

# ***The Runner Post***



RUNNER POST No. 24      (ISSN No. 0953-3354)

AUTUMN ISSUE - SEPTEMBER 1991

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Editor's Comments	442
New Members	442
Future Meetings	443
Rhodesia Study Circle Library, Access for BBS Members	443
The Society Library and Archives	443
Members' Comments and Queries	444
Items of Interest	
Romania - Botswana Crash Cover	446
Small Figure '4' Variety	446
Stop After 'P' Discovered on KG5 1½d	447
Essay for the 4d on ½d Provisional Surcharge	447
Botswana Double Surcharge - 10t on 1t	448
Mail Bag Seals	448
New Stampless Postal Stationery from Botswana	449
Protectorate ½d Vermilion Double Overprint/S Wallace	450
The 1888 Protectorate ½d Vermilion Settings/J.F.I-W.	453
Mater Marks / J.F.I-W	454

# THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY

---

## LIST OF OFFICERS

---

Chairman:	Lt. Col. Sir John Inglefield-Watson Bt., The Ross, Hamilton, Lanarkshire ML3 7UF, U.K.
Secretary:	Mike George, P.O. Box 108, St Albans, Herts AL1 3AD, U.K.
Treasurer:	Aubrey Glassborow, 156 Reading Road South, Church Crookham, Hants. GU13 0AH, U.K.
Auctioneer (U.K.):	Tony Chilton, 56 Framfield Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2AL, U.K.
Botswana Representative:	R.J.F. 'Andy' Andersson P.O. Box 1240, Gaborone, Botswana.
South African Representative/ Auctioneer (S.A.):	Howard Cook, P.O. Box 118, Gillitts, Natal 3603, South Africa.
Editor:	Alan MacGregor, P.O. Box 330, Croydon, CR9 2ZF, U.K.

© The Bechuanalands and Botswana Society 1991

---

## Editor's Comments

Just when you thought you wouldn't see another Runner Post again or were trying to recall if you had paid your subs, along comes the September issue!

Profuse apologies for the delay but rather a lot of travelling has slowed down production. Believe it or not, RP 25 is largely done, so rather than continue making excuses I will just surprise you all by finishing it off and getting it out. In the interests of getting this issue out, several things have been held over for the imminent RP 25, including some further correspondence concerning the 'philatelic' (or not) postage due cover and also interesting additional information on Stellaland and articles ranging from Bechuanaland to Bophuthatswana.

We are heartened by no less than nine new members joining - six of them signed up by Howard Cook! Welcome one and all.

## NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members to the Society:

DAPHNE BRISCOE, 32 College Cross, Islington, London N1 1PR, U.K., who is interested in the postal history of the Bechuanalands and Botswana.

SHEILA M. CASE, Box 40486, Gaborone, Botswana. Sheila is a member of the Botswana Philatelic Society and is interested in the revenues of Bechuanaland & Botswana.

CLINTON D HALE, P O Box 1014, Somerset West, 7130, South Africa.

PETER HALE, P O Box 991, Bellville, 7530, South Africa.

LEON JACOBSON, P O Box 316, Kimberley, 8300, South Africa. Leon's interests include stamps, postal history, railways, postmarks and postal stationery. Leon is also a member of PPHSSA, the S A Stamp Study Circle and the S W A Stamp Study Group and is the author of the Alnis Guide to the revenues of SWA.

STEEN JELGREN, Farum Hovedgade 2B<sup>2</sup>, Lejlighed 23, 3520-Farum, Denmark. Steen is interested in both Bechuanaland and Botswana, mint, used, postmarks and FDC's.

BRIAN KISCH, 12 Insala Road, Kloof, 3610, South Africa. Brian is a member of the Rhodesian Study Circle and his Bechuanaland interests include the postmarks and postal history to 1920.

JOHN MCCHESENEY-YOUNG, 2120-8th Street, Berkeley CA 94710, USA. John's interests include OFS, Transvaal, New Republic, Stellaland Rhodesia (esp BSAC), Bechuanaland (esp British) and other pre-1920 British Africa.

JOHN-PETER WHARTON-HOOD, P O Box 69735, Bryanston, 2021, South Africa.

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

1992 Meetings will be held in STAMPEX WEEK on the Wednesdays of each week (viz. Wednesday 26th February and Wednesday 21st October 1992).

Please note however, that the STAMPEX COMMITTEE are unable to let us have our usual room in the New Hall as the R.H.S. have put up prices to a ridiculous degree. Hence our Spring Meeting will be held at:

THE BARLEY MOW, Horseferry Road, (3 minutes stroll from the New Hall)  
at 2.00pm in the Cellar Bar (Committee meet at 11.00am)  
Lunch in the Cellar Bar at 12.30pm.

#### **RHODESIA STUDY CIRCLE LIBRARY - Access for BBS Members:**

Arnold Berman, one of our members, happens to be Librarian of the RSC and has persuaded their Committee to allow BBS members access to their loan material. A list is available from our Hon. Secretary, Mike George (SAE please). Books can be borrowed for a four week period, subject to availability, from Arnold (postage paid both ways by the borrower). This is a very generous gesture by our friends in the RSC, who also have funds available for the purchase of material likely to be of mutual 'Bechuanalands/Rhodesia' interest. If anyone has specific suggestions as to acquisitions, they are asked to contact Arnold through Mike.

#### **THE SOCIETY LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES**

In Runner Post 11, reference was made to various publications which made up our fledgling 'Library' at that time. In point of fact, most of the books mentioned therein were the personal property of Roy Setterfield, the then Hon. Secretary, who was prepared at that time to loan out items. Understandably, Roy no longer feels able to afford us that facility. Our 'Library' therefore consists of the Holmes presentation copy - itself a gift from Roy to the Society - which is not available on loan but from which photocopies are available at 10p per page, and a few auction catalogues as previously listed.

Nothing much to write home about! Donations of books such as Jurgens, Robson Lowe's Africa, recent major auction catalogues such as the Barkaway and Haskins sales etc. would be most welcome. We are at present a very long way from establishing a library consistent with the Society's standing as a specialist group. Any offers of material, suggestions as to acquisitions or volunteers to act as Librarian/Archivist would be greatly appreciated.

#### **CORRECTION.**

In the AAPC article on page 417 of RP 23, It was incorrectly stated that Seretse was Tshekedi Khama's son. Tshekedi Khama was Seretse's uncle and not his father.

## MEMBERS' COMMENTS AND QUERIES

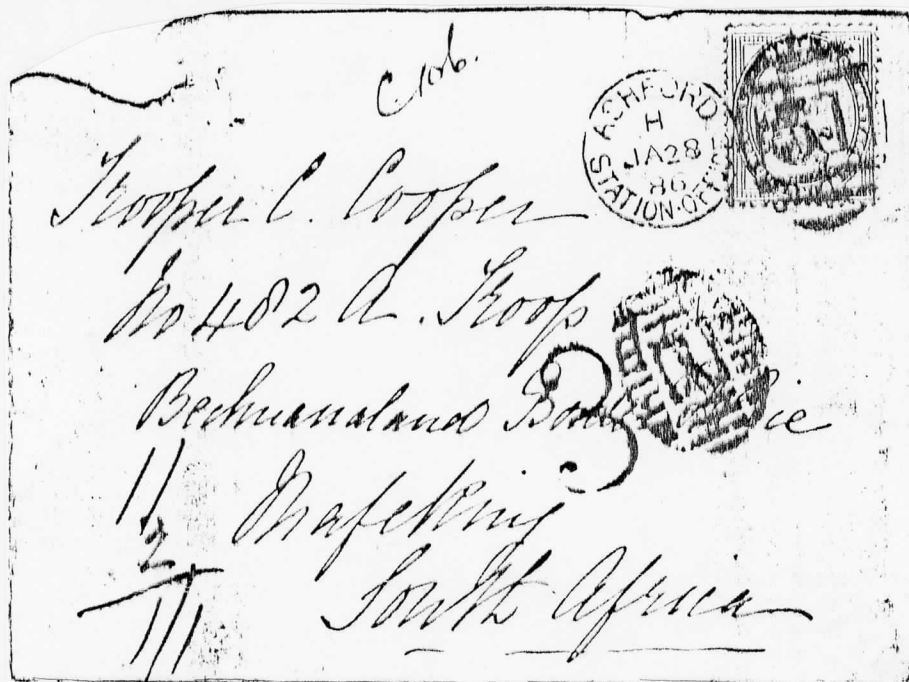
Frederick P Lawrence has sent the following query:

In his article, 'Stellaland Revisited' (RP 23, June '91), Dr Alan Drysdall states (p423) that the letter rate from the Cape to the UK in 1885 was 6d per ½-ounce. He then uses this to explain two postage due covers from the Col. Methuen correspondence from the Warren Expedition; one of these covers is illustrated as fig.8, while the other cover, although discussed in the text as though it were illustrated, is not shown.

However, in his book, *Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope* (1984), Robert Goldblatt, RDPsA, FRPSL, asserts that this rate varied according to the following (Appendix, p235):

- 1880-84: 6d per ½-ounce
- 1884-86: 4d per ½-ounce
- 1886-89/90: 6d per ½-ounce (inter-Empire rate only)
- 1889/90-1902: 2½d per ½-ounce
- 1902-10: 1d per ½-ounce (Imperial Penny Post)

Although Mr Goldblatt does not give the exact dates upon which these occurred, it is clear that he holds that the rate in 1885 was 4d per ½-ounce. If he is correct, then the explanation of the Methuen due covers is much more difficult than Dr Drysdall suggests. The 4d rate is illustrated by the Jan 1886 UK-to-Mafeking due cover [illustrated]. Description of this cover is courtesy of Argyll Etkin:



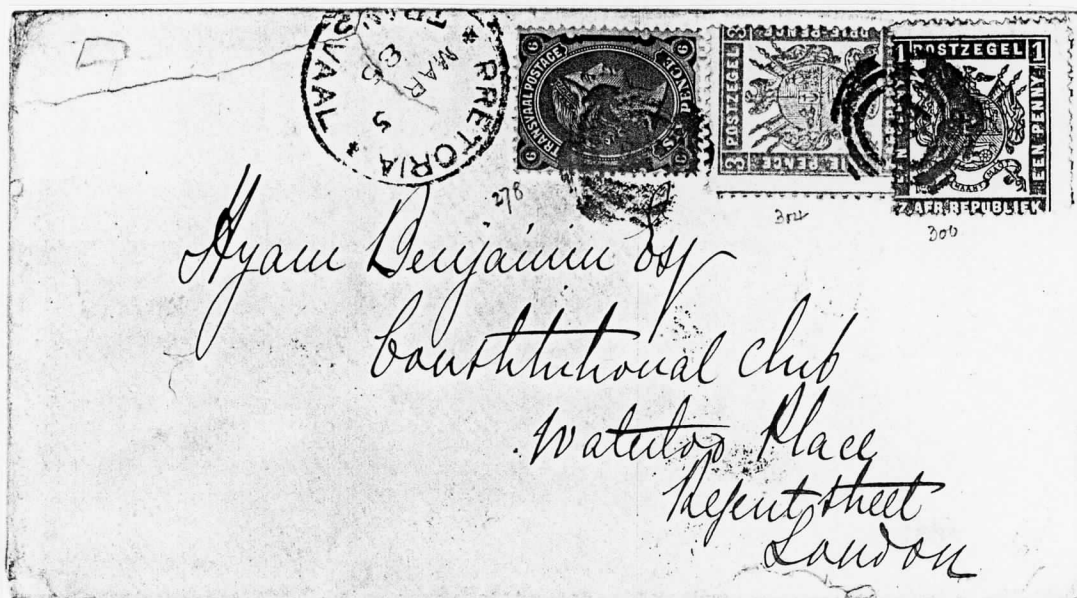
'Bechuanaland/Cape: 1886 cover franked by GB 1d lilac from ASHFORD STATION-OFFICE to Trooper Cooper in the Bechuanaland Border Police at Mafeking. (The B.B.P. was formed in 1885 as an Imperial unit of 500 men.) The cover was surcharged '3d' in Cape Town and the uncommon 13-bar numeral '1' impressed alongside, possibly used by an inspector. Unusual incoming destination.'

I am unable to offer an explanation for the difference between the values for this 1885 Cape-to-UK letter rate as quoted by Dr Drysdall and Mr Goldblatt. I believe that other RP readers as well as myself would welcome further discussion by these eminent gentlemen of their respective views of this 1885 rate and their explanations of the three due covers. Perhaps other RP readers can offer further information/examples which will help to explain what the true circumstances were in 1885?"

Frederick P Lawrence



Alan Drysdall was shown Frederick's letter and he responded with the comments below. Alan also queried the source for Mr Goldblatt's statement on 1884 postage rates. [Your Editor recently had the opportunity of asking Mr Goldblatt the source for his information. He replied that he had obtained it from the 'Cape of Good Hope Directory & Guide Books 1801-1910', known as the 'Cape Almanacs'. However, there appears to be no other supporting evidence for this rate (e.g. new value stamps or surcharges). Occasionally, official sources report changes which for one reason or another did not actually come into force - Edl.



#### Cape Letter Rates to the UK in 1885

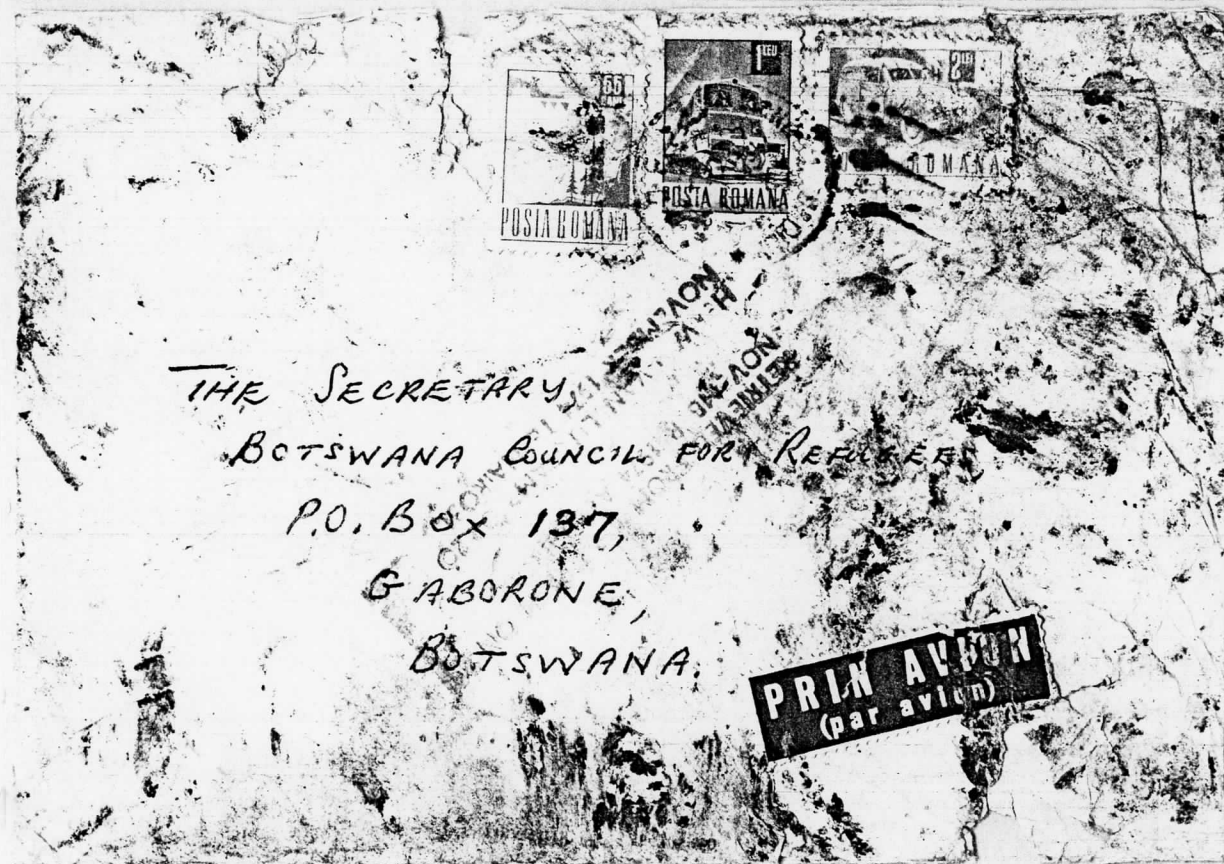
I must first of all stress that I can claim no expertise whatsoever regarding the postal history of Cape Colony. What I have learnt on the subject is the result of attempting to interpret covers which have originated from Transvaal in particular, and which are addressed to the UK or Europe via Cape Town.

The first point to make is that the UK rate to Bechuanaland as exemplified by the cover described and illustrated by Frederick Lawrence - if indeed it was 4d per half ounce - is irrelevant. There are many examples in Southern Africa of non-reciprocal rates. The second point is that although I do not have any covers addressed to or via the UK originating from Cape Colony in 1884-85, I do have several covers which originated from the Transvaal (ZAR) in 1884-85 and which were forwarded via Cape Town. Those addressed to UK are franked at the 10d rate, that is 4d from ZAR to or via Cape Colony and 6d from Cape Colony to UK. (The 6d rate is commonly receipted with a Bradbury, Wilkinson 'Queen's Head' rather than a ZAR stamp.)

The example illustrated, courtesy of John Taylor, was posted in Pretoria on 'MAR 11/85' and London on MR31/85'. It was delivered the following day. The cover is franked at the 10d rate in the manner described above, and this was evidently acceptable to the three postal authorities who were involved in delivering it.

Tamsen (in *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* for 1894) and Yardley (in *Africa IID*) record that the introduction of the ZAR 4d per half ounce rate to destinations in southern Africa on the 10th October, 1882, was announced in a Government Notice pursuant to a resolution of the Legislative Council (art. 286) dated 25th August, 1882. Tamsen and Yardley also record that the rate was further reduced to 2d with effect from the 1st April, 1885. Tamsen and Yardley do not of course record Cape rates in the same detail, but such reference as they do make suggest that the 6d rate to the UK, introduced under a Postal Convention dated 19th January, 1877, was in force throughout the period under review.

Alan Drysdall



## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### ROMANIA - BOTSWANA CRASH COVER

Roy Setterfield recently showed me this cover which must rank as one of the most unusual items we have ever reported and its discovery equally so.

The cover, posted from Craiova, Romania on 14th Nov 1974 bears three adhesives: 55 Bani, 1 Leu and 2 Lei. It is addressed, via airmail to 'The Secretary, Botswana Council for Refugees, P O Box 137, Gaborone, Botswana'. The cover travelled on the ill-fated Lufthansa, Boeing 747 flight which crashed on take-off at Nairobi airport after a stop en-route from Frankfurt to Johannesburg. The cover was salvaged, apparently from the mud, and received a bi-lingual (English and Afrikaans) 4 line cachet in red 'RETRIEVED FROM AIR CRASH ON 20 / NOVEMBER 1974 AT NAIROBI / HERWIN VAN LUGRAMP OP 20 / NOVEMBER 1974 TE NAIROBI, applied in Johannesburg(?).

Roy was in Botswana at the time and happened to be at the addressee's office shortly after the cover was delivered. Knowing Roy's strange habit of collecting 'old envelopes' one of the staff casually mentioned it to Roy adding that it was already in the wastepaper bin! Thankfully, it did not remain there for long and a re-re-claimed crash cover was saved for posterity!

### SMALL FIGURE '4' VARIETY (SG 44a)

Steve Wallace wrote to ask if anyone can supply an illustration of Bechuanaland SG 44a, which is listed by Stanley Gibbons as occurring on the 1888 Protectorate 4d on 4d overprint. Steve says that 'it would be interesting to evaluate rarity - which must be considerable'.

While viewing Hamish Campbell's superb exhibit at the 'Cape Town 1991' Exhibition, I noticed that he showed a mint example of this rare variety. Hamish very kindly agreed to provide a photocopy of the stamp which we gratefully reproduce here. This is only the second copy I have seen, the other being a used example.



Normal



Small Figure '4'

# ITEMS OF INTEREST (CONT.)

R

Rough sketch  
of variety



## STOP AFTER 'P' ON KG5 1½d

Brian Trotter has provided this illustration of a most interesting 'find' on the Protectorate KG5 1½d (SG 75). Just to the right of the lower half of the 'P' of 'PROTECTORATE' there is an 'angular stop or dot'. This dot appears to resemble the well known variety on the KE7 2½d 'stop after 'P' in 'Protectorate' (SG 69a), though this 'stop' seems to be rotated relative to the KE7 variety. Holmes (p.109) states that the KE7 variety "was probably caused by a piece of metal projecting from the electrotpe used for the overprinting and was constant throughout the first printing after which it was removed". Although no such variety is recorded for KG5, Holmes (p.111) states that "the overprint was the same as that used for the Edwardian stamps". Could this be the same variety recurring again? At the very least, it is a remarkable coincidence.

## ESSAY FOR THE 4d ON ½d PROVISIONAL SURCHARGE

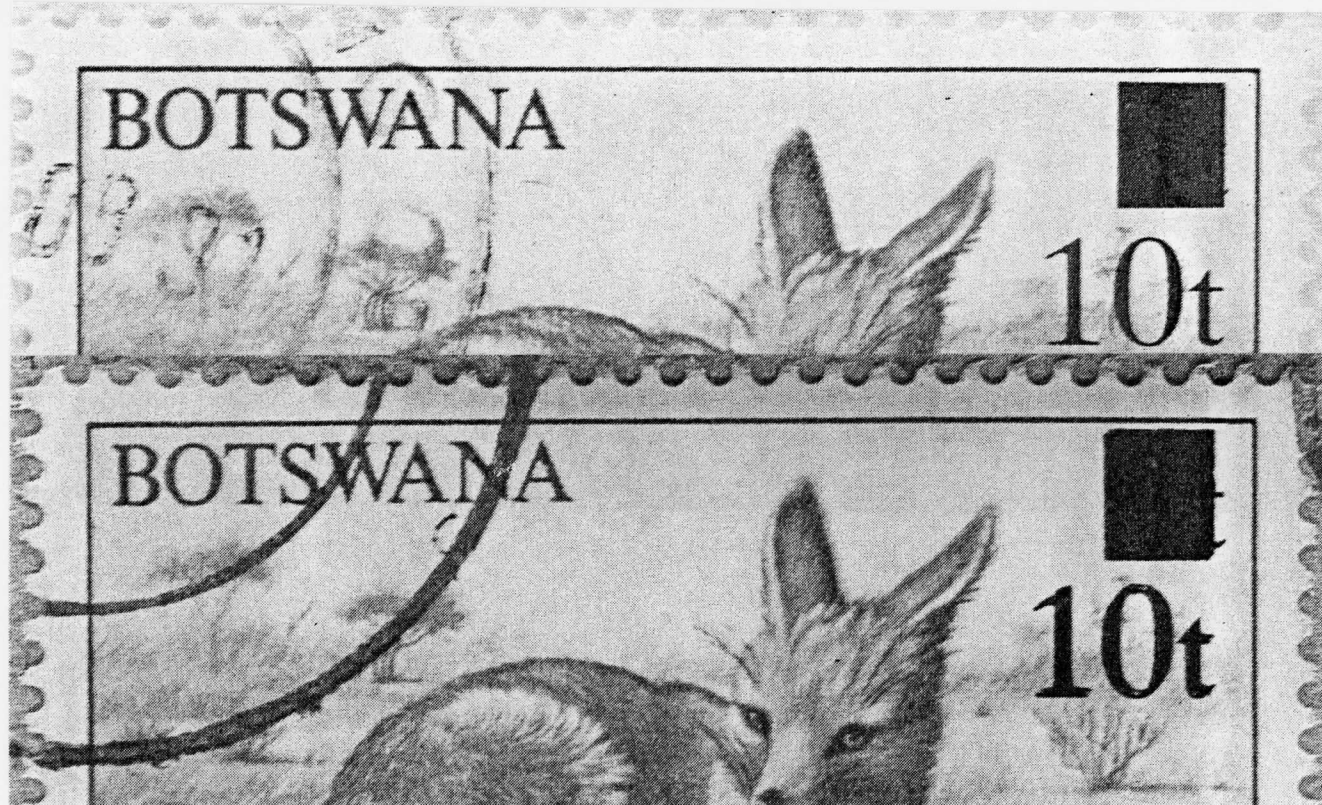
On page 88 of his book, Holmes describes but does not illustrate the first two essays produced by Messrs. Townshend for the 1889 Protectorate 4d on ½d vermilion provisional (SG 53). These consisted of the surcharge '4D' or '4d' on SG 40 in small and large characters respectively.

With acknowledgement and thanks to Argyll Etkin Ltd. and to the other owner concerned, it is now possible to publish enlarged illustrations of these essays.

J.F.I-W.







### ITEMS OF INTEREST (CONT.)

#### BOTSWANA DOUBLE SURCHARGE - 10t ON 1t

Our new member in Denmark - Steen Jelgren (our 2nd member in that country), has sent this illustration of a Double Overprint on the Botswana 10t on 1t 1990 surcharge (SG 690). The doubling is particularly apparent on the serifs of the '1' and 't'. Have any other members spotted this variety?



Backstamp

#### MAIL BAG SEALS

Further to Ian Shapiro's report in R.P. No.23 I have a similar example, as illustrated, of a Post Office intaglio seal used as a cancellation. It reads 'VRYBURG' at the top and 'BECHUANALAND' at the bottom with 'P.O.' in the centre. Alongside the two somewhat inverted strikes of the seal is a Vryburg c.d.s. in which the year reads '19'. This might be deduced to be a transposed '91' but the Cape Town backstamp appears to show the year as '97', making the cover a post-annexation item. This is supported by Holmes' comment when he saw the cover: "The date cannot be 1891 as the postage on a letter then was 6d and the Cape Town date-stamp certainly looks like 1897".

## ITEMS OF INTEREST (CONT.)

### NEW STAMPLESS POSTAL STATIONERY FROM BOTSWANA

Peter Thy and Andy Andersson have sent us this report:

Botswana Postal Services has recently inaugurated (1 October 1990) a so called expedited mail service to international destinations from and to Francistown, Gaborone, Jwaneng, Lobatse, Maun and Selebi-Phikwe. Domestic destinations are served only to these cities. Envelopes have been produced in four sizes to a maximum of 35.5 x 29cm, and a plastic envelope/wrapper is in preparation. The A4 sized envelopes is illustrated below. In general the envelopes are of the same design as other envelopes issued by express mail services worldwide. They are printed in blue and orange on a white background reading in front EMS EXPEDITED MAIL SERVICE, BOTSWANA POSTAL SERVICES, EXTREMELY URGENT RUSH TO ADDRESSEE. An accompanying form is filled out with sender's and receiver's addresses and is glued to the front. There is also a box reserved for postage (stamps, please). A letter to Johannesburg costs (Oct 1991) a minimum of P20, to London P30, New York P35, and Australia P48 (up to 500g). The domestic rate is P12. Regular customers will get a 20% discount for a monthly fee of P50. Living in Botswana we hope that this initiative indeed will speed up our mail. Meanwhile we have all got something new to collect.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

RECIPIENT  
The sender has requested notification upon delivery  
Immediately upon receipt, please telephone:

EXTREMELY URGENT, PLEASE RUSH TO ADDRESSEE

**EMS** EXPEDITED MAIL SERVICE  
BOTSWANA POSTAL SERVICES

1. Prepare the customer portion of the Next Day Service mailing label  
(Post Office to Post Office or Post Office to Addressee)

2. Contact your local post office for information on scheduled pick-up  
service.

PLACE MAILING LABEL HERE

POSTAGE

**EXTREMELY  
URGENT**  
RUSH TO ADDRESSEE



## THE PROTECTORATE ½d VERMILION - DOUBLE OVERPRINT (SG 40a)

by

Steve Wallace

Most of the examples on which this article is based are from illustrations in auction catalogues, etc. The identification of settings and the measurements quoted are therefore not necessarily entirely accurate. Measurements of the vertical separation is defined as from the bottom of the upper overprint to the top of the smaller lower case letters of the lower overprint. The words 'very slightly' and 'slightly' are used to describe side-shifts that range from barely perceptible up to approximately 0.5mm. The direction of the side-shifts is that of the lower overprint in relation to the upper overprint.

Only one Protectorate stamp was overprinted in two different settings and this occurred on SG 40, the ½d vermilion of 1888, with the 2nd setting an over-inked and heavy impression.

Three lots (Nos. 1137, 8 & 9) included in the 1981 Holmes auction were double overprints (SG 40a) and appear to be the over-inked, heavy impression of the 2nd setting, consistent with the check list in Holmes' book (p.90) which records the double overprint as occurring in this setting, but not the 1st setting.

The first lot (serial 4) shows SG 40a as a very close double overprint, with side-shift very slightly right, one being a comparatively faint impression, whereas the following two lots are approximately 6mm and 7mm apart, both impressions being heavy, with side-shifts 0.75mm left and very slightly left respectively. (serials 9 & 12). Examples have been seen of several other 2nd setting combinations of separation and side-shift, as recorded in the schedule. Double overprints also exist which appear to be from the 1st setting.

Three examples known are as follows:-

Firstly, the two overprints approximately 1.75mm apart with the lower having only a slight side-shift to the right. Another example with overprints approximately 2mm apart with the lower about 1mm side-shift right. A third has a wide separation of 7mm with the lower overprint slightly left, however its identification as a 1st setting is more doubtful than the other two.

The very differently spaced double overprints seem to indicate that they came from different panes. The overprint setting covered a pane of 120 and not a sheet of 240 stamps.

Further research and comments would be valuable, especially in respect of:

- a. Explanation of the range of different separations and side-shifts.
- b. Confirmation of the existence of the double overprint from the 1st setting (with detailed measurements and/or photocopies of any examples).
- c. Details, photocopies of others from the 2nd setting.

# SG 40a - SCHEDULE OF RECORDED DOUBLE OVERPRINTS

<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Separation</u>	<u>Side-shift of lower overprint</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
<u>1st Setting</u>			
a. <u>Close together</u>			
1.	1.75mm	Slightly right	
2.	2mm	1mm right	
b. <u>Widely Separated</u>			
3.	7(-)mm	Slightly left	
<u>2nd Setting</u>			
a. <u>Close together</u>	Note that in all examples seen one overprint is a light impression.		
4.	Very slight	Very slightly right	Light impression very slightly higher. Example Holmes Lot 1137.
5.	Very slight	Very slightly right	Light impression very slightly lower.
6.	Half & half overlap	1mm left	Light impression slightly lower.
b. <u>Widely separated</u>			
7.	6mm	Slightly right	Lot 116, Christies 12.6.91
8.	6mm	1mm left	Lot 117, " "
9.	6mm	0.75mm left	Holmes lot 1139
10.	6mm	Very slightly left	
11.	6mm	Slightly left	
12.	7mm	Very slightly left	Holmes lot 1138
13.	7mm	Very slightly right	
14.	7.5mm	Slightly right	

In each case one example has been recorded except for:-

Serial 2: 3 (pair + single)

Serial 4: 2 examples; possible 3rd, (maybe 2nd reference to one of two stated)

Serial 9: 4 (block)

Serial 12: 3 (pair + single)

Disregarding stamps in blocks or pairs, there is only duplication at present in 3 serials out of 14 (serial nos. 2, 4 & 12).

I wish to thank John Inglefield-Watson for providing details of the double overprint from available reference material.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

SG 40a Double Overprint Settings  
Refer to Schedule for details of Serial numbers.

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Fig. 1 | 1st Setting close together (serial 2)    |
| Fig. 2 | 1st Setting widely separated (serial 3)  |
| Fig. 3 | 2nd Setting close together (serial 4)    |
| Fig. 4 | 2nd Setting widely separated (serial 10) |
| Fig. 5 | 2nd Setting widely separated (serial 14) |

Illustrations for Steve Wallace's article on SG 40a



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4 (enlarged)

Illustrations for John Inglefield-Watson's article on SG 40

## THE 1888 PROTECTORATE ½d VERMILION - IDENTIFICATION OF SETTINGS

by

John Inglefield-Watson

As a result of providing Steve Wallace with some reference material for his article on the double overprint (SG 40a), which appears elsewhere in this issue, I was prompted to take a wider look at the settings and varieties of SG 40. Beforehand I felt confident that I could easily distinguish between the two settings of the 'Protectorate' overprint. Now I have reason for doubt.

The descriptions of the settings in Chapter 16 of Holmes' book can be summarised as follows:

1st Setting. This was the setting used for all values of the August 1888 issue. There are no errors in the setting but stamp no. 60 has a defective 1st 'o' in 'Protectorate', the 'o' completely failing to print on the shilling values. The sheets of ½d stamps overprinted with this setting have plain margins and the control letter 'B' (fig. 1).

2nd Setting. This setting was apparently used only for the ½d value. Its distinguishing features are a heavier impression and over-inked type. Letters are sometimes ink-clogged and in some cases their alignment is faulty. The principal varieties are: dropped 1st 'r' (stamp nos. 3 and 4), raised 1st 'r' (no. 23), raised final 'e' (no. 109) and dropped final 'e' (no. 118). Holmes stated that there are no errors in this setting but in his check list in Chapter 18 he listed the double overprint under this setting. The sheet overprinted with this setting have margins with 'Jubilee lines' and the control letter 'D' (fig. 2).

On the basis of the above descriptions the heavy impression and the over-inking, which usually has a shiny appearance, make the 2nd setting easy to identify. However, I have an example (fig. 3) of a dropped 1st 'r' variety that does not show these characteristics. To me it appears to come from the 1st setting but Holmes does not record any such varieties in that setting. I also have a less significant variety, again apparently from the 1st setting, showing a stop after the 1st 'r' (fig. 4). In addition there are the double overprints attributed to the 1st setting in Steve Wallace's article.

I am left with two alternative conclusions. Either some errors and varieties, such as those mentioned above do exist in the 1st setting or there are some less heavy impressions of the 2nd setting. To assist in resolving this problem members are requested to inform me, preferably by providing photocopies, if:

- a. They have any complete panes or marginal blocks and singles of the 1st setting showing varieties such as those above.
- b. They have any marginal items from the 2nd setting that do not show the heavy, over-inked impression.

One further query concerns the specimen stamps handstamped 'Specimen' (Holmes Type 1) or 'SPECIMEN' (Holmes Type 2). To my surprise all my examples appear to be from the 2nd setting. Does anyone possess examples from the 1st setting?

## METER MARKS

by

John Inglefield-Watson

In his 'Botswana Postmarks Typology' article in RP No.13 Mike George illustrated a 1972 meter mark and appealed for research into the subject with particular regard to users' names and codes. As a result of recent acquisition of a few meter marks on cover I would like to reinforce his appeal and to make known the limited amount of information that I have been able to gather.

Much useful assistance has been given to me by the two UK manufacturers of postal franking machines: by Pitney Bowes plc, including permission to reproduce two of their drawings, and by Alcatel Business Systems Ltd, now the parent company of Roneo-Neopost UK. Their help is gratefully acknowledged. However, they have been unable to provide all the answers that I sought and in other respects have left a number of matters in doubt. Part of the reason for this is a lack of comprehensive company records due to successive amalgamations and international groupings and to weeding out of records prior to computerisation. Furthermore, the supply of franking machines to Botswana has generally been effected through distributors or associated companies in South Africa so that details of sales have not been recorded in the UK.

A few brief but useful reports have been extracted from back numbers up to 1918 of the 'Meter Stamp Bulletin' with acknowledgements to the Meter Stamp Study Group. All reports mentioned below are from this source.

### Meter Mark Components

As the illustrations of my examples show, a meter mark is made up from two or three component dies:

- a. The 'Frank Die'. This is the imprinted 'stamp'. Its denomination is usually variable as required. Franking machines with this facility are known as 'Multi-value'. However, some machines, especially the more basic early models manufactured when postal rates were changed infrequently, only print a fixed denomination. With the possible exception of fig. 2 all examples illustrated appear to be from multi-value machines.
- b. The 'Town Circle Die'. A manufacturer's term for the c.d.s.
- c. The 'Slogan Die'. This is an optional extra. It is possible for a licensee to order more than one die for use in his machine. These can show his name, address or logo or carry an advertising message or seasonal greeting, etc.

It should be noted that manufacturers may despatch machines to their distributors or affiliated companies with blank dies for engraving under the latter's local arrangements. This is known to occur for slogan dies.

The illustrations also reveal:

- a. Several different types of frank die design.
- b. Three different code letters at the bottom left of the frank die. These letters usually denote the manufacturer and sometimes the model of the franking machine. However, some postal authorities require other coding systems to be used. As will be seen later in this article, it seems possible that some such variation may have been introduced in Botswana.
- c. A serial number at the bottom right of the frank die. This usually identifies each machine of a particular manufacture or model, as denoted by the code letters, irrespective of date of supply, each series being numbered from



'1' upwards. Thus our examples include an 'S 1' and a 'UA 1' being used by different licensees in Gaborone. It therefore requires combination of both the code letters and the serial number to identify each licensee. The serial numbering system, like the code lettering, is subject to variation by the postal authority concerned.

#### Identification of Manufacturers and Machine Models

Two of the three code letters that appear in the illustration can be identified but the third presents uncertainties:

a. 'UA 1' (fig. 1) is from a machine manufactured before 1960 by Universal Postal Frankers Ltd. which became part of Pitney Bowes plc on 1 October 1960. 'UA' denotes the Universal MV 'Automax' model.

b. 'S 1' (fig. 2) is from a Universal Frankers/Pitney Bowes 'Simplex' model manufactured between 1956 and 1971.

c. 'R' (figs. 3 to 7). Alcatel Business Systems Ltd. state that the 'R' would normally identify a Roneo/Alcatel machine. However:

(1) They believe that figs. 3 and 5 could not have come from Roneo machines because, to the best of their knowledge, these have never been produced with different heights of figures on the value-wheels (fig. 3) or irregular spacing between value-wheels (fig. 5). They suggest that these may be Pitney Bowes products, though the latter did not claim them. Nevertheless the similarity between the frank dies of figs. 1 and 3 seems to support their belief. It could be that the Botswana postal authorities had insisted that the 'R' coding was applied to all machines regardless of manufacturer and/or that some local improvisation was done to fit new dies, perhaps engraved by Roneo in South Africa, to old Pitney Bowes machines. Pitney Bowes severed connections with their distributors in South Africa about 9 years ago. A report in the 'Meter Stamp Bulletin' attributes 'R 13' (fig. 3) to a Pitney Bowes 'Automax', 'R 14' and 'R 15' to their Model 6300 and 'R 23' to their 'Simplex'.

(2) Figs. 4 & 6 are believed to come from 'Baby X' machines manufactured by Satas, a French subsidiary of Alcatel Business Systems Ltd.. A separate report attributes fig. 4 to a Roneo-Neopost Model 205.

(3) Fig. 7 almost certainly comes from a Roneo 505 (or 405) model, though the 37mm centre-to-centre spacing between the town circle and frank dies was intended to be used only on machines destined for the French market, 40mm being the normal spacing elsewhere.

Comments (2) and (3) above seem to suggest that the associated company in South Africa - Roneo Automation Pty. Ltd., P O Box 76129, Wendywood 2144 - may have obtained supplies of machines from France.

#### Introduction of Franking Machines in Bechuanaland/Botswana

Although I have no evidence that franking machines were used in Bechuanaland Protectorate, the 1957 drawing, as illustrated, of the frank die for a 'Simplex' machine shows that this was at least under consideration. It has been reported that in May 1963 the Postmaster of the Protectorate wrote in reply to a query that no machines were then in use but applications for their introduction (makes unknown) were in hand. If franking machines were in use in the Protectorate it is likely that they would have been fitted with new town circle and frank dies after Independence. The 'S 1' mark (fig. 2) could be an example of this.

Note that the 'S 1' example is the only one of those illustrated that shows the unit of currency, in this case 'c'. If the machine continued in use after the change of currency in August 1976 replacement or modification of the frank die would have been necessary.

Note also that the earliest recorded example of the 'UA 1' mark is dated 1970 yet manufacture of this model of machine is stated to have ceased in 1960. Like the Simplex 'S 1' earlier use seems more than a possibility.

Also illustrated is an undated drawing of the frank die for a Pitney Bowes Model 6300 machine with its normal code letters 'PB', introduced in 1971 and still current. This type does not appear amongst the examples illustrated and the company is unable to say whether any of these machines were actually supplied to Botswana though it is considered to be likely. As already mentioned, a separate report attributes 'R 14' and 'R 15' to the Model 6300. The accompanying illustration (not reproduced) shows a frank die resembling the drawing.

#### Scope for Further Research

Several 'grey areas' or conjectures, needing to be proved or disproved, have already been mentioned earlier in this article. In addition it should be noted that:

a. Although the following marks have been reported in addition to those illustrated, the only details given are as follows:

- 'UA 2' - Pitney Bowes 'Automax'.
- 'S 2' - Pitney Bowes 'Simplex'.
- 'R 10' - Roneo-Neopost Model 205.
- 'R 14' - Pitney Bowes Model 6300.  
Standard Bank Francistown. Recorded date 17.2.77.
- 'R 15' - Pitney Bowes Model 6300.
- 'R 23' - Pitney Bowes 'Simplex'.

b. The examples of the 'R' series show serial numbers up to '88'. Assuming the normal numbering system, there would appear to be well over 80 waiting to be discovered and recorded.

c. Dates of use range from 1970 to 1988 and there are indications that some machines may have been in use in the 1960's. There seems to be a real danger that some early types of mark and details of their licensees may disappear without being recorded.

I suggest that the Society's aim should be to compile a comprehensive list of machine code letter/serial numbers, showing for each:

- a. The licensee.
- b. The date of first licensing and whether still in use. Earliest/latest recorded dates are a less satisfactory alternative.
- c. The design of the frank die, using a type number system.
- d. The Office name shown in the town circle die and perhaps a description of the c.d.s. using the Society's typology.
- e. Type of slogan, if any, e.g. name and address, logo, advert.

and ideally:

- f. Machine manufacturer/model.

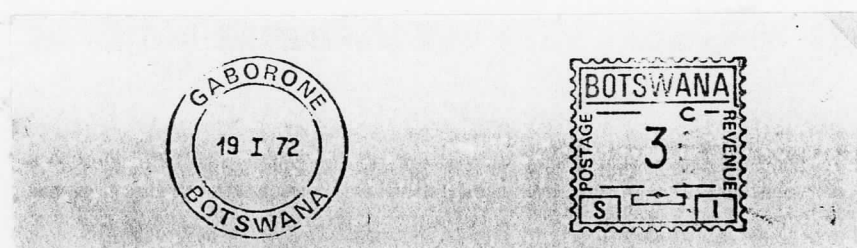
Some of this information may be obtainable from Botswana post office records, some from Roneo Automation Pty. Ltd. in South Africa and perhaps some from other local sources.

This article seeks to highlight the scope for collecting and research into meter marks. It seems unlikely that the UK manufacturers will be able to provide further significant information. I therefore venture to suggest that some of our members in Botswana and South Africa may be best placed to take up the challenge. Copies of my correspondence with the manufacturers will gladly be made available to any serious researcher.

Illustrations of Meter Marks



1. UA 1 - Standard Bank, Gaborone.  
Earliest recorded date: 13 XI 70.

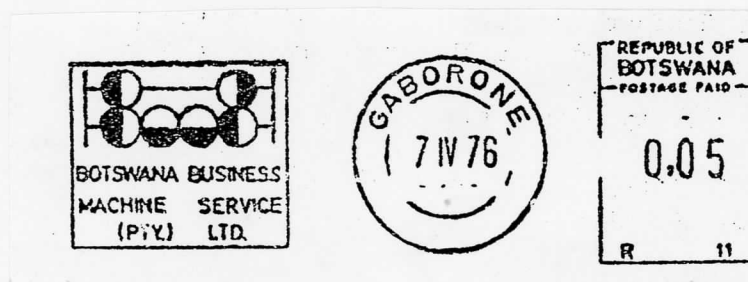


2. S 1 - Botswana Book(?) Centre, Gaborone.  
(partially legible sender's handstamp on reverse of cover)

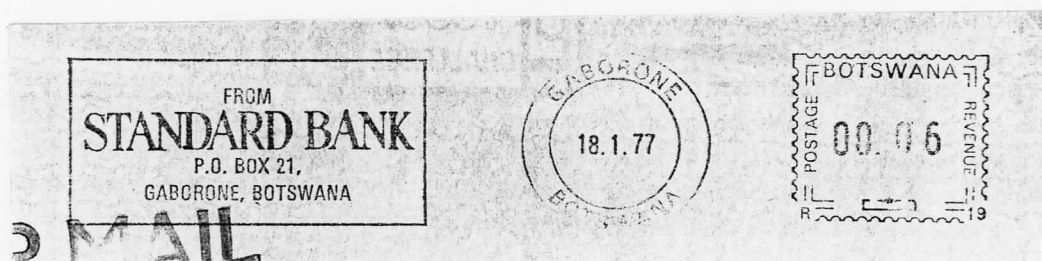


3. R 13 - Bamangwato Concessions Ltd., Selebi-Pikwe.  
Similar frank die to No.1 above, but different code letter.

Illustrations of Meter Marks (continued)



4. R 11 - Botswana Business Machine Service (Pty) Ltd., Gaborone.  
Another example dated 11 X 76 has the slogan die omitted but the 'logo' and address, excluding the Company name, are printed on the flap of the envelope.




5. R 19 - Standard Bank, Gaborone.



6. R 7 - Botswana Game Industries (Pty) Ltd., Francistown.  
Frank die similar but not identical to No.4 above.



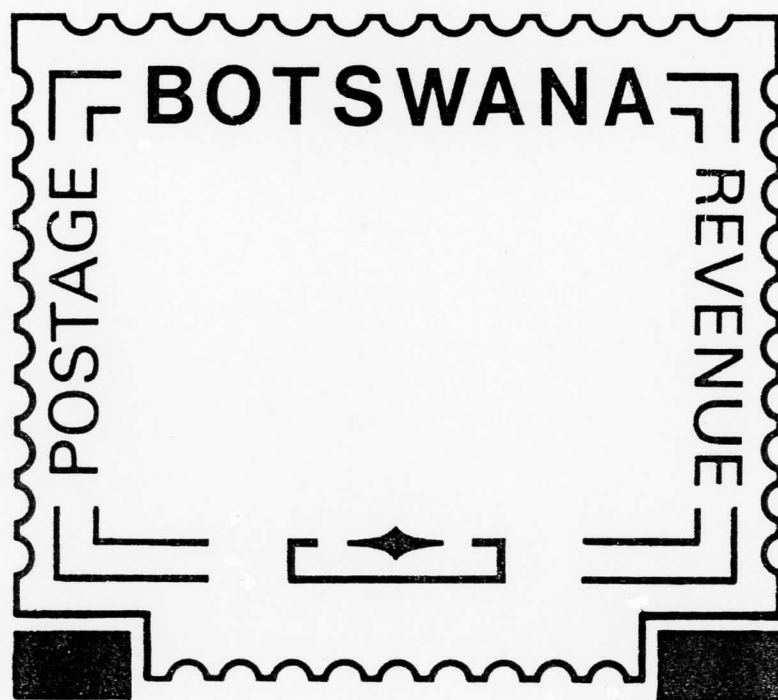
7. R 88 - Air Botswana, Gaborone.  
(Air Botswana 'logo' is part of the mark)

TITLE <b>STAMP DESIGN BECHUANALAND - SIMPLEX</b>		MATERIAL		FINISH		DRAWING NO <b>L 1267B</b>	
NEXT ASSEMBLY						ISSUES.	
						1. <b>17-7-57</b>	
						2. <b>L1267C. REMOVED 24-2-67 67/047</b>	
							
<p><u><b>STANDARD BLANK S.5272A</b></u></p> <p>GENERAL DEPTH OF ETCHING OR ENGRAVING      <b>.030"/.035"</b></p>							
DRAWN BY:- <b>LJ</b>		THIS DRAWING. NOT TO BE SCALED.		THIRD ANGLE PROJECTION.		No. PER MACHINE:-	
THREE PLACE DECIMALS ± .003 TWO PLACE DECIMALS ± .010 FRACTIONAL ± 1/64 ANGULAR ± 1° BREAK ALL CORNERS .005 TO .015		TOLERANCES UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED:- PIERCED HOLES + .002 - .000 DRILLED HOLES UP TO 1/4 INC. + .003 - .000 " " LET F 257 TO 1/2 + .005 - .000 " " OVER 1/2 + .007 - .000 45° ANGLE ON CHAMFERS NOT DIMENSIONED.		ECCENTRICITY SCREW MACHINE WORK .003 " " GEARS .002 " " GRINDING .001 ✓ GRIND      ✓ SMOOTH FINISH.		DRAWING NO <b>L1267B</b>	
UNIVERSAL POSTAL FRANKERS LTD. FRANKOPOST WORKS. ANGEL ROAD. EDMONTON. LONDON N 18.							



Frank Die for Pitney Bowes Model 6300

DESIGN/DRAWING OFFICE      DATE



↑  
PB

↑  
Serial No.

ADVERTISEMENTS

You can now ADVERTISE on the  
back cover of THE RUNNER POST.

~~BOXED~~ ~~ADVERT~~ ~~RATES~~ ~~ring rates~~

Quarter Page Box £10 per annum  
(4 insertions)

Half Page, Whole Page or Eighth Page  
pro rata

CLASSIFIED ADVERT RATE

Classified adverts are charged at  
5 pence per word.

Please specify FOR SALE, WANTED etc

COPY TO BE SUBMITTED TO  
THE HON SECRETARY

(Terms strictly cash with order)