

The Runner Post

Issue 68



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March 2007

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The 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Society took place at Philatex on Sat 28th Oct (12:45 to 14:45)
The agenda included the biennial election of Officers. The results of the election are reflected above.
With Joe Taylor becoming the Treasurer after 5 years as Honorary Auditor, we also have a new Honorary Auditor, Andrew Higson.

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Volunteers always needed.

Most of the Committee have at least two jobs, usually due to a lack of volunteers. At the moment Dennis would like to hand on the position of Minutes Secretary to any member able to attend both the annual spring and autumn meetings. I would like to hand over Membership Secretary as I find being Editor takes up most of my free time. The Society website is also in need of a few days work spending on it. I'm sure we can even manage a pint for any eager volunteers.

Neville



Closed Album: JOHN FORBES INGLEFIELD-WATSON 1926 - 2007

Sir John died 80 years old peacefully at home on Wednesday, February 7th, 2007, after battling illness for several months.

We often know little about the 'private' life of our philatelic contacts. John was no exception. He was born in 1926 and educated at Eton. He later joined the Royal Engineers and saw active service during World War II in a Northern African desert where he told me that he did solar compass research. He retired from active army service with the rank of Lt. Col. He succeeded in 1986 to the baronetcy of Earnock, Lanark. He was also an active football referee and youth coach through much of his life.

My first contact with John and his trusted typewriter was in 1990. I was in Gaborone teaching petrology and geochemistry at University of Botswana. The late Andy Andersson signed me up to receive the Runner Post and an article caught my interest. I wrote a letter to the author offering some additional pieces of information. The subject is long forgotten, but I got a long nice letter from John thanking me and also elaborating on a subject on which I clearly knew little. This first contact soon led to many more and eventually to our first article in the Runner Post in 1995 on the modern Botswana stampless registration

envelopes. Sometime after returning to the US, I received a letter from John suggesting that we should collaborate on writing a checklist of Bechuanaland postal stationery. John had assisted Holmes with the stationery sections in the 1971 book and had subsequently completed a checklist that had never been published. It sounded simple enough to update an existing list - and I accepted the challenge, little knowing that the subject would expand to a major book and that it would take us nearly ten years to complete.

John never embraced the new computer technology and e-mail, despite suggestions that it would have made the work on the book easier. His trusted old manual typewriter served him just as efficiently and just as well, he claimed. He always made me write the first drafts, but had little reservations about rewriting and correcting - often pages of neatly typed suggestions and comments to which he had added handwritten color-coded comments. The fact was that this made it easy to complete the revisions and prepare a new version. Typically, a chapter would cross the Atlantic up to ten times before we were satisfied and could start on the next chapter. There is no doubt that it was John's attention to detail, and his

own vast knowledge and exceptional collection that led us to succeed and to decide in 1998 that we had a reasonable draft. During that summer, I had been on a failed marine geology expedition to East Greenland and unexpectedly found myself in Iceland with some extra time to dispose of before my scheduled return flight to US. To make the story short, I met with John in London during STAMPEX and we had a successful talk with representatives of the British Philatelic Trust, who were eventually to publish the book. Later we travelled by train to Hamilton while discussing postal stationery. At his home we went over the whole book in detail and also had time to look at his collection of stationery. A memorable visit to what in my eyes looked like a castle. As you all know, our book was finally published in 2004 after much delay and many

Alan MacGregor writes:

John was a true 'stamp man'. A classic philatelist who not only understood the intricacies of the various issues of the Bechuanalands, but he wrote up his collections to a high standard which conveyed his knowledge clearly and succinctly.

In the early days, John could be relied on to provide a stream of well researched articles on a wide range of Bechuanaland philatelic topics for publication in the Runner Post. It was apparent John had been nursing these articles for some time until the Runner Post provided the ideal outlet.

His articles often formed the backbone of earlier issues of the Runner Post and in many cases are still referred to as the definitive reference on his chosen topics.

I recall visiting him at his 'castle' on one occasion (though 'summoned' may be a better word) where I had the privilege of viewing his extensive collection. Although John always brought something to show at meetings, the true extent of his holding was only apparent when you saw it all together. It was a real treat to see things I thought did not exist or was previously unaware of their whereabouts.

Brian Hurst writes:

I first met John some six years ago, on the day he retired as Chairman of the Society, having successfully steered it through some difficult times.

I showed him one or two items from my own collection that were puzzling me, and he immediately, with great patience and understanding, gave me the information I was seeking. We immediately struck up a friendship which I wish had lasted longer, but tragically was not to be. However, I shall treasure the fond memories of a kind, gentle and sometimes pedantic man, who was always willing to listen, argue, teach and on occasion be taught.

proof stages that must have driven the editor nearly crazy and came close to bankrupting the Trust.

It had been a pleasure and a privilege to work with John on the postal stationery project and other subjects. John was the ideal collaborator. In my professional life as a researcher I have still failed to come across anybody with John's ability and dedication. If it were not for his sudden death, I would have volunteered with little hesitation for another project.

John was the pre-eminent Bechuanalands and Botswana collector and scholar of our times. He was always very generous with his time and knowledge and had many friends throughout the philatelic world. He will be missed.

Peter Thy

I remember him once remarking that he had no pending file. If something needed to be done, he did it immediately. An idea I admired, but have never been able to emulate.

He provided a steady (some may say 'firm') guiding hand when the Society needed it most. He politely nudged and cajoled the society into the form he knew it should take. Admittedly this was on occasion at odds with the more relaxed version some of the founder members, myself included, had envisioned, but of course John had the experience and foresight to see what had to be said and done and he was invariably correct. The fact we are still going strong after some shaky moments is testimony to his legacy.

To say he was a stalwart of the society would be an understatement. I may be corrected, but I suspect John probably had the best attendance record at B&BS meetings of any member and was the Society's most loyal supporter.

John was never anything other than a true and dapper gentleman and we are all the poorer for his passing.

I was honoured to propose him as a Life Honorary Member of the Society; something that I know he valued greatly.

I had watched his health deteriorate recently, and on my last trip north just before Christmas, I realised that I was unlikely to meet him again. He was very philosophical about his condition, and remarked that he'd "had a good innings".

Philately is the loser for his passing, especially for his unparalleled knowledge of the philately of the Bechuanalands, Botswana, Somaliland and the Sudan.

He will be sorely missed.

In addition messages of sympathy have been received from several Society members, including Brian Trotter, John Coates, Richard Stroud, Steve Drewett and Joe Taylor.

Seconded!

At meetings, regardless of the number of members present, Sir John always insisted on every motion being proposed and seconded. Early on I printed the Runner Post with a white card cover which resulted in a strong reprimand over the phone.

So as Editor, changing the Runner Post without changing some fine detail John would oppose became the challenge; and receiving a letter with the embossed

heading and a few words of praise the reward.

John's knowledge was one of the great strengths of the Society and the Runner Post. His love of his hobby has provided us with quality articles for over twenty years and his passing leaves us the poorer.

So I'd like to second the motion that Sir John will be sadly missed. And I left the front cover unchanged like he'd have wanted.

Neville Midwood

DIARY OF EVENTS**2007**

June Runner Post #69

Oct Runner Post #70

Sat 3rd Nov 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Annual meeting - Room 22 at Philatex

The Society encourages members to bring Bechuanaland or Botswana philatelic material to Society meetings. If members do plan to bring along material, and especially if they have questions, however minor, it would be helpful if they could alert the Secretary, noting if and what material they will be bringing along and what questions they have. Prior notice enables the Secretary to forewarn and co-ordinate other members who may want to prepare information or send or bring along comparable material.

News From Botswana

by Peter Thy

The website of Botswana Post has finally been updated after a two-year hiatus. It now shows the latest stamp issues and also the current postal rates. It is again possible to order stamps from Botswana on the internet.

The revised website contains some interesting information on the stamp issuing policy of Botswana Post: Definitive stamps are released every five years. They typically depict mammals and birds and are sold for a period of five years at post offices and for seven years at the Philatelic Bureau. They are valid for postage for ten years before being demonetized. Four to six commemorative stamp series are normally issued during a year. They are sold at post offices for a period of three months and for a year from the Philatelic Bureau. They are thus withdrawn after a year and demonetized after five years.

Two surcharged definitive stamps were released on April 25th 2006. These were of the current definitive series: 80t on 90t and P2.10 on P1.95. There were no prior announcement and no official FDC.

The latest set commemorates the 40th Anniversary of Independence and includes a miniature sheet.

The Stamp Advisory Committee has recommended to Botswana Post that future stamp issues is denominated as make-up values instead of according to the postal tariff. This would result in stamps denominated for example as 10t, 20t, 30t, 40t, 50t, P1, P2, P5, P10, and

P20 instead of odd values like P1.95.

The postal rates were raised on September 4th 2006. It is interesting that postcard and aerogramme rates are similar to the respective standard letter rates. The registration fee is P5.50.

Standard letters are defined as containing only printed (and written) material and must be below 120 x 235 x 20 mm in size and can weight up to 1 kg within Botswana and 200 g elsewhere. Registration envelopes without imprinted stamp are being sold at P2.20 each. International Reply Coupons are still being listed at P13.20 each.

An inventory of the Postal Museum and Archives of the Botswana Postal Service is currently circulating among collectors as photocopies. The list was made by the late Andy Andersson and briefly details the archival holdings. At present there is no information on the availability of the archives to researchers. It is recommended that if you plan a visit to Gaborone that you contact the Postal Service and the Botswana Philatelic Society in good time for the latest updates and requirements.

The Scott Catalogue is reviewing the Bechuanaland and Botswana listings in October each year. Let me have your suggested corrections and I will forward them. Scott needs good illustrations of numbers 30, 51, 53, AR2, and AR3.

Chairman's Address

Brian Hurst



As you may be aware from reading the list of officers at the beginning of this issue of Runner Post, I was elected as your Chairman at the Annual General Meeting held in London on the 28th October last year.

I take over from a most distinguished philatelist, Brian Trotter, who stepped into the breach in 2002 following the sudden untimely death of Tony Chilton. Brian was, of course, the founder Chairman of this Society over 20 years ago and has always been around offering guidance and encouragement throughout its existence. He now moves on to other things, being Chairman of the British Philatelic Trust, Chairman of the London 2010 International Exhibition, and Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. I'm sure all members will join me in thanking Brian for what he has done for this Society, and wish him well for the future.

In common with most specialist philatelic societies, we have a number of strengths and weaknesses. Our greatest strength is our magazine "Runner Post", which provides a wealth of specialist knowledge for specialist collectors, and in Neville Midwood, our editor, we have an editor whose production standards are second to none.

Our main weaknesses are a very gradually declining membership, poor attendance at the two meetings we hold each year and an insufficient number of articles for the magazine.

We currently have just over 100 members, which is a healthy number on which to base the finances of the Society, but a high proportion of this number are

dealers relying on the specialist knowledge which we provide in what is a quite difficult, but equally fascinating collecting field. Membership numbers are declining, yet I know from the enthusiastic bidding for Bechuanaland items at international auctions, that there are collectors out there who would no doubt benefit from membership of the Society, if they knew we existed.

As regards attendance at meetings I have to say that I would very much like to see more members coming along. Perhaps something more organised in the way of displays is needed by way of encouragement, but a very important reason behind these meetings is to allow members to meet each other face to face, exchange ideas, and perhaps become sufficiently enthused to give up a little of their time to help in the running of the Society. Without this, we do not have continuity; and frankly if you have no Officers, you have no Society.

With regard to "Runner Post", in addition to the articles that appear, I feel we need to use it as a forum for the exchange of information. So please ask questions, send in examples of items you need information about, and of course if you have a particular field of interest or some knowledge you think could be of interest to your fellow members, write about it.

I have no intention of being the "new broom that sweeps clean"; these problems have always existed. I just want you to be aware that they will not sort themselves out without some input from all members.

I shall be visiting Botswana and South Africa during January and February this year*, and hope to have the opportunity to meet members out there, face to face.

In the meantime, enjoy your magazine and your collecting.

* Brian has since returned from his visit to Botswana and South Africa and a report on his visit to the Botswana Postal Museum and Archives (which he did get to see) should appear in the next Runner Post.

Questions and Answers

Sheila Case's conscience gets the better of her

[Editor: As Sheila Case's letter (below) shows; one thing leads to another. And on the way she (or her conscience) promised lots of future articles ...]

I recently decided to sell off my Bechuanaland postmark accumulation, as I would never have time to write it up and fill in spaces.

In the process of preparing a list of covers, I had to

look at them more carefully than I had ever done, and find two MAFEKING postmarks which do not seem to me to be recorded in the list prepared by Trotter et al. To be on the safe side, before describing them as unrecorded, I felt I should scan through all my Runner Posts... a big job.

In the process of checking back through them from the most recent issues, my conscience has attacked

me on a couple of items to which I should have responded at the time, and to which I do not recall seeing any response in print.

RP#54 a query from Bruce Warrender on the location of PHOKENG post office — So far as I understand this office was in Bophutatswana. My opinion is confirmed by Mrs. Sebego, current head of the Philatelic Bureau, who does not collect postmarks, but who has been with the Post Office for many years.

Also RP#54, also from Bruce, ...errors of postmark — the reason I did not respond at the time is that if I ever prepare an exhibit, it will be on this topic, possibly under the wild and woolly heading of “Oops!” I have a shoebox full of wonders, and it would not have been possible, in a short time, to select and scan for Runner Post. Now, my conscience pricking... [Ed: I will expect it shortly Sheila]

RP#48 Alan McGregor's editorial – I am going to photocopy this, and use the part about the Philatelic Museum, in a decent article for you, after the visit of Brian Hurst in February. Right now, the situation is so different from what Alan describes that you could hardly think he was writing about the same “museum” that we have currently. Well, in fact, it is not the same; with the demise of Andy Andersson, a lot of things changed and BotswanaPost was without any knowledgeable advice on philatelic matters. For years the situation has gone downhill; by now they have me as an adviser, but I am nowhere in the same class as Andy; I am able to advise on matters relating to how to deal with philatelists, what philatelists hope for etc... With luck there will be some changes in 2007. It will be an uphill battle simply to ensure that reasonable issues come out and that customers are kept informed.

Now, as far as archives go; we think the material is all locked up in a cupboard at the back of the “museum”, which is really just a showroom, presently with posters of recent issues, some FDCs on display and some full sheets of recent issues. Two things you should know:

(i) I have, after three years of persistent requests, finally got permission for John Schaerer and myself to enter the locked room, with some BwPost personnel, and evaluate the storage system. We hope that we will be able to do the following:

- scan the most important items so that the data is available, meaning that only philatelists of Brian's stature would ever have to access the originals (following archive thefts in South Africa, people here are nervous)
- make the scanned information available (maybe on a CD?)
- examine the storage, and advise on conditions of humidity, temperature, lighting etc.
- in a meeting while Brian Hurst is here, we

should discuss the future of the collection, how to make best use of it... and we should attempt to provide an insurance value.

These things should happen soon, and when they do, we will write it up in historical perspective, together with some notes on the materials we see.

(ii) I have been requested to develop the use of the showroom for educational purposes; the plan is to have three different displays during the year, for teachers to bring their classes; we will have some handouts and a quiz sheet, with a prize for the best work in each visiting group. This is right up my street.

Also RP#48, postmark query (p .1185); I have not seen a reply to this, so here is an outline. CB is, indeed, CIRCULATION BRANCH. Mail reaches the situation of being stamped by being accepted across a counter (in which case, the counter should be identified by the caneller... e.g. C1 for counter 1... some PO's go up to C10 or beyond; counter cancellation might also be RLS (Registered Letter Service); in the old days, registration was done at a specific counter, and the RLS indicated not only that the letter was registered (which should be obvious) but also the counter at which it was processed. Some other services were also restricted to a specific counter. Theoretically, in the case of a query of any significance, the date and counter designation on the canceller should have provided information about which postal clerk actually handled that item. (As the Postal system expanded, this has fallen away... many offices now have a one-line waiting system, similar to that often used in banks, and each counter performs a variety of services.) CIRCULATION BRANCH covers any letter to be franked at that office which do not receive counter cancels... the main use is for letters coming in through the posting boxes, but this could also cover mass mailing in certain categories. A related comment: nowadays, there seems to be no clear-cut distinction in the use of cancellers, one gets the feel that it is possible to pick up anything that is around and start banging... one reason that recently we are able to find a lot of cancellations of the type “POST MASTER MAUN” (and other offices); this is not intended as a franking device for stamps, it is intended for “banging” on letters and envelopes to indicate the origin of the item, and is equivalent to, say “MINISTRY OF EDUCATION UNIFIED TEACHING SERVICE”. To my mind, POST MASTER, ASSISTANT POST MASTER etc. should not be included in the main list of cancellations, but, in the manner of the Bechuanaland listing, should be identified as “secondary”. To summarise: mail processed at counters should receive a franking indicating which counter; CB covers other procedures.

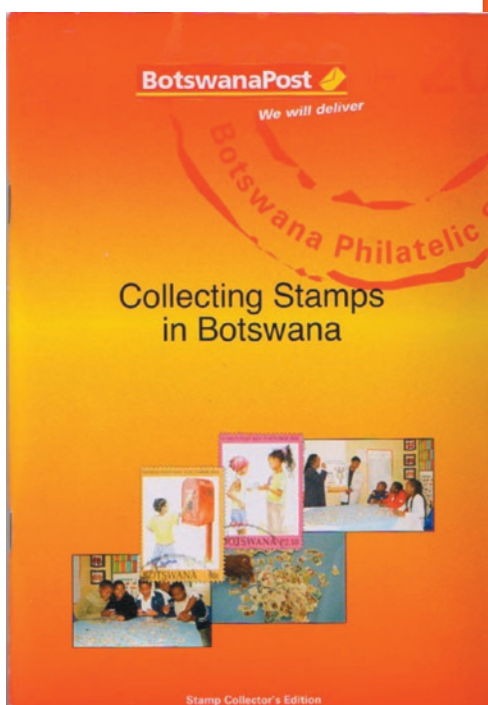
That clears my conscience a bit... now I will take a quick look at RP 1 to 30.

The Philatelic Society of Botswana in collaboration with the Philatelic Services of Botswana Post has achieved something that deserves our attention and admiration. Two very attractive booklets have been produced that principally cater to beginning stamps collectors and school kids in Botswana. The first booklet is identified as having been assembled by 'Stamps Botswana,' a company mainly supplying low-cost, quality stamps to the local collectors. The proprietor of the company is Sheila Case who is also a prominent member of the Philatelic Society of Botswana. It must be assumed that the second booklet also has been prepared by Mrs. Case with major input from the local stamp society.

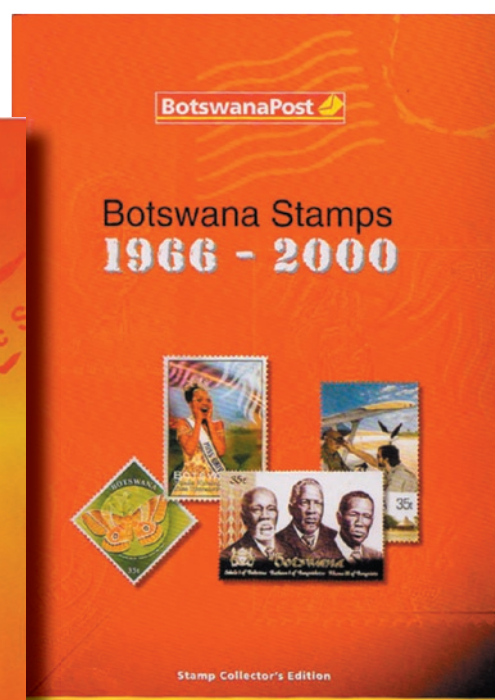
The first booklet from 2002 is a simplified general listing of Botswana stamps, miniature sheets, and official first day covers in a clear straight forward style. The stamp issues are listed in order of day of issue and denomination with catalogue number from 1 to 736 (the December 6, 2000, P2.50 Wetland issue is the last stamp listed). Thus the total numbers of stamps are similar to the total main numbers listed by the Stanley Gibbons and Scott catalogues. Also listed are 17 postage due stamps with numbers prefixed by 'D' and including both the 1977 Pretoria and 1989 Harare printings. Each stamp issue is illustrated by a representative stamp in black and white together with a short and clear description of the issue and design of individual stamps. In addition, and not the least, boxes are included that outline themes of Botswana stamps useful for the beginning collector. Examples are Minerals and Mining, Rock Paintings, Threes, Heritage, UPU, Cattle, Birds, Children, Conservation, Plants, Maps, and Railway. All with amble existing Botswana stamps that could be developed into thematic collections and/or exhibits by school kids.

The descriptions correct several errors and mistakes that have been introduced over the years into the established catalogues. The list is thus the definitive source for issue dates and design descriptions and is thus a must for both beginning and seasoned collector of Botswana stamps. The introduction makes a point of explaining that the list is not a catalogue because pricing is not included. A shortcoming that hardly is an issue for its intended audience.

The second booklet is a guide written to promote stamp collection among school kids in Botswana. It is produced in the same beautiful format as the stamp listing. It focuses on Botswana and its stamps and



Collecting Stamps in Botswana. Stamp Collector's Edition, Botswana Post (undated, known to have been issued in 2006). Soft cover, A5, 20 pages, illustrated in colour. No ISBN.



Botswana Stamps, 1966-2000. Stamp Collector's Edition, Botswana Post (undated, known to have been issued in 2002). Soft cover, A5, 68 pages, illustrated in black-white with cover in colour. No ISBN. A separate update to 2005 is available from the Philatelic Services.

Book Review *by Peter Thy*

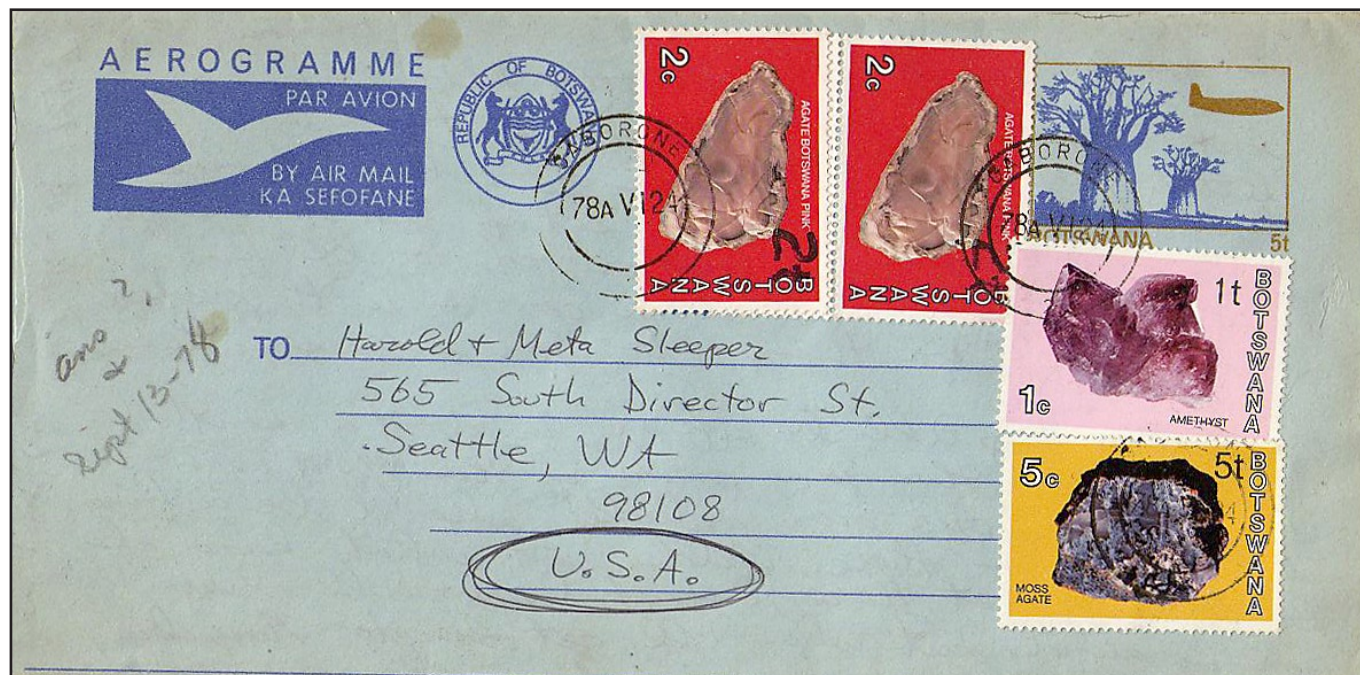
postal history. It explains what a stamp is, what stamp collectors do, definitive stamps, commemorative stamps, special stamps, stating a collection, necessary skills, thematic and country collections, exhibiting, language on stamps, worldwide connections, postal markings, collecting and displaying postal history, remarkable philatelic items, information for stamp collectors, and vocabulary. Each subject is concisely illustrated and explained.

The combination of the catalogue and the collecting guide is what this reviewer could have used when he first started collecting stamps. It took him years to reach the level of understanding presented in the guide. The Philatelic Society of Botswana has shown us how it can and should be done with the help and support of Botswana Post.

Both booklets are available from Botswana Post, Philatelic Services, P.O. Box 100, Gaborone, Botswana. The catalogue sells for 25 Pula with P2.20 for postage and packaging. The selling price of the collecting guide is unknown. You can also contact the Philatelic Services using either their website at <http://www.botspost.co.bw/index.htm>, telephone +267-395-3131, fax +267-391-3599, or e-mail address philatelic@botspost.co.bw.

Botswana Forgery

from Peter Thy



Cover bearing a pair of forged 2t on 2c minerals

Duff Malkin (edm@telus.net) sent Peter an interesting Botswana aerogramme used in 1978 to Seattle, USA, with "a rather unique 2-thebe surcharge on the 2-cent mineral stamp." The note written inside the aerogramme states: "Note the 2t stamps on this - these varieties ought to be listed in the catalogue pretty soon. There is a story behind them I'll tell sometime." The sender was a person by the name of John Hardies who was a US Peace Corps/USAid affiliate in Botswana from the late 70's to probably the early 90's. He produced a lot of philatelic covers to exotic destinations, particularly war zones and service-terminated areas that still hound collectors.

The latest auction list from the Botswana Philatelic Society list what appears to be a similar overprint as lot 38 (Nov. 14, 2006) and described as "Forged overprint; clumsy forgery of 2t on 2c mineral. Pair, on piece, one damaged; machine cancelled Francistown. Two of only six thought to be in collections." There is little doubt that this surcharge was forged, although not necessarily by John Hardies. The stamps probably passed through the control because of the similarity to the issued stamp and perhaps also because that no value increase was involved and the forger did not gain monetary benefit.

½d Letter Rate in British Bechuanaland

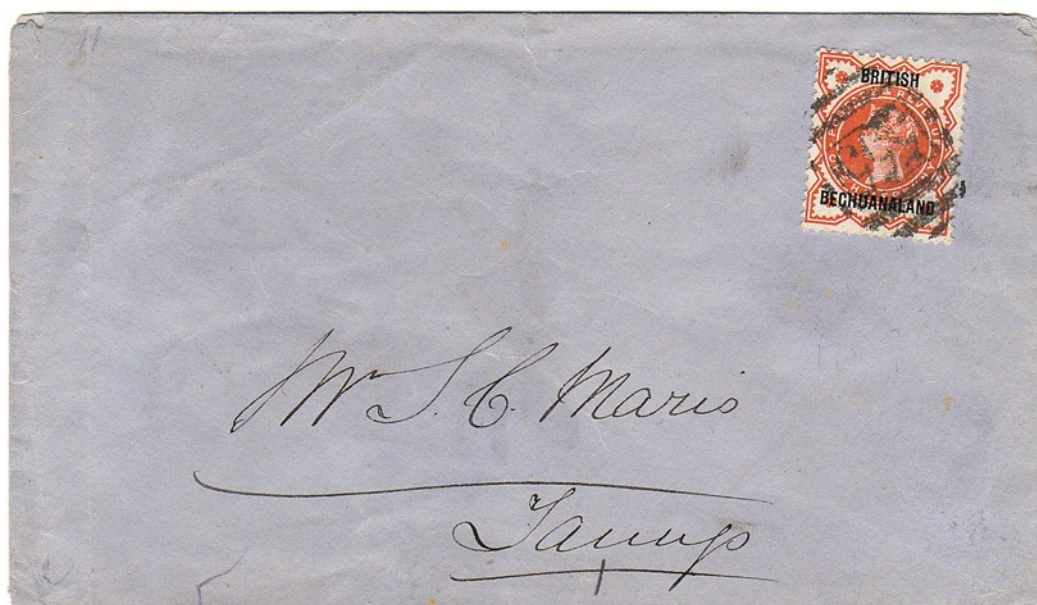
by Brian Hurst/Peter Thy

Shown (right) is a cover recently bought on eBay. It is franked with a single halfpenny vermilion stamp (SG 9) and cancelled with a single strike of the Vryburg BONC 555 that just ties the stamp to the cover that bears no other markings - no Vryburg or Taungs arrival markings. The envelope has never been sealed.

The reasonable assumption is that the ½d stamp paid a local printed-paper rate. It is possible that such mail, like newspaper wrappers, were neither date stamped

by the dispatching nor by the receiving post offices. The envelope probably contained an advertisement, a price list, a printed invitation, or something similar. The envelope was likely required to be unsealed for easy inspection for postal violations. The problem is that as far as we know, a ½d rate in British Bechuanaland was only in effect for newspapers.

Can any reader help explain this cover?



Cover bearing a single halfpenny vermilion cancelled with a BONC 555

The Halfpenny Vermilion of British Bechuanaland SG9 - further information.

by Brian Hurst

As the result of a recent visit to the National Archive in Cape Town, I find it necessary to amend certain of the information I gave in my article on this stamp in Runner Post #66 of June last year.

A study of the British Bechuanaland Register of Stamp Accounts reveals the following information:

Date of Issue

The register clearly shows that the date of issue for this stamp is 19th January 1888. On this date the Administrator, Sir Sidney Shippard, issued an initial stock of 111 sheets of 240 stamps to the Chief Distributor of Stamps. He in turn, on the same date, issued 20 sheets to the Postmaster at Vryburg, 4 sheets to the Postmaster at Mafeking and 1 sheet to the Sub-Distributor of stamps at Vryburg. The accounts also show that the halfpenny stamp in use at Post Offices prior to this date was the ½d. grey-black of the Cape of Good Hope overprinted 'British Bechuanaland' in black, SG4.

The release date of 1st November 1887 given for this stamp by Holmes, Gibbons, et al., is incorrect. Proclamation No.42 B.B. of October 6th 1887, authorising the use of stamps inscribed both 'Postage' and 'Revenue' for postal purposes (previously not legal), came into force on 1st November 1887, and

it has always been assumed that this was the date the stamp was put on sale. This is not the case, and in a future article I shall also provide proof that the 'Unappropriated Dies' were not placed on sale on that date either, although the issue in this instance is more complex.

Size of Sheets

Following information provided to me by the late Sir John Inglefield-Watson, I stated in the article that the first printing was issued in half-sheets of 120 stamps. Once again, the Register clearly shows that the stock of this printing held in British Bechuanaland was in sheets of 240 stamps. The 'sheet formation' information should therefore be amended to read '313* full sheets of 240 stamps'.

* The British Bechuanaland records show a stock holding of 311 sheets. Whether this small discrepancy was due to incorrect counting on the part of De La Rue or the Receiver General, I suspect we shall never know.

Reference: Cape National Archive. List 35/1 Vol.244 Bechuanaland (Crown Colony) Office of the Receiver & Accountant General. Register - Stamp Accounts 1885/1889. Page 32.

Postal Stationery News and Views #8

by Peter Thy and John Inglefield-Watson†

In our last column (#7, RP 62), we discussed at length the writing, production, and printing of our postal stationery book. Here we will take this a step further and describe what we did and have done to promote and sell our book. Little did we realize when we started on the project that the main obstacle would not be to write and print the book, the real obstacle would be to sell it. The sales today - three years after publication - have been very disappointing: UK 35, North America 4, South Africa 16, and Europe only 1. This is a total selling of just below 60 copies.

We started formulating strategies for selling the book in 2000 when we negotiated the publication agreement with the Philatelic Trust. The first question the publisher wanted us to answer was obviously how many copies we would expect to sell. We pondered over this very relevant question for a while and finally decided to ask authors and publisher of very similar catalogues of postal stationery. The first person that first came to mind was Jan Stolk of Holland who had published a catalogue of South West Africa in 1993 and at the time we talked to him was preparing an updated version that was later released in 2003. As a result of such talks, we concluded that 400 copies should not be a problem in particularly considering that British stationery was more popular and more widely collected than the South African stationery overprinted for South West Africa (so we naively thought). We also considered that the diversity of Cape and British stationery overprinted would attract further interest in our planned book outside the narrow realm of Bechuanaland collectors. The several Great Britain security printers involved in the production of the Bechuanaland stationery was also considered an asset (De La Rue, McCorquodale, Waterlow). We further considered that the US based United Postal Stationery Society had a little short of 1000 members. The British Postal Stationery Society about 200 members and the BBS say 100 members. To make the story short, the Philatelic Trust based on our arguments settled at 350 copies when printing commenced in very early 2004.

Of the printing number of 350 about 50 were planned to be 'free' copies to the authors, courtesy copies, for legal obligations, libraries, review copies, and for exhibitions. The book was sent for review to the most important philatelic journals in Europe, US, and SA. Only in two cases was the book reviewed (London Philatelist and Postal Stationery). Non-solicited reviews appeared to our knowledge only in Transvaal Philatelist and our own Runner Post, the latter thanks to Brian Trotter who took over the responsibility for the Trust's

publication program just prior to printing and later became chair of the Philatelic Trust. It was particular disappointing that the book (as far as we are aware) was not reviewed in South African, North American, and European journals despite free review copies.

In addition to review copies, flyers were prepared by the Trust and ourselves and distributed along normal channels. Particularly, we distributed the flyer and invitation to buy the book via extensive e-mail lists including Bechuanaland Society members and philatelic dealers (South African and North American). We are aware that this approach was very effective in South Africa based on feed back from members. The book was also advertised on the official website of the Trust. It is thus difficult to see what we could have done different or better.

To further promote the book, members of the Bechuanaland society and the two postal stationery societies representing over 1000 members were offered the book at a considerably discount if ordered shortly after publication. The timing of this offer was perfect as it was announced just after publication and together with the review in Postal Stationery in the US. To further convince reluctant buyers in the US, an option to pay the discount price in US \$ was offered. Vera Trinder of London also picked up the book and is offering it in their store and on their website.

In order to support and update the information in the book, we have made a website that lists all corrections and additions to the book (<http://www.kronestamps.dk/corrections/>). In addition, we post all recent postal stationery articles that we have written for the Runner Post including the regularly appearing 'Postal Stationery Views and News' of which this column is No. 8.

It is not clear what went wrong and what could have been done better. The disappointing sales in North America and Europe are troubling and cannot only be explained by high price and mailing expenses (a buyer in the US will have to pay about \$100 to get a copy by mail).

The latest development is that the Philatelic Trust as of January 2007 has pulped about 100 copies of the book to reduce storage space in connection with transfer to another and smaller premise. Because of the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society was co-publisher of the book and partially financed the production with £1000, the remaining stock (~140 copies) has been transferred (with the authors agreement) to the Society at no extra cost. It is thus our understanding that the Trust has discontinued distributing our book after only three years. The publication agreement between the authors and the Philatelic Trust has therefore in effect been terminated. All rights thus reverse to the authors, including the rights to republish the book. This development is in accordance with term 13 of the contract that states "In the event of the book

remaining unsold after say four years, the authors will be given first option to purchase remaining copies if the Trust decide to 'remainder' left over books."

Term 1 of the agreement states that "Copyright in the book shall remain with the authors, but the authors agree not to undertake a reprint edition, or publish a revised edition, until all of the first printing is sold." The authors extend this courtesy to the Society and will refrain from publishing a revised and expanded edition until the Society has been able to sell a reasonable number of the remaining books and recover part of their expenses. It is the authors plan to bring out a revised and greatly expanded edition within about five years. This new edition will solely be in electronic format. In the meantime, look for updates in the Runner Post for the availability of the book.

My coauthor and collaborator, John Inglefield-Watson, died during the preparation of this article at home on February 7 after a long illness. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with John on unravelling the mysteries of Bechuanaland postal stationery. We has come a long way not the least because of John's insistence and attention to the details. The main credit for the success undoubtedly goes to John.

Awards

The postal stationery book was awarded GOLD at American Philatelic Society's STAMPSHOW 2004 in Sacramento (submitted by the authors), LARGE VERMEIL at STAMPEX 2004 in London (submitted by the Trust), and LARGE SILVER GOLD at the 9th National Philatelic Literature Exhibition, Palmerston North, New Zealand, June 2005 (submitted by the Trust).

Corrections

Page 99. 2nd tick box missing for both RE 52 and RE 53.

Page 108. 2nd tick box missing for both RE 59a and RE 59b.

Page 137. Correct description of AE 31 to read 'gemsboks' instead of 'kudus.'

Page 146. The illustration for specimen Type 22 appears to be slightly enlarged and should measure 83 mm tall. Also correct the summary description for Type 22 on page 149 to read 83 mm instead of 85 mm.

Page 184. Correct the title of article by Thy and Inglefield-Watson (1996c) to read '1½d' instead of '2d.'

Listing Updates

Additions and corrections to the original listings are given below. Only the text and illustrations mentioned should be replaced while the remaining text has not been altered.

PC 3:

Add this new listing to PC 3:

PC 3a (S1) (V1)

'F' for second 'E' in 'SPECIMFN'.

Background: This card was offered in Argyll Etkin's November 4, 2004, sale as lot 423. This is a commonly seen variant resulting from the lack of type. The variant may exist for most Type 2 specimen overprints that were part of the 1890 submission to UPU. Can any reader report the variant on stationery not listed in our book?

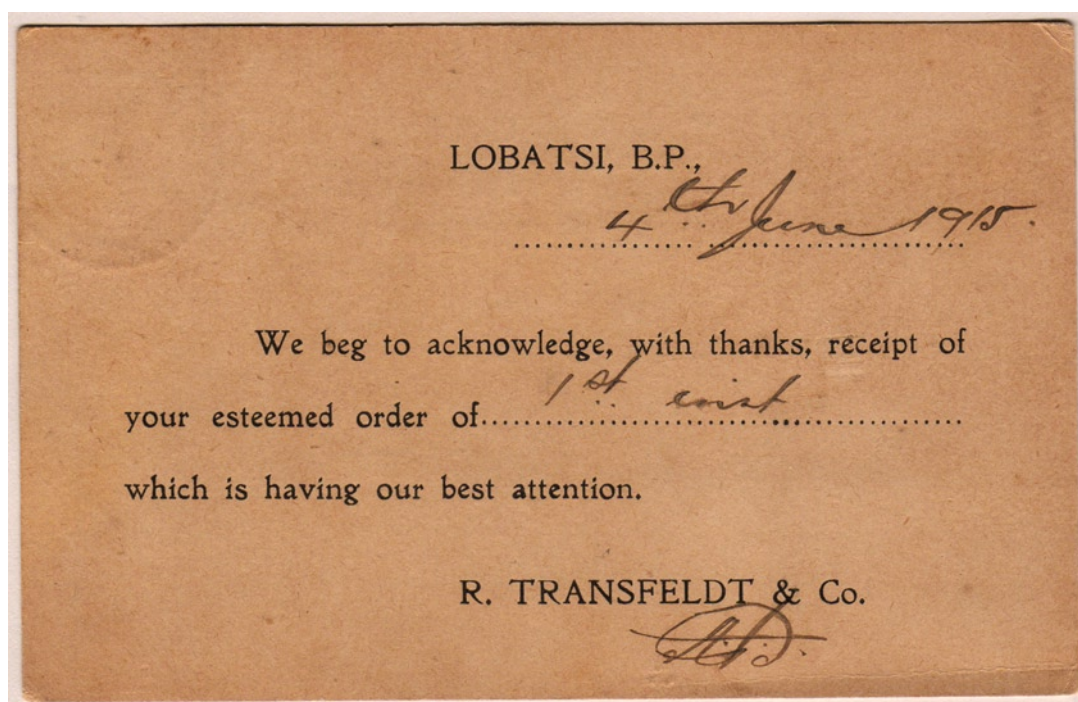


Figure 1. Form printed on reverse of PC 15.

PC 7:

Amend issue date from '1893 (March) to '1893 (Feb.). Also revise Note 'A' to read "Holmes (1971) gives the issue as July 1893; however, PC 7b is known used in Vryburg on 14 February 1893.

Background: We reported March 1893 as the month of issue of PC 7 in our book based on known usages of both PC 7a and PC 7b on 6 March to Holland. Malcolm Hodgson has shown us a copy of PC 7b used 14 February 1893 in Vryburg and addressed to

the local Postmaster (message is dated February 14). Based on this information, we suggest that the date of issue is revised.

PC 15:

Add Note 'D' (pages 23 and 24) stating 'PC 15 exists pre-printed on reverse for R. Transfeldt & Co., Lobatsi.'

Background: Some postcards exist with pre-printed commercial forms on the reverse. Most commonly



Figure 2. Front of RE 33f.

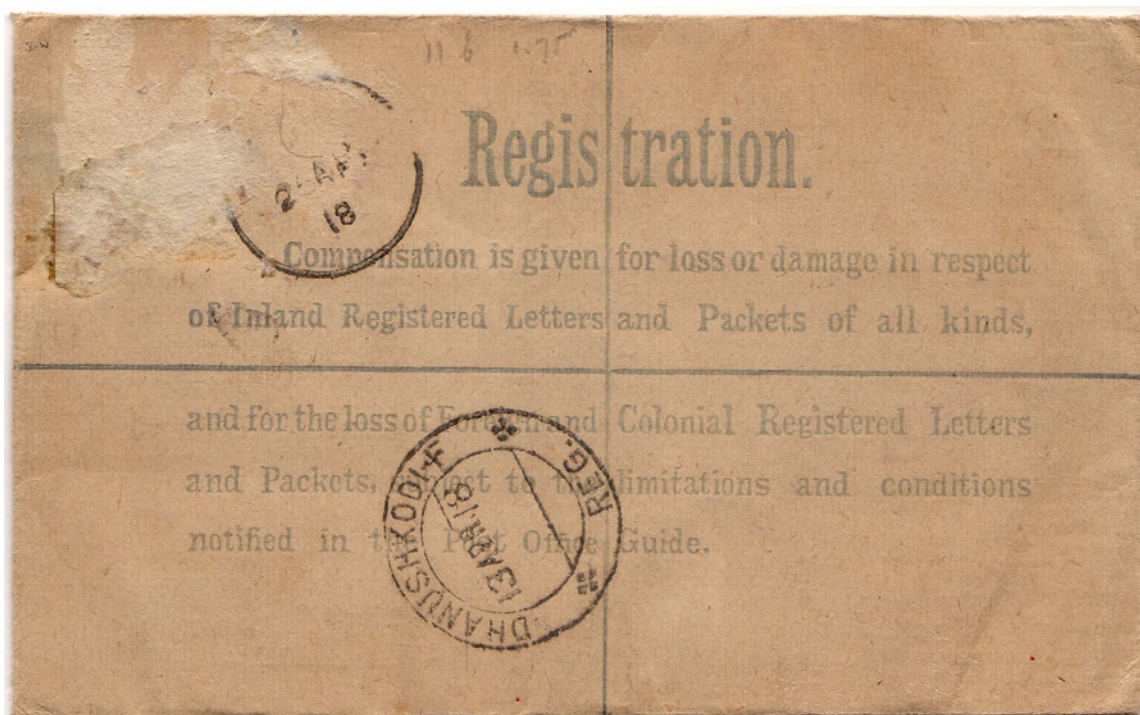


Figure 3. Reverse of RE 33f.

seen by Standard Bank of Vryburg and Mafeking (PC 3 and PC 8). An example of pre-printed form by 'R. Transfeldt & Co., Lobatsi' on PC 15 has been discovered (**Figure 1**). The only example known is dated 4 June 1914.

PC 15-16:

Amend Note A (page 23) to include: "The Board of Inland Revenue Stamping Department Archive of the British Library Philatelic Collections include proofs for PC 15 and 16. The ½d card is endorsed 'On ½d Thin Post Card registered by Mr. Sworder 11 Aug 1905.' See Inglefield-Watson (1996) for details."

Background: We have rediscovered a note in Inglefield-Watson's article on the Board of Inland Revenue Stamping Department Archive of the British Library Philatelic Collections (RP 43, p. 1005) that mention proofs for the KEVII 1907 postcards (PC 15-16). The text reads: "There are proofs of the overprints for the KE VII ½d and 1d postcards. The ½d proof shows the short right hand stroke in the 'A' of 'PROTECTORATE' that appears on the issued cards. It is endorsed 'On ½d Thin Post Card registered by Mr. Sworder 11 Aug 1905.'"

RE 33f:

Substitute the better quality illustrations given here for those on page 76 (**Figures 2 and 3**).

Background: The only known copy of RE 33f was recently sold by Yorkshire Cover Auctions. The illustration in our book was based on the same envelope, but was of poor quality. We can now offer a better illustration of RE 33f.

RE 38d:

Add to listing of RE 38:

RE 38d 5½d on 2d+2d grey-green with blue text on pale whitish buff envelope, Size G (date code F.O.).

Add 'F.O.' to the list of known date codes for RE 38 on page 46.

Background: This is a new sub-listing for the RE 38 envelope with date code 'F.O.' It was sold by Otto Peetoom's Bechuanaland Auction, December 2004, as lot 92.

RE E(26):

Amend Note A to include "Two examples of RE E(26) exist with or without approval notation. Both die proofs are identically signed and dated in the left lower corner. The one illustrated here is numbered 'V745' (with approval notation) and the other 'V748' (without approval notation), both in the lower right corner."

Background: The second essay was offered in Otto Peetoom, Bechuanaland Postal Auction, December 2004, as lot 82. Thanks to Otto Peetoom, Ormskirk Stamps, for the illustration (**Figure 4**).

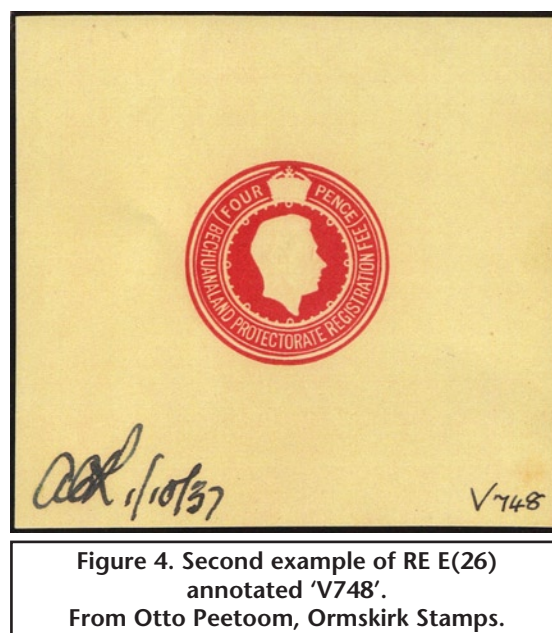


Figure 4. Second example of RE E(26) annotated 'V748'.
From Otto Peetoom, Ormskirk Stamps.

Items of Interest

Specimens Handstamped 'ULTRAMAR'

The June 2005 auction by Argyll Etkin offered three 'ULTRAMAR' handstamps on Bechuanaland specimen postcards (lots 397, 398, and 399). These are all described as stuck in violet. The cards are PC 14 S(?) (die unknown), PC 15 S(1), and PC 16 S(1). The additional handstamp was applied to UPU specimens by the Portuguese postal authorities before distribution to their colonies. Can any reader document the occurrence on other Bechuanaland stationery?

Double Overprint on RE 5-7

The June 2005 auction by Argyll Etkin offered a selection (lot 400) of stationery described as including a cutout from "1884 registered envelope 'FOUR' surcharge on 2d variety surcharge double" (RE 5-7). Can anybody give details?

Two Card Types for PC 22

The July 2005 Bechuanaland Postal Auction of Otto Peetoom, Ormskirk Stamps, included two mint examples of PC 22 described as "from the 1st and 2nd printing Jan 56 and July 57, 2nd ptg. thinner card and different shade of paper." We have had an opportunity to examine the cards in question as well as our own holdings of PC 22. There is little doubt that two different card thickness exist for PC 22. We have examined a total of 15 cards. The majority is of the thick card type with a slightly coarse surface. The only thin card that we have seen came from the Otto Peetoom auction. The ½d stamp on this card appears to be of a yellowish green shade as opposed to yellow green on the thick card. The used postcards (5) are cancelled between 25 Feb. 1958 and 14 Sept. 1959 (Francistown, Molepolole, Mahalapype) and, thus, can have originated from either of the two printings.



Figure 5. Assortment of bands (downloaded from Alan MacGregor's website [reduced])

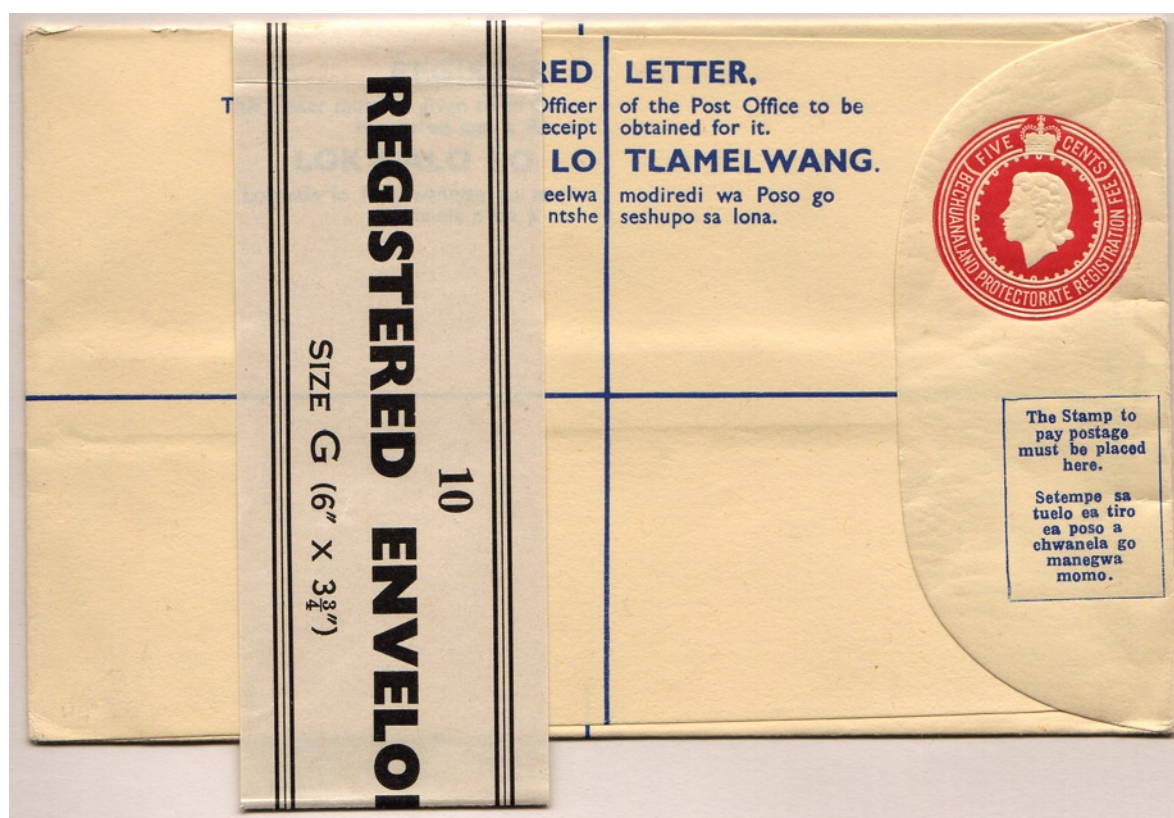


Figure 6. Band for Bechuanaland definitive stationery (RE 46).

The thin card has only been seen in mint condition. Does any reader have an example of the thin card used before July 1957?

Wrapping Bands for Bulk Postal Stationery

Wrapping bands exist for some Bechuanaland postal stationery. These are the corresponding British bands without indications that the stationery was overprinted. An assortment of these is shown in **Figure 5** downloaded from Alan MacGregor's website (www.rhodesia.co.za) (PC 8, PC 15, PC 16, PC 18, PC 21, RE 39, RE 30, RE 37, RE 38). An example of a band for Bechuanaland definitive stationery is shown in **Figure 6** (RE 46) that may be a general band used for British stationery at that time. Can anybody elaborate and perhaps supply other examples?

Harmers' 'All World Stamps and Postal History' Auction of 8 November 2005

A used example of RE 3 was offered at Harmers' November 2005 auction as lot 1199 (Size K; **Figure 7**). It was used on August 26, 1887, in Pretoria and arrived in Rome, Italy, on September 30. It is bearing Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek adhesives to a total value of 4s 2d, 4d British Bechuanaland registration stamp, and a 1d F.H.B. express stamp. We have not seen the reverse of the envelope, but base our information on correspondence from Harmers. An unusual usage of a British Bechuanaland registration envelope only about a year after issued in July 1886. Can any reader report an earlier usage from British Bechuanaland. We showed the cover to Tim Barthse who commented: "This is a rather interesting commercial

cover from Emil Tamsen to a customer in Italy. The Bechuanaland stationery was simply a vehicle to mail the stamps. The pink label at the left is an example of the proof of payment from Emil's home in the north via Bakker's Express to Pretoria where it entered the mail stream to Italy. At that time the registration fee was 6d, leaving 45d for postage. Going via Natal this would make this packet weigh between 3 and 3 ½ oz. Via Cape would have been more expensive at 9 ½d per ½ oz.

Stationery Charges at the Post Office

High Commissioner's Notice No. 3 of 1960, in effect on 1 January, lists the registration envelope charges as 10d for both sizes (G and H). This means a 4d surcharge over the imprinted registration stamp of 6d. This affected only RE 44 and RE 45, since the 1961 Queen Elizabeth II envelopes were issued in 5 cents denominations.

Picture Postcard With Artwork for 1987 Definitive Stamps

Malcolm Batty has e-mailed to report finding a printing error in one of the picture postcard series issued by the Post Office. A set of 20 different cards with reproductions of the 1987 definitive stamps was issued at the same time the stamps were released. The front of the card with the 'P3 side-striped jackal' exists without printing (it is blank without box for stamp and address space). The Government Printer, Gaborone, printed the cards. These maximum cards were not included in our book despite other stampless Post Office stationery like aerogrammes and



Figure 7. RE 3 used in 1887 from Pretoria, Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek.

registration envelopes were included. It is likely that they will be included in a future updated edition.

Earliest Recorded Usages

RE 55

John Schaerer has e-mailed to report the find of a copy of RE 55 used in Serowe on October 31, 1978 (**Figure 8**). This is a month earlier than the November 28, 1978, date reported in our book.

RE 61

RE 61 has been found used from Kasane to Great Britain on November 27, 1991 (**Figure 9**). This is several months earlier than the March 11, 1992, reported in our book.

Correction to Wrapper Essay Article in RP 64/65

Text below Table 1 states that "on most (96%) examples of WR 7 'BRITISH' is 10.5 mm long." This contradicts information in the table and should read 10 mm (page 1539).

Corrections, Updates, and Additions Website

All corrections and updates are listed on our website at www.kronestamps.dk/corrections/. The website also contains pdf versions of this column as well as other articles of interest that all can be downloaded and printed for personal use. Let us have your feedback on the site.

† John Inglefield-Watson died on February 7th, 2007, during preparation of this article.

ADVERTISEMENT

The Postal Stationery of the Bechuanalands and Botswana by Peter Thy and John Inglefield-Watson - a unique opportunity.

This classic 184 page hard-back book was published in 2004 by the British Philatelic Trust in conjunction with the Bechuanalands & Botswana Society. The Society has now assumed the role of distributor of this publication.

At a meeting held in London on the 24th February this year, a motion was carried that, inter alia, allowed current members of the Society to purchase a copy for £10 plus postage and packing.

Any UK member wishing to take advantage of this limited offer should send a cheque for £15.50 to the Chairman, Brian Hurst, who will arrange for a copy to be posted out.

Members living outside the UK should contact Brian, preferably by e-mail, jbhurst@btinternet.com, to find out postal charges and discuss payment methods.

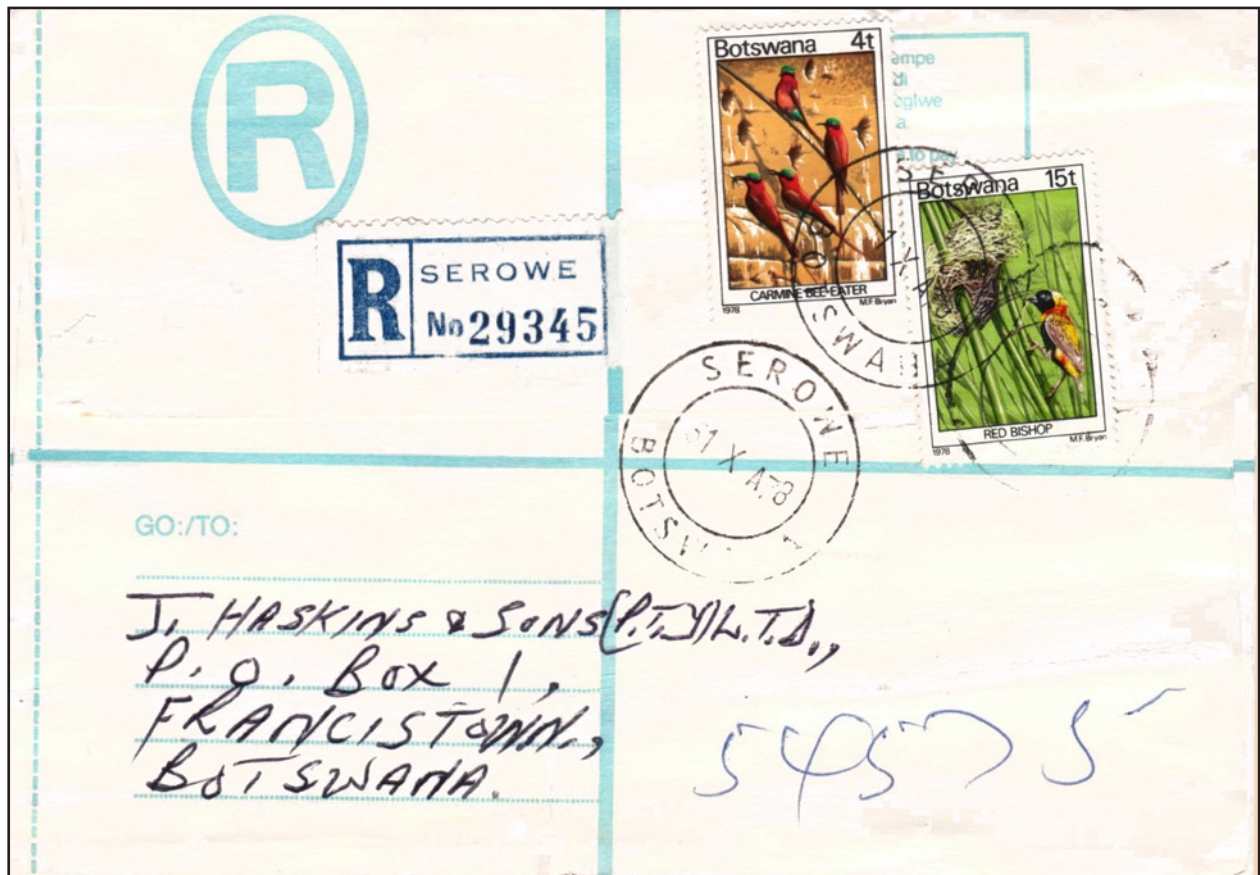


Figure 8. RE 55 used in Serowe on October 31, 1978.

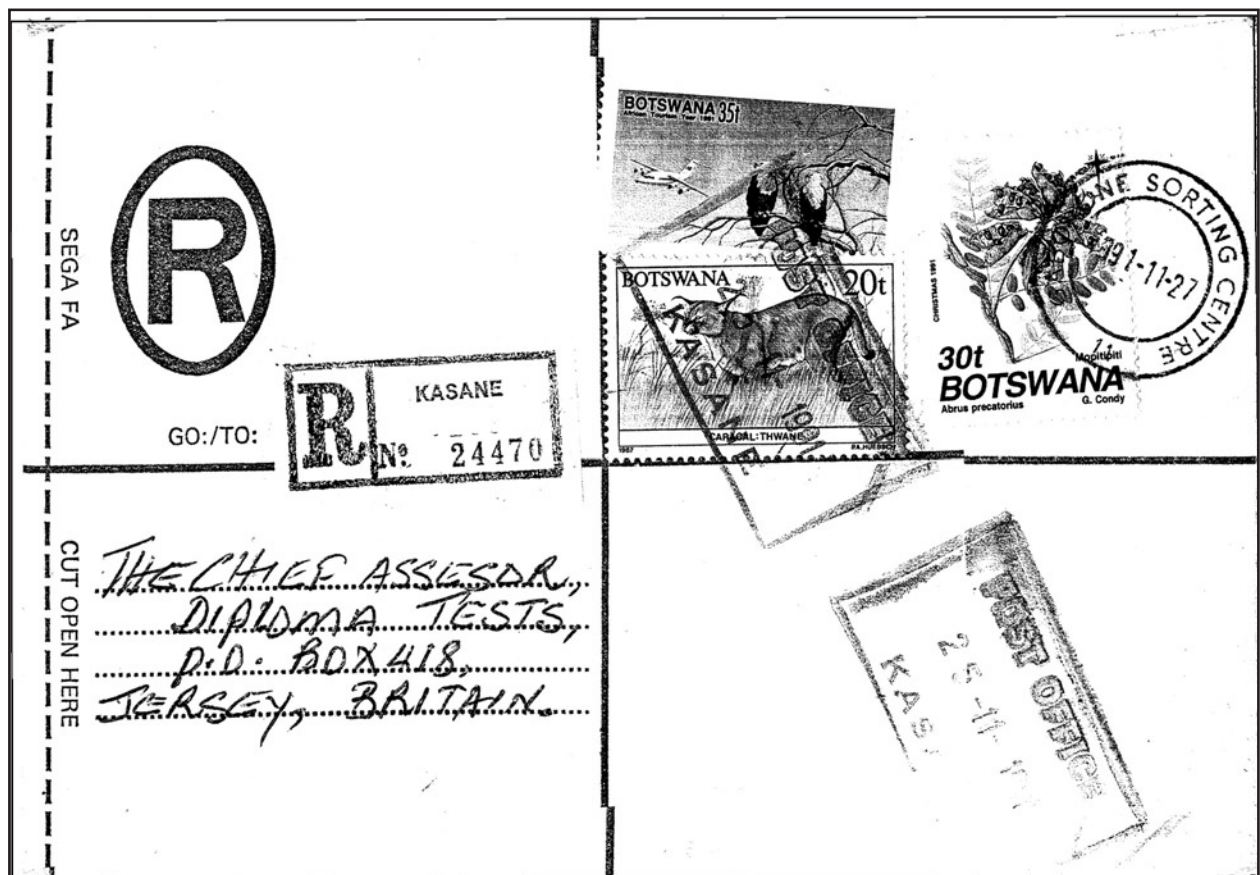
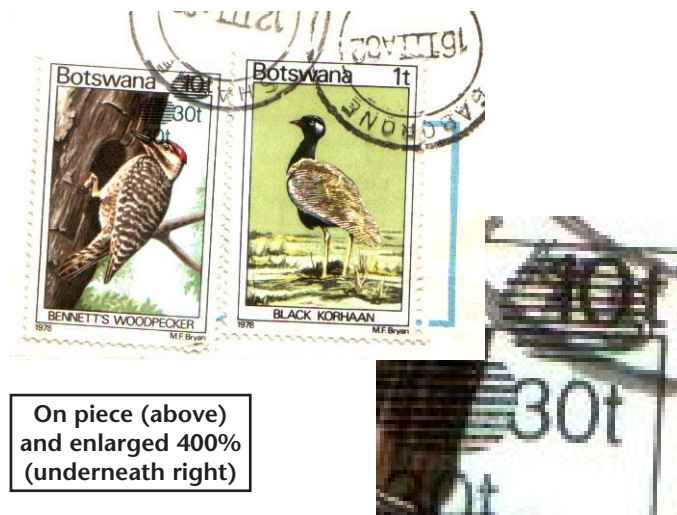


Figure 9. RE 61 used from Kasane to Great Britain on November 27, 1991.

Botswana Woodpecker, surcharge double

from Peter Jukes



On piece (above)
and enlarged 400%
(underneath right)

I have attached the scan of a little item I picked up out here at an auction recently. I would dearly like to know if anyone else has one or indeed, has even heard about it before. I certainly never have. Could anyone hazard a guess as to how many may be in existence: is there perhaps a mint copy floating about somewhere? I have heard rumours that as few as three copies do exist, all cancelled at SHASHE (as in the scan), I don't understand why it should also be cancelled at Gaborone, unless the 1t was added there to make up the postage rate (it seems as if it may have come from a Registered item).

On the same tack, I would like to gather as much information as may be available (via the membership) as to how many copies of SG220a may be in existence? I understand that no mint copies exist (I may be wrong here), and as few as six or seven used copies are known to exist.? Any one who can shed light on this, please contact me:- theiceman@my.net.bw, I would be grateful for any information at all on the subject.

Botswana Mail Volumes

by Peter Thy

UPU's International Bureau annually collects mail statistics from member postal administrations. One of the purposes for such statistics is for the payment or collection of transit charges for the international mails. Other obvious benefits are for postal planning purposes.

The website of UPU (www.upu.int) includes Botswana mail volumes from 1983, for various mail categories, with the exception of a few years for which information is missing. However, the data between 1983 and 1990 is

highly irregular and only the information from 1991 and onward appears to be reliable, or at least collected and reported in a systematic fashion. The available data is summarized in **Table 1** as total numbers of mail items, broken down as domestic, international dispatched, and international received mails (all including registered mail). The mail volumes are further compared to the estimated population, value in Pula of the Swiss Frank (SFR), domestic letter rate, and airmail rate to the UK. One of the questions that may be answered using this information is whether the mail volumes have been affected by the recent escalation in mail rates.

A strong population growth in Botswana has from about 2000 turned into a clear stagnation (**Figure 1b**), due to

Year	Population	Pula per SDR	Domestic Mail	International Dispatched	International Received	Domestic Letter Rate	Air Letter Rate UK
1991	1467000	2.97	24888000	3982200	9099550	0.08	0.30
1992	1506000	3.10	21136863	2450103	8684361	0.10	0.40
1993	1543000	3.52	24657747	2552356	10176478	0.10	0.40
1994	1580000	3.97	26002608	2048625	8306632	0.10	0.40
1995	1616000	4.19	28087276	2113116	8224359	0.20	0.80
1996	1650000	5.24	26967236	1438331	10289806	0.20	0.80
1997	1682000	5.14	29546276	2113116	8224360	0.35	2.00
1998	1711000	6.28	28463236		10289807	0.35	2.00
1999	1736000	6.36	32732298	1585205	3964496	0.35	2.00
2000	1754000	6.99	32468760	3000972	6979160	0.35	2.00
2001	1766000	8.78	40724616	5310047	6283278	0.50	2.50
2002	1771000	7.43	35079341	2322532	8187861	0.55	2.75
2003	1772000	6.60	32387227	2610925	5386416	0.55	2.75
2004	1769000	6.65	31816347	2240843	4688135	0.80	3.90

Table 1: Botswana Mail Volume Data for 1991 to 2004

declining fertility rate and a raise in the death rate. It has been estimated that a large percentage of the Botswana population is affected by the HIV epidemic (36 per cent). Life expectation today is 39 years compared to an estimated 72 years without AIDS (<http://www.avert.org/aidsbotswana.htm>). Such gloomy numbers mean that a large percentage of the population is predicted to die within the next 10-20 years. The population would thus markedly decline and the demographic shift toward younger people. President of Botswana, Festus Mogae, has said

"we are threatened with extinction. People are dying in chillingly high numbers. It is a crisis of the first magnitude."

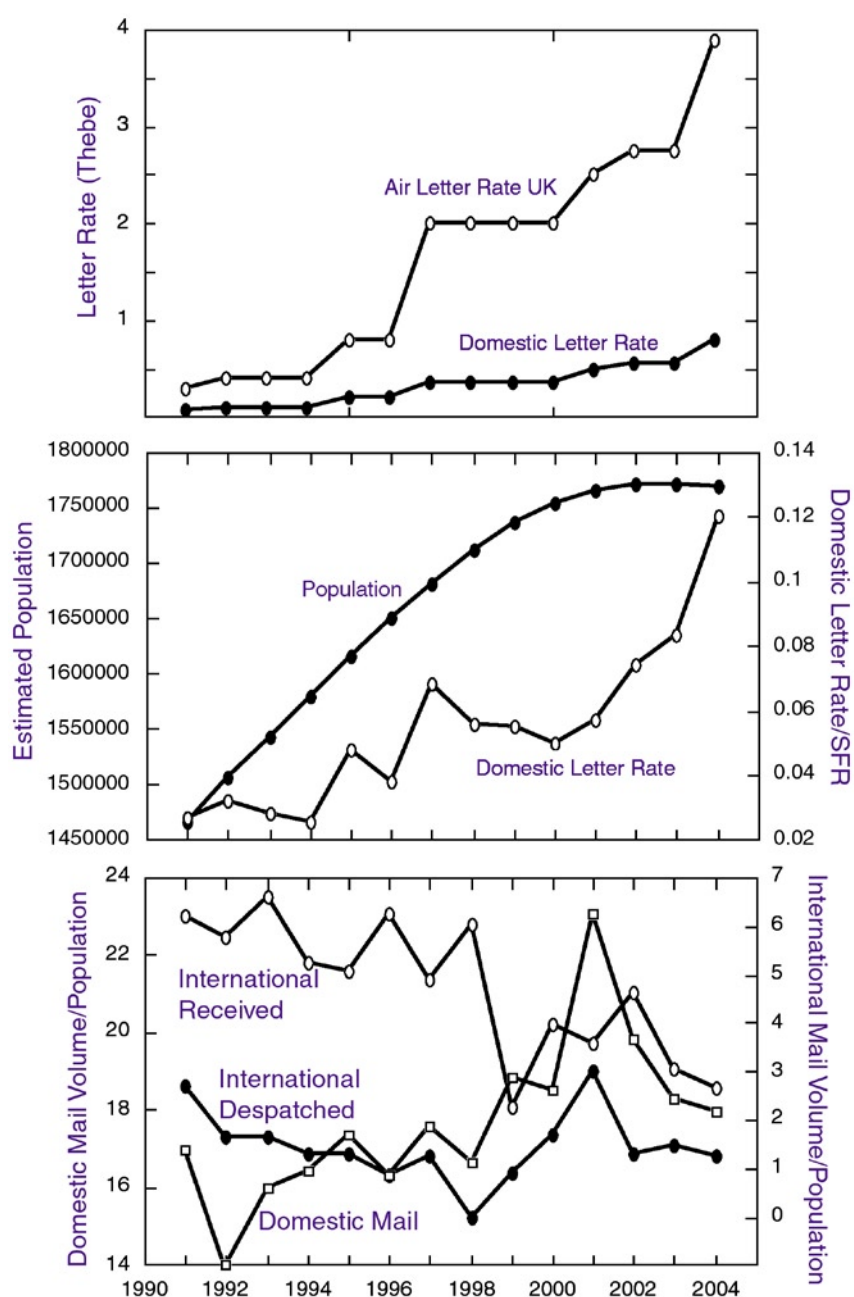
It can be expected that such developments do and will strongly affect postal matters.

The Botswana mail rates were for many years intentionally kept low. It was politically considered important for achieving national economic development that postal rates were affordable for the general population. This policy was given up around 1994.

At the same time as AIDS has taken its toll, the postal rates (**Figure 1a**) has escalated, from a modest 10t in 1995 to 80t in 2004 (domestic mail). Adjusted for inflation (relatively to SFR), the increase is still marked for both domestic and international mail (6-7 times the increase for domestic letters between 1990-2004). Another issue is that e-mail and cell phones appear slowly but steadily to be moving into public life in Botswana.

The average numbers of domestic letters per inhabitant vary between 14 and 20 (**Figure 1c**) with an average of 17.7 (± 2.1).

There appears not to have been a systematic increase in the domestic mail until about 2001, after which a marked drop starts at the same time as the population growth stagnates and the internet and the mobile telephone net are being expanded. It is also possible that the increase in postal rates the last past years may have had an effect. In contrast, the international outgoing mail appears to show a systematic decrease between 1991 and 1998 and is followed by an apparent increase through 1998 to 2001, after which a drop is seen (average 1.30 (± 0.03), eliminating the two high/low peaks in 1992 and 2001). Surprisingly, the incoming international mail (average 4.7 (± 1.4)) shows a strong fall that obviously cannot be related to the Botswana mail rates. It is also interesting that the incoming international mail is 3-4 times larger than the outgoing mail. This latter is difficult to explain unless economic development has slowed concurrently with the slowdown in the population growth or that a



Figures 1a/b/c: Charts for 1991 to 2004 (top to bottom)
Letter Rates (Domestic and Air Rate to UK)
Population/ Letter Rate (adjusted for inflation)
Mail Volume (International and Domestic)

significant amount of the international communication has shifted toward electronic means. There is no clear cut answer to the question of whether the mail volumes have been affected by the recent escalation in mail rates. In general, however, it appears that other factors such as stagnating population and a shift in communication technologies may have been major factors. It would be worthwhile to compare the development in Botswana with other southern African states as well as with developed nations.

This article first appeared in Forerunners #56

More on the provisional surcharges

In Runner Post #67, p.1593, John Inglefield-Watson asked if any other member had seen text on the two provisional surcharges values issued on 25th April 2006. Dennis Firth found a dealer with full sheets of both values at the York Stamp Show.

The P2.10 was again without imprint and the strike-out/value were in the same place as on John's copy.

The 80t again had the "w Folder\botswana stamp" imprint in the lower left corner [shown right]. The strike-out, value and imprint are all slightly higher than on John's example (though the bottom of "ew" hasn't printed). I checked them in Photoshop and all three elements are identical placed in relation to each other, suggesting that they were applied in one operation.



Another lower left corner block of the 80t on 90t surcharge showing a slightly higher position for the surcharge and text
[Courtesy: Dennis Firth]

Recent Botswana Issues

40th Anniversary of Independence

Denominations	P1.10 , P2.60 , P4.10 and P4.90
Artist/Photographer	Lucy Phalaagae
Printer	Joh-Enschede Security Printing
Process	Lithography
FDC Size	110mm x 220 mm
Paper	110gsm, PVA gum stamp paper
Period of Sale	One Year

Date of issue

29th September 2006

P1.10 Primary & Secondary Roads

P2.60 Population Distribution

P4.10 Mines and Coal Resources

P4.90 National Parks and Game Reserves

and a souvenir sheet of all four values

(FDC with souvenir sheet [75%] below)

BOTSWANA

40th Anniversary of Independence



Official First Day Cover

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA



'Hardbattle' Postcard

from Steve Wallace

Some years ago I purchased the interesting picture-postcard [right and below] from ex-dealer Chris Ray. I decided to try and pursue its history.

It was written and postmarked in Gaberones on 2nd June 1906, cancelled at Gaberones Station on 3rd June and with Hull receiver cancellation of 23rd June.

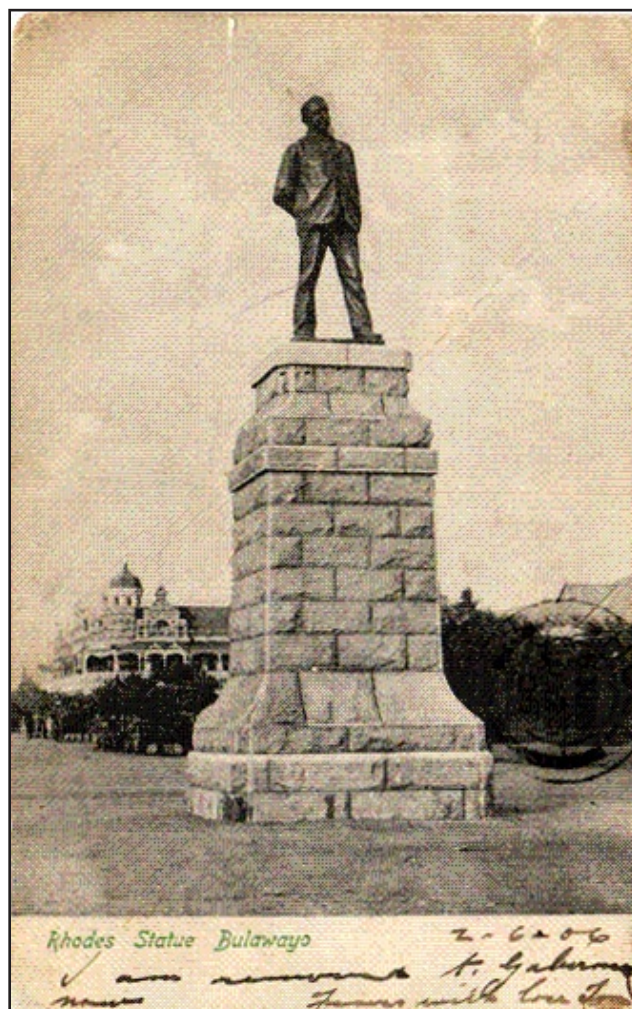
Chris mentioned that it was addressed to Roos, near Hull, where there was also a stamp dealer. This led me to Otto Peetoom, who stated "Roos being a small village, one does not often come across old letters". (He has an 1852 entire cancelled at Roos).

Hardbattle is a rather unusual surname. There are now none in Roos and none listed in the Hull telephone directory; however the East Yorkshire telephone directory for 2004 included three - two in Hornsea and one in Bridlington. The 1851 census for the area had none listed, although it included four (most likely mis-spelt) Hardbottles!

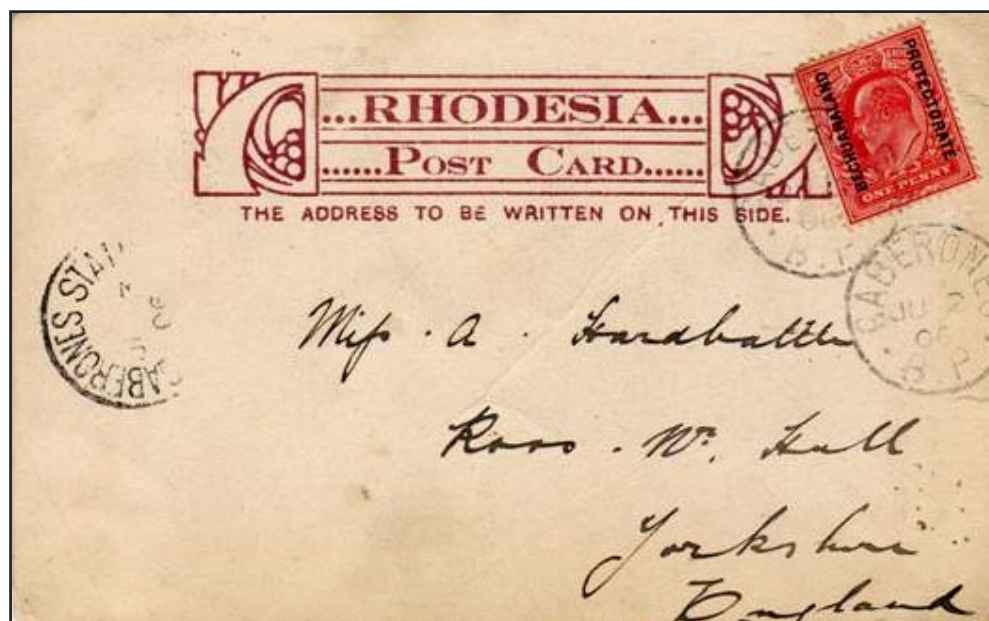
Otto suggested that the three Hardbattles may be related to the addressee of my postcard. Having obtained addresses and phone numbers from the directory, I phoned the first number given, which was in Hornsea, and spoke to a Mrs. Doreen Hardbattle who was most interested in the postcard, so I sent her a copy.

The information given to me showed that the third generation of the Hardbattle family in 1906 included:

- Thomas (Tom) aged 27, born in Nafferton, near Great Driffield, Yorkshire
- John, his younger brother, aged 21, born in Roos
- Ada, his sister, aged 15, born in Roos, who was the 'Miss A. Hardbattle' to whom the postcard is addressed.



Tom and John were farmer's sons from Roos who went to Bechuanaland looking for farmland. John came back to England, while elder brother Tom (the sender of the postcard to teenage sister Ada) stayed in Bechuanaland, having successfully found farming land with John. Tom's descendants still live in Botswana today.



Another relative, also called John, lives in Downham, near Clitheroe in Lancashire. He was gamekeeper to Lord and Lady Clitheroe, and visited Botswana some years ago.

The Bechuanaland/Botswana family are well known for another John, who for many years fought the Botswana Government for recognition of the plight of the San people. He died tragically at the end of 1996.

In 2002, his sister and mother were still living on the farm.

A History of the Bechuanalands

transcribed by Brian Hurst

Written in 1893 during the currency of the Crown Colony.

I came across the copy of 'The Bechuanaland News' illustrated below during a visit some months ago to Brian Fenimore in Cape Town. Having noticed the article on Bechuanaland, and considering that it could

well be of interest to readers of *Runner Post*, Brian kindly agreed to allow me to bring the newspaper back to the UK on loan so that I could transcribe the article and arrange for it to be published. Despite its extremely Victorian language and outlook, it provides an interesting contemporary account which I hope you will enjoy.

Bechuanaland Past and Present - Part 2 (of 4)

by Barry Ronan

Published in the
'Bechuanaland News'
Vryburg, Saturday
December 23, 1893

THE BARALONG

According to traditions still existing among the Baralong, their ancestors, about twenty generations ago, migrated from a country in the far north, under a chief named Morolong, from which the tribe derived its name. Their description of this country tallies with that of the Great Lakes, and it is computed they left it about the year 1400. During the four centuries the tribe migrated southwards, until it reached the Molopo, and fixed its permanent residence in the region which is half encircled by that river. At this time the Bahurutse (Barotse) separated from the main branch, and became independent. And now during the government of many successive chiefs, all of whose names have been religiously preserved, the tribe enjoyed peace, and became constantly stronger and wealthier. Occasionally a swarm would migrate eastward or westward, but this loss was more than made good by accessions of destitute alien clans.

The palmy days of the Baralong declined from the death of their great chief Tao, who died at Taungs about the year 1760.

Feebleness of Character in his descendants in the great line, untimely deaths and personal feuds, combined to weaken the tribe. Civil war followed, and the next generation witnessed a number of clans, each independent of the rest, although all acknowledging the supremacy of the head of the house, Ratlon. The adopted clans also took advantage of the favourable opportunity, and made themselves independent. Among these were the Batlapin, previously described.

From this period until 1823, the various sections of the Baralong race were continually moving about, and consequently, were rarely at peace. In 1823 the Mautali impi from Zululand destroyed some sections of the tribe. Then its Makololo offshoot attacked the clans at Tawane, and next the Bataung fell upon and plundered them. In 1833, the heads of the three divisions of the Baralong - Gontsee, Tawane, and Moroko, with their respective followers were led by Wesleyan missionaries

to Thaba 'Nchu. They were accompanied by small parties of Korannas, Griquas, and half-breeds, who had no settled home, and for whom the missionaries were desirous of obtaining ground in some place where they could civilize them.

From this nucleus the tribe of the Baralong again spread, and a long succession of peaceful years gradually brought to them renewed prosperity and strength. A portion of the tribe had resided at Thaba 'Nchu in the Free State, and lent valuable aid to the emigrant Boers in their sanguinary conflicts with the Matabele under the dread Moselekatse, and finally settled down with the Boers in the vicinity of the present town of Potchefstroom. Here they remained for about five years, when their leader Potgieter, informed them of his intention to seek out a newer country farther north, when they elected to return to their own country, and rejoined their own tribe.

In 1850 the Boers asked that a boundary line be marked out between them and the Baralong, and this was done by a Boer Commission. The line was practically the same as that sanctioned by Governor Keate in the award previously referred to.

In 1852 the Boers resolved to attack the Bakwena chief, Sechele, and they asked the Baralong under Montsioa to assist them. Montsioa refused on that ground that he was on friendly terms with the Bakwena, whereupon the Boers threatened Montsioa, and told him **to look after himself** and his people. After a short period, the Boers fulfilled their threats by attacking the Barolong, and carrying away a large number of their cattle. Eventually the Boers offered terms of peace to Montsioa, who being doubtful of the good faith of their offer, retired with a portion of his tribe to Moshaneng, leaving his brothers to take charge of affairs in the Baralong country.

In 1865, the Boers demanded taxes from the Baralong, who refused to pay them. In 1868 a commando was sent to levy the taxes but was repulsed by Montsioa's brother Molema. In August 1870 a great meeting

was held at Buurman's Drift, near Mafeking, at which President Pretorius and Commandant Kruger endeavoured to persuade the Bechuana Chiefs to have their country annexed to the Transvaal, but their efforts in this direction were unavailing.

Moshette was brought forward by President Burghers in 1872 at the Paramount Chief of the Baralong country. His appearance on the western boundary of the Transvaal was the beginning of much evil in the country: he was only recognised as chief by a few Baralong residing in the Transvaal, and was kept in his position by Boer influence. The great mass of the Baralong people would have nothing to do with him, and from this period **Montsioa's troubles** may be said to begin. In 1868 Montsioa has complained to the Governor of the Cape Colony of Boer aggression, and in 1874 he petitioned to be taken under British protection.

In February, 1881, Montsioa ordered the petty chief Matuba to vacate his residence at Lotlakani. Upon Matuba declining to do so Montsioa attacked Lotlakani and routed Matuba with heavy loss. Montsioa then retired to Schuba, where he was attacked by the combined forces of Moshette and Machabi, but repelled the attack, and again drove his enemies from Lotlakani with great loss of life. The Transvaal Royal Commission was then sitting in Natal, and Major Buller and Commandant Joubert arrived on the scene as Commissioners from their respective governments, to ascertain the cause of the fighting. They found that the recent war between the English and the Transvaal had unsettled the country, and that tribal supremacy was the cause fought for, whereupon they urged the chiefs to keep the peace until the Royal Commission had finished its sittings, when their grievances would be discussed. When it was found that the Commission was over, and that no message was sent to the chiefs or notice taken of their grievances, Moshette declared war against Montsioa, and enlisted white volunteers, principally Boers, promising them land and cattle as their reward. Hostilities were resumed at intervals, each time with increased vigour and acrimony. In these engagements Moshette undoubtedly had the advantage, for if hard pressed he had the Transvaal to retire to, and on each retreat he managed to carry some of the Baralong cattle with him. Captain Nourse was sent by the British Resident at the close of 1881 to visit the scene of operations, and he reported that the Boers were active participators in the disturbances, and as a consequence of this report, some of those suspected as instigators and leaders **resigned their seats** in the Raad. He also reported that as there was practically no way of preventing the Boers purchasing as much ammunition as they chose, Moshette was always kept well supplied. Capt. Nourse called a meeting of the chiefs, but could not induce Moshette and his Boers to come to terms of peace. Consequently he left, and matters went on as before.

Shortly after this Moshette and his mixed followers formed a laager between Buurman's Drift and Mafeking, outside the Transvaal line, whereupon the English Government called upon the Transvaal to enforce neutrality on its western border, and a proclamation was issued by the latter which had little, if any, effect. In February 1882 British subjects were warned by the High Commissioner's proclamation against breaches of the Foreign Enlistment Act. This caused a large number of volunteers serving under Mankoroane in the south to withdraw, thus adding to his opponent's chances of success. The Transvaal next called on the English Government to intervene, and the Free State forbade her burghers taking any part in the disturbances. In June, 1882 the Secretary of State proposed a joint armed intervention of the powers to restore peace; the Cape Colony was willing to join this union armed of armed peacemakers, but the Transvaal and the Free State could not agree on the matter, which like so many other attempts in the direction, ended in nothing. Moshette and his Boer volunteers actually bought cannon to attack Mafeking in August and September 1882. But by this time Moshette was not very anxious to continue operations, and on 24th October he signed a treaty of peace with Montsioa which was drawn up by the Boer volunteers. After this was signed, another document was read to Montsioa, by which he undertook to place himself and his people under Transvaal rule, and to recognise no other authority or protection. He was informed that war would be resumed if he refused to sign this paper, but Montsioa would have nothing to do with it. Upon this, it is alleged, one of the volunteers affixed a cross against Montsioa's name despite the Chief's protests, and the document was taken as duly signed! This high-handed method of treaty-making did not much matter as it happened, for the treaty was neither considered nor observed by the Chief or the Boers.

The British Resident at Pretoria again took action in November '82, by sending his Secretary, Mr. Rutherford, to Rooi Grond to report on the state of affairs. He reported to the effect that the action of a civilized power could alone ensure tranquility. At this period another proclamation appeared in this **Land of many Proclamations** in which Mr. Gey van Pittius, the leader of Moshette's volunteers, introduced for the first time the land of Goschen to the notice of the South African public. This was the euphonic title given to the scene of the freebooting raids of Moshette's followers, who had roughly formed themselves into a working organisation with headquarters at Rooi Grond, conveniently situated for rapid retreat over the border should circumstances render that course expedient. It is worthy of note with regard to Van Pittius, that this leader actually on one occasion offered himself and a portion of his followers to Montsioa, to drive out the remaining portion of his volunteers remaining loyal to Moshette, who had lately deposed Van Pittius from the command and given it to one Karl Weber. This offer

to secure the peace of the Barolong did not meet with the approval of Montsioa, who could not believe in the disinterestedness of a man who was so ready to open fire on his friends for the benefit of his enemy. Weber was, however, deposed and Van Pittius restored in January, 1884, when the former was elected President of their executive Bestuur at the time when there was considerable friction among the freebooters owing to the difficulty of dividing the land spoil.

This brings the record of events down to the point where the reader left the affairs of the Batlapin; two so-called Republics are now to be found established in the country, in direct opposition to the wishes of the chief Mankoroane on the one hand, and Montsioa on the other; one, the Republic of Stellaland, under the direction of Van Niekerk, and the other under the leadership of Weber.

STELLALAND AND GOSCHEN.

In February, 1884, the Bestuur of the Goschen freebooters resolved to "take stock", and inspected the ground they had seized and estimated it to contain about 250 farms of 3,000 morgen each. This plunged the Bestuur into a complicated land difficulty, as the volunteers had drawn over 350 farms by lot, and it was puzzled to fulfil the promise of giving each man a farm. Discussions accordingly arose among the Rooi Grond freebooters, over this problem, and feelings had reached a serious point, when the rumour arrived that an English Protectorate was about to be established. This news was considered to be sufficient calamity to dwarf all others. But on 25th March they determined to measure and occupy the Barolong country, upon which Montsioa warned them to retire. At this time the Imperial Secretary (Captain Graham Bower) had arrived in Vryburg from Cape Town and advised Montsioa that he was to defend himself if attacked, but to respect the Transvaal border. The volunteers now called for recruits from the Transvaal with a view to occupying the country before the Imperial Government could intervene, and Van Pittius ordered Montsioa to cease cultivating certain lands. Upon the chief's refusal to do this, the cattle of the freebooters were turned into the Barolong cornfields and great damage was done to the crops. On the 12th May a large body of Montsioa's people proceeded to Rooi Grond, with the determination of driving the Boers out of the country. The freebooters were compelled to retire over the line, taking with them their horses, cattle and wagons.

It will be remembered that the **Transvaal Deputation** consisting of Messrs. Kruger, Du Toit, Smit and Esselen, arrived in London in November 1883, where they had several interviews with Lord Derby. The original purpose of the deputation was a financial one, but they also took the opportunity of asking that the Pretoria Convention be reconsidered. In their statement to Lord Derby they asked inter alia that the lands of Montsioa, Moshette, Mankoroane

and Massouw be added to the Transvaal. Lord Derby informed them that this proposal could not be agreed to, but that a British Commissioner would be appointed for Bechuanaland. Later on, however, Moshette's town, Kunwana, was included in the Transvaal by the terms of the new Convention.

The High Commissioner appointed the Rev. John Mackenzie Resident Commissioner for Bechuanaland in February, 1884. This gentleman possessed a long and varied experience of the country and its people, and it was thought that the knowledge gained by the duties performed during a long residence connected with missionary work well fitted him to undertake the onerous task of settling the disturbed country. Mr. Mackenzie, when residing at Kuruman, had from the beginning of the freebooting era exerted himself to check the outrages spreading over the country, and besides communicating with the Bechuana chiefs, wrote to the High Commissioner. Finding his efforts in these directions futile, he resolved to visit England and lay the state of the country before the public there. He arrived in England early in 1882, and drew up a pamphlet giving an extended account of the position in Bechuanaland, which was largely circulated. He then delivered a series of addresses and lectures on the subject, and eventually moved public opinion to take steps to end the existing state of anarchy; public meetings were held at the Mansion House, Birmingham, Edinburgh, and other large centres at which resolutions for the protection of Bechuanaland were passed. A South African Committee was formed in London, and an address forwarded by them to the Secretary of State on behalf of the Bechuana. Mr. Mackenzie was in London at the same time as the Transvaal Deputation, and his agitation bore fruit in the appointment above mentioned. The proclamation of the Protectorate was undoubtedly due in great measure to his efforts in England. The High Commissioner also recommended the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner capable of organizing and commanding a mounted police force of 100 men.

No positive instructions were given to Mr. Mackenzie by the High Commissioner on his arrival in Capetown, the main objects desired were only indicated and the remainder left to the discretion of the Deputy Commissioner. With reference to Mankoroane, the principal objects pointed out were the **Maintenance of Order** and the prevention of inter-tribal disputes, and the Chief was to be prohibited from giving away land belonging to subordinate chiefs to speculative Europeans. As regards Stellaland, if the Deputy Commissioner did not deem it expedient to expel the white inhabitants of the so-called republic, he might recognise the land grants already issued at the same quitrents, the burghers being liable to military service if called upon for the preservation of order. Provision should also be made for the administration of the territory, and an Assistant Commissioner appointed

who should reside at Vryburg. Referring to Rooi Grond, Mr. Mackenzie was authorised to take such prompt action as he deemed desirable for the ejection of the freebooters from that district, should he think such a course necessary. It was also notified that the chiefs should be informed that they would be expected to pay their fair share of the expense of maintaining the Protectorate. The tour of the Commissioner was to be regarded as one of introductory work, and whatever appointments he might make would be provisional.

The news of this new departure by the Imperial Government was warmly received by the Colonists, who were glad to see a prospect of the gradual opening up of the native territories to European settlers under stable Government control, the rights of the natives at the same time safeguarded. The volunteers of Massouw had by this time become tired of their unsettled mode of life, and had petitioned the Cape Colony to annex Bechuanaland, but the petition was declined by the Speaker of the House of Assembly owing to a coarse attack on the new Commissioner. At first the new appointment was viewed by them with distrust, but eventually they welcomed it. The Deputy Commissioner arrived at Mankoroane's town on the 30th April. He explained to the Chief that his mission was the establishment of Her Majesty's authority in the country, and asked him to sign a treaty giving Her Majesty's Government jurisdiction over both Europeans and natives in his country. After the treaty was duly signed and witnessed, the complex land question was discussed, and it was ordered that everyone who had any claim to land in Mankoroane's country should lodge the same with the Assistant Commissioner, (the late) **Major Stanley Lowe**, for settlement at a near future date. Mr. Mackenzie, before proceeding to Vryburg, turned aside to visit the leader, Van Niekerk, as his farm. Van Niekerk professed to be astonished at the intervention of the Imperial Government, and said he earnestly desired that the whole country should be handed over to the Transvaal. He maintained that the new boundary line of the London Convention would split up the volunteers whom he had worked hard to unite, but nevertheless he admitted that the peaceful opening up of the country would be a great boon.

Approaching Vryburg on the 9th May, 1884, the Deputy Commissioner was met by a mounted body of Stellaland volunteers flying the Stellaland flag, and was welcomed as the Queen's representative. Mr. Mackenzie met the People's Committee and the public in the course of the day, when he read his commission, and stated the object of his visit. He further promised to recommend the formation of a Land Commission in the event of annexation to the Cape Colony being deferred. On the following Monday the People's Committee sat all through the day to consider the situation. On Tuesday the Committee again met Mr. Mackenzie, when the latter offered the post of Special

Assistant Commissioner to Van Niekerk, with the charge of all documents, monies, etc., belonging to the superseded government of Stellaland. Mr. Van Niekerk left himself in the hands of the people, and the Committee sanctioned Mr. Mackenzie's nomination by a majority of nine votes. The administering of the oath of allegiance was, however, deferred to Mr. Mackenzie's return from Montsioa's, when Van Niekerk was to present a report of what had been done in the meantime towards the establishment of the district.

On the 20th May the Deputy Commissioner was received with joyful demonstrations by Montsioa and his people at Mafeking. On the same day he proceeded to Rooi Grond where he was met by seven of the freebooters headed by their "Commandant-General", Mr. Bezuidenhout. On learning that the purpose of his visit was to proclaim Her Majesty's authority in Bechuanaland, the freebooters rode back to their comrades, who had assembled over the border. After a long consultation among them a message was sent to Mr. Mackenzie that the Goschenites did not want any interview with him, and he accordingly returned to Mafeking from which place he sent a public notice to Rooi Grond announcing the Protectorate, and requesting all persons claiming land at Rooi Grond to lodge their titles to same with him without delay.

The treaty was cheerfully signed by Montsioa and his headsmen, and on the same evening the Goschenites, acting under the orders of Van Pittius, made a raid on the chief's cattle and carried off a large number: Mr. Mackenzie made every effort to recover the stolen stock from the Transvaal, but without success. This conduct in the face of the new Protectorate very much frightened Montsioa, who asked Mr. Mackenzie not to leave him without some representative of Imperial authority. **Mr. J. M. Wright** was accordingly appointed Assistant Commissioner and was directed to spare no effort for the protection of the Baralong people; to discourage all aggressive movements; to cultivate friendly relations with the Transvaal officials, and generally to attend to the development and progress of the country. Mackenzie next visited and obtained the signatures of the chiefs at Pitsani, Morokweng and Ganyesa.

On the 30th June the public meeting was held at Taungs to enquire into the land questions, when the way was cleared for a future Land Commission by the weeding out of unfounded claims. When at Taungs Mr. Mackenzie expected to receive from Mr. Van Niekerk the report of his stewardship: that gentleman did not put in an appearance, but a deputation representing the Stellaland Volksraad and People's Committee waited upon the Deputy Commissioner to inform him that at a meeting held on the 20th May a resolution had been passed pledging themselves to wait until they had received an answer to their petition for annexation to the Cape Colony before committing themselves to any precise course of action. Mr. Van Niekerk suddenly

left Vryburg for his home near Christiana, and did not return, but left letters resigning the management of affairs into the hands of the People's Committee. That body now pledged themselves to render their best services to the Protectorate which had been established, and also to take steps to find out the prospects of being annexed to the Cape Colony. Telegraphic despatches received at Barkly West informed the Committee that these prospects were uncertain. Mr. Van Niekerk was now asked to come to Taungs and take the oath of his office, but he declined and refused to have any more dealings with the Deputy Commissioner.

At this juncture the Cape Parliament passed a resolution (15th July) shelving the question of Bechuanaland annexation for a year. The Imperial power had therefore the management of these difficulties in its hands for a further period, and no force adequate to cope with border disturbances had yet been raised. Mr. Van Niekerk, from the security of the Transvaal, published "proclamations" denouncing the Protectorate and calling for volunteers to assist him in combating it, offering them, if successful, the farms of those who adhered to Imperial rule. Mr. Mackenzie returned to Vryburg from Taungs on 18th July, 1884, when Mr. Bodenstein, the then Chairman of the People's Committee, congratulated him in public upon the policy adopted by him. A decisive public meeting of Stellalanders was held on the 28th, thanking the Cape Colony for deciding to consider the annexation question, and calling on the inhabitants in the meanwhile to co-operate under her Majesty's rule for the maintenance of law and order. A further resolution was passed condemning the **Treasonable Conduct** of Van Niekerk and that of his lieutenant Adriaan de la Rey. At this meeting, at the request of the Stellalanders, the flag of the Protectorate was first hoisted by Mr. Mackenzie, and the Stellaland flag was handed over to him. The High Commissioner did not approve of the hoisting of the British flag, that being a symbol of sovereignty, and Bechuanaland only a native territory under a Protectorate. On the 1st August Mr. Mackenzie issued a proclamation exhorting to peace and warning malcontents as to the consequences of waging war against a British Protectorate. This proclamation was issued without the sanction of the High Commissioner and was afterwards withdrawn from the Government Gazette by His Excellency, who did not believe that the turbulent members against whom it was directed were really as black as they were painted. At this time a deal of vacillation was manifested on the settlement of the Bechuanaland question. The publication of this proclamation also gave dire offence to the anti-English party at Cape Town, and its appearance was shortly afterwards followed by the recall of Mr. Mackenzie.

Mr. C. J. Rhodes, the a member of the Cape Opposition, offered his services to the High Commissioner as a substitute for Mr. Mackenzie, and his offer was accepted. On the 31st July the hostilities of the Boers

at Rooi Grond against Montsioa came to a point in an engagement fought near Mafeking in which the Baralong were defeated, losing over 100 men, including Mr. Christopher Bethell, who had been some time resident with Montsioa. Mr. Bethell was shot in a most cowardly manner while assisting a wounded native to escape. The next event was the capture and imprisonment of the Assistant Commissioner at Mafeking, Mr. Wright, who was entrapped under a false flag of truce, but he managed to effect his escape after ten days confinement. Although the Secretary of State, on the 4th July, wrote that any attack on protected territory must be repelled, no immediate steps seem to have been taken. In the Cape the course of events was followed with interest; Sir Thomas Scanlen's party supporting the Protectorate idea, whilst those following Messrs. Sprigg and Upington opposed it. Mr. Upington as Premier refused to carry out Sir T Scanlen's promise to co-operate with the Imperial Government in this matter, and the cry arose on all sides for the annexation of Bechuanaland to the Colony. The Cape Ministers disavowed all responsibility for any steps taken by Mr. Rhodes in his capacity as Deputy Commissioner, and his selection for the post was not followed by the beneficial results anticipated. Mr. Rhodes's main idea was to substitute a Colonial for an Imperial policy, and his attempts in this direction seem to have introduced a new element of discord in the rivalries of Cape politicians.

On his arrival at Vryburg **Mr. Rhodes** informed the officers of the Stellaland Executive in effect that the Protectorate idea was given up and that annexation to the Cape Colony would speedily follow. The volunteers were naturally puzzled to follow the reasons for this change in policy. The success of the Rooi Grond freebooters now elated the Harts River party, who, instigate by Van Niekerk, placed themselves in open antagonism to the Imperial Government. Mr. Rhodes hoped he could reconcile the Transvaal and the "loyal" sections of the volunteers and thus obviate the necessity for Imperial troops. He accordingly met Van Niekerk and his adherents on 12th August at De La Rey's farm, Passop, when the terms proposed by the freebooters included the resuscitation of the Stellaland Republic and the cancelling of all matters transacted by Mr. Mackenzie. These matters Mr. Rhodes promised to submit to the High Commissioner. Mr. Rhodes next wired that a representative of the Governor should be sent to assist him, and Capt. Bower, the Imperial Secretary, accordingly joined him. The Transvaal Government sent General Joubert to help Mr. Rhodes to effect a peaceful settlement. On their arrival at Rooi Grond the freebooters treated them with scant courtesy, continuing their attack on Mafeking without any notice of their visitors. At last, after a deal of bluster on the part of Van Pittius, a fourteen hours armistice was agreed to, when the Bestuur drew up a statement of terms expressing their willingness to accept a joint Protectorate from the Transvaal, Free State and Cape

Colony, but the free and independent of Goschen was to be respected! These proposals Mr. Rhodes also promised to submit to the High Commissioner, and asked that hostilities might be suspended in the meanwhile. This Van Pittius refused to do, and Mr. Rhodes left after warning him that he was warring with the Queen. Eventually a peace was patched up between Montsioa and Van Pittius through the intervention of General Joubert, by the terms of which Montsioa gave himself and his people unconditionally over to the Goschenites.

While Mr. Rhodes was at Rooi Grond, Captain Bower handed back the Stellaland flag to Van Niekerk and De La Rey at the latter's farm in the Transvaal, and all semblance of a Protectorate was at an end. At this meeting about 400 armed Boers were present, one of whom threatened to shoot Captain Bower, and the meeting refused to agree any terms until they ascertained how matters stood at Rooi Grond and had laid the terms before General Joubert. After much delay, caused by the high-handed conduct of the freebooters, Captain Bower drew up an agreement, which was signed by Mr. Rhodes on his return, whereby all transactions with Mr. Mackenzie were cancelled: Stellaland was granted its former Government for a period of three months (recognising however the Imperial Protectorate) pending annexation to the Cape Colony; and promising the recognition of all land titles issued by that Government.

When Mr. Rhodes and Captain Bower left Bechuanaland in September 1884, the Barolong country was virtually **in the Hands of Van Pittius** through the mediation of General Joubert, who did not acknowledge the Protectorate, and Stellaland was again in the hands of the Van Niekerk party, who also refused to recognise the Protectorate, both factions being secretly anxious for union with the Transvaal.

The Transvaal Government now professed to regard the action taken by Montsioa, the Rooi Grond freebooters, and General Joubert, in Mr. Rhodes's absence, as valid in bringing the lands of the people of Montsioa and Moshette under the jurisdiction of the Transvaal Republic, and a Proclamation to this effect was issued by President Kruger at Pretoria on the 16th September. This was followed by the hoisting of the Transvaal flag at Rooi Grond on the 3rd October by Mr. Du Toit, and the Commandant of Goschen hauled down the freebooting flag. The High Commissioner suggested to the Secretary of State that the Transvaal should be informed that Her Majesty's Government had determined to expel the Goschen freebooters by force of arms if necessary, and that the Transvaal should be informed that Her Majesty's Government had determined to expel the Goschen freebooters by force of arms if necessary, and that the Transvaal was expected to carry out in good faith the Convention of 1884. He also recommended that a force of five hundred colonists be raised under Sir Charles Warren

for the purpose stated.

The Cape Ministers now proposed that some of its members should visit Bechuanaland with a view to effecting a settlement without armed intervention, and asked that Mr. Rhodes be temporarily recalled during their visit as his presence would be "embarrassing and unnecessary". The Secretary of State on 22nd October, approved of the Ministers' endeavour, on condition that if their settlement was approved that they undertook to accept responsibility of control of Mankoroane's and Montsioa's countries. This, the Ministers said, they could not do without the consent of Parliament. It was eventually agreed that the visit should take place, one point to be observed being that Montsioa should receive back the cultivated and grazing lands he was in possession of when the Protectorate was proclaimed in May. The ministers now asked that all military preparations should be suspended in the meantime, but Her Majesty's Government decided to push forward the organising of a force without interfering with Bechuanaland while the Ministers were there trying to effect a settlement. In the 4th November Mr. Thos. Upington (Premier) and Mr. Gordon Sprigg (Treasurer) left Capetown for Bechuanaland. **Public opinion in the Colony** was not in favour of this visit: there had been already too much compromise, and it wanted no more of it now that the long-wished for Imperial help was at hand. It was the general desire that the whole question should be handed over to Sir Charles Warren, who besides being head of the Bechuanaland Expedition had also been appointed Special Commissioner. The Ministers travelled to Rooi Grond, via Taungs, Vryburg and Kunwana, and on their route they made annexation to the Cape appear to the native Chiefs as being imminent. At Rooi Grond the negotiations between the Ministers and freebooters resulted in a settlement giving, amongst other things, to Montsioa the land formerly belonging to him; all rights of whites to land to be respected as arranged in Stellaland, and promising an officer of the Colonial Government who would administer affairs in conjunction with the Bestuur pending the establishment of a fixed form of Government. This sudden conversion of the people of Goschen was distrusted and disbelieved everywhere, and the concessions made to them by the Cape Ministers excited much disapproval and indignation in the Colony. This settlement did not meet the approval of the Imperial Government and the Cape Ministers virtually washed their hands of Bechuanaland affairs. The difficulties opposed to good government, and the hindrances to progress of the period described, might have been obviated if authority had always been believed to be backed by force.

Part 3 will be in RP#69 with the conclusion in RP#70

Official Free Markings

Part 2 - Botswana

(Installment 3)

by Dennis Firth

This is the first attempt to list all the known Official Free markings use in Bechuanaland Protectorate and Botswana, which, as far as I know, have not been recorded elsewhere.

The listing will be in three main parts:

- Bechuanaland Protectorate (Runner Post #63)
- Botswana markings which show the office of use and the words "Official Free" or similar on the same handstamp
- Official Free handstamps (usually straight line) which are used in association with departmental cachets. The cachets will not be recorded, but the known offices of use will be shown against each type of Official Free marking.

Part 2 - Botswana Markings

Markings of Botswana are far more numerous than those of Bechuanaland Protectorate and will be published in several installments.

Installment 3

This installment covers departments beginning with letters E through to M.

Acknowledgment

I am indebted to Sir John Inglefield-Watson, John Schaerer, Gordon Smith and Bruce Warrender for sending me details of items they have in their collections.

Markings are listed in alphabetical order of the departmental inscription shown on the handstamps. The number to the right of the description is my reference number. For a future update I would be looking for some assistance in using the postmark typology to describe the markings.

Dates are in dd-mm-yyyy format.
Struck in black - unless indicated



EDUCATION OFFICER
P.O. BOX 83
GANTSI BOTSWANA
[STRUCK IN RED]

345

Gantsi 10-08-2001

Triple Oval 56mm x 31mm



FRANCISTOWN TEACHER TRAINING
COLLEGE

350

22-05-2001 to 12-11-2001

Single Circle 43mm



GAME WARDEN MAUN
BOTSWANA
[examples STRUCK IN RED]

355

Maun 28-05-1991 to 17-02-1992
28-05-1991 and 03-06-1991 (black) others (red)

Double(?) Oval 56mm x 35mm

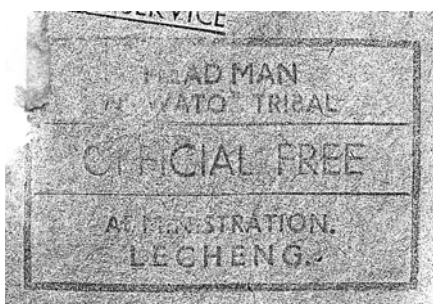


GOVERNMENT PRINTER
BOTSWANA

360

Gaborone 27-11-2001

Triple Oval 55mm x 33mm

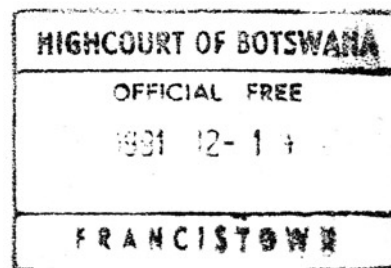


HEAD MAN
N'WATO TRIBAL
ADMINISTRATION
LECHENG

365

Lechweng 20-05-1983

Rectangle 52mm x 33mm

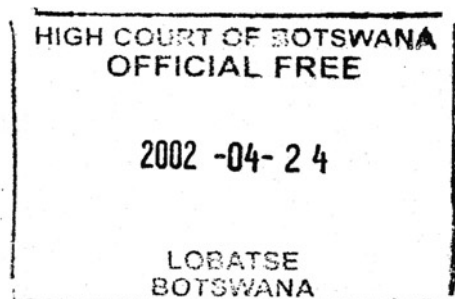


HIGH COURT OF BOTSWANA
FRANCISTOWN
[STRUCK IN RED]

370

Francistown 13-12-1991 to 14-12-1991

Rectangle 51mm x 34mm

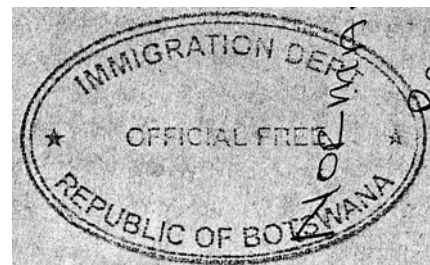


HIGH COURT OF BOTSWANA
LOBATSE
BOTSWANA
[STRUCK IN RED]

375

Sorting Centre Gaborone
13-06-2001 to 24-04-2002

Rectangle 58mm x 38mm



IMMIGRATION DEPT.
REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

380

Sorting Centre Gaborone 23-11-2002

Double Oval 53mm x 33mm

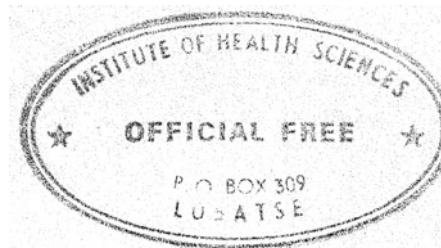


INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION
PRIVATE BAG 00284
GABORONE
BOTSWANA
[STRUCK IN RED]

385

Gaborone 19-12-2001 to 28-06-2002

Triple Circle 37/38mm



INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
P.O. BOX 309
LOBATSE

390

Gaborone 12-09-2005

Double Oval 56mm x 30mm



LABOUR OFFICE
FRANCISTOWN

395

Francistown 05-08-1982

Double Oval 55mm x 33mm

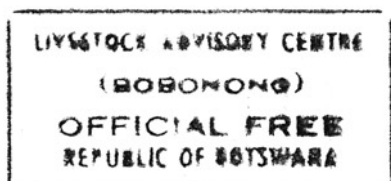


LEDUMANG SENIOR SEC? SCHOOL
P/BAG BR 164 GABORONE

400

Gaborone - *date not known*

Rectangle 50mm x 19mm

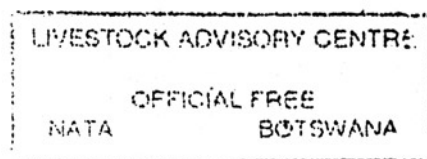


LIVESTOCK ADVISORY CENTRE
(BOBONONG)
REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

405

Sorting Centre Pota 19-10-2004 to 02-11-2004

Rectangle 50mm x 19mm

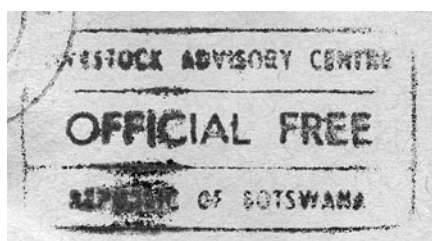


LIVESTOCK ADVISORY CENTRE
NATA BOTSWANA

407

Nata 12-10-2004 to 27-10-2004

Rectangle 55mm x 19mm



LIVESTOCK ADVISORY CENTRE
REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

409

[examples STRUCK IN RED]

Gantsi 21-10-2004

Jwaneng 12-10-2004 to 02-11-2004 (Red)

Tsabong 12-10-2004 to 14-11-2004

Rectangle 50mm x 33mm



MATSHEKGE HILL SCHOOL
BOBONONG
BOTSWANA

415

Place not known - 25-05-1993

Double Oval 50mm x 34mm



MEDICAL OFFICER INCHARGE
P.O. BOX 120
SEROWE BOTSWANA

420

Masunga 07-04-1992

Triple Circle 44mm

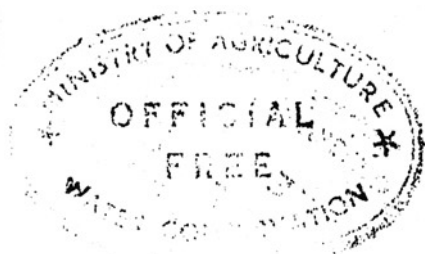


MEDICAL STORES
GABORONE BOTSWANA

425

Gaborone 27-11-1986

Double Oval 44mm x 30mm



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
WATER CONSERVATION

430

Palapye 08-10-2004 to 05-11-2004 04-11-2004

Double Oval 54mm x 33mm



MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
P/BAG 0047 GABORONE
BOTSWANA TEL 353024

435

Gaborone 25-08-2000 to 12-12-2000

Rectangle 58mm x 38mm

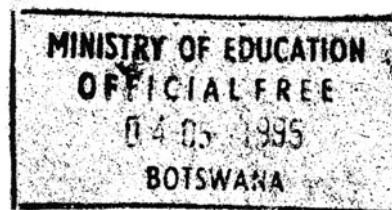


MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
BOTSWANA

440

Gaborone 15-10-1980

Triple Oval 55mm x 33mm



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
BOTSWANA

442

[example STRUCK IN RED]

Gaborone 10-02-1995 (Red)
Gaborone 04-05-1995

Rectangle 51mm x 25mm



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPT. OF STUDENT PLACEMENT
& WELFARE
P/BAG 005 GABORONE BOTSWANA

444

Place not known - 27-08-2001

Double Oval 56mm x 34mm



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, HEALTH
AND LABOUR
BOTSWANA

446

Gaborone 05-03-1970

Double Oval 57mm x 34mm

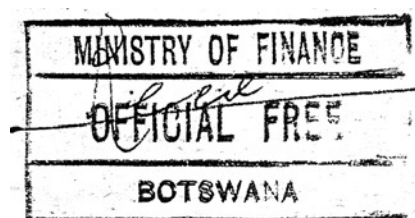


MINISTRY OF FINANCE & DEVT. PLANNING
REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

448

Place and date not known

Triple Oval 58mm x 35mm



MINISTRY OF FINANCE
BOTSWANA

450

Place not known - 22-10-1966

Rectangle 50mm x 26mm



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

455

Gaborone 14-11-1980

Triple Oval 50mm x 25mm



MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

460

Gaborone 24-09-1980


Triple Oval 54mm x 34mm

	
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA	462
Gaborone 13-11-1985	
Rectangle 50mm x 20mm	

	
Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA	465
Sorting Centre, Gaborone 24-03-2000	
Rectangle 50mm x 19mm	

	
MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT LANDS & HOUSING PRIVATE BAG 6 GABORONE BOTSWANA [STRUCK IN RED]	470
Sorting Centre, Gaborone 17-05-2001	
Rectangle 51mm x 31mm	

	
MINISTRY OF WORKS TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT	475
Gaborone 1993	
Rectangle 82mm x 24mm	

	
Ministry of Works Transport & Communications Botswana Government	477
Gaborone 16-10-2001	
Rectangle 69mm x 21mm	

If any member has Botswana items in their collection which are not listed above (letters E to M) or are used outside any date range shown, or differ in place used or ink colour - please send me full details.

Photocopies of unlisted items would be appreciated which show the date and place of use and the colour of marking if other than black.

Images, scans and e-mails can be sent via the Editor.

Dennis Firth, 28 Greenside Drive, Wortley, Leeds. LS12 4SF, UK.

The final part of this listing will appear in Runner Post #69

Checklist of Botswana Postmarks (Second Series)

Part Seven

The seventh installment from the Botswana Postmark Project Team as they continue to extend the earlier work done on Botswana Postmarks (First Series) by Brian Trotter. The study follows the same Postal Marking Classification System (Typology) as the First series and continues numbering from the First series.

The Project Team consists of Bruce Warrender, John Inglefield-Watson, Peter Thy and David Wall - with assistance from Sheila Case, Barbara Andersson, Steen Jelgren, Dennis Firth, David Allison (non member) and Peter Jukes.

The earliest date being included in this "Second Series" is 01-Jun-1995 i.e. only new postmarks and markings appearing after this date, which have not

been previously recorded, are included.


"Number so far recorded" only includes what is contained in the collections of the small number of members working on the Postmark Project and **does not** necessarily represent relative scarcity.


During the course of this study new types of sub-variants for some of the postmarks have been found. It is hoped to publish a list of the new variants at the end of the project.


Further information on recorded postmarks, copies of better illustrations, and, of course, information on unrecorded markings is welcome and should be sent to Bruce Warrender (post) or e-mailed to the Editor.


Bruce wishes to thank all the team members for their contributions.


For Offices Beginning - NAT-PHO


NATA	No 8 Type 2 B 51	
	Circle diameters	18mm & 27mm
	Earliest recorded date	15-Feb-1996
	Latest recorded date	15-Feb-1996
	Number so far recorded	1

NATA	No 9 Type 2 F ??	
	Has two characters after {OFFICE NAME} C and either A, B or 3 - unable to confirm pmk type	
	Circle diameters	18mm & 28mm
	Earliest recorded date	28-Jun-1999
	Latest recorded date	06-Feb-2002
	Number so far recorded	2


NATA	No 10 Type 21 F 33	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 36mm
	Earliest recorded date	06-Feb-2002
	Latest recorded date	06-Feb-2002
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant 33. [OFFICE NAME] followed by "POST OFFICE" at top with "BOTSWANA" at base.		


NKANGE	No 5 Type 21 B 51	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	06-Feb-2002
	Latest recorded date	06-Jul-2005
	Number so far recorded	3

NKANGE	No 6 Type REGN 5 Struck in purple	
	Box dimensions	9mm by 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	04-Jul-2002
	Latest recorded date	04-Jul-2002
	Number so far recorded	1


NOJANE	No 5 Type 2 F 33	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 36mm
	Earliest recorded date	15-Aug-2002
	Latest recorded date	15-Aug-2002
	Number so far recorded	1


NOKANENG	This Postal Agency was opened on 13-Oct-1995 in the North West region near Gumare
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NOKANENG	No 1 Type 2 B 51	
	Circle diameters	18mm & 27mm
	Earliest recorded date	05-Oct-1999
	Latest recorded date	05-Oct-1999
	Number so far recorded	1


NOKANENG	No 2 Type 61 J 27 Struck in red	
	Outer oval dimensions	34mm & 57mm
	Earliest recorded date	16-Aug-2002
	Latest recorded date	16-Aug-2002
	Number so far recorded	1


NORTHERN SORTING CENTRE (TATITOWN)	This office was opened on 09-Nov-1999 and sorts all the mail to and from the north of the country.
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NORTHERN SORTING CENTRE (TATITOWN)	No 1 Type 21 J 44 Normal sequence year/month/day/time. One item year/day/month/time	
	Circle diameters	23mm & 37mm
	Earliest recorded date	17-Nov-2000
	Latest recorded date	23-Nov-2004
	Number so far recorded	16
New sub-variant 44. "NORTHERN SORTING CENTRE" at top with "TATITOWN" at base.		


NORTHERN SORTING CENTRE (TATITOWN)	No 2 Type 61 X 13 Struck in red Normal sequence year/month/day. Two items day/month/year	
	Outer oval dimensions	37mm & 59mm
	Earliest recorded date	14-Jul-2000
	Latest recorded date	11-Nov-2004
	Number so far recorded	4
New sub-variant 33. "NORTHERN SORTING" above TATITOWN (2 lines) at top with "BOTSWANA POSTAL SERVICES" at base.		

NSWAZWI	No 3 Type 21 F 22	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	04-Aug-2000
	Latest recorded date	03-Oct-2001
	Number so far recorded	2

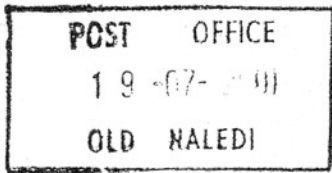
NTLHANTLHE	No 4 Type 21 F 22	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	07-Feb-2002
	Latest recorded date	07-Feb-2002
	Number so far recorded	1


NTSHINOGE	No 3 Type 2 B 51	
	Circle diameters	18mm & 26mm
	Earliest recorded date	02-Apr-1996
	Latest recorded date	19-Jul-2001
	Number so far recorded	5


NTSHINOGE	No 4 Type 21 B 51	
	One item year/month/day. One item year/day/month	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	19-Jul-2001
	Latest recorded date	05-Feb-2002
	Number so far recorded	2


NTSHINOGE 	No 5 Type 5 J 26 Struck in red	
	Oval dimensions	41mm & 55mm
	Earliest recorded date	19-Jul-2001
	Latest recorded date	19-Jul-2001
	Number so far recorded	1


OLD NALEDI	This office is in Gaborone. Date of opening is unknown.
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OLD NALEDI 	No 1 Type 8 J 26 Struck in red	
	Box dimensions	21mm by 42mm
	Earliest recorded date	19-Jul-2001
	Latest recorded date	19-Jul-2001
	Number so far recorded	1


OODI 	No 7 Type 21 B 55	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	02-May-2001
	Latest recorded date	14-May-2003
	Number so far recorded	2

OODI 	No 8 Type 21 B 56(1)	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	12-Apr-2000
	Latest recorded date	04-Nov-2004
	Number so far recorded	3


ORAPA	No 21 Type 21 B 51	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	20-Sep-2000
	Latest recorded date	04-Feb-2002
	Number so far recorded	3


ORAPA	No 22 Type 21 B 55	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	04-May-2000
	Latest recorded date	20-Feb-2006
	Number so far recorded	16


ORAPA	No 23 Type 8 J 26 Struck in red	
	Box dimensions	25mm by 45mm
	Earliest recorded date	17-Nov-2000
	Latest recorded date	31-Aug-2001
	Number so far recorded	3


ORAPA	No 24 Type MISC 6 z 21 Struck in red	
	Outer oval dimensions	38mm by 58mm
	Earliest recorded date	04-Feb-2002
	Latest recorded date	04-Feb-2002
	Number so far recorded	1


New sub-variant z 21. "POSTMASTER" above [OFFICE NAME] at top (2 lines) with "BOTSWANA" at base.

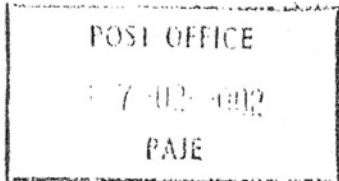
ORAPA	No 25 Type MISC 6 z 42 Struck in red	
	Outer oval diameters	40mm by 60mm
	Earliest recorded date	11-Nov-2004
	Latest recorded date	11-Nov-2004
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant z 42. "RECLAMATION" at top with [OFFICE NAME] followed by "POST OFFICE" at base.		


ORAPA	No 26 Type MISC 11	
	[OFFICE NAME] above design with the words "Census Botswana 2001:- Be there to be counted 17th - 26th August 2001"	
	Earliest recorded date	06-Aug-2001
	Latest recorded date	06-Aug-2001
	Number so far recorded	1


OTSE	No 8 Type 21 B 56(1)	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	22-Apr-2003
	Latest recorded date	22-Apr-2003
	Number so far recorded	1


OTSE	No 9 Type 21 F 10	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	24-Feb-2000
	Latest recorded date	25-Sep-2000
	Number so far recorded	2


PAJE	No 3 Type 21 F 22	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	07-Feb-2002
	Latest recorded date	07-Feb-2002
	Number so far recorded	1


PAJE	No 4 Type 8 J 26 Struck in red	
	Box dimensions	24mm by 43mm
	Earliest recorded date	07-Feb-2002
	Latest recorded date	07-Feb-2002
	Number so far recorded	1


PALAPYE	No 22 Type 21 B 55	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	08-Jul-2002
	Latest recorded date	08-Jul-2002
	Number so far recorded	1


PALAPYE	No 23 Type 21 B 56(1)	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	20-Dec-2000
	Latest recorded date	07-Sep-2002
	Number so far recorded	2

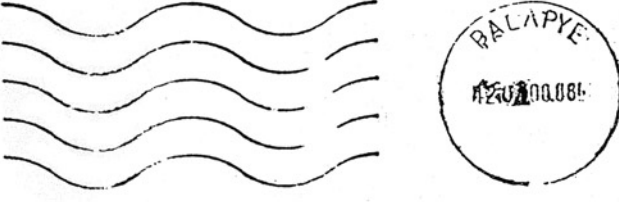
PALAPYE	No 24 Type 21 B 56(2)	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	20-Dec-2000
	Latest recorded date	09-Oct-2001
	Number so far recorded	4

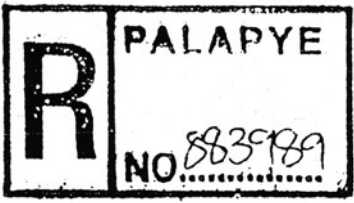
PALAPYE	No 25 Type 21 B 56(3)	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	20-Dec-2000
	Latest recorded date	20-Dec-2000
	Number so far recorded	1


PALAPYE	No 26 Type 21 B 56(4)	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	02-Aug-2000
	Latest recorded date	11-Jul-2001
	Number so far recorded	3


PALAPYE	No 27 Type 21 B 56(5)	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	03-Sep-2002
	Latest recorded date	26-mar-2003
	Number so far recorded	3


PALAPYE	No 28 Type 5 M 19(4)	
	Oval dimensions	31mm by 46mm
	Earliest recorded date	09-Nov-2004
	Latest recorded date	09-Nov-2004
	Number so far recorded	1


PALAPYE	No 29 Type MACH 2 e	
	Sequence is day/month/year/time	
	Circle diameter	24mm
	Wave elements	50mm (2 full waves starting at a peak)
	Earliest recorded date	12-Jul-2000
	Latest recorded date	06-Apr-2004
	Number so far recorded	19
New sub-variant e. Single circle with [OFFICE NAME] at top with 5 line wave element to left.		

PALAPYE	No 30 Type REGN 2 a	
	Box dimensions	26mm by 45mm
	Earliest recorded date	15-Jun-1999
	Latest recorded date	03-Jul-2001
	Number so far recorded	6


PALAPYE	No 31 Type REGN 6	
	Lettering dimensions	16mm long 5mm± high
	Earliest recorded date	24-Oct-1995
	Latest recorded date	03-Apr-1996
	Number so far recorded	4

PAPATLO	No 5 Type 21 F 22	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	28-Mar-2000
	Latest recorded date	28-Mar-2000
	Number so far recorded	1

PARAKARUNGU	No 3 Type 21 F 22 Note spelling error	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	31-Mar-2000
	Latest recorded date	31-Mar-2000
	Number so far recorded	1

PELENG	No 2 Type 21 F 22	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 36mm
	Earliest recorded date	20-Dec-2000
	Latest recorded date	20-Dec-2000
	Number so far recorded	1

PHOKENG	This office was not listed on the 1999 list of Post Offices, but appears to have been open that year.
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PHOKENG	No 2 Type 21 E(3)	
	Circle diameters	18mm & 30mm
	Earliest recorded date	03-May-1999
	Latest recorded date	03-May-1999
	Number so far recorded	1

Minutes of Annual General Meeting (2006)

taken by Dennis Firth

Saturday 28th October 2006 at 12:45pm.

Room 22, Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, London.

Members Present

Brian Trotter (Chairman), Dennis Firth, Malcolm Hodgson, Brian Hurst, Peter Jukes, Neville Midwood, Tony Stanford and Joe Taylor

Apologies for Absence

Chris Cordes, Robert Cowen, David Crocker, Sir John Inglefield-Watson, Dr Bill Latzko, Adrian Parsons, Gordon Smith, Morris Taber and Peter van der Molen

Minutes of the Last AGM

It was agreed these be signed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

Membership Secretary's Report

Neville reported that the Society membership stood at 103. He keeps receiving enquiries and sends out details. But only a few of these bear fruit. He will re-examine the Society's website.

Editor's Report

Neville stated that three issues of Runner Post and an Index had been published in the last year and another would be published in November. 22 members voted in respect of including articles on Basutoland and Swaziland. 16 were in favour, 3 against and 3 with no strong opinion. 11 members were in favour of these being in a separate section at the back of the journal. It was agreed to contact Peter van der Molen to see if he would help with contributed articles on Basutoland and Swaziland.

Secretary's Report

Malcolm congratulated Neville on the high standard of recent issues of Runner Post and stated that our next meetings would be on 24th February at 14:30 and 3rd November at 12:45; both during Philatex at the Royal Horticultural Hall.

Treasurer's Report

Brian Hurst reported that the Society had again enjoyed a successful financial year, showing a surplus of £798.80 for the period 1st July 2005 to 30th June 2006.

This was achieved as a result of a number of factors. There was a small increase in subscription charges, and the principle of subsidising the cost of membership in Southern Africa was abandoned. There was also a profit of £291.87 provided by the annual Postal Bid sale. Runner Post costs were down largely as a result of postal charges since only two postings were made during the year. The reduction was not as large as might have been expected since the first mailing was very large, including as it did the cumulative index to Runner Post and the magazine itself.

This brings the accumulated surplus at 30th June to £3535.88 as can be seen in the accounts.

Subscriptions for the current year are still arriving and as usual there are a number of diehards who will need nudging yet again before paying up. Four members have resigned. Currently there are just two non-payers in the UK and three in Botswana. All other members worldwide have paid. Assuming these laggards pay up, we will start the year with 102 members, and a reduction in annual membership income of £34 in total.

The Society's banking arrangements have been altered by merging the current cheque account with the deposit account at the Nationwide Building Society. This means that the Society now earns a tax-free interest of 2.27% on all its assets rather than just money on deposit.

Brian was confident that the Society, allowing for the production of three issues of Runner Post, can operate comfortably within the budget during the current year without the need to adjust subscription charges.

Adoption of the accounts was carried, proposed Malcolm Hodgson, seconded Joe Taylor.

Brian Hurst expressed grateful thanks to Joe Taylor for auditing the society's accounts for the past five years and for all the help he had received in compiling the accounts. Brian stated that more auction material would be required for the 2007 sale. Thanks were expressed to Brian for continuing to run the auctions so well.

Appointment of Auditor

Andrew Higson was appointed Auditor, proposed Brian Hurst, seconded Malcolm Hodgson.

Chairman's Report

Brian Trotter stated that this would be his last meeting as our Chairman. He had been Chairman when the Society opened in 1895, continuing until 1988, and again from 2002 up to the present time. He had now stopped collecting the Bechuanalands.

Election of Officers and Members of the Committee

Chairman BRIAN HURST, Vice-Chairman DENNIS FIRTH, Secretary MALCOLM HODGSON, Treasurer JOE TAYLOR, Editor NEVILLE MIDWOOD, Membership Secretary NEVILLE MIDWOOD, Auctioneer BRIAN HURST, Archivist BRIAN HURST, Minutes Secretary DENNIS FIRTH, Overseas Representatives: South Africa ALAN MACGREGOR, Botswana JOHN SCHAERER, America PETER THY

New Chairman's Address

Brian Hurst expressed thanks to Brian Trotter for all he had done for the Society over many years and wished him luck in his work in the British Philatelic Trust, as secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society and in running the 2010 International Exhibition. He also expressed thanks to Neville for his work as Editor of the Runner Post and his efforts in trying to increase membership; and to Steve Wallace and Bruce Warrender for their work on the Rarer Stamps and Postmarks studies. He said he is still struggling to gain access to the Botswana Philatelic archives.

The organisers of the 2010 International Exhibition are appealing for funds and are requesting sponsorship of frames at £10 each, there been 1200 frames. Sponsors will receive publicity as the frames will bear the sponsor's name. Brian Hurst proposed that the Society donate £1000 from Society funds immediately. An amendment was proposed by Dennis that we donate £500 now and £500 later on. A vote was taken, the amendment was not carried but the original proposal was.

Displays - The chosen topic was the letter 'C'.

Malcolm Hodgson chose Cattle as his subject. He showed the George V, George VI and Elizabeth II definitives. The 1961 surcharges and 1971 Fifth Anniversary of Independence stamps all showing cattle; and various stamps showing the abattoirs at Francistown and Lobatsi, cattle pulling implements, milk and meat transport and ploughing.

Peter Jukes contribution included a 1982 yellow billed stork strip of four, showing the middle two stamps with blue colour missing, the third with it partly missing; the 2000 Chiefs 35c stamp with value missing; the 2t on 2c Mineral stamp with overprint larger than normal and the 1947 Royal Visit set on a cover sent from the Mahalapye Hotel. The Royal Train stopped at Mahalapye on its way from Victoria Falls to Lobatsi.

Brian Hurst produced an 1822 cover addressed to Robert Moffat, thought to be the earliest cover sent to Bechuanaland; and an 1843 letter sent to David Livingstone from Kuruman. Brian has ascertained that the correct pronunciation of Bechuanaland is Bechuanaland not Beckuanaland.

In addition a copy of the Botswana Gazette was circulated showing details and pictures of the recent Exhibition mounted by the Botswana Philatelic Society in Gaborone.

The 17th Postal Bid Sale

Although I have striven to limit the size of the Postal Bid sales recently, their undoubted success has meant a particularly large influx of material for sale this year. As a result, I now have the task of presenting a sale of 212 lots, being the largest I have ever conducted.

There is a huge variety of material which must surely be of interest to most members, be they collectors or dealers. Please look carefully through the list. I have tried to describe each lot as accurately as possible and to present realistic estimates. Remember that under the Society bidding rules, the sale of each lot opens at just 75% of the estimated price, and that the successful bidder pays just a single advance on the bid immediately below his.

Please note that the provisional catalogue available at the Society meeting at Philatex is now superseded by the one enclosed, and should not be relied upon for bidding purposes owing to the alteration of the numbers for most lots.

Scans of all lots are available on request to allow a precise study of the condition of any item.

I look forward to receiving your bids. This may be the largest ever sale, but let's make it the most successful also.

Brian Hurst, Auctioneer.

TRANSVAAL STUDY CIRCLE

www.transvaal.org.uk

Jeff Woolgar

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To: Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society
Bechuanaland & Botswana Philatelic Society
Natal and Zululand Study Circle
Orange Free State Study Circle
South African Collectors' Society
Transvaal Study Circle

Meeting at SWINPEX 2007

I would appreciate if you could publicise the meeting set out below to your membership and as the meeting will also be open to non-members, please pass the word on to any you think may be interested. Feel free to publicise the meeting further to encourage both existing members and new recruits. To this end, please bring along promotional material to the event.

Annual Meeting of Southern Africa Specialist Societies

Saturday 9th June 2007, 1.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

St. Joseph's School, in Ocotal Way, Swindon, Wiltshire.

This is the newly built school on the corner of Ocotal Way and Drakes Way. (This is situated on the playing field of the old building but to the North). I'm sorry but I have no map.

The Stamp fair, displays and refreshments will commence from 10.00 a.m. until 4.00 p.m.

As noted above our meeting will start at 1.30 p.m., but we do have the room from 1.00 p.m. if anyone would like to arrive early. All are welcome and invited to bring along items for discussion and display; the format of the meeting to be as previous years. It would be appreciated if anyone would care to donate a raffle prize to the Swindon Philatelic Society. Please bring these along on the day and hand to the raffle table, thanks.

There is a small charge for the room which the TSC will pay.

I usually organise an advertisement in the Swinpex programme, however, it is now too late for me to do so. It may be possible for individual societies to take a small advertisement by contacting Dave Gibbon on - **gibbon@wroughton52.fsnet.co.uk**

Many thanks,

Jeff

BECHUANALAND REVENUES



1931 (Oct): Page (185x330mm) from a 'Deed of Lease' document bearing nine examples of the South Africa KGV £1 deep green and scarlet revenue stamp overprinted 'Bechuanaland / Revenue Only.' comprising three horizontal strips of three.

The left stamp of the upper strip shows the wider 2mm spacing, set-tenant with 1mm spacing on the other two stamps. The other strips all show 1mm spacing. Each stamp is initialed and dated '7/X/31'. The £1 was not previously recorded by T&M with the wider spacing. The two settings were previously thought to have been issued some years apart (though the £1 with 2mm spacing may be an anomaly within a later 1mm setting). A very attractive and rare multiple of this issue on document, especially showing two settings set-tenant. All with superb fresh colour. T&M 12.6 + T&M 12.6v1(pair) £850

Over 600 priced items of Stellaland, the Bechuanalands and Botswana are listed and illustrated on www.rhodesia.co.za

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