

The Runner Post

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August 2001

DAVID CROCKER

PROFESSIONAL PHILATELISTS

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List of Officers

Chairman	<i>None elected</i>
Vice Chairman (1 year)	Lt. Col. Sir John Inglefield-Watson Bt The Ross, Hamilton, Lanarkshire, ML3 7UF, UK.
Secretary (1 year)	David Wall 8 Walkwood Rise, Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 1TU, UK.
Treasurer	<i>Resigned</i> Contact David Wall
Editor/ Archivist	Neville Midwood 69 Porlock Lane, Furzton, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK4 1JY, UK.
Membership Secretary (1 year)	Jim Catterall Trevessa, Upper Castle Road, St Mawes, Truro, Cornwall TR2 5BZ
Auctioneer (UK)	Tony Chilton 56 Framfield Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2AL, UK.
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SA Representative /Auctioneer (SA)	Howard Cook 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.
Postmark Study Coordinator	Bruce Warrender 66 Brodie Court, Stenton, Glenrothes, Fife KY7 4UD, UK.
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Editor's Corner

The forthcoming AGM (date changed - see News) looks likely to elect enough committee members for the Society to keep going for the time being. Which is, I'm sure members will agree, good news. Not a time for complacency though. Societies depend on having active members who are willing to come forward to serve on the committee. So if you are interested in doing a short stint on the committee in a few years time now is a good time to mention it.

Several new or prospective members made contributions to this issue of the Runner Post for which I thank them. Thanks also to the regular contributors. I do have some articles held in reserve, so the current plan is for an autumn Runner News #9 and a winter Runner Post #54.

I am looking for some "editorial assistants". If anyone wants to help with the watching of all those auction catalogues for items in the Rarer Stamps Study, and for other interesting items such as Warren Expedition and Stellaland letters then please drop me a line or e-mail. I would like to make "At the Auction House" a regular feature. Also, if any southern African member wants to keep me updated on show dates and southern hemisphere news and meetings, again get in touch.

I finally got around to buying some software for my new PC to allow me to maintain the web site. Sorry that it was out of date for the last 10 months. I also bought a laser printer to make this the first Runner Post that I have printed myself. Let me know what you think.

Sadly, I have received notification that member Stuart Cockerill of Tonbridge passed away in March 2001. We have also lost the membership of GRP Pollitt who is very ill.

Neville Midwood

RunnerPO@netcomuk.co.uk

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

News

AGM change of date

There is a change of date for the 2001 AGM. Due to various committee members and prospective committee members being unavailable on the Wednesday this will take place at the Camden Head Public House, Islington. 2 p.m. on Friday 21st September. The election of committee members at this AGM is extraordinary. The full elections for all posts will take place at the AGM in September 2002.

Membership News

New Members

Philip Loosemore 8 Holme Lea, Town Street, Sandiacre, Nottingham, NG10 5DQ, UK
Philip collects early empire African, including Postal History. He is a member of the East African Society.

Dr Michael Edwin Sutton UK
Edwin collects mint 1884 to 1966 including Postage Dues. He is also a member of the Papuan Philatelic Society.

Paul Fletcher 101 Aston Mead, Windsor, Berks, SL4 5PP, UK
Paul joined at Midpex 2001.

Brian Hurst 11 Ivy Grove, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3HN, UK
Brian collects Bechuanalands and Swaziland.

Change of Address

Mr. C. Cordes PO Box 70044 Bryanston 2021 RSA
Mr. C. R. Johnson PO Box 32091 Summerstrand Port Elizabeth 6019 RSA

Botswana Study Group Progress Report *by Bruce Warrender*

The team has currently identified 279 new postmarks from the 120 Botswana post offices and agencies. This is good news for Botswana postmark collectors as there are potentially plenty more postmarks yet to be discovered.

The team asks members to pass on copies of any new postmarks they encounter. Anyone with a particular interest in this study is most welcome to join the group.

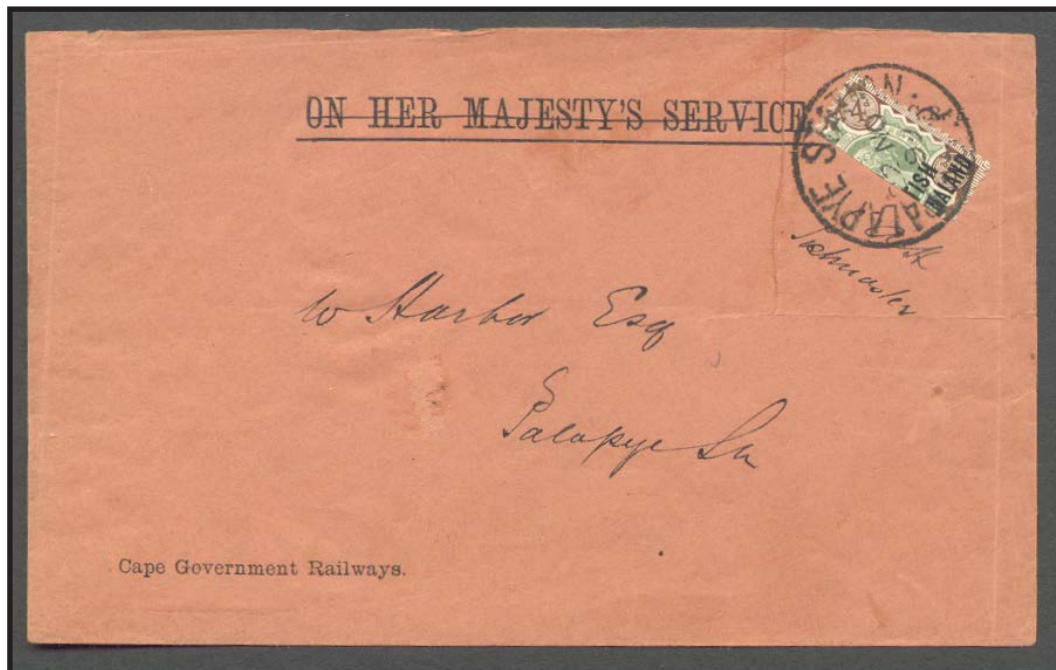
Shown below four new postmarks and four new variants.

Bruce's address is on the List of Officers; scans can be e-mailed to RunnerPO@netcomuk.co.uk for forwarding.



Questions and Answers

Bisect on Cover



Chris Ray, a UK dealer, sent me a scan of the this cover bearing a bisected 4d with Palapye Station 22 Nov 1892 cd. The bisect is initialled "AH Postmaster". The address is in the same handwriting.

In view of this he asks if any member can confirm A Harbor as being a postmaster in Palapye and if anyone has any further details/opinions about the use of a bisect on this cover?

Canadian Aircraft via e-mail from john.peebles@odyssey.on.ca

I am contacting you as president of the Canadiana Study Unit, an affiliate of the American Topical Association. Our members collect non-Canadian world wide stamps that have Canadian themes. I wonder if an of your members can help us.

On November 3, 2000, Botswana issued a set of 4 stamps on the theme Flying Medical Service (shown on p.1317 and the cover of Runner News #8). Three of these show a single propeller aircraft which looks very much like a DeHavilland of Canada OTTER.

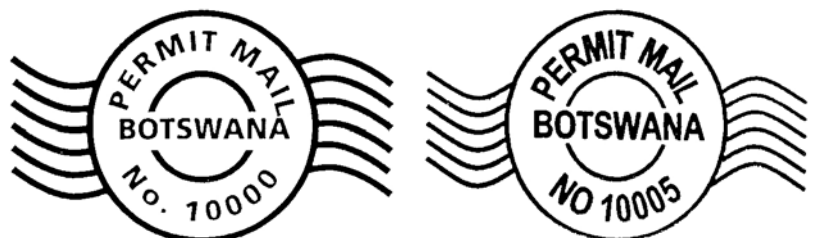
Does any member know the type of aircraft shown? Is the OTTER used in Botswana? Does it appear on other Botswana stamps?. Can any member suggest a source for this information?

Any assistance that your members can provide would be most sincerely appreciated.

Botswana Permit Mail from Bruce Warrender

This new type of mail service seems to have started in 2000. This may be a new service replacing the Postage Paid impressions. Members (particular those in Botswana) may be able to answer a few questions about Permit Mail.

1. When did this service start?
2. How many companies use permit mail?
3. Are Postage Paid impressions still being used by companies?



Recent Botswana Issues

Correction

Issues listed in Runner Post #52. SG 903-909 were renumbered as SG 904-910.

7th Aug 1999 (SG 903)

Southern African Development Community Day Litho by *unknown*

One Mini Sheet.

[Note a fingerprint in the ink is clearly visible on my example (on "D.R. of Congo" flag), despite its limited handling. A low quality litho]

5th Apr 2000 (SG 911-914)

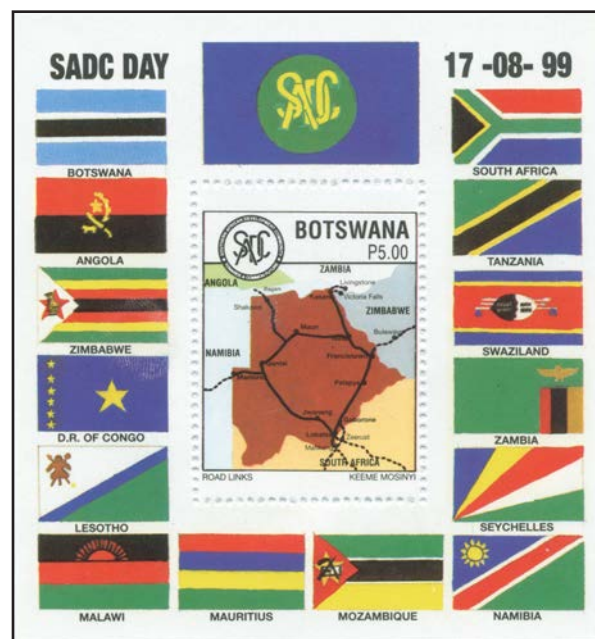
Scenic Rivers

[I have no example of this Issue, nor have I been able to obtain any or seen any illustrated. Any members able to provide any details or scans to its existence?]

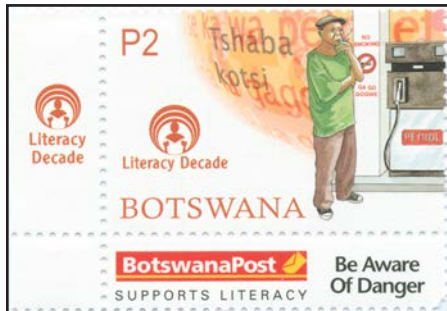
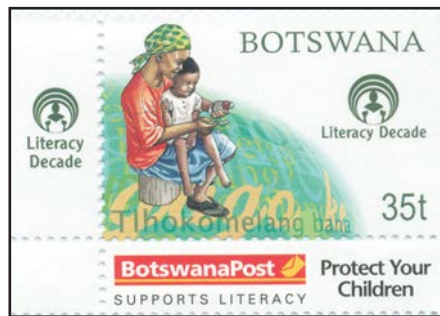
19th July 2000 (SG 915-920)

Moths Litho Cartor

Five values and a Mini Sheet (SG 920 illustrated)

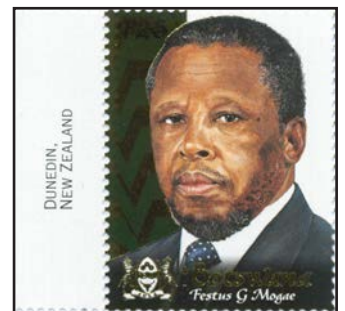
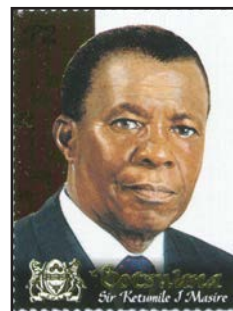
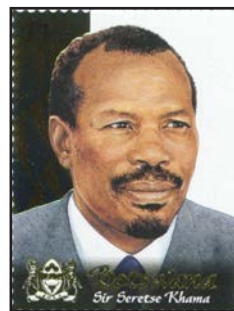


23rd Aug 2000 (SG 921-924)
United Nations Literacy Decade Litho by Southern Colour Print, Dunedin



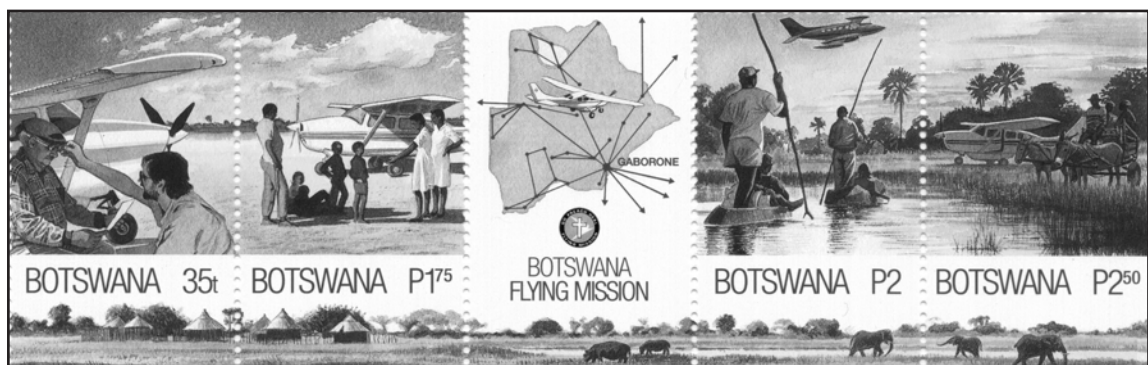
Four values. Printed with se-tenant labels at foot.

29th Sept 2000 (SG 925-928)
Chiefs and Presidents Litho and embossed by Southern Colour Print, Dunedin
 Four values



3rd Nov 2000 (SG 929-932)
Airborne Medical Services Litho Cartor

Four values. Printed as single values sheets or as se-tenant strips with a central label showing the flight network (SG 929a illustrated)



Botswana 35t P1.75 P2.00 Botswana P1.00 P2.50 Botswana Botswana Botswana Botswana Botswana Botswana Botswana Botswana Botswana Botswana

Botswana

Wetlands Series Part 1: Okavango Delta

Diamonds Printed by Southern Colour Print, Dunedin



Four values. The stamps are self-adhesive and diamond shaped.

**12th May 2001
Transfrontier Park Animals**

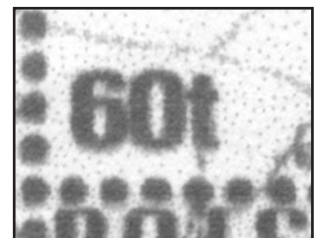
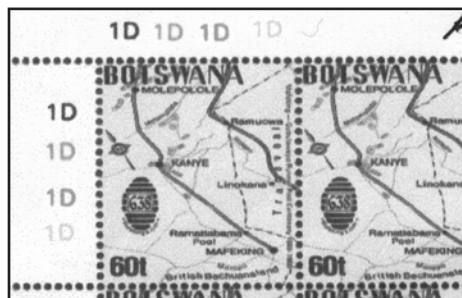


Four values and a Mini Sheet for two of the values. A second version of the Mini Sheet was prepared for the Hong Kong 2001 Exhibition.

Items of Interest

‘Extra River’ on SG655

Peter Jukes, a non-member, sent in a colour photocopy of a constant variety occurring on at least 3 plates 1B, 1C and 1D. It occurs at Row 1/ Position 2 as an extra blue river running north-south beneath and below the “t” of “60t”



“Albino” SG523

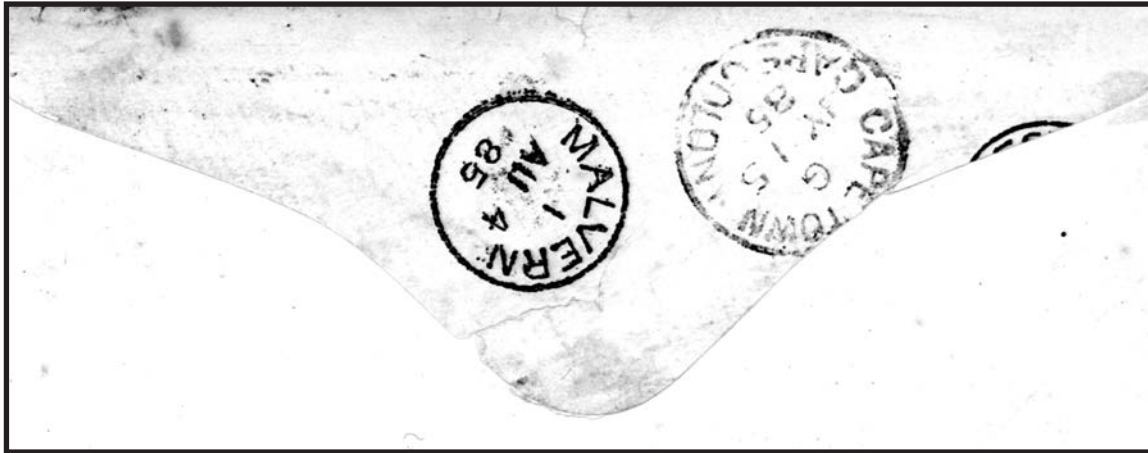
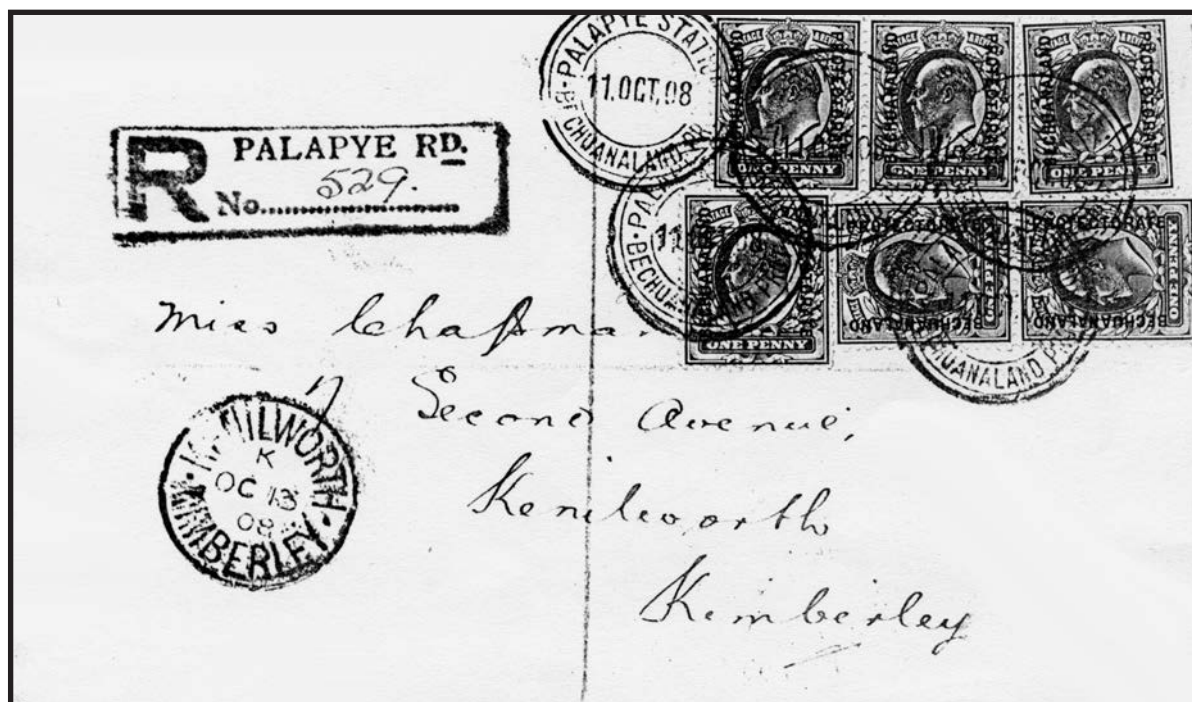
Again from Peter Jukes, a strip of four 10t Yellow Billed Storks with the first normal, the second stamp devoid of the blue background, the third with a light patch of blue and the fourth with missing patch of blue. Has anyone else examples of this?

[Apologies for the quality of the image - the best I can manage from a scan of the photocopy]



Trooper Norbury cover

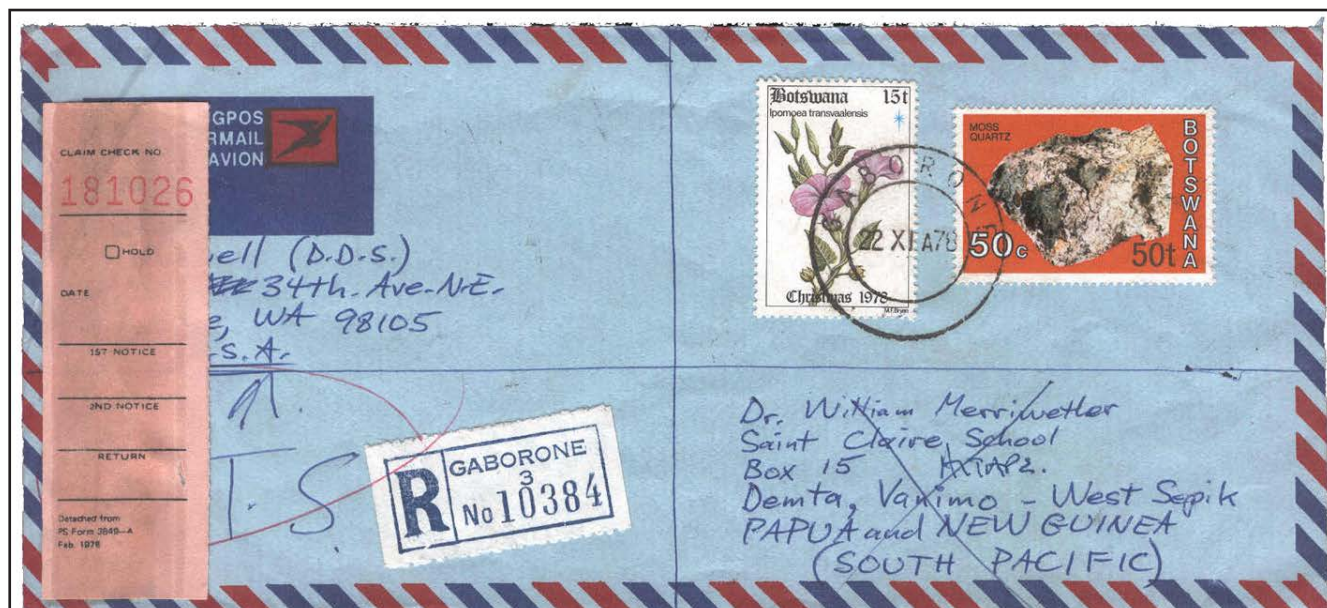
Brian Hurst sent in colour photographs of the front and back of a Trooper Norbury cover, which I had included in "At the Auction House" in Runner Post #52. The item was Harmer's Lot 663. I won't illustrate it again but I will reproduce the back of the item, bearing a JY 15 85 Cape Town Cape Colony datestamp, a Malvern AU 4 85 datestamp, and a hint of a third datestamp.

**Unrecorded Palapye Road Cachet**

Ex Des Hyland. Cover bearing Palapye Station Triple Circle cds 11 OCT 08 and an unrecorded Palapye Road Registration Cachet

A well travelled rare cover

Steen Jelgren writes:



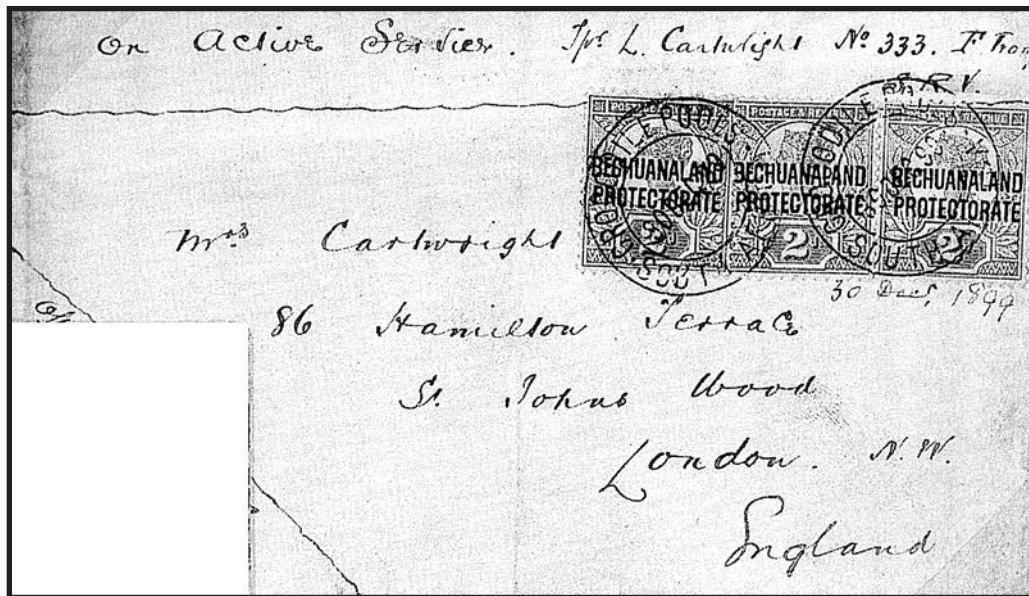
The cover is with the very scarce mineral 50 thebe stamp, overprint bottom right, 1976 (SG 378a) plus a 15 t Christmas stamp 1978 (SG 437).

Not only is it a colourful cover with the stamps and the many cancels in a perfect condition. It has a history also. It was sent from Gaborone, Botswana on the 22nd November, 1978 with destination Papua, New Guinea. It reached its recipient only on April 4th, 1979 in University Sta., Seattle, USA. (note that digit 4 in date is upside down). That was after a trip that took more than 4½ months and at that time it had been more than half way round the world.

The recipient, a Dr. Merriwether was apparently a relative (brother ?) of the late Dr. Merriweather who was Botswana's first president, Sir Seretse Khama's personal physician.

The cover is unique also in the way that it may be the only one existing with that stamp. Only very few copies of the used SG 378a stamp are known.





Crocodile Pools

Our former member, Philip Robinson, has sent details of a Crocodile Pools cover sold at a Corbitts auction in October 2000. The cover was part of a mixed lot of Cape material including Cape triangulars and Mafeking items.

Addressed to London and sent by Trooper L. Cartwright, No. 333, F Troop, Southern Rhodesia Volunteers. The clear cancels are dated 30 DEC 99.

Unfortunately, the endorsement in the bottom corner is obscured by an overlapping illustration.

[Jim Catterall further informs me, courtesy of the 'Anglo Boer War Philatelist', that the cover is back-stamped Bulawayo 11 Jan 00 and Durban Fe 3 00]

The Mystery of the Ramaquabane S. Rhodesia Cancellation

Jim Catterall sent me the following item/article. He helped the author of the article, Ian Johnstone, in a minor way and accepted Ian's suggestion that we might like to reproduce the article in the Runner Post. Derek Lambert, editor of the Rhodesian Study Circle's Journal agreed and the original item of interest and the resultant article are reproduced here.

Mike Jelbert writes from 4th Floor, North Wing, Entabeni Hospital, 148 South Ridge Road, Durban 4001 to report lot 1832 at Harmers of London Auction on 10th February 2000 being a 1897-1902 ½d Bechuanaland Protectorate block of six cancelled with what appears to be a [32]26mm single circle cancellation of Ramaquabane/ S.Rhodesia.

The following points were made at the KwaZulu Natal meeting to the effect that the cancellation was a forgery because (a) stamps were the wrong period (b) ½d Bech. Protect. Stamps were not known to be used in Rhodesia (c) S. Rhodesia only came in officially in 1924 (although other cancellers of course do exist "S.Rhod") and there may be skeleton cancellers (d) isn't Ramaquebanes in Bechuanaland?

RSCJ#195 June 2000



The “Ramaquabane S. Rhodesia” Skeleton Cancellor of 12 March 1913 *by Ian Johnstone*

At its meeting on 26th February 2000 the Zimbabwe branch of the Study Circle commissioned me to research this item. The meeting had been shown the Harmers of London catalogue for the auction of 10th February 2000 in which Lot 1832 was a block of six Bechuanaland Protectorate stamps (the Queen Victoria ½d vermilion, SG 59) with two strikes of an unrecorded Rhodesian cancellation: a 26mm single circle date stamp for Ramaquabane with S. RHODESIA at the base, dated 12 MR 12. The lot had sold for £290. There was some debate as to whether this was an authentic item and it was felt that it deserved further research. The queries were:

- why had this 1913 canceller never been heard of before?
- how could Ramaquabane have a canceller in March 1913 when Proud stated that the Postal Agency there had closed in February 1913?
- how could Queen Victoria stamps possibly still be in use in 1913 - two reigns after her death?

It was not only in Zimbabwe that disquiet was felt. RSCJ 195/50 (June 2000) illustrates the item, and records similar queries from the KwaZulu Natal branch of the RSC who felt that it was an outright forgery.

After completing the research I presented my report at the 9th September 2000 meeting of the Study Circle, and I was asked to submit my findings to the Journal. Amended slightly for publication, these are:

My conclusion is that this is a genuine strike, but of a telegraph office and not a postal agency. My reasons are as follows:

1. At Ramaquabane from 1912 to 1913 there was a Postal Agency, run by the Bechuanaland Protectorate authorities. There was also a Railway Telegraph Office, run by the Southern Rhodesia authorities through their Department of Posts and Telegraphs - this reflected the long standing involvement of Rhodesia in the establishment and running of the railway and telegraph from Bechuanaland to Bulawayo. We know from E. Proud's *Postal History of Basutoland and Bechuanaland Protectorate* (Heathfield, Proud Bailey, 1996) that the Postal Agency was opened on 1st April 1912 and closed on 16th February 1913, and only re-opened in 1923. During its lifetime 1912-1913 it used a typical Bechuanaland-style double circle canceller, and spelt “Ramaquebane” with an “e” before the “b”. We also know that the Telegraph Office was opened in the year 1902/1903 and that it stayed open in and after 1913 while the Postal Agency closed. The source for its opening is the Postmaster General's Report for the year ending 31st March 1903: “Telegraph offices were opened at . . . Ramaquaban...”. Note that the Rhodesian spelling used an “a” before the “b”. In the Report for 1903/4 it features in the “List of Telegraph offices under the control of the Southern Rhodesia Administration . . . Offices in the Bechuanaland Protectorate” as “Ramaquaban, R.S .” I have assumed that “RS” indicates that it was located at the Railway Station.

2. On 1st April 1912 - the same day that the Bechuanaland authorities opened their Postal Agency at Ramaquebane - control of the Telegraph Office passed from the Administration of Southern Rhodesia to the Commercial Branch of the British South Africa Company. The PMG's Report for the year 1912 says: “Telegraph Traffic: Owing to the separation of the telegraph system of the Bechuanaland Protectorate from that of Southern Rhodesia, and to other causes, the traffic figures for 1912 show a decrease on those for 1911.” A footnote on statistics giving the number of Telegraph Offices says “The actual increase was 13 offices, but 12 offices in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, hitherto included with those of Southern Rhodesia are now deleted.” And under the section “Financial” the PMG explains “Up to the 1st April [1912] the telegraph revenue collected in the Bechuanaland Protectorate was included with that of Southern Rhodesia, but from the date mentioned it has been paid over to the Commercial Branch of the British South Africa Company, which Company also bears the expense of the Protectorate telegraph system.” Even in 1922 an archival document (ref. A 3/23/6 vol. 2) says “The public telegraph lines in the Bechuanaland Protectorate are owned by the BSA Company. Expenditure for maintenance and working is provided for in the Administrative Estimates and all revenue is passed to the Receiver General.” A communication to me from the Botswana Archives, dated 25th August 2000, suggests that it was only in about 1935 that the Bechuanaland authorities took over the telegraph office(s) from the BSA Company.

3. Payment for telegrams was done using postage stamps (bearing in mind that these were also intended for revenue purposes), which were stocked by the telegraph offices. "All telegrams must be prepaid . . . prepayment is effected by means of postage stamps, which are required to be affixed to the message forms by the senders." (Southern Rhodesia Post and Telegraph Guide, 1911). The stamps were then cancelled by the Telegraph Officer. The stamped form was not returned to the member of the public but retained by the office. Telegraph forms and the cancelled stamps on them were supposed to be destroyed at a later stage, which is why they are seldom seen today. The telegraph tariff in 1913 was a minimum of 1/- , which paid for up to 12 words, and 1d per word thereafter. Cypher or code telegrams, however, were a penny-halfpenny for each additional word. This explains why a telegraph office such as Ramaquabane would have had in stock such a low denomination as a halfpenny stamp. It is unlikely, however, that a telegram costing the minimum of a shilling would have been receipted using multiples of halfpenny stamps; and even if it had, the telegraph form would have later been destroyed. But a sender could request a receipt for a telegram sent, and the fee for this was 3d. Although the regulations do not state that this fee was to be receipted in stamps, I assume that this was the case, and that the stamps affixed would have been cancelled by the Telegraph Officer. Unlike the telegraph form itself, this stamped and cancelled receipt would have been retained by the member of the public. In this way alone could stamps cancelled by a telegraph office have survived legitimately. My guess is that it was unusual for someone to request a receipt; that a small office like Ramaquabane would have handled extremely few requests for receipts; and that it is understandable that survival today of any of these "extremely few" must be remarkable indeed. My theory is therefore that the block of six halfpenny stamps represents one such rare survival; a 3d receipt for a telegram sent by Ramaquabane Telegraph Office.

4. Use of "S. Rhodesia" in the cancellation: Ramaquabane Telegraph Office must have had its own canceller, strikes from which (both before and after 1913) must be extremely rare for the reasons given above. Indeed none has yet been reported. It is known that, in southern Africa, the same format of canceller was normally used for both telegraphic and postal purposes. Indeed the larger offices had both postal and telegraphic facilities, and often used the same cancellers for both functions. As with postal agencies and offices, a telegraph office canceller could well have become lost, badly worn or damaged. A skeleton - a relief canceller - would then have been ordered by telegraph. Because Ramaquabane Telegraph Office was run by the BSA Company, such an order would naturally have been made to Salisbury rather than Gaborones. And because it appears that Rhodesian relief cancellers had the term "S. Rhodesia" in fixed type, with only the place letters moveable, the Telegraph Officer at Ramaquabane would have had no option but to use a relief canceller inscribed "S. Rhodesia". My own observation of Rhodesian skeletons indicates that the country name was indeed fixed, and Don Mitchell too says of the country name component of such cancellers "Because the lettering is regular it seems that the country name (S. Rhodesia...) was fixed (Skeleton Relief Cancellers of S. Rhodesia 1902 to 1968, page 5; Durban North, DA Mitchell, 1996 [Third Edition]).

5. Late usage of Queen Victoria stamps: this does not throw any doubt upon the authenticity of the item in question. Usage of QV Bechuanaland stamps up to 1915 has long been documented.

None of the surviving sources proved to deal specifically with the essence of the query put to me and it was necessary to search a large amount of documentation, often fruitlessly, before being able to glean data enabling me to come to the above conclusions: and there is no guarantee that these conclusions are correct. Because Ramaquabane was in Bechuanaland I expected that more specific information on its postal and telegraphic facilities would be in the Botswana Archives, and I wrote to them accordingly. But even there the response was "we have read all the files on that subject but we could not get anything." I also wrote to the Anglo Archives in Harare, because Anglo American was the inheritor of the commercial activities of the BSA Company and we know that from 1912 Ramaquabane Telegraph Office came under the Commercial Branch of the Company. The Archivist has not had the time to research the matter, but has told me verbally that he doubts whether he will be able to throw any light on it because the Commercial archives were located at the BSA Company's Headquarters in London where most of them were destroyed in the Second World War, during the Blitz.

A further letter went to Jim Catterall of the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society, in England, but he too was unable to explain the apparent conundrum. He did however point out that skeletons issued by the Bechuanaland Protectorate authorities only date from 1916, and are of

a different type to the Ramaquabane one. They are 24mm (compared to the Southern Rhodesia ones, which are 26mm) and do not include the country name. This is consistent with my opinion that the Ramaquabane skeleton was issued not by the Protectorate authorities but by the Southern Rhodesian authorities.

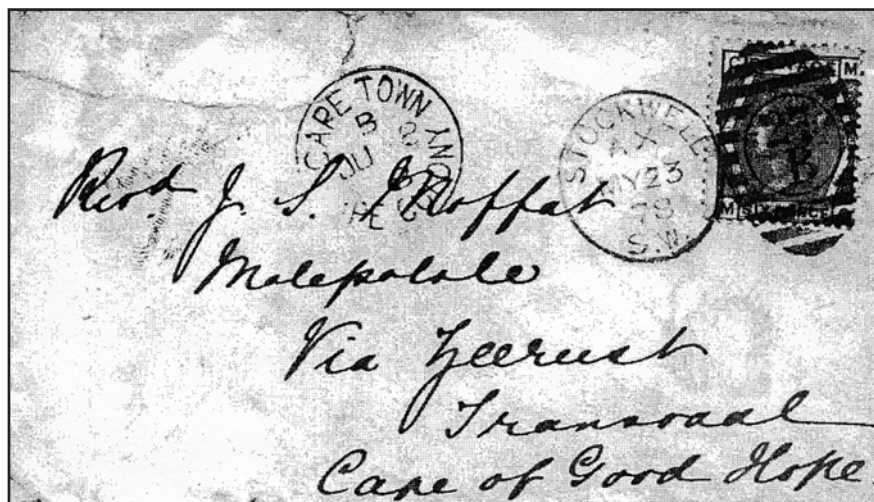
EARLY COVERS TO J.S.MOFFAT AT MOLEPOLOLE 1878-80

In R.P. 14 (March 1989), Alan MacGregor reported six covers recently sold at an auction in Johannesburg, three of them being illustrated. With one exception all the covers were posted in the Cape, the odd one out being posted at Stockwell (London).

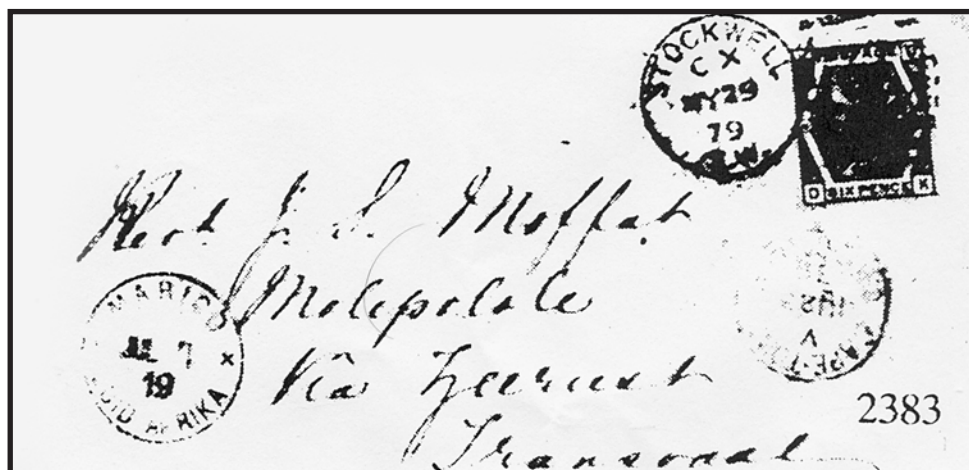
Three of the covers from 1878-9 were addressed to Molepolole via Zeerust, Transvaal, two of them showing the transit stamp of MARICO, ZUID AFRIKA. The Marico d/s was used in the Zeerust area before Zeerust had its own.

The other three covers, all from 1880, were addressed to Moffat c/o A.Spranger Esquire, Zeerust, Marico, Transvaal.

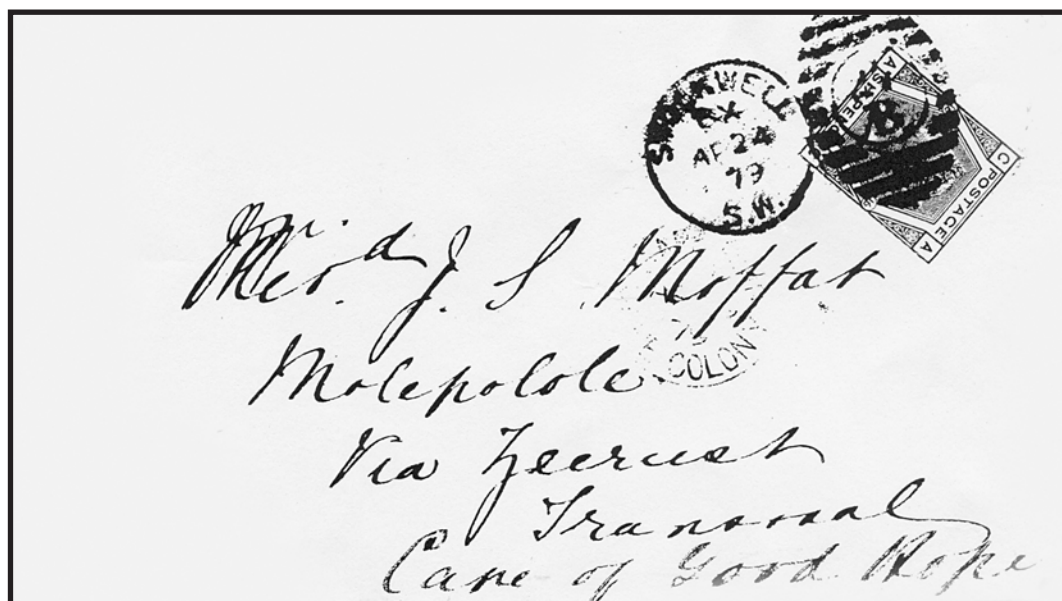
Since R.P.14, three similar covers have been offered at auction :



Lot 669, Christie's 27 Sept.1995 Cover posted at Stockwell, 6d franking cancelled by barred oval with Stockwell cds MY 23 78 alongside. Also on front Cape Town cds of JU -8. The Pretoria cds on reverse is not illustrated.



Lot 2383, Christie's 18 Sept.1991. Cover posted at Stockwell. 6d franking cancelled by barred oval with Stockwell cds MY 29 79 alongside. Also on front, datestamps of Cape Town JU 23 and Marico JUL -7 19 (19 should be 79). On the reverse the datestamp of Potchefstroom (date not revealed). The bottom of this cover is concealed by overlapping illustration in catalogue



Cornish Stamp Co. auction 2000. Cover posted at Stockwell on April 24 1879. QV 6d grey franking, cancelled by barred oval numeral 27B with Stockwell cds adjacent AP 24 79. Also on the front Cape Town cds with date unclear. On the back a Pretoria cds, again with unclear date.

Stellaland Arms by Neville Midwood

H.R.Holmes book contains a quote [p19] describing the Stellaland coat-of-arms which appears on Stellaland stamps. The quote, from the Philatelic Record of April 1884, includes the phrase "whereon a bird (of what kind we know not)".

I recently discovered more information, including the kind of bird and the reason for its presence, in a British Parliamentary document "Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of the Transvaal and Adjacent Territories [Feb 1886 p 201-2]"

SIR CHARLES WARREN G.C.M.G., to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,

Sheffield November 13, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a letter from Captain Trotter, lately acting for me in Stellaland, conveying a resolution from the Bestuur of Stellaland, requesting that the standard of Stellaland may be presented to Her Majesty the Queen and praying that she may be pleased to keep the Stellalanders under Her protection.

This standard was hauled down and taken to Cape Town at the time when the Reverend J. Mackenzie declared the British Protectorate, under the treaty with the Chief Mankoroane; it was subsequently conveyed back again to Stellaland by Captain Bower, the Imperial Secretary, and was again hoisted, against the wishes of the Stellalanders, by the Niekerk party from the Transvaal with whom Mr. Rhodes made the agreement on the 8th September 1884.

It was handed over to Captain Trotter when the Niekerk party returned to the Transvaal. I also enclose a description of the standard [*illustrated right*] from which it will be seen that the history of Stellaland is depicted by Canting Heraldry; in one quarter is the emblem of a bird (the Khoran) caught by the leg by a white man, representing Mankoroane, or perhaps the Koranna race; in the other are two fishes pierced by a sword, representing the destruction of the Batlaping race of fish eaters.

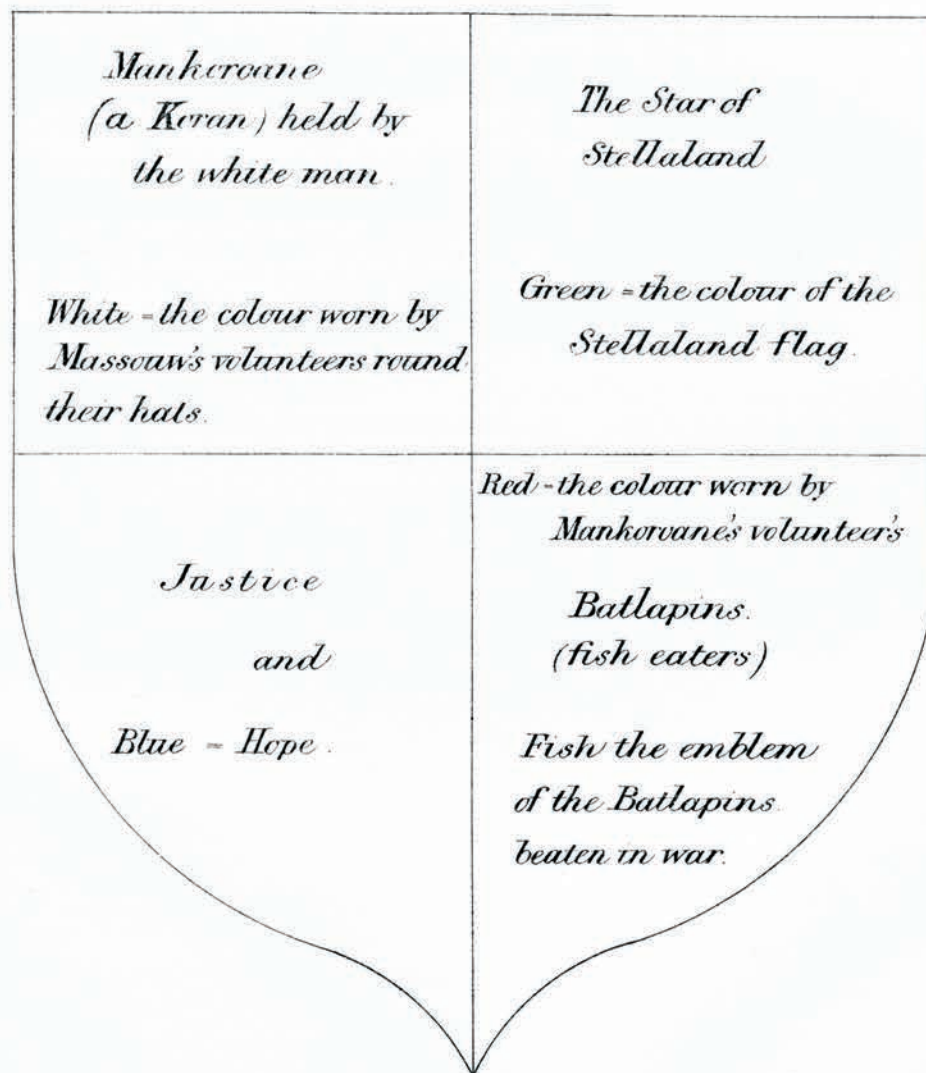
I have also brought back with me a small banner with a single star on it, presented to me by the Chief Montsioa, which was captured by his Barolong from the filibusters of Goshen during one of their raids on his stronghold.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES WARREN.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

The Country is called Stellaland or Star-land because the war between the Chiefs Massouw and Mankoroane, which eventually led to the land becoming inhabited by white people, took place in the year 1882, when the great comet was visible.



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