

The Runner Post



RUNNER POST No. 28 (ISSN No. 0953-3354)

SEPTEMBER 1992

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Many thanks to those members who expressed appreciation for the look, content, and balance of Runner Post 27 which was produced, printed, collated and posted from Cape Town (UK members' had their copies posted in England). However, I am equally keen to hear any adverse comments and/or constructive criticism and suggestions you may have. If I don't hear what is wrong or what may be improved, it is unlikely it ever will be!

We are always looking to keep expenses (i.e. your subscriptions!) to a minimum, and one small but significant cost is the type of envelope used. In order to evaluate which affords best protection versus cost and weight (heavier envelopes can cause the RP to fall into a higher postal rate band), would any member whose copy is not received in good condition please let me know, i.e. was the envelope used strong enough or did it split?

The good 'balance' of RP 27, now takes a back seat as this issue contains the final Postmark Checklist/typology study for the rest of the letters, and covers 13 pages. Even if your interests do not include postmarks, this study includes useful and important information such as the dates of genuine Vryburg postmarks on forged overprints. I will try to restore RP 29 to our more usual format.

New Member: We extend a warm 'welcome aboard' to Mr H Slomowitz, whose interests include the sieges of Mafeking and Vryburg; Stellaland, Goshen, New Republic, Cape of Good Hope and postal history.

SG Part 1, 1992/93 British Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue (Vol 1)

Now in two slightly less unwieldy volumes, the first part of this annual edition has now been published (volume 2 is due in October).

The Botswana section now commences with Stellaland followed by British Bechuanaland, Bechuanaland Protectorate and Botswana. It is very convenient having all 'our' territories listed together, even though Stellaland and British Bechuanaland are included here by special dispensation - technically they should be listed under South Africa. (Stellaland to B.B. to Cape to Union to RSA).

Many useful improvements in the form of footnotes and expanded descriptions make their appearance with this edition. The size of settings and the position of varieties is given where known. For overprinted stamps, the SG No. of the basic unoverprinted stamp is now provided.

The Editor does not appear to have overlooked any of the problems the new order has created: The 1947 Royal Visit design is now illustrated. The old reference to the Basutoland design, which is not in this volume, is redundant. For the 1948 Royal Silver Wedding and both the 1937 and 1953 Coronation issues, the reader is referred to Antigua rather than Aden for an illustration of the basic design.

Many significant price adjustments are reflected in this edition, reflecting the strong demand for the more elusive values and varieties which have often fetched more than catalogue value at auction. The only price reductions appear to be the mint 5s, 10s and £1 unappropriated dies and mint seahorses (all less 10%-20%).

A few of the more startling increases include the 'ritish' and double overprint varieties of the 1885 Cape overprints which all rise by about 20% to 50% (for the 1/-); the 1888 2d blue-green and 6d blue surcharges (formerly SG 24 and 27) have been re-numbered as SG 23c and SG 26a and leap by 50% or 75% respectively (I know of only one copy of the 6d so this is rather academic!). The 1889 Cape ½d varieties (SG 30b,c,ca,e) all rise by between 18% to 40%. The 1888 missing 'o' varieties show 20% to 50% increases and the 'straight' 2/- (SG 48) by 70%.

Prices have now been assigned to the 1891 2d without stop (SG 32a), used; the 1893 2d with overprint transposed (SG 39c), mint; and the KE7 2½d with 'Stop after Protectorate' (SG 69a), used.

The De La Rue 2/6 seahorse shades (SG 85/6) have been re-named 'pale brown' and 'sepia' (from grey-brown and deep brown respectively). Requests for proof of the existence of the B.W. 5/- seahorse (formerly SG 90/a) proved negative, and this has now been deleted. However, the 5/- rose-red (SG 89) has gained two new numbers: SG 89a ('overprint treble, two albino', a variety previously assigned to SG 90a), and SG 89b ('overprint double, one albino'). Also deleted is SG 81a (formerly the KG5 6d purple), a shade I always associated with control 'W 23' which I assume now falls under the catch-all 'shades' of SG 81.

To sum up: If you have delayed purchasing a Part 1 for some time because you thought there was little change from year to year, then this edition is a good reason to delay no longer.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS AND QUERIES

Railway Timetables

I have become involved in contributing information on Bechuanaland airmails as part of a major research project into airmail services in Africa, 1931-1940. Readers of my 'Air Mail First Flights' articles in R.P. Nos. 19 and 20 will be aware that from 1931 at least until the opening of the Kalahari Desert Air Mail Service in 1938, air mails from Bechuanaland were sent overland by rail to Bulawayo or Kimberley to connect with Imperial Airways' UK - South Africa route.

Known covers show that airmail went by rail from Francistown to Bulawayo and from Lobatsi to Kimberley. Can anyone provide details of any covers from intermediate offices that have backstamps indicating the North/South divide in the overland routing?

To discover more about these overland links I have been asked whether I can provide copies of the railway timetables for the period, detailing services between Bechuanaland and both Bulawayo and Kimberley. Can anyone help in this respect?

Answers direct to me, John Inglefield-Watson.

ITEMS OF INTEREST



Bechuanaland 'Used' in Basutoland

Howard Cook came across pairs of the Bechuanaland 1935 Silver Jubilee 1d and 2d stamps (illustrated above) cancelled MAKOALIS (Basutoland) on 1st May 1935, apparently four days prior to their issue. All is explained in the following article which appeared in the March, 1938, issue of the South African Philatelist (page 35). Although mainly concerning Basutoland, there is a strong Bechuanaland connection and I think readers will enjoy the article.

BASUTOLAND ANTE-DATED JUBILEE & CORONATION COVERS

"Conrad F. Jacobs, at one time a stamp dealer in Johannesburg, appeared before Mr C A Backeberg in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on February 15 and 16 [1938] on eight charges of inciting to forgery. The following is an account of the trial, as reported in the Johannesburg *Star*.

The first three charges alleged that Jacobs wrote three letters in February, March and May, 1936, to Mr W H Nettlingham, a postal agent at Makoalis, Basutoland. The indictment alleged that the letters incited or instigated Nettlingham unlawfully to forge envelopes bearing the date May 1, 1935, in order that the stamps might purport to have been genuinely defaced in the regular course of business. It was further alleged that that other letters were written to a housewife in Mafeking with the same purpose. Jacobs pleaded not guilty.

Giving evidence on the first four counts, Mr Nettlingham, said he was a trader and postal agent at Makoalis, Basutoland. He had stamp transactions with one C F Jacobs, of Johannesburg. In February, 1936, he received a letter from Jacobs. He cancelled the 76 stamps, which were enclosed, with the date stamp of the postal agency of May 1, 1935, as requested by Jacobs. The stamps were sent by registered post. He posted the envelopes and stamps back to Jacobs after cancelling them. He altered the date on the date stamp when cancelling them. He later complied with a request from the same correspondent to cancel Bechuanaland Jubilee stamps in such a way that only part of the postmark showed on the stamp.

In May, 1936, he received a letter with 24 Basutoland Jubilee stamps, which he cancelled. He followed the same procedure as before. In May, 1937, he cancelled 368 envelopes to which he affixed the stamps supplied. He followed the same procedure, and again returned the covers to Jacobs.

In reply to Mr Thompson, Mr Nettlingham said he wrote to Jacobs suggesting that he (witness) could supply any quantity of Basutoland Jubilee stamps with the cancellation datestamp of May 4, 1935 (the first day of issue).

THREE LETTERS TO BECHUANALAND.

Mr William David Hayden-Thomas, postmaster of Mafeking, said he was also controlling postmaster of all post offices in Bechuanaland Protectorate. He produced three letters which he said were sent to him by postal agents in the Protectorate. One was addressed to Mrs C Thomas, Connaught Street, Mafeking.

"I find that I can do with a lot more than I have on hand owing to orders received from oversea,"

stated the letter, which was dated May 17, 1937, and which was signed by C Jacobs.

"Would it be possible if I sent you some more envelopes to have them cancelled with the same date as before - May 12, 1937 - because collectors want that date particularly on their envelopes. The letters need not be registered separately, but I would like them all to be postmarked and put into one parcel and then registered off to me. For 500 envelopes I would pay £5 for the service if it could be done without causing difficulty or breaking regulations."

At the close of the Crown case, Mr Thompson, who appeared for the defence, applied for the discharge of Jacobs in all eight counts.

In granting the application the magistrate said that on the first three counts it was clear that Mr W H Nettlingham, a postal agent at Makoalis, Basutoland, originated the idea of ante-dating the stamps and first-day covers. He did not think that there was inciting, though there was a conspiracy between the two men.

On the fourth count he came to the conclusion that Mr Nettlingham acted in the same way when cancelling Coronation stamps. The correspondence between the parties was continuous, and he found that the agreement on Jubilee stamps was extended to Coronation stamps.

Count eight fell away because the person supposed to be incited did not receive correspondence from Jacobs.

In the remaining counts, Mr Backeberg also found that there was no incitement. There was an inquiry, but no incitement at all. He therefore discharged Jacobs on all eight counts."

THE 'UNAPPROPRIATED DIES' - DIE PROOFS

by

John Inglefield-Watson

I know that several other members have an interest in the various proofs of the 'Unappropriated Dies', even though these are not specifically Bechuanaland items. The Die Proofs in black on white glazed card normally show the 'state' of the proof and a handstamped date.

In order to compile a record of the various 'states' and dates that are known to exist I ask whether anyone can add to the following list compiled from my own collection and from past auction catalogues. Only those denominations used in Bechuanaland are listed.

Key to 'States':

BH = Before Hardening,
BS = Before Striking,

AH = After Hardening
AS = After Striking

Denomination

'States' and Dates Recorded

2d	No 'State': Apr 22 1872, BH Apr 23 1872.
4d	BH: 18 FEB 84, AS: 22 FEB 84.
6d	BH: Mar 27 1872, AS: May 18 1872.
2/-	No 'State': Sep 23 1874, BH: Oct 12 1874, No 'State': Nov 2 1874
2/6	BH: Mar 26 1872, BH: 24 JAN 81.
5/-	BH: Apr 23 1872, BS: May 24 1872, AS: May 25 1872.
10/-	BS: Undated, AS: Oct 14 1875.
£5	BH: May 7 1872, BS: Undated, AS: Jun 11 1872.

I have not seen any examples of the 1d, 3d, 1/- and £1 denominations.

The existence of the 2/6 'Before Hardening' with two widely different dates suggests to me that a new die may have been prepared in 1881. If so, this would presumably have been the die used for Bechuanaland stamps. Can anyone confirm this theory?



A REMARKABLE COVER FROM TATI

Alan Drysdall

The cover illustrated below, courtesy of John Taylor, certainly merits the appellation 'rarely available'. Apart from other considerations, to be discussed, it is probably the earliest known item registered in Bechuanaland Protectorate. The franking, two Bechuanaland Protectorate 4d stamps and a 6d (SG 51 and 44 respectively), receipted payment of the Trans-Protectorate* surcharge (4d) plus the British Bechuanaland half-ounce letter rate to UK (6d) plus the registration fee (1). The franking is evidence that the registration fee was 4d. (This was the Cape, and therefore the likely British Bechuanaland, rate.)



The unappropriated die issue overprinted 'Protectorate' was introduced on the 7th August, 1888, to make it possible to account separately for the revenue from the Gubulawayo-Mafeking runner post. From June 1889, when the revenue had been established, British Bechuanaland stamps could be used in the Protectorate (and vice versa). Covers franked with Protectorate stamps are rare. Excluding those which originated in Mashonaland (2), they appear to be restricted to the example illustrated and a cover addressed to Mrs Rudd (presumably the wife of the man after whom the Rudd Concession was named - see below), which was not registered and is franked with single 4d and 6d stamps, posted at Tati on 'JU 26 / 89' (3).

The stamps on the cover illustrated were cancelled at Tati on Wednesday 'JY 24 / 89' with the 23mm single-circle datestamp issued when the Tati office opened. This datestamp was originally inscribed 'TATI / BECHUANALAND', but was only used in this form on the first mail to be despatched from Tati with the Gubulawayo-Mafeking runner post on '21 AU / 88'. (Whether or not it and the comparable 'GUBULAWAYO / BECHUANALAND' datestamp were also used to cancel stamps by favour on this date is a matter of debate.) The earliest recorded date for the Tati

* The two post offices in the Trans-Protectorate were Tati, in the territory disputed by Khama (Bechuanaland) and Lobengula (Matabeleland), and Gubulawayo in Matabeleland.

datestamp after the word 'BECHUANALAND' had been excised is 21st April, 1889 (4). (During the intervening period, or at least the early part of it, stamps were cancelled in manuscript.) It would have continued in use until it was replaced by the 'TATI / MATABELELAND' datestamp when the British South Africa Co. assumed responsibility for the Tati and Gubulawayo offices in April 1894, but strikes are difficult to find. Only three examples on cover, other than the one illustrated above, have been reported. They are the Rudd cover already referred to, a cover addressed to E. Isaacs of Mafeking franked at the 4d rate with two British Bechuanaland 2d stamps (SG 23) posted on 'JY 20 / (93?)' (5), and an unfranked 'on active service' letter sent by Henry Borrow when he was in Gubulawayo after the defeat of Lobengula in 1893 (in the collections of the National Archives of Zimbabwe) which entered the mails at Tati on 'NO 16 / (93)' (6). The datestamp appears to have been used in 1893 without the slugs indicating the year.)



The range of known dates for strikes of the mutilated 23mm single-circle Tati datestamp is therefore 21.4.89 to 16.11.93.

Other datestamps struck on the face of the cover record that it passed through Mafeking on Tuesday 'AU 13 / 89', and that it was received in London on the 9th September. The backstamps include an oval 'REGISTERED LETTER OFFICE / CAPE TOWN' mark in which the date is incompletely struck ('?? AU 89'), and two strikes of the London 'REGISTERED / W.D.O.' mark dated '9 SP 89'. Thus the letter took almost three weeks (20 days) to reach Mafeking, which is confirmation that it was carried by runners, and it was almost seven weeks (47 days) after it entered the mails before it was finally delivered in London. (It probably reached Cape Town on or about the 19th August.)

The circled manuscript annotation at top left reads, 'Registered / No. 7'. This was therefore either the seventh letter to be registered at Tati in 1889, which would correspond to a volume of 12 items of registered mail per year (one per month), or it was the twelfth item to be registered since August 1888. The numbers to the right, '761' in pencil and '91' in blue crayon, were probably added at Cape Town and London. (At extreme top-left there is a further annotation in ink, possibly 'Over', the significance of which is not known.)

There is a possibility that the letter did not in fact originate at Tati - though it obviously entered the mails there - as the reverse is neatly annotated in pencil, probably by the addressee, as follows: 'From Matabeleland via Tati - across the Kalahari desert to British Bechuanaland and so to Kimberley in Griqualand to Cape Town'. The reverse however, is also annotated 'No Answer', which would suggest that neither the writer nor this remarkable routing had impressed the addressee to the extent of eliciting a response. (The initials below the annotation 'No Answer' are not decipherable.)

The addressee, J. Oakley Maund, was the brother of Edward Arthur Maund (1851-1932) (7). E.A. Maund's role as a concession seeker is well summarised by Baxter and Burke (8):

"E.A. Maund served in the British Field Force which, under Sir Charles Warren, put an end to the Boer encroachment in Bechuanaland. When, in 1885, a British Protectorate was proclaimed over Khama's country, Lieut. Maund (as he then was) and Lieut. C. Haynes were chosen to accompany Major S.H. Edwards to Bulawayo to inform Lobengula of the establishment of the Protectorate and to assure him of the friendship of the British Government. Maund, who soon gained much influence over Lobengula and who was well aware of the mineral and agricultural possibilities of the country, brought back to England samples of gold-bearing quartz which he showed to George Cawston, a city financier, and suggested that he should secure a concession from Lobengula, Cawston agreed, the Exploring Company was formed, and in October 1888 Maund was again at Bulawayo; he had, however, been anticipated by Rudd, Maguire and Thompson. Not to be outdone, Maund induced Lobengula to send two indunas with a letter to Queen Victoria saying that concession seekers were affording him much trouble and asking her advice; Maund and the indunas, accompanied by Colenbrander as interpreter, reached England in February 1889 and were granted an audience with the Queen. The mission was successful inasmuch as when they left England early in April they carried with them a letter from Lord Knutsford, the Colonial Secretary, warning Lobengula against granting sweeping concessions. On his return to Bulawayo, however, Maund was called upon to support the Rudd Concession as during his absence Rhodes had come to terms with Cawston and Lord Gifford (who represented Exploring Company interests) and they had all, after the amalgamation of interests, applied to the Colonial Office for a Royal Charter. Lobengula, who was then inclined to revoke the Rudd Concession, mistrusted Maund's changed attitude, and the country was seriously disturbed until Jameson arrived with news of the grant of the Charter.

"Maund then left Bulawayo and in the events which followed, leading to the death of Lobengula in 1894, he took no active part."

According to the journal of 'Matabele' Wilson, Maund returned to Bulawayo on 5th August, 1889. They may well therefore have been at Tati or between Tati and Bulawayo on the 24th July. It would certainly seem that Tati was the nearest post office as there can be little doubt that this cover contained a letter written by Edward Maund.

Rhodes 'squaring' - one of his favourite expressions - of Cawston and Gifford involved the establishment of a company known as Central Search Association Ltd (later renamed the United Concessions Co.) which held the combined interests of Cawston and Gifford's Exploring Co. and Rhodes Goldfields - the original holders of the Rudd Concession (9). (Neither the British Government nor the public were aware that at the time the Charter was granted and the B.S.A. Co. formed that the Concession was in fact held by Central Search Association Ltd, and was not a B.S.A. Co. asset.) The Maund brothers were directors of Exploring Co. and J. Oakley Maund became a director of Central Search Association Ltd. (Exploring Co. was subsequently reconstituted as part of this amalgamation of interests under Rhodes' overall control.) Edward Maund became a resident of Mashonaland, and a trusted senior employee of Rhodes. To the extent in fact that Rhodes instructed Jameson to give him 10,000 morgen (22,000 acres) of prime agricultural land.

Major Leonard of the B.S.A.P. (10) records meeting Edward Maund at Tuli in mid-July 1891 when Maund was *en route* to Salisbury. Leonard describes him as, "A man of University education and culture, he would be interesting to talk to at

any time, but as a man who has been roughing it up in these parts ever since he took part in Warren's expedition, and who has lived for several months at a stretch in Bulawayo, he is doubly entertaining". They were to meet up again in Salisbury in September-October 1891. "Maund ... speaks well of all that he has seen in the country, but as he has large interests at stake in it, and is ignorant of the mining science except in his own estimation, I accept his statement with a pinch of snuff and an ounce of table salt." They were to meet for a third time when Leonard was *en route* from Salisbury to Umtali (and Beira) in the latter half of October 1891. Maund was then "travelling in state with a valet, a waggon and horses, as well as well as all the luxuries procurable". Leonard's story ends with his embarkation aboard the *Norseman* at Beira on the 23rd November, 1891, but he does not record that Maund was a fellow passenger for Durban.

Acknowledgements

The author is indebted to Ian Johnston for providing information on Benjamin 'Matabele' Wilson.

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Knight, R.C., and Mitchell, D.A., 1984, *The postmarks, postal routes and principal postage rates of Southern Rhodesia to 1924*: published by R.C. Knight, Cape Town. p.168
- 2 Drysdall and Collis, *op. cit.*, p.98-9
- 3 *The Runner Post*, no. 8, p.123
- 4 *The Runner Post*, no. 21, p.387
- 5 *The Runner Post*, no. 10, p.168
- 6 Drysdall and Collis, *op. cit.*, fig.20
- 7 Rotberg, R.I. and Shore, M.F., 1988, *The founder; Cecil Rhodes and the pursuit of power*: Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford, p.277
- 8 Baxter, T.W., and Burke, E.E., 1970, *Guide to the historical manuscripts in the National Archives of Rhodesia*: National Archives of Rhodesia, Salisbury (Harare), p.288
- 9 Rotberg and Shore, *op cit.*, p.277 and 428
- 10 Leonard, Major A.G., 1896, *How we made Rhodesia*: Kegan, Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co. Ltd, London (republished in 1973 by Books of Rhodesia, Bulawayo), p.274, 317, 327 and 334

THE BECHUANALAND 1961 QE2 2c POSTAL CARD

Peter van der Molen

The Crown Agents' Archive held by the British Library in London contains many fascinating items, among which is material relating to the 1961 QE2 Postal Card issue. While Postal Cards for Bechuanaland had been traditionally supplied by Waterlow & Sons Ltd since the KG5 issue, the new definitive stamp issue had been planned to be executed in multicolour photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd, and it probably made sense to source the Postal Cards from the same supplier.

A copy of the paste up of the proposed Postal Card layout, in black on white card in the issued size of 138mm by 89mm, is shown below. The lettering is in a slightly different typeface than used by Waterlow's on the preceding QE2 issue; both lettering and coat of arms are in the same style but slightly larger than used by De La Rue on their Postal Cards, e.g. Basutoland and Swaziland. The 'stamp' is a photographic cut-out of the 2c value also produced by Harrison's which was due to be issued on 2nd October 1961. On the card is written 'approved for layout (signed) 20.3.61' and 'Stamp is subject to Approval'. The meaning of the notations 'SB14' and '60' at the top of the card is not known. A customary filing punch hole is present in the top LH side.



The CA Archive also contains the following colour trials of the above approved layout:

printed in black on white card, with manuscript 'Not Approved 8/8/61'

Printed in dark blue on white card, with manuscript 'Not Approved 8/8/61'

Printed in carmine on white card, with manuscript 'Approved 8/8/61'. This was the colour as issued, which attracted Holmes's comment that "the stamps thereon look depressing relatives for the attractive multicoloured 2 cents adhesives." (Bechuanalands, p.175).

A single printing of 20,000 cards was supplied by Harrison's against the Crown Agents Requisition 2778/1 and the cards were shipped on 23rd November 1961 to the territory, as recorded in the Crown Agents Requisition Book commenced 1960, p.186 (section relating to orders placed with Harrison's), per extract shown below, reduced for reasons of space:

186					186					
REQ.	ADMINISTRATION.	DESCRIPTION.	DUTY.	NO. OF SHEETS.	STAMPS.	STAMPS PER SHEET.	DATE DUE.	DESPATCHED. DATE.	QUANTITY.	REMARKS.
2778/1 2779/1	Bechuanaland	Postcards (NEW)	2c	20 000				23-11-61		<p>Postcards in packet of 20, marked at every 10, parcelled in 2000's suitably labelled.</p> <p>Specimens required G.P.O. 392+6 CA1. CB1. CRO1 Harrison 1</p> <p><u>Important Shipping Documents:</u> Original & duplicate invoice & all shipping documents to be posted direct to the Post Office of the Territory by AIR MAIL in a large box copy of all invoices by surface mail to the Post Office of the Territory by AIR MAIL.</p> <p>P.O. Box 100. Lobatse. Bechuanaland Protectorate.</p>

Note that a total of 392 + 6 Specimen copies were provided to the GPO, presumably for distribution by the UPU in Berne, together with copies for CA (Crown Agents), CB (?), CRO (Commonwealth Records Office) and Harrison's (printers). It is unlikely that these cards were marked at source as 'Specimens' since that practice ceased in 1948, although there are exceptions: I cannot be categorical since the CA File copy was not in the file.

H.R. Holmes in his 'Bechuanaland' gives the date of issue of this Postal Card as 2nd October 1961 (p.175) which cannot be correct; would any reader know the actual date of issue in the territory?

There is one further query relating to this issue, which was in fact posed in the South African Philatelist on p.81 of the May 1961 issue: "When the change to decimal currency was made it was decided that the rate for surface mail postcards to destinations within the African Postal Union should be 1½ cents each. Postcards made for South Africa, S.W.A., Basutoland and Swaziland all had 1½ cents stamps impressed on them but those for Bechuanaland had a 2 cents stamp impressed. What is the explanation of this apparent anomaly?"

I could not find any response to this query and would be most interested if any reader knows the explanation.

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

P W. van der Molen - P.O. Box 12508 - BENORYN 1504 - South Africa

CHECKLIST OF BECHUANALAND POSTMARKS

BEGINNING WITH LETTERS A, B, C, D, H, L, N, O, R, V, AND Z

Brian Trotter

This checklist covers the postmarks of all the remaining letters of the alphabet that have not yet been covered in this series. No doubt there is a tremendous amount of material that we have not yet recorded, both for those postmarks beginning with the letters included in this checklist, and for all those others previously published in this series. As always, additional information and better illustrations are requested to help us, as a Society, put together as comprehensive a listing as possible.

A few of the illustrations in this checklist are rough drawings, so are obviously not accurate.

ARTESIA



No. 1 Type 2 B 15

Circle diameters : 18mm & 26mm
Earliest recorded date : Apr 14, 1955
Latest recorded date : Apr 22, 1965
Codes recorded : None, H
Number recorded so far : 3

This postmark continued in use after Independence. We have recorded four such strikes, the latest being April 13, 1976. Some post Independence strikes also have the code letter H. Some question exists regarding the earliest recorded date of April 14, 1955, as the office is recorded as only opening December 11, 1956. Although the office is listed in P.O. Guides for the early 1900's, it would presumably have had a different canceller then. No record of any strikes from the early period noted so far, other than an unspecified cancellation on a 1/2d 1902 stamp in the Holmes auction (lot 1470).

BAILEY BRITH



No. 1 Type 1 B 3

Circle diameter : 23mm
Earliest recorded date : July 5, 1894
Latest recorded date : Nov 21, 1895
Codes recorded : None
Number recorded so far : 10

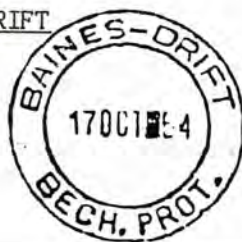
Two strikes have the 'AU' for the month of August inverted - one for 1894, one for 1895. They are the only two strikes recorded in August.

BANKS DRIFT



No. 1 Type 1 B 2

Circle diameters : 22mm
Earliest recorded date : Dec 2, 1888
Latest recorded date : Dec 2, 1888
Codes recorded : None
Number recorded so far : 1

BAINES DRIFT

No. 1 Type 2 B 14

Circle diameters : 21.5mm & 30mm

Earliest recorded date : Oct 17, 1964

Latest recorded date : Apr 12, 1965

Codes recorded : Block, A

Number recorded so far : 3

BLOEMFONTEIN

No. 1 Type 1 B 2

Circle diameter: : ±22mm

Earliest recorded date : Oct 20, 1890

Latest recorded date : ? 5, 1892

Codes recorded : None

Number recorded so far : 2

The 1892 marking is written ?P 5/92. Since the month is designated by 2 letters, it could be either AP for April or SP for September. Illustration is a sketch only.

BOBONONG

No. 1 Type 2 A

Circle diameters : 17.5mm & 25mm

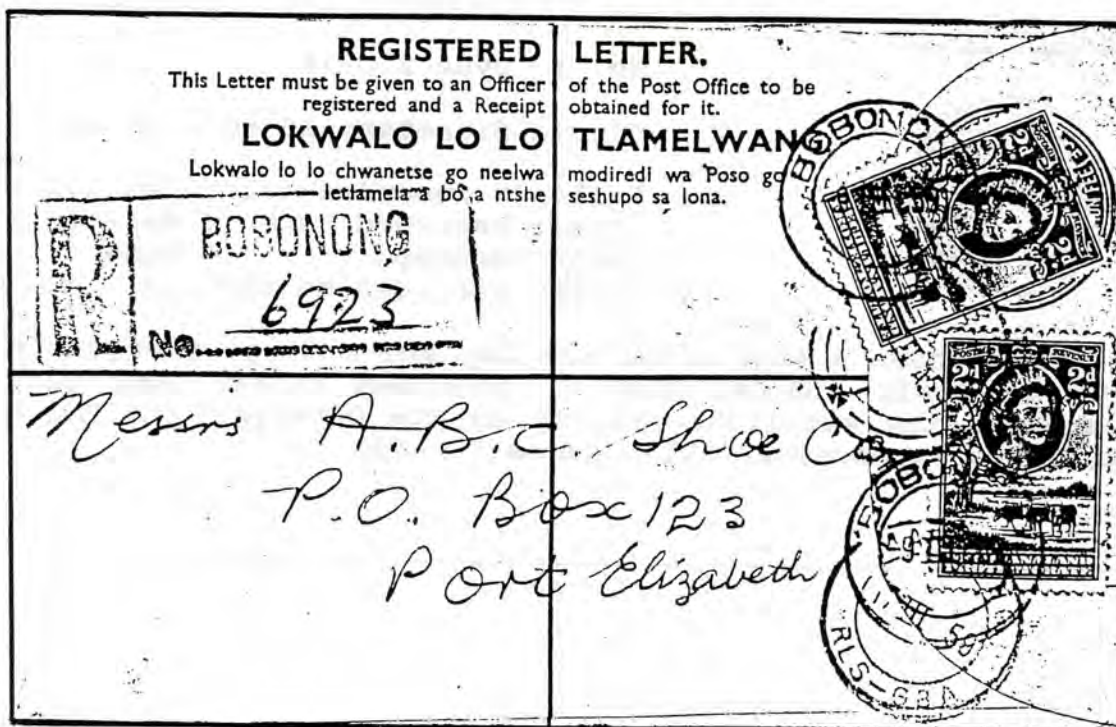
Earliest recorded date : Aug 24, 1952

Latest recorded date : Feb 26, 1965

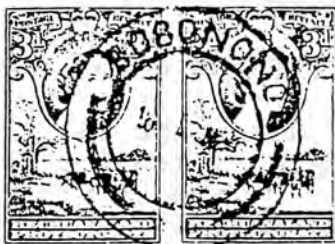
Codes recorded : B, C, E, H

Number recorded so far : 12

This canceller continued in use after Independence.



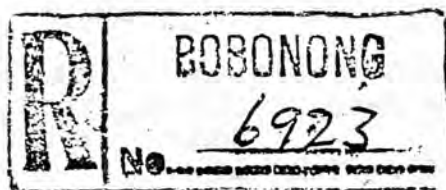
Cover showing Bobonong postmarks No. 1 and No. RG 1.



No. 2 Type 2 E 63(?)

Circle diameters : 20mm & 32mm
 Earliest recorded date : ?
 Latest recorded date : ?
 Codes recorded : ?
 Number recorded so far : 1

Only one marking recorded (illustration above). The date is unclear as far as the year is concerned (Day and month are 16 I). Also the base is unclear, so we cannot be sure if the arc is unbroken or if it is two parts separated by a cross or by nothing at all.



No. RG 1

Box dimensions : 23mm x 58mm
 Earliest recorded date : Aug 16, 1958
 Latest recorded date : Mar 9, 1959
 Number recorded so far : 2

CHARLES HILL



No. 1 Type 2 B 14 (?)

Circle diameters : 17(?)mm & 25(?)mm
 Earliest recorded date : Apr 24, 1961
 Latest recorded date : Jan ?, 1964
 Codes recorded : B, E
 Number recorded so far : 6

2 strikes have IV for April inverted for 1961.

CROCODILE POOLS



No. 1 Type 2 C 34

Circle diameters : 16mm & 25mm
 Earliest recorded date : Dec 30, 1899
 Latest recorded date : May 4, 1900
 Codes recorded : None
 Number recorded so far : 19

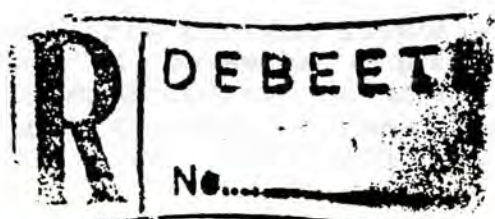
All strikes have a stop after the day and a stop after the month. Crocodile Pools and details of recorded covers and postmarks appeared in the excellent article by Jim Catterall in the Runner Post, Issue 9, December 1987, pages 153-159.

DEBEETI



No. 1 Type 2 E 62

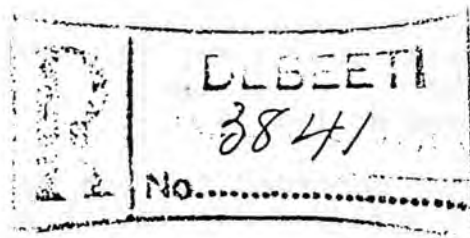
Circle diameters : 17mm & 25mm
 Earliest recorded date : Dec 12, 1929
 Latest recorded date : Aug 1, 1938
 Codes recorded : Block, stop, B,D,F,G
 Number recorded so far : 30



No. RG 1

Box dimensions : 26mm x ±66mm
 Earliest recorded date : Aug 2, 1937
 Latest recorded date : Aug 2, 1937
 Number recorded so far : 1

This lettering is wider spaced than No. RG 2.



No. RG 2
 Box dimensions : ±25mm & 60mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jul 10, 1958
 Latest recorded date : Jul 10, 1958
 Number recorded so far : 2

One of the two recorded items does not have the date noted, hence earliest and latest dates are taken from the one that does. No. RG 2 has more compact lettering than No. RG 1.



No. RL 1
 Earliest recorded date : Aug 10, 1949
 Latest recorded date : Feb 25, 1953
 Number recorded so far : 2

DEBEETI STATION



No. 1 Type 2 A
 Circle diameters : 19mm & 30mm
 Earliest recorded date : Feb ?, 1943
 Latest recorded date : Apr 7, 1965
 Codes recorded : Block, B, D, E
 Number recorded so far : 14

This is believed to be the same office as Debeeti with the name changed to Debeeti Station. This could therefore be considered as Debeeti postmark No. 2.

Holmes (page 125) refers to a double oval postal marking with the wording 'S.A. PRTE. DEBEETI P.O.' An example appeared in the Holmes auction (lot 1471). No illustration in either his book or the auction catalogue. We have not yet seen a copy of this strike.

DEVONDALE



No. 1 Type 1 B 1
 Circle diameter : 23mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jul 10, 1894
 Latest recorded date : May 12, 1895
 Codes recorded : None
 Number recorded so far : 8

Some of the recorded items have only a '9' recorded for the year, so these items have not been used for the earliest and latest date recorded - only two items have a full date so these are the two used.

DRY HARTS



No. 1 Type 1 B 1
 Circle diameter : 22mm
 Earliest recorded date : Oct 27, 1888
 Latest recorded date : Jul 12, 1893
 Codes recorded : None, sideways '9'
 Number recorded so far : 4

The earliest recorded item (illustrated) has a sideways 9 'code' above the date. BONC No. 675 was used at this office (Goldblatt page 248). None recorded so far.

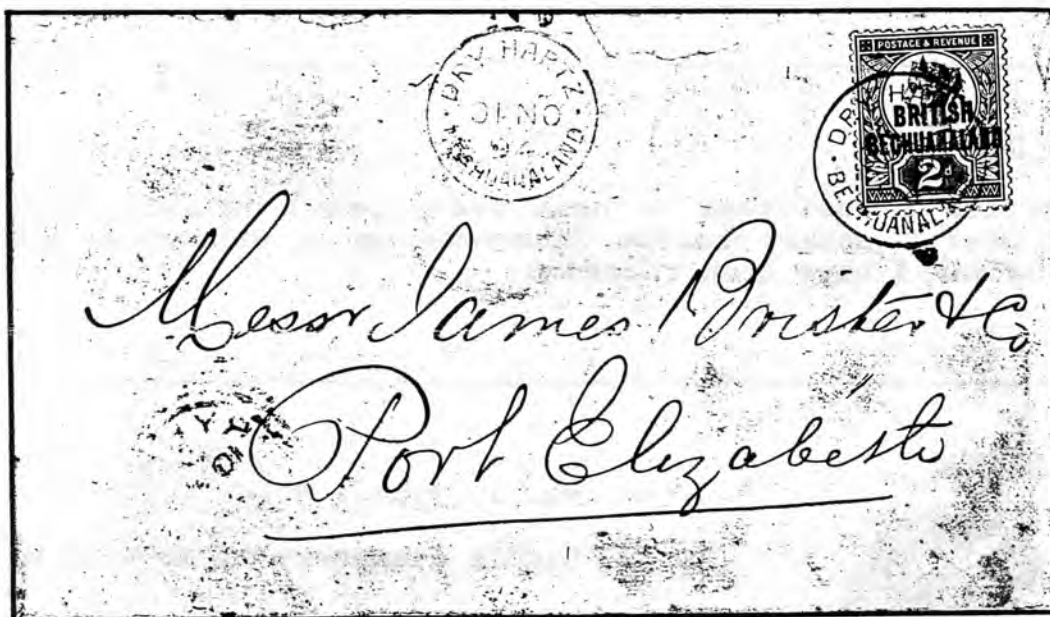
DRY HARTZ



No. 1 Type 1 B 1

Circle diameter : 22.5mm
Earliest recorded date : ? 3, 1892
Latest recorded date : Nov 1, 1894
Codes recorded : None
Number recorded so far : 9

Four recorded items have month before day, the others have day before month. Above illustration is a rough sketch. An actual postmark is illustrated on the cover below.



HARTEBEESTEPAN



No. 1 Type 1 B 3

Circle diameter : 23mm
Earliest recorded date : Oct 22, 1893
Latest recorded date : Dec 17, 1893
Codes recorded : None
Number recorded so far : 5

Above illustration is difficult to see, so a rough sketch is produced alongside. BONC No. 340 was used at this office (Goldblatt page 245). One recorded so far.

HUKUNTSI



No. 1 Type 2 B 15(?)

Circle diameters : 17mm & 26mm
Earliest recorded date : Oct 27, 1963
Latest recorded date : Oct 27, 1965
Codes recorded : A
Number recorded so far : 6

Earliest usage has been noted as October 27, 1963, but the office is believed to have opened only on November 1st, 1963. It is unclear whether or not 'BECH PROT' has stops. This canceller was used after Independence with 'BECH PROT' excised.

LAKE DOW

An office is believed to have been opened on July 21st, 1966, just over 2 months before Independence on September 29th, 1966. No postmarks have been recorded.

LETLHAKENG



No. 1 Type 2 B 14

Circle diameter : 21mm & 30mm
Earliest recorded date : Mar 31, 1963
Latest recorded date : Sep 19, 1964
Codes recorded : None, A
Number recorded so far : 3

LOBATSI

Postmarks of Lobatsi were covered separately. The two part article on Lobatsi and its postmarks appeared in Runner Post 25 and Runner Post 26.

LYONS POST



No. 1 Type 2 B 14

Circle diameters : 18mm & 27mm
Earliest recorded date : Mar 3, 1952
Latest recorded date : Mar 3, 1952
Codes recorded : Block
Number recorded so far : 1

The '2' of 52 is inverted as illustrated. This item is from the Barkaway Collection, with the handwritten note alongside "Lyons Post (now closed again)".

NKANGE



No. 1 Type 2 B 14

Circle diameters : 19.5mm & 30.5mm
Earliest recorded date : Jun 21, 1962
Latest recorded date : Feb 23, 1965
Codes recorded : A, B
Number recorded so far : 2

OERWOUD



No. 1 Type 2 B 14

Circle diameters : 21mm & 31mm
Earliest recorded date : Sep 20, 1963
Latest recorded date : Apr 13, 1965
Codes recorded : B, D
Number recorded so far : 2

OUTSI



No. 1 Type 1 C 33

Circle diameter : 25mm
Earliest recorded date : Apr 7 ?
Latest recorded date : Apr 7 ?
Codes recorded : None
Number recorded so far : 2

The only two items recorded have the year omitted.

OOTSI

No. 2 Type 2 C 34

See note
below

Circle diameters : 16mm & 25mm
 Earliest recorded date : Apr 26, 1899
 Latest recorded date : Apr 26, 1899
 Codes recorded : None
 Number recorded so far : 1

This postmark was first recorded in RP 13, p.227, cancelling a block of 24 B.B. 2d stamps (SG 32). It appears almost identical to the Crocodile Pools canceller - the only other Bechuanaland canceller known to have the words 'South Africa' at base'. Although we list '1' as the Number recorded, there are in fact 12 separate strikes cancelling the block.



No. 3 Type 3 B 14

Circle diameters : 18mm & 31mm
 Earliest recorded date : Oct 21, 1964
 Latest recorded date : Jul 29, 1965
 Codes recorded : None
 Number recorded so far : 6

Re-opened April 1st, 1964, with a change of name spelling from OutsI to Ootsi. All six recorded items (all on different dates) have the same time code of 1415.



No. RG 1

Box dimensions : 22mm x 55mm
 Earliest recorded date : Oct 21, 1964
 Latest recorded date : Oct 21, 1964
 Number recorded so far : 1

RAMAQUEBANE

No. 1 Type 2 B 35

Circle diameters : 18mm & 27mm
 Earliest recorded date : May 16, 1912
 Latest recorded date : Jul 22, 1912
 Codes recorded : Hyphen
 Number recorded so far : 3

The illustration is not easy to read, but this is the postmark that Holmes refers to on page 127 of his book, with 'S. AFRICA' at the base. Recorded items are for 1912, but day and month are only clear on two items, so that they are used for earliest and latest recorded.

RAMAQUABANE

No. 2 Type 2 A

Circle diameters : 18mm & 28mm
 Earliest recorded date : Dec 1, 1924
 Latest recorded date : Oct 20, 1937
 Codes recorded : Block, A
 Number recorded so far : 14

Note the change of spelling from RAMAQUEBANE to RAMAQUABANE.



No. 3 Type 2 B 14

Circle diameters : 18mm & 26mm
 Earliest recorded date : Oct ?, 1958
 Latest recorded date : Feb 18, 1965
 Codes recorded : A
 Number recorded so far : 8

RAMOUTSA



No. 1 Type 1 D 52

Circle diameter : 23mm
 Earliest recorded date : Oct 13, 1891
 Latest recorded date : Jun 4, 1899
 Codes recorded : None
 Number recorded so far : 37

Holmes notes that the office was opened in 1892 (page 94), yet we have recorded two clear strikes dated Oct 13, 1891 (one with certificate). The ornament at the base of all the postmarks recorded that have a clear strike is a compressed cross. Holmes also shows two other similar postmarks, each having a different ornament at the base. On page 94 he illustrates one with a large dot at the base, dated AP 10/94. The other is on page 127, with a horizontal bar at the base, dated SP 14/93. Both these illustrations have been taken from Jurgens, page 65. Jurgens describes these ornaments as a "round stop" and a "thick hyphen". It seems strange to have three different cancellers all in use at the same time. Neither Jurgens nor Holmes record the compressed cross ornament that all our verifiable copies have. I suspect that Jurgens may have had a smudged copy of the compressed cross and assumed it to be the "thick hyphen", as the dimensions are about right. Holmes then may have just perpetuated the error by using Jurgens as his reference. The "round stop" may have been a part strike of the compressed cross, but this is a less credible theory than that for the "thick hyphen". Perhaps the "round stop" was a telegraph canceller. It is similar to some of the Vryburg cancellers of the same period.

BONC No. 836 is listed by Goldblatt (page 249) as being allocated to this office. We have recorded only one BONC with this number.



The Jurgens/Holmes illustrations of "round stop" and "thick hyphen".



No. 2 Type 1 B 18

Circle diameter : 24mm
 Earliest recorded date : Sep 18, 1910
 Latest recorded date : Sep 1, 1918
 Codes recorded : H
 Number recorded so far : 15

Five of the 15 recorded items have day before month, the other 10 have month before day.



No. 3 Type 2 B 15

Circle diameters : 16mm & 26mm
 Earliest recorded date : Aug 10, 1920
 Latest recorded date : Aug 6, 1938
 Codes recorded : None
 Number recorded so far : 4

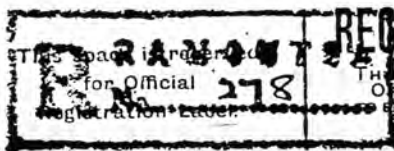
Stops occur after day and after month.



No. 4 Type 2 B 9

Circle diameters : 16mm & 26mm
 Earliest recorded date : May 26, 1920
 Latest recorded date : Aug 3, 1938
 Codes recorded : None
 Number recorded so far : 23

Illustration is a sketch, not a copy of an actual strike, so is not accurate. Five of the recorded strikes are in blue or grey-blue. One has a flattened 'M' at top right, and two have a break in the cross-bar and right hand side of the second A.



No. RG 1

Box dimensions : 18mm x 52mm
 Earliest recorded date : Feb 12, 1916
 Latest recorded date : May 14, 1916
 Number recorded so far : 2

RAMOUTSA STATION



No. 1 Type 2 A

Circle diameters : 17.5mm & 26mm
 Earliest recorded date : Mar 10, 1941
 Latest recorded date : Apr 5, 1958
 Codes recorded : Block, None, B, C, D, F, G
 Number recorded so far : 19

In one recorded item the code 'G' is inverted.



No. 2 Type 2 A

Circle diameters : 21mm & 30mm
 Earliest recorded date : Feb 5, 1965
 Latest recorded date : Feb 5, 1965
 Codes recorded : A
 Number recorded so far : 1



No. 3 Type 2 A

Circle diameters : 20mm & 31mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jul 26, 1959
 Latest recorded date : Apr 26, 1965
 Codes recorded : A, B
 Number recorded so far : 7



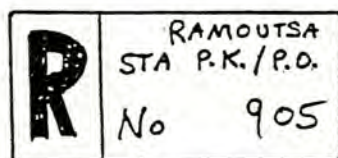
No. 4

Oval height : 32mm, Length : 45mm

Earliest recorded date : Oct 29, 1964

Latest recorded date : Oct 29, 1964

Number recorded so far : 1



No. RG 1

Box dimensions : ±20mm x ±42mm

This is a rough sketch of the only one recorded. It is struck in blue - no date.

RAMOUTSA VILLAGE



No. 1 Type 2 B 14

Circle diameters : 20mm & 30.5mm

Earliest recorded date : Feb 19, 1960

Latest recorded date : Jun 2, 1966

Codes recorded : A

Number recorded so far : 7

Continued in use after Independence.



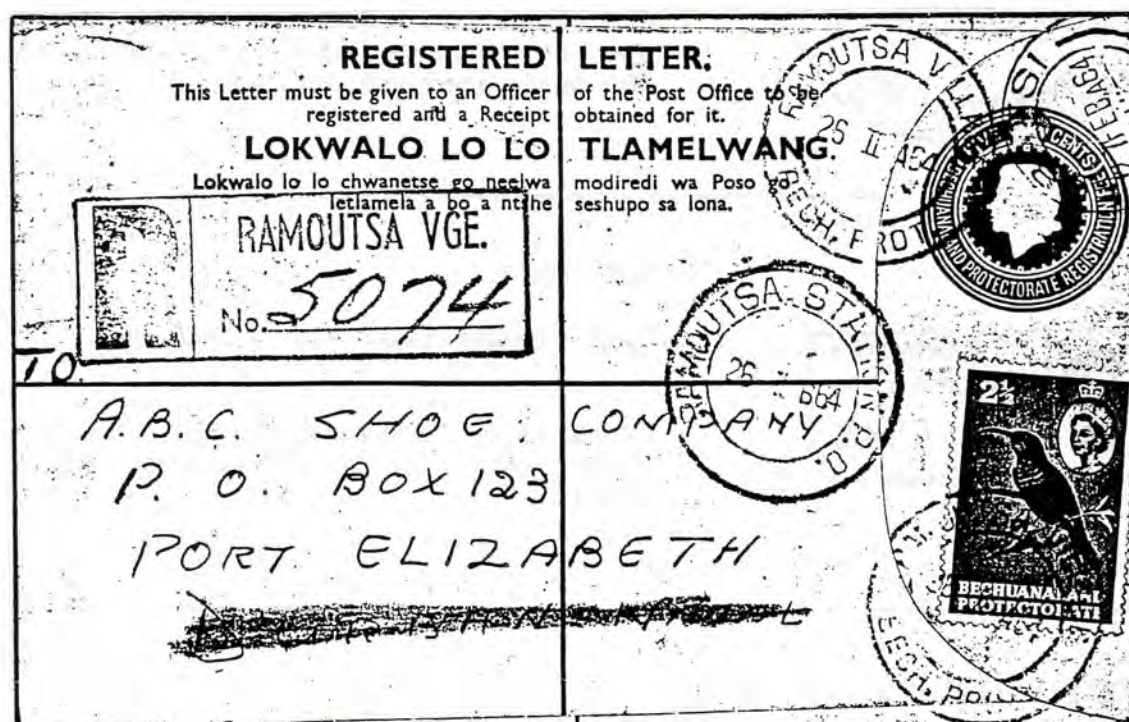
No. RG 1

Box dimensions : 21mm x 59mm

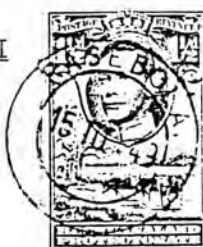
Earliest recorded date : Feb 26, 1964

Latest recorded date : Feb 26, 1964

Number recorded so far : 1



Cover showing Ramoutsa Station Postmark No.3, & Ramoutsa Village Nos.1 & RG 1.

RASEBOLAI

No. 1 Type 2 A

Circle diameters : 17mm & 25mm
 Earliest recorded date : ? ?, 1946
 Latest recorded date : Nov ?, 1951
 Codes recorded : None
 Number recorded so far : 6

RATHOLO

No. 1 Type 2 E 63

Circle diameters : 18mm & 36mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jan 14, 1948
 Latest recorded date : Jan 14, 1948
 Codes recorded : A
 Number recorded so far : 3

Only one of the three recorded copies has a full date, neither of the remaining two have a specific year visible, so the one full date has been used for both earliest and latest recorded.

VRYBURG

No. 1 Type 1 B 2

Circle diameter : 23mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jan 9, 1886
 Latest recorded date : Jan 20, 1892
 Codes recorded : A, B
 Number recorded so far : Over 50

One postmark has been reported dated ?Y 25/98. Since over 50 items have been recorded, with Jan 20, 1892 being the latest of all the other items, this 1898 date still needs verification. This datestamp was later mis-used to produce genuine postmarks on stamps with forged 'One Half-Penny' surcharges (SG 29). Dates on known forgeries are 12 DE/88, AU 1/90 and AU 2?/90.



BONC No. 555 was allocated to this office. More than 10 copies have been recorded.



No. 2 Type 1 D 51

Circle diameter : 22.5mm
 Earliest recorded date : Oct 3, 1889
 Latest recorded date : Nov 28, 1899
 Codes recorded : None, A, B, C, D, P (once)
 Number recorded so far : Over 50

A number of strikes, like the one illustrated, have only a single '9' as the year slug. The latest recorded item (plus 2 others) are during the Boer Occupation of Vryburg. Apart from these 3 strikes, one is recorded on April 8th, 1898, and no other use recorded after 1895. Presumably the canceller went out of regular use around the end of 1895.

Three items are recorded used on January 19 (16th and 18th) and what appears to be March 19 (18th). One of these is on a postcard with a Grahams Town arrival

cancel dated Jan 20th, 91 (Cedric Roché), confirming the 91 was reversed to 19. No other 91 markings are recorded until our next 91 date of October 9, and that has the 91 correct. It looks like the reversal of 91 to 19 may have continued for some months.

This marking is said to occur with round and square dots. No attempt has been made to distinguish them, or even confirm that it is correct.

This canceller was also later mis-used to produce genuine postmarks on stamps with forged 'British Bechuanaland' overprints (SG 4, 5, 6 and their varieties). Postmark dates on known forgeries: 4 JU/87, 18 JU/87, JY 12/87, all without code.



No. 3 Type 1 B 3

Circle diameter : 23mm
 Earliest recorded date : Apr 17, 1893
 Latest recorded date : Jun 4, 1897
 Codes recorded : None, A, B, C, D
 Number recorded so far : Over 50



No. 4 Type 1 B 4

Circle diameter : 23mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jun 23, 1892
 Latest recorded date : Jan 19, 1895
 Codes recorded : None, A, B, (D?)
 Number recorded so far : 11

Latest recorded date has the day digits reversed (i.e. 91 instead of 19). One example has the date inverted and reversed.



No. 5 Type 4 B 4

Square : 26mm x 26mm, Inner Circle dia : 22mm
 Earliest recorded date : Nov 10, 1894
 Latest recorded date : Nov 29, 1895
 Codes recorded : None, A, C, E, F
 Number recorded so far : 18

Two of the items recorded have day and month transposed (i.e. day before month).

In addition to the above 5 postmarks, Roy Setterfield has reported an additional marking, no illustration available. This is described as a single circle with 'Vryburg' at the top and a dot at the base with a 'short curved bar' on either side. Roy reports 3 strikes, JA 12/92 with code A, FE 9/92 with code B (inverted), and SP 29/94 with code C. No further data available. Are these possibly an over-inked or smudged version of postmark No. 2 Type 1 D 51?



No. 6

Circle diameter : 25mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jan 20, 1893
 Latest recorded date : Mar 1, 1893
 Codes recorded : None
 Number recorded so far : 2

Holmes (page 78) incorrectly gives the circle diameter as 22mm. Both copies recorded are larger, about 25mm in diameter.

VRYBURG STATION

No. 1 Type 1 D 53

Circle diameter : 23mm
 Earliest recorded date : Dec 16, 1891
 Latest recorded date : Aug 19, 1902
 Codes recorded : None
 Number recorded so far : 20

Two of the strikes recorded are in blue, one MR 4/92 the other MR 10/92. Perhaps only a blue ink pad was available for a period of time in 1892. These are the only 2 items recorded for 1892. The latest date of usage recorded, Aug 19, 1902 is more than seven years after the next latest recorded item on Feb 3, 1895. The 1902 cancellation may have been a 'favour' cancel.

ZANZIBAR

No. 1 Type 2 B 15

Circle diameters : 19mm & 30.5mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jun ?, 1961
 Latest recorded date : Apr 14, 1965
 Codes recorded : None, A
 Number recorded so far : 6

ZWART MODDER

No. 1 Type 1 B 53

Circle diameter : 23mm
 Earliest recorded date : Sep 26, 1894
 Latest recorded date : Apr 2, 1896
 Codes recorded : None
 Number recorded so far : 5

The latest recorded item has no year slug, but a Victoria west CGH backstamp confirms the year as 1896. A similar situation for one for 1895, so it appears that the canceller may have been in use for some time without a year slug.

NOTES

1. Not all the postmark study worksheets were available for the preparation of this checklist. It is based on the original preparation of worksheets by John Coates and Alan MacGregor, as well as the worksheets from Jim Catterall, Howard Cook, John Inglefield-Watson, Roy Setterfield and myself. Some additional photocopies of postmarks received from various members at various times were also incorporated. John Inglefield-Watson provided a number of the comments and observations.
2. Again, some of the postmarks are rough drawings, and so are not accurate. Some others have been taken from Holmes, but most postmark illustrations are photocopies of original cancellations.

REFERENCES

1. Holmes - *The Postage Stamps, Postal Stationery, and Postmarks of the Bechuanalands*, by H.R. Holmes, 1971. The Royal Philatelic Society, London.
2. Jurgens - *The Bechuanalands, a Brief History of the Countries and their Postal Services 1836-1895*, by A.A. Jurgens, 1945. The Royal Philatelic Society, London.
3. Goldblatt - *Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope*, by Robert Goldblatt, 1984. Reijger Publishers (Pty) Ltd.

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