

The Runner Post



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THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY

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GETTING THE READER'S ATTENTION!

So, now that we have that.....we are professional philatelists based in Montagu, in the Cape Province of South Africa and have been established and internationally recognised for years as that country's best source of fine quality philatelic material and literature.

Whilst obviously stocking Bechuanaland (!) we also cover many other facets of philately. British Africa is our speciality and we take great pleasure in being invited to associate ourselves with "The Runner Post". We look forward to hearing from its many readers.

(Free, illustrated price lists available on request).



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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I would be delighted to hear from members who have any news, snippets, articles (from a few lines to a multi-page thesis) on Bechuanaland or Botswana they would like to share. It is difficult trying to keep a 'balance' in each issue of different articles as I am entirely reliant on what is submitted. Photocopies (on a black background, please) of interesting items in your collection or new acquisitions are much appreciated by other members - some of whom live in philatelically deprived areas and rarely see Bechuanaland items on offer or display.

Hand-written articles are always most welcome. Typewritten submissions are helpful. With the aid of a scanner, and some marvellous 'OCR' software which can 'read' printed text, I am now able to incorporate articles straight into the next Runner Post without re-typing, ready for formatting/editing. Computer discs are of course always welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members:

Philip E. Robinson, 2 Rydallhurst Avenue, Sheffield S6 4BG, UK. Philip is a Fellow of the RPSL and has many interests apart from the Bechuanalands, principally Russia. He has written books on the postal history and postmarks of Siberia.

Roy A Wickham, 35 GlenCraig Terrace, Fenwick, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 6DE, UK. Roy also has a range of interests other than Bechuanaland which includes the pre-independence issues of Gambia, Gold Coast, KUT, Morocco Agencies, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somaliland and Swaziland. Roy is a member of both the Ayrshire and Largs and District Philatelic Societies.

Robert W Little, 4, Blagden Terrace, Cramlington Village, Northumberland UK. Bob has an interest in all Bechuanaland and Botswana issues, both mint and used, though not covers. Bob is a member of both the Blyth and the Hungarian British Philatelic Societies.

Dion Futerman, P O Box 2986, Durban 4000, South Africa. Apart from Bechuanaland and Botswana, Dion's interests include Basutoland/Lesotho, Balloon Posts and RSA postal history. Dion is a member of both the Natal and Highway Philatelic Societies as well as the Aerophilatelic Society.

JIM CATTERALL AND DAVID WESSELY STRIKE GOLD!

The Society's tenth birthday was marked in fine style with the news that Jim Catterall had been awarded a gold medal at the Autumn STAMPEX for his magnificent display: "The Bechuanalands 1885-1932".

Jim's entry, a seven-frame (112 sheet) exhibit in the international section, covered the postal history of the Bechuanalands including rates, routes, offices, cancels, campaigns and expeditions. Of particular interest were:

- A pre-Bechuanalands (1840) cover from Kuruman, the first European settlement in Bechuanaland.
- An 1887 9½d rated cover from Mafeking to Germany with a colourful franking by four different stamps of the first issue: ½d, 1d, 2d and 6d.
- An 1889 cover with Tati datestamp - "Bechuanaland" excised.
- An 1897 card with the Matabeleland datestamp with "Tati" excised
- A 1914 pink registered parcel label (gold bars) franked by two pairs of 2/- stamps of the B.B. 1887 issue.
- Three covers from the Parker correspondence
- The Sitwell covers which led to an investigation of postal rates and contributed to the Sitwell article in the September issue of Runner Post
- Four Methuen covers from the beginning, middle and end of the Warren expedition
- A fine SANDPITS (15/12/95) and three examples of CROCODILE POOLS: two used in Mochudi and one at Crocodile Pools (in April 1900).

We are equally pleased to report that David Wessely, our 'American Ambassador', achieved one of his philatelic goals when he was also awarded a gold medal at a recent 'World Series of Philately' show held in Chicago.

David's exhibit comprised 7 frames of 16 pages each or a total of 112 pages and contained items relating to the time frame 1885-1912. The exhibit included stationery as well as stamps and covers.

Unfortunately no further details of David's exhibit are to hand though hopefully we will be able to report some of the highlights in the next RP.

The Society expressed its congratulations to Jim at the meeting held during STAMPEX and we extend our congratulations here to both Jim and David for their outstanding achievements.

Bridger & Kay Commonwealth King George VI Catalogue

Murray Payne Ltd. announced last year the acquisition of the rights to publish the Bridger & Kay Commonwealth King George VI Catalogue. The purchase represents a natural extension of their existing business, and fulfils a long-held ambition.

"Alan Leverton has performed a considerable service to King George VI philately over the years by publishing the catalogue. It already provides an appreciable increase over the amount of information otherwise generally available. Murray Payne Ltd. will retain the vast bulk of the information in the catalogue, but will discard the 'earlier' listings for Bermuda, Papua and Samoa. The intention is to remove a few listings from the catalogue, particularly those shades to which no specific printing date has been, or can be, ascribed. There will be additions to both shades and varieties, and prices will be thoroughly reviewed.

"Murray Payne Ltd. welcome any suggestions for new listings, or alteration to the existing listings."

Publication date of the next edition is planned to be in 1996.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT 'THE ROYAL OAK', REGENCY STREET, LONDON S.W.1,
ON WEDNESDAY 11TH OCTOBER 1995, COMMENCING AT 2.00pm**

Members Present:

John Inglefield-Watson (Chairman), Arnold Berman, Jim Catterall, Tony Chilton, Dennis Firth, Aubrey Glassborow and David Hardwick, Alan MacGregor, Peter van der Molen and David Wall.

Apologies For Absence: Alan MacGregor and Alan Drysdall.

Minutes of The Last AGM

These were taken as read. It was proposed by Aubrey Glassborow and seconded by Tony Chilton that they be signed as a correct record.

Matter Arising from the Minutes

It was reported that the exchange of advertisements with the Rhodesian Study Circle had taken place. This will run for four issues.

1. Confirmation of New Secretary

It was proposed by Dennis Firth and seconded by Arnold Berman that the nomination of David Wall as our new Secretary be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

2. Secretary's Report

David reported that the papers taken over from Mike George had been in exemplary order. He had received a letter from Betty George sending best wishes for our meeting, and hoping we would all benefit from the sale of Mike's collection being sold at Harmers on 31st October.

David mentioned that membership was remaining steady. About 10 members had not paid their subscriptions, but Jim was going round Stampex collecting subscriptions. The next meeting would be on a Saturday, hopefully to attract more members. A questionnaire is to be sent out to members to ascertain if and when they are able to attend meetings.

We have no major source for receiving news from Botswana, postal rates, opening and closing of post offices etc. Peter Loeden will provide information on postmarks, providing this can be obtained through Andy Andersson or the Postal Bureau.

3. Midpex

It was reported that Midpex, held in Coventry, had been very successful. David Hardwick recommended that we participate fully in 1997. David Wall will liaise with the organisers.

4. Treasurer's Report

The principal Accounts for 1994-95 were presented for approval. These showed a surplus of income over expenditure of £173.46. It was proposed by Peter van der Molen, seconded by Tony Chilton and carried that the accounts be adopted. David Hardwick reported that the last year had been another financial success for the Society with another surplus to report. Subscriptions remain steady whilst other income has declined, largely due to the South African transfer being lower than last year. The cost of producing and posting Runner Post continues to increase, but remains at an acceptable level in relation to subscriptions. The coming year should see the Society continue to prosper, with additional income from the recent auction helping to offset the costs of distributing the Postmark Typology.

It was proposed from the Chair that the Society's thanks be given to Aubrey for auditing the accounts.

5. Subscriptions 1996-97

The committee had recommended that there should be no change in the subscription for UK and Rest of the World members, also the airmail surcharge would remain unchanged, but with the caveat that this will be reviewed during the next 12 months.

SOUTH AFRICA - it was recommended that the subscription to UK funds remains at R10 per member. The remaining element to be decided by Howard Cook - his recommendation being that the subscription should be R50. Peter considered this to be excellent value considering the high quality of Runner Post.

BOTSWANA - It was proposed that this remains unchanged at £10. It was proposed by Tony Chilton and seconded by David Hardwick that these proposals be adopted.

AIRMAIL SURCHARGE It was proposed by Aubrey and seconded by Tony that the Treasurer be empowered to adjust the Airmail Surcharge to reflect changes in postal rates.

6. Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on 23rd March 1996 at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street. Following the move of Stampex to Islington, steps are being taken to find a new venue for our meetings, the facilities provided at Stampex for Society meetings being rather expensive and inconvenient. A questionnaire is to be sent out to members to ascertain which day of the week they prefer meetings to be held. The possibility of Sunday meetings was mentioned. Arnold Berman suggested having a live auction and Peter van der Molen suggested having guest speakers to attract more members.

7. Auction Report

Although the auction had contained some excellent material, Tony did not think the last sale had been very successful as only 41% of the lots had been sold. Sales amounted to £816, with around £80 commission for the Society. A slip will be sent out with the next Runner Post requesting lots for a future auction. Peter suggested paying out auction vendors at the AGM.

8. Any Other Business

John congratulated Jim Catterall on winning a gold medal for his entry on Bechuanaland postal history up to 1932, in the International section at Stampex. The Postmark Typology was in the process of being printed and would be distributed in the near future. Members, including members joining this session will receive a free copy. New members joining after this session may purchase a copy at cost price plus postage, non-members will be charged £5 including postage.

John reminded members that he will be resigning as Chairman at the next AGM AND A NEW CHAIRMAN WILL BE REQUIRED.

Philately - 'Chairman's Challenge' Competition on the Subject of 'Ten'

There were five entries but two were disqualified as being unsuitable for the competition. The winner was DAVID HARDWICK with an entry based on articles in Runner Post, with similar items shown from his own collection. The articles covered a wide variety of authors, with a separate sheet for each year. Second was Dennis Firth with an entry entitled 'Ten Pleasures of Collecting the Bechuanaland and Botswana, the tenth being 'Our Society'. Third was David Wall's entry 'Unusual Covers from Botswana', which included a cover from Tatitown signed by three Government officials, and a cover for the opening of Sir Seretse Khama Airport. John Inglefield-Watson presented the Chairman's Prize to David Hardwick.

PRICES REALISED IN THE AUGUST 1995 B&BS AUCTION (No.9)

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
3	45	35	12	55	20	86	16
4	66	36	9	56	6	89	4
12	38	43	41	57	6	92	1.50
14	31	45	9	60	.50	94	36
15	16	46	3	62	12	96	5
19	6	47	5	63	36	97	8
21	51	48	4	68	6	100	4
25	23	49	27	69	98	101	1
29	10	50	6	72	7	104	1
31	23	53	8	79	9	105	3
33	9	54	4	85	86	107	4

Total Sales: £820

MEMBER'S COMMENTS AND QUERIES

BECHUANALAND USED IN GREAT BRITAIN ? - Andy Andersson

Andy Andersson has sent an interesting query with a GB connection. The stamp is a British Bechuanaland 1887 Unappropriated Dies 4d (SG 13) and is cancelled with a neat single circle datestamp reading 'PENZANCE/F 2/SP 28/91'.

The possibility arose this may be a previously unknown Bechuanaland cancellation from a small Agency. However, the following points tend to refute that possibility:

1. There is no record of an agency with the name 'Penzance' ever having existed in Bechuanaland. This is not in itself proof as it is possible an Agency opened for a short time only and was not operating when official records were compiled of Agencies open at a specific date.
2. The postmark has no territorial designation. With only a few exceptions, all Bechuanaland cancellers of this period - e.g. Bloemfontein, Molepolole, Shoshong, Geluk, have something at foot such as 'B.B.', 'B.B.P.', 'Bechuanaland', etc. The exceptions such as Taungs Station, Vryburg Station and Palapye all have an ornament (dot, cross) at foot. In those cases the year is centred higher to allow space for the ornament. This cancel has the year quite low leaving no room for anything at foot - unlike all Bechuanaland postmarks. This cancel also has a code (?) 'F 2' at top, something not seen on contemporary Bechuanaland markings.
3. This appears similar to a GB telegraphic cancel.

It is unlikely this stamp was cancelled in Bechuanaland and was either spotted by the authorities and cancelled in the UK with the first available cancel (not necessarily a regular postal canceller), or it was cancelled by favour. Stellaland revenue stamps exist cancelled with apparently genuine 'Totton / Southampton' cds's, and it is possible this stamp bears a genuine Cornish cancel. Used stamps were more fashionable than mint late last century and a collector may have induced his local postmaster to cancel an unused 4d.

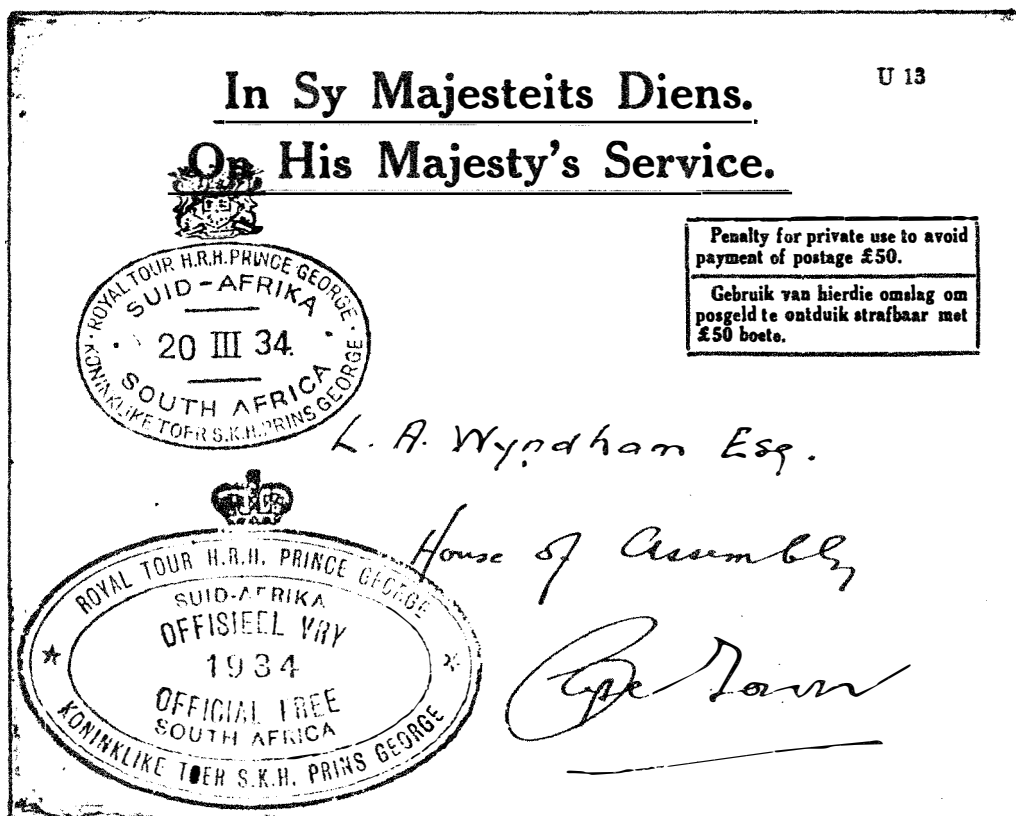


AN UPRISING AT TAUNGS ? - Brian Fenemore

Brian Fenemore provided this illustration of a postcard depicting mounted soldiers riding through Bloemfontein, OFS. The inscription reads 'ORDERED TO TAUNGS / DETACHMENT OF S.A.M.R. PASSING THROUGH MATLAND ST. B'F'N'. (S.A.M.R. = South African Mounted Rifles).

The card has a divided back which dates it from 1904. Brian asks if there was a small uprising at or near Taungs after 1904 or were these troops being deployed at Taungs en route to South West Africa at the beginning of the campaign in 1914-1915?

ITEMS OF INTEREST



Backstamped: "Houses of Parliament" cds 22nd March.
L.A. Wyndham was a member of the House of Assembly.

THE ROYAL TOUR 1934 - Jim Catterall

In 1934 H.R.H. Prince George (the future Duke of Kent) made an official tour of South Africa by train. Postal facilities were provided on the train and a special oval handstamp surmounted by the coat of arms of the Union of South Africa was used as a canceller. For official mail a large oval "Official Free" cachet was also applied. The penalty for private use of the official envelope was £50.

On 20th March the train passed through Bechuanaland and a number of covers bearing Bechuanaland stamps were posted on that day. Official mail, however, is not often seen.

COMPARISON OF DIES OF THE QUEEN'S HEAD

At first glance, the 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d and 6d duties of the 1887 Unappropriated Dies issue appear similar. However, the 4d was the only duty utilised for British Bechuanaland which was printed from the Die 2 plate. The differences are in fact quite distinct and we are very grateful to Hamish Campbell for supplying (some time ago!) a photostat of one of his album pages which clearly shows the differences between the two dies. Hamish's write-up read as follows:

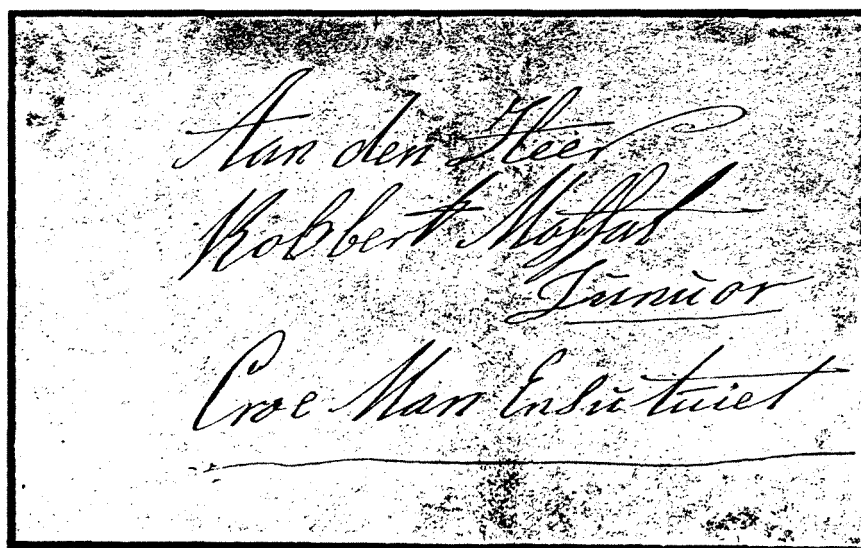
"In 1884 a 4d value was needed and a new die of the Queen's head was used. In the U.K. Die 2 was used on new hitherto unissued values - 4d, 4/-, £3 and £6. The 4d was thus the only Unappropriated Die issued for use in British Bechuanaland with Portrait Die No. 2.

This duty was issued in Bechuanaland in four versions: unoverprinted (SG 13); surcharged '4d.' in red (SG 25); overprinted/surcharged 'Protectorate/4d' in black (SG 44); overprinted 'Protectorate' in black and surcharged '4d.' in red (SG 51 - i.e. SG 25 overprinted).



DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DIES

1. Portrait corner pieces are different.
2. The Queen's diadem is more cleanly cut in Die 2.
3. In Die 2 the lines on the face, neck and the background are coarser.
4. All the ribbons in Die 2 are horizontally hatched. In Die 1 the hatching in the ribbons is parallel. This appertains to chignon ribbons and the ribbon over the top of the Queen's head.
5. The jewelled ring at the base of the chignon is very clear in Die 2.
6. The Queen has a Roman nose in Die 1, but straight in Die 2.
7. The eyebrow is more marked, and the eye less 'blackened' in Die 2.
8. The machining in the label space in Die 2 is less intricate, and so possibly more forgeable.



EARLY COVERS TO KURUMAN (1) - 1861

Illustrated here courtesy of Brian Fenemore is a marvellous early entire letter to Kuruman.

Posted in 1861 from 'Jakalsvlei' (Clanwilliam District, Cape), the stampless cover from 'A S van Rooey' is addressed 'Aan den Heer / Robbert Moffat / Junuor / Croe Man Ensutuiet' (i.e. Kuruman Institute).

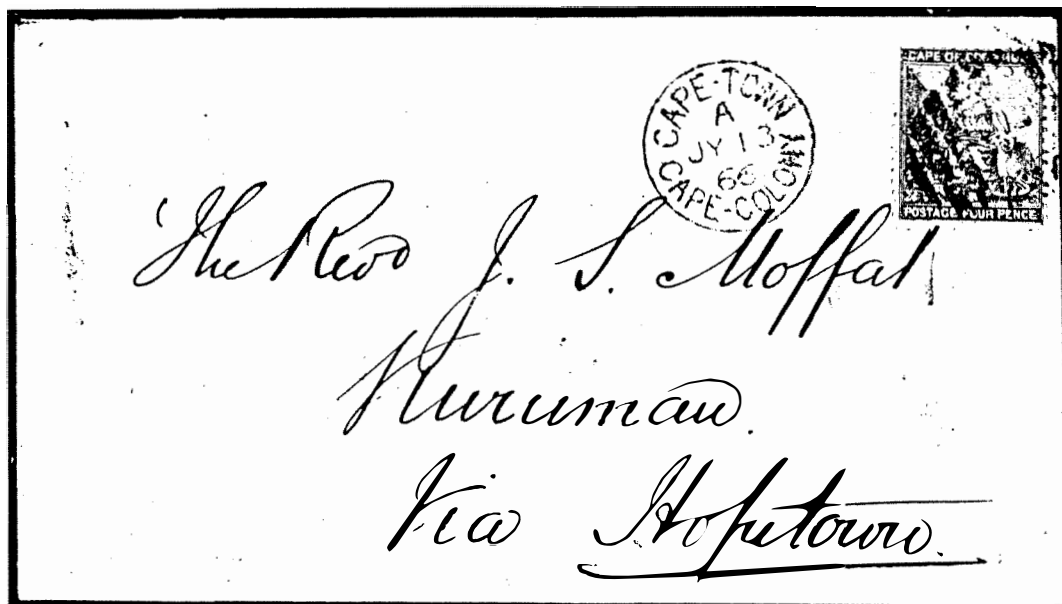
The addressee, Robert Moffat (1827-1862), was the eldest surviving son of the famous missionary of the same name, and brother of the Rev. J.S. Moffat. He was a trader and surveyor and did important work in Namaqualand.

The letter, concerning a financial matter, is dated 3 May 1861. As Brian says 'An early letter into Bechuanaland and having no postal markings, would have been carried by whatever means were available privately, possibly by missionaries'.

EARLY COVERS TO KURUMAN (2) - 1866

In RP 14, p245, we illustrated and/or recorded six covers which were sold through Stephan Welz Auctions in Johannesburg. They were all addressed to the Rev. J. Moffat at Molepolole or c/o a missionary at Zeerust in the Transvaal. All were from the period 1879-1880.

Courtesy of Argyll-Etkin, we are now pleased to illustrate an earlier cover, dated 1866, also addressed to the Rev John Smith Moffat, then at 'Kuruman Via Hopetown'. This cover was posted nearly 13 years before those recorded in RP 14. Kuruman lay in the area that was proclaimed British Bechuanaland 19 years later. Argyll-Etkin's description is reproduced in full below.



"BECHUANALAND:

1866 (13 July) Cover posted from Cape Town, with 4d Hope seated, addressed to 'The Revd. J.S. Moffat, Kuruman, via Hopetown'. No formal postal service served Kuruman at this time, although in 1860 a monthly Cape Post served Hopetown (on the border of Cape and Griqualand West) and Kuruman, via Griquatown. It is uncertain who bore the cost - the mission or Cape authorities. Post Offices were first opened in Hopetown in 1872 and Kuruman in 1886, explaining the absence of a transit and arrival marking on the cover.

"The addressee, John Smith Moffat, brother-in-law of Dr. David Livingstone, was the son of Dr. Robert Moffat, the London Missionary Society's representative amongst the Bechuanas. In 1879 J.S. Moffat resigned from missionary service and joined the Government. In 1888 he founded the Mafeking-Gubulawayo Runner Post between Bechuanaland and Matabeleland.

"This is a remarkable incoming cover to Bechuanaland, few of which appear to be recorded in this period."

BOTSWANA 1972 MAFEKING-GUBULAWAYO RUNNER POST ISSUE - 3C IMPERFORATE.

In RP 3, p17 (Spring 1986) we published the following query from John Inglefield-Watson:

"In 1976 I was informed by a collector resident in Botswana that one imperforate sheet of the 3 cents value (SG 294) of the 1972 Runner Post commemorative issue was sold at Francistown to a messenger of the Tati Company and that one vertical strip was known to have survived. Can any member confirm this report?"

Roy Setterfield maintained an enormous correspondence especially with the many friends and contacts he made while working in Botswana in the 1970's and 1980's. One of these friends was the late Jim Haskins of Francistown / Tati fame. Lurking within a file of odds and ends which Roy passed to me some years ago was a letter from Jim to Roy responding to John's query above, confirming the report and also giving the background of how he had acquired two imperforate strips of the 1972 3c Mafeking-Gubulawayo Runner Post issue. It was always intended to publish this information in The Runner Post but for some reason the reply found its way into the wrong file and, as far as I know, was never published. I am pleased to now do so, albeit nine years late. Sorry John!

The two items in question comprise vertical strips of five stamps with top and bottom margins completely imperforate between stamps and stamps and margins. They are reproduced alongside. The relevant part of Jim's letter reads as follows:

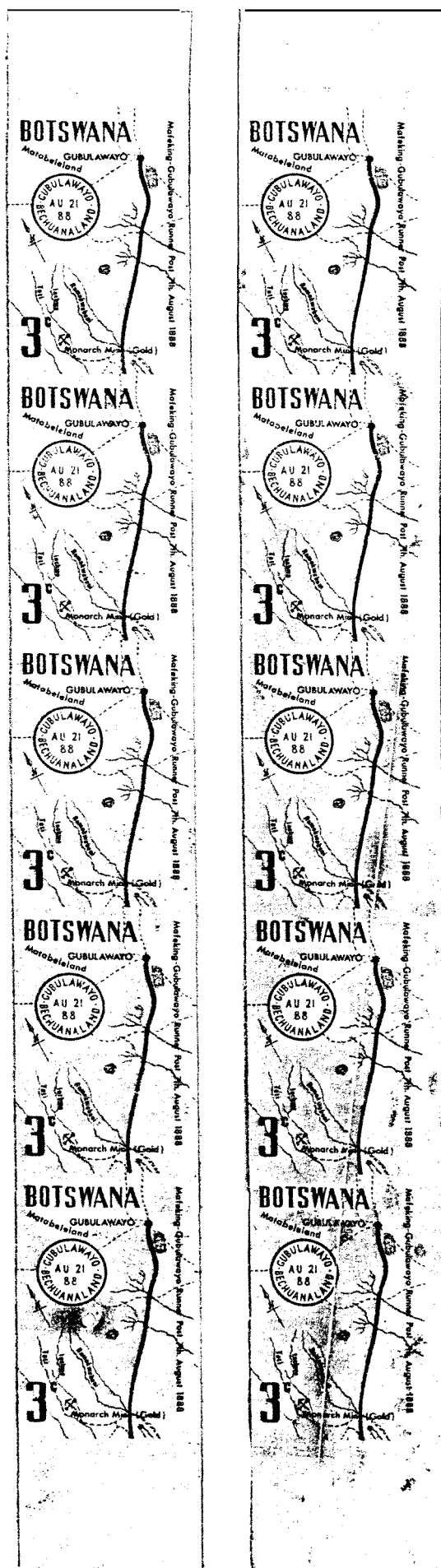
"I write to confirm the report as being correct. In fact the balance of the sheet was given me by the Gen. Manager of the Tati Company. The pity of it all was that the Office Messenger had already cut up most of the sheet before it was discovered - + 80 individual stamps were fixed to letters in the usual manner !!! Two of the strips are in my possession . . . I enclose for the record 2 photostats of the strips and one of the note that I made at the time."

The note reads as follows:

"The sheet from which these were cut, was purchased at Francistown Post Office by a clerk/messenger employed by Tati Co Ltd, who decided that as the stamps were otherwise alright there was no reason other than 'to cut' them and utilise in the normal manner. The balance of the sheet was therefore posted. These are what were left when discovered by a sorting clerk at F.T. Post Office who noted some on Tati Co. Ltd. correspondence."

Although the photocopy is of poor quality, it appears these are the two strips offered on Christie's Robson Lowe London sale of 18 September 1991 as lots 2438 and 2439. They were described as the only known strips. The estimate was £200 each. They fetched £682 and £495 respectively (including the buyers premium). They are catalogued as SG 294a and priced at £400 for a vertical pair.

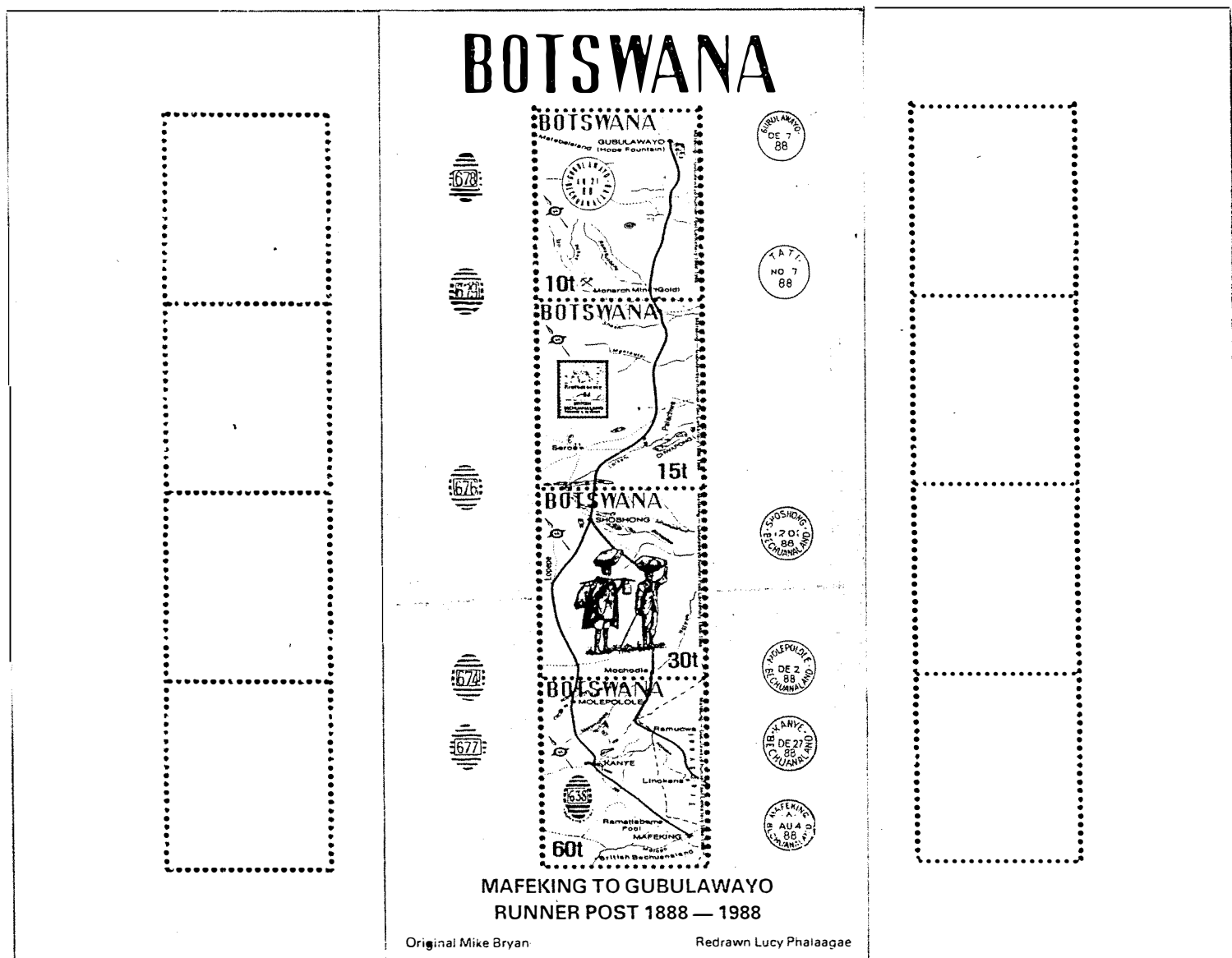
Do members know of any other examples or are these strips the only surviving examples of this rare variety? AMG



ITEMS OF INTEREST

PERFORATION VARIETY OF THE SECOND RUNNER POST MINIATURE SHEET - Peter Thy

The 1988 Mafeking-Gubulawayo Runner Post Centenary miniature sheet and stamps (SG 652-5, SG MS 656) are perforated 14.5 with characteristic large holes (about 0.75 mm in diameter). A sheet was found with the horizontal lines of perforation composed of small holes (0.5 mm), markedly different from the normal perforation. The sheet is shown below with the normal perforation to the left and the variant to the right.



FORGED 'BRITISH BECHUANALAND' OVERPRINT ON GB - J Catterall

Jim Catterall sent this illustration of a forged 'British Bechuanaland' overprint on a GB QV 1d lilac. The overprint resembles the 1885-87 overprint which was only applied to Cape stamps.

The stamp, which belongs to a Captain Hyde who sent it to Jim for an opinion, bears a manuscript date which reads '6 (?) / 7 / 92'.

Jim queries why anyone would forge an overprint on a stamp that was never overprinted with this type style? Have other member's any similar examples or comments?



BECHUANALAND RECEIVING AUTHORITY SPECIMENS

Alan Drysdall

Lot 884 in Christie's Robson Lowe sale of the 24th May, 1995, comprised a selection of Transvaal Second Republic issues handstamped 'SPECIMEN' in grey-black. The stamps have been previously rather carelessly mounted, and some are damaged as a result. The lettering of the handstamp on all but one of these stamps is serified, and measures 22.5 x 2.75 mm.; there is no full stop. However, the type used for the overprint on SG 196 differs in that it is much thinner and better defined, which would suggest that this was a metal rather than a rubber handstamp. The issues represented are:

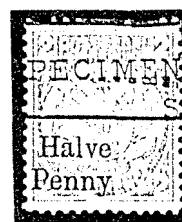
1885-93 2½d (SG 179); 1893-5 (SG 195-6, 198, 213-4); 1895-6 (SG 210, 212, 212a); 1895 (SG 215, 215b)



SG 212a



SG 215



SG 196

The archives of two postal authorities which have been sold at auction have included stamps overprinted in this way. The introduction to a sale by Robson Lowe International in Basle on the 27th October, 1976, reads:

"† These lots come from a post office archives to which had been sent samples of stamps by other postal administrations. The samples might be either actual stamps or those already perforated or overprinted 'SPECIMEN' or the equivalent. As they were received these samples were, up to circa 1911, usually mounted with hinges but from 1912 they were stuck down by their own gum into the archives 'albums': THEREFORE NO STAMPS ISSUED AFTER 1911 WILL HAVE GUM.

"After being affixed in either of these ways a further 'SPECIMEN' handstamp in black or violet was applied to each stamp although, instead of 'SPECIMEN', some issues received a 'CANCELLED' handstamp in black large enough to cover two stamps and, from about August 1912 to August 1913 during which time the samples seem to have come in threes, each stamp was punctured with a hole 5 mm. in diameter before being mounted. [It would appear from the illustrations that neither handstamping nor punching was practised after August 1913, and that most if not all of the stamps had been overprinted or perforated 'SPECIMEN' by the issuing authority.]

"Stamps were checked off after mounting by means of green crayon ticks or lines, sometimes applied across the page, sometimes against each item, so that traces may occur on stamps. From 1912 the majority of stamps were stuck down so closely, even overlapping, that they have had to be floated off in order to separate the different countries but, where possible, stamps have been left on their original pages or pieces of pages.

"The collection appears to have been started during the 1890s and there are very few issues prior to about 1895."



The 'samples' referred to were of course the stamps distributed to member states of the UPU. James Bendon, in the Supplement to Marcus Samuel's listing of specimen stamps of the Crown Colonies identifies the overprint as Bechuanaland Protectorate local type BEC2. Although it is rather surprising to find Bechuanaland stamps included in the collection, this was because the UPU distributed stamps submitted to them to all member states, including those which had submitted the stamps. Few of the stamps handstamped 'SPECIMEN' by the receiving authority are

illustrated. They include two Cape stamps overprinted 'British Bechuanaland', three Canadian and four New Zealand stamps. The examples at left show the characteristic features of the overprint.

The stamps more recently sold by Christie's Robson Lowe are evidently from the Bechuanaland Protectorate archive, although they do not include the later definitive issues, or any of the stamps overprinted 'Monster' or 'SPECIMEN' by the ZAR which were included when the collection was first sold. The overprint on SG 196 is a previously unrecorded type, but there would seem no obvious reason to suspect that it is not genuine.

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S NOTICES RELATED TO THE AIRMAIL RATES OF BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE

Compiled by Peter Thy

The following compilation of High Commissioner's Notices was submitted by Peter along with copies of each of the relevant Notices which run to 14 pages. As Peter acknowledged, it is not practicable to reproduce all of these in The Runner Post. However, the following listing of what actually exists should be of great use to collectors/researchers studying rates. Copies of any or all of the Notices will be gladly supplied on request.

AMG

The airmail rates, and the postal services of Bechuanaland Protectorate were, until 1963, controlled by Act No. 10 of 1911 of the Union of South Africa as applied to the Protectorate by Post Office Proclamation No. 28 of 1916, and subsequently Chapter 144 of the Laws of the Bechuanaland Protectorate (1948 edition) and Chapter 171 (1959 edition).

From 1963, the Protectorate's own Post Office Proclamation No. 43 of 1961 controlled the services. These acts constitute the legal background for the High Commissioner's Notices.

Below are listed the most important of these relevant for understanding the airmail rates. The listing also includes notices to which references are made. The short title/content is based on my interpretation; the date of the notice is given together with the stated commencement date (if given); I have been unable to examine the publication dates in the Gazette. Only the most important of the notices are reproduced (* = not reproduced; APU = African Postal Union; pc = postcard).

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S NOTICES

YEAR	No.	CONTENTS
1925	170*	Postal rates (no airmail rates). Dated 21 Dec 1925. Effect 1 Jan 1926.
1931	56*	Postal rates (no airmail rates). Dated 25 Apr 1931. Effect 1 May 1931.
1932	101	Airmail rates to the Union and South West Africa. Dated 13 July 1932. Amending 170/1925 and 56/1931.
	156	Airmail rates to the Union and South West Africa. Dated 11 Oct 1932. Amending 170/1925 and 56/1931. Cancelling 101/1932.
1933	94*	Correction to parcel post rates (no airmail rates). Dated 1 July 1933.
	159	Airmail rates to the Union and South West Africa. Dated 30 Oct 1933. Cancelling 156/1932 and 94/1933.
1934	183	Airmail rates to the Union and South West Africa. Dated 28 Dec 1934. Effect 1 Jan 1935. Cancelling 159/1933.
1937	122*	Postal rates (pc air rates to southern Africa 1d). Cancelling 183/1934. Dated 30 July 1937. Effect 1 July 1937.
1938	28	Airmail rates to some foreign destinations. Dated 18 Feb 1938. Effect 18 Feb 1938. Amending 122/1937.
	122	Airmail rates to some foreign destinations. Dated 29 July 1938. Effect 5 Aug 1938. Amending 28/1938.

YEAR	No.	CONTENTS
1939	5	Airmail rates to foreign destinations. Dated 10 Jan 1939. Effect 13 Jan 1939. Amending 122/1937 and 122/1938.
	179	Airmail rates to North America. Dated 10 Oct 1939.
	205	Discontinues Empire Air Mail Scheme. Dated 9 Nov 1939.
1941	203	Introduction of military airmail letter cards. Dated 12 Nov 1941.
1942	192	Civilian and military airmail rates to Americas. Dated 7 Aug 1942.
	227*	Airmail rates to French Cameroons (APU rates). Dated 24 Aug 1942.
1943	203	Civilian and military airmail rates to Australia. Dated 16 Sep 1943.
1944	181	Civilian airmail rates. Dated 28 Oct 1944.
1947	95	Airmail rates to foreign destinations. Dated 24 April 1947.
	211	Airmail rates to North America via Pan Am. Amending 95/1947. Dated 18 Nov 1947.
	223	Airmail rates to Ceylon. Amending 95/1947. Dated 9 Dec 1947. Effect 14 Dec 1947.
1948	34	Airmail rates to Japan. Amending 95/1947. Dated 25 Feb 1948. Effect 23 Feb 1948.
	50	Airmail rates to India. Amending 95/1947. Dated 13 March 1948.
	73	Airmail rates to North America. Amending 211/1947. Dated 3 April 1948. Effect 11 April 1948.
	207	Airmail rates to Egypt and Palestine. Dated 20 Sept 1949.
1950	130	Airmail rates to China, North America, Australia. Dated 9 Aug 1950. Effect 1 March 1950.
1952	5	Airmail rates to China and Japan. Dated 24 Jan 1952.
	161	Airmail rates to North America via Pan Am. Dated 18 Sept 1952. Effect 1 Sept 1952.
1953	99	Airmail rates. Dated 1 July 1953. Effect 1 July 1953.
	187	Printed airmail rates to countries outside APU. Dated 6 Nov 1953. Effect 30 Oct 1953.
1954	66	Postal rates (contains APU air rates). Dated 9 July 1954. Effect 1 July 1954.
1955	11	Airmail rates. Dated 20 Jan 1955. Effect 1 Jan 1955.
1959	24	Postal rates (contains APU airmail rates). Dated 20 April 1959. Effect 1 May 1959.
	77*	Introduction of air parcel services. Dated 20 July 1959. Effect 1 Aug 1959.
1961	15	Postal rates, incl. airmails (partially reproduced). Dated 11 Jan 1961. Effect 14 Feb 1961.

POSTAL RATES – AGAIN

Alan Drysdall and Jim Catterall

Mail originating from Mashonaland is particularly relevant as far as any discussion of the postal rates of Bechuanaland Protectorate in the early 1890s is concerned. Mashonaland mail sent south via Tuli (rather than eastwards via Umtali, Macequece and Beira) was carried as far as Palachwe, or later Macloutsie, at the BSA Co.'s expense and had to be franked at the appropriate Protectorate rate. *As far as the postal authorities of Bechuanaland and Cape Colony were concerned, Mashonaland mail originated in (and was delivered to) Bechuanaland Protectorate.* Mail posted in Mashonaland had to be franked with Bechuanaland stamps to receipt payment of the appropriate Protectorate rate, but the stamps were not cancelled until the letter reached the Protectorate, hence the Palachwe, and later Macloutsie, cancellations. The 37 mm circular handstamp of the Fort Tuli Post Office, then the head office of the Mashonaland service, was struck when no stamps were available on letters for which the postage had been paid, and the appropriate stamps were added at Palachwe if the letter was addressed outside the Bechuanalands¹.

The Borrow correspondence comprises a large number of letters addressed to the UK, most of which were posted in Salisbury, and many of the covers in which they were sent, in the collections of the National Archives of Zimbabwe. Borrow's letters dated between the 7th September and 4th November, 1890, were franked at the 8d-per-half-ounce rate. The franking on the last of these letters was cancelled at Palachwe on the 21st November, 1890. Letters dated between the 12th June, 1891, and the 3rd May, 1892 were franked at a 6d-per-half-ounce rate. It has been suggested that this reduced rate was evidence that the BSA Co. had temporarily dropped the Protectorate surcharge², but if the Protectorate rate for a half-ounce letter to the UK was at this time 6d, this would explain the anomaly. What is much more difficult to explain is why letters dated the 26th and 30th November, 1891, which were posted in Victoria, were franked at the 8d rate, when a letter dated a few days previously – the 22nd November – which was also posted at Victoria, was franked at the 6d rate. Unlikely as it would seem, whoever was on duty at the Victoria office during the last week of November 1891 was apparently unaware of the reduction in the rate.

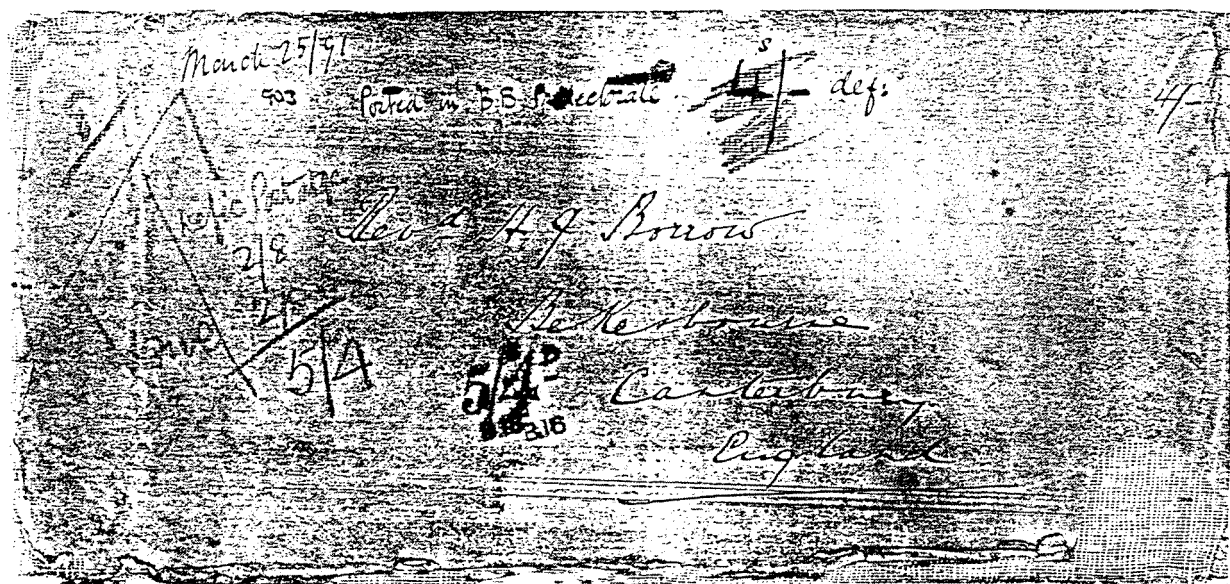


Figure 1 The quadruple rate Borrow cover which entered the official mails in Bechuanaland Protectorate in early May 1891 (the envelope measures 162 x 75 mm)

Confirmation that a mistake, or rather mistakes, may have been made at Victoria is provided by the earliest of the group of covers which comprise the Hake correspondence³. This double-rate letter entered the official mails at Macloutsie on the 22nd November, 1891. The franking is a vertical pair of 6d British Bechuanaland stamps (SG 14).

There is moreover a very distinct possibility that the reduction in the Mashonaland and Protectorate rate to 6d dates from significantly earlier than June 1891. Borrow's letter of the 25th March, 1891, was apparently carried

by private messenger and posted in Bechuanaland Protectorate completely unfranked (Fig. 1). It was annotated "Posted in B.B. Protectorate 4/- deficient", presumably by the office where it was posted, or possibly at Mafeking where the cover was backstamped on the 12th May, 1891. (There is no datestamp to record where the letter entered the mails.) The '4/-' was subsequently crossed out, and a calculation written on the face of the cover to record that the deficient postage was considered to be 2s 8d, to which was added a fine of the same amount, i.e. a total of 5s 4d was to be paid by the addressee. The '5s' and '4d' handstamps coded 'B. 16' were struck by the Plymouth and Bristol Sorting Carriage to confirm this.

Deficient postage on Cape mail addressed to or via the UK was charged at double the deficiency with effect from the 1st January, 1891. The amount to be paid by the addressee on Borrow's letter was therefore calculated on the basis that the letter weighed between one and a half and two ounces, and that the applicable rate was 8d per half ounce, i.e. $(4 \times 8d) \times 2 = 5s\ 4d$. Bearing in mind the weight of this letter – one of several bulky letters Borrow wrote – the original calculation of 4s 'postage due' must have been on the basis of a 6d rate, i.e. $(4 \times 6d) \times 2 = 4s$. The original calculation was almost certainly done either at an office in the Protectorate or at Mafeking, where the applicable rate was evidently believed to be 6d per half ounce. The later calculation which resulted in a charge of 5s 4d could theoretically have been made at either Cape Town or in the UK. The former seems the more probable as it is highly unlikely that Cape Town would let a completely unfranked letter pass without applying either a handstamp or a manuscript annotation to record the amount of the deficiency. (It was, however, normal practice at this time for the Cape Town office to indicate the amount of the deficiency rather than the amount the addressee was to be charged as the latter varied according to the destination, but an exception may have been made in this rather extreme case.)

Borrow's letter of the 12th February, 1891, was carried by private messenger to Bulawayo. (Mashonaland was isolated in early 1891 because of exceptionally heavy rain, and no mail was being carried over the Tuli–Salisbury route.) This cover is also unfranked, but is annotated '6d', which was presumably the amount paid when it entered the official mails. The only postal markings are a Kimberley backstamp (23.5.91), and a strike in red of the GPO Cape Town 'paid' mark dated the 27th May, 1891. Just where this letter was posted is not known, but it is unlikely to have been Kimberley as the Cape rate for mail addressed to the UK was reduced to 2½d per half ounce with effect from the 1st January, 1891. If Bechuanaland Protectorate rates had been reduced, as suggested above, it could have entered the mails as far north as Bulawayo. (According to the Postal Notice announcing the reduction in rates – see below – the Trans-Protectorate 'surcharge' was dropped when the rates were reduced.)

Ignoring the anomaly of the rate paid for the two letters posted at Victoria during the last week of November 1891, Borrow's correspondence provides evidence that a Bechuanaland Protectorate rate for mail addressed to the UK of 6d per half ounce was in force from early May 1891. Borrow was not, however, the only resident of Mashonaland who was sending letters to the UK at this time. Gerald Parker's letters prove that during the period May to November 1890 the half-ounce rate for a letter addressed to the UK was 6d in British Bechuanaland and 8d in the Protectorate⁴. Even more relevant are covers attributable to Jack Brown. One which may have been posted in either the Protectorate or Mashonaland is franked with two British Bechuanaland 4d stamps which were cancelled at Palachwe on the 23rd January, 1891, but a cover posted in Mashonaland which reached Tuli on the 16th February, 1891, is franked with a British Bechuanaland 6d stamp which was affixed and cancelled at Palachwe on the 20th February, 1891 (Fig. 2). With one exception, all six of the later covers of the Brown correspondence, which are dated between February and November 1891, are franked at the 6d rate. The exception is franked with a 4d stamp and was treated as underpaid by Cape Town.

The unfranked cover posted for Borrow in Bechuanaland Protectorate in May 1891 would seem to provide evidence that Cape Town regarded the letter rate for mail addressed to the UK as being unchanged at 8d per half ounce. However, this situation, if it was indeed the case, had changed by September. The letter posted by Capt. Sitwell at Macloutsie on 'SP 22 / 91' evidently weighed more than half an ounce as a large 'T' in red manuscript was written on it, probably at Mafeking, to indicate that the addressee should be required to pay the deficient postage, etc. The '2' at top-left was possibly written (in blue crayon) to indicate that this was a double-rate letter when the '6d' handstamp was struck at Cape Town. It was normal practice for Cape Town to use such handstamps to record the amount of the deficiency, which was certainly the case in this instance as the '6d' was crossed out when the letter reached the UK and '1/-' written in manuscript, i.e. the addressee was required to pay double the deficiency.

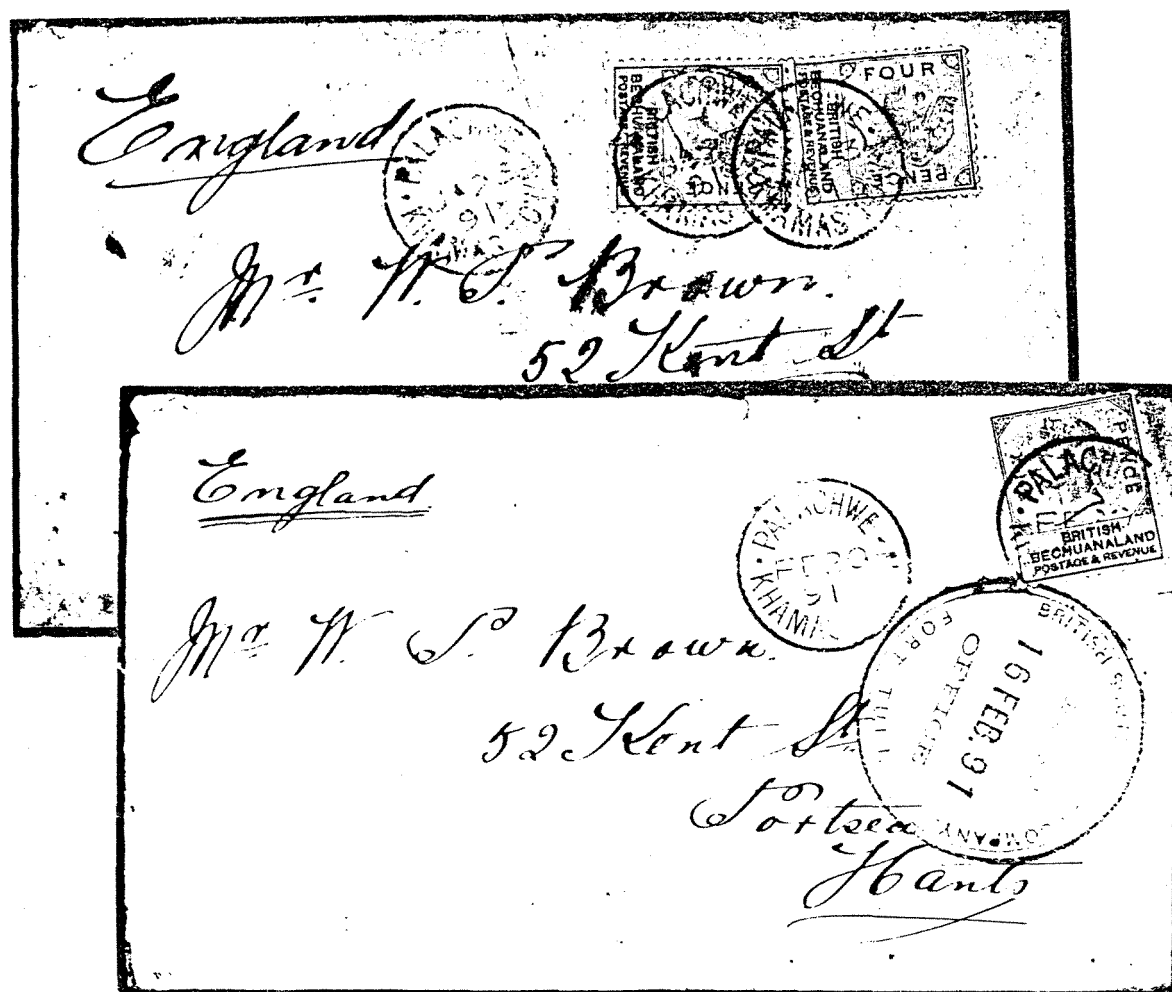


Figure 2. The Brown covers which passed through Palachwe on the 23rd January and 20th February, 1891; the frankings are 8d and 6d respectively

Thus the evidence as far Mashonaland and Protectorate covers are concerned can be summarised as indicating that the UK letter rate from the Protectorate was reduced from 8d to 6d per half ounce sometime between the 23rd January and the 20th February, 1891. Cape Town appears to have been unaware of the change in May 1891, but were taking account of it by September.

The situation regarding British Bechuanaland is rather more complex, as evidence of covers addressed to the UK would suggest that the rate was reduced sometime between the 9th June and the 16th August, 1891⁵. Moreover reduced rate – 5d per half ounce – covers to Germany posted on the 2nd September and the 5th October are also known⁶. (The sender of a cover to Germany posted on the 5th September, 1891, and franked at the 7½d rate would, however, appear to have been unaware of the change in rate.) It would seem improbable that the Protectorate rate was reduced before the British Bechuanaland rate, but the cover evidence cited above suggests that it was.

The crux of the problem is that the cover evidence is irreconcilable with the Postal Notice published in the Bechuanaland *Government Gazette* which announced *inter alia* the reduction in the Protectorate half-ounce letter rate to the UK to 6d, and the abolition of the additional charges on mail posted in the Trans-Protectorate and mail addressed to the Trans-Protectorate with effect from the 18th November, 1892⁷.

To date no documentary evidence relating to a corresponding reduction in the British Bechuanaland rate has come to light, but it has been assumed that it was on or before the 18th November, 1892, and could not in any case have been before the 1st January, 1891, when the Cape–UK half-ounce letter rate was reduced from 4d to 2½d. Such cover evidence as there is would suggest that the change took place in July 1891.

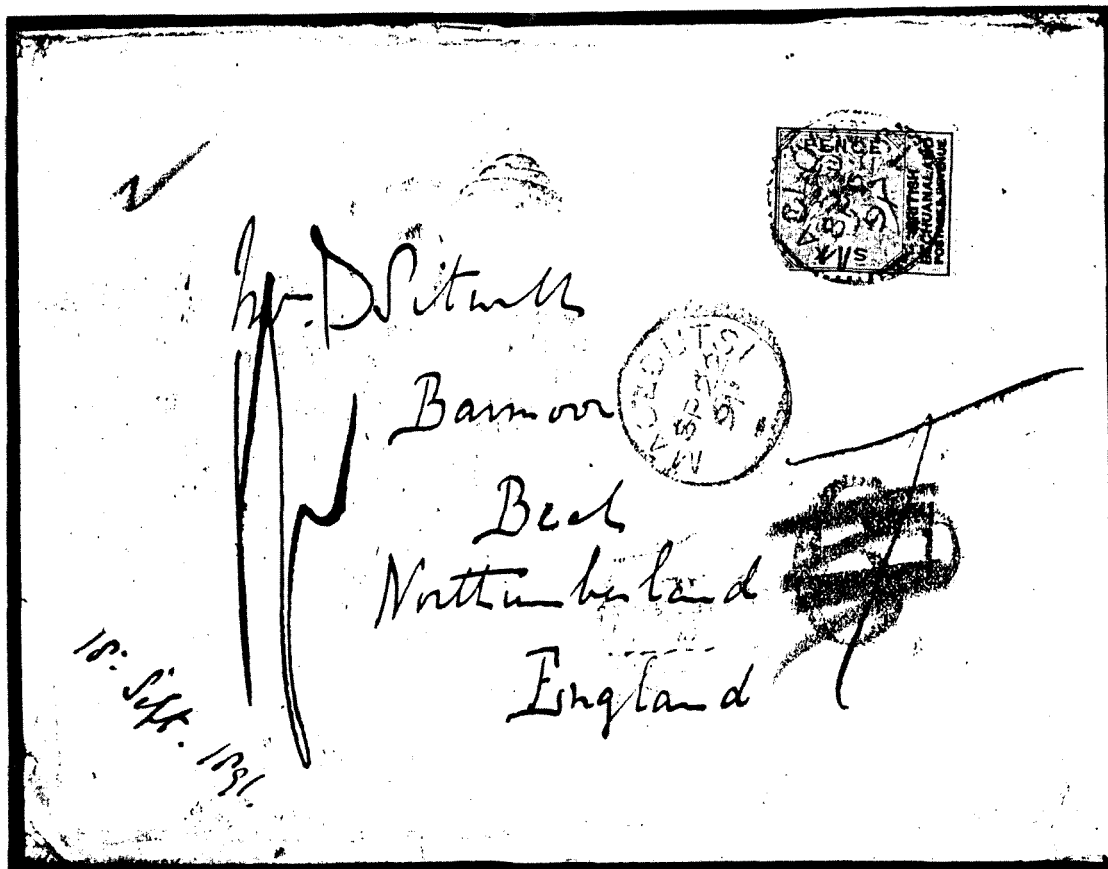


Figure 3 The cover posted by Capt. Sitwell at Macloutsie on the 22nd September, 1891

The authors are unaware of a comparable situation where a number of covers provide irrefutable evidence that a change in postage rates had been implemented, whereas official postal notices state that the changes were to be introduced on dates significantly later than the dates of the covers. Your turn to bat, gentlemen.

Finally there are two minor corrections to be made to the note published in *The Runner Post* in December 1994 (no. 37, p.792). BSA Co. stamps were used on Mashonaland mail carried over the Salisbury - Umtali - Beira route from the inauguration of the Salisbury - Umtali service on the 2nd January, 1892, but they were only used on internal mail carried over the southern route and on external mail carried via Bechuanaland from the 14th May, 1892. Borrow's letter of the 3rd May, 1892, which was addressed to the UK and forwarded via Bechuanaland and Cape Town, was franked with Bechuanaland stamps (3 x SG 11.) The 'identification problem' is therefore solved from the 14th May, 1892, and not from January 1892.

The second correction relates the concession rate for officers on active service. A Treasury Warrant dated the 27th September, 1867, introduced a 6d-per-half-ounce uniform letter rate for letters:

"... posted in or addressed to any part of the United Kingdom, and sent to or by any commissioned officer in the army whilst actually employed in Her Majesty's service, in any of Her Majesty's colonies, and transmitted by the post between any place in the United Kingdom and any such colony direct or through any other colony, or any foreign country. . .

"All letters which shall be sent by the post under the regulations of this Warrant shall be subject, in addition to the rates hereby fixed, to the payment of any foreign postage which shall be chargeable thereon. . . .

"If any letter shall be posted in any colony from which ordinary unpaid or insufficiently paid letters may be forwarded to the United Kingdom, for transmission by the post, under the authority of this Warrant, to the United Kingdom, without any postage having been paid thereon, or with a postage paid thereon less in amount than the rate or rates of postage to which the same would be liable under or by virtue of this Warrant, every such letter shall be charged with the amount of the deficient postage, together with a further and additional rate of postage of sixpence."

This Warrant did not, however, apply to mail sent by officers serving in Stellaland/British Bechuanaland in 1885. Tabcart⁸ quotes a Post Office Circular which stated that with effect from the 1st January, 1870:

"The privilege now granted to officers of the Army, Navy, and Royal Marines, as well as to Superintending or 1st class Army Schoolmasters, serving abroad, of sending and receiving letters at the reduced British postage of 6d per oz, in cases where the postage of ordinary letters to or from the same place is higher than 6d, shall be withdrawn."

Thus officers serving overseas were to be charged the same rates as the general public. (Privilege rates for NCOs, soldiers and seamen were not affected.) However, there is still one piece of the jigsaw missing, as it is obvious from many covers that the addressee of an unfranked letter from an officer on active service was charged only the deficient postage and was not fined an additional rate. The authority for this procedure is not known.

References

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Drysdall and Collis, 1990 | 4 Drysdall and Catterall, 1993 | 6 Catterall, 1994, p.792 |
| 2 Drysdall and Collis, 1990, p.107 | 5 Christie's Robson Lowe, June | 7 Thy, 1993, p.667 |
| 3 Drysdall, in press | 1983, lot 1167) | 8 Tabcart, 1989, p.99 |
- Catterall, J.A., 1994, Postal rates, the Bechuanaland 1891-2: *The Runner Post*, no. 37, p.792
 Drysdall, A.R., in press, A traveller in Africa; the Gordon Hake correspondence: *Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*
 Drysdall, A.R., and Catterall, J.A., 1993, Early Bechuanaland and Mashonaland mail – the Parker correspondence: *The Runner Post*, no. 30, p.610-7
 Drysdall, A.R., and Collis, D., 1990, *Mashonaland; a postal history 1890-96*: Rhodesian Study Circle and Christie's Robson Lowe, London
 Tabcart, C., 1989, *United Kingdom letter rates 1657-1900; inland and overseas*: published by the author, Fareham
 Thy, P., 1993, Selected postal rates of Bechuanaland Protectorate 1888-1935: *The Runner Post*, no. 32, p.663-72

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CHECKLIST OF BOTSWANA POSTMARKS FOR OFFICES BEGINNING WITH THE LETTER R

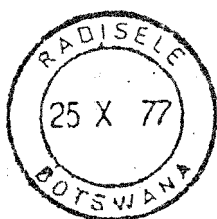
Brian Trotter

This checklist covers the postmarks so far recorded for all the offices beginning with the letter R. The Botswana Postmark Project Team has recorded 37 different markings up to now. No doubt additional ones shall continuously be discovered and new ones issued. We encourage our members to provide further information on both recorded and unrecorded markings.

SINCE THE RECORDED MARKINGS REPRESENT ESSENTIALLY ONLY WHAT IS CONTAINED IN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE VERY SMALL NUMBER OF MEMBERS WORKING ON THE POSTMARK PROJECT, RECORDED NUMBERS OF MARKINGS DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT RELATIVE SCARCITY OF THE RESPECTIVE MARKINGS.

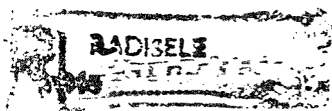
The results of the Project Team's efforts for offices beginning with the letter R follow.

RADISELE



No. 1 Type 2 B 51

Circle diameters	:	19 & 28 mm
Earliest recorded date	:	Jan 2, 1969
Latest recorded date	:	Jun 10, 1993
Codes recorded	:	A, None
Number recorded so far	:	17



No. 2 Type REGN 2a

Box dimensions	:	±13 x ±42 mm
Earliest recorded date	:	Jun 10, 1986
Latest recorded date	:	Jun 10, 1986
Number recorded so far	:	2

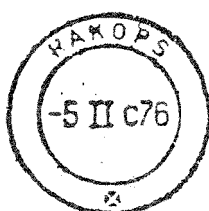
Both recorded items are struck in red.

RAKOPS



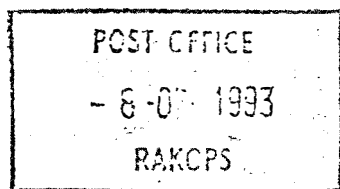
No. 1 Type 23 A 1

Circle diameters	:	29 & 32 mm
Earliest recorded date	:	Apr 17, 1974
Latest recorded date	:	Apr 17, 1974
Number recorded so far	:	2



No. 2 Type 2 D 2

Circle diameters	:	19 & 27 mm
Earliest recorded date	:	Dec 21, 1970
Latest recorded date	:	Nov 22, 1993
Codes recorded	:	A, B, C
Number recorded so far	:	48



No. 3 Type 8 J 26
 Box dimensions : 24 x 43.5 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Nov 26, 1992
 Latest recorded date : Nov 22, 1993
 Number recorded so far : 5

All recorded items are struck in red.

RAMOKGONAMI



No. 1 Type 2 A 1
 Circle diameters : 18 & 27 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Apr 9, 1979
 Latest recorded date : Jan 22, 1994
 Codes recorded : A
 Number recorded so far : 12

The latest recorded date marking has the date sequence reversed (i.e. year, month, day, code).



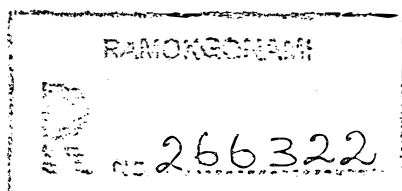
No. 2 Type 61 J 26
 Oval dimensions : 23.5 x 38 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Apr 9, 1979
 Latest recorded date : Apr 9, 1979
 Number recorded so far : 1

The single recorded item is struck in red.



No. 3 Type 61 J 27
 Oval dimensions : 32 x 59 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Dec 1, 1993
 Latest recorded date : Jan 21, 1994
 Number recorded so far : 2

Both recorded items are struck in red.



No. 4 Type REGN 3a
 Box dimensions : 24 x 51 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jun 15, 1993
 Latest recorded date : Jun 15, 1993
 Number recorded so far : 3

All recorded items are struck in red. Two of the 3 recorded items are on piece, so no date of usage can be determined.

RAMOKGWEBANA (Also spelt Ramokgwebane and Ramaquabane)

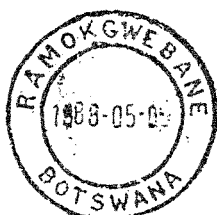
No. 1 Type 2 A 1
 Circle diameters : 18 & 27 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Feb 1, 1967
 Latest recorded date : Nov 29, 1979
 Codes recorded : A
 Number recorded so far : 16



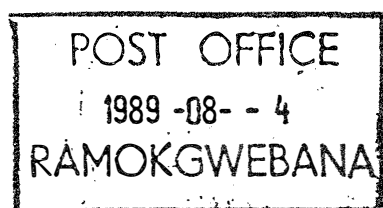
No. 2 Type 2 B 51
 Circle diameters : 18 & 27 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Aug 27, 1981
 Latest recorded date : Jun 8, 1987
 Codes recorded : A
 Number recorded so far : 14



No. 3 Type 2 A 1
 Circle diameters : 19 & 28 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Apr 1, 1985
 Latest recorded date : May ?, 1993
 Number recorded so far : 5

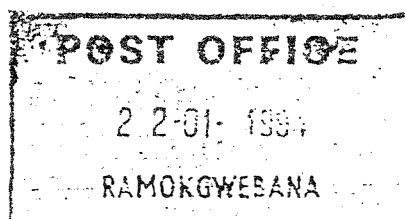


No. 4 Type 2 B 51
 Circle diameters : 18.5 & 27.5 mm
 Earliest recorded date : May ?, 1988
 Latest recorded date : Jan 21, 1994
 Number recorded so far : 14



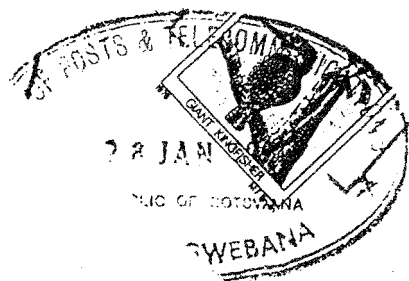
No. 5 Type 8 J 26
 Box dimensions : 26 x 48 mm
 Earliest recorded date : ? 1988
 Latest recorded date : Aug 4, 1989
 Number recorded so far : 2

Both recorded items are struck in red.



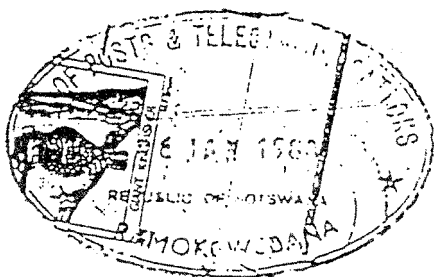
No. 6 Type 8 J 26
 Box dimensions : 27 x 52 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Sep 23, 1993
 Latest recorded date : Jan 22, 1994
 Number recorded so far : 4

All recorded items are struck in red.

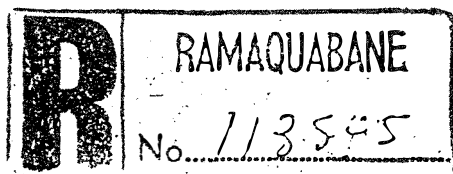


No. 7 Type MISC 6g/OTHR 2b

Oval dimensions : 35 x 55 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jan 6, 1980
 Latest recorded date : Jan 6, 1980
 Number recorded so far : 2



Both recorded items are struck in red. Our definition of MISC type of markings are those of a miscellaneous nature, not covered elsewhere in the typology, that are NOT used as cancellers. This means that although this marking would normally be a type MISC 6g, it is also type OTHR 2b since it is used to cancel stamps. Both recorded items are used to cancel stamps as illustrated.



No. 8 Type REGN 2a

Box dimensions : 22 x 58.5 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jul 8, 1969
 Latest recorded date : Feb 17, 1970
 Number recorded so far : 3

All recorded items are struck in violet.

RAMOTSWA STATION (Also spelt Ramoutsa Station)



No. 1 Type 2 F 17

Circle diameters : 20 & 31 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Apr 6, 1971
 Latest recorded date : Oct 6, 1971
 Codes recorded : A
 Number recorded so far : 2



No. 2 Type 2 A 1

Circle diameters : 21 & 30 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Aug 7, 19 ?
 Latest recorded date : Aug 7, 19 ?
 Codes recorded : Unknown
 Number recorded so far : 1

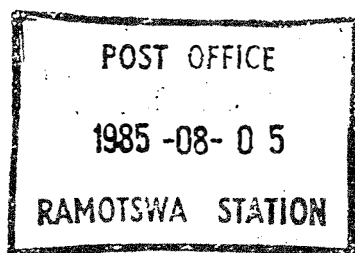


No. 3 Type 2 A 1

Circle diameters : 19 & 26 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jan 29, 1972
 Latest recorded date : Nov 10, 1993
 Codes recorded : A
 Number recorded so far : 41

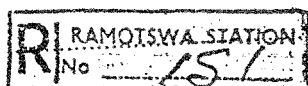


No. 4 Type 21 X 1
 Circle diameters : 18 & 29 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Dec 22, 1982
 Latest recorded date : Oct 25, 1994
 Number recorded so far : 12



No. 5 Type 8 J 26
 Box dimensions : 31 x 45 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jan 31, 1984
 Latest recorded date : Mar 5, 1992
 Number recorded so far : 10

All recorded items are struck in red.



No. 6 Type REGN 2a
 Box dimensions : 10.5 x 39 mm
 Earliest recorded date : ?
 Latest recorded date : ?
 Number recorded so far : 1

The single recorded item is struck in red, and is on piece, so no date can be determined.

RAMOTSWA VILLAGE (Also spelt Ramoutsa Village)



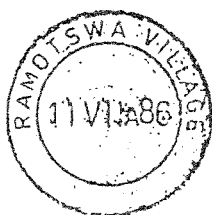
No. 1 Type 2 B 33
 Circle diameters : 20 & 31 mm
 Earliest recorded date : May 1, 1967
 Latest recorded date : May 9, 1970
 Codes recorded : A
 Number recorded so far : 5

This Bechuanaland Protectorate marking continued in use after Independence unaltered. This is Bechuanaland Protectorate postmark No. 1, see Runner Post No. 28, page 560.



No. 2 Type 23 A 1
 Circle diameter : 30 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Sep 12, 1967
 Latest recorded date : Mar 26, 197?
 Number recorded so far : 2

Both recorded items struck in dark purple.



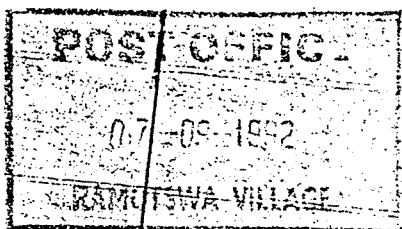
No. 3 Type 2 A 1
 Circle diameters : 19 & 27 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jun 26, 1972
 Latest recorded date : Apr 5, 1994
 Codes recorded : A, B, C
 Number recorded so far : More than 50



No. 4 Type 8 J 26

Box dimensions : 26 x 39 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jul 2, 1985
 Latest recorded date : Jun 11, 1986
 Number recorded so far : 6

All recorded items are struck in red.



No. 5 Type 8 J 26

Box dimensions : 28 x 50.5 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Sep 7, 1992
 Latest recorded date : Sep 7, 1992
 Number recorded so far : 1

The only recorded item is struck in red.



No. 6 Type SPEC 2b

Circle diameter : 23 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Aug 22, 1988
 Latest recorded date : Aug 22, 1988
 Number recorded so far : 2

Omnibus marking, 1888-1988 Mafeking-Gubulawayo Runner Post Centenary. Note spelling as Ramucwa.

RANAKA



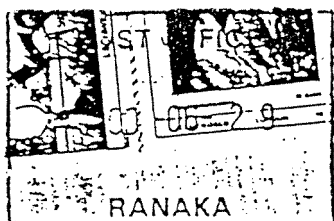
No. 1 Type 23 A 1

Circle diameter : ± 38 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Apr 1, 1978
 Latest recorded date : Apr 1, 1978
 Number recorded so far : 1



No. 2 Type 2 A 1

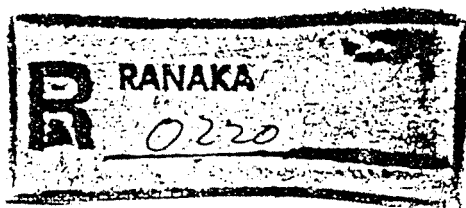
Circle diameters : 17 & 28 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Mar 13, 1979
 Latest recorded date : May 18, 1993
 Codes recorded : A, B, D, None
 Number recorded so far : 11



No. 3 Type 8 J 26

Box dimensions : 27.5 x 42 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jun 29, ?
 Latest recorded date : Jun 29, ?
 Number recorded so far : 1

The single recorded item is a photocopy, so colour of the strike cannot be determined.



No. 4 Type REGN 3b

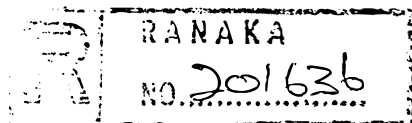
Box dimensions : $\pm 23 \times 58$ mm

Earliest recorded date : ?

Latest recorded date : ?

Number recorded so far : 1

The single recorded item is on piece, so date cannot be determined.



No. 5 Type REGN 2a

Box dimensions : 15×52 mm

Earliest recorded date : Jun 18, 1993

Latest recorded date : Jun 18, 1993

Number recorded so far : 1

The single recorded item is struck in red.

RASESA

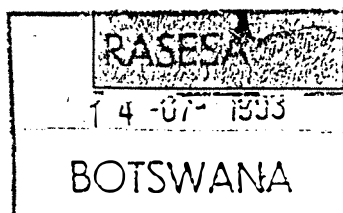
No. 1 Type 2 A 1

Circle diameters : 18.5×27 mm

Earliest recorded date : Feb 22, 1989

Latest recorded date : Jul 14, 1993

Number recorded so far : 5



No. 2 Type 8 B 51

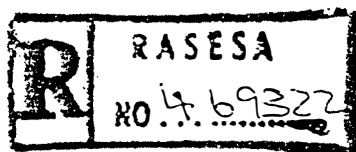
Box dimensions : 27×43.5 m

Earliest recorded date : Jul 14, 1993

Latest recorded date : Jul 14, 1993

Number recorded so far : 1

The single recorded item is struck in red.



No. 3 Type REGN 2a

Box dimensions : $\pm 17 \times 45$ mm

Earliest recorded date : Jul 14, 1993

Latest recorded date : Jul 14, 1993

Number recorded so far : 1

The Botswana Postmark Project Team that provided the data for this Checklist for Offices beginning with the letter R was Dennis Firth, the late Mike George, Sir John Inglefield-Watson, Peter Thy, David Wall (with help from Barbara Andersson and Sheila Case), and myself.

CHECKLIST OF BOTSWANA POSTMARKS FOR THE REST OF THE OFFICES BEGINNING WITH THE LETTER M

Brian Trotter

This checklist covers the recorded postmarks for the rest of the offices beginning with the letter 'M'. The previous checklist covered all those offices beginning with the letters 'Ma' and was published in RP 38 and 39. Since we have so many offices and markings beginning with the letter 'M', it was necessary to divide both checklists - those beginning with 'Ma', and the rest of 'M' - into several parts

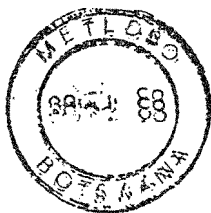
For the rest of 'M' postal markings, the Botswana Postmark Project Team has so far recorded 139 different markings. We can no doubt add to this as our members provide further information, so please help.

SINCE THE RECORDED MARKINGS REPRESENT ESSENTIALLY ONLY WHAT IS CONTAINED IN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE SMALL NUMBER OF MEMBERS WORKING ON THE POSTMARK PROJECT, RECORDED NUMBERS OF MARKINGS DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT RELATIVE SCARCITY OF THE RESPECTIVE MARKINGS.

MEITENGWE

This is an alternative spelling for MAITENGWE, and as such was covered under Maitengwe, in the Checklist for postmarks beginning with the letters Ma. (See RP 38, p850)

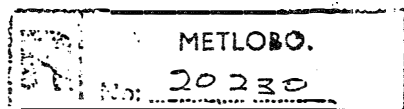
METLOBO



No. 1 Type 2 B 51

Circle diameters	:	18 & 26 mm
Earliest recorded date	:	Apr 8, 1988
Latest recorded date	:	Jul 17, 1992
Codes recorded	:	None, Hyphen
Number recorded so far	:	4

One of the recorded items has the date sequence reversed to go year, month, day.



No. 2 Type REGN 2a

Box dimensions	:	13 x 51 mm
Earliest recorded date	:	Jul 17, 1992
Latest recorded date	:	Jul 17, 1992
Number recorded so far	:	1

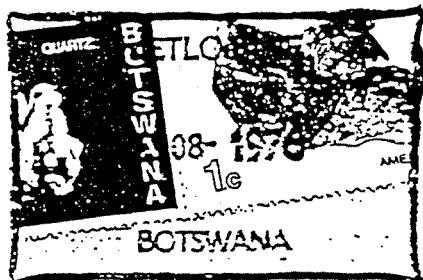
The single recorded item is struck in red.

METLOJANE



No. 1 Type 2 A 1

Circle diameters	:	18 & 26 mm
Earliest recorded date	:	Dec 1, 1980
Latest recorded date	:	Jul 1, 1987
Codes recorded	:	A
Number recorded so far	:	4

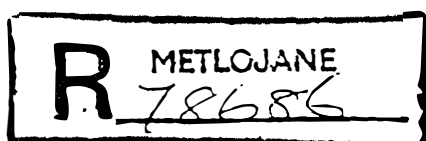


No. 2 Type 8 B 51
 Box dimensions : 34 x 52 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Aug ?, 1976
 Latest recorded date : Aug ?, 1976
 Number recorded so far : 1

The recorded item is a photocopy, so it is not known if it was struck in red.

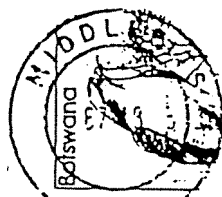


No. 3 Type 8 J 26
 Box dimensions : ±30 x ±50 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Feb ?, 1992
 Latest recorded date : Feb ?, 1992
 Number recorded so far : 1



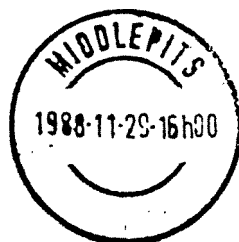
No. 4 REGN 3b
 Box dimensions : 16.5 x 53 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Apr 10, 1992
 Latest recorded date : Apr 10, 1992
 Number recorded so far : 1

MIDDLEPITS

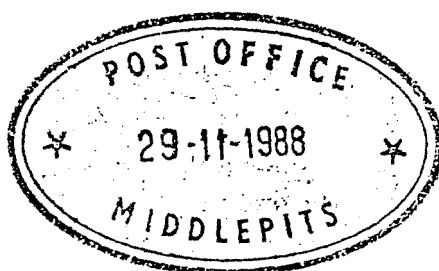


No. 1 Type 2 A 1
 Circle diameters : 18 & 27 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jul 27, 1987
 Latest recorded date : Jul 27, 1987
 Number recorded so far : 2

One of the 2 recorded items is struck in red, the other recorded item is from a photocopy, so it is not known if it is also struck in red or not. Also, the date on the photocopy is 1987, but no month or day can be determined.

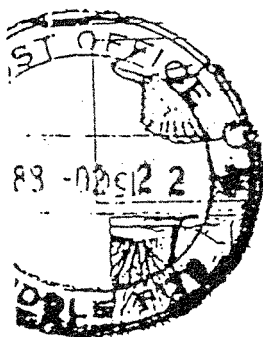


No. 2 Type 21 A 1
 Circle diameters : 17.5 & 30 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Sep 16, 1988
 Latest recorded date : Mar 2, 1993
 Number recorded so far : 7



No. 3 Type 61 J 27
 Oval dimensions : 34 x 57 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Nov 29, 1988
 Latest recorded date : Nov 29, 1988
 Number recorded so far : 1

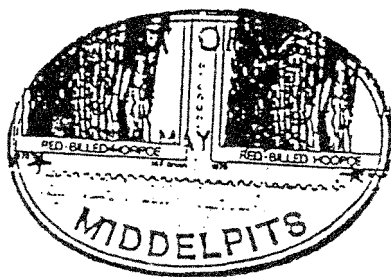
The single recorded item is struck in red.



No. 4 Type 32 J 27

Circle diameters	: 32 & 43 mm
Earliest recorded date	: Feb 22, 1988
Latest recorded date	: Feb 22, 1988
Number recorded so far	: 1

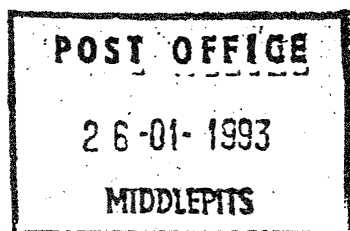
The single recorded item is a photocopy, so it is not known if it was struck in red.



No. 5 Type 61 J 27

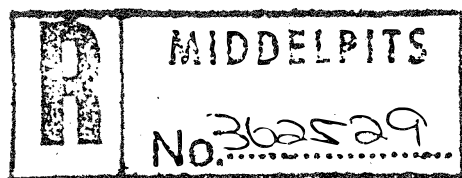
Oval dimensions	: 34.5 x 49 mm
Earliest recorded date	: Nov 1, 1983
Latest recorded date	: Nov 1, 1983
Number recorded so far	: 2

The date is not legible on the second recorded item.



No. 6 Type 8 J 26

Box dimensions	: 28.5 x 43 mm
Earliest recorded date	: Jan 26, 1993
Latest recorded date	: Mar 1, 1993
Number recorded so far	: 2



No. 7 Type REGN 2a

Box dimensions	: 22 x 57.5 mm
Earliest recorded date	: ?
Latest recorded date	: ?
Number recorded so far	: 1

The single recorded item is struck in red, and is on piece, so no date can be determined.

MMADINARE



No. 1 Type 2 A 1

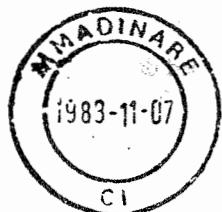
Circle diameters	: 21 & 30 mm
Earliest recorded date	: Mar 8, 1967
Latest recorded date	: Feb 18, 1974
Codes recorded	: A
Number recorded so far	: 2

This is Bechuanaland Protectorate postmark No. 2 with Bech. Prot. excised (See RP 14, p249). Note that MMADINARE is written with only one M, as MADINARE.



No. 2 Type 2 A 1

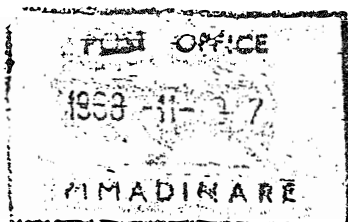
Circle diameters	: 19 & 26.5 mm
Earliest recorded date	: Sep 29, 1978
Latest recorded date	: Oct 12, 1992
Codes recorded	: A, B, C
Number recorded so far	: 38



No. 3 Type 2 C 23(1)

Circle diameters	: 19 & 27 mm
Earliest recorded date	: Feb 21, 1988
Latest recorded date	: Nov 26, 1992
Number recorded so far	: 9

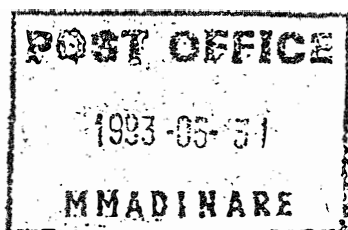
One recorded item has the year as 88, instead of 1988.



No. 4 Type 8 J 26

Box dimensions	: 28 x 44 mm
Earliest recorded date	: Sep 7, 1983
Latest recorded date	: Nov 7, 1988
Number recorded so far	: 4

All recorded items struck in red.



No. 5 Type 8 J 26

Box dimensions	: 29 x 43 mm
Earliest recorded date	: Nov 26, 1992
Latest recorded date	: May 31, 1993
Number recorded so far	: 2

Both recorded items are stuck in red.

MMANKGODI



No. 1 Type 2 A 1

Circle diameters	: 21 & 30 mm
Earliest recorded date	: 26 ? Aug, 1970
Latest recorded date	: 26 ? Aug, 1970
Codes recorded	: A, B
Number recorded so far	: 2

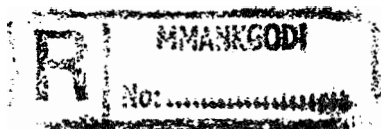
This is Bechuanaland Protectorate postmark No. 1 (See RP 14, p254). Note MMANKGODI is written with only one M, as MANKGODI. The date on the second recorded item is unclear (14 x 11 ??).



No. 2 Type 21 B 51

Circle diameters	: 18 & 29 mm
Earliest recorded date	: Aug 14, 1985
Latest recorded date	: May 26, 1993
Number recorded so far	: 13

Three of the recorded items include the time, the other 10 have the time slot blank. One recorded item is from the 1970's, but the final digit of the date is unclear (25 I ?? 8.30).



No. 3 Type REGN 2a

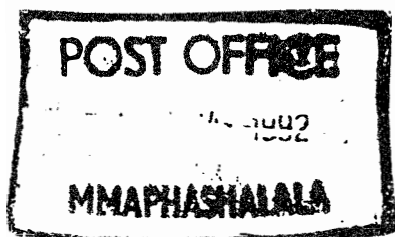
Box dimensions	: ±15 x ±47 mm
Earliest recorded date	: Feb 8, 1989
Latest recorded date	: Feb 8, 1989
Number recorded so far	: 1

MMAPHASHALALA



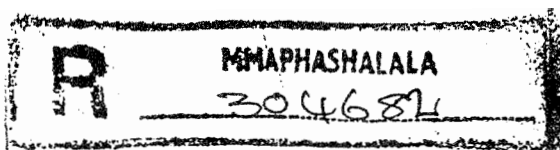
No. 1 Type 2 A 1

Circle diameters	: 19 & 28 MM
Earliest recorded date	: ? , 1988
Latest recorded date	: Apr 13, 1992
Number recorded so far	: 3



No. 2 Type 8 J 26

Box dimensions	: ±30 x 48 mm
Earliest recorded date	: Apr 13, 1992
Latest recorded date	: Apr 13, 1992
Number recorded so far	: 1



No. 3 Type REGN 3b

Box dimensions	: 16 x 71 mm
Earliest recorded date	: Apr 13, 1992
Latest recorded date	: Apr 13, 1992
Number recorded so far	: 1

MMASEKOU



No. 1 Type 21 B(1) 51

Circle diameters	: 17 & 30 mm
Earliest recorded date	: Jun 2, 1993
Latest recorded date	: Jun 2, 1993
Number recorded so far	: 1



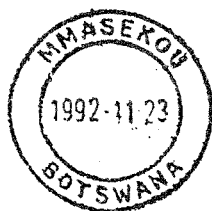
No. 2 Type 21 B(2) 51

Circle diameters : 17 & 30 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jun 25, 1992
 Latest recorded date : Jun 25, 1992
 Number recorded so far : 1



No. 3 Type 21 B(5) 51

Circle diameters : 17 & 32 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Sep 25, 1992
 Latest recorded date : Jul 12, 1993
 Number recorded so far : 7



No. 4 Type 2 B 51

Circle diameters : 18.5 & 26 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Nov 5, 1992
 Latest recorded date : Mar 18, 1993
 Number recorded so far : 3



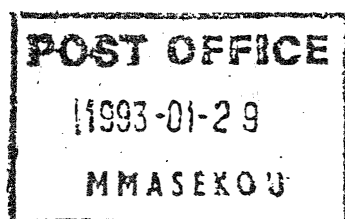
No. 5 Type 2 F 4

Circle diameters : 18.5 & 27 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Aug 4, 1992
 Latest recorded date : Nov 23, 1992
 Number recorded so far : 2



No. 6 Type 2 F 10

Circle diameters : 18 & 26 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jun 28, 1992
 Latest recorded date : Dec 23, 1992
 Number recorded so far : 4



No. 7 Type 8 J 26

Box dimensions : 28 x 43 mm
 Earliest recorded date : May 13, 1992
 Latest recorded date : Jan 29, 1993
 Number recorded so far : 3

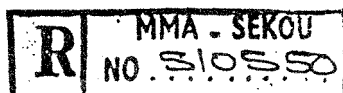
All recorded items are struck in red.



No. 8 Type 61 J 27

Oval dimensions : 33 x 59 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Mar 2, 1992
 Latest recorded date : Mar 18, 1993
 Number recorded so far : 7

One recorded item is struck in red.



No. 9 Type REGN 2a

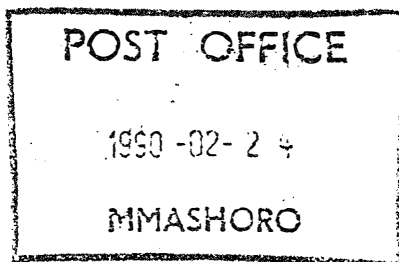
Box dimensions : 12 x 44 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Mar 2, 1992
 Latest recorded date : May 13, 1992
 Number recorded so far : 2

Note that MMASEKOU is hyphenated and written MMA-SEKOU.

MMASHORO

No. 1 Type 2 B 51

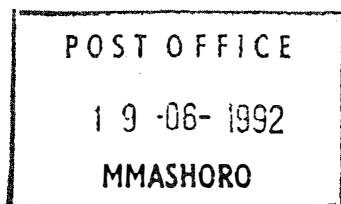
Circle diameters : 19 & 27 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jun 30, 1987
 Latest recorded date : Aug 5, 1992
 Number recorded so far : 6



No. 2 Type 8 J 26

Box dimensions : 33 x 52 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Feb 15, 1990
 Latest recorded date : Feb 24, 1990
 Number recorded so far : 3

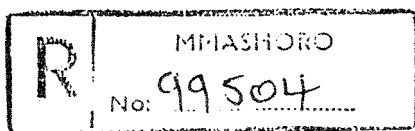
The three recorded items are all struck in red.



No. 3 Type 8 J 26

Box dimensions : 26 x 43 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jun 19, 1992
 Latest recorded date : Jun 19, 1992
 Number recorded so far : 1

The single recorded item is struck in red.



No. 4 Type REGN 2a

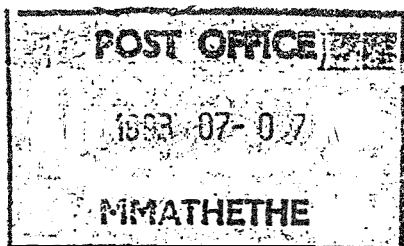
Box dimensions : 15.5 x 53 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jun 19, 1992
 Latest recorded date : Jun 19, 1992
 Number recorded so far : 1

The single recorded item is struck in red.

MMATHETHE

No. 1 Type 2 A 1

Circle diameters : 19 & 27 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Aug 12, 1985
 Latest recorded date : Jul 9, 1993
 Codes recorded : A, B, C
 Number recorded so far : 18



No. 2 Type 8 J 26

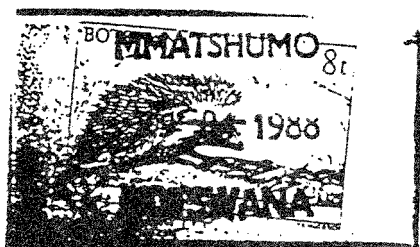
Box dimensions : 31 x 51 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Mar 1, 1988
 Latest recorded date : Jul 7, 1993
 Number recorded so far : 4

MMATSHUMO

No. 1 Type 21 B 51

Circle diameters : 18 & 29 mm
 Earliest recorded date : ? 15, 1987
 Latest recorded date : Sep 11, 1991
 Number recorded so far : 2

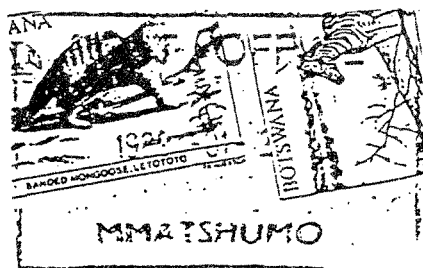
One of the recorded items has date sequence reversed, that is year, month, day.



No. 2 Type 8 B 51

Box dimensions : 31 x 53 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Apr 4, 1988
 Latest recorded date : Apr 4, 1988
 Number recorded so far : 1

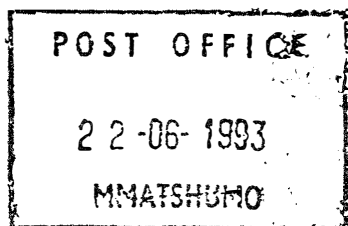
The single recorded item is from a photocopy, so it is not known if the marking is struck in red.



No. 3 Type 8 J 26

Box dimensions : 33 x 52 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jan ?, 198?
 Latest recorded date : Jan ?, 198?
 Number recorded so far : 1

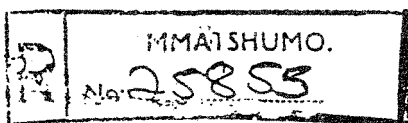
The single recorded item is from a photocopy, so it is not known if the marking is struck in red.



No. 4 Type 8 J 26

Box dimensions : 28 x 43 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Jun 22, 1993
 Latest recorded date : Jun 22, 1993
 Number recorded so far : 1

The single recorded item is struck in red.

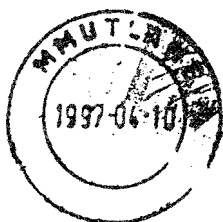


No. 5 Type REGN 2a

Box dimensions : 14 x 51.5 mm
 Earliest recorded date : ?
 Latest recorded date : ?
 Number recorded so far : 1

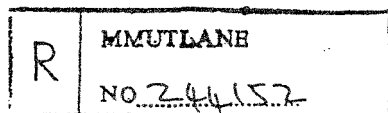
The single recorded item is struck in red, and is on piece, so no date can be determined.

MMUTLANE



No. 1 Type 2 A 1

Circle diameters : 19 & 28 mm
 Earliest recorded date : May 16, 1988
 Latest recorded date : Apr 10, 1992
 Number recorded so far : 3



No. 2 Type REGN 2a

Box dimensions : 13.5 x 49 mm
 Earliest recorded date : Apr 10, 1992
 Latest recorded date : Apr 10, 1992
 Number recorded so far : 1

The single recorded item is struck in red.

THE NEXT PART OF THIS CHECKLIST FOR OFFICES BEGINNING

WITH THE LETTER 'M' WILL APPEAR IN RP 42

RARE STAMPS



BRITISH BECHUANALAND

1887 Unappropriated Dies £5 lilac and black very fine mint. Clear certificates of RPS (1958) & Diena (1961). Very rare.

SG 21

Rxxxxx

If you are looking for the rarer stamps of the Bechuanalands, let me know. I may well be able to help locate those elusive stamps - whether highly catalogued or not.

ALAN MACGREGOR

Member: PTS, SAPDA, APS

P O BOX 3130, CAPE TOWN 8000, SOUTH AFRICA

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