

The Runner Post

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November 2007

DAVID CROCKER

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2007 Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting took place at 12:45 on Saturday 3rd November 2007 in Room 22 at The Royal Horticultural Hall, London (Philatex)

Minutes of the AGM will be published in a forthcoming issue of *The Runner Post*, so here are just the key changes.

The main Society Officer change was the standing down of Malcolm Hodgson as Secretary, the job being taken on by Roger Howard, one of the Society's

founder members.

In addition I handed over the job of Membership Secretary to our Treasurer, Joe Taylor. This makes it easier for new and existing members to know who to contact and send subscriptions to.

The Accounts showed that the Society broke even, in spite of £1800 of additional expenses (contribution to Stamp 2010 and a new printer). The subscription rates for 2008/9 will therefore remain unchanged.

DIARY OF EVENTS

2008

February Runner Post #71. Articles by 1st week of January please

21st to 23rd Feb. Spring Philatex. Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, London
 2.30pm to 4.00pm Informal BBS meeting in Room 31
 4.00pm to 5.00pm Joint Southern Africa societies meeting in Room 31

Spring 17th Postal Bid Sale

30th Oct. to 1st Nov. Autumn Philatex. Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, London
 12.45pm to 2.45pm BBS AGM and displays in Room 33

The Society encourages members to bring Bechuanaland or Botswana philatelic material to Society meetings. If members plan to bring along such material, or if they have questions, however minor, it would be helpful if they could alert the Secretary. 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.

NEW MEMBERS

There have been a good number of new or returning members since I last noted them in Runner Post #67. A number of the new members bought the Postal Stationary Book and took up the free one year membership offer.

Malcolm Batty
 Hans-Guenther Blach
 Eddie Bridges
 Gary Brown
 Dr John M Gledhill
 Donald W Jatho
 Don Jeffreys
 George King
 Philip Loosemore
 Jack Newman
 Andy Pocock
 Neil Sargent

Leicester, UK
 Bubesheim, GERMANY
 Northants, UK
 Victoria, AUSTRALIA
 Warwick, UK
 Austin, Texas, USA
 Amersham, UK
 Surbiton, UK
 Nottingham, UK
 Fareham, UK
 Birmingham, UK
 Falmouth, UK

Sadly I also have to report the death of one of our members: Ken Thornton of Harare in Zimbabwe. Ken's wife Olive will be continuing his subscription.

The John Inglefield-Watson Sale

report by Brian Hurst

Dealers and collectors gathered at Spink's saleroom in London, on the 13th October 2007, for the auction of John's collection of the Bechuanalands, Somaliland and the Sudan.

It was a little sad to realise that one of the world's greatest collections of the Bechuanalands, accumulated over a considerable number of years with great enthusiasm and scholarship, was about to be broken up and dispersed.

I waited for the start of the sale with some trepidation, fearing that the bids I had pencilled in would be ineffective against the current philatelic market, which

seems particularly buoyant in the early classic stamps that form the mainstay of my own collection.

The early part of the sale largely followed the prices estimated by Spink; some a little under and some a little over. One or two of the classic rarities from the 1885 issue such as the 1d. rose-red 'ritish' error (SG5a), sold for double estimate, although a copy of the 2d. pale bistre with double overprint (SG6c) went unsold.

After some 25 lots, the section covering the 1887 'Unappropriated Dies' was reached, and the bidding suddenly went ballistic. From this point in the sale until the end of the British Bechuanaland section was



reached over 80 lots later, only one very unattractive lot went unsold. All other lots, with one exception, went at prices exceeding estimates, in some instances by very large margins. The star of this section, and indeed of the entire sale, was lot 1047, a set of imperforate imprimaturs of the 'Unappropriated Dies' which, after some spirited bidding, sold for £21,000 as against an estimate of £12,000 to £15,000 **[Image: Inside Back Cover]**. All stamps of the period fetched remarkable prices, and this did not apply simply to the rarities. For example, lot 1080, a left-hand pane of 60 stamps of the 2d. bistre SG32, typeset, fetched £1,200 against an estimated price of £200-250. I think my own jaw hit the floor when a copy of SG23c, the 1888 2d. on 2d. surcharged in green instead of red, was knocked down for £3,800 which meant that, with buyer's premium added, the purchaser would have paid £4587 for a not especially rare stamp that has a Gibbons catalogue price of £3,500.

A number of other rarer stamps in this section exceeded their catalogue prices, including a mint marginal copy of SG29a in pair with normal which sold for £13,056 including premium (catalogue £7,170) a mint copy of SG30a at £2,346 (catalogue £1500) **[Image: above 400%]** and a mint copy of SG30ba at £5057 (catalogue £3500) **[Image: right 400%]**

The pattern continued throughout the section for Protectorate stamps with especially high prices being achieved by multiples. For example, a block of twelve of the 3d. on 3d. lilac and black (SG43) was knocked down for £2,400 against an estimate of £800-£1000. The highest price in this section was the £7175 (inc. premium) paid for a mint copy of SG46a, the 1s. green and black with first "o" of "Protectorate" missing (catalogue price £5500), although this price was almost matched by the two great rarities of the 1961 decimal

surcharges, the 2½c. error (SG159b) achieving £6,939 including premium (catalogue £4,000) and the 10c. error (SG163a) making £5,410 (catalogue £2,750)

The section covering the stamps of Botswana comprised just six lots, but once again the prices paid dramatically exceeded the catalogue estimates.

The remainder of the Bechuanalands and Botswana part of the sale was the disposal of John's extensive collection of postal stationery and also his covers. Prices achieved were much more modest, the auctioneer struggled to make a sale on a number of occasions, and "unsolds" started to appear. I began to wish that I collected postal stationery since there were certainly bargains to be had. Covers fared little better, and even the famous and exceedingly rare "Kanye bisect" went unsold. I was very pleased to pick up a couple of 1892 "Sitwell" covers complete with letters for just £60 the pair; one of my few purchases of the day.

Some 389 lots and 3½ hours after the sale commenced, the Bechuanalands and Botswana section came to an end having achieved a hammer price in excess of £220,000. The total for the entire sale, including John's Somaliland and Sudan collections was £372,457, and anyone wishing to view the results in detail or see the sale catalogue will find the information on-line at <http://www.spink.com>

I left the sale with considerable misgivings about the impact the spiralling prices will have for the future of Bechuanalands philately. It was obvious to me that, at this sale, there was a single buyer who had a considerable sum of money at his disposal and was determined to build up a world-class Bechuanaland collection at a stroke. Nevertheless the adage "it takes two to tango" is very relevant at auctions and it must be remembered that it took other bidders to drive him up to the levels he was paying.



The 17th Postal Bid Sale, Spring 2008

An announcement by Brian Hurst

The Society's annual Postal Bid Sale has become a widely supported annual fixture.

As Auctioneer, I invite members to submit material that they would like included in the next sale which will be held in Spring 2008.

Lots should be suitably described, and a note attached of any reserve price to be observed. All material should be sent to the address given in the front of Runner Post, to reach me no later than 31st January 2008.

I reserve the right to reject material which I consider sub-standard and, in consultation with the vendor, to amend descriptions and alter estimates as I see fit.

The sale is an important source of revenue for the Society, which takes a commission from the vendor of just 10% on each lot sold.

I look forward to receiving some good material for a good sale.

Brian Hurst, Auctioneer

BEC2 'SPECIMEN' handstamp on Bechuanalands stamps - a mystery solved.

by Brian Hurst

The specimen handstamp applied to certain British Bechuanaland and Bechuanaland Protectorate stamps sent to Berne for U.P.U. distribution has always presented something of an enigma. This overprint (**Fig.1**), with large serif capital letters hand stamped diagonally in black (and later in purple) was applied to the stamps of the Bechuanalands issued between 1887 and 1891 and distributed by the U.P.U. It was re-employed some years later by the Receiving Authorities of the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

The mystery has been a lack of any concrete evidence to indicate where, and on whose authority, the handstamp was applied. H.R. Holmes, in his book on the philately of the Bechuanalands does not attempt to speculate, and Marcus Samuel, the leading expert on 'Specimen' stamps states "It is highly improbable that the stamps required for U.P.U. distribution were overprinted by the Bechuanaland postal authorities, but more probable that the operation was performed by those of the Cape of Good Hope, even though the specimens of their own stamps they provided for U.P.U. distribution were never overprinted."

The recent discovery in the Cape National Archives of a British Bechuanaland Minute Paper emanating from the Receiver General of the Colony, dated 19th April 1892 and headed "Gratis Issue Stamps to Postal Bureau at Berne £2516.14.6½" has, in its contents, provided the answer to the mystery. The Minute Paper was issued as the result of a letter dated 23rd March 1892 from the Comptroller and Auditor General at Somerset House in London to the Receiver General in Vryburg, British Bechuanaland, expressing concern at the attempt by the Colony to write off this rather large sum of money.



Figure 1: BEC2 specimen handstamp

As an example of civil service jargon and bureaucracy of the time, it is worth repeating in full:

"Sir,

The attention of the Comptroller and Auditor General has been drawn to Local Auditor's Query No.165, British Bechuanaland 1890/1, and to your reply thereto, relative to an amount of £2516.14.6½, written off, in the account of the Postmaster General of that Colony for the month of September 1890, as representing the value of Stamps issued gratis to the Director of the International Postal Bureau at Berne. With regard to this transaction I am to point out that a more convenient mode of procedure would apparently have been to have requested the Commissioners of Inland Revenue in London to supply the International Postal Bureau with the stamps required through their officer, the Controller of Stamps, as is the usual practice. As, however, the course indicated was not adopted, I am to request that you will be so good as to state, for the information of the Comptroller and Auditor General whether the Stamps issued direct from the Colony were cancelled by imprinting the word "Specimen" upon them as is customary in such cases, and, that, in the event of this having been done, it may be explained where and by what process such imprinting was carried out. I am further to request that details as to the number and value of the Stamps making up the sum of £2516.14.6½ as shown in the "Payments" side of the Postmaster's



Figure 2: The BEC2 specimen handstamp applied to a strip of 3 of the Bechuanaland Protectorate 4d. stamp of 1889 as issued by the International Bureau of Posts

Account, may be furnished. In conclusion I am to state that the Comptroller and Auditor General will be unable to allow the writing off of this large amount without satisfactory evidence of the receipt by the International Postal Bureau at Berne of the Stamps representing in value the sum in question.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
F. Phillips"

Although there is no record of the reply to this letter, the Minute Paper which circulated between the various Offices in Vryburg, gathering information to formulate a reply, contains the following relevant passage:

"The stamps referred to in the letter from the Comptroller and Auditor General were obtained, at the request of the Postmaster General of the Cape Colony, for the International Bureau of Posts, Berne, Switzerland. The Postmaster General here appears to have applied for 348 Stamps of each denomination although only 345 were asked for by the Director of the International Bureau. I am informed that the remaining three Stamps of each denomination were retained in this Office to be placed in the Official Collection, and they were amongst the Stamps etc. handed over by Mr. Middleton. I beg to attach a letter from the Postmaster General Cape Town acknowledging the receipt of the 345 sets of the postage Stamps, post cards etc. The Stamps are marked "Specimen" by means of type which is kept in this Office.

John Henry
Acting P.M.G.
Vryburg
26 April 1892"

The mystery is therefore solved. It truly was a local handstamp, having been applied in the Postmaster General's Office at Vryburg.

The high value of the write off can be explained by the list that accompanied the U.P.U. circular of 30th October 1890 which distributed the Bechuanaland stamps to member States. There were 13 postage stamps of British Bechuanaland ranging in value from ½d. to £5 together with various items of postal stationery. Also included were ½d. 4d. (Fig.2) and 1s. stamps of the Bechuanaland Protectorate. For reasons of economy, the Colony only had a single series of stamps which duplicated for Revenue usage, hence all values

were inscribed "Postage & Revenue", which explains the inclusion of 10s. £1 and £5 values, being stamps which served little or no purpose for postal use, but in themselves accounted for £2262 of the write off.

In 1976, an all-world collection of specimen stamps was sold by Robson Lowe International. All stamps in the collection which had not been cancelled by their respective countries were handstamped 'SPECIMEN' with the type BEC2 stamp. According to Samuel, further evidence indicated that this was probably applied at some time late in 1912.

It is quite clear that this collection was formed by the postal authorities of the Bechuanaland Protectorate and was apparently forwarded to the GPO in London around 1937.

The Postmaster General's Office in Vryburg was closed on 16th November 1895 when British Bechuanaland was incorporated into Cape Colony. It would seem evident, therefore, that the BEC2 handstamp, together with the remaining stock of postage and revenue stamps and postal stationery, was transferred to new offices in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, presumably within the Imperial Enclave at Mafeking.

Following its use in 1912, it would appear that the handstamp was either lost or became unusable since a new one of similar dimensions and character but with coarser lettering was produced and used to cancel non-defaced foreign specimen stamps in the Protectorate archive (Fig.3). Again according to Samuel, this seems to have happened on a single occasion around 1937 immediately prior to the collection being sent to London.



Figure 3: Remade BEC2 handstamp applied to a copy of a 1931 Argentina postage stamp (not to scale)

References:

- Marcus Samuel "Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948" p.77 The Royal Philatelic Society, London. 1976
- Marcus Samuel "Further Notes on U.P.U. Specimen Stamps" The Royal Philatelic Society, London. 1984
- H.R. Holmes "The Postage Stamps, Postal Stationery and Postmarks of the Bechuanalands" The Royal Philatelic Society, London. 1971
- The Cape National Archive, Cape Town.

Snippets from the Cape Archives - Part 2

from Brian Fenemore (words by The Editor)

"I am wading through 500 pages of the most fascinating photostats of articles on Stellaland and British Bechuanaland, although I have only managed to inspect some 6 files.

There is so much still to examine. What I have found thus far are the "Oaths of Allegiance" sworn before Captain. Trotter, acting Commissioner of 'British Bechuanaland', by the 'Bestuur' (Board of Management), of the former leaders of "Stellaland".

There are also some interesting pieces referring to postal rates and agencies in the territory.

There is also lots of correspondence relating to many of the personalities we have come to know through Fiscal documents and covers.. ...I'll send you some for inclusion in future editions of 'The Runner Post'" Brian

In an enclosure to a Minute from the Secretary to His Honor the Administrator (I believe it was No 382 of May 5th 1887) a large sum was mentioned as the cost of specially manufacturing certain stamps which I had ordered. Unless this be a mistake it would probably be cheaper - much cheaper - to give the work to a Capetown Firm.

I find from the Old Stellaland records that in 1884 Messrs. van de Sandt de Villiers & Co. supplied a total of 107,357 stamps of 14 different patterns & colours and only charged £37.10/- for the lot!

Your Honor may remember that after the above stamps were withdrawn from circulation we sold a portion of the remainder for £150 - to a firm of Stamp Dealers.

I have the honour to be,
Sir

Two sets of images this issue. Two sheets (this page) relating to a "Requisition for Stamps - Oct 1888" and two sheets (next page) relating to a recommendation of a reduction in the rate of postage for parcels between British Bechuanaland and the UK.



Requisition for Stamps - Oct^r 1888.

Postage & Revenue.

1000 Sheets each	240	@	½ d. (urgent)
1000 " "	120	"	1 d.
1000 " "	120	"	2 d.
150 " "	120	"	3 d.
50 " "	120	"	4 d.
500 " "	120	"	6 d.
500 " "	84	"	½ d.
25 " "	84	"	2/6
25 " "	84	"	½ d.

Post Cards

750 packets each 1 dg. postcards bearing stamp of 1 d. (These should be specially printed)
Bands round each packet should state price to be ½ d. per packet of 1 dg.

Registered Letter Envelopes

400 packets each 1 dg. G. 6 1/2 x 3 1/2 ins.
Stamp on flap 4 d. to sell at 4 1/2 d. per doz.
200 packets Do. "H." 8 ins. x 4 ins.
Stamp on flap 4 d. to sell at 4 1/2 d. per doz.
100 packets Do. "K" 11 1/2 ins. x 6 ins.
Stamp on flap 4 d. to sell at 4 1/2 d. per doz.
C. B. Schalk
Mr. C. Schalk

Previous envelopes
Bore stamp of only 2 d.

received by us. I think, therefore, that "sixpence" should be substituted in this article for "eightpence" if His Honour approves the reduction from $\frac{7}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$.

I may add that the Postmaster-General, Capetown, has no objection to these alterations being made.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant
Ernest G. Rastor
Actg. P.M.G.



General Post Office
Cape Town
16 November 1888

C.F.P.P.

Sir, I have the honour to respectfully recommend that a reduction be made in the rate of postage on parcels exchanged between British Bechuanaland and the United Kingdom.

It is provided in Article 10 of the Agreement for Transmission of Foreign parcels that the postage should be $\frac{7}{4}$ per lb., which, until recently, was the rate between the Cape Colony & the United Kingdom.

On 1st October the latter tariff was reduced to $\frac{1}{2}$ per lb. & I beg to suggest that from 1st prox. a similar reduction should be made on our Foreign parcels.

In accordance with Article 38 we now give the Cape Colony credit for 8d. per lb. = one half of the postage

The Secretary to
His Honour the Acting Administrator
British Bechuanaland

Received

N.B. I haven't provided transcriptions of these four documents. They do become more memorable if Member's struggle through them. If anyone needs help guessing any particular word let me know - Editor

Recent Botswana Issues

Information on Botswana stamp issues is available on leaflets from, or the website* of, BotswanaPost.

**Happily the philatelic pages of the BotswanaPost website now appears to be once again receiving regular updates*

Christmas 2006

Denominations	P1.10 , P2.60 , P4.10 and P4.90
Artist/Photographer	Gillian Condy
Printer	Joh-Enschede Security Printing
Process	Lithography
FDC Size	110mm x 220 mm
Stamp Size	30mm x 40mm
Paper	110gsm, PVA gum stamp paper
Sheet Format	50(2 x 25)

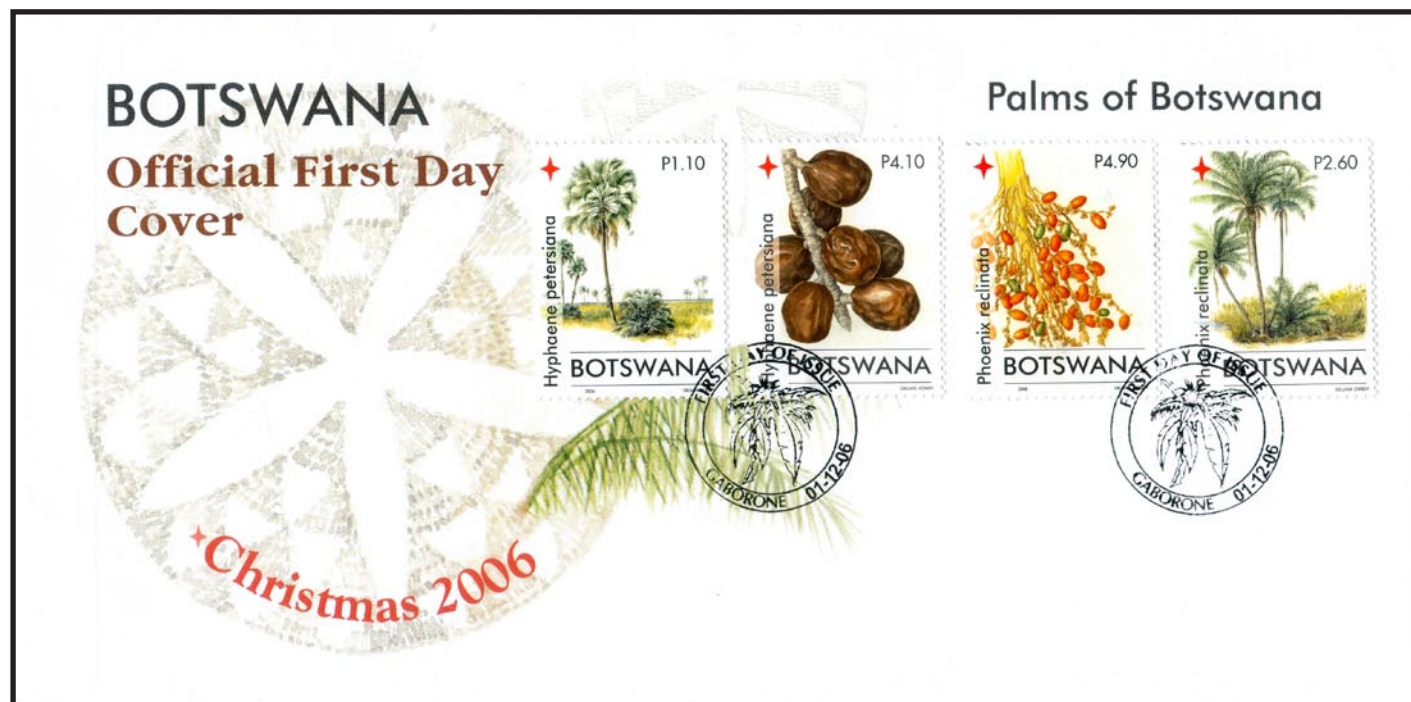
Date of issue 1st December 2006

P1.10	Lala or Vegetable-Ivory Palm
P2.60	Wild Date Palm
P4.10	Fruit of the Lala Palm
P4.90	Fruit of Wild Date Palm

Period of Sale One Year

(FDC [85%] below)

Although seven species of Palm trees grow in Southern Africa, only two are represented in Botswana, the Lala or Vegetable-Ivory Palm, sometimes also known as the Fan Palm, (*Hyphaene petersiana*, in Setswana, Mokolwane or less commonly used, Mokolane) and the Wild Date Palm (*Phoenix reclinata*, in Setswana, Tsaro).



Botswana Kingfishers

Denominations	P1.10 , P2.60 , P4.10 and P4.90
Artist/Photographer	Gwirthi Kirby
Printer	Joh-Enschede Security Printing
Process	Lithography
FDC Size	110mm x 220 mm
Stamp Size	30mm x 40mm
Paper	110gsm, PVA gum stamp paper
Sheet Format	50(2 x 25)

Date of issue 13th March 2007

P1.10	Pied Kingfisher
P2.60	Malachite Kingfisher
P4.10	Woodland Kingfisher
P4.90	Brown-hooded Kingfisher

Period of Sale One Year

(FDC [85%] above right)

Although much of Botswana is semi-desert, eight species of kingfishers are resident and a further species is a visitor. Four of these are fisher kingfishers and five are woodland kingfishers. Only one species, the striped kingfisher, is found throughout much of the country including the dry southwest.

BOTSWANA

Official First Day Cover



Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*

Botswana Kingfishers



Fungi of Botswana

Denominations	P1.10 , P2.60 , P4.10 and P4.90
Artist/Photographer	Ann Gollifer
Printer	Joh-Enschede Security Printing
Process	Offset Lithography in 4 colours
Stamp Size	30mm x 40mm
Paper	110gsm, PVA gum stamp paper
Sheet Format	Panes of 25 x 2 single stamps with gutter pair

Date of issue 31st July 2007

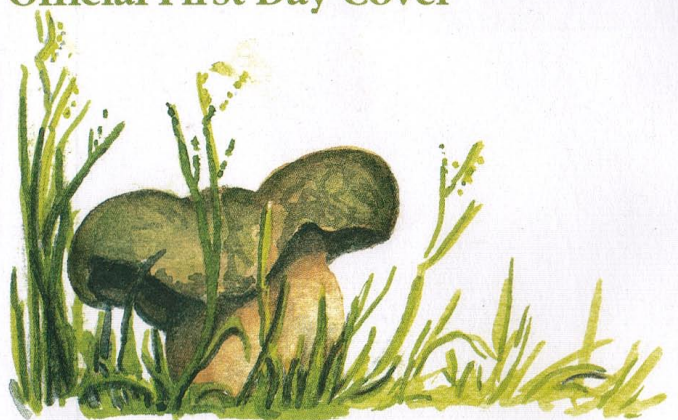
P1.10	False parasol
P2.60	Bushveld Bolete
P4.10	Laquered* bracket fungus
P4.90	Collared earthstar

**as spelt on stamp*

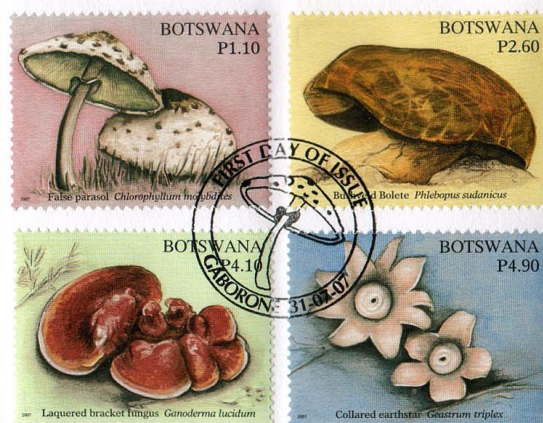
Period of Sale One Year (FDC [85%] below)

BOTSWANA

Official First Day Cover



Botswana Fungi



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 Fenemore 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 4 (of 4)

by Barry Ronan

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

PROGRESS, CAPABILITIES AND RESOURCES.

The progress of British Bechuanaland after the intervention of the Imperial authority had at last introduced that stability of government without which no country can flourish, was, if not very rapid, at least very apparent. Farmers from the Colony, Free State and Transvaal flocked in, and had no difficulty in procuring suitable farm-sites: townships were laid out at Mafeking and Kuruman, while Vryburg increased its size proportionally; and the native population resumed with energy the cultivation of their garden lands with confidence in their peaceful possession of them in the future. As the white population increased the necessity for municipal government came to the front, and on the 25th June, 1886, Boards of Village Management were instituted at Vryburg and Mafeking. The headquarters and staff of **The Administrator** were also removed to Vryburg, thus recognising that town's claim to the title of capital. Another sign of progress was manifested when the present newspaper, the Bechuanaland News, was published at Vryburg in January, 1888. Resident Magistrates of ability and Assistants were established in the various districts, under whose supervision the cause of law and order was maintained, the rights of property were secured, and cattle thefts became a rare occurrence. Cases of appeal were heard by His Honour the Administrator, acting in his capacity as Chief Magistrate, and special civil and criminal cases were dealt with by a bench of magistrates. As the number of inhabitants gradually grew the want of educational measures was much felt, and the Government sanctioned grants for public schools. Another long-felt want was met by the Government by the recent erection of the Government Hospital at Vryburg where invalids from up-country can meet with the attention and care they could not find in the wilds of a new country. Thus matters progressed to the present time, when a peaceful population is found living in contentment

under an established government, in a fertile country, undisturbed by the raids and outrages of the lawless.

The history of the events following the granting of the Royal Charter to the British South Africa Company on 28th October, 1889, are too recent to be touched upon here, except to point out that the opening up of the country which followed this great enterprise was of abundant benefit to Bechuanaland; most of the large amount of transport required by the constant stream of travellers to the **Land of Ophir** passed through Vryburg and Mafeking, and the amount justified Bechuanaland's claim to the title "Gateway of the North". The country has been opened to the eyes of hundreds of experienced and practical men who would hardly have given it a thought had they not to pass through it on their way to Mashonaland, and there can be little doubt but that its eminence as a safe and healthy trade route to the northern fields will be but little impaired by the opening of the only other route - that of Beira, which has already earned a doubtful reputation.

One great boon, however, in this connection must not be omitted - **The Introduction of the Railway**. The Cape Government by an agreement with the Chartered Company dated 23rd January, 1890, assisted the Company by expending some £800,000 on the extension of the railway line from Kimberley to Vryburg, on the understanding that the Company would extend the line from Vryburg to Mafeking. This latter part of the agreement is now being carried out, and the extension of a line from Mafeking to the Tati gold-fields is now practically settled and its working a mere matter of time, the Chartered Company having agreed to give the Railway Company its remaining share in the 6,000 square miles of rich land granted it for the construction of the Vryburg extension, and its rights to a further 6,000 square miles for the extension to Mafeking. It has also promised to pay the Company a subsidy of £1 for every £2 of subsidy paid by the Government of Bechuanaland. As the Imperial

DIVISION.	TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS OF ALL RACES.					RACE DISTINCTION.					
	AGE PERIOD.				TOTAL OF ALL AGES.	EUROPEAN OR WHITE.		ABORIGINAL NATIVE. *		ALL OTHER COLOURED PERSONS.	
	UNDER 15.		15 AND OVER.			M	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.							
Vryburg ...	1157	1023	2240	1246	5666	1816	1240	1409	916	192	93
Mafeking ...	212	147	561	229	1149	567	294	129	33	77	49
Taungs ...	108	90	432	145	775	286	150	209	39	49	42
Kuruman ...	124	32	198	180	633	96	70	104	83	124	156
Gordonia ...	1024	953	1298	1228	4503	402	333	742	687	1180	1159
Total ...	2624	2345	4729	3028	12726	3167	2087	2593	1758	1622	1499

* Payers of Hut Tax not included.

The natives paying hut tax are estimated at 58,000.

Government has already sanctioned the grant of a subsidy of £20,000 per annum for ten years after the completion of the line, there is every reason to believe that before long this rich land will be thrown open to commerce, and that even before the expiration of the ten years during which Imperial assistance will be granted, the country will be able to **bear its own charges** and liabilities, and meet its own costs of administration. This northward extension will be a gain of no mean order to Bechuanaland and the Cape Colony alike.

Still more recent, and therefore more fresh in the memory of the reader, was the tour of inspection made by the new High Commissioner, Sir. H. B. Loch, through Bechuanaland and the Protectorate to Macloutsie in the latter part of 1890. His Excellency was accompanied by the Imperial Secretary, Capt. Graham Bower, H.H. the Administrator, Sir Sidney Shippard, Colonel Sir. F. Carrington, and an escort of the 11th Hussars and the B.B.P. The Cape Premier, the Hon. Cecil Rhodes, with Messrs. De Waal, M.L.A., and Venter, M.L.A., also travelled most of the way with His Excellency, who expressed himself highly pleased with the country.

Later still occurred the affair of the **Banjailand Trek**, when a large number of Transvaal farmers determined to settle on ground belonging to the Chartered Company in the north and form a Republic there, a project that was nipped in the bud by the determined action of the High Commissioner at Capetown, and the tact of Dr. Jameson at the Crocodile River. During this period a force of infantry (East Yorkshire Regiment) were stationed at Mafeking in case of any emergency, but happily their services were not required, and after a few months' peaceful sojourn in Bechuanaland they again left for the Colony.

With reference to the population, it may be serviceable to give at this point the figures of the census return of population in British Bechuanaland, taken in May, 1891:- [above]

The country, as will be seen at a glance at the above census return, is divided into five divisions, the law administered in each being based upon that in force in the Cape Colony. Since the establishment of the Government there has been a **steadily increasing revenue**. In 1886-87 it was only £11,757: in 1889-90 it was £19,548: and in 1891-92 it exceeded £52,000. The expenditure, however, exceeds the revenue by £150,000, principally on account of including the cost of the B.B. Police which amounts to about £100,000. For the Protectorate expenses a grant in aid is made by the Imperial Government, and a contribution by the B.S.A. Company.

The chief sources of revenue are:- Transfer and auction duties, stamps, licences, hut-tax, quit-rents, land sales, postal and telegraph receipts and Customs duties. The latter are collected under the South African Customs Union.

The reader who has been patient enough to follow me thus far, will be naturally anxious for a description of the country itself.

Bechuanaland may be described as an undulating plateau of splendid grass lands, between 3,000 and 4,000 feet above sea level, its prairies extending in every direction, in most parts devoid of bush, and in other parts dotted with trees and occasional forest-like patch, which gives the country a well-wooded appearance. Acacia trees are numerous in the south, but the ruthless attacks of the wood-cutters supplying the Kimberley market have done much to diminish their number. A peculiar appearance is given to the scenery in some districts by the prevalence of the mahatla, or "vaalbosch" which grows to a great size;

the bark and leaves are medicinal, the wood, even when green, is highly inflammable, and is therefore invaluable to travellers in wet and cold weather.

The quality and variety of the grasses make the country one of the best known for cattle. The visitor is agreeably impressed on noting the fine condition of the **Bechuanaland Cattle** during the winter season, as compared with those living on the veldt of any part of the Cape Colony. The fame of the Bechuana cattle has spread, and Johannesburg buyers attend the Vryburg Stock Fairs in order to procure good slaughter oxen. The country is beyond doubt, in the opinion of experts, excellently suited for the purposes of cattle-ranching, and it is to be hoped that more energy and capital will shortly be employed in this desirable direction.

Cape sheep and goats thrive well, but it is supposed that most of the farms will require a few years close grazing before they are suited to the merino sheep. The best pasturage is found in strips along the valleys and dry river beds.

There is, however, one great drawback to the rearing of horses, the **Horse-sickness** prevailing during the summer months, for which no reliable cure has yet been discovered. It extends throughout Bechuanaland, and is believed to be climatic, but is more virulent in low latitudes and in the vicinity of marshy ground. A supposed peculiarity of the disease is that horses that recover are not liable to a second attack, and are then termed "salted".

Very large areas of the best part of the country, well suited for agricultural purposes, have been set apart as native reserves. Considering that the natives never manure the ground and care little for the principles of irrigation, they obtain wonderfully good crops of mealies and kafir corn. The passenger by train from Kimberley to Vryburg, when the crops are ripe, is astonished at the magnificent fields of grain on either side of his carriage, and receives indisputable testimony of the industry of the natives, and the fertility of the soil. At Taungs alone, there are about 27,000 acres under cultivation, and upwards of 132,000 bushels have been sold for exportation, while probably an equal amount is reserved for their own use. At the native reserves of Mosita, Molopo, and Setlagoli, 31,136 acres are under cultivation, producing on an average twelve bushels per acre, or 373,632 bushels. In lower Kuruman native reserve, about 300 acres are dry lands, and 340 acres irrigated, and the annual crops from them are estimated at 8,000 bushes of mealies, and 7,000 bushes of kafir corn. Wheat is also grown at Kuruman and near Vryburg. By judicious irrigation, fruits, vegetables, and **All kinds of Cereal thrive**, in any part of the country. The district behind the Kaap Range and Kuruman has many fine fountains useful for irrigation purposes, but the soil is light, needing manure.

In the districts of Vryburg and Mafeking the rainfall is

considerable. The following is the fall at Vryburg in :-

	1892	1893
January	8.59	10.24
February	6.29	3.97
March	4.08	1.70
April	1.33	1.01
May	-	-
June	0.38	0.49
July	-	0.30
August	-	-
September	0.70	-
October	1.10	1.09
November	1.07	1.71
December	1.31	

24.85 20.51

The average annual rainfall at Vryburg may be taken as 25 inches, but at Mafeking it has been as much as 44.37 in 1890-91, and may be taken at 30 inches all round. At Upington it is not more than 12 inches. Fortunately owing to the porous nature of most of the ground the water is not lost, but is retained in subterranean cavities. There are many permanent springs throughout the country, and pans are numerous. Well-sinking is now in progress under the auspices of the Government, and it is hoped that ere long the lower water levels of the country will be utilised for developing its resources.

About 27,500 square miles of Bechuanaland have been allotted by grant or by sale, and over 12,000 square miles of the Crown Colony are available for disposal. Of the lands allotted 12,000 square miles of the best land is held by the Cape Government and the Chartered Company as a subsidy for the railway construction from the Cape border to Mafeking, but the news that these lands are about to be sold by auction has relieved the fears of those who were afraid that they would remain locked-up for years.

About 992 square miles in the Mafeking division have been purchased by the Bechuanaland Estate Syndicate, and about 1,000 square miles in the Vryburg division by the Southern Lands Company. The maximum sum paid for lands sold has been 4s.1d. per acre, and the minimum 1s. The prices of farms vary from £200 to £2,000.

The amount of the quitrents in some districts has had a deterrent effect on farmers from the neighbouring States who wished to settle in Bechuanaland. The matter has been brought under the consideration of the Home Government, and **a reduction in quitrents** is anxiously expected. The news that all the vacant erven in the township of Kuruman are to be sold by public auction at the upset price of £10, has already had a cheerful effect on desponding farmers, and a hope that further reductions in this direction will bring in more settlers to cultivate the country is generally expressed.

The country along the Harts River to the Molopo is

very valuable for pastoral and agricultural purposes, the grasses being very sweet and fattening. Fountains are numerous and water can easily be got in the beds of the sand rivers, Setlagoli, Maritsani, and the Molopo. Above Kanya the scenery changes, and instead of the wide rolling grass plains, hill and dale meet the eye, and many glimpses can be obtained of scenes recalling a well-kept English park. The grass here is also good, and the trees useful for either house building or furniture, some of the timber being proof even against the formidable white ant. Further on,

in the Protectorate along the Notwani and Crocodile Rivers, the land is equally valuable, being well wooded, grassed and watered. Khama's country is again well wooded and watered and well adapted for either pastoral or agricultural farming. All this fine country described is but sparsely inhabited; here and there one comes across a native centre of population, and may travel again for days without meeting anyone. The traffic to Mashonaland has been the cause of good work being done in certain dry districts by supplying the deficiency of water by extensive well-sinking, and the success obtained in this direction amply proves that the artesian well has a great future in the cultivation of these parts.

With regard to the **alleged unhealthiness** of the northern regions it may be well to remark that the fever is confined to certain well defined places only, and it is hardly logical to stigmatise the whole region as being unhealthy in consequence of the existence of these scattered malarial sources.

The country is without doubt admirably adapted for the residence of Europeans, and the climate is all that can be desired. Dr. Livingstone declared the great salubrity of climate to be remarkable, and that Europeans whose constitution had been impaired by the climate of India found this tract of country both healthy and restorative. Surgeon-Major Jazdowski, of Warren's medical staff, says the country north of Molepolole greatly resembled parts of North-West and Central India, many of the trees, plants, and insects being of a similar species, and in many cases identical. Sir George Baden-Powell also reported this region to be "well suited for English emigrants - a large portion being land of high value for agricultural and pastoral purposes, and well suited not only for the South African grazing-farm system, but also for the more profitable systems adopted in Australia and elsewhere, where not only stock, but crops are well cared for". Mr. Mackenzie claims that Bechuanaland is a far more healthy country than Britain itself, and he should be a good authority, having lived twenty-five years in it. I think I cannot do better than to give this gentleman's views on a settler's prospects in his own words:

"My mind reverts at once to thrifty and laborious people who are battling for dear life in some small holding in England or Scotland who can hardly

make both ends meet. I do not think any class of men endure such hardships in South Africa. There are portions of Bechuanaland where, in my opinion, a body of some hundreds of emigrants would take root from the first and make themselves homes. I would not suggest that such men should be merely agriculturalists, but that, like most farmers in South Africa, they should follow both branches of farming. They would begin with some sheep or Angora goats, and a few cows. In the first instance they would have a freehold in the village, with right of Pasturage, and they would also have their farm itself in the neighbourhood, the size of which must depend upon its locality and capabilities. But with the milk of his stock and the produce of his land in maize, millet, and pumpkin, the farmer and his family would be from the first beyond the reach of want. **Irrigation** would, of course, enable him to raise wheat, and that would follow in many cases, a fountain might first have to be opened up, and a dam and water furrow made before wheat could be grown; and there are good stock farms where wheat could be grown only by the artificial raising of water by pumping, which means expenditure of money. But what I want to show is that, in any case, the ordinary small tenant-holder would be clearly benefited by the change to Bechuanaland. He has, as we have seen, a fine climate. He can raise himself as good a house as native teachers put up, with ordinary attention his stock will thrive and increase, while his maize, millet, and pumpkin filed will, at any rate, surpass his patch of oats and potatoes. He must in every year devise some plan for paying his rent, as well as for purchasing clothing and groceries. To do this he probably fattens and sells, one, two, or more head of cattle.

"But I must consider another class. I must think of my young friend with his capital in his pocket, and plenty of pluck and persistence in his constitution. Do you recommend me to go to Bechuanaland for cattle farming? I reply first, by saying that thousands of farmers and farmers' sons from the Cape Colony and the Free State have asked for farms in Bechuanaland, many of them after personal inspection of the country. I must caution my young friend that buying breeding stock, along with a fowling-piece and a rifle, and giving **A large order for Cigarettes**, will not ensure success as a stock farmer or wool grower in Bechuanaland, or, indeed, elsewhere. That means hard work and close attention, especially at the outset. But if I am asked the difference between Bechuanaland and other fields, I reply once more that the climate is unequalled. The country is suited for stock farming, and it has the unique advantage of an unlimited supply of native labour, the Bechuanas being unsurpassed as stock herds, as they are accustomed to the work from early childhood. Your market for large transactions would be Kimberley, and Kimberley agencies. If you can produce what is worth buying, The Diamond Fields will soon hear of

it and afford you a market, and when the extensive gold fields of the North are opened up, the digging population will have to be fed. How many miles has the Australian farmer from the interior to carry his produce before he reaches the nearest railway station? Talk about want of water in Bechuanaland; have we not heard of parts of Australia where the farmer has to load up water for his horses or bullocks - so long is the stretch of waterless country? I cannot say to the young capitalist how much per cent per annum he will make as a farmer in Bechuanaland, but I do say the country is equal to others in which energetic and intelligent farmers do very well indeed, and make admirable homes".

There can be no question but that the country is **admirably suited for cattle ranching**. on a large scale, and if this system was undertaken on a sufficiently extensive plan the South African export of tinned meats should be able to hold its own against that of any other country.

Speaking on this subject, an American gentleman, who had just completed a trip through the country, said: "I am convinced that this is one of the finest countries under the sun for cattle ranching. The grass is everything that can be desired, and your cattle keep in good condition all the year round. The only question you have to consider is whether a few enormous ranches, or a great number of small ones, would be of benefit to the country. I think myself that the small ranch system would be preferable. Land is cheap here as compared to America, and the enterprise would certainly pay. I could start a good little ranch here with about £4,000 or £5,000 capital. I suppose I could get a good farm with water on it for £1,000 or thereabouts. There must be water on it all the year round, so if necessary I would spend another £1,000 on dams. That money would be well spent, for it would be returned many fold in the good condition of my stock in time of drought. I would commence with 300 head of Bechuanaland cattle, 200 of them breeding cows and the remainder slaughter cattle - cost, say £1,200. I would have a couple of Bechuanaland bulls, and would import a Scotch bull and one from Holland. The imported bulls, I calculate, would cost £60 each. I would also plant £50 worth of mealies or fodder. That makes a total of £3,370. I would also import an experienced cowboy from Texas as overseer, who would work for £8 a month and rations, and I would give him a percentage on the profits to give him an interest in the work. His pay and rations will add another £120 to the expenses of the first year. At first I would employ native herds, afterwards fencing by degrees.

"In the second year I'd expect to have my stock increased by 100 calves at least, allowing for sickness, etc. In the third year there would be an increase of 200 more, and so on, proportionally. I should make it a rule that myself and the overseer would ride round every day

so as to detect at once any sign of sickness in the cattle. The sick ones would be **quarantined immediately**, and the pasture changed for the remainder, for it won't do to let sick cattle run for three or four days without attending to them. As to the markets, I'd send my cattle by easy road stages to Johannesburg and by rail to Kimberley and Capetown.

"After a few years of this I think I would have made enough profit to enable me to start a meat-canning concern on a small scale. I would have the manufactory somewhere on the outskirts of Capetown or Port Elizabeth, so as to be near a port, and supply cattle as occasion required by rail. I could get plenty of cheap cattle for this purpose from Damaraland if I did not care to use up my own stock. The expenses would not be great - only house rent, tins and labels, boiling down apparatus, two white men, three Cape boys, and an experienced manager who, like the ranch overseer, would have an interest in the profits. I might, in addition, run a poultry farm and export potted fowl, and small game, of which latter the country affords an ample supply. I am sure that this scheme would pay if properly attended to, and that there is room for plenty of small ranches of this description in Bechuanaland. But it won't do to be in a **hurry for profits**. The people out here want to make money at one jump, and as long as the settlers are too impatient to wait for slow returns this country cannot prosper". Other industries such as the manufacture of corn-flour and kindred foods from maize; the cultivations of the indigo plant which now flourishes in a wild state all over the country and has been proved to be good for manufacture, and many others easily suggested to a thoughtful mind, could here be introduced with but moderate expense and manifold benefit, not only to Bechuanaland, but to South Africa at large. The Bechuanaland Salt and Estate Co., Limited, are turning out excellent salt from their works at Groot Chwaing, which only requires to be more widely known to meet with the appreciation the enterprise deserves.

SPORT

To the sportsman and naturalist the country is alike full of interest and pleasure, the Protectorate affording a fine and wide field for game of every description. Antelope of all kinds, wildebeeste, hartebeeste, quagga, and koodoo abound; partridges, guinea fowl, korhaan, paauw, and birds of innumerable species are to be met with, and although the influx of white men has driven the larger species away from the main traffic roads, those in pursuit of game have not far to diverge to gratify their desires.

In the Protectorate, however, there are **Stringent regulations** in force regarding the hunting of big game, which term includes wild ostrich, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, buffalo, zebra, quagga, and all animals of the antelope species, except eland,

duiker, and steinbok. Parties of not more than five can obtain a licence to shoot large game at the option of any Assistant Commissioner exercising authority within the territory of any chief. The licence is good for twelve months, and the fee is £100, a quarter of which goes to the Chief and the remainder to the Government. From 1st September to the last day of February is the close season, during which no shooting is allowed. Natives are, however, permitted to hunt and kill large game within the limits of their own territory.

I have purposely refrained from alluding to the **Minerals** of Bechuanaland, because, although various finds of gold, coal, even diamonds, and other valuable minerals have been reported from time to time, there is no reliable information available as to the worth and extent of these discoveries.

REFORMS

There are several reforms being agitated for by the inhabitants of Bechuanaland, the principal of which are (1) The reduction of high quitrents; (2) a licence or other system by which natives could be practically compelled to carry out their contracts with farmers; (3) extra police in the outlying districts to check stock thefts, and the appointment of special J.P.'s, who could deal summarily with minor offences, without the necessity of bringing in the prisoners some 40 or 50 miles to the office of the nearest Resident Magistrate; (4) A law to counteract the clearing of large districts of timber; (5) The throwing open to emigrants, at points near the railway line, of small holdings of 300 or 400 acres, at a nominal charge, thus opening up markets and feeding the railway. That all these

concessions will be granted in the near future may be reasonably expected. **The climate** of Bechuanaland is generally fresh and bracing, and to use the words of Dr. Livingstone, "It is the complete antipodes of our cold, damp, English winter." As the winter is perfectly dry, damp and cold are never combined. Although in the summer months, the thermometer frequently stands at 99 degs. F. in the shade, especially before rain, yet the atmosphere never has that debilitating and straining effect so well known in India, and in parts of the coast region of South Africa. In winter the climate is delightful, the atmosphere being most exhilarating and stimulating.

CONCLUSION

In concluding this necessarily sketchy paper, I must express my regret if I have unduly tried the reader's patience in the unavoidable relation of the incidents leading to Imperial rule and the settlement of the country. I trust, nevertheless, that its perusal may be the means of giving information to many, and that it may have the effect of deciding some intending farmer or settler to choose this country of great promise as his future home. If it succeeds in this object it will not have been written in vain.

BARRY RONAN

Dec. 5, 1893.

NOTE.- I have to acknowledge my indebtedness to the following works of reference for much assistance in compiling this article, viz.: Theal's "History of South Africa"; Mackenzie's "Austral Africa"; and Noble's "Official Handbook".

Official Free Markings Part 3 - Straight Line Markings (Installment 1)

by Dennis Firth

This is the first attempt to list all the known Official Free markings used 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 (Runner Post #64 -69)
- 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.

Part 3 - "Straight Line" Official Free markings used in association with Office Handstamps

This part is divided into four sections. Each section is listed in order of ascending size.





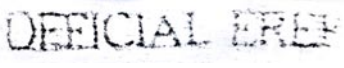

- No surround (just the words OFFICIAL FREE)
- Line above and below OFFICIAL FREE
- Boxed OFFICIAL FREE
- Markings of an unknown size


Acknowledgment


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

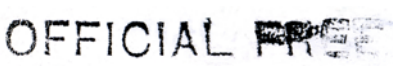
The number to the right of the description is my reference number. For a future update I would be looking for some assistance in using the postmark typology to describe the markings.


Section 1: Markings without surround

	31.5mm x 4.5mm	601
26-Nov-2001	NATIONAL AIDS COORDINATING AGENCY GABORONE	
	38mm x 5mm	611
12-May-1980	DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE PO BOX 157 FRANCISTOWN	
	38.5mm x 4.5mm	613
17-Dec-1991	REGISTRY 2 BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS FRANCISTOWN BOTSWANA DEFENCE FORCE	
	40mm x 4.5mm	615
07-May-1980	DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL OFFICER FRANCISTOWN DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION	
	41.5mm x 4mm	617
11-Oct-2004 to 12-Nov-2004	ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION ABATTOIR REGISTRY P.O. BOX 1159 FRANCISTOWN	
	43.5mm x 5mm	619
04-Jun-1991 (sent from Gaborone Village) [STRUCK IN BROWN]	AIR ARM HEADQUARTERS REGISTRY BOTSWANA DEFENCE FORCE	
	45mm x 5/6mm	621
21-Jan-2001	DEPARTMENT OF NON-FORMA EDUCATION MASUNGA	
no date	NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY (CO-ORDINATING) AGENCY REGISTRY PRIVATE BAG 0068 GABORONE BOTSWANA	
04-Nov-2004 to 05-Nov-2004	REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL OFFICE CROP PRODUCTION AND FORESTRY P.O. BOX 16 MAUN BOTSWANA	

		46.5mm x 4.5mm	625
23-Mar-1991 [STRUCK IN RED]	DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND NATIONAL PARKS KANYE		
19-Oct-2000	DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION P.O. BOX 250 GABORONE		
11-Oct-2004	PRINCIPAL NGAMILAND P.T.C. P.O. BOX 149 MAUN		
29-Oct-1985 (sent from Gaborone Village)	STAFF OFFICER FINANCE BOTSWANA DEFENCE FORCE		

		47.5mm x 6mm	628
12-Oct-2004 [STRUCK IN GREEN]	ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION PRIVATE BAG 0011 LETLHAKANE		
29-Oct-2004	DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND YOUTH PRIVATE BAG 00185 GABORONE		
07-Jun-2001	DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT GABORONE		

		49mm x 4.5mm	630
25-Mar-1980 (sent from Gaborone)	MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BOTSWANA		
03-Nov-1980	SENIOR SUB-TRIBAL AUTHORITY NGWATO TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION TONOTA BOTSWANA		

		49.5mm x 6.5mm	633
25-Apr-2001 to 07-Dec-2001	DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND YOUTH GABORONE		
27-Dec-1993 (sent from Kasane)	IMMIGRATION OFFICER ARRIVAL KAZUNGULA FERRY		
18-Jan-2001	MINISTRY OF WORKS ROAD DEPARTMENT TSABONG		
29-Oct-2001 to 21-Nov-2001	PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF HEALTH GABORONE		
14-Nov-2001 [STRUCK IN RED]	POST OFFICE MAUN		


OFFICIAL FREE		49.8mm x 5mm	634
26-Oct-2004	Cover from Palapye		
13-Oct-1981	DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE GABORONE		
25-Mar-1980 to 01-Sep-1983	MINISTRY OF EDUCATION GABORONE		
08-Oct-2004	PRINCIPAL MAHALAPYE RURAL TRAINING CENTRE CROP PRODUCTION AND FORESTRY P.O. BOX 390 MAHALAPYE		
11-Oct-2004 to 11-Nov-2004	PRINCIPAL VETERINARY OFFICER ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION PRIVATE BAG 364 MAUN		
11-Dec-2000 to 11-Dec-2001	REGISTRY OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL EVENTS NO 3 GABORONE		

OFFICIAL FREE		49.8mm x 5.8mm	636
17-Jul-2002 to 04-Sep-2002	DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT ADMIN P/BAG 443 GABORONE		

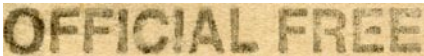
OFFICIAL FREE		50.3mm x 5mm	637
14-Feb-2001 to 23-Apr-2001	ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE CLERK OF THE COURT MAUN		
28-Aug-1984	NATIONAL MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY GABORONE		


OFFICIAL FREE		51mm x 4/5mm	640
19-Feb-2002 [STRUCK IN RED]	DISTRICT COMMISSIONER FRANCISTOWN		

OFFICIAL FREE		52mm x 5.5mm	642
10-Apr-2004 to 08-Nov-2004 [STRUCK IN VIOLET AND BLACK]	ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION PRIVATE BAG 0011 LETLHAKANE		


		52.5mm x 5.5mm	644
09-Dec-2001	PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT BOTSWANA POLICE SERVICE P/BAG 0012 GABORONE		

		52.5mm x 6.5/8mm	646
09-Oct-2001	BOTSWANA CUSTOMS AND EXCISE PASSENGER IMPORT RAMOKGWEBANA		

		55mm x 5.7mm	648
02-Nov-2004 to 03-Nov-2004	LIVESTOCK ADVISORY CENTRE (MACHANENG) P.O. BOX 3 MACHANENG		

		61mm x 7/8mm	650
12-Aug-1998 to 08-Aug-2002 [STRUCK IN RED]	BOTSWANA CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SOUTH CENTRAL COLLECTION REGISTRY GABORONE		
16-Feb-1995 to 27-Feb-1995	BOTSWANA DEFENCE FORCE ACCOUNTING UNIT FRANCISTOWN		
07-Jul-1995	BOTSWANA POLYTECHNIC ACADEMIC REGISTRY PRIVATE BAG 0061 GABORONE		
21-Mar-1991 to 04-May-1991 [STRUCK IN PURPLE]	DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND NATIONAL PARKS TSABONG		
03-Nov-2004 to 10-11-2004 [STRUCK IN MAUVE]	REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL OFFICER P.O. BOX 67 FRANCISTOWN		
24-Jul-1996	VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE PALAPYE		


		62.5mm x 6mm	653
circa 2000	GOVERNMENT GAZETTE GABORONE		

		84mm x 9/9.5mm	656
12-Oct-2004	DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION NATIONAL BULL STUD		
18-Oct-2004 to 01-Nov-2004 [STRUCK IN BLACK] 08-Nov-2004 [STRUCK IN GREEN]	DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION SENIOR SCIENTIFIC OFFICER BOX 3 PITSANE		
09-Jun-2000	DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND YOUTH GABORONE		
28-Jan-2000 to ?2-May-2001 [STRUCK IN RED]	DEPARTMENT OF TOWN REGIONAL PLANNING GABORONE		
11-Oct-2004	DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL OFFICE P.O. BOX 9 LETLHAKANE		
02-Nov-2004	LIVESTOCK ADVISORY CENTRE SETHITWA REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA		
05-Oct-2001	NATIONAL REGISTRATION KASANE		
13-Oct-2004 to 09-Nov-2004	PRINCIPAL TECHNICAL OFFICER ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION P.O. BOX 51 SHAKAWA		


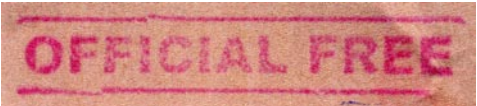
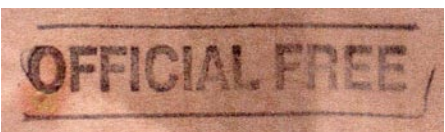
		89.5mm x 8.5/9mm	658
15-Nov-2001	JWANENG TECHNICAL COLLEGE JWANENG		

		98mm x 11mm	659
not known	not known		

Section 2: Markings with line above and below

		61mm x 8/9mm	660
18-Oct-2004 to 10-Nov-2004	ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION P.O. BOX 101 KASANE		
10-Oct-2004 to 09-Nov-2004	ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION TSETSE CONTROL DIVISION P.O. BOX 14 MAUN		

08-May-2000	ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING HEADQUARTERS BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT
19-Oct-2004 to 29-Oct-2004	BUILDING AND ENGINEERING SERVICES HEADQUARTERS GABORONE
07-Mar-2003 [STRUCK IN RED]	COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTRE BOTSWANA POLICE SERVICE P.O. BOX 72 GWETA
20-Aug-200?	DABS / SECTION 7 GABORONE
07-Oct-2004 [STRUCK IN BLACK] 27-Oct-2004 [STRUCK IN VIOLET]	DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION MASUNGA
29-Sep-2004 to 09-Nov-2004	DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION P.O. BOX ?? TUTUME
13-Oct-2004 to 08-Nov-2004	DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION P.O. BOX 19 FRANCISTOWN
03-Nov-2004	DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION PRINCIPAL TECHNICAL OFFICER P/BAG SOWA
04-Nov-1991 [STRUCK IN RED]	DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND NATIONAL PARKS RAKOPS
28-Jan-1992 [STRUCK IN RED]	DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND NATIONAL PARKS SEROWE
03-Sep-2002	DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND NATIONAL PARKS ADMINISTRATION BOX 4 TSABONG
11-Oct-2004 to 04-Nov-2004 [STRUCK IN VIOLET]	DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL OFFICE P.O. BOX 194 SELEBI-PHIKWE
08-Nov-2004	DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL OFFICE CROP PRODUCTION AND FORESTRY P.O. BOX 14 MACHANENG
04-Nov-2004	DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL OFFICE NGWAKETSE CENTRAL P.O. BOX 114 KANYE
08-Oct-2004 to 05-Nov-2004 [STRUCK IN VIOLET]	DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL OFFICE P.O. BOX 15 GANTSI
14-Dec-1991 [STRUCK IN RED]	HIGH COURT OF BOTSWANA FRANCISTOWN
11-Oct-2004 to 12-Oct-2004	PRINCIPAL VETERINARY OFFICER ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION PRIVATE BAG 364 MAUN
14-Oct-2004	SENIOR VETERINARY OFFICER ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION P.O. BOX 51 SHAKAWE

	67mm x 9mm	662
13-Mar-2001	PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE RECORDS MANAGEMENT UNIT REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA	
	size not known	663
08-Nov-2004 {STRUCK IN RED}	PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT WILDLIFE AND TOURISM REGISTRY P/BAG BO 199 GABORONE	
	size not known (may be a box type)	664
24-Oct-2004	ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION P.O. BOX 21 MOPIPI	

Sections 3 and 4 will appear in Runner Post #71

Editor's Note on Measurements

I measured the horizontal dimension as from the left centre of the 'O' to the end of the middle stroke of the 'E'. The vertical dimension is usually the height of the first letter 'I'.

Dimensions are to the nearest 0.5mm, unless the dimension is constant across the handstamp and clearly defined, in which case to the nearest 0.1mm.

A range is given when the handstamp has a large variation in one or both dimensions.

Measurements were taken by the computer, based on the images supplied and were in most cases very similar to Dennis' hand measurements.



Example of one of the Office Handstamps combined with an OFFICIAL FREE marking (601)

Dates are in "dd-mon-yyyy" format. Handstamps are struck in black - unless otherwise indicated

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

If any member discovers items not listed here or in the early instalments appearing in Runner Post #63 to #69 please also 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.

Checklist of Botswana Postmarks (Second Series)

Part Nine

The ninth 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 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.

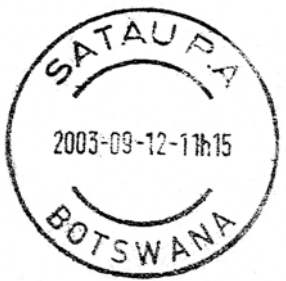
"Number so far recorded" only includes what is contained in the collections of the small number of members working on the Postmark Project and **does not** necessarily represent relative scarcity.


During the course of this study new types of sub-variants for some of the postmarks have been found. At the end of this checklist (of approximately sixteen parts) a regular "Late Arrivals Column" will continue to publish new finds and variants.


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 - SAT-SERO


SATAU	No 4 Type 21 F 22	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	08-Mar-2000
	Latest recorded date	05-Mar-2004
	Number so far recorded	3


SATAU	No 5 Type 61 J 26 Struck in red	
	Outer oval dimensions	32mm by 60mm
	Earliest recorded date	30-Jan-2003
	Latest recorded date	30-Jan-2003
	Number so far recorded	1


SATAU	No 6 Type 61 J 27 Struck in red	
	Outer oval dimensions	32mm by 60mm
	Earliest recorded date	12-Aug-2003
	Latest recorded date	12-Aug-2003
	Number so far recorded	1
Similar to No. 5, except for the slightly larger letters in the office name and the star separators		

SEBINA	No 7 Type 21 B 55	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	18-Apr-2002
	Latest recorded date	18-Apr-2002
	Number so far recorded	1


SEBINA	No 8 Type 61 J 26 Struck in red	
	Outer oval dimensions	32mm by 56mm
	Earliest recorded date	18-Dec-1996
	Latest recorded date	18-Dec-1996
	Number so far recorded	1


SEBINA	No 9 Type 61 M 16 Struck in red	
	Outer oval dimensions	39mm by 56mm
	Earliest recorded date	18-Apr-2002
	Latest recorded date	18-Apr-2002
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant 16. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with [OFFICE NAME] followed by "POST OFFICE" at base.		


SECHELE	No 5 Type 21 F 22	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	30-Apr-2002
	Latest recorded date	30-Apr-2002
	Number so far recorded	1

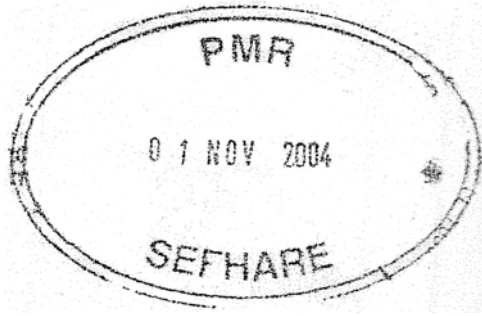
SEDIBENG	No 6 Type 21 B 56(1)	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	17-Jan-2003
	Latest recorded date	17-Jan-2003
	Number so far recorded	1


SEETSO	This office is now closed. Date of closure is unknown.	
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SEFHARE	No 7 Type 21 B 55	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	11-May-2000
	Latest recorded date	19-Apr-2002
	Number so far recorded	2


SEFHARE	No 8 Type 21 B 56(1)	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	19-Apr-2002
	Latest recorded date	19-Apr-2002
	Number so far recorded	1


SEFHARE 	No 9 Type 61 J 50 Struck in red	
	Outer oval dimensions	33mm by 53mm
	Earliest recorded date	19-Apr-2002
	Latest recorded date	19-Apr-2002
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant 50. "PMR" at top with [OFFICE NAME] at base		


SEFHARE 	No 10 Type 61 J 53 Struck in red	
	Outer oval dimensions	40mm by 61mm
	Earliest recorded date	01-Nov-2004
	Latest recorded date	01-Nov-2004
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant 53. "PMR" at top with [OFFICE NAME] at base (with star separators).		


SEFHOPHE 	No 4 Type 1 F 25 Struck in red	
	Circle diameter	44mm
	Earliest recorded date	26-Oct-2000
	Latest recorded date	19-Apr-2002
	Number so far recorded	2


SEFHOPHE 	No 5 Type 21 B 51	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 36mm
	Earliest recorded date	03-Nov-2004
	Latest recorded date	03-Nov-2004
	Number so far recorded	1


SEFHOPHE	No 6 Type 21 B 55	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	06-Jul-2001
	Latest recorded date	19-Apr-2002
	Number so far recorded	2


SEFHOPHE	No 7 Type 21 F 11(2)	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 36mm
	Earliest recorded date	26-Oct-2000
	Latest recorded date	19-Apr-2002
	Number so far recorded	2


SEHITWA	No 6 Type 21 B 56(1)	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	10-Nov-2004
	Latest recorded date	10-Nov-2004
	Number so far recorded	1


SELEBI-PHIKWE	No 41 Type 2 B 57	
	Circle diameters	18mm & 28mm
	Earliest recorded date	22-???-1997
	Latest recorded date	13-Nov-1998
	Number so far recorded	6
New sub-variant 57. [OFFICE NAME] at top with "BOTSWANA" followed by "CE" at base.		


SELEBI-PHIKWE	No 42 Type 2 B 59	
	Circle diameters	18mm & 27mm
	Earliest recorded date	17-Nov-2000
	Latest recorded date	22-Nov-2001
	Number so far recorded	8
New sub-variant 59. [OFFICE NAME] at top with "BOTSWANA" followed by "RLS" at base.		


SELEBI-PHIKWE	No 43 Type 21 B 56(1)	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	13-Mar-2000
	Latest recorded date	16-Jan-2003
	Number so far recorded	10


SELEBI-PHIKWE	No 44 Type 21 B 56(2)	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	29-Jan-2001
	Latest recorded date	16-Oct-2001
	Number so far recorded	2

SELEBI-PHIKWE	No 45 Type 21 B 56(3)	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	12-Jan-2000
	Latest recorded date	14-Apr-2004
	Number so far recorded	18


SELEBI-PHIKWE	No 46 Type 21 B 56(4)	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	03-Dec-2001
	Latest recorded date	03-Dec-2001
	Number so far recorded	1

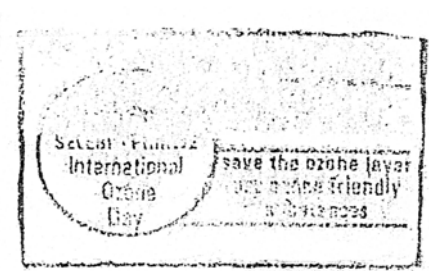
SELEBI-PHIKWE	No 47 Type 2 F 8	
	Circle diameters	18mm & 27mm
	Earliest recorded date	25-Jul-1995
	Latest recorded date	31-Jul-1996
	Number so far recorded	5

SELEBI-PHIKWE	No 48 Type 21 J 33	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	05-Apr-2000
	Latest recorded date	07-Sep-2000
	Number so far recorded	25

SELEBI-PHIKWE	No 49 Type 61 M 24(3)	
	Outer oval dimensions	31mm by 46mm
	Earliest recorded date	02-Nov-2005
	Latest recorded date	02-Nov-2005
	Number so far recorded	1


New sub-variant 24. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "C" followed by a number above [OFFICE NAME] followed by "POST OFFICE" at base (2 lines)


SELEBI-PHIKWE	No 50 Type MISC 6 z 30	
	Note spelling SELIBE	
	Outer oval dimensions	36mm by 62mm
	Earliest recorded date	02-Nov-2005
	Latest recorded date	02-Nov-2005
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant 30. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "MAIN STOCK" above [OFFICE NAME] at base (2 lines) with star separators		

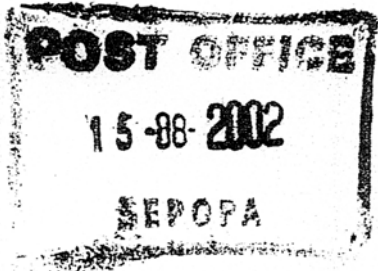
SELEBI-PHIKWE	No 51 Type SPEC 2 c	
	Struck in red	
	Earliest recorded date	01-Oct-1997
	Latest recorded date	01-Oct-1997
	Number so far recorded	1

SELEKA	This office closed in February 1993
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SEPOPA	This office opened on 03-May-1996, north of Etsha.
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SEPOPA	No 1 Type 2 B 51	
	Struck in red	
	Circle diameters	18mm & 27mm
	Earliest recorded date	07-May-1999
	Latest recorded date	07-May-1999
	Number so far recorded	1


SEPOPA	No 2 Type 21 F 22	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	12-Apr-2000
	Latest recorded date	12-Apr-2000
	Number so far recorded	1


SEPOPA	No 3 Type 8 J 26	
	Approx. box dimensions	32mm by 47mm
	Earliest recorded date	15-Aug-2002
	Latest recorded date	15-Aug-2002
	Number so far recorded	1


SEPOPA	An interesting note from the Postmaster at this office: He sent back one of his three date stamps to Gaborone in 2001 to be replaced. He had not received his new date stamp by August 2002, by which time a second date stamp had broken - leaving him with only one working date stamp.
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SERONGA	The Postmaster states that this office opened in 1988, but no postmarks are recorded until 1997. Situated north of Etsha.
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SERONGA	No 1 Type 2 B 51	
	Circle diameters	19mm & 27mm
	Earliest recorded date	18-Aug-1997
	Latest recorded date	10-May-1999
	Number so far recorded	3


SERONGA	No 2 Type 21 F 22	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	02-Feb-2004
	Latest recorded date	02-Feb-2004
	Number so far recorded	1


SEROWE	No 28 Type 2 B 55	
	Circle diameters	18mm & 28mm
	Earliest recorded date	09-Jul-1995
	Latest recorded date	01-Nov-2004
	Number so far recorded	12


SEROWE	No 29 Type 21 B 56(2)	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	14-Jun-2000
	Latest recorded date	14-Jun-2000
	Number so far recorded	1


SEROWE	No 30 Type 21 B 56(3) One item struck in purple	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	19-Jan-2000
	Latest recorded date	23-Jan-2004
	Number so far recorded	4

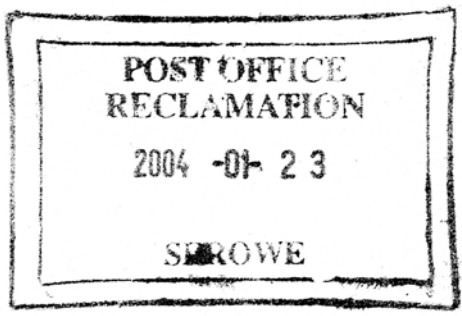
SEROWE	No 31 Type 21 B 56(4)	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	20-Apr-2000
	Latest recorded date	03-Sep-2002
	Number so far recorded	4

SEROWE	No 32 Type 21 B 58	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	03-Nov-2004
	Latest recorded date	12-Nov-2004
	Number so far recorded	2

SEROWE	No 33 Type 23 M 20(2)	
	Circle diameter	41mm
	Earliest recorded date	26-Aug-2004
	Latest recorded date	06-Dec-2005
	Number so far recorded	2
	New sub-variant 20. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with [OFFICE NAME] followed by "C" and a number at base.	

SEROWE	No 34 Type 23 M 20(4)	
	Circle diameter	40.5mm
	Earliest recorded date	05-Aug-2004
	Latest recorded date	05-Aug-2004
	Number so far recorded	1

SEROWE	No 35 Type MISC 6 z 39 Struck in red	
	Outer oval dimensions	35mm by 56mm
	Earliest recorded date	23-Jan-2004
	Latest recorded date	23-Jan-2004
	Number so far recorded	1
	New sub-variant 39. "POST OFFICE" above [OFFICE NAME] at top (2 lines) with "PENSIONS" above "BOTSWANA POSTAL SERVICES" at base (2 lines) with star separators	

SEROWE	No 36 Type MISC 7 z 1 Struck in red	
	Box dimensions	38mm by 58mm
	Earliest recorded date	23-Jan-2004
	Latest recorded date	23-Jan-2004
	Number so far recorded	1
	New sub-variant 1. "POST OFFICE" above "RECLAMATION" at top (2 lines) with [OFFICE NAME] at base	

Botswana Philatelic News

from Sheila Case

In spite of repeated requests to the Philatelic Bureau that collectors should be informed of every philatelic product **in advance** we suddenly found that handstamps commemorating "100 YEARS SCOUTING ANNIVERSARY 1907-2007" (part of a worldwide philatelic celebration) were to be in use for the full month of August 2007.

There are four cancellers; one at each of the three Sorting Centres and one at the Philatelic Bureau.

The Southern Sorting Centre was not using its canceller correctly. It is a Commemorative Handstamp and should be used as in the other two examples with the whole handstamp visible on the cover - it does not have a date so should not be used on stamps.

[Ed: I also note the (faint) words "MORNING SHIFT" on the stamp canceller on the piece showing the TATI-TOWN Centenary Canceller. Another for Bruce to describe]



I have also sent an image of a brand new type of canceller (left)

This example bears the words "CHOBE BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATION CENTRE".

Next time I am at Poso House I will try to find out more about these cancellers and the extent of their use, and also about Business Centres - their numbers and the services they are offering.



Above: Three examples of the Scouting Centenary commemorative handstamp (TATI-TOWN, POTA and SOUTHERN SORTING CENTRE)

Plans are underway for a Media Workshop. Representatives from newspapers, magazines, TV and Radio will be invited to attend.

At the Workshop I will introduce the basics of philately, which will include a section entitled "What do stamp collectors do?" ...the main thrust of which will not be stamp collecting as such, but "National Pride" in our stamp issues; hence publicizing philately along with postal services. There will also be some group projects for journalists to complete.

In October there are a series of events planned; some by the Botswana Philatelic Society assisted by BotswanaPost, and some by BotswanaPost alone. Media representatives will be invited to cover these events (a prize will be awarded for the best coverage).

BotswanaPost will be organising photographic coverage of these events and I will prime John Schaerer to report fully to Runner Post, with photos.

This will be fun!

I am informed, via the latest Botswana Philatelic Society newsletter, that BotswanaPost has had to reschedule meetings and events which were planned for October, due to the death of the Director General of BotswanaPost, Mr. Pule.

Imprimaturs. As issued but imperforate. Registered at Somerset House on 6 May 1887, except for the 2d and 4d values registered on 3 September. The 2d value was from a perforated sheet of the pale dull lilac shade.



Lot 1047 from the Spink Sale of 13th October 2007 which comprised items from the Bechuanalands, Somaliland and the Sudan collections of the late Sir John Inglefield-Watson. This lot, a set of imperforate imprimaturs of the 'Unappropriated Dies', fetched the highest price of the day: £21,000

STELLALAND



BECHUANALAND / Stellaland

1884 Revenue issue £1 lilac with early 1885 'JPM' monogram handstamp applied SIDEWAYS in lilac. Additionally imperforate between the stamp and upper margin (rejoined). Some edge stains, otherwise fine used with manuscript cancellation. Both varieties are unrecorded. Very rare. [120%]

T&M 2s.8

£550

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

ALAN MACGREGOR

Member: PTS, SAPDA, APS

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