

The Runner Post



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<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Editor's Comments	516
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting, 26 February 1992	517
Members' Comments and Queries	
Correspondence on Postal Rates	518
Bechuanaland Archive Sale?	518
News From Botswana / David Wall	519
Items of Interest	
Moeng Reg. Cachet with 'G' Omitted / Brian Trotter	521
BONC 679 - Transfer from Tati to F'Town / J.F.I-W.	522
B.B. 1894 Postcard - 'Thick' vs 'Thin' / HAC & HOC	523
Postal Stationery News & Views - 5 / J.F.I-W.	524
Introduction of Postage Dues in B.P. / Peter Thy	526
1938 KG6 Defins. - 'Specimen' Perforations / J.F.I-W.	529
Postal Fiscal (SG F1) Correction + Info / Alan Drysdall	530
Bechuanaland Definitive Revenues / Peter Van Der Molen	532
1897 ½d Yellow-Green (SG 56-8) Constant Flaws / J.F.I-W.	533
Selected Postal Rates of B.P. 1935-66 / Peter Thy	535
Prices Realised of Postal Auction Number 7	Supplement

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

You will notice that since the last issue of *Runner Post*, your Editor's address has changed by more than just an extra '1' in the P.O. Box, but also Continent! As a trial, this issue will be printed and dispatched from Cape Town to all members. These changes are largely the reason for the delay in publication of this issue. Henceforth, please address all editorial correspondence to Cape Town.

It was gratifying to see the support our last auction received and we thank all those vendors and bidders and especially our Honorary Auctioneer who helped make it our most successful auction yet. A list of results is included with this issue.

Tony Chilton says that he will endeavour to produce an auction every six months regardless of the number of lots. This policy is designed to encourage vendors to submit lots who in the past were reticent to do so as they did not know how long they may have to wait. The last auction demonstrated that medium and higher priced items sell equally as well as more moderately priced lots. Vendors should therefore feel encouraged to submit such items with confidence, with a reserve if they wish. They they have nothing to lose and the possibility of a good result to gain. The next auction will be published with the September *Runner Post*.

Alan Drysdall's articles 'Stellaland' and 'Stellaland Revisited' which was published in *Runner Post* issues 22 (p402) and 23 (p419) respectively, have subsequently been published in a slightly modified version under the title 'A Postal History of Stellaland' in the March and April issues of the *London Philatelist*, the journal of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. The high quality printing and excellent reproduction of covers is most impressive and members wishing to obtain a copy of this version of the article can do so by writing direct to Alan Drysdall who can supply extra copies at £1 each, (surface) post paid anywhere: Dr A R Drysdall, 4 St Phillips Way, Bitterne, Southampton SO2 5NH, England.

We extend a warm welcome to our new member: Rev T Nowell, 1 Ancaster Avenue, Lincoln, Lincs LN2 4AY, England. Welcome aboard!

Grateful thanks to David Hardwick who has agreed to be the new BBS Hon Auditor.

NB Please see page 518 for details of the next AGM on 14 October.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY
HELD IN THE CELLAR BAR, THE BARLEY MOW, HORSEFERRY ROAD, LONDON
ON WEDNESDAY 26th FEBRUARY 1992, COMMENCING AT 2.00pm

Members Present.

John Inglefield-Watson (Chairman), David Crocker, Mike George, Alan MacGregor, Aubrey Glassborow, Roy Setterfield, Dennis Firth, Jim Catterall and visitor Sjaan Le Roux.

Apologies for Absence.

Tony Chilton, Steve Wallace, Brian Trotter, Alan Drysdall, Dickon Pollard and Steve Ellis.

1. Secretary's Report.

Mike opened by extending a warm welcome to David Crocker and Sjaan Le Roux who were visiting from South Africa. Mike reported that the membership of the Society was around 100, and he was gratified by the strength of membership in South Africa. Runner Post was continuing to be of a high standard, and this is something the Society can be proud of, thanks to Alan MacGregor. The next issue would include some advertising.

2. Philip Cattell.

Members stood in memory of Philip Cattell, our Auditor, who had died recently. A letter of condolence had been sent to his widow. It was announced that Ken Baker had also died.

3. Chairman's Report.

John Inglefield-Watson asked members not to take Runner Post for granted, as the Society may not be able to continue to function. At the next meeting the officers come up for re-election. There is a vacancy for Librarian/Archivist, and the jobs of Chairman Secretary and Treasurer will become vacant, and if the posts are not filled, the Society will have to be placed in suspended animation due to lack of support. John mentioned that an auction list will be sent out with the next Runner Post, and some of the material included will be from Philip Cattell's collection. It has been proposed that auctions in future will be held at regular intervals regardless of the number of lots, and Auction Rule 3(d) be altered so that no lot shall be sold, at less than 75% (at present half) of the estimated value indicated.

4. Next Meeting.

This will be held during Stampex, on Wednesday 14th October 1992 at the same venue. The room is rather sparse, but the food good. This will be the Annual General Meeting.

Competition.

The principal activity of the meeting was a three sheet competition, which was judged by David Crocker, who has been Chairman/member of the Jury at many a South African National and International Exhibition. The prize, which had been donated anonymously, was a voucher for £10.00 to be spent at the next auction. Five entries were submitted, by Jim Catterall Roy Setterfield, Dennis Firth, Mike George and John Inglefield-Watson. In the report on his adjudication, David said that only Mike and John's entries qualified as competition entries, the others were obviously taken straight from collections. Whilst there wasn't much to choose between Mike and John's entries, John's entry was rather more co-ordinated and consisted only of mint stamps, and this was adjudged the winner. The entry consisted of minor varieties of the 1887 ½d British Bechuanaland overprints, and a study of the 1888 and 1890 Protectorate overprints on the ½d values.

Stanley Gibbons Part 1 Catalogue.

In the discussion which followed the Competition we were advised by John that Gibbons Part 1 Catalogue will in future be split into two parts, with countries listed under their modern names. This could have meant that British Bechuanaland would be listed under South Africa, and Bechuanaland Protectorate under Botswana. However, after some persuasion, Gibbons had agreed to list both territories under Botswana.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The AGM of the Society will be held on Wednesday 14 October 1992 at 2.00pm in the Cellar Bar of the Barley Mow, Horseferry Road, London SW1 (2 minutes walk from Stampex New Hall). The biennial Election of Officers will take place at this meeting and members are requested to make every effort to attend. (The Committee will meet at 11.30am - please note).

Mike George.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS AND QUERIES

Bechuanaland / Cape / U.K. Postal Rates

Peter Thy has written providing further useful information for the debate on Postal Rates:

"The postal convention from 1 Dec. 1885 between Cape of Good Hope and British Bechuanaland clearly states (Article 2) that 'all letters posted in British Bechuanaland and addressed to places in the Cape Colony, shall be prepaid by postage stamps, issued by the Government of British Bechuanaland to the value of 2d for every 1/2 oz. or fraction of 1/2 oz. that such letters may weigh.'

It is further given in Article 13 and related schedule that the rate from British Bechuanaland to United Kingdom is 8d for every 1/2 oz., 6d for every 1/2 oz. is to be credited to the Cape Colony. These rates were amended by Government Notice of 24 Sept. 1888, which gives the rate to United Kingdom as 6d per 1/2 oz.; I have no information as to how much of this is to be retained by the Cape Colony. Further, the rates from the Cape Colony to United Kingdom were changed on 1 Aug. 1892 to 2½d per 1/2 oz., but I have been unable to locate information on the corresponding British Bechuanaland rates.

On the 1st of July, 1886, the 1882 Cape Post Office Act was amended, but this appears only to have affected domestic (inland) rates. In 1885, the charges on insufficiently paid letters originating in the United Kingdom are 'the deficient postage at the rate of 6d. for every 1/2 oz. and a fine of 6d.' in addition to 2d for every 1/2 oz. for delivery in British Bechuanaland. Most of this information is readily available in printed sources."

Peter Thy

Bechuanaland Archive Sale?

David Wessely has sent a clipping of an Airmail article from a recent issue of 'The United States Specialist'. Under the sub-heading 'The Mystery Overprints', the relevant passage reads:

"In addition to the archival holdings of Bechuanaland and Madagascar, those of Natal are known to have been sold in 1980."

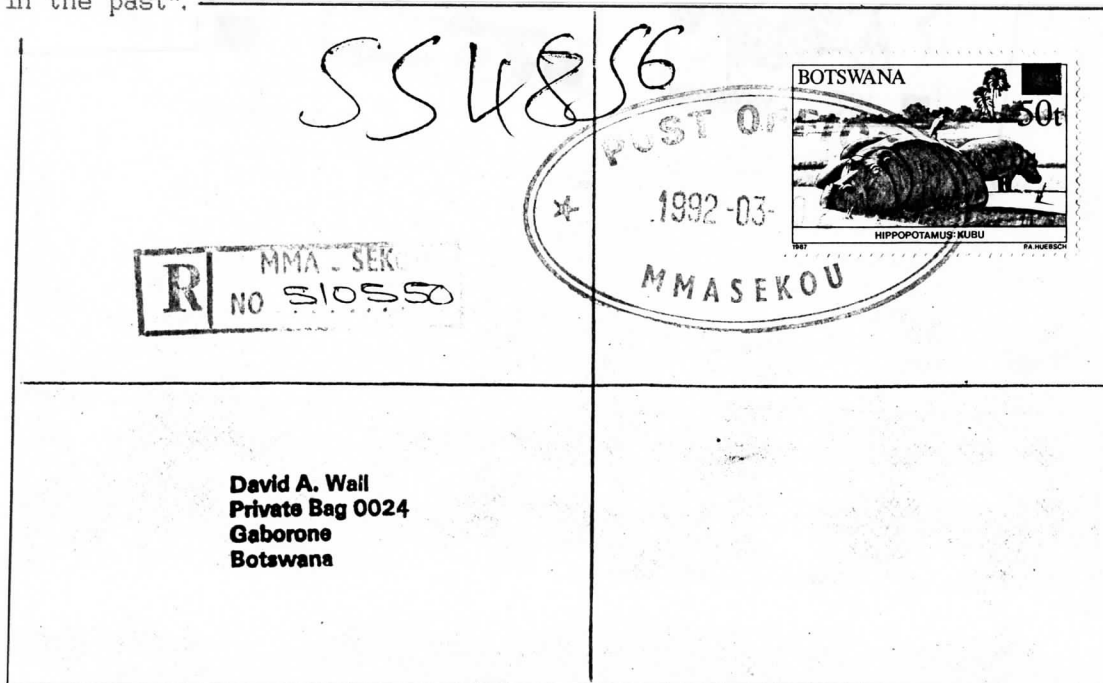
David asks if any member knows details of such a Bechuanaland archival release?

[I can confirm the sales of specimens ex the Natal and Madagascar archives (the latter, at least, being supplied from the UPU in Berne) but have no knowledge of any similar sale ex Bechuanaland - Ed]. Can any member help with information?

NEWS FROM BOTSWANA by David Wall

A New Post Office at Mmasekou

On Saturday 22nd February, President Masire officially opened the Mmasekou Post Office in Kanye. Mmasekou Post Office is the second main post office in Kanye and the report of the opening in the 'Daily News' claimed that "...mail delivery between Kanye and Lobatse will now take place daily instead of just twice a week as in the past".



Although 22nd February was the official opening date, postal services did not become operational until Monday March 2nd. The main canceller used from this date was an oval cancel in red (see illustration) - but a conventional circular canceller has been ordered. Registered mail posted on March 2nd was marked with a rectangular rubber handstamp. Judging by the number of Mmasekou cancels I have seen since, and the very few Kanye cancels it would seem that Mmasekou has taken away much of Kanye P.O.'s business.

Four Further Surcharged Definitive Values.

On Monday 9th March, four additional definitive surcharges were released:

8t	surcharged on the 12t hippo	(40,000 sheets)
10t	also surcharged on the 12t hippo	(25,000 sheets)
25t	surcharged on the 6t genet	(10,000 sheets)
40t	surcharged on the 3t zebra	(10,000 sheets)

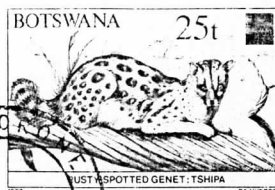
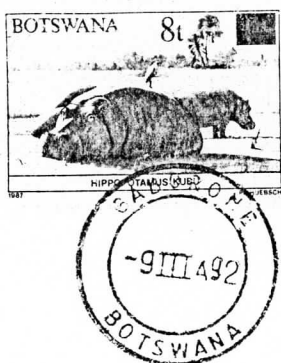
Following the three surcharges released on 27th April 1990, the 12t hippo now exists surcharged with three different values: 8t, 10t and 50t! The 6t genet has been surcharged twice - with the 20t and 25t values.

Unlike the 1990 surcharges, there was no first day cover produced for the 1992 surcharges - though some unofficial covers were serviced. Although 9th March was the official release day, one counter at the main post office in the Gaborone Mall was selling all four values on the 6th March. The counter clerk said she had received them the previous day - so may have started selling them from that date - March 5th. Some pre-issue examples have also been seen postmarked Francistown. However, neither the philatelic counter at the main post office nor the philatelic bureau in Poso House sold stocks until the official day of release on the 9th. Examples of usage prior to March 9th are therefore worth looking out for.

SEGA FA



Two examples of new surcharges used on 6 March 1992, three days before the official date of issue.



Botswana Definitive
Overprints

First Day of Issue

9th March 1992

New Issue of Animal Definitives

Prior to the August issue of the new 18-value animal definitive set, a set of 18 postcards is due for release on June 1st. Each card will bear an enlarged reproduction of the stamp designs - as was done for the 1987 definitive issue. But then the cards were released on the same day as the stamps. This time they are being released in advance as a means of publicizing the release of the stamps.

The anticipated increase in postal rates may be timed to coincide with the release of the new definitives. But before that another commemorative issue is planned for late-June, a set of Railway stamps.

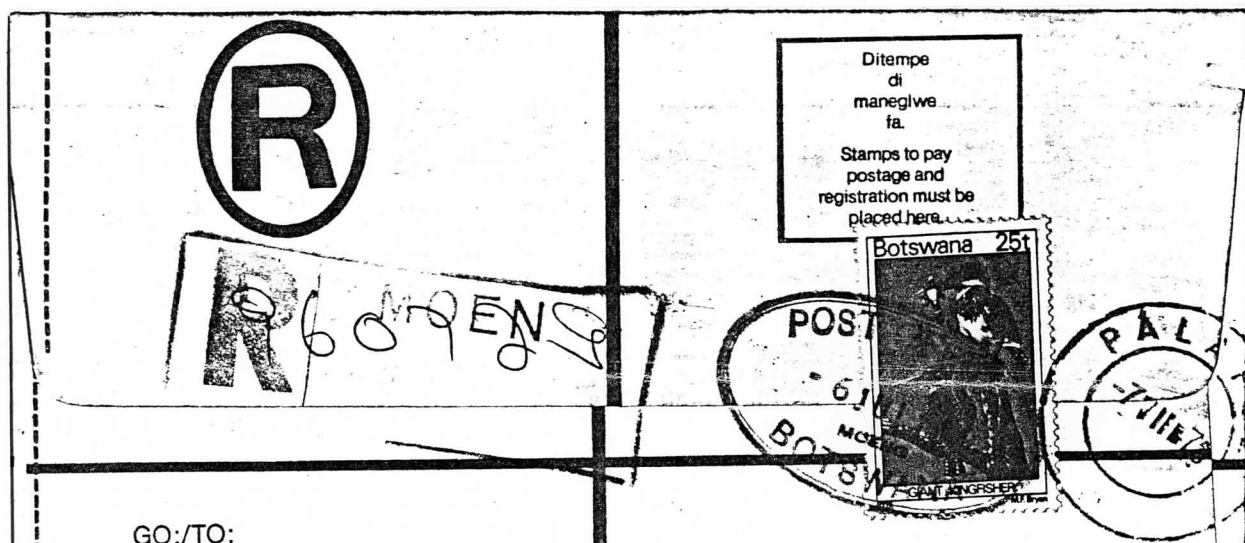
David Wall (24 May 1992)

ITEMS OF INTEREST

MOENG REGISTRATION MARKING WITH 'G' OMITTED

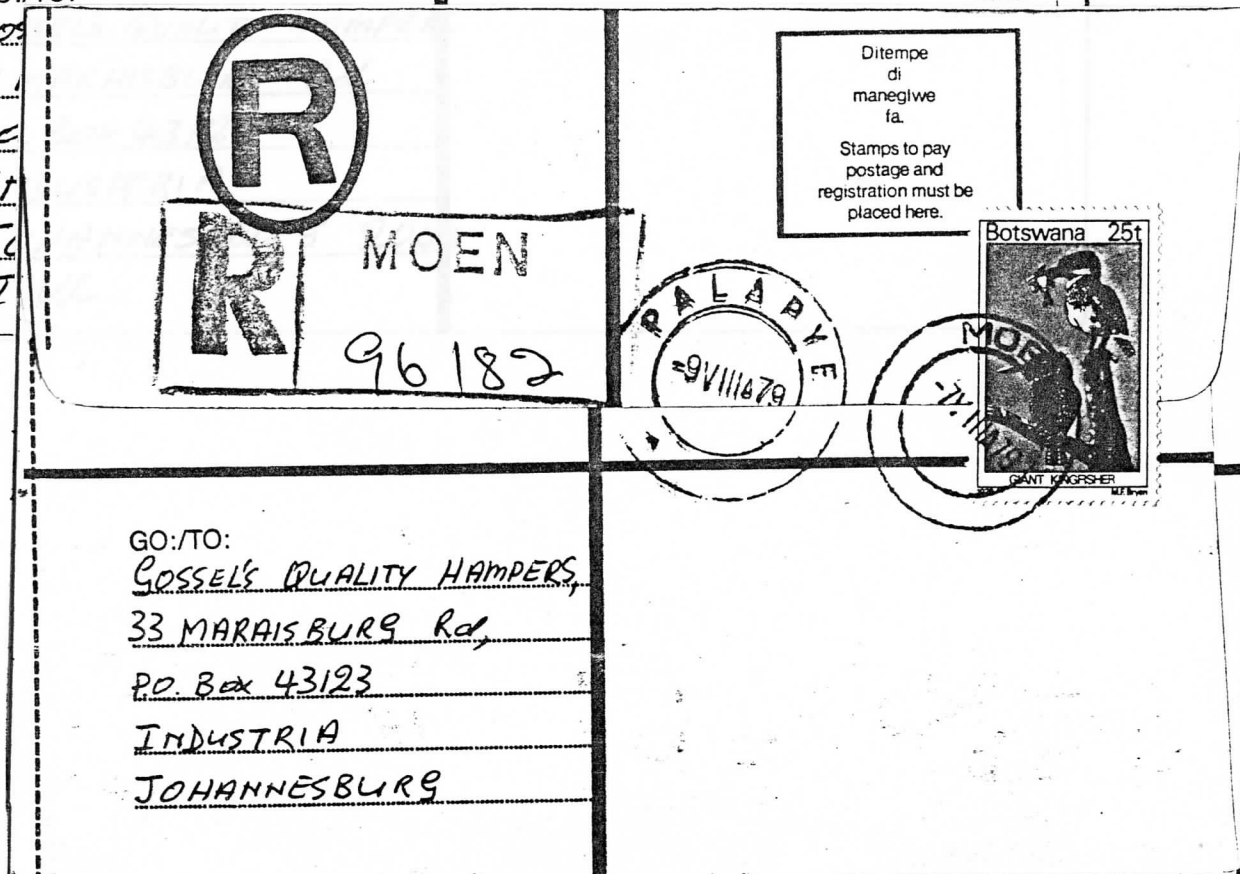
"I have three Botswana covers (two of which are illustrated here) that show the handstamped registration box marking for MOENG, but with the letter 'G' omitted. On two of the three covers the 'G' has been inserted by hand, presumably by the postmaster. The enclosed illustrations show one with the 'G' written in and one without. I don't know how long this registration marking error was in use, but the earliest of my three covers is postmarked 6th July 1979 with a double oval postmasters canceller for Moeng. (This is in itself an interesting cancellation on cover). The latest cover is postmarked 7th August 1979 with a regular double circle Moeng canceller. From this we know the 'error' was in use for at least a little over a month. It would be interesting to learn of other dates with this marking."

Brian Trotter



GO:/TO:

GO
33
PO
IT
JO
7

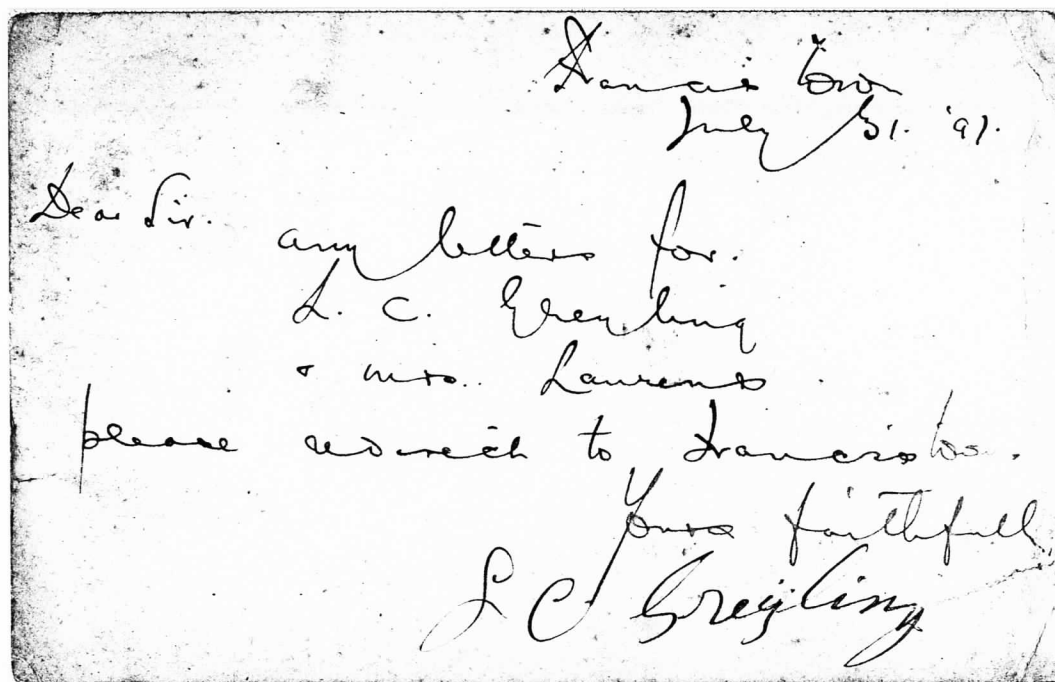
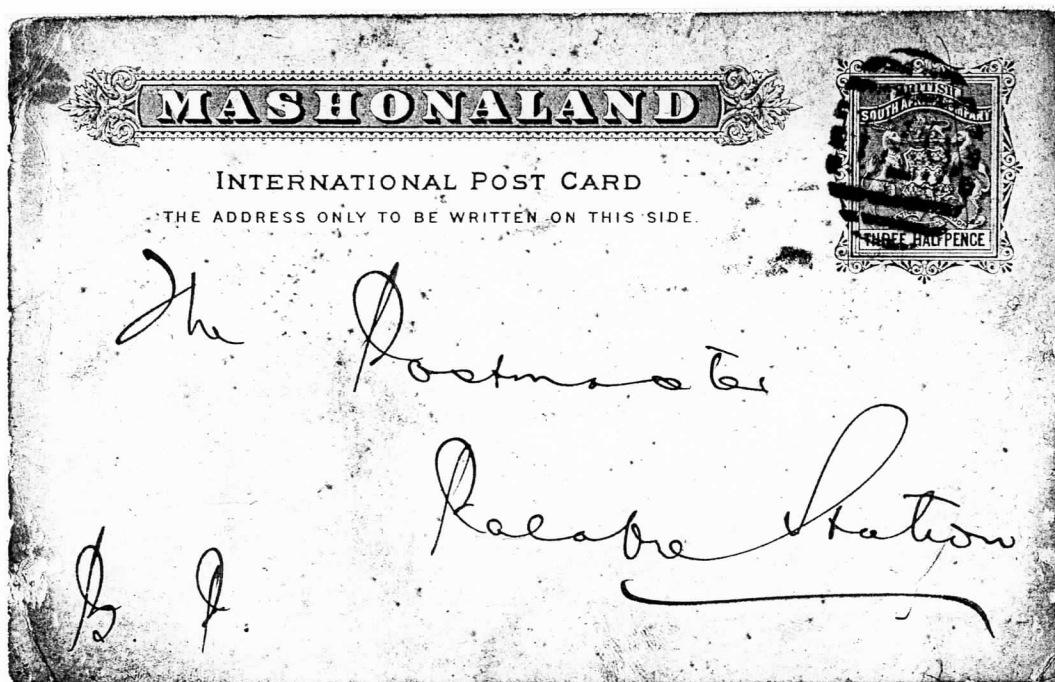


ITEMS OF INTEREST

BONC 679 - TRANSFER FROM TATI TO FRANCISTOWN

During the displays at the February meeting a query was raised as to whether BONC 679 was transferred to the newly opened office at Francistown which took over the business of the Tati agency when the latter was closed in July 1897.

The postcard illustrated appears to support this possibility, The imprinted stamp is cancelled by BONC 679 but there is no c.d.s. to indicate the office of origin. However, the text of the message dated July '97 is headed Francistown. J.F.I-W.





Both sides of Howard Cook's example of B.B. 1894 ½d post-card on thick white' (H&G 3)



ITEMS OF INTEREST

B.B. 1894 ½d POSTCARD - 'THICK WHITE' VERSUS 'THIN BUFF'

Howard Cook and Hamish Campbell have sent the following report:

"The G.B. ½d Brown overprinted Postcards' were issued on both 'thick white' and 'thin buff' card, having first been issued in the Crown Colony in September 1894.

The 'thick white' cards are much scarcer than the 'thin buff' and even Holmes stated he had only seen the 'stout white' card once. It was postmarked Molepolole - in the Protectorate - in 1906.

We have been both surprised and chuffed to find that we each have a commercially used specimen (NOT that kind of SPECIMEN of course!!). Both are addressed in the same handwriting to the Standard Bank, Mafeking and both postmarked Francistown. Howard's on OC 21 05 and Hamish's SP 3 07.

Both are perfunctory acknowledgements of letters by the African Banking Corporation² in Francistown - apparently from the Bechuanaland Head Office.

Has anyone else got any examples of these cards, mint or used?

1. H&G Postcard No's 2 & 3 of B.B.

- Issued in G.B.:—
- i) 1883 according to Holmes on page 73:
 - ii) 1888/9 according to Holmes page 68!:
 - iii) 1888 according to H & G.

Issued in B.B.: September 1894.

2. Was the African Banking Corporation not taken over by the Standard Bank early this century?"

HAC & HOC

POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS AND VIEWS - 5

by

John Inglefield-Watson

The previous part of this occasional series was published in *Runner Post* No. 17 (December 1989).

BRITISH BECHUANALAND

1. Registered Envelopes

The description of the Jan 1888 4d blue registered envelopes on Holmes page 71 does not mention that two types of of the basic CGH envelope overprinted 'British Bechuanaland' exist in Size I (H&G 3a), as illustrated:

- a. The overall length of the top line of the instructions on the address side from 'THIS LETTER' to 'POST OFFICE' is 182mm.
- b. The overall length of the top line of instructions is 212mm and the lettering is taller and thicker.

It seems possible that the latter type might also exist on the Size I and K envelopes of the Jul 1886 issue (H&G 1a and 1b), the Size K envelope of the Jan 1888 issue (H&G 3c) and the Size I and K envelopes of the Jan 1889 Bechuanaland Protectorate issue (H&G 1 and 1a, Holmes page 92), all of which have only been seen by me with the 182mm top line of instructions. Please report any 212mm sightings.

2. Postcards

- a. Higgins and Gage list a variety (H&G 5a) of the Sep 1894 1d postcard overprinted on CGH (Holmes page 73 and Plate 7/5) with no stop after 'BECHUANALAND' in the overprint on the stamp. Can anyone confirm the existence of this variety?
- b. The Nov 1892 1d-1d reply postcard (H&G 7, Holmes page 74 and Plate 8/3) exists with the overprint double on the reply portion of the card, as illustrated.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE

3. Postcards

As already reported and illustrated by Howard Cook in *Runner Post* No. 20, the 1907 KE VII ½d postcard (H&G 3, Holmes Plate 12/3) exists with 'THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE' omitted below the coat of arms on the basic GB card and the 'BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE' overprint higher up the card. It has not yet been established whether this was some kind of essay for the overprint or was issued for use.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER
TO BE REGISTERED AND A RECEIPT

REGISTERED.

OF THE POST OFFICE
OBTAINED FOR IT.

THE STAMP
TO PAY THE
POSTAGE
MUST BE
PLACED HERE

182mm

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN
TO BE REGISTERED AND A

REGISTERED.

OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.

THE STAMP
TO PAY THE
POSTAGE
MUST BE
PLACED HERE

212mm



Reply portion of B.B. 1892 1d + 1d reply paid postcard
(H&G 7) showing variety overprint double

THE INTRODUCTION OF POSTAGE DUE STAMPS IN BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE

Peter Thy

It is widely assumed that postage due stamps were introduced in the Protectorate during January 1926 as stated by Holmes and the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue. New information shows that this date may be in error and that the actual introduction was several months later.

The story actually begins with a circular dated 21 April 1925 from the (Under) Secretary of State to all colonial administrations, including the High Commissioner for South Africa. The Secretary, who clearly was not a stamp collector, states:

"...my attention has been drawn to the fact that in some Colonies 'postage due' stamps are open to purchase by the public, although... these stamps are not, properly speaking, postage stamps and are intended for official use only. The Crown Agents have already been instructed that they should not, when executing orders for 'postage due' stamps for Colonial Governments, retain any of the stamps for sale to dealers in this country, and I am of the opinion that stamps of this kind should not be issued to the public or dealers in postage stamps in the Colony itself, but should be confined to local official usage."

The matter is followed up by a circular dated 16 July now stating:

"I have decided that whilst the prohibition on the sale of 'postage due' stamps by the Crown Agents or across the counter in the Colonies, should be maintained, no objections need to be raised to the sale of these stamps by the Colonial Postmaster or Postmaster-General in blocks through the post."

A few months later, on 24 November, the Secretary now informs the Colonies:

"...on further consideration, I have decided to waive the objection to these stamps being sold in this country by the Crown Agents, and I have accordingly authorised them to comply with any orders they may receive through the post."

Despite the fact that the Protectorate at that time did not issue postage due stamps, the above circulars were received by the Resident Commissioner and the Postmaster-General of the Union of South Africa. One indirect effect appears to have been a report from a postal inspector on a regular visit to the Mafeking Office, which suggested that the previous practice of handling unpaid mail should be discontinued and postage due stamps introduced. The previous practice was for the 18 agencies in the Protectorate to report collected unpaid postage on a so-called 'Deputy Postmaster's Cash Account.' During the year ending 30 June 1925, a total of 5 Pounds Sterling was collected. The inspector concludes:

"...the amount of the unpaid postage collections does not warrant the labour involved...the extension of the postage due label system, to the Bechuanaland Protectorate, would...solve the difficulty. There is no doubt that Union Postage due labels would not be acceptable to the Protectorate Authorities, but in view of the fact that the postage stamps of Great Britain overprinted 'Bechuanaland Protectorate' are used for ordinary postage purposes, there would be no objection to the use of the postage due labels of Great Britain being utilized for the purpose."

The Postmaster-General recommended the introduction of postage due stamps in the Protectorate to the Resident Commissioner in a letter dated 30 October 1925. The latter approves this on 2 November 1925. A letter from the Postmaster-General to the Government Secretary, Mafeking dated 23 April 1926 states:

"...I have the Honour to inform you that the postage due stamps have now been distributed to Bechuanaland Protectorate Post Offices and the Postmasters and Agents have been suitably instructed in the matter."

A special circular was issued by the Postmaster-General to all postal agents in the Bechuanaland Protectorate. The circular was originally dated 9 February 1926. However, the copy in Botswana National Archives has the date crossed out and 23. APR. 1926 stamped in weak blue ink. The latter is not seen on the photocopy. This is the same date as that on the official letter from the Postmaster-General to the Resident Commissioner announcing the introduction of postage due stamps. It is considered that this date, the 23rd April 1926, is the correct date of introduction. The reason for the delay in the planned introduction apparently on 9 February and the actual introduction on 23 April is not known. One possible explanation may be that the Postmaster-General's office forgot to inform the administration and when realized this attempted to conceal it by 'updating' the circular issued to the Protectorate post offices. This latter hypothesis is not considered likely.

The information in this note is based on documents located in Botswana National Archives (S 105/5).

SPECIAL CIRCULAR TO ALL POSTAL AGENTS IN THE
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

TREATMENT OF UNPAID OR INSUFFICIENTLY PRE-
PAID POSTAL MATTER RECEIVED FOR DELIVERY.

It has been decided to discontinue the practice of accounting for surcharges by means of rendering the Deputy Postmaster's Form (P.93) and to introduce the system of "Postage due" stamps.

Upon receipt from your Head postmaster of a small supply of "postage due" stamps the following practice should be followed :-

At the time of receipt at your office of unpaid matter the deficient postage must be accounted for by affixing "postage due" stamps to the value of the amount indicated to the front of the articles on which charges are shown, cancelling the stamps with your date stamp, care being taken not to cover the surcharge marks or the amounts collected from the addressees.

Failure to affix a "postage due" stamp to a surcharged article will be viewed as a serious irregularity.

"Postage due" stamps are to be used only for surcharge purposes, but such stamps may be purchased by the public from Head Postmasters. Stamps so purchased must not be accepted in payment of surcharges nor be used to prepay ordinary postage.

In regard to undelivered correspondence the amount of "postage due" stamps must be claimed on the form R.L.O.2, the articles themselves being endorsed "Surcharge - not paid," before they are sent to your Head postmaster, who will remit to you, in the form of fresh stamps, the value of those attached to the articles in question.

E. Sturman.

G.P.O. PRETORIA.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

~~9th February, 1926.~~

THE 1938 KG VI DEFINITIVES - 'SPECIMEN' PERFORATION

by

John Inglefield-Watson

Missing Pinhole Varieties

Varieties of the normal 'SPECIMEN' perforation (Holmes Type 1, Samuel Type W 8), caused by a pin failing to penetrate or being missing, exist on the KG VI definitives as follows:

- Variety a. Missing pinhole in the 'S' of 'SPECIMEN' (Samuel Type W 8a). This hole is the 4th from the tail of the 'S'.
- Variety b. Missing pinhole in the 2nd 'E' of 'SPECIMEN' (not recorded by Samuel). This hole is the 2nd from the bottom of the vertical stroke of the 'E'.

Samuel's checklist records that the set consists of:

Normal (Type W8) - ½d and 1d values only.

Variety a (Type W 8a) - all other values.

My own set consists of:

Normal - none.

Varieties a and b - all values except ½d, 1d and 2d which show a partially formed hole in place of the missing hole in the 'S'.

Variety a only - 2/6 value.

As the quantity of Specimens required for U.P.U. distribution in 1938 would have been covered by no more than 7 sheets of each value, it seems possible that the occurrence of these varieties may be constant on most values within the set but that in a few cases the variety may have developed during the process of perforation. Members who have these Specimens are therefore requested to check their examples and to report whether:

- a. Any values show the normal perforation.
- b. Any of the values recorded above with both varieties show only one of these varieties or vice versa.
- c. Any values show any other variations.

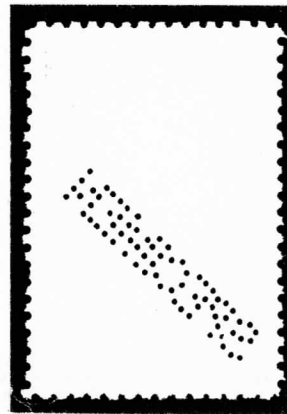
Forgeries

Many forged 'SPECIMEN' perforations were produced and found their way onto the market in the 1970's. They are difficult to detect. The KG VI definitives are recorded with forged perforations. One check that can be applied to this set is to examine the 'P' of 'SPECIMEN'. In genuine examples the 2nd pinhole from the bottom of the vertical stroke and the two adjacent pinholes forming the bottom of the loop of the 'P' are aligned. In forgeries they form a curve.

For further details, including other Bechuanaland sets recorded with forged perforations, reference should be made to two publications by Marcus Samuel:

- a. 'Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948'. R.P.S.L., 1976.
- b. 'Forged Specimen Perforations, 1928-48'. Article in 'Stamp Collecting', 17 April 1975. This includes illustrations of some forgeries.

The two
missing
pinhole
varieties



Partly
formed
pinhole
in 'S'
(½d, 1d
and 2d
values)

BECHUANALAND POSTAL FISCAL, SG F1 - A CORRECTION AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Alan Drysdall

Brian Trotter has written in response to the article on Bechuanaland SG F1 published in *Runner Post* 25 (p469) to point out that the constant variety at positions 1 and 31 is a raised 'B' in 'Bechuanaland' rather than a raised 'P' in 'Protectorate'. This is confirmed by Alan MacGregor, who has two copies of the variety, one of which is illustrated here.

Brian included with his letter a photocopy of an article from an unknown source which was probably published early in 1940. The article is headed, "One of the rarest of the K.E. VIIth Colonials" without any indication as to who was the author. The final paragraphs read as follows:



The Raised 'B'
variety

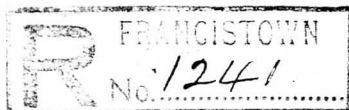
"It may be interesting to know that these were overprinted in complete blocks of thirty, panes of 60 divided into two, and we believe usually having the margins torn off.

"We have in our possession one block of four showing the bottom margin with control number. We have no recollection of ever having seen this stamp before with marginal control, and think it is very probable that it is the only one left now in this condition...

"Of the setting of the thirty stamps, the first stamp on then left in the top row had the 'B' of Bechuanaland raised, thus being considerably out of alignment with the rest of the letters. This variety is quite distinct, and existing only once in a setting of thirty stamps, must also be a great rarity"

Removing the margins from panes of stamps before overprinting was usually done - especially by 'local' printers - because pane margins were commonly of variable width and removing them made it easier to ensure that the overprint was centred on the stamps. One wonders why the author of this article stated, with regard to SG F1, that this was 'usually' done and then went on to describe a control block. Perhaps the most important question, however, is, what was the source of the information regarding the setting? And what evidence did the author have that the panes were divided before they were overprinted? - or did he simply misunderstand the nature of a setting of 30?

It is also uncertain as to whether he was describing the raised 'B' variety for the first time, but at least we know that it had been recognised and was correctly described more than 50 years ago. It would now seem probable that the raised 'P' described by Holmes, which no-one else seems to have seen, was no more than a typographic error.



BRIGHT & SON,
164, STRAND,
LONDON,

FRANCISTOWN
NO 14 10

GABERONES
JY 31 10

REGISTERED. *Gaberone*
no 362

Mr. F. Fisher,

S. A. Customs Statistical Bureau,

CAPE TOWN.



Registered

650
Mochudi



MOCHUDI
DE 21 10

Mr. + Mrs. Baxter,

1. G. Windsor Rd.

Kaling,
W

London



FRANCISTOWN 12 JY 10
The left stamp with
Raised 'B' variety

Brian also reports earlier postal use than previously recorded in the form of a pair of stamps - the left hand stamp showing the raised 'B' variety! - cancelled at Francistown on the 12th July, 1910. He has three covers proving postal usage of SG F1 at Francistown (14.11.10), Gaberones (31.7.10) and Mochudi (21.12.10).

THE BECHUANALAND DEFINITIVE REVENUE STAMPS

Peter Van Der Molen

The £1 green and black denominations issued during the reigns of KG5, KG6 and QE2, together with the £5 orange and black QE2 stamp, tend to be of 'specialised' interest and are mentioned by Holmes only 'in passing' in his 'Bechuanalands'.

The Requisition Books that were kept by the Crown Agents, to record details of Security Printing contracts awarded, cover also Revenues in addition to Postage & Revenue stamps, Dues, Stationery, Passports, Banknotes, etc. etc. For the benefit of readers who have an interest in these Revenue issues, I have extracted the details from the Requisition Books and tabulate the data below; in all cases the stamps were supplied by Waterlow & Sons Ltd in sheets of 60.

<u>B&H</u>	<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>REQ BOOK PAGE</u>	<u>REQUISITION</u>	<u>QTY DESPATCHED</u>	<u>DATE DESPATCHED</u>
38	KG5 £1	1931 p225	380/1	2,580	26 Oct 1932
38	KG5 £1	1935 p227	736/1	3,000	9 Mar 1937
39	KG6 £1	1941 p228	1194/2	3,300	12 Sep 1944
39	KG6 £1	1947 p164	1387/1	7,560	7 Nov 1947
39	KG6 £1	1952 p174	1929/1	6,600	30 Nov 1953
41	QE2 £1	1952 p177	1913/2	12,000	12 May 1954
42	QE2 £5	1952 p177	1913/2	3,000	12 May 1954
42	QE2 £5	1954 p235	2358/1	16,500	20 Dec 1956
41	QE2 £1	1954 p240	2420/1	13,200	26 Sep 1957

Note: 'B&H' = Barefoot & Hall 'British Commonwealth Revenues', 1990 Edition.

When the currency was decimalised on 14th February 1961, remaining stocks of the QE2 £1 and £5 values were surcharged with R2 and R10 respectively by the South African Government Printer in Pretoria. Because those surcharges were a 'local' arrangement, there are no references in the Crown Agents' records and quantities surcharged do not appear to be known, although there must have been records kept at the time.

In the decimal definitive Postage & Revenue issue produced by Harrison's which was released on 2nd October, 1961, the R2 value (SG 181) was the highest denomination and no R10 stamp for Revenue purposes was provided as might have been expected, but after Independence a R10 Revenue stamp was issued by Botswana.

Permission from the British Library, Philatelic Collections, to publish information from the Crown Agents' Philatelic and Security Printing Archive held by them, is hereby acknowledged.

P.W Van Der Molen, P O Box 12508, Benoryn 1504, South Africa.



£5 orange and black



R2 on £1 green and black

1897 PROTECTORATE ½d YELLOW-GREEN (SG 56-58) - CONSTANT FLAWS

by

John Inglefield-Watson

This article seeks to rectify an omission in the otherwise detailed description in Holmes Chapter 21, of the three types of C of GH ½d yellow-green overprinted 'BRITISH BECHUANALAND' that were issued for use in the Protectorate in 1897 (SG 56, 57 & 58).

It is relevant to summarise the details that refer to the make-up of the overprint forme:

- a. In all three types the forme consisted of 120 subjects arranged so that two complete panes of 60, side by side, could be overprinted in one operation.
- b. SG 56 (overprint spacing 13mm). The forme was made up from a basic setting of twelve in two horizontal rows of six, repeated ten times.
- c. SG 57 (spacing 13.5mm) and SG 58 (spacing 10.5mm). In each case the forme was made up from a basic setting of one horizontal row of six repeated twenty times.

Holmes records only two constant repetitive flaws that occur within the basic setting and are repeated throughout each pane:

- a. On SG 56. "On the foot of the 'R' of 'BRITISH' on positions 4, 16, 28, 40 & 52 of both panes". No description or illustration of the flaw is given but I have identified it as a 'dot' between the legs of the 'R'. This flaw occurs on the 4th stamp in two alternate rows of a used block of 24 (4 horizontal rows of 6) in the Moseley collection in the British Library and on the three stamps indicated in the block illustrated as Fig. 1, one of which is shown enlarged in Fig. 2. This combination of evidence means that the block illustrated consists of stamp nos. 1 to 4 of rows 4 to 10 of a pane and that the left hand margin or gutter has been removed. Also, the pane must be from the right hand of the sheet as the Plate Number '2' appears below the second stamp in the bottom row of the left-hand pane. Further confirmation should be possible if anyone has a definite bottom left corner block with a marginal marking below the corner stamp as in Fig. 1.
- b. On SG 57. "A small piece of the right-hand down stroke of the 'H' of 'BRITISH' is broken off at the foot" on the 5th stamp in each horizontal row of both panes. This flaw can be recognised from the description. However, an enlarged illustration is shown in Fig. 3.

Among the many non-constant damaged and broken letters that occur in these overprints there may be other significant constant flaws, either repetitive or not, that merit recording. I have potential candidates in the small 1st and 3rd 'A's in 'BECHUANALAND' found singly and together on SG 57 (Fig. 4). Can anyone provide positional evidence for these or for any other potentially constant flaws of significance?



Fig. 1

← No. 28



Fig. 2

← No. 40

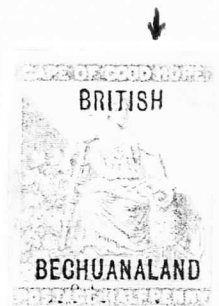


Fig. 3

← No. 52

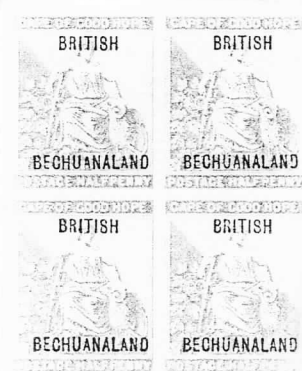


Fig. 4

SELECTED POSTAL RATES OF BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE:

SURFACE MAIL 1935 - 1966

Compiled by Peter Thy (January 1992)

1. Introduction

The following compilation summarizes the development in the postal rates of Bechuanaland Protectorate as recorded in governmental regulations and other public documents. The postal services in Bechuanaland, during 1935-1966, have been controlled by the Post Office Act No. 10 of 1911 of the Union of South Africa as 'of force' in the Protectorate. The practical organization was the responsibility of the Postmaster-General of the Union of South Africa. In 1957, the Protectorate took over the full responsibility, and in 1958 moved the administration of Posts and Telegraphs from Mafeking to Lobatsi, within the Protectorate. From 1963, the Post Office Proclamation of 1961 constitutes the legal background. The formation of the Republic of South Africa and its break with the British Commonwealth necessitated that the Protectorate changed from British to Decimal currency on 14 Feb. 1961.

Changes in the rate system were issued in the form of a patchwork of legal notices published as supplements to the official Gazette of the High Commissioner. Subsequently, these were collected in annual volumes summarizing the most important documents. It is these volumes that form the main source for this compilation. The dates given are the official commencements, as stated in the documents. There are several cases where apparent errors in the tariffs have been corrected by a new notice issued shortly after the original announcement. Although these are included in the following tables, it is likely that some of these never went into effect (cf., 1935-1937 letter rates). The compilation has been restricted to mail below 1 lb, and only types of mail typical of interest to the postal history collector have been included (excluded are parcels, samples and packets).

For some classes of mail, early official listings are missing. This may either indicate that the particular class of mail was not in use, or it simply reflects that no official reference has been found. An example of the former are the express mail fees prior to 1954. An example of the latter are the registration fees for which no listings prior to 1954 were found (but known to be 4d between 1932 and 1954). There also are no listings of rates for printed papers and newspapers to destinations outside the southern African area prior to 1950 and 1961, respectively. There may be several reasons for this apparent lack. First, the rates may not have changed for a considerable time. Secondly, these classes of mail may not have been in use, or may have been defined/grouped differently. If listings prior to 1935 are consulted, it appears that books, printed papers, commercial papers, and sample packets often either are grouped together or have identical rates. Further, few, if any, rate changes for these classes of mail have occurred between the turn of the century and the 1950-60s. These early rates are given in the tables in parentheses to indicate their uncertainties.

It should be noted that the weight unit basis of the rates are important for understanding the actual franking of a letter. For example, rates of 1d per ½ ounce and 2d per ounce will be identical for one-ounce letters, but not for half-ounce letters. Finally, it must be remembered that all compilations are incomplete and prone to errors of compilation or due to misunderstandings. Despite this, it is hoped that the present tables will be useful and may serve as an incitement for further research.

Airmail rates were introduced in the Protectorate in 1932. Because of their complexities, they are not listed here, but will be covered in a following compilation. Information on rates prior to 1935 is at present incomplete, but the available information will also be covered in a subsequent compilation.

Peter Thy

2. Surface mail

2.1. Letters

I.	Southern Africa [A]		Rest African Postal Union [B]		Commonwealth Europe [C]		Commonwealth rest [C]		Other countries	
							Per oz		1st-oz	Add/oz
1. Jun. 1935	1 d/oz		1 d/oz		2 d/oz		2 d		3 d	2 d [1]
1. Jul. 1937	1/0.5oz		1.5/0.5oz		1.5/0.5oz		2		3	1.5
1. Oct. 1937	1/oz		1.5/0.5oz		1.5/0.5oz		2		3	1.5
II.	Southern Africa [A]		Rest African Postal Union [B]		Commonwealth excl. APU [C]				Other countries	
	1st-oz	Add/oz	1st-0.5oz	Add/0.5oz	1st-0.5oz	Add/0.5oz			1st-oz	Add/oz
1. Nov. 1939	1 d	1 d	1.5 d	1.5 d	1.5 d	0.5 d			3 d	1.5 d
1. Oct. 1940	1.5	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.5			3	1.5
1. Apr. 1943	2	1	2	1.5	2	0.5			3	1.5
1. May 1947	1.5	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.5			3	1.5
III.	Southern Africa [A]		Rest African Postal Union [B]		Commonwealth excl. APU [C]				Other countries	
	1st-oz	Add/oz	1st-oz	Add/oz	1st-oz	Add/oz			1st-oz	Add/oz
1. Apr. 1950	1.5	1	2 d	2 d	2 d	2 d			4.5 d	3 d
15. May 1950	2	1	2	2	2	2			4.5	3
IV.			African Postal Union (APU) [A,B]		Commonwealth excl. APU [C]				Other countries	
			1st-oz	Add/oz	1st-oz	Add/oz			1st-oz	Add/oz
1. Jul. 1954			2 d	1 d	2 d	2 d			4.5 d	3 d
1. May 1959			3	1	4	2			6	4
14. Feb. 1961			2.5 c	1 c	3.5 c	2 c			5 c	3.5 c
17. Dec. 1965			2.5	1	3.5	2			5	3

[1] The fee for additional oz was changed from 2 d to 1.5 d by a High Commissioner's Notice signed on 9. July 1935.

2.2. Postcards [1]

I.-III.	Southern Africa [A]	Rest African Postal Union [B]	Commonwealth excl. APU [C]	Other countries
1. Jun. 1935	0.5 d	0.5 d	1.5 d	1.5 d
1. Jul. 1937	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
1. Apr. 1943	1	1.5	1.5	1.5
1. Apr. 1950	1	2	2	3

IV.	African Postal Union (APU) [B]	Commonwealth excl. APU [C]	Other countries
1. Jul. 1954	1.5 d	2 d	3 d
1. May 1959	2	3	4
14. Feb. 1961	2 c	2.5 c	3.5 c
17. Dec. 1965	2	2.5	3

[1] These rates may include letter cards within APU; outside APU letter cards required letter rate. The rates for reply cards are the double of regular cards.

2.3. Printed Papers

I.-IV.	African Postal Union (APU) [B]	Commonwealth excl. APU [C]	Other Countries
	1st-2oz Add	1st-2oz Add/2oz	1st-2oz Add/2oz
1. Jan. 1926	0.5 d	0.5 d/2oz [1] (1 d 1 d) [2]	(1 d 1 d) [2]
1. Apr. 1950	0.5	0.5/2oz	1 1
1. May 1952	1	1/2oz	1 1
1. Jul. 1952	1	0.5/2oz	1 0.5
1. May 1959	1	0.5/2oz	1.5 1.5
14. Feb. 1961	1 c	1 c/4oz	2 c 2 c
17. Dec. 1965	1	1/4oz	2 1

[1] The 1926 listing is for the southern African area [A]. A listing for 1942 indicate that the same rate was applied for APU countries.

[2] The earliest listing for printed papers is from 1926, but no rates for destinations outside southern Africa are given. The southern African listing, however, is identical to the listing for books, packets, samples, and commercial mail, and can be traced back to at least 1899. These rates are given here. Minimum rates may have been applied (cf., commercial mail rates).

2.4. Newspapers [1]

I.-IV.	African Postal Union (APU) [B]	Commonwealth excl. APU [C]	Other countries
To 1 lb	Pr. 8oz	Pr. 2oz	1st-2oz Add/2oz
1. Jan. 1926	0.5 d/4oz [2]	(1 d/4oz) [3]	(1 d/4oz) [3]
1. May 1959	0.5/4oz	(1/4oz) [3]	(1/4oz) [3]
14. Feb. 1961	1 c	2 c	2 c 2 c
17. Dec. 1965	1	2	2 1

- [1] Locally produced and distributed newspapers within the Protectorate are 0.25 d up to 8 oz and 0.5 d between 8 oz and 1 lb. This rate appears to have been introduced in the 20s, but it is not known when it ceased to be in effect. However, it is listed in 1963.
- [2] The 1926 listing is for the southern African area [A]. A listing for 1942 indicate that the same rate was applied for all APU countries. Basically this rate can be traced back to 1899, except for a temporary change in the weight units to 2 oz between 1908-1920(?).
- [3] These rates first appear in 1899 and are maintained to 1966, except for a change in the weight unit to 2 oz in 1961. However, the older rates are for a maximum of 2 lb. Also note the difference between local and external distribution in note [1].

2.5. Commercial mail

I.-IV.	African Postal Union (APU) [B]	Other countries
	Per 2 oz	Per 2 oz
1. Jun. 1935	0.5 d	0.5 d (minimum 3 d)
1. Apr. 1950	0.5	1 (minimum 4.5)
15. May 1950	1	1 (minimum 4.5)
1. May 1959	1	1.5 (minimum 6)
14. Feb. 1961	1 c	1.5 c (minimum 5 c)
17. Dec. 1965	This class of mail is no longer in use	

3. Registration and Express [1]

I.-IV.	Registration	Express [2]
(1932-1954	4 d)	
1. Jul. 1954	6	6 d
14. Feb. 1961	5 c	5 c
24. Dec. 1965	5	5

- [1] Fees in addition to normal rates. No listings prior to 1954 have been found. However, it is known that the registration fee for 1932-1954 was 4 d.
- [2] Additional fee for local delivery is applicable (the same amount as the fixed fee, but per mile).

4. Others [1]

	IRC, CRC [2]	Aerogramme forms	Registered envelopes small	Postcards large
1. Jan. 1922	6 d			
1. Mar. 1950	9			
1. May 1959	12, 1			
1. Jan. 1960	12, 1		*10 d	*10 d
14. Feb. 1961	10 c, 4 c	*5 c	*8.5 c	*9 c *2.5 c
12. Dec. 1963	10, 4	1	*8.5	*9 *2.5

- [1] Aerogrammes, registered envelopes, and postcards marked by '*' have imprinted stamps. For registered envelopes this is only the registration fee. Listings of over-counter prices for most postal stationary are not available prior to 1960-61. Aerogrammes were introduced in 1941.
- [2] CRC - Commonwealth Reply Coupons; IRC - International Reply Coupons.

Acknowledgement.

The information in this compilation has been extracted with the help of librarians at University Library and Botswana National Archives, Gaborone. The compiler would appreciate any comments, additions, and corrections.

Sources.

H.C.N. - High Commissioner's Notice.

G.N. - Government Notice.

L.N. - Legal Notice.

Post Office Act No. 10 of 1911 of the Union of South Africa.

Chapter 144 in the Law of Bechuanaland Protectorate, 1948.

Chapter 171 in the Law of Bechuanaland Protectorate, 1959.

Post Office Proclamation No. 43 of 1961.

H.C.N. No. 88 of 1921; 170 of 1925; 81 and 102 of 1935; 111 of 1936; 122 and 171 of 1937; 204 of 1939; 171 of 1940; 91 and 227 of 1942; 73 of 1943; 96 of 1947; 206 of 1948; 127, 129 and 131 of 1950; 79 and 147 of 1952; 66 of 1954; 24 of 1959; 3 of 1960; 15 of 1961; 23 of 1963.

G.N. No. 113 of 1963.

L.N. No. 68 of 1965; 16 of 1966.

Bechuanaland Postal Tariffs, undated (probably 1961).

Bechuanaland Telephone Directory, 1960, 1963, 1965 and 1966.

General Notes.

[A] Southern Africa is defined here as Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Swaziland, South Africa and South West Africa.

[B] African Postal Union (APU) (or Southern African Postal Union). In 1935 APU, in addition to the southern African Countries [A], comprises Southern and Northern Rhodesia and Mozambique. In 1936 Angola, Congo, Nyasaland, Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika are admitted. In 1942 French Equatorial Africa and Cameroon are included. In 1947 Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika are listed with British Commonwealth (this may also be the case for 1943). Northern Rhodesia is dropped from the list in 1950, and Madagascar added in 1953. In the 1963 regulations the countries of the African Postal Union are Angola, Bechuanaland Protectorate, Basutoland, Cameroon, Congo, Rhodesia and Nyasaland, French Equatorial Africa, Madagascar, Mozambique, Kenya Uganda, Tanganyika, Swaziland, South Africa and South West Africa. In 1965 the list comprises Angola, Bechuanaland Protectorate, Basutoland, Burundi, Congo, Rhodesia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Swaziland South Africa, South West Africa and Zambia. In 1966, Madagascar and Zambia are deleted.

[C] In 1935 British Commonwealth is listed as United Kingdom, Egypt, Palestine and British Possessions. In 1937 Commonwealth is split in two geographic areas: European Commonwealth composed of United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Anglo-Egypt, Sudan Mauritius and Zanzibar; and the rest of the British Commonwealth, Egypt and Palestine. In 1947 the listing for British Commonwealth includes Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika (this may also be the case for the 1943 listing). From 1948 Egypt and Palestine are listed with other countries.

PRICES REALISED IN THE MAY 1992 AUCTION (UK)

LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE
1	91	50	8	99	u/s	148	23
2	13	51	u/s	100	u/s	149	4.5
3	6	52	u/s	101	16	150	3
4	10	53	u/s	102	12	151	2.5
5	u/s	54	12	103	2.5	152	3
6	u/s	55	4.5	104	1	153	9
7	u/s	56	28	105	.5	154	7
8	u/s	57	2	106	16	155	1
9	u/s	58	6	107	4	156	7
10	u/s	59	6	108	240	157	.5
11	u/s	60	40	109	4	158	u/s
12	15	61	u/s	110	10	159	5
13	7	62	24	111	u/s	160	8
14	23	63	9	112	u/s	161	3.5
15	27	64	u/s	113	11	162	12
16	u/s	65	u/s	114	u/s	163	9
17	u/s	66	15	115	u/s	164	23
18	u/s	67	8	116	6	165	2
19	1	68	12	117	12	166	77
20	1	69	u/s	118	6	167	3
21	u/s	70	3	119	4	168	u/s
22	3	71	u/s	120	6	169	u/s
23	u/s	72	u/s	121	u/s	170	11
24	30	73	3	122	8	171	3
25	30	74	4.5	123	u/s	172	8
26	u/s	75	u/s	124	12	173	12
27	40	76	u/s	125	17	174	u/s
28	u/s	77	6	126	7	175	u/s
29	u/s	78	1	127	15	176	u/s
30	u/s	79	36	128	6	177	u/s
31	110	80	10	129	52	178	u/s
32	2	81	7	130	12	179	26
33	u/s	82	9	131	12	180	3.5
34	u/s	83	12	132	11	181	4.5
35	27	84	u/s	133	8	182	6
36	16	85	1.5	134	6	183	4
37	2.5	86	9	135	16	184	u/s
38	22	87	3.5	136	21	185	u/s
39	u/s	88	4	137	23	186	u/s
40	u/s	89	1	138	2.5	187	u/s
41	4.5	90	7	139	9	188	8
42	6	91	7	140	46	189	u/s
43	u/s	92	u/s	141	6	190	19
44	21	93	11	142	7	191	u/s
45	u/s	94	2	143	6	192	u/s
46	u/s	95	8	144	3.5	193	20
47	u/s	96	4.5	145	3	194	3
48	u/s	97	20	146	u/s	195	280
49	u/s	98	1.5	147	4		

With prices realised ranging from £0.50 to £280, there was certainly something for everyone in this auction. Judging from the letters of thanks which I have received, many of you were well pleased with the material on offer.

Including a few duplicate lots etc, the total realisations were £2,205 which is a new record for a BBS auction. Also a record is the fact that some 30% of the membership bid for lots, with only one member (who was in fact after only 1 lot) being completely unsuccessful.

The sale of most of the medium and high priced lots, with much of the more common material remaining unsold proves yet again that the good material will sell and that as a specialist society, we should be offering specialist material through our auctions.

The timing of the next auction is very much up to you all. I have promised our chairman that I will try to organise at 6 monthly intervals, but I do of course need you to supply material. So please sort out those duplicates and send them to me!

Tony Chilton

PS The Expedited Mail Service from Botswana to the UK (see Peter Thy's article in the March 1992 Runner Post) costs 100 times that of an airmail letter (40 pula as against 40 thebe at present). From the auction bids I received from Botswana, mail sent by EMS takes exactly the same time to get here!

T.C.