Cotton, Officer Commanding Troops, Setlagohli", and is franked with a vertical pair of Stellaland 1d stamps cancelled with a single line drawn in coloured crayon. (The only illustration available is a poor photocopy.) The reverse of the cover was annotated by the addressee as follows: "This letter came by the despatch riders this day at 3.15 p.m. from Vrijburg, and even delivered to me." The note is signed and dated "June 28 1885 / Setlagohli". (The last figure in the year of the date is poorly written, but is probably a '5'.)

One of the latest known Stellaland combination covers (8) is again addressed to *De Volksstem* at Pretoria. It is franked with an uncanceled copy of the 'Twee' on 4d in combination with a pair of Cape 1d stamps cancelled at Barkly West on Monday 'OC 24 / 85'. The cover was backstamped at Kimberley ('OC 25 / 85') and Pretoria ('NOV 1 / 85'). A copy of the 'Twee' provisional in the Royal Collection, which is on piece in combination with a Cape 6d stamp cancelled at Barkly West again on 'OC 24 / 85', is also illustrated by Holmes.

An almost identical cover is addressed to Venterstad in Cape Colony (9). It too is franked with an uncanceled copy of the 'Twee' provisional at top-right in combination with a pair of Cape 1d stamps affixed to the left side of the face of the cover and tied with an incomplete strike of what appears to be a Barkly West mark dated 'OC 24 / 85'. The backstamps are Kimberley 'OC 26 / 85', Burghersdorp '28 OC / 85' and Venterstad 'OC 29 / 85'.

Postage rates

With regard to the period prior to February 1885, that is prior to the occupation of Stellaland by the Warren Expedition, the frankings of the only four known covers would seem to indicate that the Stellaland inland (i.e. internal) half-ounce letter rate was increased from 3d to 4d sometime between early June and the end of September 1884.

The frankings of the three covers posted in June 1885, that is during the period which followed the occupation of Stellaland and preceded the formal proclamation of a Crown Colony, are at first sight inconsistent, but appearances may be deceptive. The cover addressed to Setlagohli provides the best available evidence that the Stellaland inland letter rate was at this time 2d. The letter addressed to the Cape, which is also franked with 2d in Stellaland stamps, is evidence that, a) Cape rates applied to mail posted in Stellaland, and b) the Cape authorities were at this time accepting Stellaland stamps as receipting payment of the Cape internal rate. (The significance of the annotation "4d" remains a mystery.) There is no obvious reason why the letter addressed to Canada, which was posted only a week later, should be franked with 3d in Stellaland stamps, but it must be significant that the total value of the stamps affixed to this cover, 1s 3d, corresponds to the Cape rate to North America for a letter weighing between a half and one ounce. It seems particularly improbable that Stellaland stamps could be substituted in part for Cape stamps on a letter addressed overseas, but it is a remarkable coincidence that the total

Figure 3 (Ref.2)

A cover posted in September 1884 to Pretoria and franked with a 4d Stellaland stamp in combination with a Transvaal 3d duty though annotated 'Paid 2d' (Holmes, 1971, pl.1)

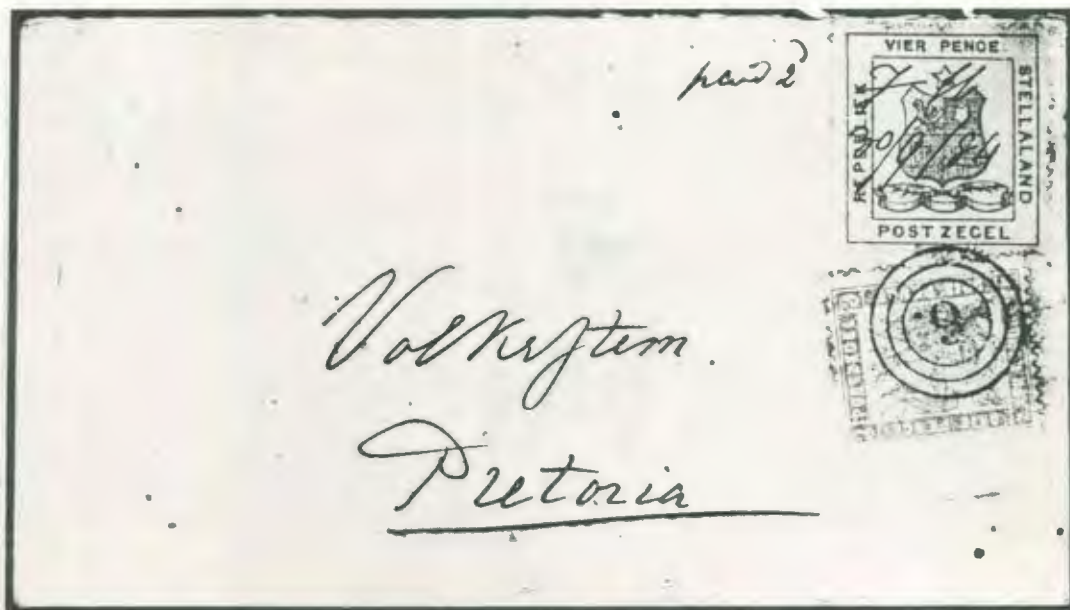


Figure 4 (Ref.4)

This illustration only became available after this article was written. The table on page 404 can therefore be amended to take account of the manuscript date '12/3/85' and the two Transvaal 1d stamps. Note the manuscript '2d' in similar style to that on Figure 3. The dark line across the Stellaland stamp is due to a crack in the display glass. (Curle Collection, Africana Museum Johannesburg)

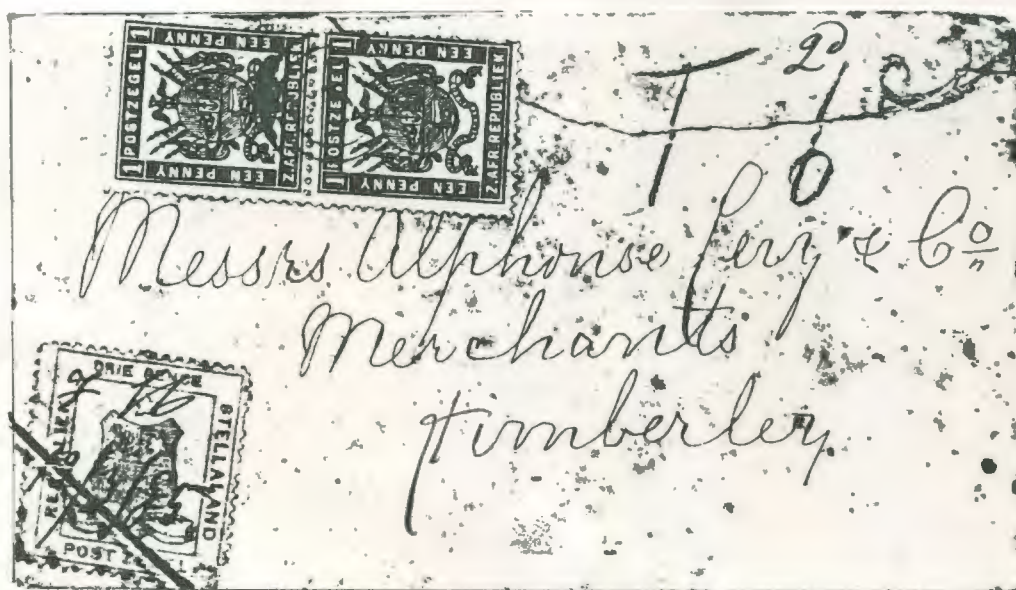


Figure 5 (Ref.5)

A cover addressed to the Cape posted in June 1885 and franked only with a pair of 1d Stellaland stamps, though it is annotated '4d'

(Christie's Robson Lowe, 22.1.90, lot 436)



frankings of all three covers correspond to Cape rates. This can only be explained if, a) Cape rates applied, and b) the Cape authorities recognised Stellaland stamps as receipting payment of the inland rate, and even as receipting part of the payment of an overseas rate.

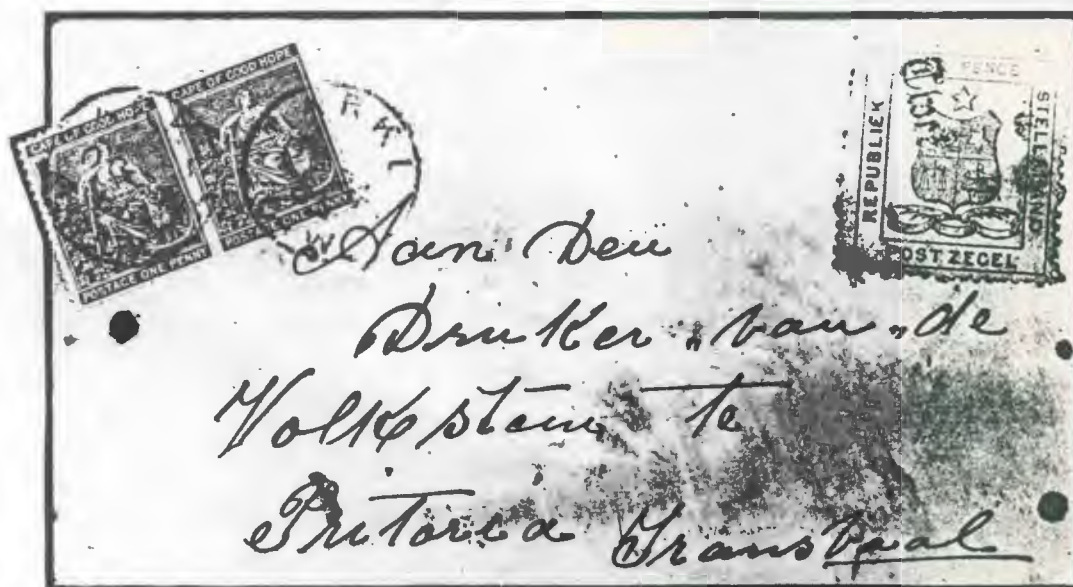
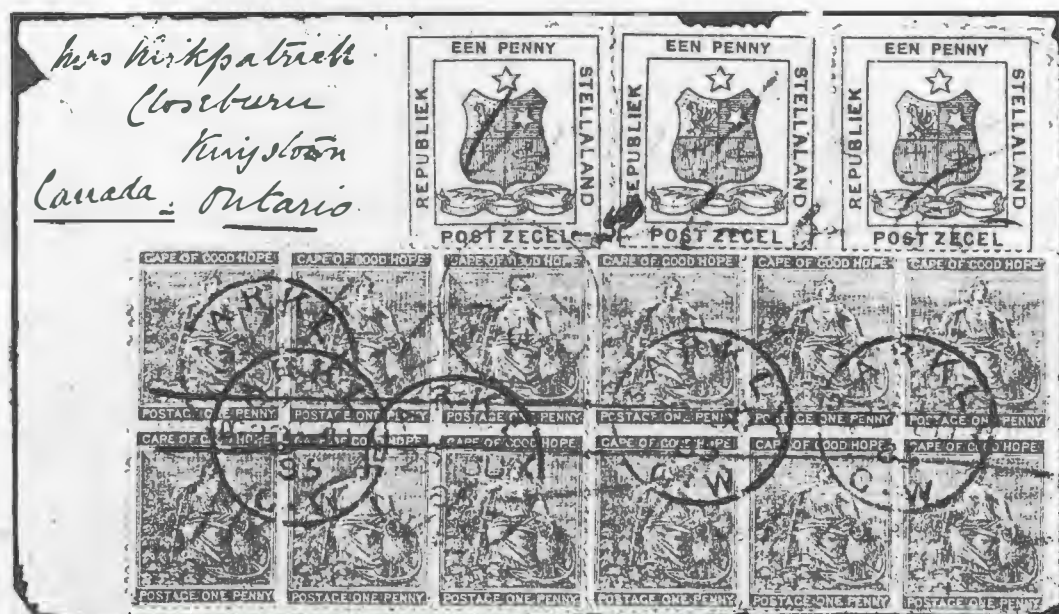
Confirmatory evidence of a sort is provided by a soldier's letter addressed to Breadsall Lodge, near Derby, England, illustrated and described in the *SA Philatelist* of July 1984 (p.196). The sender was Sergeant E.H. Cox of 'C' Troop, 1st Cape Mounted Rifles. The only franking is an uncanceled Stellaland 1d stamp. The datestamp of Barkly West T. O. (Telegraph Office) struck alongside records that it passed through there on Sunday 'AP 12 / 85'. (Cape Town, 'AP 15 / 85', and Derby, 'MY 7 / 85', backstamps record the remainder of the route.) This cover must be evidence that the Cape and UK post offices accepted Stellaland stamps as receipting payment of the postage, as there is no evidence that the addressee was charged. It certainly proves that Stellaland stamps were not always cancelled.

The 'Twee' provisional has been the subject of much controversy. The two covers listed above are similarly franked and were presumably posted on the same day, suggesting that they are philatelic. The piece in the Royal Collection was evidently cut from a cover which also passed through Barkly West on the 24th October, 1885, but which was probably addressed to the UK. It was franked with a copy of the 'Twee' provisional and a Cape 6d duty, in this instance affixed side by side. The covers - and presumably the piece - are correctly franked with Cape stamps to receipt the appropriate Cape rate. If therefore the Cape authorities were accepting Stellaland mail prepaid at Cape rates - even when Stellaland stamps were used to receipt payment - as is suggested by the covers posted in June 1885, the 'Twee' provisionals affixed to these three items were surplus to what was required. The fact that the Vryburg office and the Cape authorities did not cancel any of them certainly suggests that they were not officially recognised as receipting payment of any part of the postage.

Although only a single item is known which was sent book post, a category which included printed matter sent in an unsealed envelope, the franking conforms with the rate which was applicable throughout southern Africa. The item, a wrapper which appears to have been in the Holmes collection, is inscribed "Boekpost" in manuscript and is addressed to the Editor of *De Volksstem* in Pretoria. The franking is a 1d Stellaland stamp, cancelled in manuscript with the initials "F H" and the date, "2/12/84", in combination with a Transvaal 1d stamp cancelled with the target-type obliterator coded '6'. A Christiana datestamp struck on the face of the wrapper is dated 'DEC 9 / 84'. This item was therefore despatched from Vryburg with the mail which contained the third cover listed above.

The Transvaal franking of the piece which is the subject of this article conforms to the half-ounce letter rate to UK in force from the 10th October, 1882, namely 4d to a destination in southern Africa plus the 6d Cape rate to UK, which was commonly receipted with a stamp of the 'Queen's head' issue. However, the horizontal red line across the centre of the item suggests that it may have been torn from a registered letter. (Transvaal registered mail is usually 'crossed' with blue crayon, but the smaller offices in particular were notorious for their inconsistencies.) In this case the franking is more likely to conform to the Transvaal half-ounce registered letter rate to a destination in southern Africa, namely 4d postage plus 6d registration. Holmes (14) states that the letter rate within and between Transvaal and Cape Colony was reduced to 2d per half ounce with effect from 1st January, 1885, which would imply that the letter from which this piece was torn, assuming it was addressed to Cape Colony, was posted in 1884. However, the only Transvaal rate which was reduced - from 3d to 2d - with effect from the 1st January, 1885, was the inland letter rate (15). The 2d rate only applied to mail to Cape Colony and the Orange Free State from 1st April, 1885 (16). (The rate to Natal was reduced to 2d

A spectacular combination cover addressed to Canada and posted only one week later than the cover illustrated as Fig.5. (Stanley Gibbons Auctions Ltd, 22.1.90, lot 677)



The 'Twee' provisional used in combination with a pair of Cape 1d stamps on a cover addressed to Pretoria. The Stellaland stamp is uncanceled. The datestamp used to cancel the Cape franking and the backstamps record a route via Barkly (OC 24/85), Kimberley (OC 26/85) and Pretoria (NOV 1/85). (Holmes, 1971, pl.2)

A similar cover addressed to Venterstad, Cape. The backstamps are the same as the above cover for Barkly (OC 24/85) & Kimberley (OC 26/85), from where the route is shown by datestamps of Burghersdorp (28 OC/85) & Venterstad (OC 29/85). (Harmers of New York Inc, 14.3.91, lot 338).



with effect from 1st January, 1886, resulting in a uniform letter rate of 2d per half ounce throughout South Africa - 17.)

Holmes was of the opinion that Transvaal and Cape stamps on covers originating from Stellaland were added at Christiana or Barkly West respectively. However, it is also possible that the Vryburg Post Office held a supply of Transvaal, and later Cape, stamps for sale to the public. This was certainly the case in Transvaal in earlier times, where individual offices held stocks of Cape, Orange Free State and Natal stamps.

Routes

The covers posted in 1884 suggest that in June of that year the post was forwarded from Vryburg on Thursdays, but between September and December inclusive it was forwarded on Tuesdays. The transit time to Christiana, a straight-line distance of approximately 70 miles (110 km), appears to have been as much as a week, suggesting that the means of transport was an ox-wagon rather than runners. It must, however, be emphasised that, because the number of surviving covers is so small, these deductions are extremely speculative.

Jurgens (18) records that, "When the British under Sir Charles Warren occupied Bechuanaland, the military authorities took control of the post office at Vryburg, including the stocks of Stellaland stamps, and permitted their use for prepayment of postage on letters without any overprint". Elsewhere he states that, "On the 7th February, 1885 . . . the Post Office service was taken over by the military authorities". This surely implies that the military also assumed responsibility for the carriage of the mails.

In August 1885 the Bechuanaland Field Force was replaced by the Bechuanaland Border Police, which for the most part consisted of men who had served with Warren. Jurgens (19) records that, "By the 28th August, 1885, the force was fully organised . . . and in a position to allow for the withdrawal of other troops. From 15th August, 1885, to 31st December, 1885, postal communication between Barkly West and Mafeking . . . was maintained solely by the Bechuanaland Border Police. . . From 1st January, 1886, to 14th August, 1886, arrangements having been made by the postal authorities for mail delivery at Vryburg, the Police cart only had a section from that point to Mafeking." The contract entered into by the postal authorities provided for a weekly mail service between Kimberley and Vryburg. The time allowed was 37 hours.

Holmes' (20) description of the routes used between the 7th February and 15th August, 1885, differs in certain respects; "Until the arrival of British forces all mail to and from Stellaland went by way of Christiana. . . *This continued for a time as far as civilian mail was concerned* (present author's italics), but all military mail left by the southern route by way of Barkly West and Kimberley. Elsewhere (21) Holmes states that, "All mail entering or leaving Stellaland passed through Christiana . . . until June 1885, after which date the route for both inward and outward mail was via Barkly West and Kimberley".

The covers described above prove only that mail was being forwarded via Christiana up to and including December 1884, and via Barkly West from April 1885. (Even mail addressed to Pretoria was being forwarded via Barkly West in October 1885.) If, however, the military did assume responsibility for all mail from the 7th February, 1885, it is highly improbable that they would have utilised one route for civilian mail and another for military mail and they would certainly not have favoured a route via the Boer Republic of Transvaal.

There can be no doubt that military mail was sent via Barkly West from February 1885, as Holmes (22) lists seven covers sent by a trooper in the 1st Mounted Rifles from various locations in Stellaland and Goshen between February and September 1885 which bear Barkly West transit datestamps. (All these covers are addressed to the UK and franked with 1d Cape stamps.) The dates are: '15 FE / 85' (Sunday), '9 MR / 85' (Monday), 'MR 30 / 85' (Monday), 'AP 13 / 85' (Monday), 'AP 27 / 85' (Monday), 'MY 10 / 85' (Sunday) and 'SP 7 / 85' (Monday). This mixture of Mondays and Sundays could be interpreted as indicating that the south-bound mail service to Barkly West was erratic, but all seven covers also bear Cape Town transit marks dated two days later than the Barkly West marks. This must be evidence that there were variations in the timetable between Barkly West and Cape Town, and therefore presumably between Stellaland and Barkly West..

The letter sent by Sergeant Cox referred to above bears a strike of the Barkly West mark clearly dated 'AP 12 / 85' (Sunday), the day prior to one of the dates listed by Holmes. However, this letter took three days to reach Cape Town, that is on the same day as the cover datestamped at Barkly West on 'AP 13 / 85', and was evidently forwarded with the same despatch. (It is possible that Sergeant Cox's letter was datestamped at Barkly West when it reached there, whereas the bulk of the mail seems to have been datestamped on the day it was forwarded to Cape Town.)

The two civilian letters posted in June 1885 provide evidence that mail was then being forwarded from Vryburg on Fridays and passed through Barkly West the following Monday. (This timetable was apparently still in existence in October 1885.) Barkly West is 112 miles (180 km) almost due south of Vryburg. An average distance of 37 miles (60 km) in 24 hours could only have been maintained by despatch riders or a light horse-drawn postcart.

Conclusion

There seems little doubt that the piece being evaluated was torn from a cover which originated from or passed through Christiana, probably posted as registered mail in 1884 and likely to have been addressed to Cape Colony. If the Stellaland stamps were added to create a fake it is odd that the individual concerned was knowledgeable enough to be aware that mail from Stellaland was at one stage forwarded via Christiana but was apparently ignorant of the Stellaland half-ounce letter rate, which may have been either 2d, 3d or 4d but was certainly not 6d. The most inconsistent feature of the piece is undoubtedly the fact that the Stellaland stamps are not cancelled, but Stellaland stamps off cover cancelled with Cape, Transvaal and Orange Free State marks are known (23) and these have presumably been removed from covers franked with Stellaland stamps which were not cancelled at Vryburg and which were defaced by the receiving office.

The balance of the evidence favours the possibility that Stellaland stamps were added to a large piece torn from a registered cover posted at Christiana. However, little is known for certain regarding the Stellaland inland rate in particular, and perhaps the most appropriate verdict is 'not proven'.

Acknowledgements

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