

The Runner Post

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Issue 51



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April 1998 - October 1999

THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY

LIST OF OFFICERS

| | |
|---|--|
| Chairman | Alan MacGregor P.O. Box 515, Simon's Town 7995, South Africa. |
| Vice Chairman | Lt. Col. Sir John Inglefield-Watson Bt. The Ross, Hamilton, Lanarkshire, ML3 7UF, U.K. |
| Secretary | David Wall 8 Walkwood Rise, Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 1TU, U.K. |
| Treasurer | David Hardwick 47 Rugby Road, Clifton, Rugby, Warwicks CV23 0DE, U.K. |
| Membership Secretary / Archivist | Jim Catterall Trevessa, Upper Castle Road, St Mawes, Truro, Cornwall TR2 5BZ, U.K. |
| Auctioneer (U.K.) | Tony Chilton 56 Framfield Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2AL, U.K. |
| Botswana Representative | R.J.F. 'Andy' Andersson P.O. Box 1240, Gaborone, Botswana. |
| South African Representative / Auctioneer (S.A.) | Howard Cook P.O. Box 6, Gillitts, Natal 3603, South Africa. |
| Editors | Alan MacGregor P.O. Box 515, Simon's Town 7995, South Africa. Neville Midwood 69 Porlock Lane, Furzton, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK4 1JY, U.K. |

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

My grateful thanks are due to Jim Catterall for producing two excellent Newsletters (4 and 5) which helped fill the gap during the prolonged absence of a *Runner Post*.

This will be my last issue of *The Runner Post* as Editor. Jim Catterall announced in Newsletter 5 that we have a new and enthusiastic volunteer Editor (he really did volunteer!) – Neville Midwood, whom I am confident will put the *Runner Post* back on track. Neville is working on a web-site for the Society which already looks most attractive. Members with internet access can view the site at:

<http://www.netcomuk.co.uk/~midsoft/bbsoc.html>

He has also set up an e-mail address which can be used to send contributions electronically to *The Runner Post*:

RunnerPO@netcomuk.co.uk

With the responsibility of Editor lifted, I hope to be able to contribute items of news and information as well as articles on aspects of Bechuanaland philately that particularly appeal to me. One of these will be a follow up to the Rare Stamps Study – a project that greatly interests me. Another topic of interest to me is the amazing find of the Tati and Gubulawayo strips which were recorded in Newsletter No. 4. In late 1997 I was offered, purchased and promptly resold (!) the two strips which were included in the balance of the 'Hunt' philatelic collections (the main collections had been sold many years previously). I believe the find is of great interest and importance to Bechuanaland (and Rhodesian) philately. I have an article nearing completion on this topic which will include illustrations of every recorded Tati and Gubulawayo postmark with 'Bechuanaland' at foot that I have been able to trace.

I am sure all members will join me in expressing their sincere gratitude to Neville for taking on the role of *Runner Post* Editor and to wish him all the best.

Please support Neville by sending him news, snippets, illustrations of new acquisitions, questions and articles!

Editor's Comments - Again / Neville Midwood

One disadvantage of having two Editors for this issue of *The Runner Post*, I have decided, is that members get to read two lots of Editors Comments!

This issue has been termed the handover issue. That means that I get to stick in the pictures after Alan has done most of the hard work. It also falls to me to ask you all to go and get a large glass of your favourite drink, find your most comfortable chair, and raise a toast and three cheers for Alan MacGregor for his excellent work as Editor over the last 10 years. As a measure of the high standards he achieved as editor, members are reminded that *The Runner Post* was awarded a Silver-Bronze Medal at the Autumn Stampex in 1990. I hope that his involvement in *The Runner Post* will simply shift to contributing a large number of those articles he hinted at.

As a collector of pre-1911 Bechuanaland and Stellaland for only a year, I am afraid I am sadly lacking in knowledge about many of the areas covered by the Society. Nor do I know who most of you are and what interests you have. So I will be dependant on people like Alan MacGregor and Sir John Inglefield-Watson for their expertise in the technical matters, and on you, the members, to introduce yourself and your interests by post, by e-mail or at the Society's stands at the various shows.

One decision taken at the 1999 AGM, which took place on the first day of the Autumn Stampex, which I need to pass on at this point is the Society's publishing schedule. The plan is to produce two issues of *The Runner Post* per year along with two Newsletters. I would be aiming to produce the *The Runner Post* in March and September alternating with a Newsletter in June and December. These dates are only a guide so that members know when to aim for in completing articles and contributing items. As I have volunteered to also produce the Newsletter I need to ask members to now send their news items, questions and answers to me, rather than to Jim Catterall.

A quick word about the Internet. The Societies' web page address and my e-mail address are mentioned in Alan's 'Editor's Comments'. If any member who is on-line has an e-mail address they want publishing for the use of other members they should send me an e-mail. I will place these e-mail addresses on a member's page on the web site. The member's password for the web site is "holmes". Also if any member has any questions about electronic contributions, image formats and compression or any questions about the web site please contact me.

NEWS**New Members**

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Tony Stanford of Cookham, Berks, U.K.

Tony's interests include Bechuanaland to 1932, 19th Century GB Military/Army Telegraphs and GB Postal Agencies in Europe and Africa.

Ian Pollard, 148 Hollywood Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 5BT, U.K.

Ian is interested in postal history and runs a postal auction for Southern African stamps and postal history.

Rory P Ryan, P.O. Box 1683, Halfway House 1685, South Africa.

Rory is interested in QV adhesives and postal history and the WW2 East Africa campaign.

A bucket-full of medals

Congratulations go to our member Peter van der Molen who was awarded the Royal Philatelic Society's Tapling Medal for his article 'The origination of the Swaziland King George VI definitives' published in *The London Philatelist*, v. 107, no. 1256, June 1998. Peter has also won a vermeil medal for his exhibit at the Beijing International and the Grand Prix at this year's South African National Exhibition, JOPEX.

A bucket-full of medals! - but perhaps more importantly, as a result of Peter's efforts Swaziland has suddenly burst upon the philatelic scene in a big way.

News from the Botswana Philatelic Society

Thanks are due to the Botswana Philatelic Society (BPS) for keeping us in touch with their activities by sending me their Newsletter.

In the March 1999 issue, Rob Cowen, the BPS Chairman, reported on a meeting that he had with the new Director of the National Museum, Mrs Pule. She had asked for assistance in getting to grips with the Museum's stamp collection, and proved to be very open to the possibility of the BPS having a chance to display details of the Society in connection with future stamp exhibitions at the Museum. It will be interesting to hear the nature of such exhibitions as and when they occur.

There was also a presentation by Sheila Case on 'Working with School Stamp Clubs' who outlined her work and plans for organising this commendable activity.

The display at the 9th March 1999 meeting consisted of 'Botswana Errors' by Neil Wolton whose presentation included many errors and flaws, only some of which are catalogued.

The May meeting included a proposal from the floor for the BPS to produce a booklet on Botswana stamps, listing all information which their members have collected (e.g. artists' names, printers, variations, numbers of runs and especially anecdotes, etc.) The Treasurer (Lene Bay) volunteered to act as a repository of this information and members were encouraged to contact Lene with contributions. I sincerely hope this project proves fruitful as all too often philatelic details of current issues are not recorded for posterity with the result they are lost to future generations of collectors. Without collectors 'on the spot' recording this information, even collectors today find it difficult getting information on current and recent issues.

Extracted from March, May & July 1999 BPS Newsletters.

BPS address: PO Box 502426, Gaborone, Botswana

SG Catalogue changes to Bechuanaland Protectorate Jubilees

The *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* 'Catalogue Column' published in September 1998 included comments on changes to the issue dates quoted for the Bechuanaland Protectorate 3d Jubilee (SG 63) which is reprinted below:

Sharp-eyed users of the Botswana section of the Part 1 (*British Commonwealth*) Catalogue have probably noted that the date quoted for No 63, the 1897-1902 overprint on the GB Jubilee series 3d. has been quietly changed from December 1897 to 1898.

This follows research by Sir John Inglefield-Watson of the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society into the De La Rue archives at the National Postal Museum. De La Rue overprinted and surcharged Great Britain stamps and postal stationery as part of the consolidated contract held between 1880 and 1910. The supply of such overprinted GB issues to British Bechuanaland, and subsequently the Bechuanaland Protectorate, does appear to have been a somewhat complicated process, as all such orders were placed through the Board of Inland Revenue Stamping Department who, in most instances, arranged the despatch of the stamps rather than De La Rue.

The material in the NPM does, however, provide details of overprinting and the quantity produced. For the 1897-1902 Protectorate overprints all values were initially overprinted in October 1897 which does, of course, cast some doubt on the quoted date of issue in the Protectorate for these stamps. As far as the 3d. value is concerned, however, the previous date of December 1897 cannot be correct. The De La Rue records clearly indicate that the first over printing of this jubilee 3d. did not take place until June 1898. Sir John suggests that this may well have been due to the considerable stocks of the same value in the Unappropriated Die series, No 12, which are known to have been used during the Protectorate period.

The date of issue for No 63 has been corrected, but some doubt must remain over when Nos 59, 61/2 and 64/5 went on sale in the Protectorate. Was the date of December 1897 intended to apply to these stamps and not the 3d.? It would be interesting to know if anyone has examples of these stamps showing postmarks before December 1897.

G.S.M. September 1998

Members' attention is particularly drawn to the last paragraph where the catalogue Editor requests details of any examples of the other values of the set, namely the ½d vermilion (the ½d blue-green was only issued in 1902), 1d, 2d, 4d and 6d with postmarks clearly showing dates before December 1897.

Can any member help?

1997 Postal Rates / Peter Thy

Although now somewhat out of date, the postal rates of Botswana changed on August 1, 1997, for the first time since July 1, 1995. As in 1995, the rates saw a significant increase - exceeding for many cases 100%.

Below are listed the most common rates:

| SURFACE MAIL | Botswana | Southern Africa | Rest of the World |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Letter (20g) | 0.35 | 0.55 | 1.25 |
| Postcard | 0.35 | 0.70 | 0.90 |
| Printed Paper (20g) | 0.35 | 0.55 | 0.70 |
| Small Packet (100g) | 0.70 | 1.40 | 1.60 |
| Parcel (first 100g) | 1.40 | -. - | -. - |

| COMMERCIAL RATE WITHIN BOTSWANA | |
|--|-------|
| Up to 20g | 0.90 |
| 20-50g | 1.35 |
| 50-150g | 3.95 |
| 150-250g | 6.60 |
| 250-500g | 13.15 |
| 500-1000g | 26.25 |
| Each 500g above 1000g (max 10kg) | 13.15 |

| AIRMAIL | Botswana | Southern Africa | Rest of Africa | Europe | Middle East | Rest of the World |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Letter (10g) | 0.55 | 1.00 | 1.40 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.50 |
| Postcard | 0.55 | 0.80 | 1.00 | 1.75 | 1.40 | 1.75 |
| Aerogramme | 0.50 | 0.80 | 1.40 | 1.90 | 1.90 | 2.25 |
| Printed paper (10g) | 0.55 | 0.80 | 1.00 | 1.75 | 1.40 | 1.75 |

| SPECIAL CHARGES | |
|------------------------|------|
| Registration | 1.75 |
| Registered Envelopes | 0.90 |
| Picture Postcard | 0.90 |
| Express | 6.65 |

| EMS RATES (500g) | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| UK | 55.00 |
| USA | 48.00 |
| SADAC | 42.00 |

MEMBERS' COMMENTS AND QUERIES

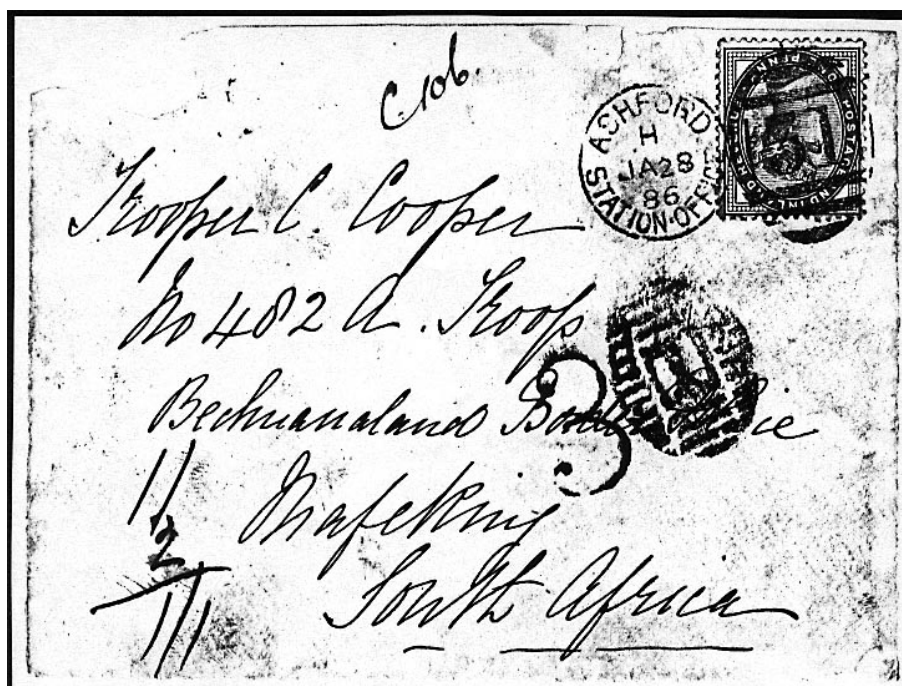
Those Rates Again

Frederick Lawrence writes:

Runner Post readers may recall an exchange between Dr. Alan Drysdall and myself in RP 24 (Sep 1991, p444-5) concerning the letter rate from the Cape to the UK in 1885. I offered a Jan 1886 UK-to-Mafeking due cover as a counter to the 6d per ½ ounce rate. Dr. Drysdall responded that the UK-to-British Bechuanaland rate might not be the same. He has now pointed out that this is indeed the case. In 'An Example of Mail Addressed to Stellaland/Bechuanaland' in the Dec 1998 *London Philatelist* (now incorporated in the article 'Stellaland Revisited – Again' reproduced starting on page 1274 of this issue), he wrote:

"The reciprocal rate was introduced in the UK with effect from 1 January 1886, from which date the sender could prepay a letter addressed to British Bechuanaland at the 8d per half-ounce rate. (The charges on unpaid and insufficiently paid mail from the UK were distributed in a similar manner, the Cape GPO receiving the amount of the deficiency on the basis of a charge of 6d per half ounce plus a fine of 6d, and Bechuanaland 2d per half ounce.)"

Hence, the Jan 1886 UK-to-Mafeking due cover can now be properly explained in terms of the UK-to-British Bechuanaland rate of 8d per ½ ounce which was in effect from 1 Jan 1886. The cover was franked with 1d, so it was insufficiently paid by 7d. Double this deficiency was 1s.2d. due, of which the Cape GPO received 10d and British Bechuanaland received 4d. The cover was first charged '3d' in Cape Town, but this was obliterated by an inspector's 13-bar numeral '1'. Then the cover was charged 1s.1d. (manuscript '1/1'), but this was marked out by a single horizontal pen stroke. Finally, the cover was correctly charged 1s.2d. (manuscript '1/2'). Having passed through Cape Town on 26 Feb 1886, it was received in Mafeking on 4 Mar 1886. When the cover was posted from Ashford Station Office on 28 Jan 1886, the 8d rate had only been in effect for four weeks.



British Commonwealth Revenues

[see page 1268 for the text]

59

BECHUANALAND**British, Revenue..... 50****Local Government Tax. 51****Protectorate, Revenue .. 51****Botswana, Revenue 52****Stellaland, Revenue..... 52****Tati Concessions 52**

Extensive and sparsely settled territory north of Transvaal, partly under British protection, with outlying parts settled by independent Boers and later brought under British control. Stellaland was formed in 1882 by Boer adventurers but was taken over by the British three years later. The Tati Concessions were a gold mining area in Matabeleland. The Concessions had only a short life as more rewarding diamond mines were found to the south and the gold workings were abandoned. The territory was handed over to the British South Africa Company in 1890. Bechuanaland achieved independence in 1966, becoming known as Botswana.

**BECHUANALAND
(BRITISH)
REVENUE**

1887. Cape Revenues ovpt BRITISH BECHUANALAND in blue. Wmk Anchor (6d) or CC (other values).

1. 6d brown on yellow (B)..... 75.00
2. 1/- brown (B)..... 75.00
(2/- red)



4. 2d lilac A & black 7.50
5. 3d lilac A & black 10.00
6. 4d lilac A & black 15.00
7. 6d lilac A & black 10.00
8. 1/- green & black 2.50
9. 2/- green & black 5.00
10. 2/6 green & black 5.00
11. 5/- green & black 5.00
12. 10/- green & black 25.00
13. £1 lilac A & black 35.00
14. £5 lilac A & black 150.00

**BECHUANALAND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
TAX**

c.1965. Inscribed Bechuanaland. Perf 14.

1. 25c colour? 20.00
2. 50c violet & black 20.00
3. 1R red & black 15.00
4. 2R green & black 35.00
5. 4R brown & black 35.00



c.1967. Inscribed Botswana. Perf 14.

6. 25c colour? 5.00
7. 50c violet & black 5.00
8. 1R red & black 7.50
9. 2R green & black 10.00
10. 3R blue & black 10.00
11. 4R brown & black 10.00

**BECHUANALAND
(PROTECTORATE)
REVENUE**

1903. Cape revenues (Portrait) ovpt BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

3. £10 violet 350.00



1904/10. Transvaal revenues (and 6d postage) variously ovpt.

A) "Bechuanaland Protectorate"

4. 6d orange & black 25.00
5. 2/6 orange & black 15.00
6. £1 green & black 50.00



B) BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE with large B and P (bluish-black)

7. £5 violet & black 75.00



C) BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE with all letters same size (bluish-black overprint)

8. 2/6 orange & black 15.00

60



1906. Cape revenues overprinted.

- 11. 1d lilac A & red..... 10.00
- 12. 1/- lilac A & blue..... 10.00
- 13. 2/- lilac A & black..... 15.00
- 14. 5/- lilac A & black..... 30.00
- 15. £1 green & brown..... 75.00



1917. South Africa revenues similarly overprinted.

- 16. 2/6 orange & green..... 10.00
- 17. 5/- brown & black..... 10.00
- 18. 10/- green & purple..... 10.00
- 19. £1 black & blue..... 35.00
- 20. £1 red & green..... 25.00
- 21. £5 purple & green..... 30.00

1918. Postage stamp of 1887 surcharged £5, for fiscal use.

- 22. £5 on 1/- green & black..... 350.00



1922. Postage stamp of S. Africa ovpt "Bechuanaland Protectorate" for licence duty.

- 23. 1d red (King)..... 30.00
- 24. 1d red & black (ship)..... 50.00



1926. South African revenues ovpt "Bechuanaland/Revenue Only" in 2 lines. Wide spacing (3mm) between lines.

- 25. 6d red & purple..... 25.00

- 26. 1/- violet & violet..... 15.00
- 27. 2/- green & red..... 25.00
- 28. 2/6 orange & green..... 15.00



c1932. Similar ovpt, but narrow spacing (2mm) between lines.

- 30. 6d red & purple..... 20.00
- 31. 1/- violet & violet..... 15.00
- 32. 2/- green & red..... 25.00
- 33. 5/- brown & black..... 20.00
- 34. 10/- green & purple..... 30.00
- 35. £1 red & green..... 50.00

1926. South African Revenues ovpt "Bechuanaland/Revenue/Only" in 3 lines.

- 36. 6d red & purple..... 25.00
- 37. 1/- violet & violet..... 15.00
- 38. 2/- green & red..... 25.00
- 39. 2/6 orange & red..... 15.00
- 40. 5/- brown & black..... 20.00
- 41. 10/- green & purple..... 30.00
- 42. £1 red & green..... 50.00



1932. KGV pictorial, as postage issue but inscribed "Revenue".

- 43. £1 grey-green & green..... 175.00
- (44. black & green)



1938. KGV pictorial, as postage issue but inscribed "Revenue".

- 45. £1 grey..... 150.00
- (46. £1 black & green)

c1942. Native Tax stamp of South Africa surcharge "Bechuanaland Protectorate Revenue" and value.

- 47. 6/- on 2/6 green & brown..... 50.00



1955. QEII pictorial, as postage issue but inscr. "Revenue".

- 48. £1 green & black..... 75.00
- 49. £5 orange & black..... 100.00



1961. New Currency surcharge.

- 50. R2 on £1 green & black..... 100.00
- 51. R10 on £5 orange & black..... 50.00

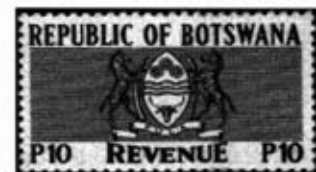
BECHUANALAND (BOTSWANA) REVENUE

In 1966 Bechuanaland became independent, and assumed the name of Botswana.



1968? Arms. Perf 14.

- 1. 10R carmine..... 10.00



1976. New Currency. Glazed paper. Perf 12½.

- 2. 10p deep blue & black..... 3.50

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BECHUANALAND (STELLALAND) REVENUE



1884. Perf 11½. No wmk.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| 1. 6d orange..... | *30.00 |
| 2. 1/- purple-brown..... | *30.00 |
| 3. 1/6 olive-green..... | *50.00 |
| 4. 2/- slate-grey..... | *50.00 |
| 5. 2/6 grey..... | *35.00 |
| 6. 5/- green..... | *50.00 |
| 7. 10/- vermilion..... | *65.00 |
| 7a. pair imperf between..... | *200.00 |
| 8. £1 lilac..... | *85.00 |
| 9. £5 claret..... | *125.00 |

Imperfs are proofs or unfinished remainders.

1886. Handstamped with control monogram fancy JPM in violet (this ovpt is often inverted, no premium).

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| 10. 6d orange..... | *10.00 |
| 11. 1/- purple-brown..... | *10.00 |
| 12. 1/6 olive-green..... | *10.00 |
| 12a. pair imperf between..... | *75.00 |
| 13. 2/- slate-grey..... | *10.00 |
| 14. 2/6 grey..... | *10.00 |
| 15. 5/- green..... | *10.00 |
| 16. 10/- vermilion..... | *10.00 |
| 16a. pair imperf between..... | *75.00 |
| 17. £1 lilac A..... | *35.00 |
| 18. £5 claret..... | *75.00 |



1886. Used by Bechuanaland authorities, inscription REPUBLIEK VAN/STELLALAND deleted by hand.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 19. 1/- purple-brown..... | 50.00 |
|---------------------------|-------|
- Other values may exist.*

1887. Very small overprint **BRITISH BECHUANALAND**.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------|
| 19. £5 claret..... | 200.00 |
|--------------------|--------|
- Other values may exist.*

BECHUANALAND (TATI CONCESSIONS) REVENUE



1895. Perf 14. Wmk Rose. Printed by De La Rue, in sheets of 6 x 10.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------|
| 1. 1/- red..... | *50.00 |
| 2. 2/6 blue..... | *50.00 |
| 3. 5/- violet..... | *50.00 |
| 4. 10/- green..... | *50.00 |
| 5. £1 blue..... | *50.00 |
| 6. £5 orange..... | *100.00 |

John Barefoot of J. Barefoot Ltd sent me a draft copy of the Bechuanalands entry from the new edition of "British Commonwealth Revenues" due out later this year.

Our thanks to John for allowing the draft to be reproduced here. He has some questions and requests which he hopes members may be able to help with. He also included the following statement:

"The Commonwealth Revenues catalogue is the fruit of many small contributions from many collectors over the years. All additions and corrections are welcome, will be acknowledged in the book in the list of contributors, and of course will help other collectors in due course."

The questions follow. Can I ask any member able to answer any question or provide photo, scan or example to send their response to me [Neville Midwood] and I will collect them together and forward them to John. The preference, as always, is for photocopies or scans to have a black background to show perforations.

1. page 59, Revenue: Does the **BRITISH BECHUANALAND** exist

on the 2/- Cape?

2. page 60, 1918 £5 on 1/-: This was reported ages ago but I've never seen one in the flesh. Can any member provide a photo/ photocopy/ scan?

3. page 60, 1926 three-line ovpts on South Africa revenues: Can any member provide a photo/ photocopy/ scan or loan?

4. page 60, 1932 KGV Revenue: AND 1938 KGV Revenue: I have received two different colour descriptions of both of these items. In each case do both colours exist?

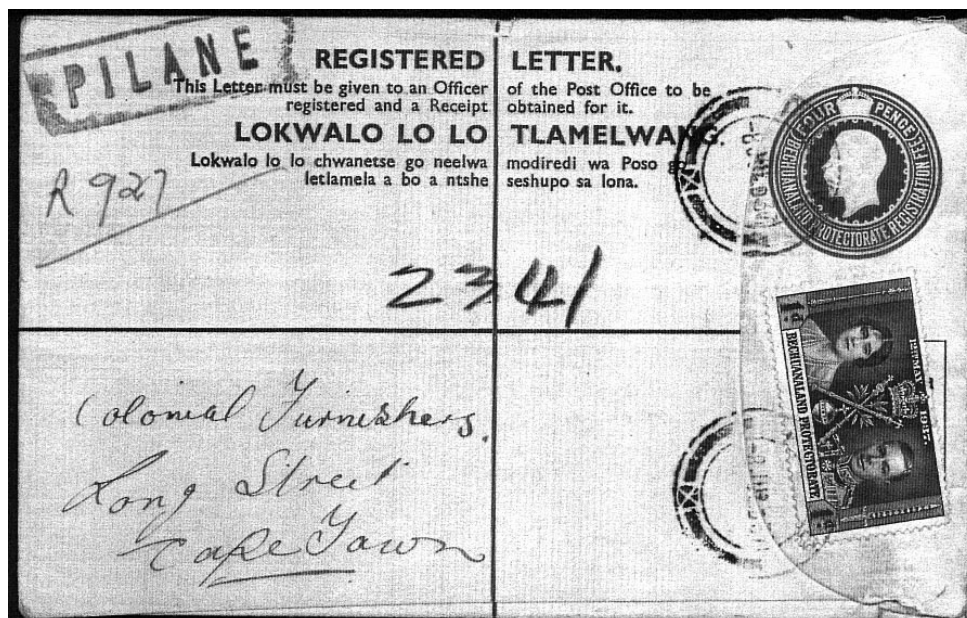
5. page 61, 1886 Stellaland deleted in manuscript for use in Bechuanaland. Do values other than the 1/- exist?

6. Are there any new items to add to the listings? Can any member suggest improvements?

Bechuanalands Postal Markings - Unrecorded Pilane Registration Handstamp

John Inglefield-Watson writes:

The KG V registration envelope illustrated below bears a boxed 'PILANE' registration handstamp (BBS Typology Type REGN 5) struck in violet that was not recorded in the Society's postal markings project article in RP #16 nor in Proud's 1996 book 'The Postal History of Basutoland and Bechuanaland Protectorate'. The 'PILANE' postmarks on the stamps are dated -8 JUL.B 37. Have any other examples of the handstamp now been seen?



Royal Air Force Gaberones, 1947 / John Inglefield-Watson

Peter Thy provided this illustration of a 'radio ham' card sent from RAF Gaberones in September 1947. The card is printed in red and blue and is blank on the reverse. Presumably it was sent in a cover. Peter asked me to use my Services' experience to pose relevant queries.

Can anyone provide information about RAF Gaberones:

What was its role, its approximate strength and the period of its existence at Gaberones?

What postal facilities were provided for its servicemen - was there a British Forces Post Office or did they have to use the civil post office? If the latter, were they entitled to special HM Forces postal rates?

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| GM3AFG ZD3AF ZD2T | R A F | VQ4AWH VQ2JT ZS60L |
| PRESENT C/S ZS60L | | |
| To RADIO G2MI CONFIRMING 10m Fone QSO on 26 Sept 47 | | |
| M1842 LT/GMT---UR. SIGS Q.S.R.S.S. T ORN QSB | | |
| TX 21807 RX ARSB: ANT 3EC. Ref Beam W 90W | | |
| REMARKS Time. Arthur for QSO | | |
| OPR. J. M. Thompson | | |
| PRESENT QTH RAF Gaberones | HOME QTH 37 Landale Rd. Peterhead Aberdeenshire, Scotland | |
| BECHUANALAND | | |

S & S LTD.-7742

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Inverted Watermark SG 76a

Leon Jacobson reports finding an inverted watermark on the Bechuanaland Protectorate 1921 KGV 2d orange. Not only is it a mint lower marginal copy which clearly shows the watermark, but it also has control 'R 21' proving the precise issue (SG 76a). This will presumably be listed as 'SG 76aw'.

Inverted watermarks are recorded on two values of the 1925-27 issue with block watermark: 3d (SG 94w) and the 1/- (SG 98w). This is therefore the first recorded inverted watermark on the earlier 1913-24 Simple Cypher issue. No doubt they are recorded occurring on the basic GB stamps, though this is the first time I have heard of one on the Protectorate overprinted stamps.

There are obviously discoveries still to be made in Bechuanaland, so it pays to keep your eyes open. Congratulations Leon!



Incoming Mail to German South West Africa via Mier / Jim Catterall

Details of an interesting card have been sent to me by the Librarian of the Munich Philatelic Library, Robert Binner. It was first reported in the "Rundschreiben" of the Ar Ge Kolonien in Germany, March 1998.

The card was posted at Charlottenburg (Berlin) on 11 November 1904 and addressed to a Sergeant stationed at Hasuur. At this time there was widespread unrest in GSWA and this probably accounts for the delay and the routing via The Cape and Mier, which place was not reached until February 26 1905. A further, even longer delay, resulted in the card not reaching



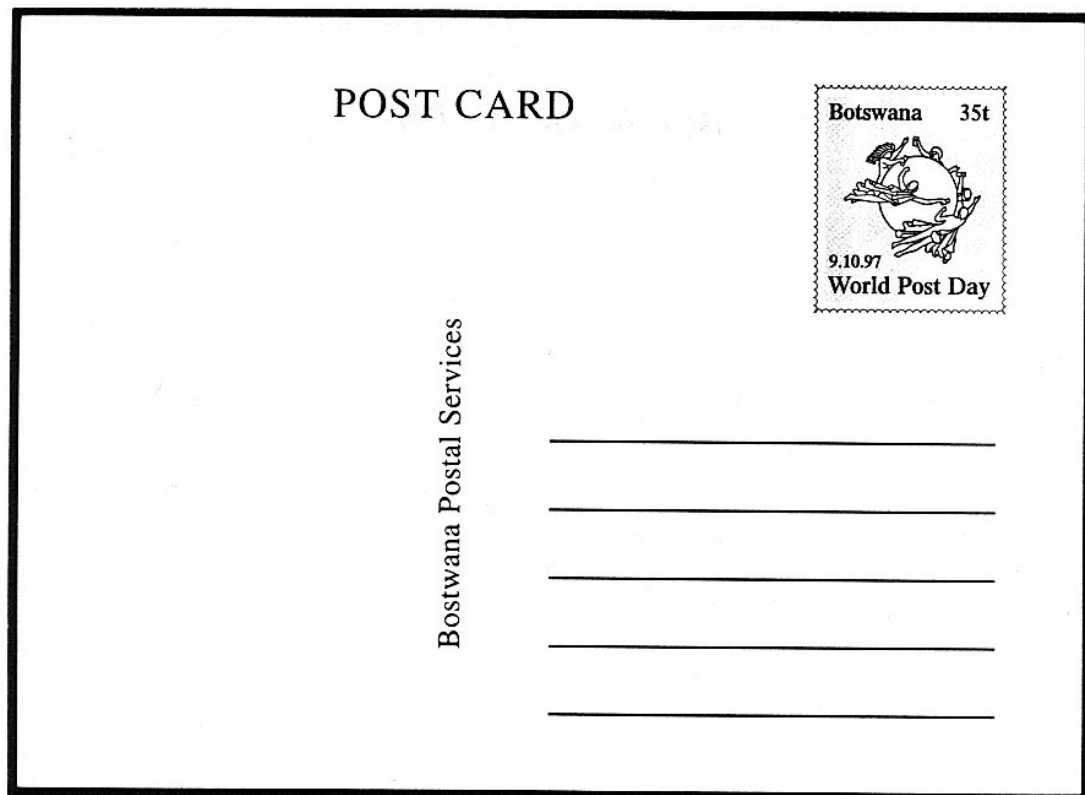
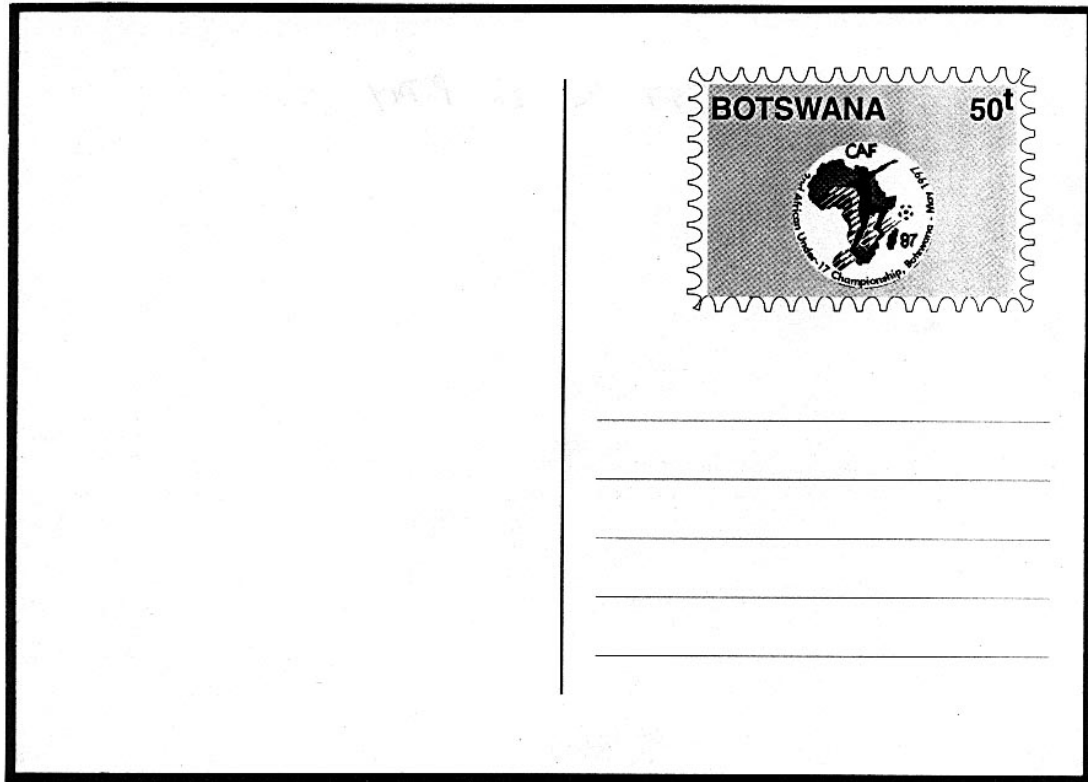
Hasuur until September 14 1905.

A possible explanation of the delay at Mier could be that the P.O. there felt no obligation to deliver mail into German territory and waited for it to be collected. Of course it may be that the card was simply pigeonholed and forgotten. This is the only such card or letter into GSWA with the Mier transit stamp ever recorded by the writer.

According to a German Order of January 20 1904, mails to and from troops in GSWA were free. Ordinary postcards could be used by changing the word Postkarte to Feld-Postkarte. However by July 5 1904 special formula cards, inscribed Feldpostkarte, were available. Strictly speaking, after that date, only the formula cards should have been accepted but as this example shows, there were exceptions.

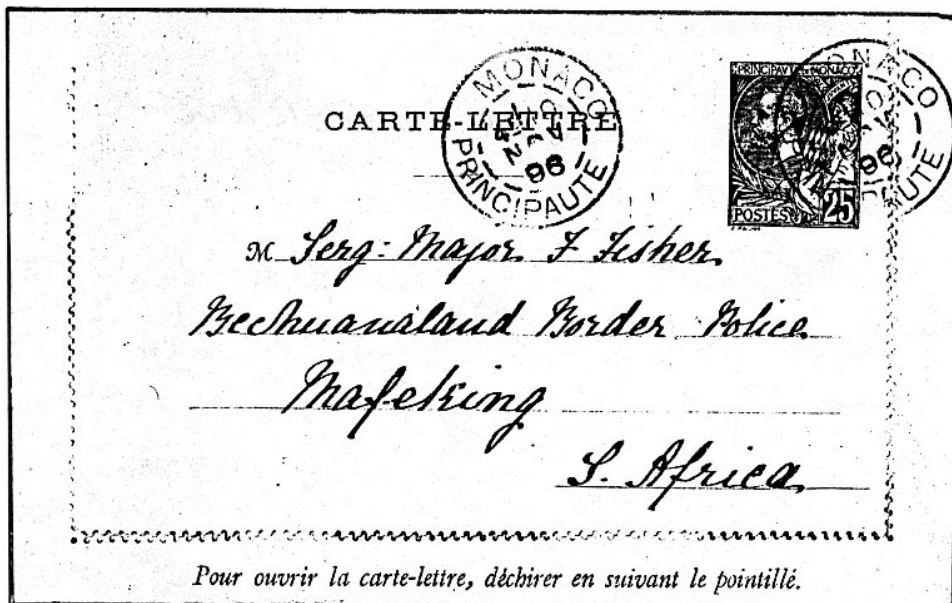
Botswana Postal Stationery Cards Issued in 1997

Peter Thy sent two postcards which were mentioned in the minutes of the 4th March BBS meeting (included with Newsletter 5). That meeting was designated a 'Postal Stationery Seminar'. Under 'Botswana Postcards', two cards were recorded as being issued in 1997. These were for the African under 17 Football Championship and the other for Heinrich Von Stephan. Thanks to Peter we can now illustrate these below.



A Letter Card from Monaco to Mafeking 1896

This Monaco Letter-card was addressed to Serg. Major Fisher of the Bechuanaland Border Police at Mafeking. The message, which is of minimal interest, was dated 10 Nov. 1896. The Monaco cancel was applied the same day and the back stamps show that it reached Cape Town on Dec. 1 and arrived at Mafeking on December 3rd.



Fisher was still addressed as Sgt. Major B.B.P. although the corps had been disbanded, almost a year before, in December 1895. The Sergeants Mess photograph shows Fisher in the centre of the back row, standing, with arms folded. It may have been their last meeting before disbanding. At the time Sergeant Major Fisher was the Paymaster Sergeant.

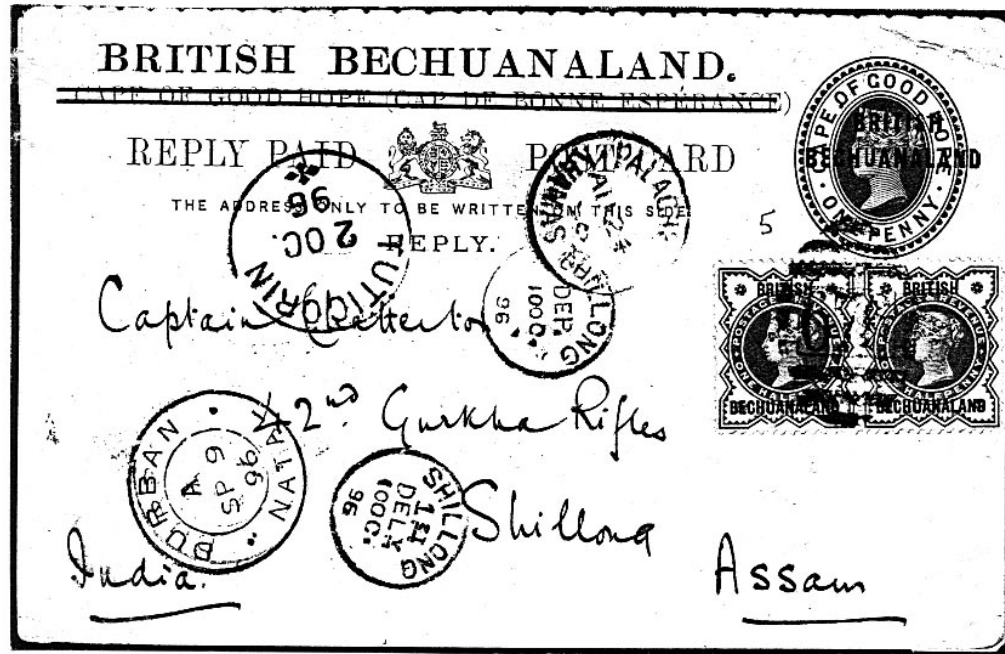


Acknowledgements to Richard Stroud and Mike Leach.

Ngamiland and the 'British West Charterland Ltd.' Revisited

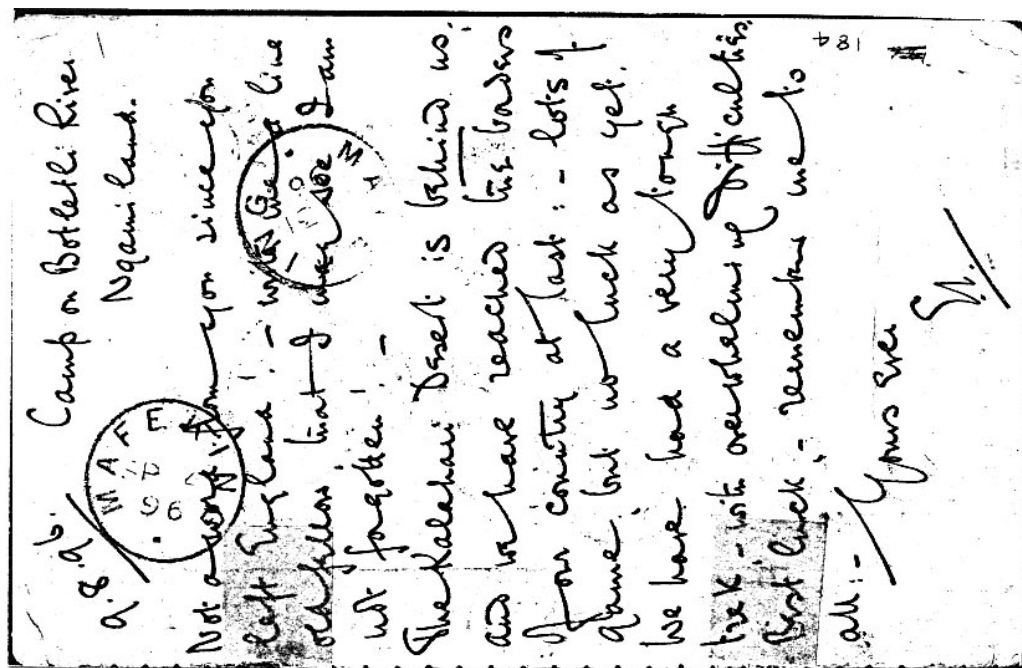
Brian Fenimore has provided photocopies and details of a remarkable postal stationery card. It consists of the Reply' half of a British Bechuanaland 1d+1d reply paid stationery card (H&G 7) and has been used to India in 1896. The card has been 'uprated' with the addition of a pair of ½d vermilion (SG 9) which have been by a clear '676' Barred Oval Numeral Cancellor with a 'proving' strike of the PALACHWE KHAMAS TOWN datestamp alongside.

Commercially used postal stationery cards to destinations other than Germany and the UK are scarce enough, but what



is really interesting is the message on the reverse which reads:

"9.8.96 / Camp on the Botletli River / Ngamiland. Not a word from you since you left England! - write me a line old fellow that I may see I am not forgotten! The Kalahari Desert is behind us, and we have reached the borders of our country at last: - lots of game but no luck as yet. We have had a very tough trek - with overwhelming difficulties. Best luck, - remember me to all: - Yours ever E.L."



This card appears to have been written by Lieut. E.J. Lugard who had joined his brother, Captain F. Lugard, who was heading an expedition to Ngamiland on behalf of 'British West Charterland Ltd.'. Arrangements had been made with Khama who provided a runner to maintain contact with the outside world. The expedition passed through Palapye on 15 June and at the time of writing had just crossed into Ngamiland.

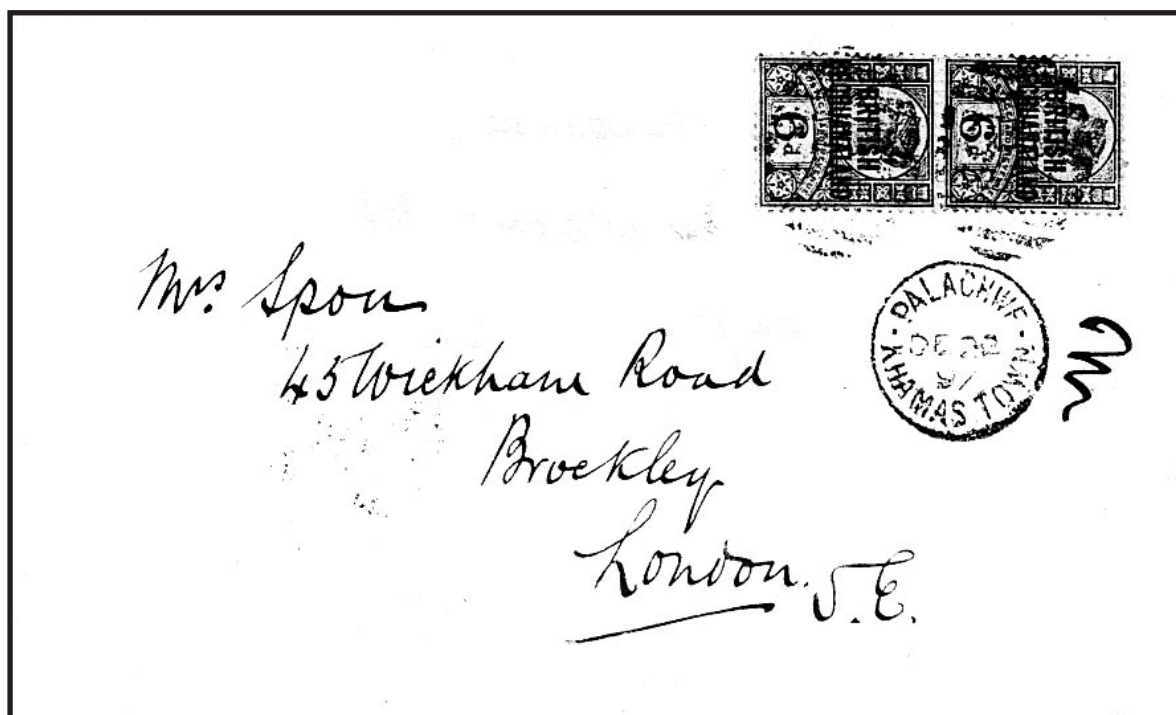
The postal markings are as follows: Mafeking (31 Aug & 2 Sep) on reverse, Durban (9 Sep), Tuticorin (2 Oct) and Shillong (10 Oct) on the front. For a full account of the Ngamiland expedition, see the article by Tony Chilton, which originally appeared in RP 16, p284, (and also RP 21, p380), and which is reprinted starting on page 1271 of this issue.

While researching his new acquisition, Brian's attention was drawn to a cover which has resided in his collection for many years that may also emanate from a member of this expedition.

Tony Chilton's article included the following paragraph:

Although the British West Charterland foray into N'Gamiland proved to be entirely unsuccessful as far as finding any minerals is concerned, further items of correspondence to or from the Lugard brothers, Edward's wife Charlotte Eleanor who had joined the expedition in mid-1897, Robert Hicks, Dr Spon, Dr Passarge or the other members of the expedition, even 'Colorado Browne', may yet be identified.

It now appears 'further items of correspondence' from a member of the expedition have indeed been identified. Although sent over a year after the card above, the cover in question was also posted or entered the mails at Palachwe. It is addressed to London and bears a pair of the 'Jubilee' 6d (SG 36) tied by the '676' Barred Oval Numeral Cancellor with a 'proving' strike of the PALACHWE KHAMAS TOWN (DE 22 / 97) datestamp below. The unusual addressee surname 'Mrs Spon' is the same as that of the 'Dr Spon' mentioned in Tony's article. Furthermore, written on the back in pencil (which will not reproduce well) is the annotation 'Extracts from Major Lugards Reports Re. M.O.' The exact meaning of the 'M.O.' is unknown but may well refer to 'Mining Operations'.



[Reprinted from Runner Post #16, but without illustrations]

British West Charterland - Early Letters of the Lake N'gami Area

Tony Chilton FRGS

A while ago, our editor showed me a Cape of Good Hope ½d postal stationery card which, with an additional 1d Hope standing adhesive, had been posted in Mafeking on 28 June 1898. It was addressed to Capt. E.J. Lugard, N'Gamiland and was endorsed on the back with a cachet recording its receipt on 1 August 1898 by the "British West Charterland Ltd. Expeditionary Office". Subsequently, a very similar card was reported, from the same sender - the Standard Bank in Mafeking - on 22 September 1898, addressed to "Capt. Lugard, British West Charterland, Lake N'Gami" with the Expeditionary Office receiving cachet of 28 October 1898. A reference to a third card is to be found in the March 1975 edition of 'The Philatelist'. This card was sent from the Standard Bank in Mafeking on 14 June 1898 to Capt. E.J. Lugard, British W. Ch.land, Ngamiland" and bears the receipt cachet of 17 July 1898. The card itself is an acknowledgement of a letter sent by Captain Lugard on 7 May, thus confirming a transit time in both directions of about 5 weeks. A fourth card from the same sender, similarly addressed, was sent on 26 July 1899 but has no receiving cachet.

No description seems to have appeared in a philatelic publication of an expedition to N'Gamiland in the late 1890's; still less of what or where British West Charterland may have been. The present-day N'Gamiland District occupies the north west portion of Botswana, north of the 21st parallel and west of the 24th meridian, plus an eastwards extension including the Nxai pan and the Makgadikgadi reserve. The central part of the District is occupied by the Okavango Delta; the surrounding areas are semi-desert, not really like the romantic image portrayed by a former Resident Commissioner for the District, as used for the KGV, KGVII and QEII definitive issues. The only settlement of any size in the District is Maun, which also boasts its only tarred road. The main road of the District leads from Maun eastwards towards Francistown and westwards, skirting Lake N'Gami, to Ghanzi and then to Lobatsi or Namibia. (From personal experience, this road is most politely described as appalling, consisting of a track through soft sand or bone shattering rocks.)

On 28 August 1889 Moremi, who was then the Chief of the Tawana or Western Bamangwato tribe which lived in the semi-desert and swamp areas surrounding Lake N'Gami, granted a prospecting right throughout his territory to a group of three entrepreneurs, James Nicolls, Robert Hicks and John Strombom. In May 1890, the concession was sold to the Africa and General Exploring Company, which shared the same address and the same solicitors as the British South Africa Company. The sale however fell through and the concession reverted to Nicolls and Hicks (Strombom having died). Moremi had also died, on 4 November 1890, but the concession was confirmed on 4 February 1891 by the regent Dithapo and further acknowledged by the Chief Sekgoma when he came of age. The concessionaires' title to the prospecting rights was however challenged by the British South Africa Company which itself held a concession from Khama, Sekgoma's rival to the east. On 22 January 1895, Nicolls and Hicks brought a High Court action against the BSAC but the matter was settled out of Court by an agreement dated 1 February 1895. This agreement recognised Nicolls and Hicks' rights in an area bounded to the west and north by the German S.W.A. frontier, to the south by the 22nd parallel and to the east by the 25th meridian, an area of some 73,000 square miles. This thus defined the boundaries of N'Gamiland, which in the exact words of the agreement were "northwards from Lake N'Gami as far as the 18th parallel of south latitude on the upper waters of the Okavango river; southward to the line of the British Protectorate south of the 22nd parallel of south latitude; eastward to the boundary of Khama's territory, Bechuanaland, at a place called Letter Boom on the Botletle river, east of the 25th meridian of east latitude; and westward to the line of the German Protectorate, west of the 21st meridian of east longitude".

In August 1895, a company called 'British West Charterland Limited' was formed to take over the concession. The company had its offices at 15 and 16 George Street, Saint Swithin's Lane, London and used the old Chief's name 'Moremi' as its telegraphic address. The company had high hopes for its acquisition. It confidently expected that the gold and diamond bearing rocks of southern Africa extended westwards into its territory. They proposed to make a base for operations at Palapye in the expectation that the Bechuanaland railway, which then terminated at Mafeking, would reach Palapye by mid-1897. Peace in the area would be assured by the assumed takeover of the administration of the whole of Bechuanaland by the British South Africa Company.

British West Charterland Ltd. lost no time in planning an expedition to prospect for minerals in its concession. On 21 November 1895 they wrote to the BSAC and to the Colonial Office to announce that "Captain Lugard has been appointed to the command of this expedition and has undertaken to represent the British West Charterland Ltd. as its Chief Agent and Managing Director. His brother, Lieut. E.J. Lugard, accompanies him as second in command".

Frederick John Dealtry Lugard was born in 1858 in Madras (India) the son of a chaplain. He entered the army in 1878, was commissioned from Sandhurst after only eight weeks (along with the rest of the cadets) in view of the Russian threat in Turkey, and joined the East Norfolk Regiment. He saw action in the Afghan, Suakin and Burma Wars before travelling to East Africa where he served the Imperial East Africa Company. In 1894, he went to West Africa in the service of the Royal Niger Company, an area he was to return to in 1897. He received a Knighthood in 1901 and was later Governor of Hong Kong and Governor-General of Nigeria. He died in 1945 as Baron Lugard of Abinger.

Edward James Lugard was born in Worcester (England) in March 1865. He too joined the army and served in India until joining his brother on the N'Gamiland expedition and later in Nigeria. He rejoined the army in 1914 and rose to the rank of Major. He died in January 1957.

The Lugards, with their party of surveyors, a newly qualified doctor named Spon and an American mining engineer known as 'Colorado Browne' left for South Africa on 22 February 1896, and arrived in Cape Town on 10 March. It was not an auspicious time for travelling north, being only some ten weeks since the Jameson Raid had begun from Pitsani in the Protectorate. In addition, the Matabele rebellion had begun and the BSAC was hurriedly acquiring every waggon, trek ox and food store it could along the very route the Lugard expedition was to follow. In addition, the cattle disease rinderpest had reached Bechuanaland and spread as far south as Palapye so that no ox-drawn waggon could proceed that way. Moreover, unprecedented locust swarms were destroying all vegetation in the north-west and a severe drought had hit the Kalahari so that there was no knowing what water supplies were available. Nevertheless, on 4 May 1896 the expedition left its gathering point at Mafeking, made up of 11 Europeans, 27 Africans, 12 horses, 62 mules, 110 donkeys and 12 waggons and carts carrying water and 35,000lbs of food and prospecting gear. The expedition travelled north through countryside littered with the corpses of dead cattle, through Gaberones to Palapye, Khama's headquarters, which they reached on 1 June. Khama had met Frederick Lugard when the former had been in London with the Bechuana Chiefs' delegation. In view of the fact that the expedition was travelling to Khama's enemy Sekgoma, it is fortunate that the two men had a personal liking for each other for Lugard needed to make an arrangement by which he could be in communication with the outside world. He had tried to negotiate with the Post Office in Cape Town but could not accept the terms which the officials there had apparently stipulated (no details of these terms are available but Lugard himself described them as 'absurd'). Khama however came to the rescue and undertook to send runners every week and surprisingly allowed payment for their services to be made directly to the men and not through Khama himself.

The expedition left Palapye on 15 June, halted at Letlhakane on the 27th (ironically now the site of Botswana's second diamond mine) and, in early August, crossed into N'Gamiland. They followed the Botletle river and on 13 September 1896 reached the point where that river is met by the river Thamalakene and by the Nghabe channel to the west linking it with Lake N'Gami. They were 670 miles from Mafeking and 366 miles from Palapye, from where they had averaged only a little over 4 miles a day. They had lost 22 mules, 33 donkeys, 8 horses and the mining engineer Browne had deserted even before the expedition had reached Gaberones. Captain Lugard noted: "I observe that there is a movement for the adoption in England of 'Motor-cars' or self-propelled vehicles. If such vehicles could be procured, capable of burning wood as fuel, they, would, be invaluable. Wood fuel abounds and such vehicles would be independent of forage, of water (except at long intervals) and of lions"; The expedition paused at this river junction for a few days and Lugard records receiving letters brought by Khama's runners.

On 16 September, Frederick Lugard and Robert Hicks (one of the original concessionaires) set off for Sekgoma's headquarters at Nakalechwe, north east of Lake N'Gami and about 100 miles from Lugard's camp. (While there was some water in the channel leading to the lake, the lake itself was dry and had been for two years. Lake N'Gami has historically been a very variable body of water. When David Livingstone first saw it in 1849, he described it as "this fine-looking sheet of water" where he "could detect no horizon". It was dry again in the mid 1960's but was full once more by 1970. Today the lake is completely dry. Your present writer traversed the area from south to north in November 1988: the inhabitants of Sehithwa on what was once the northern shore reported that there had been no water in the lake for four years.) Lugard addressed the Chief and his counsellors and in due course was allocated a camp site as headquarters for the expedition. This was in the Kgwebe Hills about 20 miles south-east of the lake.

At the end of January 1897 Dr Passarge the new mining engineer, a German, arrived at the camp. Khama's runners appeared punctually every week with letters and newspapers and the expedition members were able to send their own letters, and Frederick Lugard's reports to the British West Charterland directors in London, by the same means. Early in 1897 however, the runners ceased arriving. After 8 weeks isolation, it was learned that six runners had died on the journey, probably of thirst, and another had been eaten by a lion. Lugard mentions very infrequent visits by missionaries and traders who might have carried letters from him but the native runners must have carried by far the majority of the not inconsiderable correspondence to and from the camp. It was however a letter brought by a sergeant of the territory's tiny police force which brought Frederick Lugard's involvement with N'Gamiland to an end. It contained a cable from the Colonial Office, announcing the intention of raising a large native force to prevent a French occupation of the hinterland of the Gold Coast and Niger territories. Lugard was promoted and offered command of this force. He left the encampment for Palapye on about 24 August and in due course sailed from Cape Town on 6 October 1897. The timing of his departure means that the 4 cards mentioned at the beginning of this article are not personally connected with Frederick Lugard but with his historically less famous brother Edward. The mode of address as Captain is confusing as the initials are plainly those of Edward. Colonial Office papers confirm that the brothers went to N'Gamiland as Captain Frederick and Lieutenant Edward and the Dictionary of National Biography describes Edward as taking charge of the N'Gamiland expedition as Lieutenant. Who Was Who however reports that Edward served in N'Gamiland under Major Frederick and the cable from the Colonial Office which recalled Frederick from the expedition referred to him as Major Lugard and offered him the job in West Africa with the local rank of lieutenant-colonel (one rank up from major).

After Frederick Lugard's departure, the search for gold and diamonds in N'Gamiland was carried on under Edward's direction for another two years, until the outbreak of the Boer War. It is from this period that the only cover so far reported which emanates from N'Gamiland dates. The September 1975 edition of 'The Philatelist' illustrates a cover addressed to 'The Military Secretary, Government House, Cape Town and is endorsed in manuscript "From Ngami:- no stamps obtainable". There is a transit mark of Palachwe/Khamas Town 3 November 1897 and the cover is backstamped in Cape Town on 8 November 1897.

Although the British West Charterland foray into N'Gamiland proved to be entirely unsuccessful as far as finding any minerals is concerned, further items of correspondence to or from the Lugard brothers, Edward's wife Charlotte Eleanor who had joined the expedition in mid-1897, Robert Hicks, Dr Spon, Dr Passarge or the other members of the expedition, even 'Colorado Browne', may yet be identified.

References:-

- Colonial Office papers 417/159 (in the Public Record Office, Kew), pages 302 etc.
- Lugard Papers (in the Bodleian Library).
- D. Livingstone, Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa (1857), pages 65 etc.
- M. Perham, Lugard - The Years of Adventure (Collins, 1956), pages 561 etc.
- Dictionary of National Biography 1941-50 (Oxford University Press, 1959).
- Who Was Who 1951-60 (A & C Black, 1961).
- A. Sillery, Founding a Protectorate (Mouton & Co, 1965), page 182.
- The Philatelist, March and September 1975, pages 174 and 354.
- Readers Digest Illustrated Guide to South Africa, pages 414 etc.

And thanks to Vic Visser, Derek Hepworth and Jim Catterall for allowing us to illustrate items in their collections and to Roy Setterfield for identifying some of the primary sources. **[Illustrations omitted from this reprint]**

Stellaland Revisited - Again

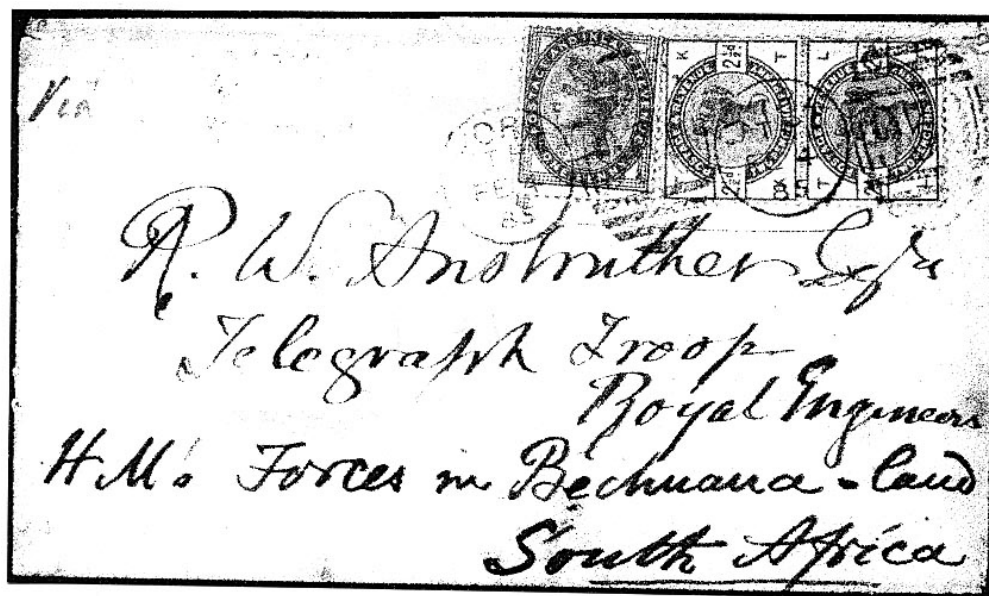
Alan Drysdall

'It never rains, but it pours' must rank as one of the most hackneyed of clichés, but in the manner of clichés, it remains only too true. One should not therefore be unduly surprised that no sooner is a new find reported, than its near-relations are demanding attention.

Stellaland/Bechuanaland in 1885

The first item illustrated (Fig. 1) was, however, slow to surface. It is an incoming cover addressed to Lt. R.W. Anstruther, then with the Telegraph Troop of the Royal Engineers, part of Warren's Force in Stellaland or "Bechuanaland" as it is referred to on this cover. Five other covers addressed to R.W. Anstruther were listed in a previous article in *The London Philatelist* (v. 101, no. 1192, April 1992, p.98), but this one is possibly unique in that it contains a short letter with family news written by his mother, who was then at York. It was posted on the 4th February, 1885, and franked (SG 172 and 2 x SG 90) to receipt payment of the 6d-per-half-ounce letter rate to Cape Colony. The backstamps record that it reached Cape Town on 'FE 27 / 85', and Barkly in Griqualand West on '2 MR / 85'. It was therefore carried aboard the *Grantully Castle*, which sailed from Dartmouth on the 6th February and reached Cape Town, after a call at Madeira, on the 26th.

Figure 1 (courtesy of John Taylor)



Ralph Anstruther was the son of a Baronet with a family seat in Pittenweem in Fife, on the north coast of the Firth of Forth. He was educated at Eton, and several of the officers he served with in Egypt and Bechuanaland were contemporary old-Etonians to whom he was known as 'Dad'. (He married a Miss Hussey, who was probably the sister of one of these officers, Lt. W.C. Hussey.) While in Bechuanaland he commanded No. 1 Section – the equivalent of a platoon – of the Telegraph Troop of the Royal Engineers. There is no record of him having served during the Second Anglo-Boer War, and it would seem that he had left the army before then, possibly when his father died and he inherited the title.

The discovery of a correspondence comprising six covers addressed to Anstruther when he was in South Africa was reported in *Stamp Magazine* in May 1983 (p.89). Only one of the covers was illustrated, and several were not described in any detail. A cover that was in the Holmes Collection (Harmers, 29.10.81, lot 1297) was identified as an additional item from the same correspondence. Details have been reported of five covers¹, but five others, including this one, have since come to light. What is unusual is that they were sent from widely separated locations, including Tralee in Ireland, Pittenweem and Edinburgh in Scotland, York, London, Aldershot, Cairo and Gibraltar. Illustrations are available of eight, which, judging from the handwriting, were sent by five different people, most of whom were probably fellow officers or old Etonians or both.

Only the covers posted in Pittenweem, York and London are addressed in the same handwriting, probably that of his father. (Although the cover from York contains a letter from his mother, the writing on the envelope differs and it was probably addressed by her husband.) The cover from Edinburgh was addressed by his mother. The sender of the cover from Egypt was probably Lt. A.E. Sandbach.

What is known regarding these covers can be summarised as follows:

| Postmark | Date | From | To | Postage | Comments |
|------------|---------|-----------------|----------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Pittenweem | 1-11-85 | John Anstruther | Lt. Anstruther | 1d | Stamp Magazine, May, 1987, p. 18 |
| Pittenweem | 1-11-85 | John Anstruther | Lt. Anstruther | 1d | Stamp Magazine, May, 1987, p. 18 |
| Edinburgh | 1-11-85 | John Anstruther | Lt. Anstruther | 1d | Stamp Magazine, May, 1987, p. 18 |
| Edinburgh | 1-11-85 | John Anstruther | Lt. Anstruther | 1d | Stamp Magazine, May, 1987, p. 18 |
| Edinburgh | 1-11-85 | John Anstruther | Lt. Anstruther | 1d | Stamp Magazine, May, 1987, p. 18 |
| Edinburgh | 1-11-85 | John Anstruther | Lt. Anstruther | 1d | Stamp Magazine, May, 1987, p. 18 |
| Edinburgh | 1-11-85 | John Anstruther | Lt. Anstruther | 1d | Stamp Magazine, May, 1987, p. 18 |
| Edinburgh | 1-11-85 | John Anstruther | Lt. Anstruther | 1d | Stamp Magazine, May, 1987, p. 18 |
| Edinburgh | 1-11-85 | John Anstruther | Lt. Anstruther | 1d | Stamp Magazine, May, 1987, p. 18 |
| Edinburgh | 1-11-85 | John Anstruther | Lt. Anstruther | 1d | Stamp Magazine, May, 1987, p. 18 |

There are, however, clues that additional covers exist. For example, the note in *Stamp Magazine* (see above) refers to a cover from Tralee in Ireland. (Five of the covers included in the table, namely those from Pittenweem, South Kensington and



York, were probably among those recorded by *Stamp Magazine*.)

Figure 2 The earliest of the covers addressed to Lt. Anstruther, from his parents and posted at Pittenweem (courtesy of *Stamp Magazine*)

The earliest of the covers listed and the cover sent the following day must have been sent before Anstruther's parents were aware of the correct postage rate to Cape Colony, then 6d per half ounce. They were as a result taxed the amount of the underpayment, 1d and 3d respectively, plus an additional rate (6d), i.e. total amounts of 7d and 9d. The letters sent from Cairo and Gibraltar were also underfranked and therefore taxed.

According to the official diaries, No. 1 Section, Telegraph Battalion, RE, left Cape Town during the evening of the 21st December. All the letters listed would therefore have been forwarded until they caught up with the Expedition, which had proceeded by train to Orange River Terminus, and then 10 miles overland to Langford Camp. The backstamps provide some evidence as to where Anstruther was. The first cover known to have been backstamped at Kimberley was the one posted in Cairo which reached Cape Town on the 4th January, 1885.

The earliest cover known to have been backstamped at Barkly in Griqualand West had reached Cape Town on the 13th March, 1885. Anstruther was in the Maritzani–Madibi area, northeast of Sitlagoli at the time he received the letter enclosed in the cover illustrated as Figure 1. He was appointed Inspector of the telegraph line between Groot Choing and Mafeking with effect from the 2nd April, but by early June he was in Mafeking (see the second of the letters quoted below).

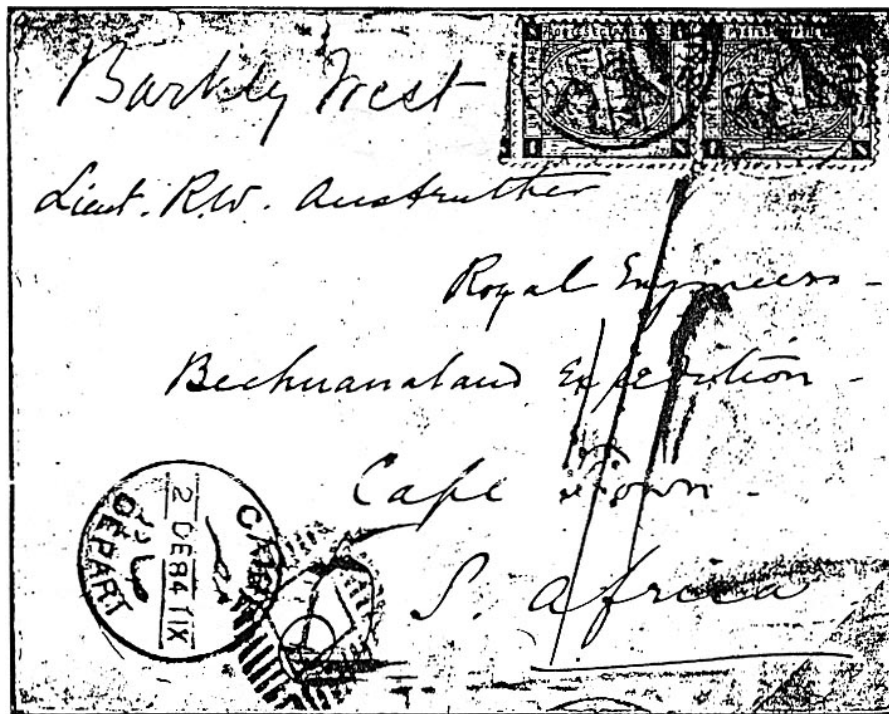


Figure 3 A cover addressed to Lt. Anstruther sent from Cairo, probably by Lt. A.E. Sandbach (courtesy of Cedric Roché)

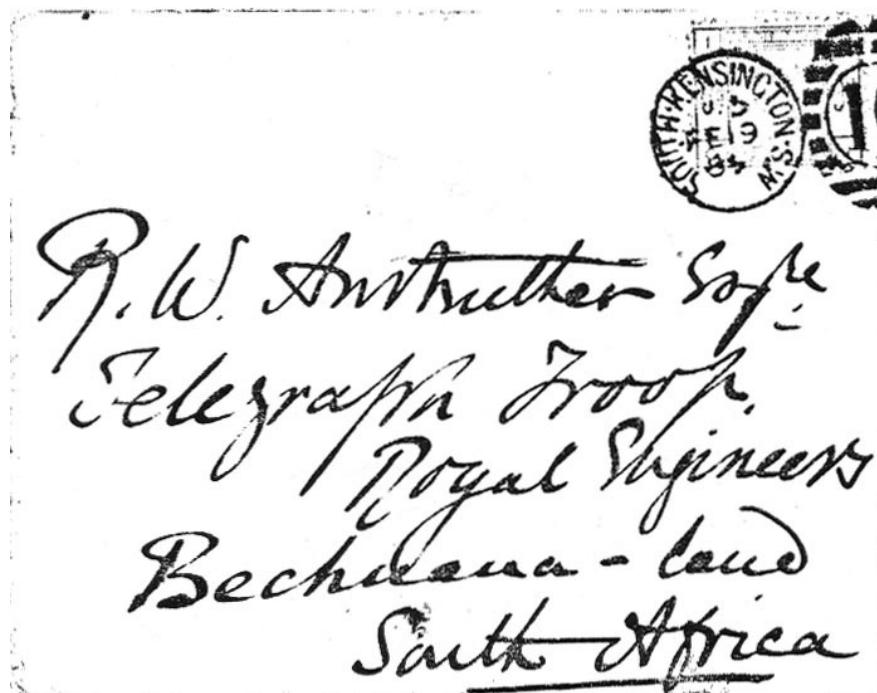


Figure 4 A cover addressed to Lt. Anstruther posted in South Kensington by his parents (courtesy of Ritchie Bodily)

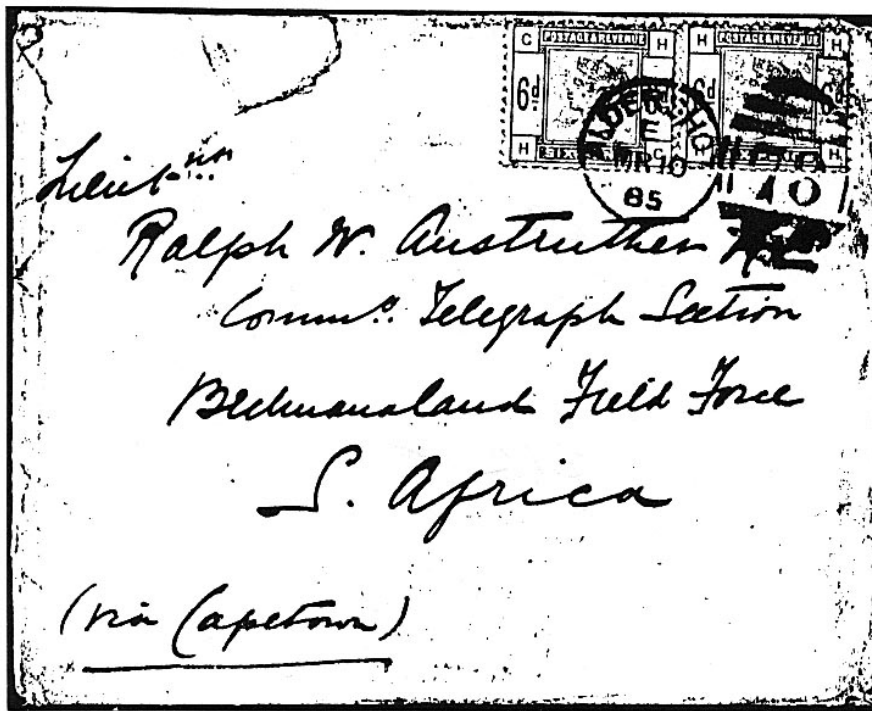


Figure 5 Double-rate cover addressed to Lt. Anstruther posted in Aldershot
(courtesy of Argyll Etkin)

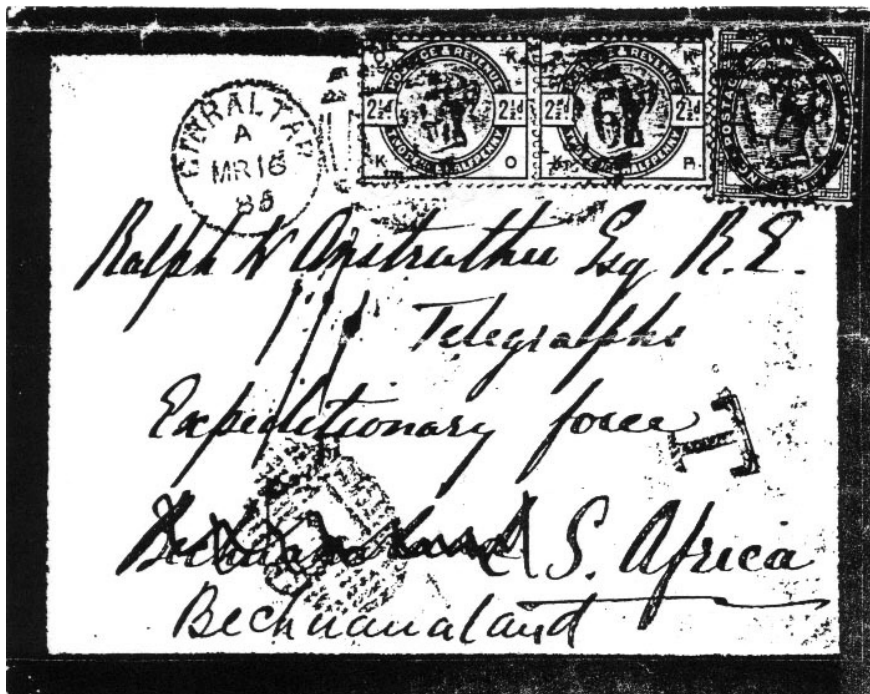


Figure 6 The cover addressed to Lt. Anstruther posted in Gibraltar
(courtesy of Cedric Roché)

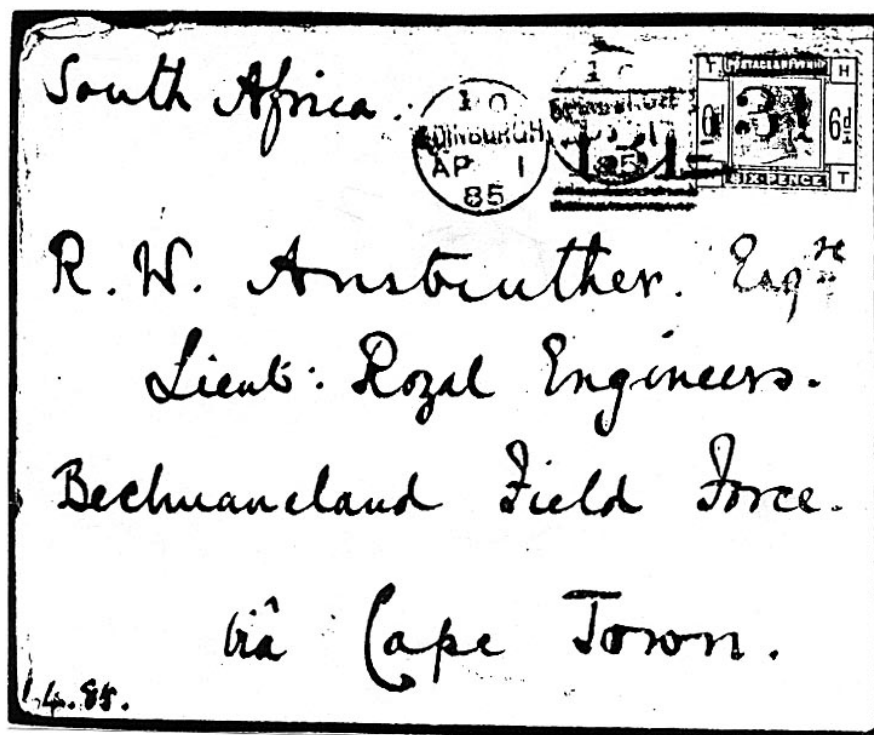


Figure 7 A cover addressed to Lt. Anstruther posted in Edinburgh by his mother
(courtesy of Jim Catterall)

The Anstruther correspondence comprises a remarkable group of covers addressed to an officer with a comparatively small expeditionary force. However, there are at least two possibly even more remarkable outgoing covers, both of which contain letters providing invaluable information regarding the activities of the officers of the Telegraph Troop of the Royal Engineers. Both covers are addressed to Lt. A.E. Sandbach of 11 Field Company, RE, who during the early months of 1885 was at Suakim in Sudan. The earlier of the two covers, illustrated as Figure 8, was posted by Lt. W.C. Hussey at Barkly, Griqualand West, on 'FE 1 / 85'. The letter was franked with a Cape 6d stamp, and the manuscript 'T' was probably written at the office where the letter was posted. The left-hand handstamped 'T' was struck at Cape Town, though there is no backstamp to record when it reached there. The other 'T' may have been struck in London, where, according to a backstamp, the letter was sorted on the 25th February, 1885. The only other postal marking is an Egyptian(?) datestamp struck on the reverse, which is unreadable. (This would appear to be another example of the postage due being paid by the military authorities before the letter was forwarded to the addressee, who was presumably charged.)

Both letters were written by Lt. W.C. Hussey, the Adjutant of the Royal Engineers in Bechuanaland, and have been transliterated by Lt.-Col. Sir John Inglefield-Watson, who has added annotations [in square brackets] to identify those officers and others referred to by their nicknames.

Barkly Camp
Griqualand West
South Africa
Jan 7 27th

Dear Sandbach,

I was very glad to see the other day that you were off to Suakim. I suppose you are going to open up the route from there to Berber and outflank the Mahdi according to the Rev. E. Warre's [Rev. Dr. E. Warre, Headmaster of Eton] first principles. A day or two ago, I suppose the 24th, we heard of the fight, and our victory and heavy losses. Very meagre information, but enough to make us glad – anything which could have been construed into a reverse would very likely of course go against us here where the Boers have not a very high opinion of Tommy – either as a shot or as a stalker.

Now to tell you briefly of our doings. On arrival Col. D. [Lt.-Col. A.G. Durnford, RE, Commander RE, Bechuanaland Field Force] and I went straight up to Barkly. Col. D. to command the place and arrange for a camp and stores near[by]. Barkly is 90 miles across a beastly dry sandy country from Orange River Terminus, the end of the Cape railway, improperly called Hope Town on the map, and practically synonymous [sic] with Langford Camp which is only 8 miles from it across the Orange River.

At Langford we found Bagot [Capt. Bagot, RE, Officer Commanding 7 Field Company], Haynes [Lt. C.E. or Lt. A.E. Haynes, RE] and Salvesen [Lt. Salvesen, RE, 7 Field Company] – only saw them for 2 minutes.

We reached Barkly on the 23rd Dec^{ber} and for the next three weeks spent a tolerably jolly time of it. Several REs coming and going – Intelligence, Topographical and Special – such as G. Barker [Major G. Barker, RE, Acting D.A.Q.M.G., Bechuanaland Field Force], Leverson [Lt. G.F. or Lt. J.J. Leverson, RE], Conder [Lt. Conder, RE], Bythell, Mackay. We lived at the small Hotel and when not sending or reading telegrams were out at the Camp surveying or marking out.

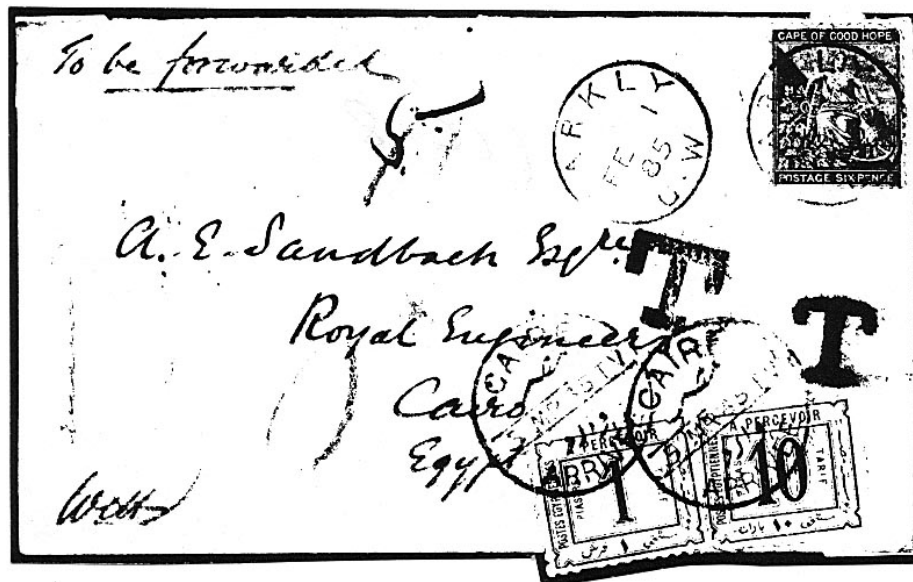


Figure 8 (courtesy of Kevin Ashworth)

Sir Chas. Warren [Major-General Sir Charles Warren (late RE), General Officer Commanding Bechuanaland Field Force] appeared once and then rushed off again.

The first troops to make the march up from Langford, which takes 8 days, was [were] the Tel. Section followed by the 7th Coy. (We came up by Post Cart in 36 hours.) then a chain of heliographs was established by Davidson along the line of communication: from this time Jan^y 10th Troops kept on arriving at 150 or so a day and now I think about $\frac{7}{8}$ of the force is up here. Col. D. and I only moved into camp on the 20th as he was appointed Acting A.A.G. till Col. Walker arrived from Langford and had to be in Barkly near the G.O.C. The T. Section have done right well. Jelf [Capt. R.H. Jelf, RE, Director of Military Telegraphs, Bechuanaland Field Force] is D.M.T. and Dad [Lt. R.W. Anstruther, RE] O.C. Section [1]. They joined this Camp with Barkly and at once began pushing ahead along the line of advance towards Taongs [Taungs]. They are now 40 miles ahead of anybody with an escort of 70 Mounted Rifles. The General is moving about doing political work. We never know exactly what is going on. He has just had an interview with Krüger the Transvaal President. He (the G.O.C.) has a regt of cavalry and some 100 Mounted Rifles with him and keeps touch of the telegraph by means of a line of signals (heliograph). We haven't the least idea if fighting is probable or not. Rooi Grond is the filibusters' stronghold, some 80 miles N of this. We hear they don't like the idea of the balloons which Elsdale [Major H. Elsdale, RE, Officer Commanding Balloon Detachment] has up here and they don't appreciate artillery either. I expect if we do fight it will be nothing much. We were sorry to hear of Bennet [Capt. Bennet, RE] being seedy; hope he's all right now. Haynes is up here building a stone wall redoubt at Barkly both send our love and we hope to dine together again after Henley.

Yours sincerely,
W.C. Hussey

The later cover is illustrated as Figure 9. It was addressed to Suakim, rather than Cairo, and posted at Barkly on 'JU 14 / 85'. The franking is a single Cape 6d stamp, which again appears to have been less than the correct rate as a manuscript 'T' was written, probably at Barkly, and the cover was further handstamped 'T' when it reached Cape Town three days later. The letter was received by an Indian field post office in the Sudan on '10AUG 85', but Sandbach had by then left and it was redirected to the School of Military Engineering at Chatham, and reposted two days later. It reached there – *via* Cairo – on the 30th August, and was redirected to Abergele in Wales. The tax markings were probably struck through when the letter reached the UK, as 6d was the correct rate for a half-ounce letter from Cape Colony.

Mafeking, Goshen
South Africa
June 3rd

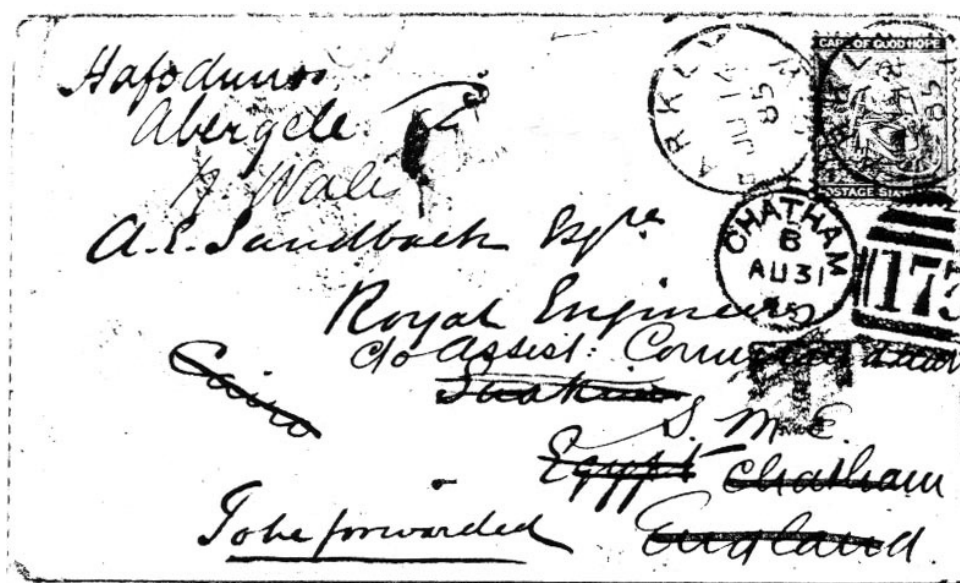
Dear Minimus [Lt. A.E. Sandbach],

Your letter was most interesting. We hear a good deal of what the Telegraph chaps are doing in Egypt from Jelf and Dad but otherwise you are our only correspondent. I am awfully pleased that you have worked up and got command of the Mounted Infantry RE and I am sure you will do all you can to make it a success. Here it would have been no good but a mule waggon with RE stores and a few men has been used several times to accompany mounted infantry or cavalry – which is the same in effect to a great extent as if the men were mounted in this country where waggons can go everywhere over the veldt.

Col. Webber's [Lt.-Col. Webber, RE, A.Q.M.G., Telegraphs, Suakim] resignation astounded us all, we guessed it must be some misunderstanding between him and his superiors which made him give up but it is a remarkable thing to do at such a time.

Since you wrote what changes have taken place! I suppose you are on your way home after the evacuation of Egypt by British troops, or possibly on the way to Afghanistan. Somehow we are kept badly informed of the latest doings, although we are connected by wire with England now. The latest news at present is that Gladstone is patching up the Pendjik(?) affair – but the last papers said this was quite impossible to do with honour to England.

Figure 9 Cover addressed to Capt. A.E. Sandbach at Suakim posted at Barkly G.W. by Lt. W.C. Hussey
(courtesy of Stephen Murray)



Here we have been for over 2 months now doing nothing very much of importance though the RE officer never has time to be idle – Bagot has been putting up various methods of irrigation – a windmill pump – a shadoof – an Indian arrangement. Wells have been dug up and down the line till we are sick of them. The General has been up to Shoshong 200 miles N of this to proclaim our protectorate up to the 22nd degree of latitude and to square the chiefs. Of REs that have gone with him there are: G. Barker, Bythell, Mackay, 2 Haynes – C.E. Haynes has been sent on a special mission 200 miles still further into the heart of S. Africa to visit a Chief Lobengula, who lives beyond our protectorate, to square him, he has 2 men with him only and is really in big game country I believe but probably won't have time to go after it as he has sketching to do.

Polo has been started here – Heath [Lt. C.M. Heath, RE, No. 1 Section, Telegraph Battalion] takes to it well. The Tel. Battn. have just started to lay the line North some 100 miles and the same day some of our troops are sent down country – it is a queer business. No one knows what is really going on, but the general impression is that the game is nearly over and that the Tel. line won't go on far – Jelf and Heath are putting it up leaving Dad here. Bagot, Salvesen, Col. Durnford and Elsdale are also here. We have built a small sod mess hut and a fire, there is great luxury now as we continually have a frost at night though the days are quite pleasantly hot – springbok shooting is very good here just now. Salvesen got 3 yesterday, Elsdale 1 and Self 2. All not 5 miles from camp. We have a 4th June dinner tomorrow. [An Eton holiday in memory of the School's benefactor, King George III.] Dad, Trollope [Lt. F.C. Trollope, Grenadier Guards, attached Balloon Detachment, RE], Allen (D.A.A.G.) [Major R.E. Allen, East Yorkshire Regiment] and G. Bingham (a guest non-Etonian). Dad and I are hosts. Now goodbye old chap I hope we shall all meet soon at ACO or elsewhere, everyone sends you their best love etc.

Yours sincerely
W.C. Hussey

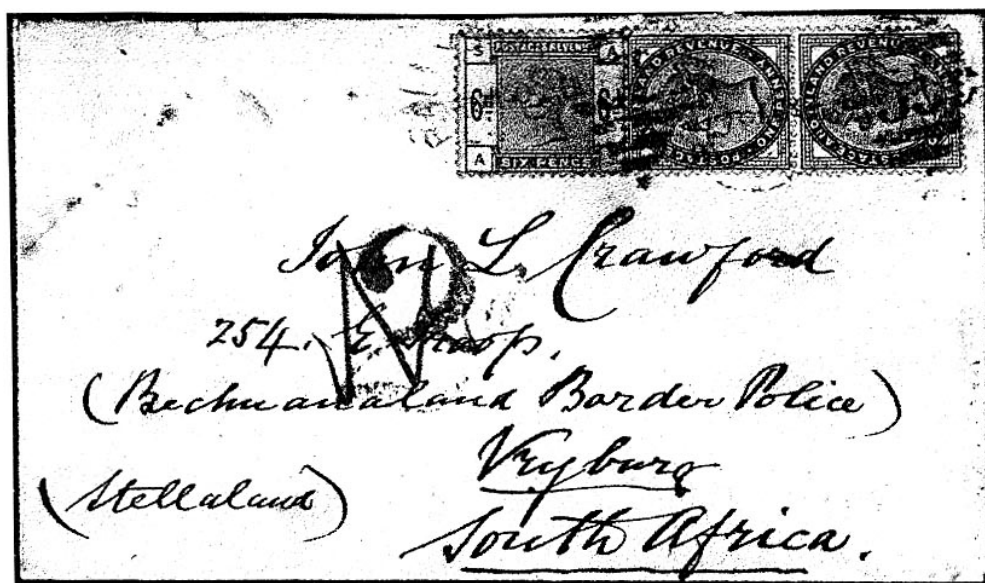
Your letters always arrive without stamps. The Col. specially sends his regards to you.

We are building a church for the kaffirs here – they are tremendous Christians here these Baralong.

Stellaland/Bechuanaland in 1886

The cover illustrated as Figure 10 was described in a recent issue of *The London Philatelist*². It was posted at Ballyshannon (not Ballymena as the incompletely struck datestamp was incorrectly reported in the first instance), where the franking was cancelled with a duplex-type datestamp coded '55'. The date is unreadable, but the backstamps record that the letter reached Cape Town on 'MR 31 / 86' and Vryburg on 'AP 6 / 86'. It was therefore carried aboard the Union liner *Tartar*, which sailed on the 11th March, 1886, called at Madeira on the 16th and reached Cape Town on the 31st, and was probably posted on or about the 9th March.

British Bechuanaland, which incorporated Stellaland came into existence on the 30th September, 1885. The Bechuanaland Border Police, under Col. Carrington, were the successors of Warren's force. Cape stamps for use in British Bechuanaland were placed on sale on the 1st December, 1885, and a postal convention with Cape Colony resulted in revised postage rates from the same date. (Mail to and from commissioned officers with Warren's force, who were subject to civilian postage rates, was prepaid as though the sender or addressee respectively was in Cape Colony.) The table of rates reproduced by Jurgens⁴ shows that the new rates were based on those of Cape Colony plus an additional amount that was credited to British Bechuanaland. Thus the letter rate to the UK was 8d per half ounce, of which 6d was credited to Cape Colony. A letter from the UK could only be prepaid to Cape Colony – 6d per half ounce – and the addressee in British Bechuanaland was required to pay 2d on receipt. The reciprocal 8d rate was introduced in the UK with effect from the 1st January, 1886, i.e. from that date the addressee was not charged provided the postage was fully prepaid. (The charges on insufficiently paid mail from the UK were distributed in a similar manner to the outward postage, the Cape GPO receiving the amount of the deficiency on the basis of a charge of 6d per half ounce plus a fine of one rate (6d) and Bechuanaland 2d per half ounce.)



The '2d' mark handstamped in red is therefore almost certainly an accountancy mark struck in Cape Town to record the amount due to the Bechuanaland postal administration. It was subsequently crossed out (with blue crayon), presumably at Vryburg, to ensure that the addressee was not charged, as of course he would have been if the letter had only been prepaid to Cape Colony. (The last such letters posted before the introduction of the reciprocal rate in the UK would have reached Vryburg in late January or, at the latest, early February 1886.)

My attention was recently drawn by Jim Catterall to a similar item (Fig. 11), which was included in a Christie's Robson Lowe sale on the 22nd May, 1984, and has been described in *The Runner Post*³. It is also addressed to John Crawford, and was posted at on 'MR 7 / 86' at Ballyshannon. The Cape Town transit mark on the reverse is dated the 'MR 31 / 88', and a poorly struck Vryburg backstamp, 'AP 6 / 8?'. (The Vryburg transit mark was previously incorrectly recorded as the 16th April.) This letter must therefore have been posted within a day or two of the cover previously described, and was evidently carried aboard the same ship – the Union liner *Tartar* – to Cape Town.



Figure 11 (courtesy of Brian Fenemore)

This cover, however, differs from that illustrated as Figure 10 in three important respects, firstly the '2d' accountancy mark, again struck in red, is not crossed through, secondly it was readdressed, and thirdly two 1d stamps overprinted 'British / Bechuanaland' (SG 5) were affixed and cancelled at Vryburg with the barred-oval canceller coded '555'. Why two almost identical covers that reached Vryburg on the same day were treated so differently is a puzzle to say the least. The fact that in one case the accountancy mark was crossed through and in the other it was not may not be relevant as this could be the result of an oversight. Moreover the fact that the '2d' accountancy mark corresponds to the amount paid at Vryburg in the case of the second cover may well be no more than coincidence. The fundamental difference would appear to be that one cover was readdressed, in which case the 2d paid at Vryburg must relate to this. But was it simply a readdressing fee, which would have been exorbitant – a whole rate – for a letter readdressed within the territory, or was it because the letter was forwarded to Mafeking, which although geographically within the territory of British Bechuanaland was also the administrative capital of Bechuanaland Protectorate. The Protectorate proper was not served by an official postal service until the Mafeking–Bulawayo Runner Post was inaugurated in August 1888, but it may not be coincidence that the postage rates then applicable were for the most part British Bechuanaland rates plus 2d. Whether or not this is the explanation, the question as to who paid for the two 1d stamps in Vryburg if the addressee was indeed in Mafeking remains. Was it perhaps paid by the Bechuanaland Border Police and collected later from the addressee? The only certainty would appear to be that the one cover was readdressed and forwarded to Mafeking as there are strikes of a receiving datestamp on the face and the reverse – the date is, however, unreadable in both – and the other was not, though why that should have been the case is even more likely to remain a mystery.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Lt.-Col. Sir John Inglefield-Watson for much of the information concerning the officers of the Royal Engineers, and in particular for providing the real names of those referred to more familiarly in the letters sent by Lt. Hussey to Lt. Sandbach. The sources of the illustrations are individually acknowledged.

References

- 1 Drysdall, A.R., 1991, Stellaland revisited: *The Runner Post*, no. 23, June, p.419–33
Drysdall, A.R., 1992, A postal history of Stellaland: *The London Philatelist*, v. 101, no. 1191, March, p.54–66 and no. 1192, April, p.95–9
- 2 Drysdall, A.R., 1998, Mail addressed to Stellaland/ Bechuanaland: *The London Philatelist*, v. 107, no.1261, December 1998, p.347
- 3 *The Runner Post* (the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society), no. 35, June 1994, p.737
- 4 Jurgens, A.A., 1945, *The Bechuanalands; a brief history of the countries and their postal services 1836–1895*: Royal Philatelic Society, London

BRITISH SOUTHERN AFRICA



BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE

1890 Trial 'Protectorate' overprint on ½d vermilion. Showing the major error OVERPRINT 'Portectorate' INVERTED (SG 54d), fine mint. Of four recorded examples (three mint and one used), one is in the Mosely Collection (British Museum) and one (used) in the Royal Philatelic Collection. This stamp is one of two in private hands. RPS certificate (1924). One of the great rarities of the Bechuanalands.

For further details of this and other fine items of British southern Africa, please contact:

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