

The **Runner Post**

THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY



Issue 73 Contents

LIST OF OFFICERS ▫ **DIARY 1801** • **NEW MEMBERS** ▫ **NOTICES** ▫ **2008 AGM 1802** • **EDITOR'S CORNER** ▫ **ERRATA 1803** • **RECENT BOTSWANA ISSUES 1804** • **RECENT FIND** ▫ **BOTSWANA BAR CODED REGISTRATION LABELS 1807** • **BRITISH BECHUANALAND: THE FIRST PROVISIONAL OVERPRINTS OF 1885-87 1810** • **SG32 - FURTHER THOUGHTS 1819** • **RARER STAMPS STUDY (PART 1) 1820** • **BOTSWANA POSTMARKS (SECOND SERIES) - PART 12 1824** • **BOTSWANA NEWS 1828**

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DAVID CROCKER

PROFESSIONAL PHILATELISTS

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Cover Image: One-Offs seen in 2008. [Clockwise from top left]
SG23c Surcharged in Green with Curved Foot to '2'
SG31 "Bechuanaland British"
SG39d&f "Bechuanaland British" no dot to i
SG6 Watermark Inverted

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DIARY OF EVENTS

2009

28 th February	Meeting - The Royal Horticultural Hall, London, Room 31 14:30 to 16:00
(tbc) May	Postal Auction #19
7 th November	AGM - The Royal Horticultural Hall, London, Room 32 12:45 to 14:45

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 to the meeting to enable the Secretary to forewarn and co-ordinate other members.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest members

Morgan Farrell

Montana, USA

Morgan's main interest is the stamps and postmark of the Southern Africa, including Bechuanaland, Swaziland and Basutoland.

David Woodley

County Durham, UK

David has a general interest in Bechuanaland collecting.

Marcel Zollinger

Ontario, CANADA

Marcel's interest is Bechuanaland up to 1935.

Notice - 2009 Auction

Any member wishing to submit material for the next Postal Bid sale should ensure that it is sent to the auctioneer, Brian Hurst, at the address given in the list of Officers, by no later than 14th January 2009. All

submissions should be accompanied by a description and a minimum reserve price (if any).

Auction lots will be available for viewing at the Society meeting at Philatex in February

2008 AGM Minutes *from Roger Howard*

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 1st NOVEMBER 2008 at 12:45pm held at The Royal Horticultural Hall, London, Room 33.

Members present: Brian Hurst (Chairman), John Coates, Howard MacNay, Neville Midwood, Tony Stafford, Dennis Firth, Don Jefferies, Roger Howard.

Apologies for absence: [UK] Brian Trotter, Andrew Higson, Malcolm Hodgson, Nigel Jones, Joe Taylor, Adrian Parsons, Ken Blackburn [USA] Morris Taber, Steve Zirinsky [South Africa] Chris Cordes, Alan MacGregor, Peter van der Molen [Botswana] Peter Jukes.

Previous Minutes of AGM held on 3rd November 2007 were read out [Ed: as they weren't published in Runner Post] and with one amendment were signed by Brian Hurst.

Election: All the existing Society Officers were standing in their current posts, with no new volunteers. The existing Officers were all re-elected. Brian Hurst pointed out he will have completed his allowed term of office in 2010 and nominations are sought to replace him. [Ed: Vladimir Putin just asked for 6 year terms-of-office]

Chairman: Brian Hurst had been invited by BotswanaPost to catalogue their archives and recently spent a month there. He said that his mission was to get the archives open to the public and also hopefully get scans of many of the rarer items such as large blocks of the 1885 issue available via a website.

He also asked for a Member to volunteer to revamp our Society website!

Membership currently stands at UK 63, Europe 9 with the rest of world 49. A total membership of 121.

Treasurer: The bank balance stands at £4642 [Ed: See published accounts on the Inside Back Cover]

Subscription Rates for 2009/2010: A discussion followed regarding subscriptions [For more see Editor's Corner]. A formal proposal was made to increase the overseas subscription by £2 to fully cover costs but was not carried (3 for, 4 against).

Editor: Neville Midwood asked for more short to medium length articles for the magazine. He said RP#72 had had printer problems. Runner Post now has a new Front Cover design (since RP#72). He hoped to have next issue RP#73 out before Christmas. Neville's work was fully appreciated by all.

Any Other Business: The date of the next meeting was set at 28th February 2009 in Room 31 at 14:30 to 16:00 with the AGM being 7th November 2009 in Room 32 at 12:45 to 14:45.

It was suggested that to coincide with London 2010 there should be a Society meeting in May 2010 instead of February - probably at the nearby Camden Head Pub where meetings used to take place three or four years ago - with a buffet lunch. Brian Hurst will investigate the availability of display boards.

A number of members displayed items from their collections - including some recently discovered "new" items [Ed: Some of which are illustrated on the Front Cover of this issue]

Editor's Corner

Subscription Rates and eMembers

As mentioned in "2008 AGM" (left) there was some discussion about subscription rates at this years AGM. Prior to the meeting I had been asked about the cost of Runner Post (the cost of which exceeded subscriptions) and which part was costing the most. One thing I discovered was that in the UK members pay around £2 of their annual subscription towards postage, for Europe this increases to £5 and for Botswana/RSA/USA etc this is £7 annually per member. This fact alone led to a member proposing an increase for European and Rest of World 2009/2010 membership of £2. This proposal was defeated (4 to 3) but obviously subscription rates will need to be discussed for 2010/2011

One thing I did propose was to make available to members an "eMember rate"- paying around £6 (tbc)

Notice - London 2010 Meeting

Although it may seem that the 2010 London Festival of Stamps is some distance away, many members may be considering advance plans to attend this important international event, held only once every ten years.

Your Society will be very much involved in the International Stamp Exhibition, of which it is a major sponsor. This exhibition will be held in the Business Design Centre, London, from Saturday 8th May to Saturday 15th May 2010. The Society has hired a large

a year for the Runner Post in electronic form (PDF) delivered by e-mail (no printed copy). If anyone is interested they should let me know and we can trial the process as an overlap with the printed issues. PDF's are normally 10 to 25Mb each, depending on image resolution (150dpi/300dpi) so a reasonably fast internet connection would help.

Article Status for 2009/2010

The article pipeline is reasonably good - a few long term series and articles promised for the new issue. Hopefully articles on Basutoland and Swaziland will one day surface (*hint*). Short articles, such as the one by Morgan Farrell in this issue are always appreciated, as it helps me balance pages (it is very like dry stone walling creating the Runner Post). Remember that whilst an image of a stamp or cover is not a "short article" - the same image plus a few paragraphs is.

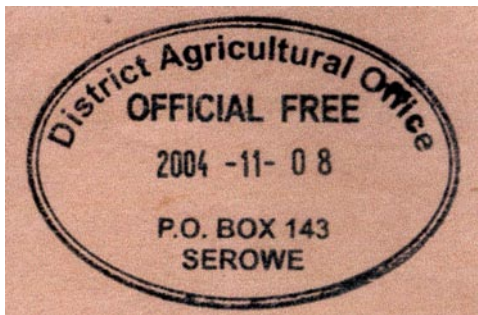
private room within the Design Centre from 10am to 2pm on the final Saturday, 15th May. It is hoped to include a major display of Bechuanalands and Botswana philately, to provide a meeting point for visiting members with the provision of refreshments, and perhaps conduct the annual Society Auction live at some point during the day.


Please ensure you make a note of the date in your diary.

Official Free Markings Supplement 1 Errata

Sadly a number of errors crept into my rendering of Dennis' Supplement 1 - mostly as a result of me concentrating on printer problems. Most of the

corrections will appear in Supplement 2, but the image of #302 which was linked in for two other markings I can correct now.

	
District Agricultural Offices P.O. BOX 143 SEROWE	317
Serowe 08-11-2004	
Double Oval Size not known	

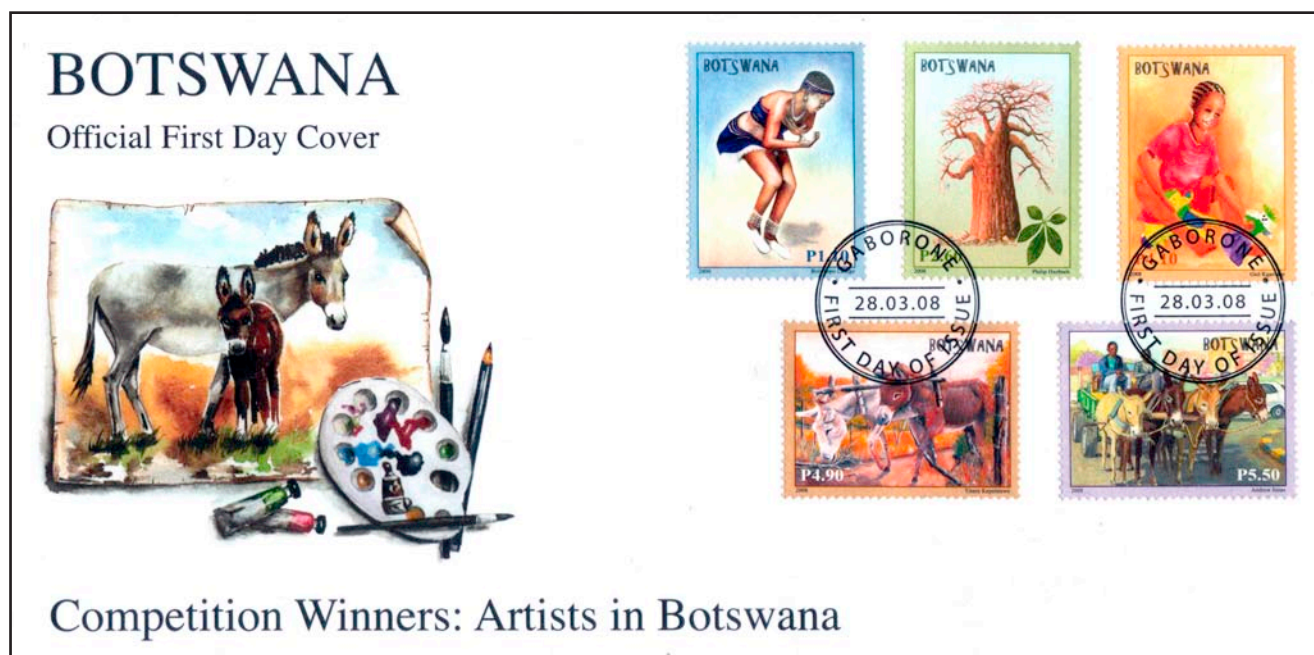
	
IMMIGRATION DEPT. REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA [STRUCK IN RED]	382
Place/Date not known	
Double Oval Size not known	

Recent Botswana Issues

Information on Botswana stamp issues is available on leaflets from, or sometimes (currently for 2008 only for the "Artists" series) the website of, BotswanaPost.

<i>Competition Winners: Artists in Botswana</i>		Date of issue	28 th March 2008
Denominations	P1.10, P2.60, P4.10, P4.90 and P5.50	P1.10	Traditional Dancer by Boitshepo Lesego
Graphic Designer	Paul Melenhorst	P2.60	Baobab Tree by Philip Huebsch
Printer	Osterreichische Staatsdruckerei	P4.10	Child Playing with Dolls by Giel Kgamane
Process	Offset Lithograph	P4.90	Donkeys Tired after hard work by Tineni Kapaletswe
FDC Size	110mm x 220 mm	P5.50	Donkeys in the City by Andrew Jones
Stamp Size	30mm x 40mm	FDC Cover: Nancy Hosenburg	
Paper	110gsm, PVA gum stamp paper	Period of Sale	One Year
Sheet Format	Panes of 25x2 single stamps with gutter pair		(FDC [80%] below)

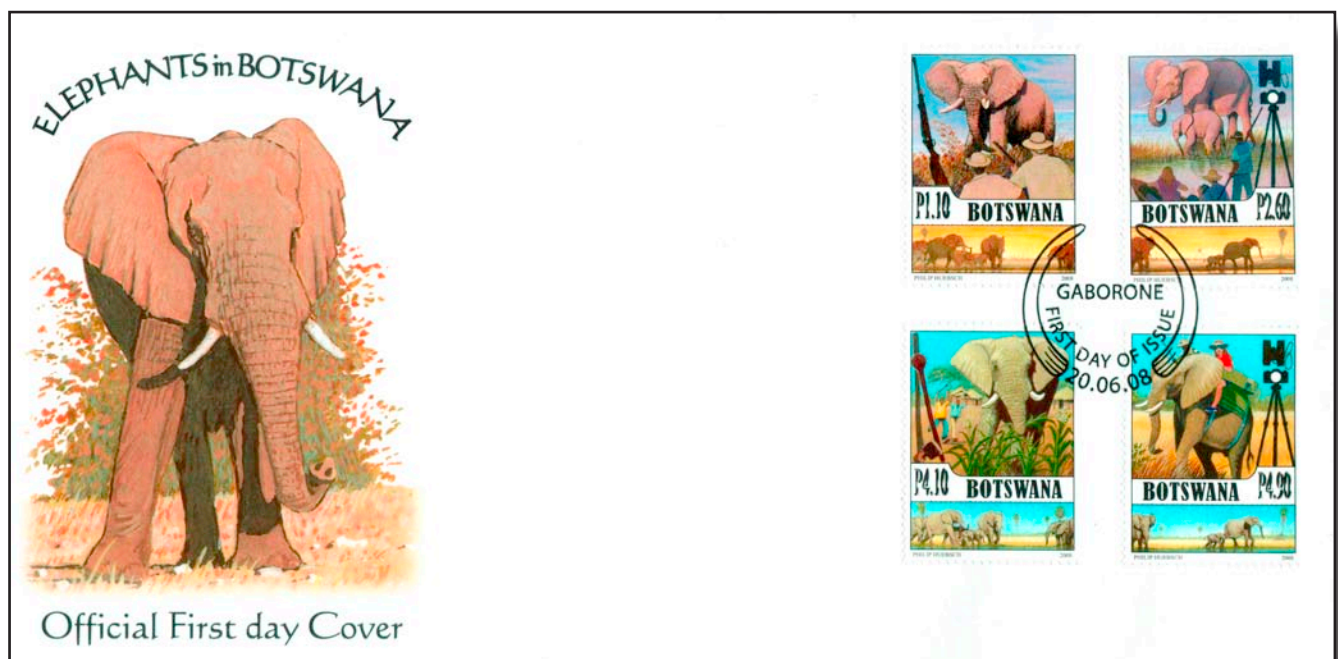
This issue displays images produced within the framework of The Artists Workshop first run in 2006. Two winners came from a mini-competition within the 2007 workshop and the four others from a National Competition open to any artists resident in Botswana. The five designs on the stamps were slightly modified, by Paul Melenhorst at the National Art Gallery, to produce a unified set.



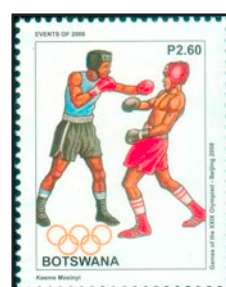
<i>Elephants in Botswana</i>		Date of issue	20 th June 2008
Denominations	P1.10, P2.60, P4.10, and P4.90	P1.10	Tourists hunting elephant
Designer	Philip Huebsch	P2.60	Tourists photographing elephants
Printer	Osterreichische Staatsdruckerei	P4.10	Crop-raiding elephant
Process	Offset Lithograph	P4.90	Elephant-back safari
FDC Size	110mm x 220 mm	Period of Sale One Year	
Stamp Size	30mm x 40mm		
Paper	110gsm, PVA gum stamp paper	(FDC [80%] below)	
Sheet Format	Panes of 25x2 single stamps with gutter pair		

Philip Huebsch was trained as a remedial teacher. He is also a self-taught artist and has worked for many years teaching in primary schools in Botswana. He has taken a keen interest in wildlife, spending long hours studying and drawing animals in their natural habitat. He designed Botswana's 1987 Definitive Stamp Issue depicting 18 species of wild mammals, and has designed the country's most recent Definitive Issue depicting butterflies, released last year.

The issue itself brings attention to the 180,000 elephants (increasing by 20,000 a year) mostly living in 116,000 sq km of Northern Botswana and the various ways they affect Botswana life. There is 20 tonnes of ivory stored in Botswana and CITES allows a limited amount of hunting (about 560 animals a year - 280 via hunting licences costing P10,000). There are plans to re-populate some of the areas of Angola and Zambia which suffered heavy poaching in the past with Botswana Elephants.



Events of 2008: Games of the XXIX Olympiad Beijing 2008 stamps (see over)

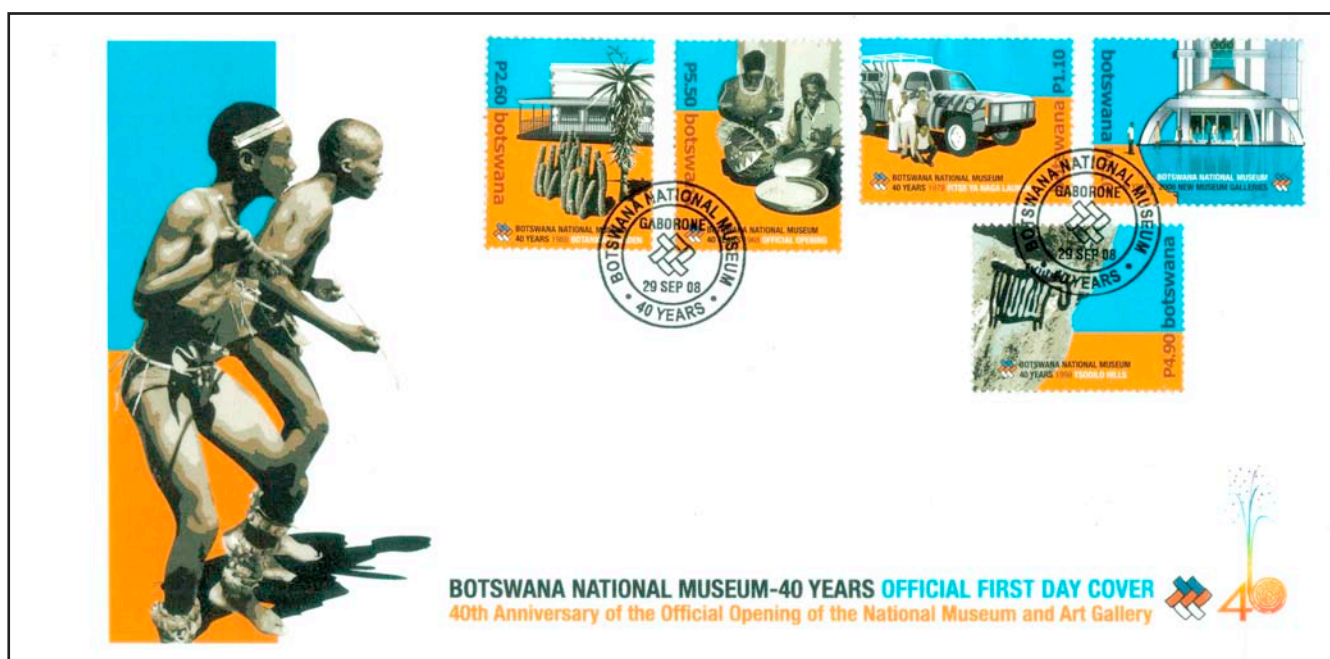


<i>Events of 2008</i>		Date of issue	15 th August 2008/30 th October 2008
Denominations	P1.10, P2.60	P1.10	Olympics: Runners
Artist/Designer	Keeme Mosinyi	P2.60	Olympics: Boxing
Printer	Southern Colour Print	P4.10	The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency (tbc)
Process	Offset Lithographic	P4.90	Diamond Trading Corporation Botswana headquarters (tbc)
Stamp Size	40mm x 30mm	P5.50	Heart Foundation (tbc)
Paper	110gsm, PVA 110 gum	[Images of P1.10 and P2.60 on previous page]	
Sheet Format	Panes of 25x2 single stamps with gutter pair	Period of Sale	One Year

[Ed: Due to production delays only the Olympic stamps (showing the two events in which it had been known that Botswana would compete (actually there was also a swimmer)) were issued on the 15th August. The rest of the series and a Official Commemorative Cover are due 30th October 2008.]

<i>Botswana National Museum 40 Years</i>		Date of issue	29 th September 2008
Denominations	P1.10, P2.60, P4.10, P4.90 and P5.50	P1.10	1978 Pitse Ya Naga Launch (Mobile Museum Service)
Artist/Designer	Paul Melenhorst	P2.60	1988 Botanical Garden
Printer	Southern Colour Print	P4.10	2008 New Museum Galleries
Process	Offset, 4 Process Colour	P4.90	1998 Tsodilo Hills
FDC Size	110mm x 190 mm	P5.50	1968 Official Opening (Two Ladies Doing Pottery)
Stamp Size	40mm x 30mm	All 5 stamps are in the same colours; orange, blue and white; reflecting the logo of the Museum.	
Paper	110gsm, PVA 110 gum	Period of Sale	One Year
Sheet Format	Panes of 25x2 single stamps with gutter pair and traffic lights	(FDC [80%] below)	

It has been 40 years since the idea of establishing a national museum in Botswana was conceived and put into action. It was a daunting task to start such a service without the necessary resources to see it through. Nevertheless, today the National Museum, Monuments and Art Gallery looks back with a sense of pride at the fruits of labour emanating from all those years of serving Botswana.



Recent find

by Morgan Farrell

I have collected stamps since I was 7 years old - some 52 years. I have made a few interesting discoveries during that time, but I recently made the kind of find that we, as stamp collectors, all dream about.

I purchased a large lot of Botswana in bundles. From the good yield of postmarks, it was obvious that it was unpicked from. Part of the lot included about 1000 or so of the 1 cent 1967 bird definitive stamp. I knew that there was a known watermark variety on this stamp. The variety is an error of paper with a watermark of Maltese crosses that was normally used for stamps of Malta - SG220a. As I checked for postmarks, I held each stamp up to a light. Sure enough I found one! It has a light Gaborone roller cancel. I can't make out the year.



Stanley Gibbons pegs this at £700 but I will likely never find out what price it would fetch in auction. Like a true philatelist and Botswana collector, I couldn't let it go. It'll get its own special page in my album and I'll just appreciate its rarity and how lucky I was to find it.

If anyone knows how many of these have been found, please contact me. mtf3@usfamily.net or Morgan Farrell, PO Box 1064, Hamilton, MT 59840, USA.

Botswana Bar Coded Registration Labels

by Peter Jukes



Figure 1: First style of white label - produced in-house

Having read Peter Thy's article on this subject in the last *Runner Post*, I decided to take a look at what was available on the market here in Botswana. I spent some time at Poso House where most people think one is a little unhinged if we want to know things of any details; especially if it occurred in the past. However, I managed to unearth some interesting facts, so I made up this small article. I hope that some of you will find it interesting.

In an effort to keep track of Registered Items once in the postal system, BotswanaPost introduced Bar

Coded Registration Labels in 2004. Initially, these labels were produced in-house by the IT Department of BotswanaPost, using the UPU guidelines

The first labels, black letters and numerals on a white background, were 69.5/70mm x 37/37.5mm, with letters & figures being 4.25/4.5mm in height (**Figure 1**). My earliest example is dated 2006-02-08.

A second, local in-house printed label of 53mm x 35mm appeared (**Figure 2**). The letters and numerals were 3mm in height. These were produced at intervals until mid-2006 when a contract was awarded to a



Figure 2: Second style of white label - produced in-house

local printing company; Kingsley and Associates of Gaborone.

Unfortunately, as few or no records were retained within Poso House, the dates and quantities of the “in house” produced labels cannot be accurately determined. It is quite possible that the printing was done on an “as needed” basis.

The first recorded order, for 10,000 units was placed in August of 2006 and the delivery made to the Procurement Department in the October of that year.

This was for the New Blue style (**Figure 4**), but it soon became apparent that this colour was in fact too dark. The scanners used to read the bar codes were having difficulty in distinguishing the code from the background colour. A verbal instruction for a colour change was given to Kingsleys. This led to the introduction of the pale Azure labels (**Figure 3**). A second order, again for 10,000 units was given to Kingsleys in April of 2007, delivery being executed in the June of that year.



Figure 3: Azure label from Kingsleys

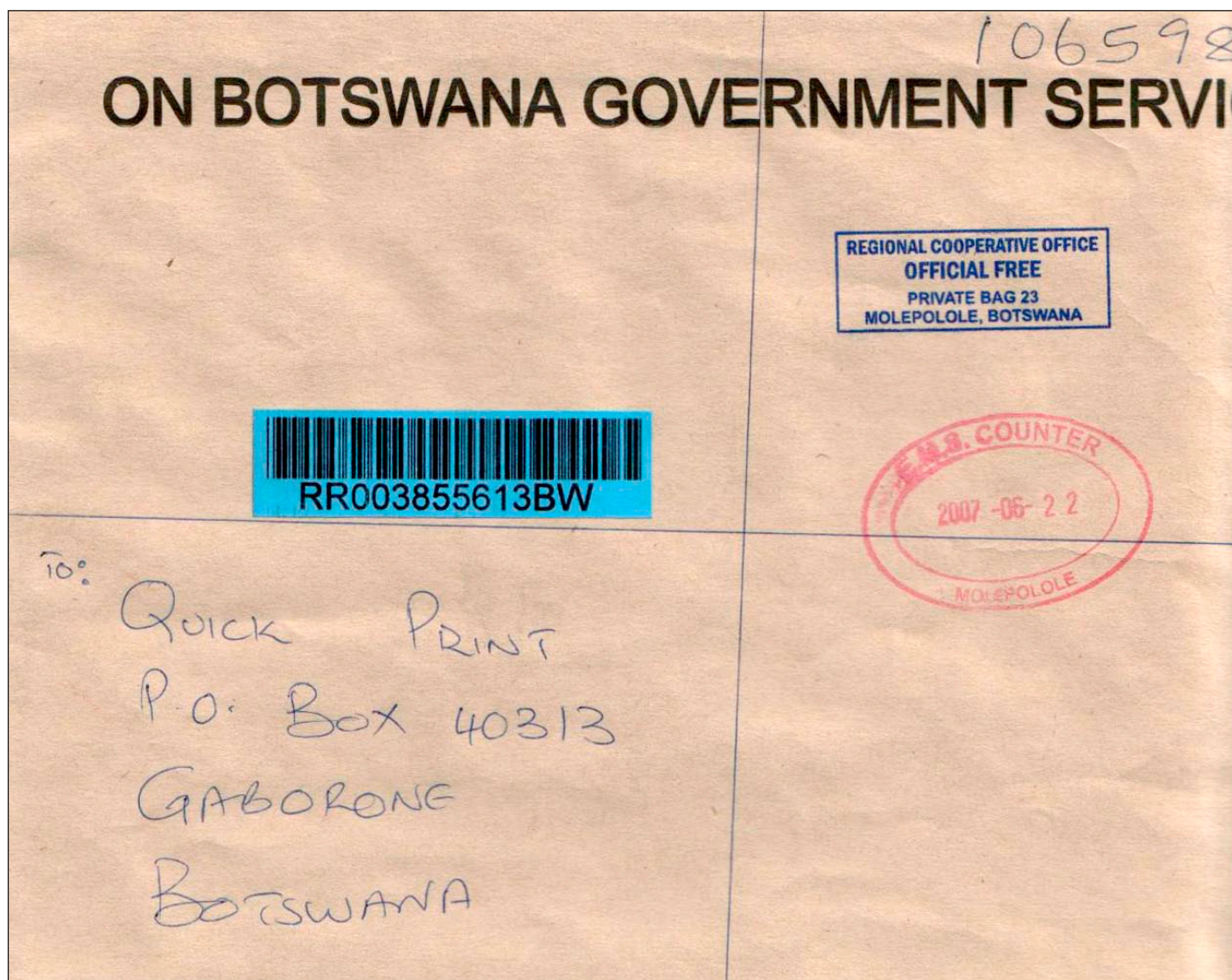


Figure 4: New Blue label from Kingsleys

These labels were much different from the originals, being black letters and numerals on a coloured background. The sizes were (label) 69 x 19mm/ 70 x 18.75mm/ 71 x 18.5mm with the letters being 4.5 mm in height. Although it is presumed that these labels were distributed to the major post offices throughout the country, and quite probably to some, if not all, of the Postal Agencies, the originals were still allowed to be used, as they served the same purpose.

One of the major reasons for the two labels being in use concurrently was the fact that some offices did not have the usage (volume of mail) to run out of the white ones, so consequently they often appear on registered items, particularly from the smaller Post Offices and Agencies. Figure 2 shows the date of use from LETLHAKANE as 2007-10-15.

Since beginning to write this article, more information has come to light. Bruce Warrender has examples of some of the earlier Bar Coded labels (in blue), my own earliest date is 2007-12-10. Bruce's letter to Peter Thy piqued my curiosity and I re-checked my own collection of envelopes, set aside for another purpose.

Within these I found a strange cover. This one is in a darker blue, just paler than New Blue (see figure four), dated 2007-06-22. It was used at Molepolole new Post Office, (not Mathubantwa) which is the older of the two offices in Molepolole. Being 69 x 19mm, with figures/letters of 4.5mm in height, it is similar to the light blue labels but certainly not the same. The envelope has also passed through the EMS counter? As the two systems of tracking require different handling practices, and different labels, it can only be presumed that the counter clerk picked up the nearest cancel and applied it as the issuing office.

On checking other Bar Coded labels I have I find that the pale blue ones vary from 68.5 x 18.5mm to 71 x 18.5mm. The lettering varies from 4.5mm to almost 4.75mm, and is cut quite close to the edge of the labels in some cases.

I am indebted to both Kagiso Moalosi (Asst. IT Manager, Security section at BotswanaPost) and Kingsley Dobrowsky (Director), of Kingsley & Associates, for their time and efforts in assisting me in my research on this matter.

British Bechuanaland The first provisional overprints of 1885-87

by Brian Hurst

This article first appeared
in *The London Philatelist*
No.1353 March 2008
Vol.117-p.52 to 63

The standard work on the philately of the Bechuanalands is *'The Postage Stamps, Postal Stationery and Postmarks of the Bechuanalands'* by H.R. Holmes, published in 1971. This remarkable book has enthused a generation of collectors and has largely stood the test of time. There have been a number of specialist articles published from time to time in *Runner Post*, the magazine of the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society, but over 35 years have elapsed since 'Holmes' without the publication of a comprehensive study of the first issue of postage stamps for British Bechuanaland. This article represents my own observations and interpretations of these stamps in the light of currently available information.

My chance discovery in the Cape National Archive early in 2007 of an account book entitled *'Bechuanaland (Crown Colony) - Office of the Receiver and Accountant General - Register Stamp Accounts - 1885/1889'* has proved invaluable in providing new information regarding the early issues. It is effectively an accounts book; but rather than dealing with income and expenditure it records the receipt and issue, by dates and quantities, of all postage and revenue stamps for the period. It gives an exact record of printing quantities, dates of receipt and dates of issue for each individual denomination and its analysis provides a major step forward in improving the knowledge of the stamps of the period. These figures are published in this article for the first time and provide an answer to much of the speculation that has occurred over the last few decades.

The initial supply.

The Crown Colony of 'British Bechuanaland' was proclaimed on the 30th September 1885 following the successful expedition led by Major-General Sir Charles Warren to annex the Boer Republics of Stellaland and Goshen. A rudimentary postal service was already in existence at Vryburg, the chief town of Stellaland, and this, together with its stock of postage stamps, was taken over by the new British authority. Good communication was an essential element of British colonial government, and having already established a comprehensive telegraph system

during the military campaign, it was considered essential to expand the postal services. An order was therefore placed with the Postmaster-General of Cape Colony to provide quantities of suitably overprinted stamps of all denominations currently used in Cape Colony, with the exception of the five shilling value. Consequently, instructions were given to Messrs. W. A. Richards & Son of Cape Town, official printers to the Government of Cape Colony, asking them to overprint current stamps of the Cape of Good Hope with the words 'British Bechuanaland'.

The overprint was applied to complete undivided sheets of 240 stamps comprising four panes of 60 stamps each, separated by gutters in the form of a cross, and the initial consignment, which comprised the five values illustrated (**Figure 1**), arrived at the office of the Accountant-General in Mafeking on the 30th November 1885.

The quantity of stamps in the **initial supply** received from Cape Town for each value was as follows:

Value	Overprint Colour	Watermark	Sheets
½d. grey-black	red	Crown CA	100
1d. rose-red	black	Cabled Anchor	200
2d. pale bistre	black	Cabled Anchor	250
3d. pale claret	black	Crown CA	50
6d. reddish purple	black	Cabled Anchor	100

For the first few months of its existence, the new colonial administration of British Bechuanaland was based at Mafeking, with the Governor of Cape Colony and High Commissioner for South Africa, Sir Hercules Robinson, serving as the ultimate authority for British Bechuanaland through his appointed local administrator, Sir Sidney Shippard, a former Cape Colony judge. The postal administration for the colony was however, for practical reasons, based at Vryburg. The official responsible for distribution of the 1885 postage stamps from Vryburg is described in the Stamp Accounts Register as "C.C. Vryburg", which I have interpreted as "Civil Commissioner, Vryburg". This would be Mr. A. Faure Robertson, who is recorded



Figure 1: Values included in the first supply

as being Civil Commissioner, Postmaster-General and Resident Magistrate at Vryburg at the time. The colony had a very small population in its early days, and many officials were expected to undertake duties in more than one capacity.

On the 2nd December 1885, the Civil Commissioner at Vryburg recorded the receipt of the following quantities of stamps from the Accountant-General in Mafeking:

½d.	25 Sheets
1d.	50 Sheets
2d.	100 Sheets
3d.	20 Sheets
6d.	25 Sheets

On the same day, the Civil Commissioner, in his capacity as distributor of stamps, sent the following quantities to the Resident Magistrate at Taung, who had been appointed to act as postmaster:

½d.	2 Sheets
1d.	5 Sheets
2d.	5 Sheets
3d.	1 Sheet
6d.	1 Sheet

I think it highly unlikely that the supplies arrived in time for them to be put on sale at Taung, roughly nine hours distance from Vryburg, on the 2nd, and consider the following day, 3rd December 1885, to be the most likely first day of issue to the public. This is supported by the fact that the postmaster at Vryburg, the site of the principal post office, was not issued with his stamps until 3rd December. The quantities he received were:

½d.	½ Sheet
1d.	1 Sheet
2d.	5 Sheets
3d.	1 Sheet
6d.	2 Sheets

No doubt these quantities were considered adequate in view of the speed with which the supply chain could replenish stocks at the Vryburg post office. This is supported by an entry in the records showing that the Vryburg postmaster needed a further sheet of 2d. stamps only nine days later, whereas Taung received no more supplies until February of the following year.

The initial supply to the Mafeking post office was a little involved. Although the larger part of the stamp stock had been retained by the Accountant-General at his office in Mafeking, it was the Civil Commissioner at Vryburg, in his capacity as Postmaster-General, who made the supply for postal purposes. On the 15th December 1885 he forwarded the following quantities to the Accountant-General for onward transmission to the Resident Magistrate at Mafeking, who had been appointed postmaster:

1d.	5 Sheets
2d.	15 Sheets
6d.	25 Sheets

The supply was accompanied by the following instruction to the postmaster: "Please do your utmost to cause the public to prepay letters with British Bechuanaland postage stamps as much trouble will be saved at the dispatching and receiving offices".

These three offices, at Vryburg, Mafeking and Taung, were the only ones providing postal services in December 1885.

No fourpence or one shilling stamps were sent in this initial consignment although they were values in current use in Cape Colony and were included in the original order. No satisfactory explanation has been offered to account for this omission, although possibilities include prior cancellation of these values by the British Bechuanaland authorities, misinterpretation or deliberate amendment of the order by the Cape Postmaster-General or a shortage of stock of the basic stamps required for overprinting. The 'shortage' theory is highly unlikely since a gap of around 1½ years was to ensue before the fourpence stamps were finally delivered, overprinted on stamps with Crown CC watermark which must have been in the Cape Postmaster-General's stock for a number of years.

Overprint trials on the halfpenny stamp.

The difficulty of producing a clearly visible overprint in black ink on a stamp whose basic colour was grey-black must have caused the printer some problems. Two varieties of colour in the overprint for the halfpenny stamp are recorded, and I think it possible that these come from sheets used by the printer as trials.



Figure 2:
overprint in lake



Figure 3:
overprint double lake & black



Figure 4:
overprint as issued

The two varieties and the issued stamp, illustrated here (**Figures 2, 3 & 4**), carry the Crown CA watermark, which identifies them as coming from the first issue; all subsequent over printings of the halfpenny value being on stamps with Anchor watermark.

The distinctive lake overprint is a very rare stamp. At one time only a single repaired mint copy was recorded in the Holmes collection (now in the Botswana Postal Museum) and a single used copy was known in the Royal Collection. Over the last decade two further mint examples and two used ones have been recorded. The rarity of this lake overprint, and its existence in mint and used state in equal

quantities, seems to indicate that it was put into stock and issued, being considered of sufficient similarity to the red colour of the overprint on the issued stamp not to warrant rejection.

The status of the second variety, where the overprint is doubled, once in lake and once in black, is more difficult to explain. The deliberate production of a double overprint on an issued stamp would have created almost insurmountable difficulties. Consistent registration of one overprint on top of the other would have been virtually impossible to control. Examination of the stamp reveals that the lake overprint was done first, followed by the black. It is therefore possible that it was simply an experiment to determine the effect of a black overprint, but the printer, rather than use up another new sheet of Cape halfpenny stamps, took his lake overprinted sheet and applied the black overprint, in its probable setting covering 120 stamps, to half the sheet.

Contrary to the case of the lake overprint, the double overprint seems to have been rejected as unfit for issue, and was possibly sold off to dealers to recoup the cost of the stamps. This theory is supported by two observations: firstly the stamp is unknown in used condition, and secondly it is much more common in mint condition than should be the case had it been issued. The halfpenny Cape stamp used for the overprint is always centred low and to the right, which indicates that all copies came originally from a single sheet. Multiples are unknown.

Later over-printings.

Further supplies of overprinted Cape of Good Hope stamps were ordered before the issue was finally superseded by the definitive "Unappropriated Dies" issue on the 19th January 1888.

The **second supply** was received from the Cape Postmaster-General on the 25th November 1886. The quantities and values received were:

Value	Overprint Colour	Watermark	Sheets
½d. grey-black	black	Cabled Anchor	50
1d. rose-red	black	Cabled Anchor	50
2d. pale bistre	black	Cabled Anchor	25
1s. green	black	Cabled Anchor	50

This supply contained two new stamps. The overprint on the halfpenny stamp was carried out using black ink instead of red on stamps with Cabled Anchor watermark instead of Crown CA, and a one shilling value was introduced for the first time. These new stamps are illustrated in **Figures 5 & 6**.

An initial supply of one shilling stamps was made to the Vryburg Postmaster on the 26th November 1886, which can now be accepted as the first day of issue. It is impossible to determine the first day of issue for the halfpenny grey-black with black overprint.



Figure 5:
½d with black
overprint



Figure 6:
1s.
new value

Although one sheet of this value was issued to the postmaster on the same day as the one shilling stamps, it could well have been from the first (red) overprinting since, at this date there were five sheets of halfpenny stamps overprinted in red remaining in the Civil Commissioner's stock. On the assumption that he used up the old stock first, the initial supply of halfpenny stamps with black overprint would have been made to the Vryburg postmaster on 24th December 1886, since on that day the records show that he was issued with five sheets of stamps, which would inevitably have exhausted the stock of red overprints. These two dates, the 26th November and the 24th December, represent the earliest and latest possible dates of issue for this particular stamp.

In the meantime the Imperial Authority in London had difficulty in agreeing a minimal-cost solution for the introduction of a range of definitive stamps for the colony. This caused even further delays, resulting in a complaint by the Administrator, Sir Sidney Shippard to the Board of Inland Revenue stamping department in London stating that he would need to get a further interim supply from the Cape postal authorities.

The resulting **third supply** arrived from Cape Town on the 1st June 1887 and comprised:

Value	Overprint Colour	Watermark	Sheets
1d. rose-red	black	Cabled Anchor	25
2d. pale bistre	black	Cabled Anchor	25
4d. dull blue	black	Crown CC	25

This supply saw the introduction of the 4d. stamp (**Figure 7**), thus completing the series of denominations originally ordered.

An initial stock of this value was issued to the Vryburg postmaster on the 2nd June 1887, and this can be taken as the first day of issue. I am unable to comment on Holmes reference to a reported sighting of the stamp



Figure 7:
4d.
new value

Sheets of 240 stamps each	½d.	1d.	2d.	3d.	4d.	6d.	1s.
First supply 02/12/1885	100	200	250	50	-	100	-
Second supply 25/11/1885	50	50	25	-	-	-	50
Third supply 01/06/1887	-	25	25	-	25	-	-
Fourth supply 19/07/1887	50	75	100	-	-	25	40
Total quantity of stamps overprinted	48,000	84,000	96,000	12,000	6,000	30,000	21,600

The table right summarises the supplies for the entire issue.

in the February 1887 issue of The Philatelic Record, since I have not had the opportunity to read that particular issue of the magazine. I can only state that the official Register of Stamp Accounts, from which all the Figures given in this article are taken, is very specific as regards dates and quantities for receipts and supplies of each individual denomination.

A **fourth and final supply** was received around seven weeks later, on the 19th July 1887. The quantities were as follows:

Value	Overprint Colour	Watermark	Sheets
½d. grey-black	black	Cabled Anchor	50
1d. rose-red	black	Cabled Anchor	100
6d. reddish purple	black	Cabled Anchor	25
1s. green	black	Cabled Anchor	40

No records have been found to prove whether the third and fourth supplies were deliveries resulting from two separate orders or were two split parts of a single order.

Printing plates used for the Cape of Good Hope stamps.

The printing plates and current numbers for the sheets of stamps overprinted for use in British Bechuanaland are as follows:

Value	Plate Number	Current Number
½d.	1	43
1d.	6	
2d.	2	
3d.	1	
4d.	2	3
6d.	1	16
1s.	1	17

The 'Current Number' was a De La Rue procedure which denoted the order in which some early plates were made, regardless of designated values or territories.

Few marginal multiples have survived, but over a considerable period of time most of the above have been observed. The one exception is the 1s. value where the numbers given are those known to exist on sheets of the unoverprinted 1s. Cape stamp.

Withdrawal from sale and disposal of remainders

Most values of the new "Unappropriated Dies" definitive series, which were intended to replace the overprinted Cape stamps were received from His Honour the Administrator by the "Chief Distributor of Stamps" on the 2nd July 1887, over two weeks prior to the receipt of the of the final supply of overprinted Cape stamps. There were no overprinted GB ½d. vermilion stamps included in the supply, nor any 2d. or 4d. values, since at this time none had been received from De La Rue in London. A quantity of all available values of the new issue was immediately transferred to the stock of the "Sub-Distributor of Stamps" and placed on sale for Revenue purposes only. This was because the stamps carried the inscription "Postage & Revenue", and Cape Colony law, which was also in force in British Bechuanaland, prohibited the use of dual purpose stamps. This law was not repealed until 1st November 1887, however there was an urgent need to replace Stellaland revenue stamps, which were still in current use, so the sale of "Unappropriated Dies" stamps was permitted from 2nd July for revenue purposes only, provided the word "Postage" was first struck out in manuscript by the user.

Despite the repeal of the law, the records show that the provisional overprinted Cape stamps remained on sale for postal purposes until the 19th January 1888, when the "Unappropriated Dies" were finally distributed to post offices.

Remaining stocks were not withdrawn from the post offices, and it seems probable that they were simply allowed to sell through; no doubt mainly to dealers.

A provisional "reserve" of stamps for Whitfield King of Ipswich had been pencilled in the accounts as early as 26th July 1887. These were finally sent out, albeit in revised quantities, via the Crown Agents on 9th May 1888. The quantities, totalling £50 face value, were as follows:

½d.	25 Sheets
1d.	5 Sheets
2d.	3 Sheets
3d.	2 Sheets
4d.	1 Sheet
6d.	1 Sheet
1s.	210 Stamps

On the 11th May, the small remaining stocks of 2d. and 6d. stamps were sent to the Vryburg post office, leaving just 3d. and 4d. denominations in the Distributor's stock. These latter stamps had seen little postal use throughout the entire period, each having been overprinted in very small quantities on just one occasion. Throughout the rest of 1888 the Vryburg postmaster continued to order 3d. and 4d. stamps, and a final significant supply of six sheets of the 3d. was made to the Mafeking postmaster on 17th December.

The account book record for the provisional issue closed on the 31st December 1888 with just 12 sheets of 3d. and 12 sheets of 4d. stamps remaining in stock. Their eventual disposal is not recorded. It is interesting to note, however, that both these values

are recorded with the rare 'Specimen' handstamp known as 'Samuel Type BEC1' (**Figure 8**). This was a handstamp applied locally at Vryburg some time during 1889 to a very small number of sets of all stamp denominations currently in the stock of the Chief Distributor. This suggests that the 3d. and 4d. remainders had still not been dispersed at the time.

Specimen

Figure 8:
Samuel type BEC1
'Specimen' handstamp
[200%]



Figure 9:
Example of 'Specimen'
handstamp on 3d.
value

The entire series retained postal validity throughout the existence of British Bechuanaland up to its annexation to Cape Colony on 16th November 1895. They remained valid in the Bechuanaland Protectorate up to 31st March 1938, from which date the use of all earlier overprinted stamps was prohibited.

The overprint setting

The records show that all values were received from the printers overprinted in complete sheets of 240 stamps. Two questions arise from this: how many panes of 60 stamps were covered by the overprint setting and was the type dispersed after each printing and reset for the next?

It is unfortunate that no complete panes of this issue have survived, let alone complete sheets. The few panes that were offered for sale in the early 1900's have been broken up and most of the handful of large blocks that survived have disappeared from sight. This makes it almost impossible to offer a complete picture.

Holmes was of the opinion that the size of the overprint setting was 120 covering two adjacent horizontal panes of 60. As a consequence, each sheet of stamps would have been introduced twice to the printing press in order to complete the overprint. I agree with these conclusions and include the strip

(shown as two parts) as **Figures 10** [below] & **11** [top next page] in support.

This strip, originally in the collection of Emil Tamsen, is in fact a single piece, but is shown here in two parts so that it can be illustrated to scale. Had the overprint setting covered just one pane of 60 stamps, then the overprint covering the top row of the left hand pane would be identical to the overprint covering the top row of the right hand pane. It is clear that this is not the case. It is only necessary to examine the third stamp of the left pane and observe the raised letters "and" in "Bechuanaland". This variety does not repeat in the third stamp of the right pane as would have been the case had the overprint setting covered a single pane. The line of the overprint is not perfectly horizontal but follows a gentle curve indicating a degree of over tightening of the moveable type in the printing forme.



Figure 10: top row of upper left pane



Figure 11: top row of upper right pane

It is also interesting to note that the spacing between each overprint is too great and does not perfectly match the stamps. This results in the overprint, which starts to the left on the first stamp of the row, progressively advancing to the right until the last stamp of the row is reached.



Figure 12:
Top row of lower left pane,
positions 1 and 2

Proof that the overprint applied to the lower two panes was identical to that applied to the upper ones is provided by the pair of 1d. stamps illustrated (Figure 12). The perforated gutter margin shows that they are from the top row of a lower pane. The position of the watermark in the margin allows us to plate the stamps to positions one and two. A direct comparison is therefore possible with the 4d. stamps in the corresponding position of the upper frame. Whilst

it is unfortunate that stamp 3, with the raised “and”, has been detached, electronic superimposition of images taken from the overprints produces a virtually perfect match if one allows for differences in the amount of ink applied. The left hand stamp also follows the same curve from the horizontal that is observed in the 4d. strip. This should not be expected had the setting been 240, since the overprint applied to this particular stamp would have then been half way down the setting, not at the top left hand cover. It would not have been subjected to the pressures of over tightening in the same way so that the curve in the line of the overprint would almost certainly not have been present.

It is likely that the type was dispersed; at least between the first three printings. This can be supported by a study of the catalogued varieties in the overprint, as discussed in the following section. It may well be that the overprint forme used for the third printing was retained for the fourth since they were completed only weeks apart. No evidence has been found which can either prove or disprove this. The 4d. stamps illustrated above came from the third printing as has been shown. The 1d. stamps illustrated were produced by the same overprint forme, however it is known that 1d. stamps were delivered in every supply.

Important overprint errors.

There are three major overprint errors in the series that have achieved catalogue status. These are:

- the missing ‘B’ to British’
- the missing dot over the first ‘i’ of ‘British’
- the double overprints.

The ‘ritish’ error (Figure 14) is known on just four values: ½d. with black overprint, 1d., 2d. & 1s. (Figure 13)

The position of the error in the setting is unknown. Two complete panes of the halfpenny, one containing the ‘ritish’ error and the other not, were listed as lots 97 and 98 of Emil Tamsen’s sale at Ventom, Bull and Cooper’s in London on 10th May 1900. Regrettably, the position was not recorded and the panes are assumed

to have been broken up after the sale. Holmes stated that it was in the fourth vertical column of one of the panes, possibly R4/4 of the right hand pane. He offered no evidence to support his statement, and I can find none, other than by reference again to Tamsen’s sale where lot 99 offered a horizontal strip of five; the error being the centre stamp. This places it in either column three or column four of one of the panes.

When a particular overprint error occurs on more than one value of an issue, it is reasonable to assume that the error was present either throughout the printing or started at a very early stage. By reference to the earlier table of overprinting dates and quantities, it is easy to see that the only printing which contained the above four stamps, but none of the other values in the



Figure 13: The four values on which the 'ritish' error occurs

series, is the second supply of 25th November 1886. It seems fairly safe to deduce from this observation not only that the second overprinting was the one involved, but that the overprint setting had been broken up and reset during the intervening year between the first and second supplies.

The missing dot over the first 'i' of 'British' (Figure 16) is listed as occurring on four values: 1d., 2d., 3d., and 6d. (Figure 15)

Following the same logic previously applied to the 'ritish' error it will be observed, by reference back to the table of overprint dates and quantities, that the only printing which contains all the values illustrated above is the first supply. The match is not quite perfect, since the missing dot variety has never been discovered on the halfpenny grey-black with red overprint, which was the remaining value in that supply. However, the number of reported sightings for this error is even less than the more widely recognised 'ritish' error, so the possibility remains that the missing halfpenny stamp will be discovered one day. It is also possible that the dot was damaged during the cleaning of the forme, to remove the red ink, prior to its use with black ink for the remainder of the printing.

For the sake of completeness, it is necessary to mention a single copy of this error which has been reported on the halfpenny stamp with black overprint. This is in the Botswana Postal Museum and is currently not available for research. If it proves to be identical to the overprint on the illustrated stamps, then the theory assigning the error exclusively to the first supply is flawed. However, it could be one of those non-constant 'fails to print' flaws that are so frequently encountered in locally overprinted stamps.

Holmes stated the position of this error to be R10/3 of the left hand pane. I can find no evidence to support this statement, but it is possible that none of the blocks I have seen covering this position are from the first printing.

The double overprints are listed on just three values, the ½d., 1d. and 2d.



Figure 15: The four values on which the 'missing dot' error occurs

ritish

Figure 14: 'ritish' error from the ½d. stamp illustrated, magnified 800%

In the case of the 1d. and 2d. (Figures 17 & 18), the double overprints lie very close to each other, as can be seen from the illustrations. They largely escaped detection at the time, which accounts for the existence of single-figure numbers of each in used state only. A single mint copy of the halfpenny with black overprint double is housed in the Botswana Postal museum. This was listed as Lot 1018 in the 'Holmes' sale at Harmers on 28th/29th October 1981, and a rather indistinct illustration appears in the catalogue, nevertheless it is clear enough to show that the two overprints are almost coincident. I would very much like to examine this stamp, since my impression from the illustration is that the overprint is slightly too long.

Holmes states that in the case of the 1d. stamp "the cancellation is invariably '534', the number allotted to Kuruman". This is almost correct insofar as it goes, but in the light of current knowledge it is safer to say that where the Barred Oval Numeral Cancellor can be distinguished, it invariably carries the number '534' for Kuruman. Additionally, a single copy of the error has been reported cancelled with a part strike of the Vryburg Circular Date Stamp, but only the year '87' is discernible. Despite this, I feel it safe to accept that just one single pane of 120 stamps carrying the double overprint error was issued to Kuruman post office.

The position with regard to the 2d. stamp is less ambiguous. All but two examples are cancelled with a CDS cancel; and it is invariably 'Mafeking'. The remaining two stamps are cancelled with BONC '638', the number assigned to Mafeking.

Minor overprint varieties mainly concern uneven letters or groups of letters in the overprint. In the most commonly encountered and easily recognisable variety the letters 'and' of 'Bechuanaland' are raised out of line (Figure 19).

I have observed this variety on all values of the issue with the exception of the halfpenny stamp with red overprint and the 1s. value. There is, however, no reason to suppose they do not exist. What is important to note is that the raised 'and' is not exclusive to

British

Figure 16: No dot to first 'i' of 'British' from the 3d. stamp illustrated, magnified 800%



Figure 17: 1d. rose-red,
overprint double
- the lower illustration of the
overprint is magnified 300%



Figure 18: 2d. pale bistre,
overprint double
- the lower illustration of the
overprint is magnified 300%



Figure 19: Raised 'and' in
'Bechuanaland'
the lower illustration of the
overprint is magnified 300%

a single position in the setting. On the 1/2d. (black overprint), 1d. and 2d. values the overprint variety has been observed on the stamp immediately to the left of the 'ritish variety', and therefore must fall in the second or third vertical row of one of the panes. On the 4d. stamp it is at R1/3 of the left hand pane, but the spacing of the overprint letters is different. The position on the 6d. stamp is unknown, but the observed measurements are different yet again.

Holmes does not mention this variety, but instead discusses one where the raised letters 'land' in

'Bechuanaland' occur. He states its position as No.53 of the right-hand pane, but offers no evidence to support this. In many years of collecting this particular issue, I have yet to discover a single copy of such a variety, and suspect that Holmes may have committed a slip and actually been referring to the raised 'and' variety as described. If this is the case, then his position 53 identification must be viewed with caution. Certainly no unusual overprint was observed in blocks of 1/2d. (black overprint), 2d. and 6d. stamps covering this position.

Forgeries

No article on the first provisional issue would be complete without a discussion of the multitude of forgeries that are to be found, many of them being the work of Benjamin and Sarpy in London (**Figure 20**). Used Cape of Good Hope stamps were available very cheaply in abundant quantities and they set about applying the black 'British Bechuanaland' overprint not only to the issued values but also to the 5s. orange Cape stamp which was never issued in the Colony.



Figure 20: Forged overprint of the type ascribed
to Benjamin & Sarpy
- the lower illustration of the overprint is
magnified 400%

The type font used is correct, and the length of each word matches the dimensions of the genuine overprint. It can be condemned because the separation between the lines of the overprint is a fraction of a millimetre too great and also because the ink used does not produce as crisp an impression as the genuine. There are other problems with the illustrated stamp that allow it to be condemned more easily: it has a part CDS cancel for 'Port Elizabeth' in Cape Colony, the overprint is applied on top of the postmark and the stamp has the 'Crown CA' watermark, not the 'Cabled Anchor' to be expected in the genuine.

The correct measurements for the genuine overprint $\pm 0.1\text{mm}$ are:

'British'	7.4mm long excluding serifs
'Bechuanaland'	15.4mm long excluding serifs
Separation between words	3.8mm measured from the bottom of 'r' in 'British' to the top of 'u' in 'Bechuanaland'

Many of the forged overprints are so crude they cannot possibly deceive, but if any doubt remains, especially in the case of used stamps, then the following questions should be applied:

- Are the dimensions correct?
- Is the overprint crisp?

- Is there no full stop after 'Bechuanaland'?
- Is the watermark correct?
- Is the cancel, if visible, one used at a British Bechuanaland post office?
- Does the postmark lie on top of the overprint?

Unless the answer to all these questions is 'yes', then the stamp probably has a forged overprint.

Unused stamps with forged overprints are seldom encountered because of the cost to the forger in purchasing them.

The most famous ones were produced at Kimberley in South Africa reputedly to the order of the well known philatelist, Emil Tamsen. Tamsen apparently purchased quantities of the three lowest values of Cape stamps, ½d. 1d. and 2d., and set about applying not only simple overprints, but also 'ritish' errors, inverted overprints, double overprints, double overprints (one inverted), etc. Moreover, with the connivance of an official at the post office, he obtained the use of the genuine 'Vryburg' barred oval numeral canceller (**Figure 21**) and single circle date stamp cancellers and proceeded to cancel a quantity with these.

Luckily the overprint is much too long, and should only deceive a collector unfamiliar with the genuine.

Many years later, he used some of these stamps to contrive a small number of covers which he self-addressed and put through the normal post. An example is shown at **Figure 22**.

A large and interesting collection of the 'Tamsen' forgeries, donated by the late Ernest Hunt of South Africa, is held by the Royal Philatelic Society, London.



Figure 21: Pair of 1d. carmine-red with 'Tamsen' forged overprint (overprint double; one inverted) cancelled with strikes of the genuine Vryburg '555' barred oval numeral canceller.

Despite his occasional stray from the 'straight and narrow', Emil Tamsen was on balance a philatelist of considerable learning and influence who, in his time, undoubtedly made great contributions to the philately of Southern Africa.

I have discussed in detail just two of the forged overprints encountered. There are many more, and a full listing would probably double the length of this article without offering much more information. Any philatelist following the principles I have outlined above should be able to distinguish the genuine from the forgery.

In conclusion

It is not my intention to claim that this is the final story. The shortage of detailed records for the period, and the failure of a single complete pane to survive, has led to much inference and personal interpretation in this account. It is possible that, by the time this article is published, some new piece of evidence will



Figure 22: 'Tamsen' cover with three blocks of forged overprints cancelled at Mahalapye on 19th March 1932.

have emerged that causes me to change my opinion on some aspect; but then for me, that is philately.

If just one person is sufficiently stimulated by this article to take an active interest in the stamps of British Bechuanaland, a colony which issued just 39 basic stamps in its ten year existence, or if it encourages existing collectors to re-examine their holdings in a new light, then I am well satisfied.

Acknowledgements

I am particularly indebted to David Parsons of Spink for allowing me to scan a number of items from the collection of the late Sir John Inglefield-Watson to produce illustrations for this article; to Alan MacGregor of Simon's Town, South Africa, for providing the illustrations of the 2d. and 1s. 'ritish' errors and to Brian Fenemore of Cape Town for the illustration of the 6d. no dot to first 'i' of 'British' error. Last, but by no means least, I am most grateful to Brian Trotter FRPSL for sparing his valuable time to proof read this article.

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Addendum

Since writing the article about a year ago I have discovered for the very first time a used copy of SG1b, overprint double in lake and black as illustrated at Figure 3. Although the date of the cancel cannot be distinguished, the cancel itself appears to be a part CDS cancel of Gaberones, an office that didn't open until 1893. The cancel is therefore well out of period for the stamp and probably philatelic.

Further study of the four stamps illustrated at Figure 15 which carry the variety "missing dot over the first 'i' of 'British'" has led me to believe that my explanation of the error is not quite as simple as indicated. Whilst the variety on the 3d. and 6d. values is identical, and must inevitably be from the first printing, the variety on the 1d. and 2d. is different and must be from either a different position in the setting, or indeed a different printing. Further study is needed which I hope to be able to conduct at some time in the future

SG32

'British Bechuanaland' overprint on Cape of Good Hope 2d, reading up

Further Thoughts by Brian Hurst

I was pleasantly surprised at the interest caused by my article on this stamp that was published in the last edition of *Runner Post*

It became apparent, however, from some of the correspondence I received, that members were experiencing difficulty in distinguishing between the 'typeset' and 'stereo' overprints when using the letter 'e' as a reference. The problem being that on a few examples it is possible to find a letter 'e' with an open tail on the stereo printing, and conversely to find a closed tail to an 'e' on the typeset printing.

As a consequence I decided to conduct further studies to see if I could find a more reliable reference point, and I think I've come up with a really good one. It is just necessary to measure the length of the word 'Bechuanaland' in the overprint. Starting from the leading edge of the upright of the 'B' and measuring to the trailing edge of the letter 'd', and ignoring all serifs, 'Bechuanaland' measures between 18.7mm and 18.9mm in the case of the typeset overprint, and between 19.1 and 19.2mm for the stereo overprint.



Letter 'a'
from the
stereo
overprint



Letter 'a'
from the
typeset
overprint

I sent this information to Bruce Warrender, who measured examples from his own collection and confirmed my findings. He also came up with a further difference which can be observed by studying the letter 'a', which occurs three times in 'Bechuanaland' Bruce found that the loop of the 'a' was larger in the stereo overprint, resulting in a narrowing of the opening above the loop. I can confirm his findings, and illustrate an example of each 'a' chosen at random from stamps in my collection.

I trust this information will allow members to distinguish between the two printings, which I still maintain were produced at least six years apart, with greater accuracy.

The Rarer Stamps Study (Part 1)

by Steve Wallace

It is nearly six years since the last progress report in Runner Post #56, p.1369, in December 2002.

Since that listing, items have been added to the study which are worthy of inclusion by their scarcity. No stamp from the previous study has been removed, since none has reached the limit of 15 examples in any category, mint or used, which precludes it from participation.

A new layout in tabular form has been achieved which includes a high quality image of an actual example of each stamp together with a brief description. Total quantities as recorded by the Society are now given, separated into mint and used examples.

m Indicates the number of Mint copies'

u Indicates the number of Used copies'

Explanatory codes in small red capital letters have been used to identify examples in the following collections:

L British Library, London

B BotswanaPost Postal Museum, Gaborone

R The Collection of H.M. The Queen (Royal Collection)

This code is further quantified by the addition of numbers in cases where more than one example is known in a particular collection; for example;

2B Two examples are present in the BotswanaPost Postal Museum

For the first time in this study quantities in these collections are included within the totals.

The Rarer Stamps Study was originally a joint effort between Alan MacGregor and David Finlay. Prior to the first listing in Runner Post #36 p.761 by David Finlay in September 1994, much correspondence took place with Sir John Inglefield-Watson regarding the manner in which to proceed with the study and which items to include.

The quantity of 15 examples was decided on as

This first part deals with British Bechuanaland stamps up to SG30ab, and will be continued in future editions of Runner Post.

the highest number of either mint or used stamps permissible for 'rarer' status, and indeed two entries in the original study quickly exceeded this number and were removed. These were SG4a mint, 1885-7 ½d. grey-black, error 'ritish' for 'British', and SG23c used, 1888 2d. on 2d. lilac and black, surcharge in green. The listing was described as 'very limited' and asked for further information from members, seeking to determine how many of these stamps existed today and to record their location. Some information was given as to examples in museums, but not all these were recorded at the time. Since then, this aspect has been thoroughly researched.






Information on the Rarer Stamps, updating their whereabouts, did come from a small number of members. However, auction catalogue sightings and dealer listings proved to be the main source. These sightings have been carefully updated over a period of more than ten years and new discoveries continue to surprise.

There are, for example two additions included in the first instalment of the new list which is published here. The first is SG6, the 'British Bechuanaland' overprint on Cape 2d. pale bistre, which has been reported and verified as existing with inverted 'Anchor' watermark. Undoubtedly members will check the watermarks on their own stamps as a result of this, and the discovery of any further examples carrying this watermark error should be reported. The second addition is SG23c, the 2d. on 2d. lilac & black surcharged in green, showing the variety 'curved foot to "2"' which recently surfaced at auction in the U.S.A. This example is believed to be unique.

It should be emphasised that the list can never be considered either complete or a definitive statement of existing quantities. It is as accurate as current knowledge allows, but input from members reporting any sighting of any stamp in this list is vital to maintain its status.



Enlarged images of a few of the double overprints (SG4b, SG5c, SG6c, SG9a) which are difficult to spot on the actual sized images.

<p>SG1a 3m B 3u R</p>	<p>½d. grey-black, overprint in lake Crown CA watermark</p>
	<p>The colour of the lake overprint is very distinctive when compared to the red overprint of the issued stamp. At one time only a single mint copy in the Holmes' collection was known. In recent years a very small number of mint and used copies have appeared. All known copies appear to come from a single sheet which was probably put into use since it did not differ significantly from the issued stamp.</p>
<p>SG4b 1m B 0u</p>	<p>½d. grey-black, overprint in black, double Anchor watermark</p>
	<p>One single mint copy exists in the Botswana Postal Museum (ex. Holmes). The two overprints are only 0.2mm apart horizontally. Although 'British' measures correctly, as does the separation between the two lines of overprint, 'Bechuanaland' measures almost 0.5mm longer than expected. It is also surprising that not one of the remaining 119 theoretical possibles has ever been recorded.</p>
<p>SG5a 9m L,R 4u B</p>	<p>1d. rose-red, overprint in black, error "ritish" Anchor watermark</p>
	<p>Exists in mint and used condition, both as singles and in pair with normal. Its position in the setting is unknown. Holmes stated that it was in the fourth vertical column of one of the panes, possibly R4/4 of the right-hand pane. However it can only be stated with certainty that it is from the third or fourth vertical column of one of the panes.</p>
<p>SG5c 0m 11u 2B,L</p>	<p>1d. rose-red, overprint in black, double Anchor watermark</p>
	<p>This stamp has only been reported in used condition. This is hardly surprising since the two overprints are virtually coincident and the stamp must have escaped discovery at the time of issue. Where the postmark can be detected, it is almost invariably the '534' BONC of Kuruman. A single example with a Vryburg CDS cancel has been reported.</p>
<p>SG6 variety 0m 1u</p>	<p>2d. pale bistre, overprint in black Anchor watermark. Watermark inverted</p>
	<p>The basic Cape of Good Hope stamp used for the overprint is recorded by Gibbons as existing with inverted watermark. This is the first time that the overprinted stamp has been reported in this state. It is illustrated here, although obviously it is impossible to demonstrate the inverted watermark in the illustration. A further 239 copies must have originally existed.</p>

SG6a 3m R 2u B	2d. pale bistre, overprint in black, error “ritish” Anchor watermark
	<p>An extremely rare stamp that seldom appears at auction. This stamp last appeared at auction in 2003 when a mint copy originally in the ‘Eley’ collection was sold by Argyll Etkin in the ‘County’ sale.</p>
SG6c 0m 10u	2d. pale bistre, overprint in black, double Anchor watermark
	<p>The two overprints show slightly better separation than those on the 1d. value, and can be seen with the naked eye. Nevertheless the error must have gone undetected at the time of issue since no mint copies of the stamp have ever been reported. Where the postmark can be distinguished, it is invariably the Mafeking CDS cancel or the ‘638’ BONC cancel as used at Mafeking post office.</p>
SG8a 3m R 2u B	1s. green, overprint in black, error “ritish” Anchor watermark
	<p>The fourth value in the series to exhibit the ‘missing “B” in “British”’ error. This particular error seems to have occurred in the printing forme used to overprint the second supply of this issue, comprising ½d., 1d., 2d. and 1s. values, received from the Cape Postmaster-General on 25th November 1886. There is a single mint example in the Royal Collection.</p>
SG9a 1m B 0u	½d. vermilion, overprint double
	<p>The only recorded example of this stamp (in mint condition) was originally in the Holmes collection, having been purchased by him at the Col. J. R. Danson sale. It is now in the Botswana Postal Museum. A first impression is that the overprint is heavily inked. Under a magnifier, however, two quite distinct overprints, very close together are visible.</p>
SG23c variety 0m 1u	2d. on 2d. lilac and black, surcharge in green Variety - curved foot to “2”
	<p>The 2d. on 2d. green surcharge does not qualify as a “rarer stamp” for the purpose of this study since in excess of 15 copies are recorded. However the ‘curved foot to “2”’ variety in green, which recently appeared at auction in the U.S.A. as part of a mixed collection must be considered unique if, as is believed, only one sheet of stamps in this trial colour was issued.</p>

<p>SG26a 0m 5u L</p>	<p>6d. on 6d. lilac and black, surcharge in blue</p>
	<p>Since the colour of the surcharge on the normal issued stamp is black, it is assumed that the blue surcharge was applied to a single pane of stamps as an experiment which was rejected, but issued for use. Its existence remained undiscovered for almost 40 years, until the first copy was found in 1925. All recorded copies are used and are cancelled with the Mafeking CDS cancel.</p>
<p>SG29a 5m R 0u</p>	<p>½d. on 3d. pale reddish lilac and black Broken “f” in “Half”</p>
	<p>A photograph of the lower half of a pane of 120 overprinted stamps shows the variety at Row 10 Stamp 11. This is confirmed by the existence of SE corner blocks of six containing the variety, one of which is in the Royal Collection. Records show that seven full sheets of 120 stamps were overprinted. It is thought that the setting covered 5 rows of 12 stamps, and was applied twice per sheet.</p>
<p>SG30a 1m 0u</p>	<p>½d. grey-black, overprint in green Error: overprint reads “Bechuanaland British”</p>
	<p>This error is caused by an upward shift in the overprint due to faulty alignment of the sheet of stamps in the printing press. The overprint setting covered a half pane of 30 stamps (6x5) and the shift occurred on the upper half of a lower right-hand pane. Additionally, because of the slope of the overprint, no more than eight examples of this error are possible; these being the first two stamps of rows 1 to 4.</p>
<p>SG30ab (I) 2m R 0u</p>	<p>½d. grey-black, overprint in green Error: “British” omitted, due to a shift</p>
	<p>This error occurs on the first two stamps of Row 5 of the same pane as SG30a (above). Stamp 1 is a mint single in the Royal Collection and Stamp 2 is the upper stamp of a vertical pair se-tenant with a normally overprinted stamp in Row 6 (illustrated). Because of the slope of the overprint, no other examples of this error are possible within the pane.</p>
<p>SG30ab (II) 1m 0u</p>	<p>½d. grey-black, overprint in green Error: “British” omitted</p>
	<p>In this version of the error the word “British” is actually omitted, there being no shift to the overprint. The only recorded example occurs on a single stamp at Row 5 Stamp 1 in an irregular mint block of 50 stamps comprising the large part of a lower right hand pane. It is assumed that the error was spotted at the beginning of the print run and immediately corrected.</p>

Checklist of Botswana Postmarks (Second Series)

Part Twelve

The twelfth 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 - U-Z

UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA	No 1 Type 21 B 56(1)	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	19-Jul-2001
	Latest recorded date	14-Jan-2003
	Number so far recorded	3

UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA	No 2 Type 21 B 56(2)	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	25-Jul-2001
	Latest recorded date	14-Jan-2003
	Number so far recorded	2

UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA	No 3 Type 21 B 58	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	02-May-2000
	Latest recorded date	14-Jan-2003
	Number so far recorded	7
Note: The month and day sequence reversed for the 14-Jan-2003 example		



UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA	No 4 Type 2 F 4	
	Circle diameters	18mm & 27mm
	Earliest recorded date	12-Oct-1998
	Latest recorded date	19-Oct-1998
	Number so far recorded	2



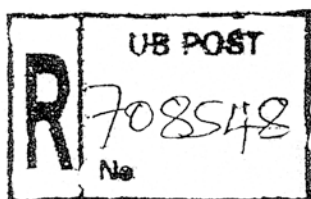
UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA	No 5 Type 3 F 11(2)	
	Circle diameters	18mm & 28mm
	Earliest recorded date	23-Apr-1999
	Latest recorded date	23-Apr-1999
	Number so far recorded	1



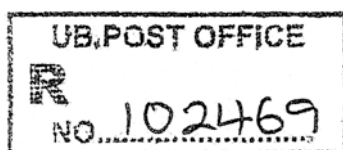
UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA	No 6 Type 6 J 27 Struck in pink	
	Oval dimensions	23mm by 37mm 34mm by 52mm
	Earliest recorded date	30-Jun-1998
	Latest recorded date	26-Oct-1999
	Number so far recorded	2



UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA	No 7 Type REGN 2a Struck in red	
	Box dimensions	25mm by 39mm
	Earliest recorded date	30-Jun-1998
	Latest recorded date	26-Oct-1999
	Number so far recorded	2



UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA	No 8 Type REGN 8 Struck in red	
	Box dimensions	18mm by 44mm
	Earliest recorded date	25-Jul-2001
	Latest recorded date	25-Jul-2001
	Number so far recorded	1




New sub-variant 8. Rectangular box with small "R" on left side between and not divided from [OFFICE NAME] followed by "POST OFFICE" at top and "NO" at base. Sizes and lettering may differ


WERDA	No 5 Type 21 B 51	
	Circle diameters	16mm & 30mm
	Earliest recorded date	29-Jul-1999
	Latest recorded date	12-Nov-2004
	Number so far recorded	4





WERDA	No 6 Type 21 F 11(1)	
	Circle diameters	18mm & 30mm
	Earliest recorded date	04-Mar-1999
	Latest recorded date	04-Nov-2004
	Number so far recorded	3




WOODHALL	No 3 Type 2 B 51	
	Circle diameters	18mm & 27mm
	Earliest recorded date	11-Oct-1997
	Latest recorded date	21-Jul-2004
	Number so far recorded	7

WOODHALL	No 4 Type 21 B 51	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	18-Aug-2000
	Latest recorded date	26-Mar-2007
	Number so far recorded	5


WOODHALL	No 5 Type 6 C 26 Struck in red	
	Oval dimensions	27mm by 47mm 40mm by 61mm
	Earliest recorded date	18-Aug-2000
	Latest recorded date	09-Oct-2000
	Number so far recorded	2

XHOMO	No 4 Type 21 F 22	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	25-Apr-2002
	Latest recorded date	25-Apr-2002
	Number so far recorded	1

XHOMO	No 5 Type 61 J 27	
	Outer oval dimensions	32mm by 59mm
	Earliest recorded date	24-Jul-2001
	Latest recorded date	24-Jul-2001
	Number so far recorded	1

XOJANE	This office renamed NOJANE. (See RP#68)
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ZANZIBAR	This office now closed. Date of closure is not known.
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ZWENSHAMBE	No 5 Type 21 F 22	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	25-Apr-2002
	Latest recorded date	09-Nov-2004
	Number so far recorded	2

Botswana News

[Ed: mostly from Sheila Case's BotswanaPost related musings in recent BPS Newsletters]

For several months the BotswanaPost Philatelic Bureau did not have a Manager, and there was no adequate system in place to cover this vacancy. An appointment was made. Bashi Ratshosa a graduate with background in Graphic Design and management experience. if you have need to contact the Philatelic Bureau, address your concerns to Bashi and you will get good and friendly service.

On 20th June 2008 a set of stamps was issued on the theme ELEPHANTS IN BOTSWANA. (Not "Elephants of Botswana", which might have been just pretty pictures, but four designs showing the interactions of people and elephants in the Botswana context.) The artist, Philip Huebsch, had done a good job. The issued stamps and FDC do not indicate the care which had been put into this design ...remember that there was no manager at the time.

First, there was not supposed to be a margin round

the stamps - the design was supposed to "bleed" to the perforations; the stamps would fall into two pairs, each pair with a continuous image stretching across the bottom, one pair showing elephants at dawn and the other showing elephants at sunset.

The colour renderings are not as good as they can be, and finally the placement of the images on the FDC is... ..wrong.

2008 Issues will conclude with an attractive set on Botswana Beetles, due for release on December 1st. The artist is Nancy Horenburg.

The Stamp Advisory Committee is at work on issues for 2009; titles are not yet made public, but there will be a good mix of flora and fauna, events and topics of National interest. The set of Threatened Cranes of Botswana, designed by the artist who won the Birdlife Botswana competition, will probably be the first set, due out around the end of March.

THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY

Accounts for the year ended 30th June 2008

PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT

	2008	2007
INCOME		
Subscriptions	1,128.00	1,118.00
Auction sales	7,203.00	6,901.00
Interest received	157.24	77.01
Advertising	60.00	60.00
Postal Stationery books	737.78	164.00
Sundry	0.00	0.00
	9,286.02	8,320.01
EXPENDITURE		
Runner Post - recurrent expenditure	1,562.33	985.81
Runner Post - new printer/fuser	0.00	820.46
Auction material purchased	6,498.50	5,426.30
Administrative expenses	95.53	23.59
Postage/packaging on auct/books (net)	-32.66	-4.27
Affiliation fees APBS/Midpex	54.00	70.00
Grant - Stamp World Exhibition 2010	0.00	1,000.00
	8,177.70	8,321.89
Profit (loss) for year	£1,108.32	-£1.88

BALANCE SHEET

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash at bank	4,938.32	3,688.30
Auction debtors	97.00	0.00
Advertising debtors	60.00	60.00
	5,095.32	3,748.30

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Subscriptions paid in advance	453.00	172.00
Auction creditors	0.00	42.30
	453.00	214.30

NET ASSETS

£4,642.32	£3,534.00
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ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

Balance brought forward at beginning of year	3,534.00	3,535.88
Profit (loss) for year	1,108.32	-1.88
BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	£4,642.32	£3,534.00

J Taylor (ACIB)
Hon. Treasurer

Andrew Higson
Independent Examiner

BRITISH BECHUANALAND



BRITISH BECHUANALAND

1891 Cape of Good Hope 1d carmine-red overprinted 'British Bechuanaland' vertically reading upwards. Horizontal upper marginal pair with Plate Number '7'. Showing the major variety HORIZONTAL PAIR, ONE WITHOUT OVERPRINT. [Illustrated 200%]

This rare error is listed as SG31a and is unpriced, presumably as it has not been on the market for decades, if at all (we have been unable to trace any appearance on auction).

The pair was illustrated in Runner Post #36 (p.765) as part of the Rare Stamp Study initiated by David Finlay. The illustration was supplied by Bob Holmes from his reference material though with no details as to its history or whereabouts.

A BPA certificate (2008) confirms the genuineness of the pair. The certificate mentions a 'vertical gum crease' which cannot be considered a drawback as it was due to the folding back of the right stamp along the line of this crease that gave rise to the variety (and a partial albino impression of 'Bechuanaland'). The crease is at a slight angle and is believed to affect only a vertical strip of three stamps from the upper right corner of the pane giving rise to the varieties listed as SG31a and SG31c. The right stamp of the pair originally adjoining below has 'Bechuanaland' completely omitted (SG31c, Holmes lot 1104) and the pair below that (Dale-Lichtenstein, lot 12) has almost all of 'Bechuanaland' omitted.

Undoubtedly one of the rarest items of Bechuanaland philately, this being the pair that gave rise to the catalogue listing. Almost certainly unique and missing from every major collection.

SG31a

£16,500

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