Runner Post







Contents

LIST OF OFFICERS	1287	
EDITOR'S COMMENTS	1287	
NEWS	1288	
Stamp Show 2000; Membership News; Auction upda	te; Main UK and	
SA Show Dates	1288	
Recent Botswana Stamps	1289	
Post Offices and Postal Agencies of Botswana	/B. Warren-	
der	1290	
AT THE AUCTION HOUSE	1292	
ITEMS OF INTEREST	1294	
Botswana 1987 Christmas Issue / D. Firth	1294	
Botswana 1967 7c Definitive / J. I-W / D. Firth	1295	
SG32 with mirrored 'e' / B. Warrender, J.I-W	1295	
Ngamiland and British West Charterland - another	Spon postcard /	
R.Howard	1296-1297	
Bechuanaland Protectorate Postal Fiscal F3: A Request	for Informa-	
tion/ B. Trotter & N. Midwood	1297-1298	
Early Postal Rates: A Few Comments	/ K.Selig-	
mann	1299-1305	
The British Forces Post Office / J.Daynes	1305	
Bechuanaland and Botswana Postal Orders 1306-1312	/ P.Thy	

July 2000

DAVID CROCKER

PROFESSIONAL PHILATELISTS

David Crocker and Michael Wigmore offer both the novice collector and the connoisseur a wide range of British Africa material.

Proofs, Essays, Stamps, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Revenues and Literature

Regular specialist price lists issued
Wants lists welcome
Postal Bid auctions held
Contact us for experienced advice on how to
enhance your collection

DAVID CROCKER

PROFESSIONAL PHILATELISTS

PO BOX 294, MONTAGU 6720, SOUTH AFRICA TEL: (+27 23) 61-41424 FAX: (+27 23) 61-42521

e-Mail: dcrocker@lando.co.za www.davidcrocker.co.za



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, UK.

Secretary David Wall

8 Walkwood Rise, Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 1TU, UK.

Treasurer David Hardwick

47 Rugby Road, Clifton, Rugby, Warwicks CV23 0DE, UK.

Membership Secretary / Jim Catterall

Archivist Trevessa, Upper Castle Road, St Mawes, Truro, Cornwall TR2 5BZ, UK.

Auctioneer (UK) Tony Chilton

56 Framfield Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2AL, UK.

Botswana Representative R.J.F. 'Andy' Andersson

P.O. Box 1240, Gaborone, Botswana.

South African Representative / Howard Cook

Auctioneer (SA) P.O. Box 6, Gillitts, Natal 3603, South Africa.

Rarer Stamps Study Coordinator Steve Wallace

Flat 11, Highbank, Bolton Road, Pendlebury, Lancs, M27 8UP, UK.

Runner Post Editor Neville Midwood

69 Porlock Lane, Furzton, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK4 1JY, UK.

©2000 The Bechuanalands and Botswana Societ

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I don't know how Alan managed to keep to a quarterly schedule for so many years. I think he had a secret team of helpers! Anyway, welcome to the slightly delayed Summer issue. The only mitigating factor in my defence is that Summer itself is behind schedule here in the UK.

May, my original target month, was also the month of the Stamp Show 2000. Alan MacGregor, who organises southern African *Runner Post* printing and distribution, was busy organising his appearance at the aforementioned show. So no urgency to finish off this issue before the show! And our secretary, David Wall, suggested mocking up a 'show flyer' to advertise the Society. So 500 flyers later...

It was nice to meet many of you at the Stamp Show. Unfortunately I had to miss meeting some members as I could only attend on a couple of the days. Did any member give up trying to find the Marlborough Room on the Wednesday? I had to ask at Information to find it!

So back to slaving over a hot keyboard to finish off this issue. Actually, no, that had to wait for some computer problems (necessitating a new processor and BIOS) to be overcome. Added to that a busy time at work and June disappeared.

July, and this *Runner Post* is complete except for these comments and the front cover contents... "Bad Record Index" - oops the whole document seems to be rapidly collapsing. So I'm typing quietly in the hope of lasting until the master copies have been despatched. If you are reading this I succeeded.

Some members who I met at the Stamp Show asked for a reminder for them to contribute an article. For those members and for any others I didn't meet — REMEMBER TO SEND NEVILLE AN ARTICLE.

Which leaves me just enough space to remind you all that the AGM 2000 will be on Wednesday 20th September at the 'Camden Head' Public House, Camden Walk, Islington, London at 2 pm. This is the first day of the Autumn Stampex which takes place just across the road. Hope to see you there.

News

Stamp Show 2000.

Here is a photograph to tide members over until the show report in the next Runner News.



On the Wednesday the Society shared a room with the Rhodesian Study Circle. The above caught a few of our members examining some of the exhibits. From left-to-right: Colin Hoffman discussing Military Telegraphs with David Crocker; (visible over DC's shoulder is) David Wall, our secretary; Brian Trotter talking to our vice-chairman, Lt. Col. Sir John Inglefield-Watson.

Membership News

Jim Catterall informs me of the following:

New Members

Richard Kuczynski

631 41st Ave #5, San Fransisco, CA 94121, USA. Richard is interested in postmarks of Bechuanaland.

He is also a member of The American Philatelic Society, and the West Africa Study Circle.

Harvey Morgan

4 Mill Road, West Drayton, Middlesex, UB7 7EQ, UK. Harvey is interested in Southern African Postage and Revenue stamps.

He is a member of the Malaya Study Circle.

Change(s) of Address

Werner Seeba In den Wannenäckern 14, D-70374 Stuttgart 50, Germany. Ian Shapiro Argyll Etkin Ltd., 1-9 Hills Place, Oxford Circus, London W1R 1AG, UK.

Auction update

The UK Auctioneer, Tony Chilton, has asked me to pass on the following message:

"The request, in *Runner News* #6, for suitable material, remains open. Sufficient lots have not yet been received to make up a worthwhile auction/postal bid sale. Please make sure that each lot is fully described and that you include a reserve price or estimated value. Lots can be anything to do with southern Africa, stamps, postcards, covers, postmarks or anything of interest."

Tony Chilton, 56 Framfield Road, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2AL, UK.

Main UK and SA Show Dates for 2000

Autumn Stampex 20th to 24th September 10.30am to 6pm (4pm on the 24th)
Business Design Centre, Islington, London

Autumn Philatex 26th to 28th October 11am-7pm, 10-6, 10-5 respectively Royal Hort. Hall No 2, Greycoat Street, London

Stampshow 2000 Pretoria

 $$25^{\rm th}$$ to $28^{\rm th}$ October Rautenbach Hall, University of Pretoria

WINPEX

14th to 16th September Laborie Manor House, Paarl

Recent Botswana Stamps

Below are some of the 1999 stamp releases. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Southern Colour Print on the quality of their printing of the Miss Universe 1999 issue.



1999 (26 Apr)Tourism (2nd series)

35t



Litho Enschedé SG899 to SG902





55t Salt Pan
1p Rock Painting
2p Baobab Tree

POST OFFICE PRODUCTION OF THE PRODUCTION OF THE

Rock Painting

1999 (9 Oct) Litho National Printing and Packaging, Zimbabwe 125th Anniversary of UPU SG903

2p Modern Post Office



1999 (1 Dec) Litho Southern Colour 35t 'Winning' Print, Dunedin 1p Traditional Dress Mpule Kwelagobe SG904 to SG908 2p Traditional Dancing Costume Miss Universe 1999 and Mini Sheet SG909 Wearing 'Botswana' sash 2p 50 15p With leopard background

Post Offices and Postal Agencies of Botswana

Bruce Warrender has sent me some recent information of new and closed post offices and postal agencies of Botswana. The two lists are from early 1999. The changes can be summarised as follows:

Γiα	Nama	Dogion	Change	
Fig.	Name	Region	Change	
1	Pota	North Central	Opened	30/06/1997
<i>2</i> 3	Thebephatshwa	South Central	Opened	04/03/1996
3	University of Botswana	South Central	Opened	04/07/1997
4	Gunutsuga	North West	Opened	1996
5	Gaberone West	South Central	Opened	January 1996
6	Nokaneng	North West	Opened	13/10/1995
7	Sepopa	North West	Opened	03/05/1996
8	Seronga	North West	Opened	
9	Hlaphwane	Northern	Name Change	from Nlaphwane
	Boribamo		Closed	February 1996
	Baines-Drift		Closed	·
	Seetso		Closed	
	Parr's Halt		Closed	
	Mathubudukwane		Closed	
	Mamono		Closed	
	Tsienyane		Closed?	Letter cancelled Rakops
10	Charleshill		New C.D.S.	•
11	Etsha		New C.D.S.	
12	Gumare		New C.D.S.	
13	Jwaneng		New C.D.S.	
14	Kalkfontein		New C.D.S.	
15	Kang		New C.D.S.	
16	Mabule		New C.D.S.	
1 <i>7</i>	Werda		New C.D.S.	
18	Maun		New C.D.S.	
19	Kavimba		New C.D.S.	
20	Phokeng		New C.D.S.	Not on new listing

List of Postal Agencies According to Regions

North Central	Northern	North West	South Central	Southern
Dibete Kobojango Lentswelemoriti Mabeleaupudi Majwaneng Makwate Mathathane Mmaphashalala Mmashoro Mmutlaane Mogorosi Molalatau Moogapi Paje Pallaroad Radisele Tamasane	Northern Hlaphwane Kalakamati Khumaga Mapoka Marapong Mmatshumo Moroka Mosu Nszazwi Sechele Tatitown Toromoja Xhomo Zwenshambe	North West Gunutsuga Karakubis Kole Makalamabedi Nokaneng Parakarungu Satau Sepopa Seronga	Dutlwe Gaberone West Khudumelapye Kumakwane Lephephe Manyana Modipane Mogobane Morwa Mosomane Rasesa Takatokwane	Bokspits Hebron Lokgwabe Lotlhakane Maokane Metlojane Mogobaane Molapowabojang Ntlhantlhe Papatlo Pelelng Ranaka Tshane
Thabala Tshimoyapula				

List of Post Offices According to Regions				
North Central	Northern	North West	South Central	Southern
Bobonong	Francistown	Boseja	Bokaa	Digawana
Botshabelo	Gweta	Charleshill	Bontleng	Good Hope
Kalamare	Letihakane	Etsha	Broadhurst	Hukuntsi
Lecheng	Maitengwe	Gantsi	Gabane	Jwaneng
Lerala	Makaleng	Gumare	Gaberone	Kang
Machaneng	Masunga	Kalkfontein	Gaberone Station	Kanye
Madiba	Mathangwane	Kavimba	Gaberone Village	Khakhea
Mahalapye	Matsiloje	Kasane	Kopong	Lehututu
Maokatumo	Monarch	Maun	Lentsweletau	Lobatse
Maunatiala	Mopipi	Nojane	Letlhakeng	Mabule
Mmadinare	Nata	Sehithwa	Mathubantwa	Mabutsane
Moeng	Nkange	Shakawe	Mmankgodi	Mafhikana
Moiyabana	Orapa		Mochudi	Middlepits
Mookane	Rakops		Mogoditshane	Mmasekou
Palapye	Ramokgwebana		Molepole	Mmathethe
Pilikwe	Sebina		Motokwe	Moshupa
Pota	Shashe		Ntshinoge	Otse
Ramokgonami	Sowa		Oodi	Pitsane
Rasebolai	Tatitown		Ramotswa Station	Sedibeng
Sefhare	Tonota		Ramotswa Village	Tsabong
Sefhope	Tshesebe		Sikwana	Werda
Selebe Phikwe	Tutume		Sojwe	Woodhall
Semolaie			SSK Airport	
Serowe			Thamaga	
Serule			Thebephatshwa	
Sherwood			Tlokweng	
Shoshong			University P.O.	
Tsetsebye				
Tumasera				

Bruce would like to thank Steen Jelgren for help in obtaining this information.

The Postmarks of Botswana Study

Members will recall the Botswana Postmarks Study which featured in *Runner Post* issues #31 to #49/50. This was produced by the Botswana Postmark Project Team led by Brian Trotter. With Brian concentrating on Revenues, another of our members is currently forming a team to continue from where the project previously left off.

If you feel you can spare some time and are interested in this area then contact me (The Editor) and I will pass your name onto the member in question. Hopefully I will be able to announce the team in the next *Runner News*.

AT THE AUCTION HOUSE

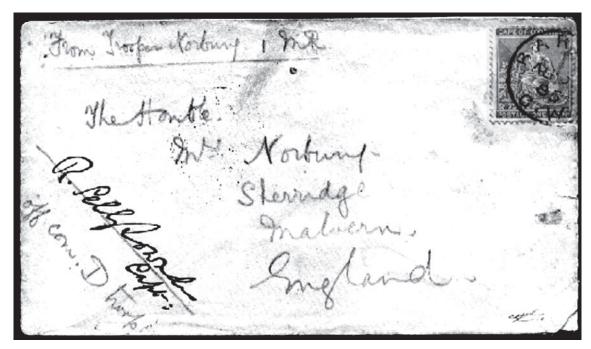
A regular look at the rare or interesting items appearing in Auctions worldwide.

"I will concentrate on items from the Rarer Stamps Study and items relating to earlier *Runner Post* articles. If you think any lot at auction is particularly interesting please drop me a line with the illustration and lot number. If you could indicate the reason why it is of particular interest you will be helping with my philatelic education and increasing the chance of it appearing in *The Runner Post*." —The Editor.

Dr. Alan Drysdall's 1991 article "Stellaland Revisited - Mail from the Warren Expedition" which appeared in *The Runner Post* #23 p.419-433 receives many references in the following where it is referred to as 'Alan's Article'. The table referred to is that of outgoing Warren Expedition mail, which is on p.428

Johnson Philatelics - September 30th, 1999.

The following Trooper Norbury cover does not appear in the table of outgoing mail in Alan's article.



LOT 64: WARREN EXPEDITION: 1885 1d Concessionary Rate Soldiers' Letter to England franked Cape 1d made out as required with Commanding Officers' countersignature. Sender "Trooper Norbury 1 MR" (D Troop, 1st Mounted Rifles Bechuanaland Field Force), 1d tied Barkly GW cds AU 9. Relevant arrival marks. VF example of this very rare campaign mail.

Scan is courtesy Richard Johnson / Johnson Philatelics. PO Box 13450; Humewood 6013, Port Elizabeth; South Africa. http://www.johnson.co.za/

Harmer Auction 4679 - October 12th, 1999.

The Auction included Stellaland items of the late Dr. G. H. Jonkers, a long standing member of the Society and regular contributor to *The Runner Post*.

The 21 Lots including 3 covers; many blocks of the postage stamps including imperforate between items; full sheets of the 3d, 4d, 6d and 1/- postage stamps; a full sheet of the 2/6 revenue and 13 legal documents.

The covers, were Reference Items 3, 7 and 12 of the known covers listed (and illustrated) on p.419 in Alan's article. These were lots 1293, 1295 and 1294 respectively.

Victoria Stamp Company Auction #10 - March 31 2000.

The Auction included Bechuanaland and Stellaland items from the Daniel S. Franklin Collection. It included 114 Lots of Bechuanalands material, mostly stamps and 10 Lots of Stellaland stamps.

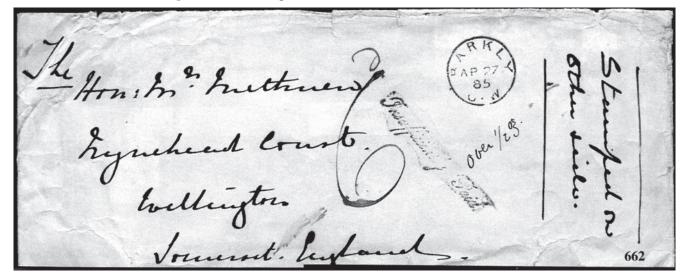
The Bechuanaland stamps included 6 lots, illustrated below, which are covered by our Rarer Stamps Study.



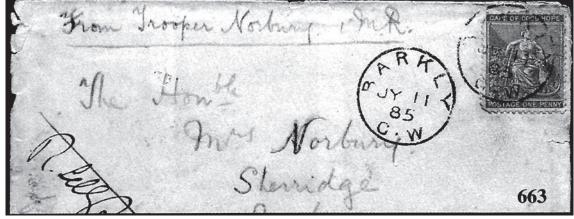
Harmer Auction 4684 - June 15th 2000.

65 Lots of Bechuanaland and Stellaland stamps and covers.

Lots 662 and 663 illustrated below are another two covers from the Warren Expedition period. Also noted were a pair of the 1918 £5 on 1/- postal fiscals (part of Lot 720) which were illustrated, in Alan MacGregor's article in *Runner Post* #36 p.720-723, as Fig 13.



Lot 662: The cover from Colonel Methuen may be the item described as being in the Ashworth Collection (in Alan's Article). Can anyone confirm this?



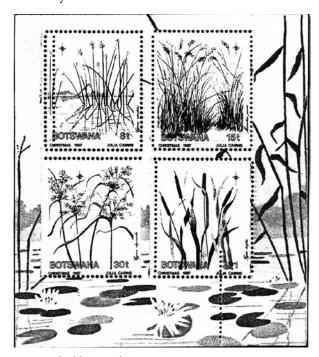
Lot 663: It does appear that Trooper Norbury is back writing letters as this is the second letter unlisted in Alan's article to appear in auction recently.

ITEMS OF **I**NTEREST

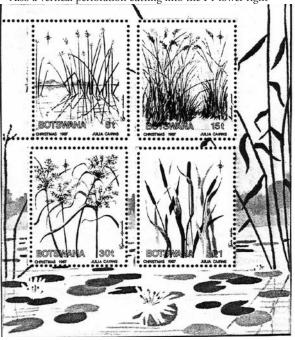
Botswana 1987 Christmas Issue - Perforation Varieties on the Miniature Sheets

Dennis Firth writes:

These stamps were printed by National Printing and Packaging, Zimbabwe. The printers apparently had difficulty perforating some of the miniature sheets. Four examples are illustrated below - do any members have any further varieties on this issue?



8t perforations at left	15t
30t vertical perforations	P1 vertical perforations
missing	misplaced to right
Also a vertical perforation cut	ting into the P1 lower right



8t horiz. perforations extended to left	15t
30t	P1



8t	15t
30t double vertical perforation at left	P1



8t	15t
30t horiz. perforations extended to left	P1 vertical perforations misplaced to right

Botswana 1967 7c Definitive (SG225) - 'Broken Tail Feathers' Flaw.

John Inglefield-Watson writes:

Illustrated in pair with normal is the 'Broken Tail Feathers' flaw. This variety was listed in the QE II catalogues in the 1980's as follows:

S.G. Elizabethan (1983):

SG 225 V14; Plate 1A; Row 3, No.6. Urch Harris Commonwealth QE II (1980):

CW 20b; Plate 1A; Row 2, No.6.

Note the row disagreement. Can anyone provide evidence of the correct position?





Botswana 1967 7c Definitive (SG225) - colour shifts.

Whilst on the 1967 7c Definitive, Dennis Firth sent me photocopies of two examples of large colour shifts seen with this issue.

He writes: "In *Runner Post* #49-50 Bruce Warrender reported a colour shift on the 1967 Hornbill stamp. I was informed by a dealer that the shift is progressive across the sheet. It starts touching the TS of BOTSWANA at the left of the sheet, then drops to below the white bill at the right"





SG32 with mirrored 'e'

Bruce Warrender first brought this variant to my attention. He also sent me a copy of some correspondence with Lt. Col. Sir John Inglefield-Watson who also had an example.

In his letter J. I-W. wrote that he had checked all his panes and individual stamps of SG31/32 and SG38/39 and he was unable to: "find an 'e' that doesn't have a flat horizontal bottom to the loop, whereas on both examples of the '9' it is curved. I find it hard to believe that we are dealing with an inserted '9' that hasn't previously being noticed and recorded. I have no stereo panes of SG32 and only a left-hand typeset pane

that has no '9' in it. In view of the amount of other damaged letters in our examples, they might well originate, if genuine, from reverse-fed sheets of SG39, so any further investigation needs to consider the possibility that the '9' occurs on the normal SG39 as well as SG32."

9 occurs on the normal SG39 as well as SG32.

My thanks to J. I-W, who lent me his copy of the stamp which is illustrated (right).

I'm sure that members can work out their own questions but here are mine:

Does any other member have a copy of this variant on any of their SG31/32/38/39 material? Does any member know of any references to the existence of this item?

Can any typesetters out there to suggest how this letter comes about? Is it simply a small font '9'? (I think the bowl appears too flat at the bottom)

Has anyone any theory they want to share with the membership?





Enlargement and detail of the variant



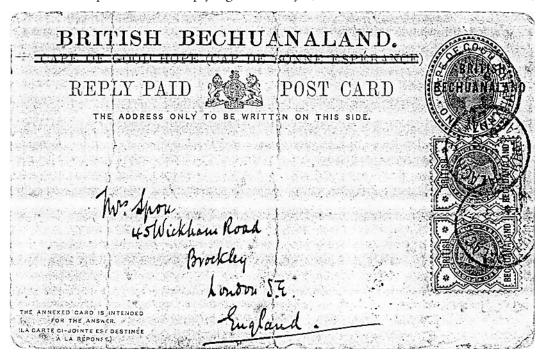
Enlargement of a normal 'e' from SG32 which has been mirrored. Note that the variant is without the 'nose' of the bowl and has a short terminal

Ngamiland and British West Charterland - another Spon postcard

Roger Howard writes:

The articles in *The Runner Post* #51 have prompted me to forward a photocopy of a postcard which I believe refers to the same expedition.

It is the front half of a British Bechuanaland Reply Paid Post Card plus two SG9 (interestingly each an example from the two printings). Addressed to the same Mrs Spon and in the same handwriting as the cover illustrated on p.1274 it is simply signed 'Harry' (her son, husband or brother-in-law).



Aug oriner: whything them thrusts great successful allocations of place of the special of the sp

The card reads:

The expedition goes forward tomorrow. Donkeys left yesterday. Yours and Edith's letters of May 9th. received on Thursday. Weekly Sun of 15th. & Gazette of 9th. Since my last have spent a busy time here of which am sending accounts to Bournemouth. In good health & ready to proceed. Clarke has joined me - am learning to make Astronomical observations - 2.30 a.m.!! We have lost a horse & a donkey through illness. Let me know probable date of Adeline's wedding. We drank "Success Guys" on the night of June 10th. With regard to post - From this place letters will be carried out by runners who probably start a week later than ourselves by which time we shall be 100 miles probably. Runners will not overtake

us for 12-14 days, return ditto, hence you <u>cannot</u> receive any letters from me inside a month from this date. Irregularity will continue until Lake is reached: after which mails should be regular barring accidents. Regret have not spoken with Khama: no opportunity has arisen. Have seen and dined with Willoughby, also called on Gray (Edinburgh Medical) and Clapham unqualified ditto. Another Headman and Khama's son Sekome Khama have visited me also several local Europeans. Sorry unable to write more for the present, plead business, professional and otherwise - many thanks for letters and friends enquiries, Ever Yours, HARRY.

Harry's reference to "Gray (Edinburgh Medical) and Clapham unqualified ditto" suggests that he was a medical man himself and could well be the Dr. Spon of the expedition. Khama, who he regrets not meeting, would have been Khama III, Chief of the Bangwato. The Willoughby whom he met was almost certainly the Rev. W.C.Willoughby, Khama's missionary advisor who had travelled to London with him to successfully protest at the territory being transferred to the British South Africa Company in 1895.

The card is postmarked Palachwe Khamastown JU 15 and back stamped Mafeking JU 21 96. Harry dates the card Palachwe Ju 14 96 stating that the expedition was due to leave Palachwe the next day, strongly indicating it was the same expedition as that mentioned in Tony Chilton's article. The lake he mentioned would therefore be Lake N'gami.

Bechuanaland Protectorate Postal Fiscal F3: A Request for Information

by Brian Trotter and Neville Midwood



Figure 1

Around 1922 the Union of South Africa 1d postage and revenue stamp of the 1913 King George V series was overprinted for use in the Protectorate (Figure 1). This overprinted stamp, it is believed, was intended for fiscal use. However, since the overprint was simply "Bechuanaland Protectorate" on a postage and revenue stamp, it was technically also valid for postage, and is known postally used. The postal authorities reportedly quickly prohibited their use. The Stanley Gibbons Catalogue refers to this as Postal Fiscal F3, and has been sought after by collectors of postage stamps as a rare legitimate usage of a Revenue stamp to pay for postage.

We have set out to develop a comprehensive listing of Bechuanaland Revenues. (You may have seen the request for help on overprints in the *Runner News* #6). This particular stamp has been the subject for much discussion, simply because we believe it was intended for revenue usage as is generally accepted, but we have not yet recorded a fiscally used copy. If anyone has one, please send us a photocopy, and if possible a date of use.





Figure 2

We have recorded numerous unused copies, including positional blocks of 4, postally used copies as individual stamps, stamps on piece, and stamps on cover, but still no fiscally used copy. A legitimate question would then be, "Was it really intended for fiscal use, or just an item overprinted for postal use?"".

Varieties

Before considering this question, a quick look at known varieties is appropriate. Neville and I have recorded two varieties, and another, that we have not yet seen, is listed by Stanley Gibbons. One of those we have recorded is the "P" of Protectorate directly below the "B" of Bechuanaland. We know this occurs in the first row of at least the top left pane, as we have recorded both left and right (Figure 2) top corner blocks of 4 from this pane showing this variety. We have not yet recorded any other positional pieces. The question is, does this variety also occur in other rows or columns in the pane? Does the variety occur in the top row of other panes? Indeed, was the overprint done on a pane by pane basis? The original stamp was printed in sheets of 240, 4 panes of 60.

The other variety that we have recorded is the joined "a" and "n" of Bechuanaland (Figures 3). We do not know the position or frequency of this variety. Does anyone have a positional piece?



LuanaFigure 3

The third variety, not recorded by us, but listed in Stanley Gibbons is "Overprint double, one albino". The Holmes Auction at Harmer's in 1989 (lot 1281) listed an unused block of 4 of this variety, which is presumably the basis for the Gibbons listing.

Was it a fiscal, or was it not? That is the question! As stated, we believe that it was. There are many reasons why we believe this, but until we have recorded a fiscally used one, the question will not be finally resolved, so, if you have one, please let us know.

Background

A little background is perhaps useful. Bechuanaland adopted the legislation of the Cape of Good Hope when it became a Protectorate, and in turn, on the formation of the Union of South Africa, it was essentially the Cape legislation that formed the basis for South Africa's legislation too. The Cape of Good Hope introduced, via the Stamp Act of 1864, a 1d duty on cheques, and in 1884, amongst other items, a 1d duty on all receipts for any amount in excess of £1. This continued in practically all of Southern Africa until it was changed to 2d in 1952. All this to say that there was a real need for a 1d revenue stamp.







Figure 4

The Bechuanaland Protectorate, along with Basutoland and Swaziland, were known as the High Commission Territories, and were ruled directly by the British High Commissioner in South Africa via Proclamations. Generally any common concern in one of the Territories, was handled in a similar way in all three of the Territories by the High Commissioner's Office. So, not surprisingly, the same Union of South Africa 1d King George V postage and revenue stamp was overprinted for use in all three Territories. (Figure 4).

The difference is that both of the other Territories included the words "Revenue Only" in their overprint, so there was no doubt as to their intended usage. Why did Bechuanaland not do the same? After all they had experienced the same problem of unintended postal use in 1907, when they overprinted the Transvaal 6d for fiscal use, but it did not have more than the words "Bechuanaland Protectorate" overprinted on a postage and revenue stamp.





Figure 5

Incidentally, Swaziland also had the same 6d overprinted, but also included the words "Revenue Only" in the overprint (Figure 5). Perhaps Basutoland had this 6d overprinted too, but I have not yet seen one.







Figure 6

We believe that in both these instances, the words "Revenue Only" were left out of the Bechuanaland overprints, as to have "Bechuanaland Protectorate Revenue Only" on these small format stamps would have been just too much. If you look at the later 1d "ship" South African stamp overprinted for fiscal use for all three Territories (Figure 6), you see that all three Territories have the "Revenue Only" included in their overprints, but that Bechuanaland has dropped the word "Protectorate".

So we have good reason to believe the South African King George V 1d stamp overprinted for use in Bechuanaland was a genuine fiscal, but still, why no fiscally used copies recorded by us? To some extent, we think this has to do with the lack of interest in Revenue Collecting until more recent times. Anything not postally used was not considered a real collectable, and was discarded. Higher value revenue stamps were kept for different reasons. They were normally on legal documents that needed to be preserved, like title deeds, so more of these higher values seem to have survived.

We believe the overprinted South African King George V 1d was intended for fiscal use, as is generally accepted, but we would love to record a fiscally used copy. Please help if you can.

Brian Trotter, 64A Wandsworth Common North Side, London, SW18 2SH, UK or to the Editor, Neville Midwood

EARLY POSTAL RATES: A Few Comments

by Karl Seligmann

When *Runner Post* issue number 51 arrived, my eye caught the comments of Frederick Lawrence on page 1265. Mr Lawrence addresses the early postal rates in British Bechuanaland. Questions about this emotive topic, posed by Bechuanaland government and postal employees, started from the very inception of the British Bechuanaland Postal services. Unfortunately I do not have immediate access to the *Runner Post* issues containing the 1991 exchanges between Alan Drysdall and Mr Lawrence. It seems clear, however, that there are still some disputes about the early postal rates and surcharges needing an answer.

Perhaps we need to take a closer look at the Convention agreed on by British Bechuanaland and the Cape of Good Hope. Governor Hercules Robinson, only signed this document on November 11, 1885, on behalf of the Cape. S G A Shippard, the Administrator of British Bechuanaland, signed the next day. Negotiations must have started quite a while before this date. The postal authorities publicised the contents of the agreement in the Cape and in the United Kingdom, before the start of the Convention on December 1, 1885. The Convention did not make provision for the rates to start on January 1, 1886! Various people, in the United Kingdom and in British Bechuanaland, expressed unhappiness about the short notice given. Many correspondents in the two countries were unaware of the change in rates. Inhabitants of British Bechuanaland (previously known as Stellaland) should have known. Before the arrival of the BEF Stellaland had no direct route to the Cape. After Warren arrived the BEF transported their own mail to Barkly West. The civilian mails continued to go via Christiana. On Friday, May 29, 1885, the Stellaland mail contractor began to transport the civilian mails to Barkly West. Mail destined for overseas, needed franking with the Stellaland postal rate of two pennies (using Stellaland stamps) to join that of the Cape system at Barkly. A half ounce letter required a further two pennies (using Cape stamps) to reach a Cape destination. British Bechuanaland inhabitants saved 2d per half ounce letter under the new postal Convention.

Warren's troops (noncommissioned officers) would have enjoyed the penny postage on mail sent and received anywhere in the world. The commissioned officers would have paid ordinary rates. While in service during the Warren Expedition, the BEF carried their own mail from Barkly West. The authorities levied no extra charge between Goshen or Stellaland and Barkly West. Only the Cape to UK rate was applicable on outward mail (or UK to Cape rate for incoming mail), as Barkly West was the linking office.

After the end of the Expedition, some of Warren's officers and troops joined the BBP (Bechuanaland Border Police). Recruitment lasted from August 14 to 28 1885. The BEF briefly carried the civilian mail after mail contractor Geeringh resigned August 14, 1885. They certainly continued carrying their own mail as well as the civilian mails until their departure at the end of August 1885. The British Bechuanaland Police (BBP) took over the transport of the civilian mail after Warren's forces left. Captain Trotter also handed over the interim leadership to Carrington. He became the acting chairman of the Bestuur, and therefore head of government of Stellaland. When Stellaland became British Bechuanaland (BB) on September 30, 1885, he still filled this post and continued till the arrival of Shippard on October 22, 1885.

With Carrington's men in the BBP caring for the transport of the Civilian and police mail, the question of charges for the BBP letters between Barkly West and Vryburg probably never became an issue. The police had such a free hand that they opened the civil mails to retrieve their own letters. Frequent complaints of police tampering with mail bags hastened the call for civil tenders. From January 1, 1886, Mr Furniss, a private contractor won the mail contract for the route between Kimberley (now replacing Barkly West) and Vryburg. The BBP continued conveying mails between Vryburg and Mafeking for the civil authorities.

This Postal Convention gave British Bechuanaland access to use all the rates and routes previously negotiated by the Cape. The extra twopenny charge for letters weighing half an ounce or less, was for postage between the two countries. Only letters from or to India, Ceylon, China and Australia, and sent via Mocambique, required stamps worth fourpence, for delivery from the Cape to British Bechuanaland and vice versa.

Schedule B of the Convention 1885 determined the surcharge "taxed".

Schedule B

Schedule B

Class of Correspondence	Country of Origin	Proportion of the Charge to be claimed by the Cape Colony	Amount to be added on delivery in British Bechuanaland
Unpaid Letter	United Kingdom	6d for every 0.5 oz and (a) fine of 6d	2d for every 0.5 oz
Insufficiently paid letters	United Kingdom	The deficient postage at the rate of 6d for every 0.5 oz and a fine of 6d	2d for every 0.5 oz
Insufficiently paid book and sample packets	United Kingdom	The deficient postage at the rate of postage for the Cape Colony and a fine of 3d	1d per 2 oz
	Countries specified in Class I of Schedule "A"	10d for every 0.5 oz and a fine of 3d	2d for every 0.5 oz
Unpaid and	Countries specified in Class II of Schedule "A"	1/1 for every 0.5 oz and a fine of 3d	2d for every 0.5 oz
insufficiently	Countries specified in Class III of Schedule "A"	1/3 for every 0.5 oz and a fine of 3d	2d for every 0.5 oz
paid letters	Australasian Colonies	11d for every 0.5 oz and a fine of 3d	2d for every 0.5 oz
	India, Ceylon, China and Australia via Mozambique	12d for every 0.5 oz (no fine) - Double the deficient postage	4d for every 0.5 oz (Questioned when compared with the actual rates - ? 2d)

This information comes from the two original documents, presently held in South Africa and Botswana. Jurgens included this list in his book. Notice that a surcharge equal to **double the deficiency** only applied to letters from India, Ceylon, China and Australia sent via Mozambique. The post office levied a fine of 3d or a 6d on all underfranked items from all the countries as listed above. To these fines the post office officials added the shortage of postage as explained below. Postal officials destroyed all underfranked newspapers.

A. Letter to a UK Soldier

The cover under discussion by Lawrence was addressed to a Trooper. Some postmasters and agents accepted the penny postage as perfectly adequate for a BBP letter. They considered the troops of the BBP as soldiers of Her Majesty. However, when a letter arrived with a "T" or "Taxe" cachet, the receiving post office was obliged to collect the surcharge required by the Convention. The Cape had a special interest to see that the surcharges were collected, as they benefited from a substantial proportion of the surcharges. More details regarding the police' and soldiers' will follow later.

B. Insufficiently prepaid items from British Bechuanaland directed to places abroad

Surcharges ("Taxe") on Inadequately Franked Mail - June 24, 1886

On June 24, 1886, the PMG at Vryburg wrote to Mr Tillard, the Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate at Mafeking. In this letter he explains how to calculate surcharges on inadequately franked mail. He also spelled out how to calculate the credit due to the Cape Colony.

Insufficiently prepaid newspapers

Article 12 of the Convention made no provision for surcharging insufficiently prepaid newspapers. The Post Office simply destroyed them.

Insufficiently prepaid and Unpaid items directed to places abroad, but originating in **British Bechuanaland**

The Mafeking postmaster had raised a question with the PMG about an insufficiently franked letter addressed to England. The letter, posted at Mafeking, had only a 6d stamp affixed. The postmaster surcharged this letter with "10d - marked on the letter". He calculated the surcharge as follows:

Double the regular postage rate of 8d times 2 equals

16d

Deduct the postage affixed

6d

Surcharge due 10d

The PMG pointed out the postmaster's errors in applying article 15 of the Convention. The postmaster was not supposed to make a surcharge on an insufficiently prepaid item from BB directed to places abroad. **It must only be marked with the letter "T".** The actual calculation of the surcharge was not the function of the originating post office, but the receiving office.

The calculated surcharge was also incorrect. In accordance with Schedule B, "Insufficiently paid letters are surcharged with the amount of the deficient postage at this rate, plus a fine of 6d." A letter "prepaid with only 6d would be charged, on arrival (in the UK) with the deficient postage of 2d (8d minus 6d) plus the fine of 6d, equalling 8d in all and not 10d".

The PMG also illustrated the correct method of calculation on "**Unpaid letters for the United Kingdom**". "Unpaid letters for the United Kingdom were surcharged with the ordinary rate of postage viz 6d plus 2d for every half an ounce (Cape to BB rate) and a fine of 6d irrespective of weight (this would amount to 14d for an unfranked 0.5 oz. letter)."

C. Calculating the Credit due to the COGH for Insufficiently Franked Letters

Referring to the letter with insufficient stamps - that is 6d instead of the required 8d, the PMG explained the correct method for calculating the portion of the postage to be credited to the Cape Colony for an insufficiently franked letter. This amounted to the "affixed postage less the postage rate from British Bechuanaland to the Cape (2d)". This is 6d less 2d (4d). The credit would have been 8d (the full required postage) less 2d, that is 6d.

(It should be noted that if the addressees failed to pay the levied surcharges, the post office could still recover the "deficiency and fines" (surcharges) from the senders of letters. P J Truter, the CC at Vryburg, explained this to Mr Round on September 21, 1886.)

D. Manuscript Markings on BB letters directed through the Cape

French, the Cape PMG, wrote to the Civil Commissioner at Vryburg on March 17, 1887. He enclosed some covers with a copy of a letter from the Secretary General of the Post Office in London. This letter dealt with the subject of the cypher "2" in manuscript that sometimes appeared on letters from the Cape to the United Kingdom. This cypher was in red ink or pencil (in contrast with the "Tax" or charges normally made in black ink). This was not a surcharge but merely represented the amount credited to the Cape postal department per (half ounce) letter for inland postage. If the recipients had been charged in error, French requested that they be refunded. To qualify for the refund, the BB postal authorities had to return these covers to Cape Town as proof. The PMG at the Cape would correspond with the London PO.

"I may add, for your information, that any marking in red ink or pencil is not to be considered as a charge made upon a letter. Also, **charges should be made in black ink**. It would perhaps be well to instruct the postal offices of your services accordingly." A manuscript "2" on letters from the United Kingdom despatched from Cape Town to British Bechuanaland, merely indicated the credit due to the postal department of the Cape on the letter for inland postage (that is purely an accountancy mark only (registered letter No 95 of March 17, 1887).

In summary, one notes that in spite of the clarity of Schedule 15, some BB postmasters and agents often made wrong calculations for the "Taxe" or postage due, on incoming mail to British Bechuanaland. The correct formula for the surcharge on insufficiently franked letters was to add the sixpence fine to the postage shortage on any letter. Using double the deficiency was incorrect, except for the last category in the table given above - namely on letters travelling via Mocambique. Another erroneous method was to take double the required postage and then subtracting the actual affixed stamps.

E. Surcharges and Fines - March 7, 1888

The Bechuanaland News of March 7, 1888 confirmed the rates for unpaid and insufficiently paid correspondence between British Bechuanaland (BB) and the UK as outlined above. Newspapers insufficiently prepaid were not forwarded from BB but destroyed. It also added information about postal charges between "South Africa" and British Bechuanaland. Surcharges for letters, book packets, parcels and newspapers posted in South Africa, would be surcharged at double the deficiency. No fine was levied.

F. Schedule "B" as Modified from Original for October 1, 1888

Schedule "B" showed the surcharges on "Unpaid and Insufficiently Paid Correspondence posted in the

United Kingdom and Foreign Countries addressed to British Bechuanaland, and the manner in which such charges are to be distributed". The surcharges decreased by about the same rate as the decrease in postage rates. Note that the fine on unpaid and insufficiently paid letters remained at 6d.

Class of Correspondence	For Cape Administration		Deli	Added on very in BB
From United Kingdom	Per every 0.5 oz	Fine	Per 0.5 oz	or as given
Unpaid Letters	4d	6d	3d	0.5 oz
Insufficiently Paid Letters	Deficiency on 4d	6d	2d	0.5 oz
Insuff. paid books/sample packets	Deficiency on Cape Rate	3d	1d	2 oz
Countries in Class I in Schedule A	Per 0.5 oz	Fine		Per 0.5 oz
Unpaid and insuff. paid letters	Based on Rate of 9d	3d	2d	0.5 oz
Countries in Class II in Schedule A	Per 0.5 oz	Fine		Per 0.5 oz
Unpaid and insuff. paid letters	Based on Rate of 12d	3d	2d	0.5 oz
Countries in Class III Schedule A	Per 0.5 oz	Fine		Per 0.5 oz
Unpaid and insuff. paid letters	Based on Rate of 14d	3d	2d	0.5 oz
Australasian colonies	Per 0.5 oz	Fine		Per 0.5 oz
Unpaid and insuff. paid letters	Based on Rate of 10d	3d	2d	0.5 oz
India, Ceylon, China and	No Rate Supplied			
Australia via Mozambique	Per 0.5 oz	Fine		Per 0.5 oz
Unpaid and insuff. paid letters	Double the deficiency	Nil	4d	0.5 oz

G. Soldier's and BBP Mail - Postal Announcement 5 - February 2, 1886

Problems related to the franking of police and soldiers' mail were mentioned earlier. This subject needs a little closer inspection. Warren's Bechuanaland Expeditionary Force (BEF) ceased to exist at the end of August 1885, when most of the troops left "Stellaland". During their time the BEF transported most, if not all, of their own mail. It was unlikely that any extra postage would have been charged for soldiers' letters between Barkly West and Stellaland and Goshen.

Before Warren's arrival, most of Stellaland's mail was destined for the South African Republic. A private contractor, Mr Geeringh, transported the mail between Vryburg to Christiana, for the Stellaland Bestuur. After Warren's arrival, more correspondents started writing to the Cape and overseas destinations. On Friday, May 29, 1885, because of political reasons and public demand, Captain Trotter (Warren's representative on the Bestuur) notified the Bestuur, that Geeringh "shall take the post every Friday evening from Vryburg to Barkley (sic)." The Bestuur at the same time recommended that the Cape Colonial rate of postage be adopted for Stellaland "in consequence whereby letters intended for the Colony will have to be stamped with the same amount of Stellaland stamps as they will require in Colonial stamps" (Bestuur Minutes p 142). The mail contractor, continued to carry the mail at a reduced payment, until August 14, 1885. Warren's men then briefly carried the mail, probably for only two or three trips. When the BEF departed at the end of August 1885, the Bechuanaland Border Police (BBP) took over the "law and order" of the new colony. They also carried on with the BEF the duties of conveying the mail, both civil and police, between Vryburg and Barkly West.

From early December 1885, British Bechuanaland appointed new postmasters and agents. Some had only a very rudimentary knowledge of running a post office or agency. Mr Mason, the first "postmaster" at Mafeking, previously cared for the military mail. As stated previously, many of the policemen of the BBP had previously served under Warren and enjoyed the one-penny postage of the regular UK soldier. Obviously Mason expected that the new policemen or troopers would have the same privileges of the regular soldiers he previously served. Underfranked incoming letters were marked with a "T" or "Taxe" before arriving in Bechuanaland. Mason and other agents or postmasters sometimes dutifully tried to apply the Convention regulations as they or their Civil Commissioner interpreted them. Carrington, the leader of the BBP, vigorously opposed this extra financial burden now placed on his meagrely paid police. The "new" surcharges, consisting of the "deficient postage" and the substantial "fine" of sixpence affected them the most. Family and friends writing from the UK were often as yet unacquainted with the 1885 Convention postage rates, introduced on December 1, 1885. They were also not aware of the fact that some authorities in the Cape did not accept the new police as falling into the category of "soldiers of her Majesty".

Colonel Carrington, chief commander of the BBP, as well as by other officials of BB, like Reverend John S Moffat, submitted pleas for a reconsideration of these surcharges. These resulted in "Number 5 Postal" being included in the General Orders of February 27, 1886. The Order read: "It is notified for general information and guidance that noncommissioned officers (NCO's) of the BBP force are privileged to receive and send letters within any portion of Her Majesty's dominions at the fixed rate of 1d per half ounce provided that all letters so sent by members of the force bear on the cover rank of an officer and the number, rank and name, troop and corps of the sender. Officers Commanding (OC's) will frank the letters pertaining to the men of their respective troops."

On February 27, 1886, Mr French, indicated that the Cape Town post office received some police letters, marked as "insufficiently prepaid", from British Bechuanaland. He referred to he current Post Office Guide of the Colony which documented the "one penny privileged rate for policemen's letters" (p 28). He requested that the postmasters of the BB should be informed of this privilege. **The letters so taxed had been forwarded as fully prepaid by the circulation branch of the Cape Town post office.** (They probably deleted the "T" for Taxe and wrote "fully prepaid" on the covers.)

In spite of the above "rulings" regarding BBP troop letters, problems with soldiers' incoming mail continued. On March 6, 1886, Colonel F Carrington complained that one of his men received a letter with a surcharge of 2/- . This letter had a one shilling stamp already affixed. (Using the Convention, this would have consisted of a 6d fine plus 1/6 underfranking; unless it was wrongly calculated. A letter needing a postage of 30 pennies, did not quite fit in with the eight penny per half ounce charge. It may also have been a "heavy" letter originating from another foreign country.) Other letters with one penny stamps had a 13d surcharge (7d for shortage on stamps plus 6d fine). These charges were very heavy on his men with very limited income. Strangely, a number of his troops received letters from England without any surcharge, but only franked with a 1d stamp. He again recommended a reconsideration of the surcharges since the postage just recently came into force in British Bechuanaland. These new rates would only became widely known to the public in England some time after the local printed notifications. He commented that soldiers received very few adequately franked letters until a short while ago.

The Vryburg Civil Commissioner, wrote to the Postmaster General at Cape Town on March 13 and April 2, 1886. He enclosed several examples of "taxed" soldiers' letters raising once more the issue of the BBP letters. Mr G W Aitcheson, the Cape PMG, disagreed with Mr French's February ruling. On April 16, 1886, Aitcheson returned the covers that accompanied the Commissioner's letter. He confirmed the correctness of these surcharges. He stated that "No official certification had been made that the troopers in the BBP were privileged to receive and send letters through the post at rates applicable to soldiers and seamen's letters." If approached, the Secretary of State for the Colonies might allow this privilege for the BBP. His letter of February 2 (1886) referred to letters posted in Bechuanaland and addressed to soldiers and therefore entitled to pass at the 1d rate of postage (This letter could not be traced). Truter had already written on April 13, 1886, to the Administrator at Taung, stating: "I have the honour to enclose herewith correspondence relative to postage on letters addressed to members of the Bechuanaland Border Police and beg your honour's attention to the suggestion made by the PMG Cape Town as to communicating with the Imperial Secretary."

On April 15, 1886, Carrington once more communicated with the Civil Commissioner (CC) at Vryburg from Mafeking. He enclosed covers of letters and papers received on that day, with surcharges amounting to the amount of 9/8. With a single exception, they were all on public business, although written by private individuals. One brown paper cover marked "Book Post" had a surcharge of 26d. This only contained private matter, was not overweight and amply prepaid by stamps worth 4d (book post charge for a 2 oz. package). The PMG at Cape Town could merely call this issue to the attention of the postal officials concerned to these charges, in order to obtain the needful refund. He requested a directive from the PMG to prevent these types of surcharges recurring in the future. They caused a great deal of needless inconvenience to the Mafeking postmaster, officers under Carrington's command and noncommissioned officers and as well as to men of the force. As late as April 15, 1886, the question of whether the troopers of the Bechuanaland Border Police qualified for the one penny special soldiers' rate, had not yet been fully clarified.

H. BB Residents Also Resent Surcharges - March 1886

The surcharges also caused resentment among the civil population. Many claimed that the British Bechuanaland administration had not adequately advertised the 1885 Convention postal rates in the UK. Correspondents from the UK continued to use inadequate postage. John Moffat, the Taung Resident Magistrate and postmaster, was one of the very vocal complainants about surcharged letters. The CC, Mr

A Faure Robertson, updated Moffat from Vryburg on March 10, 1886: "Respecting the surcharges on correspondence originating in Great Britain and in the countries sending their correspondence in transit through Great Britain during December and January last and the applications made by various persons for refund of such amounts as were paid by them on the plea that the notice of the change of the rates of postage had not reached their correspondents or the public in those countries in time, I have the honour to inform you that the PMG of the Cape Colony, while unable to refund the whole of the amounts in each case, will be glad to consider any instances of surcharge submitted to him" - "provided the covers of the letters are furnished." (Letter 487/1886)

I. Postmaster General (PMG) Explains Surcharges - June 24, 1886

a. Instructions to Fill in a Letter Bill

The PMG at Vryburg also instructed Mr Tillard, on June 24, 1886, how to fill out a letter bill by giving this example of a hypothetical mail day. A postmaster had 60 outgoing letters and papers addressed to foreign countries:

- i There were 40 letters for the United Kingdom
 - 30 letters for UK under half an ounce each and postage fully prepaid at 8d each
 - 5 letters for the UK under one ounce (double rate) and fully prepaid at 16d each
 - 3 registered for the UK at 8d plus 4d registration fee at 1/- each
 - 2 registered (1 oz.) at 16d plus 4d = 20d each
- ii There were also 5 ordinary letters and 1 registered letter of Class II
 - 3 prepaid 11d (= 0.5 oz. rate)
 - 2 at 22d (= 1 oz. rate)
 - 1 registered 11d (= 0.5 oz. rate) plus 4d (Registration fee) = 15d
- iii There were 4 newspapers (with a normal rate of 0.5d + 1d = 1.5d postage rate) for England
- iv There were 8 inadequately or unfranked letters addressed to the UK

(normal rate for 0.5 oz. letter 6d + 2d) as follows:

- 4 prepaid with 6d each
- 1 prepaid with 3d
- 2 prepaid with 1d
- 1 over 0.5 oz. prepaid with only 8d
- v 2 letters to foreign countries not prepaid
 - 1 letter to Germany franked 8d (Germany was in Class I with normal postage rate of 11d per letter of 1 oz.)
 - 1 letter to Peru unfranked (Peru was in Class II, with normal postage of 9.5d)

b. Calculating Amounts Due to COGH - June 24, 1886

Using the hypothetical example given above, the PMG continued instructing Tillard, how to calculate the amounts due to the Cape Administration under the Postal Convention. The Cape had international agreements with many other countries. British Bechuanaland paid their share of the international cost of their external postage to the Cape who then cared for any external expenses. The BB postal services only received the two pence portion for internal letter postage, a proportion of the registration fees (half fee) as well as a proportion of other charges.

For the **UK mail at 6d per every 0.5 oz.** or fraction thereof:

30 at 6d	15/-
5 at 1/-	5/-
3 at 6d	1/6
2 at 1/-	3/6
Total for ordinary UK mail	£1.3.6

(The PMG miscalculated by 1/6)

For Class II Mail at (11d - 2d) 9d per every 0.5 oz. or fraction thereof

per every 0.5 02. or machon thereor	
3 at 9d	2/3
2 at 1/6	3/-
Subtotal Ordinary	5/3
registered	9d
_	

Newspapers for England

4 at 1d 4d

Improperly and inadequately franked letters for the UK - Eight letters were improperly franked. Calculation of Cape's Portion

4 letters franked with 6d only on each:

 $4 \times (postage applied to letter less postage to the Cape) = 4 \times (6d-2d) = 16d$

1 letter franked with a 3d stamp (postage on letter)

3d less 2d (postage from BB to the Cape) = 1d

2 letters prepaid with less than the postage required to the Cape and

1d minus 2d (BB to Cape Rate) would leave a negative result therefore no credit to the Cape on these two letters = 0d

1 letter due 16d (more than 1 oz.) but only franked with 8d.

Method of calculation (Postage affixed minus postage required from

BB to the Cape) = 8d - 4d = 4d Total for the Cape 21d

Two insufficiently franked letters to Foreign Countries

1 letter franked 8d less 2d for postage from BB to Cape

1 letter franked 9½d less 2d for postage from BB to the Cape

According to Article 15 of the Convention, British Bechuanaland would credit the Cape Colony for the whole of the postage on such correspondence insufficiently paid letters addressed to foreign countries of the Universal Postal Union. The full 17½d (sum of the 2 letters' postage stamps) was thus credited to the Cape. (The author is not clear as to whether this was the right method of calculation as Schedule "B" can be interpreted in a different manner.)

The Postmaster General stated in conclusion that the current Cape Postal Guide had a table of rates for the Transvaal on pages 41 to 60 and that "the rates from B(ritish) Bechuanaland are the same."

I hope that the explanations given below will clarify a few of the problems previously encountered. They may even create a few extra ones that can be discussed in future issues of *The Runner Post*.

Karl Seligmann, PO Box 759, Gaberone, Botswana.

The British Forces Post Office In Bechuanaland/Botswana

by John Daynes

The British Forces Post Office In Bechuanaland 1966/67

Following the declaration of UDI by the government of Southern Rhodesia the British Government used a powerful radio transmitter located in Bechuanaland for dissemination of information. There were fears that the illegal Rhodesian Government might send a raiding party into Bechuanaland to destroy the transmitter. To discourage this a company of 1st Gloucestershire Regiment was sent to Francistown to guard the transmitter. The 1st South Wales Borderers later took over the guard duty.

The postal address was British Forces Post Office 652 and the datestamp used was Field Post Office 1002. As usual with BFPO's British postage stamps were used on the Forces mail which was sent at concession postage rates (i.e. 4d). It should be noted that BFPO 652 was the address for Bechuanaland only for the period December 1965 to August 1967.

FPO 1002 is recorded in Francistown between 1st January 1966 and 17th June 1967. British troops are thought to have been withdrawn on 18th August 1967 and by 1st September 1967 FPO 1002 was in use in Kenya.

The British Forces Post Office In Botswana 1998

Between the 4th February 1998 and 12th March 1998 Exercise Diamond Cutter was held by British troops in Botswana. The B.F.P.O. address was BFPO 603 and the FPO used Field Post Office 1025 datestamp.

Acknowledgement. We gratefully acknowledge, with particular thanks to Mr. John Daynes, the above article received from The Forces Postal History Society in response to our request reported in *Runner Post* #37, p791.

BECHUANALAND AND BOTSWANA POSTAL ORDERS

based on an exhibit by Peter Thy

awarded Gold at AmeiStamp Expo Houston 1998 (1 frame) and Vermeil at SACAPEX 1999 (2 frames)

he transmission of money has always been an important function of the Post Office. Examples are postal saving accounts, money orders, and postal orders. This exhibit tells the story of postal orders in Bechuanaland and Botswana from first introduced in 1907. As will become evident, the biggest obstacle to the subject is that the preserved material is fragmental and extremely limited.

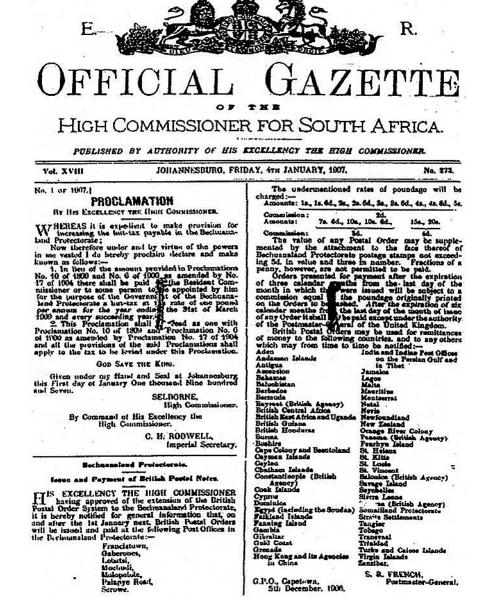
Postal orders are pre-printed postal forms with a fixed value and imprinted commission stamp. They have been and continue to be widely used in many countries for transmitting funds through the mail from one party to another. Together with money orders, postal orders are used by postal customers without easy access to the banking system and still have a strong role in developing countries where possession of a banking account often is limited to a regular and significant income. A postal order properly issued by a post office or agency can be cashed by the receiver at any postal office or bank for the full amount of its denomination. Typically postal orders can be paid only within the country of issue. However, provided international postal arrangements they also can be cashed in another country as are the case for the Southern African Postal Union and the British Commonwealth.



A 10 cents Bechuanaland postal order issued in Shoshong (10 X 67) after Independence and made payable to the Department of Education at the Gaberones Post Office. This postal order is an overprinting on the first British Queen Elizabeth II issue from 1956. The overprinting and surcharging were probably made around 1961-2 by the British Post Office. These postal orders were proudly referred to by the Bechuanaland postal administration as 'Bechuanaland Postal Orders' and may be the first orders inscribed 'BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE'. All previous orders used in Bechuanaland were British and South African without overprinting and can only be identified by the date stamp of issuing postal office, but none of these are known to exist.

It has been estimated that for British postal orders only two orders in a million survive. Since only about 800,000 postal orders were issued in Bechuanaland between 1907 and 1955, it is not surprising that so few Bechuanaland postal orders have been preserved. The reason is that cashed postal orders were retained by the Post Office and destroyed. The result is that no orders issued in Bechuanaland prior to 1965 are known. There exist a few issued around independence in 1965-67, the majority of which is illustrated in this article. From the period after 1989, some material is available mainly because the author took an interest in these obscure postal history collectables.

Early Bechuanaland Postal Orders



A postal order (or note) system existed in the Cape Colony as early as 1883. It is not known if this was extended to British Bechuanaland, despite the fact that the Cape money order system was introduced there in 1887. It was first when the British postal order system was extended to the Cape that postal orders the following year also were made available in Bechuanaland Protectorate. Initially, a short set was used (14 different orders between 1s and 20s), but the following year, the full set of British orders was available (41 different between 6d and 21s). When first introduced, only seven post offices were supplied orders. Shortly after also postal agencies were able to sell and cash postal orders. The postal order transactions soon by far outnumbered any other money transactions through the Post Office.

In the period until about 1961, a total of at least 8 different British issues (from 1907) and 3 different South African issues (from 1933) were in use, numbering well over 200 different orders. Since the commission fees were higher than in Great Britain, the British postal orders used in Bechuanaland Protectorate must have been surcharged. Since none of these orders have survived, we do not know if this were the case, nor do we know for certain whether they were overprinted 'Bechuanaland Protectorate' as the case was for other types of postal stationery during the same period. Therefore, we must start our story in about 1961 when the Rand denominated 'Bechuanaland Postal Orders' were issued.

1961/2. Overprinted and Surcharged 1956 British Queen Elizabeth II Issues.

Bechuanaland appointed in 1957 a controller of Posts and Telegraphs with domicile in Lobatsi and thus initiated an independence move from the South Africa Post Office that was finalized in 1963. In the mean time, the Union of South Africa left the Commonwealth and the Republic was formed in 1961. In relation to this, South Africa converted from a Sterling currency to its own Rand currency. The close economic connections between Bechuanaland and South Africa mandated that Bechuanaland followed the South African currency reform. A meeting in 1961 between postal administrators of the High Commission Territories concluded that the Territories would no longer sell Republic postal orders, but would be prepared to continue to cash them in the normal way on a commission basis. As a result, Bechuanaland ordered a stock of postal orders from the British Post Office to be surcharged in Rand and overprinted 'BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE'. This decision was clearly not only politically motivated, but also had practical aspects since the new Republic's postal orders would not be accepted by the British Post Office. With this decision, Bechuanaland opted for an expensive solution to the postal order problem since British postal orders were more expensive than South African orders. This was because a higher share of the commission fees would go to London than to South Africa. It was also an expensive choice for the postal customers that would have to pay a higher commission fee irrespective of whether the order was cashed in South Africa or in the United Kingdom. This decision is interesting since the majority of monetary transactions from Bechuanaland went to South Africa and not to the United Kingdom.

PROTECTORATE



A 10 Rand postal order issued in Serowe (14 I 66) and made payable to the Department of Education at the Mafeking Post Office. This was probably the highest denomination available. A 8 cents commission fee was paid by the sender. The order bears no sign that it was cashed. This is the only R10 order know to exist. The punched holes were for accounting purposes and were made prior to delivery to the Post Office (only Rand denominations).

The Bechuanaland orders were overprinted on the first set of Queen Elizabeth II orders introduced in 1956. The printing(s) that were used to produce the Bechuanaland orders were made between 1957 and 1966. The orders bear the inscription 'To the Postmaster-General' above the denomination. The 1969 British Post Office Act abolished the 'Postmaster-General' and 'To the Post Office' was substituted. The orders were overprinted 'BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE' and surcharged in Rand currency (including the commission fee). It is not know how many different denominations were issued, but a qualified guess is about 30 different between 5c and R10.



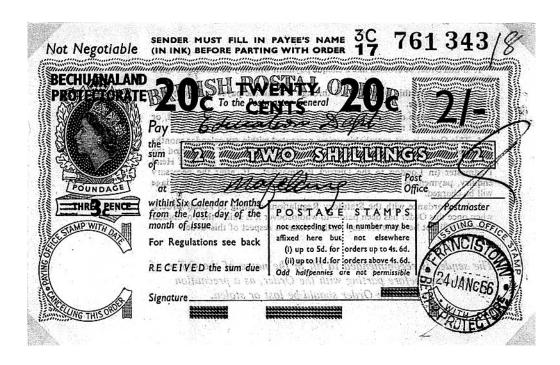
A 2 Rand order issued in Serowe (14 I 66) and made payable to the Department of Education at Mafeking Post Office. Note the same handwriting and date stamp as on the R10 order. A postal order is referred to as having been issued at the day of purchase and is only valid for 6 month. The issuing Postal Office is required to date and to sign the order at the lower right corner. Therefore, unissued orders cannot exist and would have no monetary value. This is the only R2 order known to exist.



A 30 cents order issued at Hukuntsi Postal Agency (2 XI 65) with attached counterfoil that was surcharged with the new denomination. Note that the sender did not fill in payee's name and paying Postal Office. The counterfoil was intended for the senders' records and for late claims, having a space for the senders name. The issuing Postal Agency also dated the back of the counterfoil with the same canceller as on the front. This is the only known commercially used order with attached counterfoil.



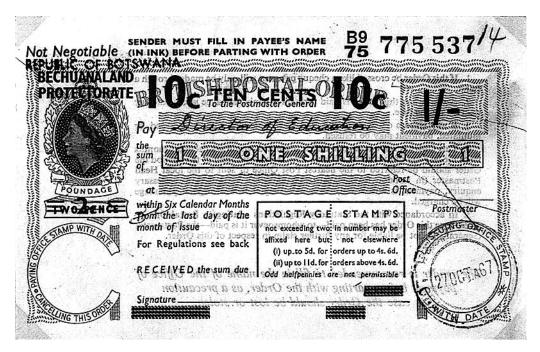
A 15 cents order uprated to 20 cents and issued at Bobonong Postal Agency (27 VIII 66) and made payable at Gaberones Post Office. Postal orders could be uprated with a value in postage stamps for the amount just below the next order. In this case the next order was 20 cents. Therefore, a 15 cents order was allowed to be uprated to 19 cents. The present order was clearly accepted despite uprated to a too high value. Perhaps Bobonong had run out of 20 cents orders? Note that the order has been correctly signed by the receiver of its value at Gaberones. This is the only uprated Bechuanaland order known to exist.



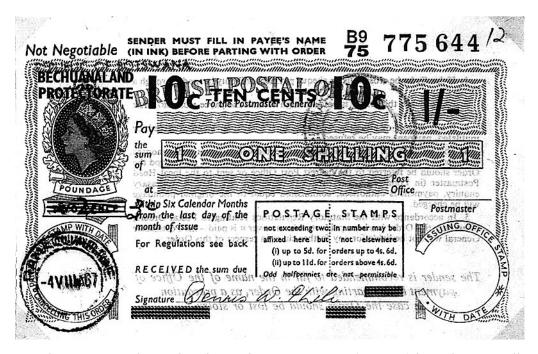
A 20 cents order issued at Francistown Post Office (24 JAN 66) and made payable at Gaberones. Postal orders were equipped with a serial number at the upper right corner. In addition, it was customary that the postal clerk numbered the orders sequentially for easy and continuous accounting by writing a number in pencil below the serial number. Note that the R2 and R10 orders both have two pencil numbers added.

1966. Bechuanaland Orders OverprintedREPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

Bechuanaland Protectorate became independent on September 30, 1966, and the existing supply of postal orders were overprinted 'REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA' in red or purple. A rate increase necessitated that also the commission fees were surcharged. This rate increase likely occurred around Independence, but has not been recorded in the otherwise detailed legal postal regulations. The 2c to 3c surcharging was done manually for the 10 cents order and presumably also for the rest of the denomination (not known to have survived).



A 10 cents order issued in Lobatsi (27 OCT 67) and made payable to the Director of Education. The overprinting was done in purple.



A 10 cents order overprinted in red and issued in Francistown (30 V 67) by a date canceller on the reverse. The order was cashed at Ramaquabane Postal Agency and dated by canceller (4 VIII 67) correctly placed in the left lower corner. The receiver of the money signed the order before handling it over to the postal clerk. Note the correspondence between the overprinting and the surcharging colours.

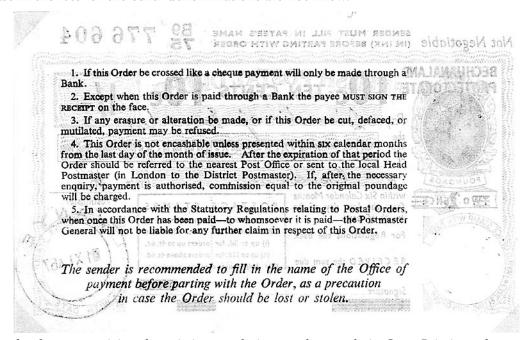
1967. Bechuanaland Orders Used in Botswana Without Overprinting

Unoverprinted Bechuanaland orders was used by Botswana after Independence. Here is an example issued by Sherwood Ranch Post Agency (27 VII 67). The commission fee is surcharged manually to 3 cents.



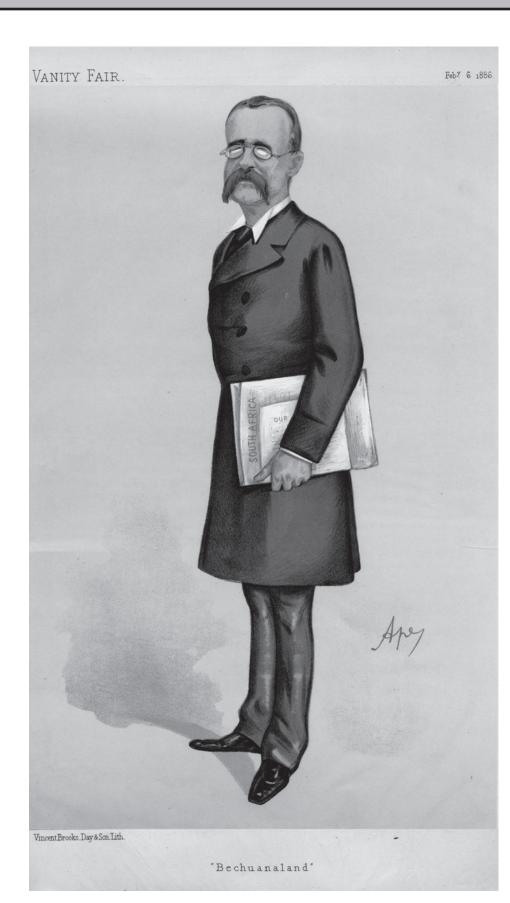
The 1961/62 Bechuanaland orders are known with the following denominations 5c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 30c, R1, R10, but several other denominations may have existed (29 different?). Only about 13 examples are known to exist, the majority of which are of the 10 cents denomination. The surviving orders issued after Independence are entirely the 10 cents denomination (with or without overprint).

The commission fees prior to Independence were for 5c-10c orders 2c; 15c-45c orders 3c; 50c-R2 orders 4c; R4 order 6c; R10 order 8c. After Independence the commission fees increased for the 10c order to 3c. The increase in the fees for the other denominations are not know.



Reverse of order summarizing the existing regulations as they apply in Great Britain and generally also in Botswana (and Bechuanaland).

Howard Lunn, 1984. A guide to the history and values of British postal orders, 1881-1984. H.Lunn, Frome & London. Peter Thy, 1994. The introduction and usage of postal orders in Bechuanaland Protectorate. Krone Publications, Davis.



Sir Charles Warren as depicted by Vanity Fair, February 6th 1886

BRITISH AFRICA

RHODESIA 1890 PIONEER COLUMN



RHODESIA BSA COMPANY / BECHUANALAND 1890 (12-13th August) cover / letter to Cape Colony from Arthur Puzey, a member of the Pioneer Column. Written on 12-13th August, while the column was at 'Providential Pass', Mashonaland, while en-route to the future Salisbury. The BSA Company organised for mail to be transported to Bechuanaland where this cover entered the postal system at Shoshong. A Bechuanaland Protectorate 4d on ½d vermilion (SG 53) was tied by SHOSHONG / AU 29 / BECHUANALAND datestamp (date inverted). Mafeking (SP 2) transit cds and East London (SP 9 90) arrival backstamp. The cover unfolds to reveal a fascinating letter written on the reverse, which includes comments on the ever-present threat of Matabele attack and some of the defensive

measures taken. A very rare and important historical item.

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

ALAN MACGREGOR

Member: PTS, SAPDA, APS

PO BOX 515, SIMONSTOWN 7995, SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: (+27 21) 786 1931 Fax: (+27 21) 786 1925

e-mail: amg@new.co.za website: www.rhodesia.co.za