

# *The* **Runner Post**

THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY



## **Issue 74 Contents**

**LIST OF OFFICERS** ▫ **DIARY** ▫ **NEW MEMBERS 1829** • **THE 'TWEET' OVERPRINT AND THE REMAINDERS OF STELLALAND'S POSTAGE STAMPS 1830** • **UNION ACTIVE SERVICE LETTER CARD 1837** • **BOTSWANA BAR CODED REGISTRATION LABELS REVISITED 1839** • **BOTSWANA POSTMARKS (SECOND SERIES) - PART 13 1841** • **BOTSWANA POSTMARKS (SECOND SERIES) - PART 14 1844** • **BECHUANALAND'S HARBOR 1850**

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# **DAVID CROCKER**

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Cover Image: W.A.H.Harbor oval canceller on reverse of RE25 Size F to Melbourne, Australia.  
The W.A.H.Harbor oval is dated 20 DEC 1905. There is also Mochudi DE 22 05. Registered Cape Town 25 DE 05  
and Melbourne Registered 26 1 06. Sadly the stamp/postmark on the front have been removed.  
The oval canceller is 62mm x 44mm.

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## DIARY OF EVENTS - 2009

9 <sup>th</sup> May	Postal Auction #19
7 <sup>th</sup> November	AGM - The Royal Horticultural Hall, London, Room 32 12:45 to 14:45
13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> November	SA Societies Conference, Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest member

**Barry Stow**  
Barry collects Stellaland, Bechuanaland and Botswana

London, UK

## The 'Twee' Overprint and the Remainders of Stellaland's Postage Stamps

by Alan Drysdall, RDP, RDPSA, FRPSL and Brian Hurst

This article first appeared in *The Collectors' Club Philatelist*, May - June 2008, v.87, no.3, pp.141-8

The Cape National Archives are a treasure house of information relating to the history of the Cape Colony and the territories that were absorbed over the years prior to the Colony itself becoming a province of the Union of South Africa on the 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1910. One such territory was the Republic of Stellaland, an attempt by the Boers of the South African Republic (ZAR or Transvaal) to annex territory to the west that was frustrated in 1885 by the Warren Expedition and the incorporation of the Republic - together with the Republic of Goshen - into the Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland under a Proclamation effective from the 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1885. The political motivation was to ensure that Cecil Rhodes' dream of a Cape - Cairo route via British Bechuanaland, Bechuanaland Protectorate and the territory that was to become Rhodesia was not blocked. British Bechuanaland was in turn annexed on the 16<sup>th</sup> November, 1895, to become part of Cape Colony.

## The 'Stamp Accounts' ledger

As is the way with treasure one has to dig, and persist, to achieve results. One can never be confident of success, and occasionally one's efforts yield totally unexpected results. And so it was that a recent visit to the Archives resulted in the unearthing of treasure in the form of a ledger<sup>1</sup> showing obvious signs of 'stress' with a label on the spine reading, "Bechuana-/land (Crown / Colony). / Office / of the / Receiver / & / Act Gen. / Register / Stamp Acts [Accounts]/ 1885 / 1889". The label on the front cover read as follows:

### Stamp Accounts

Stellaland Revenue Stamps - Chief Distributors

Do Sub Distributors

Postage & Revenue Stamps - Chief Distributors

Do Sub Distributors

Protectorate Postage Stamps - Chief Distributors

Do Sub Distributors

Old Stellaland Postage							Stamp Account						
1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>
1885							1885						
Oct. 31 To Return			10,580	10,944	8,308	3,161	Nov 1/30 By Postmaster	2	102		4	5	31
Postmaster	2	105		33	77	32	Dec 1/31 - Cash sales	4		22	17	12	7
Dec. 15 - Int. Genis	877		123	937	1,317	1298	31 - Balance in hand	873	3	10,661	11,893	9,685	4,453
	879	105	10,683	11,914	9,702	4,491		879	105	10,683	11,914	9,702	4,491
1886							1886						
Jan. 1 To Balance	873	3	10,661	11,893	9,685	4,453	Jan. 2 By Cash sales	6		4	3	3	3
							6 - do.	1/6	2		2	1	1
							15 - do.	15/2	24		8	5	4
							20 - do.	15/2	36		12	9	6
							21 - do.	18/2	30	3	8	9	2
							31 - Stock on hand	775		10,627	11,865	9,669	4,444
								873	3	10,661	11,893	9,685	4,453
1886							1886						
Feb. 1 To Balance	775		10,627	11,865	9,669	4,444	Feb. 26 By Cash sales	2/4	2		1	1	1
							27 - do.	2/4	3		1	1	1
							Balance	770		10,625	11,863	9,667	4,442
								775		10,627	11,865	9,669	4,444
1886							1886						
Mar. 1 To Balance	770	10,625	11,863	9,667	4,442		June 11 By Cash sales	1/10	12		10	10	10
							August 26 - do.	4/10	72		50	40	40
							30 - do.	4/6	4		2	2	2
							Oct 29 - do.	3/4	30		30	30	30
							30 - Balance	652		10,533	11,781	9,585	4,360
							paid in 3/24/86	9/3/2	770		10,625	11,863	9,667
							to C.C. Vryburg						
1886							1886						
Nov. 1 To Balance	652		10,533	11,781	9,585	4,360	Nov. 1 By Cash sales	2/3	2		1	1	1
							Dec 20 - do.	1/0-0	15		9	9	9
							Nov. 29 - do.	2/2	1		1	1	1
							- do.	2/2	1		1	1	1
							Dec. 13 - do.	6/6	3		3	3	3
							17 - do.	12/0					12
							31 - do.						
							Sent to Whistfield	3/4			19	19	19
							King & Co. - Spunich	6/2/1			10,533	11,781	9,585
								652			10,533	11,781	9,585

Figure 1: The first two pages of the 'Stamp Accounts' ledger [reduced]



1885		1 <sup>2</sup>	2 <sup>2</sup>	3 <sup>2</sup>	4 <sup>2</sup>	6 <sup>2</sup>	1/-
Oct. 31	To Bestuur			10,560	10,944	8,308	3,161
.	Postmaster	2	105	-	33	77	32
Dec. 15	M <sup>r</sup> Genis	877	-	123	937	1,317	1,298
		879	105	10,683	11,914	9,702	4,491
1886							
Jan <sup>y</sup> 1	To Balance	873	3	10,661	11,893	9,685	4,453

Figure 1b: Enlargement of the top of the left hand page of the 'Stamp Accounts' ledger (from Figure 1)

**Figure 1** is based on reduced photographs of the first two pages in the ledger, which are headed "Old Stellaland Postage Stamps Account". The entry under

1885 at the top of the left-hand page (**Figure 1b/ Table 1**) records the number of stamps held after annexation of the Republic.

1885		1d	2d	3d	4d	6d	1/-
Oct 31	To Bestuur <sup>1</sup>			10,560	10,944	8,308	3,161
	" Postmaster	2	105		33	77	32
Dec 15	" M <sup>r</sup> Genis <sup>2</sup>	877		123	937	1,317	1,298
		<b>879</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>10,683</b>	<b>11,914</b>	<b>9,702</b>	<b>4,491</b>
1886							
Jan 1	To Balance	873	3	10,661	11,893	9,685	4,453

<sup>1</sup>The Government/Administration

<sup>2</sup> Michiel Christiaan Genis, Registrar of Deeds, had placed the original order for Stellaland stamps with Messrs van der Sandt, de Villiers & Co. of Cape Town and, according to Holmes, the stamps were delivered to him. He evidently still held a substantial stock in mid-December 1885 (of which the members of the Bestuur were apparently unaware - see below).

Table 1: Figures from the top of the left hand page the 'Stamp Accounts' ledger

1885		1 <sup>2</sup>	2 <sup>2</sup>	3 <sup>2</sup>	4 <sup>2</sup>	6 <sup>2</sup>	1/-
Nov 1/30	By Postmaster	2	102	-	11	5	31
Dec 1/31	" Cash sales	11	-	22	17	12	7
31	" Balance in hand	873	3	10,661	11,893	9,685	4,453
		879	105	10,683	11,914	9,702	4,491
1886							
Jan. 2	By Cash sales 1/6	6		4	3	3	3
6	" do. 1/6	2		2	1	1	
15	" do. 10/-	24		8	6	4	2
20	" do. 15/-	36		12	9	6	3
21	" do. 10/-	30	3	8	9	2	1
31	" Stock on hand 1/6	775		10627	11865	9669	4444
		873	3	10661	11893	9685	4453

Figure 1c: Enlargement of the top of the right hand page of the 'Stamp Accounts' ledger (from Figure 1)

<b>1885</b>			1d	2d	3d	4d	6d	1/-
Nov 1/30	By Postmaster		2	102		4	5	31
Dec 1/31	" Cash Sales		4		22	17	12	7
31	" Balance in hand		873	3	10,661	11,893	9,685	4,453
			879	105	10,683	11,914	9,702	4,491
<b>1886</b>								
Jan. 2	By Cash sales	7/-	6		4	3	3	3
6	" do	1/6	2		2	1	1	
15	" do	10/-	24		8	6	4	2
20	" do	15/-	36		12	9	6	3
21	" do	10/-	30	3	8	9	2	1
31	By stock in hand	£2.2.6	775		10627	11865	9669	4444
			873	3	10661	11893	9685	4453
Feb. 26	By Cash sales	2/3	2		1	1	1	1
27	" do	2/4	3		1	1	1	1
	" Balance		770		10625	11863	9667	4442
			775		10627	11865	9669	4444
June 11	By Cash sales	1/1/10	12		10	10	10	10
August 26	" do	4/11/10	72		50	40	40	40
30	" do	4/5	4		2	2	2	2
Oct 29	" do	3/5/-	30		30	30	30	30
30	" Balance		652	-	10533	11781	9585	4360
	paid in 31/XII/86	9/3/2	770		10625	11863	9667	4442
	to C.C. Vryburg							
Nov. 1	By Cash sales	2.3	2		1	1	1	1
Nov 20		1.0.0	15		9	9	9	9
Nov. 27	" do	2.2	1		1	1	1	1
"	" do	2.2	1		1	1	1	1
Dec 13	" do 10.9.9	6.6	3		3	3	3	3
17	" do	12.0						12
31	" do 11.8.3		19		4	4	4	4
	Sent to Whitfield		31		19	19	19	31
	King & Co. Ipswich		621		10514	11762	9566	4329
			652		10533	11781	9585	4360

Table 2: Figures (and [in grey] jottings) from the right hand page the 'Stamp Accounts' ledger - "Sales"

The entries on the right hand page (**Figure 1c/Table 2**) list sales in November and December 1885 and in 1886, including the sale of the remainders.

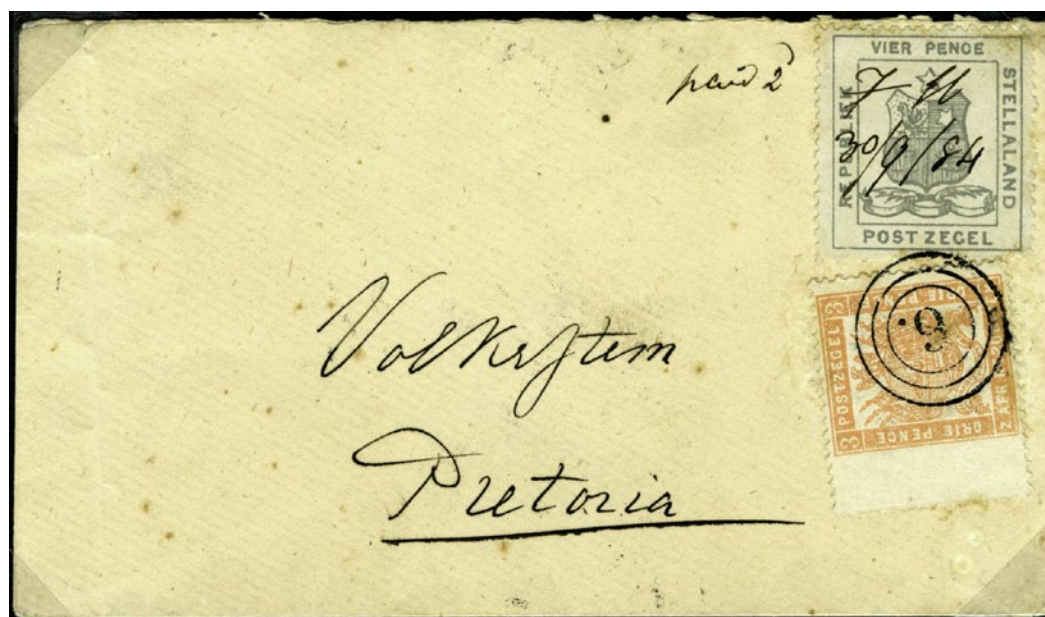
### The 'Twee' provisional

The most important feature of these listings is that they include 2d stamps. The original postage series of five values did not include a 2d duty, and the 2d stamp featured can therefore only be the provisional issue that has been the subject of speculation since it first appeared, namely the 4d duty handstamped

'Twee' in Gothic script.

On October 31<sup>st</sup> 1885, the Vryburg Postmaster evidently had 105 2d stamps, that is, 'Twee' provisionals in stock. He sold 102 copies over the counter (orange-box?) in November, and the last three to an overseas dealer or collector on the 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1886.

Jurgens <sup>2</sup>, after reviewing the evidence as far as he knew it, doubted that this stamp was "surcharged legitimately", and recorded even more categorically



**Figure 2: Combination cover addressed to Pretoria annotated 'paid 2d' adjacent to the Stellaland 4d stamp; the Transvaal stamp was cancelled at Christiania with the target-type canceller coded '6'**

that he was "of the opinion that no such surcharge was ever made". He was persuaded to adopt this view mainly because every attempt by dealers to obtain copies had failed. However, it is evident from the above listings, assuming that all sales to dealers are identified as 'cash sales', that, with the possible exception of three copies later sold to a dealer, the stock on hand in November 1885 was held and sold locally by the Postmaster of Vryburg. Holmes<sup>3</sup> (see below) states that 384 stamps were surcharged the previous month, which implies that 279 copies were sold before the end of October 1885. It would seem probable that they were sold locally by the Vryburg Postmaster as overseas dealers were unlikely to have been aware of the existence of the provisional before the end of October.

Francis Eaton, who replaced Ferdinand Hartzenberg as Postmaster of Vryburg on the 11<sup>th</sup> June, 1885, apparently informed Whitfield King of the existence of the provisional, but we do not know the date of the letter. Bearing in mind that it would take more than three weeks for a letter from Vryburg to reach the UK, Whitfield King could not have received Eaton's letter, which must have been written after surcharging was authorised on the 1<sup>st</sup> October (see below), before the end of October.

Despite his doubts, Jurgens does accept that there were valid reasons why a provisional 2d stamp was considered necessary, namely the reduction in the inland postage rate for letters from 3d to 2d, the low stock of 1d stamps that may have resulted from their use to make up the 2d rate, and the fact that the bill for the printing of the original issue of Stellaland postage stamps had not been paid and a further order

for 2d stamps was unlikely to be met.

Holmes<sup>3</sup> states that the provisional was issued in October 1885, that is after Stellaland had ceased to exist and British Bechuanaland had been Proclaimed, as a consequence of a new postal convention between Cape Colony and the Transvaal that reduced the letter rate between the two territories from 3d to 2d per half ounce with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1885. (The effective date was actually the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1885; it was the ZAR inland rate that was reduced with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1885. Subsequent conventions between the constituent territories resulted in a uniform letter rate of 2d per half ounce throughout southern Africa.) Holmes continues

"Earlier, the internal rate for letters had been reduced in Stellaland from 3d to 2d, and pending the issue of 2d stamps letters were franked with a 4d stamp and marked 'paid 2d'."

(The Bestuur actually authorised the reduction in the internal rate on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1885 - see below.)

The only evidence quoted by Holmes in support of this statement would appear to be covers such as the one illustrated as **Figure 2** and which he illustrates on his Plate 1, but this cover was posted before the inland rate was reduced. There is nevertheless other cover evidence dating from June 1885 that the inland rate had been reduced, and therefore justification for the issue of a provisional 2d stamp as the first Cape stamps overprinted for use in British Bechuanaland were only received in Vryburg on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December (Another research project has shown that they were not on sale until the following day.<sup>4</sup>)

Holmes further states that only four sheets of the 4d duty, a total of 384 stamps, were surcharged





Figure 3: The combination franking on piece in the Royal Philatelic Collection (illustrated with the gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen, to whom copyright belongs)

“in violet-lake; the surcharge being applied by a handstamp at the top of the stamp, reading downwards and sloping to the right, the ‘T’ of ‘Twee’ falling on the word ‘VIER’... The only genuine example of this provisional that has been seen cancelled was obliterated with the numeral-canceller ‘555’ of Vryburg, but as this was not introduced until after Stellaland stamps had been withdrawn from sale it shows either a late usage or was cancelled by favour after it had become obsolete.”

Only three copies are known that apparently passed through the post, but not one was cancelled. One is on piece with a Cape 6d stamp that was cancelled at Barkly on ‘OC 24 / 85’, another is on a cover addressed, as are a number of Stellaland covers, to the Editor of *De Volksstem*, the Transvaal newspaper, in combination with a pair of Cape 1d stamps that were also cancelled at Barkly on ‘OC 24 / 85’. Both items were illustrated by Holmes, and are illustrated here as **Figures 3 and 4**, the former with the gracious

permission of Her Majesty the Queen.

A second cover (**Figure 5**), ex the Lichtenstein Collection, posted on the same day, is known<sup>5</sup>. It is similarly franked to the one illustrated by Holmes but the handwriting and the address are different. There were no Stellaland datestamps or cancellers, but there would seem no obvious reason why the stamps should not have been pen-cancelled as had been the practice during the existence of the Republic. Holmes states that this practice had been abandoned, but again cites no evidence in support of his statement. It may have been a consequence of the change of Postmaster; Ferdinand Hartzenberg always pen-cancelled the Stellaland stamps with his initials and the date, Francis Eaton apparently did not recognise the need to do so.

It was common practice in southern Africa when combination frankings were required to place the stamps of the two territories concerned in opposite corners of the envelope to ensure that the stamps of the territory to or via which the letter was being forwarded were not cancelled when it was posted. Hence the arrangement of the stamps on the two surviving ‘Twee’ covers. There were, however, cases where the stamps of both territories were affixed at top-right of the cover, and it was then inevitable that occasionally all the stamps were cancelled by the office where the letter was posted. If none of the stamps were cancelled when the letter was posted, and this would apply to Stellaland covers after Hartzenberg became Postmaster at Vryburg, the Cape office of exchange or some other office would do so. The single copy and the pair of 1d stamps illustrated as **Figure 6** were almost certainly removed from



Figure 4: Combination cover on which the Cape stamps were cancelled at Barkly on ‘OC 24 / 1885’. it was backstamped at Kimberley the following day and in Pretoria, but in the latter case the date is unreadable (courtesy of Messrs. Argyll Etkin)





Figure 5: Combination cover on which the Cape stamps were also cancelled at Barkly on 'OC 24 / 1885'; backstamps record a route via Kimberley 'OC 29 / 85', Burghersdorp ('28 OC / 85') and receipt in Venterstad ('OC 29 / 85') (ex Lichtenstein; courtesy of Messrs Argyll Etkin)

Stellaland covers forwarded via Barkly ('SP 7 / 85) and Kimberley ('SP 21 / 85') respectively, which would be evidence that 1d Stellaland stamps were available for postage in mid-September 1885.

There would seem to be little doubt from their provenance, which is described by Holmes, that both the items he described are genuine. The cover ex the Lichtenstein Collection that is illustrated by Drysdall carries a BPA certificate. Holmes does, however, state that, "several attempts have been made to forge the surcharge, but the forgers have not been able to reproduce exactly the type or the colour of the impression". Jurgens records that the original

handstamp, pad and ink were offered for sale to a firm of English dealers (Whitfield King) at 12s 6d, but was unable to confirm that the deal was concluded. Holmes evidently saw forgeries he considered were made with the genuine handstamp, and notes that they were in the wrong colour. Jurgens on the other hand says that in 1899-1900 the market was "flooded" with forgeries.

### The remainders of the postage stamps

Page 3 of the ledger provides a listing of the remainders of the postage stamps that were sold to Whitfield King in 1886.

#### Memorandum made at Vryburg 31 XII 86

The following number of stamps were on hand on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1886 when Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Whitfield King & Co. were written to:

	1d	3d	4d	6d	1/-
	652	10,533	11,781	9,585	4,360

There are included in the parcel addressed to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. and taken by Mr. Baxter [Ernest C. Baxter, the Postmaster] to Government House Cape Town:

	1d	3d	4d	6d	1/-
Old Stellaland stamps	621	10,514	11,762	9,566	4,329
British Bechuanaland stamps	31	19	38@2d=19	19	31
	652	10,533	11,781	9,585	4,360

Table 3: Page 3 of the ledger provides details of the planned and actual sale of remainders



Figure 6: Stellaland 1d stamps cancelled at Barkly and Kimberley in September 1885 (courtesy of John Taylor)

The explanation of this accounting is provided by Jurgens. On the 27<sup>th</sup> February, 1886, Sidney Shippard (later Sir Sidney Shippard), the Administrator of British Bechuanaland, authorised the sale by tender of the remainders of the Stellaland postage stamps. The number of stamps to be sold listed by Jurgens corresponds to the totals recorded in the 'Stamp Accounts' ledger as on hand at the end of February 1886. There were four responses, and on the 8<sup>th</sup> April, 1886 the Administrator in a letter addressed to the Acting Civil Commissioner of Vryburg, advised that "the tender of a Mr. H. Feldman of Vryburg amounting to £55 10s. be accepted". Feldman, however, was in financial difficulties, and could not take immediate delivery. The parcel was held for his account, but some stamps were sold. In August 1886 it became apparent that Feldman would not be able to take delivery, and the Civil Commissioner of Vryburg suggested re-tendering and allowing a longer period for replies so that overseas dealers would have time to respond. Jurgens was unable to confirm whether or not this was done, but on the 31<sup>st</sup> October Whitfield King were advised that the stamps numbers of 1d - 652, 3d - 10,533, 4d - 11,781, 6d - 9,585, 1s - 4,360 (as mentioned in the first part of "Memorandum made at Vryburg 31 XII 86") were available.

Whitfield King offered £150 for the parcel, but expressed their disappointment at the small number of 1d stamps. When on the 30<sup>th</sup> November, 1886, the stock of stamps was checked prior to despatch by the Postmaster (now Ernest Baxter, Eaton having been dismissed after being found guilty of fraudulently handling payments made by "Stellalanders, philatelists and stamp dealers") it was found that some had been sold after Whitfield King had been advised of the numbers. (This is apparent from the sales in November 1886 listed above.) "In order to make this right, an equal proportion of Cape stamps overprinted 'British Bechuanaland' was included with the Stellaland stamps." There were, however, at this time no 4d British Bechuanaland stamps, and the number was made up with 38 2d stamps (i.e.  $2 \times 38 @ 2d = 19 \times 4d$ ).

### Minutes of meetings of the Bestuur

At a meeting of the Bestuur - the administration, and in effect the Parliament - on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1885, it was announced that the stock of 1d stamps

was exhausted<sup>6</sup>. Whoever was responsible appears to have been unaware that Genis still held 879 1d stamps, but it was nevertheless true that the Vryburg Postmaster was down his last few copies. J.B. van Riet proposed that, "whereas there are no more penny postage stamps on hand, sheets of four penny stamps shall be by means of an imprint, altered to the value of two pence each. Proper accounting being kept of the number of stamps thus altered." The need for 2d stamps and the reason for the increased usage of the 1d duty was the reduction of the internal letter rate from 3d to 2d per half ounce at a meeting of the Bestuur on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1885 to bring it into line with the Cape inland letter rate. The only way payment of the new 2d rate could be receipted was with two 1d stamps, hence the shortage. Revenue usage may have contributed to the problem; Jurgens states that under Act 20 of 1884 1d stamps could be used to receipt payment of the stamp duty on receipts for money over £1 sterling.

### Summary

It is possible that Jurgens and Holmes were aware of the ledger described here, as their listings of the remainders sold to Whitfield King correspond precisely with the figures quoted above, but if this was the case it is astonishing that neither recognised the significance of the entries relating to 2d stamps. Neither author consistently quotes the sources of his information, but it would seem probable, particularly from Jurgens' description of events, that his information came from files that included the correspondence with dealers. Holmes was probably quoting Jurgens. It is the ledger entries that prove beyond any reasonable doubt that there was an official issue of 2d stamps; these could only have been the 4d stamps overprinted 'Twee', which had been proposed as a solution to the problem at the meeting of the Bestuur on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1885.

There is one final point to be emphasised. Stellaland ceased to exist on the 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1885, the day prior to the proposal put forward to the Bestuur that 4d stamps should be overprinted. Strictly speaking therefore the 'Twee' provisional is a British Bechuanaland stamp. It is evident, however, from the piece and the two known covers bearing examples of the 'Twee' overprint that mail addressed into Cape Colony was franked with Cape stamps to receipt

payment of the Cape rate in addition to the 'local' rate, hence the combination frankings. (The Cape inland rate was 2d per half ounce and the rate to the UK 6d.) The Cape stamps were cancelled at Barkly West, but they were probably on sale at Vryburg as Eaton on his appointment as Postmaster was granted an imprest of £10 for the purchase of Cape postage stamps.

### Acknowledgements

We are indebted to Michael Sefi, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, the staff of the Cape National Archives, John and Mark Taylor and Ian Shapiro for their assistance, particularly with regard to the illustrations.

### References

- 1 The National Archive, Cape Town; Archives of the Bechuanaland Crown Colony Government, v.244, Register Stamp Accounts 1885-1889, pages 1 to 3 inclusive.
- 2 Jurgens, A.A., 1945 The Bechuanalands; a brief history of the countries and their postal services 1836 - 1895: The Royal Philatelic Society, London
- 3 Holmes, H.R., 1971, The postage stamps, postal stationery, and postmarks of the Bechuanalands: The Royal Philatelic Society, London
- 4 Hurst, B, 2008, British Bechuanaland; the first provisional overprints of 1885-87: The London Philatelist, v.117, no.1353, p.52-63

- 5 Drysdall, A.R. 1992, A postal history of Stellaland: The London Philatelist, v.101, no.1191, p.54-66; no.1192, p.95-9
- 6 The National Archive, Cape Town; Archives of the Bechuanaland Crown Colony Government, v.4, Bestuur - minutes of meetings 1885



Figure 7: An imperforate copy of the 1d duty handstamped 'GTN180' in black

### Postscript

The Stellaland collection of the late Dr. Gerrit Jonkers was one of the most extensive that has ever existed. It included a large number of used copies of the stamps, including a high proportion of the 1d duty, three of which are illustrated as Figure 6. It also included three imperforate 1d stamps 'cancelled' with an unframed single-line handstamp reading 'GTN180' that Gerrit identified as proofs (Figure 7). We have been unable to find any reference in the literature to this handstamp or to proofs, if that is what they are, and would be grateful for any information that might assist.

## Union Active Service Letter Card Used 1944 in Serowe

by Peter Thy

The Union of South African 3d Air Mail Letter Cards were authorized for use in Bechuanaland (without overprinting) as postage for mailing to (and only to) 'members of the Forces in East and North Africa.' The official note was dated 12<sup>th</sup> November 1941 and is illustrated in Figure 1. Although not specified in the official notice, it must be assumed that this authorization also included the Active Service Letter Cards (1941-43) as well as the later Air Mail Letter Cards (1943-45). It must also be assumed that their area of use expanded as the war theatres evolved (as far as is known, Bechuanaland soldiers never served in East Africa). The first overprinted military letter cards intended for the same usage was issued in Bechuanaland on October 3, 1944, and replaced the Union cards.

In an article in the Runner Post (#55, p.1356-7, 2002), we surveyed the genuine usage of these various cards to military addresses from the Protectorate. We were able to report three examples all judged

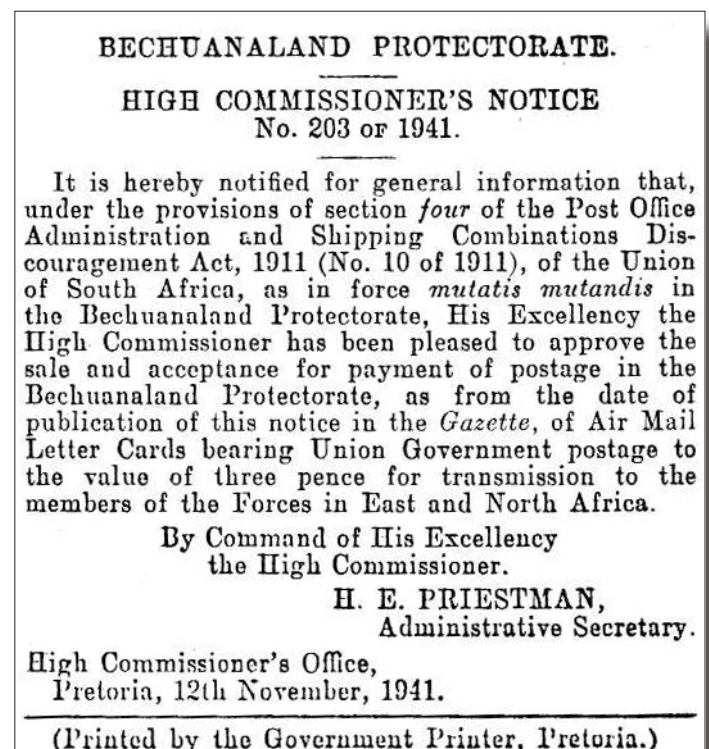


Figure 1. Official Notice 203 of 1941.





Figure 2. SA Active Service Letter Card used in Bechuanaland.

to be philatelic and not to have been purchased in Bechuanaland. They all originated in South Africa and were addressed to a Union soldier served in the Middle East Forces and were mailed to the Postmaster of Francistown for forwarding.

The Active Service Letter Card illustrated in **Figure 2** is the only known example genuinely used in Bechuanaland and addressed to a Bechuanaland soldier serving with the African Pioneer Corps of the Central Mediterranean Forces. The card was mailed in Serowe on 20 September 1944 and addresses to 8004 Morake Keitseope, 1969 (Bechuana) Coy., A.P.C., C.M.F. The address was corrected to 1981 Coy (1961 Coy did not exist) and got a FIELD POSTOFFICE 385 receiving mark of October 15, 1944, on the reverse (**Figure 3**).

The card thus took about 27 days to reach the soldier in the field. F.P.O. 385 is known to have been located in Italy from early 1944 to the end of the war. The card contains a short typewritten message (**Figure 4**) dated September 18, 1944, and signed by Tshekedi Khama, acting chief of the Ngwato (1926-50). The message reads in approximate English translation: 'I am letting you know that I received the money you sent me. It is £10.5/- and I have saved it as you asked, I am ...' (thanks to Peter Lodoen for the translation). Bechuana 1981 was one of two companies (the other was 1980) that in October, 1943, was transferred to

Italy to provide continued support for the Eighth Army's offensive. Coy 1981 was engaged during August, 1944, in dock work at Ancona and the nearby railhead at Jesi on the Adriatic Sea coast. Later, the company moved forward to Rimini for rail support and mule tending. The letter card thus likely was received somewhere in Northern Italy. The primary source for the troop movements is based on Bent (1952). Two recent scholarly studies on the Bechuanaland pioneers by Jackson (1999) and Schmitt (2006) also contain a wealth of information on the background and history of the African Pioneers that is of interest to the postal historians.

This is indeed a very rare aerogramme despite the less than perfect appearance. It is at this point the only known example of the South African letter cards genuinely used in Bechuanaland the way they were intended used. This type of cards should be included in the next edition of the stationery book.

### Bibliography

- Bent, R.A.R., 1952. *Ten Thousand Men of Africa*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London.
- Jackson, A., 1999. *Botswana 1939-1945. An African Country at War*. Clarendon Press, Oxford.
- Schmitt, D.A., 2006. *The Bechuanaland Pioneers and Gunners*. Praeger, Westport, Connecticut.
- Thy, P., 2002. South African Active Service Letter Cards used in Bechuanaland. *Runner Post* #55, 1356-1357.



Figure 3. F.P.O. 385.

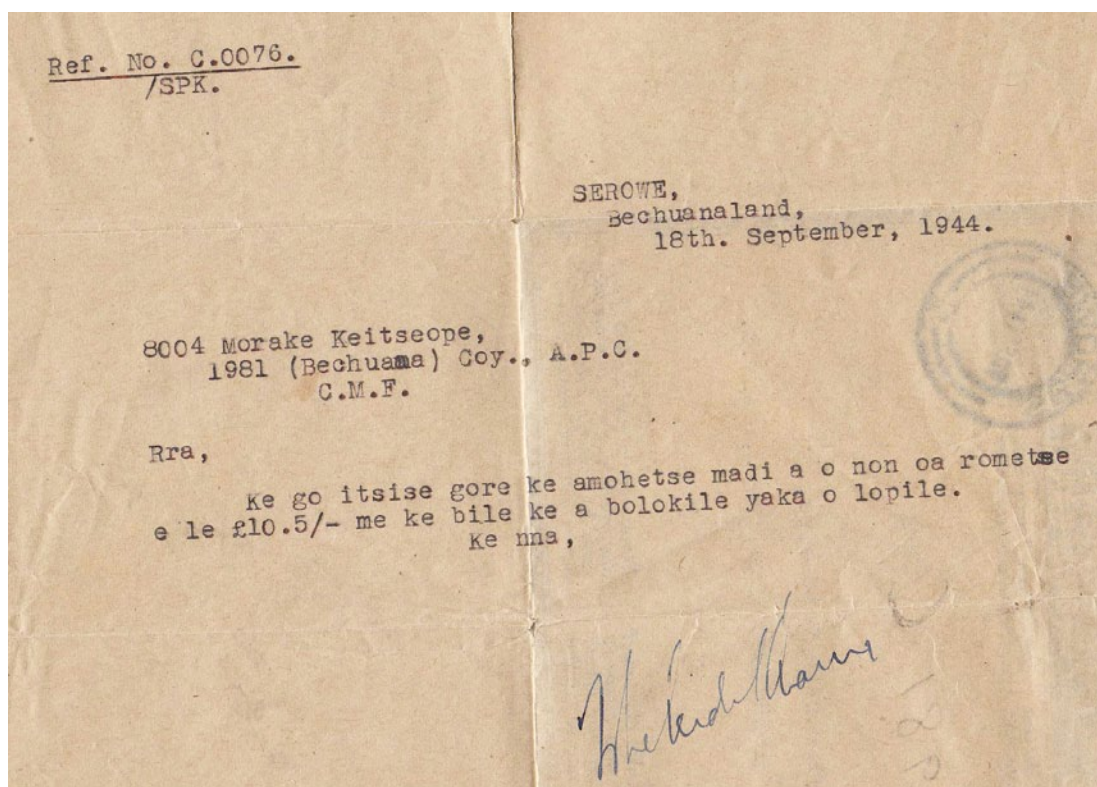


Figure 4. Message on letter card signed by Tshekedi Khama.

## Botswana Bar Coded Registration Labels Revisited

*including further examples from Bruce Warrender and ramblings by the Editor*

In reviewing the recent sendings it seems certain that the nine figure number on the label is the serial number; increasing such that smaller numbers are generally earlier. Peters Thy and Jukes gave examples starting with the two letters, 'RR' which almost certainly relates to Registered. Bruce gives some 'EE' examples; which relates to Expedited Mail Service (EMS) (they were on EMS receipts).

Also from Peter Jukes article we know that some of the later labels were ordered in batches from external sources. What isn't known is if ordered labels came in both RR and EE (I haven't seen any EE "blue labels").

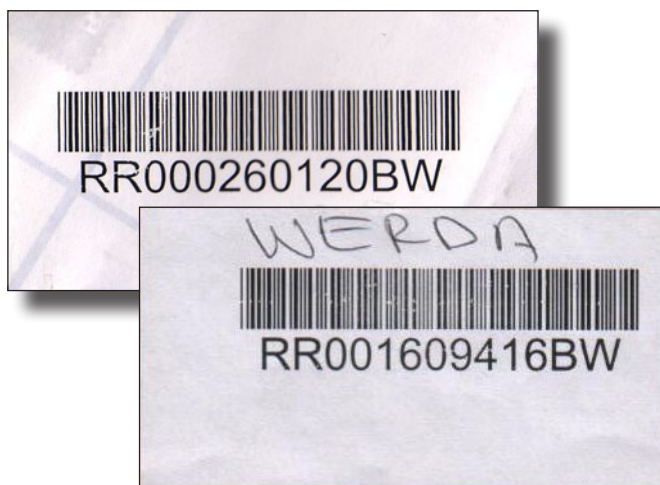


We start with an image from Bruce of which he says "I don't know if this label was a forerunner to the white bar code label reported in RP#63, but the date is 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2004, earlier than the white label".

Lets for arguments sake call it the **first series**. Serial

Ed: In Runner Post #73, p.1807-9, I published Peter Jukes' article brought about as a result of a question raised by Peter Thy in Runner Post #72. Peter Jukes listed a number of types of BCRLs. Bruce Warrender sent in his article about the same time, so here is my attempt to tie together all the examples sent in so far.

number around 64k in Nov 2004. Rather a complex (not cheap) shape. The blue tip to the pencil shape suggests there is more to the left on the label sheet.



Neither of these images come from Bruce. The top image is lifted from Steen Jelgren's letter in RP#63 p.1533 and was dated Dec 2004. Serial number has



now increased up to 200k.

Label size is 70mm x 37mm, the same as the lower image of the two which is lifted off Peter Jukes Fig1 from Feb 2006. The **second series**.



From Bruce another white bar code label with a size of 35x52mm; dated 20<sup>th</sup> Mar 2007; with a particularly tall barcode. Not noted by Peter Jukes. The **third series**. This again looks like an in-house produced label.



From Bruce another white bar code label, this time with letters 'EE'. It was attached to a receipt for Expedited Mail Service, dated 19<sup>th</sup> Sep 2006 at Orapa. This is an identically sized to the in-house "second series", suggesting it too was printed in-house. The serial number is higher than the "third series" example. Did just EE continue in-house? More examples needed before any conclusions could be drawn. Suggest this is also the second series.



Below I have tabulated the sizes and colours of those BCRL's sent in so far. I haven't included date ranges as there are obvious overlaps. More examples needed!

Series	Colour	Label Size mm	Text Size mm	Barcode Size mm	Printed	RR	EE
First	White/Navy	93 x 16	3	9.1	unknown	✓	?
Second	White	70 x 37	4.2	8	in-house	✓	✓
Third	White	52 x 35	3.5	11	in-house	✓	?
Fourth	White	52 x 35	3.3	7.6	in-house	✓	✓
Fifth	Blue	69 x 18	4.7	10.7	Kingsley's	✓	?
Sixth	Pale Blue	70 x 18	4.7	10.7	Kingsley's	✓	?



Two images (above) from Bruce plus Peter Jukes Fig2 (end last column). The 'EE' is from Maun 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 2007; the 3169045 is undated, that from Peter Jukes, is dated 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 2007. According to Peter Jukes this is in-house printing. The **fourth series**.



Kingsley's first order for 10000, the lower is Peter Jukes Fig4, from 22<sup>nd</sup> Jun 2007, the upper from Peter Thy's original Runner Post #72 query dated 25<sup>th</sup> Aug 2007. Bruce has one dated 31<sup>st</sup> May 2007. There is quite a shade variation, but this may have been introduced by different scanning methods getting the images to me. For now lets assume both are the same **fifth series**.



From Bruce, the upper image, is one of five examples he has, all dated during Sep 2007. Peter Jukes Fig3 is the lower image, the date isn't readable from the scan.

This is the Pale Azure series, the **sixth series** and Kingsley's second order



# **Checklist of Botswana Postmarks (Second Series)**

## Part Thirteen

The thirteenth 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 (a 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.

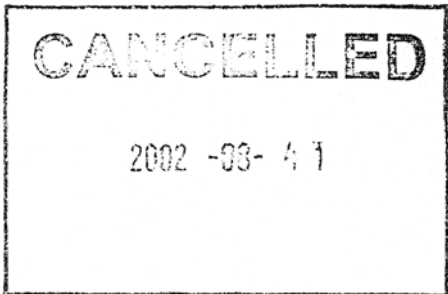
Further information on recorded postmarks, copies of better illustrations, and, of course, information on unrecorded markings is welcome and should be sent to Bruce Warrender (post) or e-mailed to the Editor.

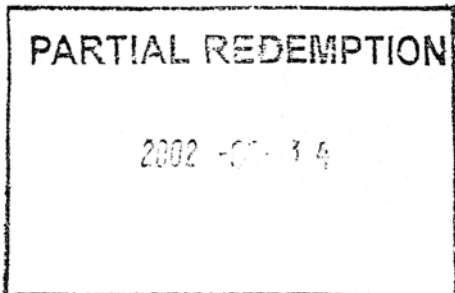
Bruce wishes to thank all the team members for their contributions.

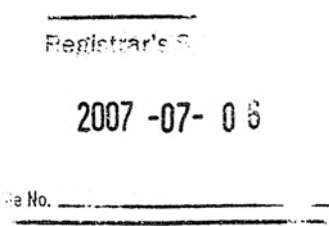
## **Miscellaneous Markings Without Any Office Name**

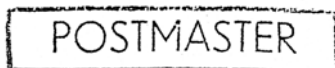
MISCELLANEOUS DATESTAMPS	No 6 Type MISC 6 z 33 <b>Struck in red</b>	
	Oval dimensions	39mm by 57mm
	Earliest recorded date	09-Apr-2003
	Latest recorded date	14-May-2004
	Number so far recorded	3
New sub-variant 33. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "POSTAGE PREPAID" at base.		

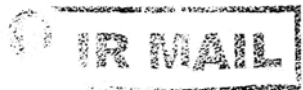
MISCELLANEOUS DATESTAMPS	No 7 Type MISC 6 z 37	
 <p>Although no office name this was used at Gaborone</p>	Oval dimensions	39mm by 56mm
	Earliest recorded date	14-Mar-2003
	Latest recorded date	17-Apr-2003
	Number so far recorded	3
New sub-variant 37. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "FACING TABLE" at base.		


MISCELLANEOUS DATESTAMPS	No 8 Type MISC 8t <b>Struck in red</b>	
 <p>Although no office name this was used at Kavimba</p>	Box dimensions	38mm by 58mm
	Earliest recorded date	14-Aug-2002 (Date error 41 should be 14)
	Latest recorded date	14-Aug-2002
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant 8t. "CANCELLED" at top.		

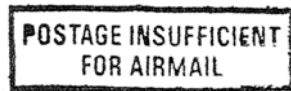
MISCELLANEOUS DATESTAMPS	No 9 Type MISC 8u <b>Struck in red</b>	
 <p>Although no office name this was used at Kavimba</p>	Box dimensions	38mm by 58mm
	Earliest recorded date	14-Aug-2002
	Latest recorded date	14-Aug-2002
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant 8u. "PARTIAL REDEMPTION" at top.		

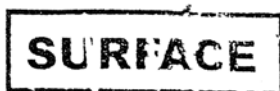
MISCELLANEOUS DATESTAMPS	No 10 Type MISC 8x	
 <p>Registrar's 2007 -07- 0 6 Re No. _____</p>	Box dimensions	27mm by ??mm
	Earliest recorded date	06-Jul-2007
	Latest recorded date	06-Jul-2007
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant 8x. "Registrar's ???" at top (??? unreadable)		

MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS	No 13 Type MISC 8e <b>Struck in purple</b>	
 <p>Although no office name this was used at Etsha</p>	Box dimensions	8mm by 43mm
	Earliest recorded date	30-Aug-2002
	Latest recorded date	30-Aug-2002
	Number so far recorded	1

MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS	No 14 Type MISC 8s	
 <p>Although no office name this was used at Gaborone</p>	Box dimensions	11mm by approx. 38mm
	Earliest recorded date	09-Dec-2004
	Latest recorded date	09-Dec-2004
	Number so far recorded	1

MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS	No 15 Type MISC 8s	
 <p>Although no office name this was used at Broadhurst or Gaborone</p>	Box dimensions	12mm by 47mm
	Earliest recorded date	26-Jul-1999
	Latest recorded date	26-Jul-1999
	Number so far recorded	1

MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS	No 16 Type MISC 8v	
	Box dimensions	11 mm by 37mm
	Earliest recorded date	10-Dec-2004
	Latest recorded date	10-Dec-2004
	Number so far recorded	1
	New sub-variant 8v. "POSTAGE INSUFFICIENT" above "FOR AIRMAIL" (2 lines) filling the box	

MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS	No 17 Type MISC 8w	
	Box dimensions	11 mm by 36mm
	Earliest recorded date	07-Feb-2005
	Latest recorded date	07-Feb-2005
	Number so far recorded	1
	New sub-variant 8w. "SURFACE" filling the box	





## Checklist of Botswana Postmarks (Second Series)

### Part Fourteen


The fourteenth installment is the first part of the checklist covering Gaborone. Gaborone Postmarks will cover a further two or three parts.


### Gaborone - Part 1


GABORONE	No 203 Type 2 B 51	
	Circle diameters	20mm & 27mm
	Earliest recorded date	01-Aug-2007
	Latest recorded date	01-Aug-2007
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE CENTRAL	No 204 Type 1 F 29(1)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	31-Oct-2003
	Latest recorded date	31-Oct-2003
	Number so far recorded	1


New sub-variant 29. [OFFICE NAME] above "POST OFFICE" at top (2 lines) with "COUNTER" followed by a numeral at base.


GABORONE CENTRAL	No 205 Type 1 F 29(3)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	17-Sep-2002
	Latest recorded date	17-Sep-2002
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE CENTRAL	No 206 Type 1 F 29(4)	
	Circle diameter	41mm
	Earliest recorded date	10-Oct-2001
	Latest recorded date	28-Feb-2003
	Number so far recorded	4


GABORONE CENTRAL	No 207 Type 1 F 29(5)	
	Circle diameter	41mm
	Earliest recorded date	17-Sep-2001
	Latest recorded date	13-May-2003
	Number so far recorded	2


GABORONE CENTRAL	No 208 Type 1 F 29(6)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	28-Aug-2002
	Latest recorded date	15-Oct-2002
	Number so far recorded	2

GABORONE CENTRAL	No 209 Type 1 F 29(7)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	22-Sep-2001
	Latest recorded date	12-Sep-2002
	Number so far recorded	5

GABORONE CENTRAL	No 210 Type 1 F 29(8)	
	Circle diameter	41mm
	Earliest recorded date	19-Sep-2001
	Latest recorded date	20-Sep-2001
	Number so far recorded	2

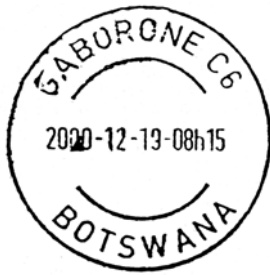
GABORONE CENTRAL	No 211 Type 1 F 29(10)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	21-Dec-2001
	Latest recorded date	30-Aug-2002
	Number so far recorded	3

GABORONE	No 212 Type 21 F 11(3)	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	13-Oct-2001
	Latest recorded date	13-Oct-2001
	Number so far recorded	1

GABORONE	No 213 Type 21 F 11(4)	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	21-Sep-2000
	Latest recorded date	10-Oct-2001
	Number so far recorded	5



<b>GABORONE</b>	<b>No 214 Type 21 F 11(6)</b>	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	19-Dec-2000
	Latest recorded date	29-Jun-2001
	Number so far recorded	2



<b>GABORONE</b>	<b>No 215 Type 21 F 11(8)</b>	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	20-Mar-2000
	Latest recorded date	19-Aug-2002
	Number so far recorded	10





<b>GABORONE</b>	<b>No 216 Type 21 F 11(9)</b>	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	22-Mar-2000
	Latest recorded date	22-Mar-2000
	Number so far recorded	1





<b>GABORONE</b>	<b>No 217 Type 21 F 11(10)</b>	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	19-May-2000
	Latest recorded date	17-Jan-2001
	Number so far recorded	2



GABORONE	No 218 Type 21 F 11(14)	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	22-Mar-2000
	Latest recorded date	22-Mar-2000
	Number so far recorded	1

GABORONE	No 219 Type 2 J 32 <b>Three items struck in red</b>	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 33mm
	Earliest recorded date	26-Mar-1998
	Latest recorded date	20-May-2008
	Number so far recorded	76
Date format yyyy-mm-dd or dd-mm-yyyy. One item year error 2091 (is 2001). One item date inverted.		

GABORONE	No 220 Type 2 J 38	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	06-May-1998
	Latest recorded date	09-May-1998
	Number so far recorded	2
New sub-variant 38. "R.L.S." at top with [OFFICE NAME] at base. Note ■ instead of 0 in month.		

GABORONE	No 221 Type 23 J 43	
	Circle diameter	41mm
	Earliest recorded date	07-May-2007
	Latest recorded date	10-Jul-2007
	Number so far recorded	4

GABORONE	No 222 Type 8 J 38	
	<b>Struck in red</b>	
	Box dimensions	32mm by 52mm
	Earliest recorded date	25-Sep-2001
	Latest recorded date	11-Oct-2001
	Number so far recorded	3



POSO HOUSE	No 223 Type 23 M 19(1)	
	Circle diameter	41mm
	Earliest recorded date	28-Feb2007
	Latest recorded date	28-Feb2007
	Number so far recorded	1



GABORONE CENTRAL	No 224 Type 23 M 20(1)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	09-Dec-2004
	Latest recorded date	09-Dec-2004
	Number so far recorded	1



GABORONE CENTRAL	No 225 Type 23 M 20(2)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	13-Aug-2004
	Latest recorded date	13-Aug-2004
	Number so far recorded	1



## Bechuanaland's Harbor

Peter Lodoen writes:

A century ago the mainstay of Mochudi's commercial sector was Mr. W.A.H. Harbor.

The memorable merchant also dabbled in philately. His philatelic body of work includes some of Bechuanaland's most remarkable covers, generally backstamped with the bold Harbor oval (below and also see Front Cover)



Mochudi Station, today known as Pilane, lies at the conjunction of the old Francistown highway, the railway station and the road that stretches some four kilometres east to Mochudi Village.

Brian Hurst continues:

### Early Harbor covers (inside back cover)

The 1899 cover has no seal or stamp but is quite interesting since it was sent whilst the Boer war was still being fought and the normal postal route via Mafeking was cut. Consequently it is cancelled with the 'Crocodile Pools' canceller, then sent north to Bulawayo, across to Durban and finally to the USA, probably via London.

The 1900 cover to Belgium does have the early form of a Harbor rubber stamp and is still written in his very distinctive handwriting.

The cover to London is interesting since the 'Mr. Baxter' to whom it is addressed is none other than Ernest C. Baxter, former official under the Stellaland Bestuur, Acting Postmaster-General of British Bechuanaland at the time of the introduction of the Runner Post and subsequently Customs Officer for the Crown Colony. The stamp on the front is upside down which seems to be a quirk that Harbor frequently adopted when using loose adhesives on cover. The back has an ornate embossed monogram.

### Resting Place

Malotwana is some ten kilometres north of Mochudi.



Near to the single track railway line is a plot of land which started out as a burial place for around twenty Rhodesia Volunteer troops killed locally in the Boer war. In the midst of this graveyard with its rusting metal crosses stands a large stone memorial bearing the name William A.H. Harbor; who died 19<sup>th</sup> April 1919 at the age of 62.

After Harbor's death, his trading business was taken over by one of the sons, but today there is no trace of the family in Mochudi. Mochudi is, of course, very much a traditional tribal settlement, and even today is relatively unaffected by contacts with white Europeans. Steen Jelgren's wife made enquiries of an old retired schoolteacher who lives near the graveyard. She has memories of someone coming to lay flowers on Harbor's grave from time to time, but that ceased many years ago. I can find no-one in Mochudi these days who has any memories of the Harbor family. Steen tells me there is a ruined building by the station which the locals say was thought to have been a shop many many years ago. This could possibly have been Harbor's base of operations.

Thanks go to Steen Jelgren for helping with the research and with tracking down and photographing the graveyard and headstone.

Ed: Does any member have any different W.A.H. Harbor cancellers or embossings other than those show here, the IBC or the Front Cover?

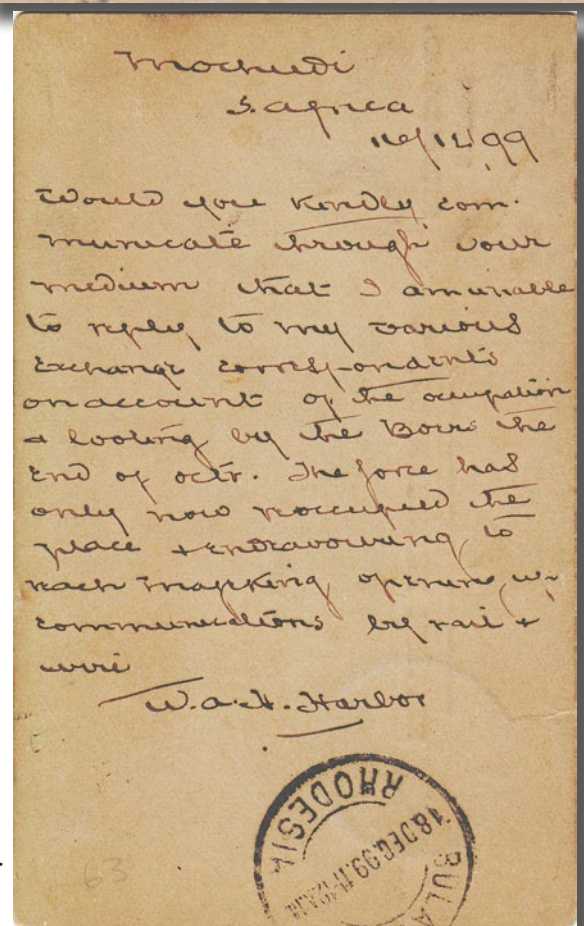
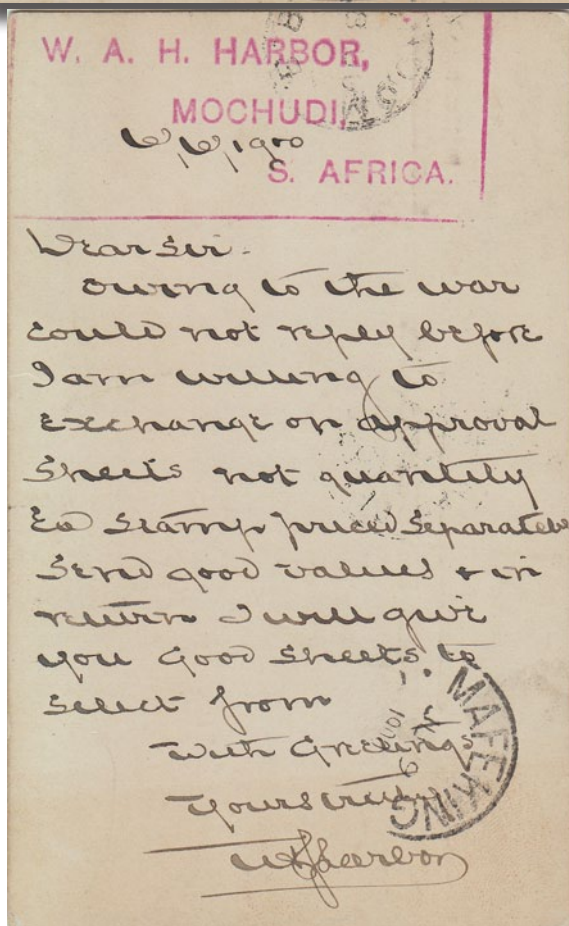




(Above/Right)  
London Cover



All front images 70%



(Left) 1900  
Belgian Cover  
(Right) 1899  
USA Cover

# 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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