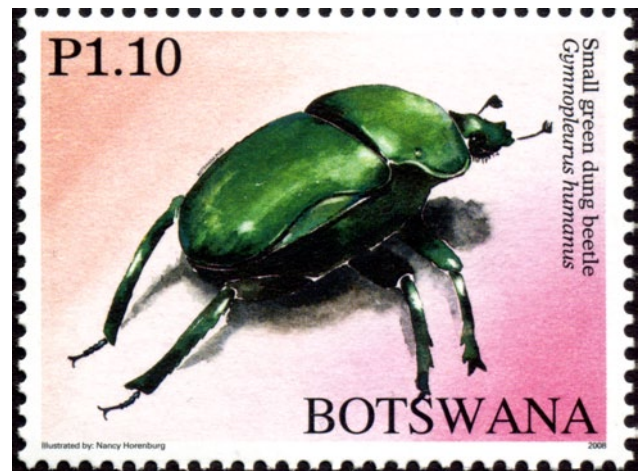


The **Runner Post**

THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY



Issue 75 Contents

LIST OF OFFICERS □ **DIARY 1851** • **EDITOR'S CORNER** □ **19TH POSTAL BID SALE 1852** • **HARBOR III** □
Q&A 1853 • **WORKING DIES FOR 4D VERMILION EMBOSSED ON 1889 REG. ENVELOPE 1854** • **GEORGE**
V CONTROLS WITH INVERTED WATERMARKS 1858 • **RARER STAMPS STUDY - PART 2 1859** • **TWO EARLY**
COVERS FROM BAROTSELAND 1863 • **OFFICIAL FREE MARKINGS - SUPPLEMENT 2 1868** • **BOTSWANA**
BAR CODED LABELS - UPDATE 1869 • **BOTSWANA POSTMARKS (SECOND SERIES) - PART 15** • **1871**

ISSN No 0953-3354

July 2009

DAVID CROCKER

PROFESSIONAL PHILATELISTS

David Crocker and Michael Wigmore offer both
the novice collector and the connoisseur
a wide range of British Africa material.

Proofs, Essays, Stamps, Postal History,
Postal Stationery, Revenues and Literature

Regular specialist price lists issued

Wants lists welcome

Postal Bid auctions held

Contact us for experienced advice on how to
enhance your collection

DAVID CROCKER

PROFESSIONAL PHILATELISTS

PO BOX 294, MONTAGU 6720, SOUTH AFRICA

TEL: (+27 23) 61-41424 FAX: (+27 23) 61-42521

e-Mail: dcrocker@lando.co.za

www.davidcrocker.co.za



LIST OF OFFICERS

Chairman/ Auctioneer/ Archivist	Field House, 54B Pease Hill Road, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3JH. UK. +44 1773 742619	Brian Hurst jbhurst@btinternet.com
---------------------------------------	---	--

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

Secretary	+44 7802 848 742	Roger Howard lynroger@hotmail.com
-----------	------------------	---

Treasurer/ Membership Secretary	Well Cottage, Olchard, Sandygate, Newton Abbot, TQ12 3GX, UK +44 1626 852415	Joe Taylor olchard@hotmail.com
------------------------------------	---	--

Editor	69 Porlock Lane, Furzton, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK4 1JY, UK. rp_editor@nevsoft.com	Neville Midwood
--------	---	------------------------

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES

Botswana	Private Bag BR 354, Broadhurst, Gaborone, BOTSWANA jsi@info.bw	John Schaerer
----------	---	----------------------

South Africa	PO Box 515, Simon's Town, 7995, RSA alan@rhodesia.co.za	Alan MacGregor
--------------	--	-----------------------

America	PO Box 73112, Davis, CA 95617-3112, USA thy@kronestamps.dk	Peter Thy
---------	---	------------------

STUDY COORDINATORS

Rarer Stamps	Flat 11, Highbank, Bolton Road, Pendlebury, Lancs, M27 8UP, UK.	Steve Wallace
--------------	---	----------------------

Postmarks	66 Brodie Court, Stenton, Glenrothes, Fife KY7 4UD, UK.	Bruce Warrender
-----------	---	------------------------

Official Free Marks	28 Greenside Drive, Wortley, Leeds. LS12 4SF, UK.	Dennis Firth
---------------------	---	---------------------

©2009 The Bechuanalands and Botswana Society

DIARY OF EVENTS - 2009

7 th November	AGM - The Royal Horticultural Hall, London, Room 32 12:45 to 14:45
--------------------------	--

13 th -15 th November	SA Societies Conference, Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa
---	---

DIARY OF EVENTS - 2010

Sat 8 th - Sat 15 th May	London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition Business Design Centre, Islington,
--	--

The Society has a large private room within the Design Centre from 10 am to 2 pm on the final Saturday, 15th May

Editor's Corner

Apologies for the lateness of this June 2009 issue. A new project at work, a PC failure and sadly the sudden illness and passing of a close relative means I am still working on this weeks later than I'd planned. Hopefully it was worth the wait.

We have in this issue the first philatelic item from Basutoland (I sneaked it onto the IBC) - not an introductory article as I'd hoped - but I did add a map.

A reminder that before the next RP comes out there is the annual SA Societies Conference at the Falstaff Hotel in Leamington Spa. Always an enjoyable weekend.

19th Postal Bid Sale

Report and Results

from Brian Hurst, Society Auctioneer

The Society's 19th Postal Bid Sale closed on the 9th May 2009. Despite the current economic gloom, the results were good and proved that the current market for philatelic material is still buoyant.

Over 90% of the 167 lots sold for a total of £4560.50 which is especially gratifying when you realise that most international auction houses rarely achieve percentage sales of this order.

It is hoped that the next sale will be held live at the London 2010 International on the 15th May 2010.

Results

LOT	£	LOT	£	LOT	£	LOT	£	LOT	£	LOT	£	LOT	£	LOT	£	LOT	£
1	36	2	31	3	2	4	3	5	8	6	8	7	1	8	2	9	2
10	85	11	15	12	6	13	36	14	10	15	11	16	32	16a	33	17	290
18	16	19	4	20	2	21	15	22	48	23	n/s	24	8	25	n/s	26	60
27	10	28	15	29	29	30	10	31	n/s	32	46	33	28	34	4	35	4
36	80	37	16	38	31	39	65	40	1	41	21	42	3	43	2	44	110
45	7	46	1	47	8	48	8	49	36	50	6	51	n/s	52	n/s	53	5
54	27	55	1.50	56	31	57	2	58	4	59	46	60	41	61	85	62	28
63	70	64	2	65	21	66	26	67	8	68	12	69	140	70	20	71	160
72	230	73	8	74	26	75	15	76	20	77	9	78	4	79	25	80	65
81	20	82	65	83	100	84	1	85	21	86	20	87	10	88	180	89	80
90	12	91	20	92	44	93	26	94	80	94a	25	95	32	96	32	97	7
98	46	99	130	100	95	101	33	102	60	103	6	104	17	105	13	106	19
107	n/s	108	1	109	2	110	10	111	8	112	1	113	2	114	3	115	21
116	15	117	7	118	46	119	1	120	8	121	n/s	122	n/s	123	16	124	30
125	3	126	31	127	10	128	1	129	5	130	4	131	1	132	n/s	133	1
134	4	135	15	136	2	137	2	138	4	139	240	140	n/s	141	n/s	142	n/s
143	2	144	3	145	6	146	5	147	6	148	1	149	4	150	7	151	4
152	10	153	8	154	16	155	25	156	30	157	20	158	20	159	48	160	60
161	7	162	1	163	33	164	65	165	75	Total £4560.50							

Lots unsold 23, 25, 31, 51, 52, 107, 121, 122, 132, 140, 141, 142 (n/s)

Contact Brian Trotter or myself if you want details.

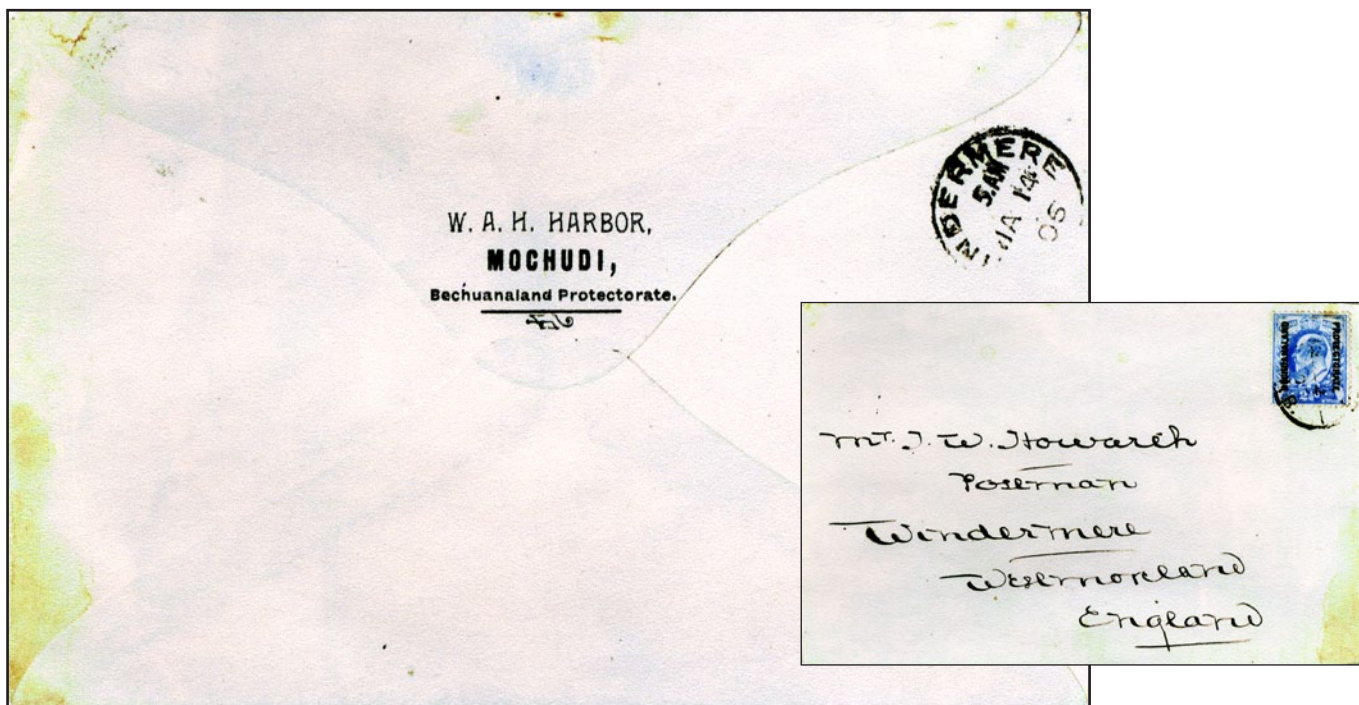
London 2010 gets ever nearer and we are not planning a Society Meeting at Philatex in Feb 2010. So the last good chance to plan what we are going to do with our room on the 15th May will be the November AGM (7th November at 12:45). Hopefully members can make it and bring along their ideas.

And finally, some of you may have a subscription letter in with your copy. I hope you'll all stay in the Society ready for Runner Post #76's arrival in November.

Please start searching through your holdings and dig out any good quality surplus material that you can spare for the sale. This can be sent to the Auctioneer at any time (address in the front of Runner Post), or handed over in person at the Annual General Meeting to be held at Philatex in London on the 7th November 2009.

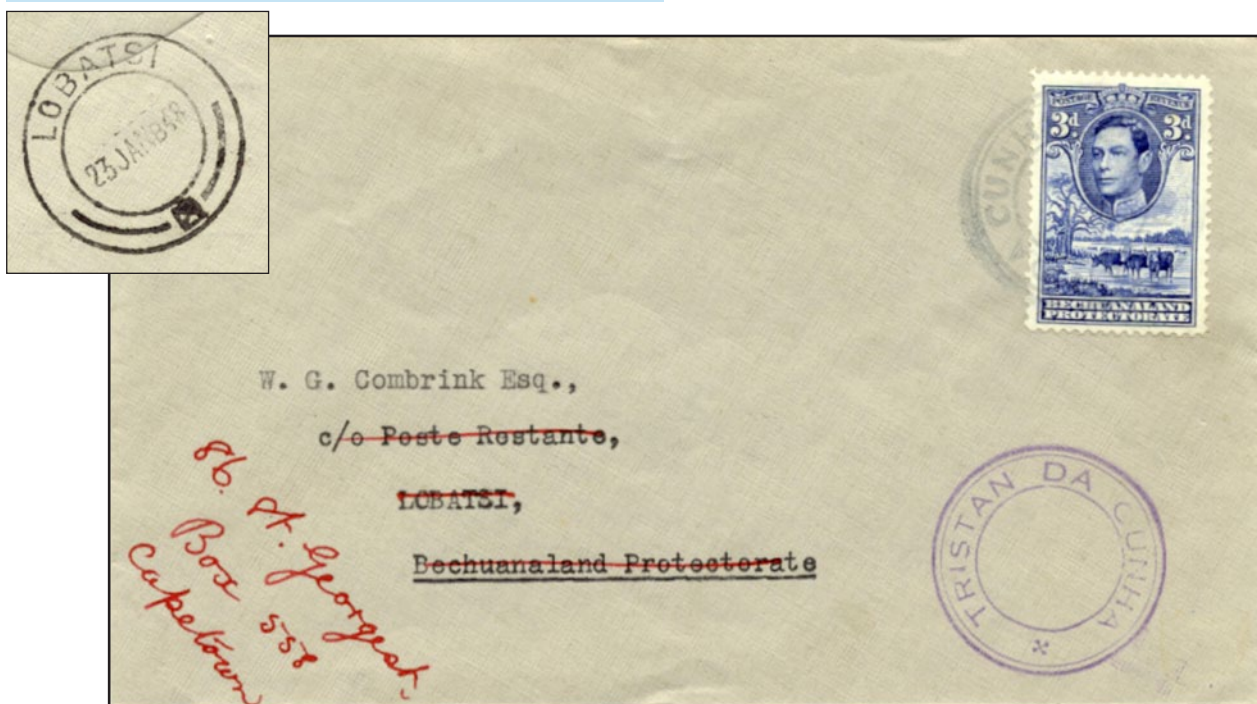
Finally it just remains to thank members for supporting the sale both by providing material for inclusion and for enthusiastically bidding on the listed lots.

Bechuanaland's Harbor III



Another WAH Harbor stationary item. Windermere postmark is JA 14 05 (front one unreadable)
Back [100%] with front [50%] inset- Image courtesy Steve Wallace

Question and Answer - TdC cachet



Jake Jacobson asks:

I enclose images of a rather interesting cover, Bechuanaland used in Tristan da Cunha! Obviously philatelic, it nevertheless travelled through the post to judge by the backstamp Lobatsi, (23 Jan 48).

I have a couple of queries.

I do not know which type of TdC cachets these are, perhaps someone can assist. The reddish cancel over the stamp is rather faint and does look different to the lower one. It might be possible for TdC philatelists with sailing dates to infer from the Lobatsi date which sailing ex TdC this sailed on. Does any member know of any other such covers?

Working Dies for the British 4d Vermilion Stamp Embossed on 1889 Bechuanaland Registration Envelopes

by Peter Thy

The 1889 Bechuanaland registration envelopes with a vermillion stamp were made by embossing a 4d British postage stamp, originally used for stamped-to-order envelopes, on the then current McCorquodale registration envelopes. In addition, the envelopes were overprinted 'BRITISH BECHUANALAND' and 'FOR REGISTRATION ONLY.' The latter overprint was required because the original postage stamp did not specify registration, as was common for the British registration envelopes at the time. The existing trial printings or essays suggest that the overprinting was done in one setting and that the stamp was subsequently embossed (Thy and Inglefield-Watson, 2004; Thy, 2008). Thus both overprinting and stamping were done individually on fully prepared, printed, folded, and glued envelopes.

The interest in the stamp dies for the British stamped-to-order envelopes as well as the Bechuanaland registration envelopes stems

from the possibility that the stamp used for the Bechuanaland issues were made using a new working die that thus with some stretch of the imagination could qualify as the first definitive stationary specifically prepared for Bechuanaland.

Huggins (1961, 1970) reports a total of four original stamp dies with two different registration dates (12.11.55 (dies 2 and 4), 26.9.89 (dies 1 and 3)). The 1855 dies were used for production of the British stamped-to-order stationery from December 1855 (Huggins, 1961). We have speculated without substantiating the claim that the 1889 dies were specifically produced for the Bechuanaland envelopes because of the similarity between the registration date and the printing dates (1889-90) of the envelopes (Thy and Inglefield-Watson, 1996). The imprinted stamps exist with either florets (9 dots) or date code plugs inserted into three holes drilled at the base of the stamp (Huggins and Baker, 2007). The earliest known impressions of the stamp are found on a promotional notice to

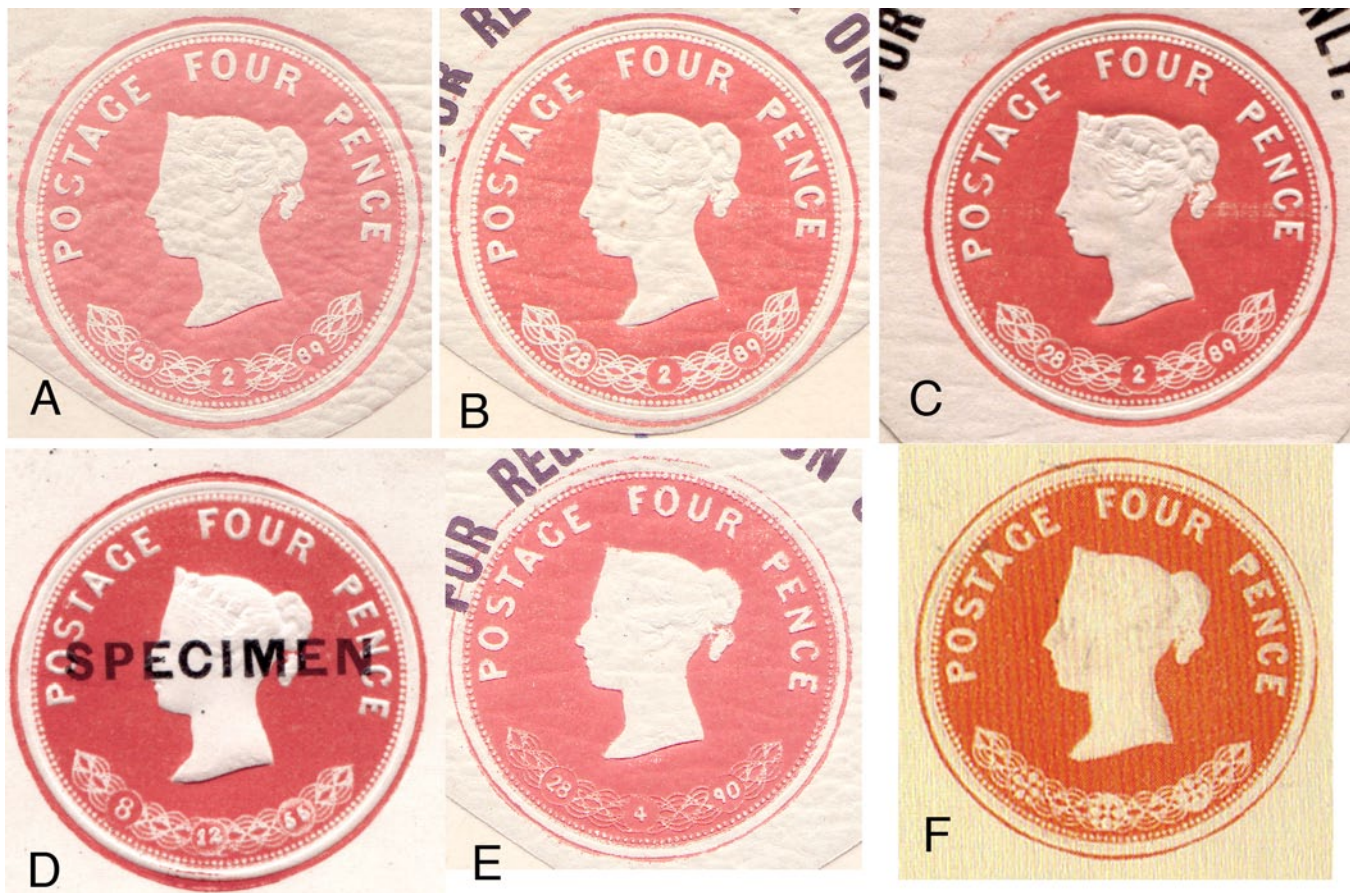


Figure 1. Summary of dies and plugs. (A) From essay RE E(17). (B and C) From Bechuanaland registration envelopes with 1889 printing year. (D) From 1855 British postmaster notice. (E) From a Bechuanaland registration envelope with 1890 printing year. (F) From proof sheet (see Figure 2). The enlargement scales as well as the colors may not be exact.

British postmasters (Huggins, 1970), dated just after the registration date. Two different stamp dates are shown in **Figure 1** (7.12.55 and 8.12.55) from these postmaster notices, suggesting that the date plugs were inserted each day of the printing. Thus, the dates represent the day of printing and not individual printing orders. Huggins (1961) lists that the imprimaturs in the Somerset House record books of dies 2 and 4 are without insets (blank, empty) in the plugholes and that dies 1 and 3 are with inserted dates (26.9.89).

The printing dates for the Bechuanaland are 28.2.89 (Sizes G and H), 1.3.89 (Sizes H and K), 2.3.89 (Size G) (Thursday-Saturday), and 28.4.90 (Sizes G, H, and K) (Monday) (Thy and Inglefield-Watson, 2004). These dates suggest that the Bechuanaland envelopes were produced in two printings. The first printing stretched over three days during late February and early March 1889. The second printing was done in April 1890. Both printings included all three envelope-sizes. Envelopes from both the 1889 (Sizes G, H, and K) and 1890 (size G) printings occur with UPU specimen (Type 2) overprint done in 1890 (September) in Vryburg after the 1890 printing was made (Hurst, 2007).

There is, as far as I am aware, no census of the plug dates for the British stamped-to-order envelopes. Huggins and Baker (2007) suggest 1859 as the earliest year of usage and illustrate a stamp with a 23.5.83 date. Huggins (1970) gives the printing dates as between 21.11.61 and 4.1.94, thus overlapping the Bechuanaland printing dates. These British dates appear rather late considering that the stamp die was announced and already to be used for private orders already in 1855. The date plugs were around 1892-94 replaced by plugs with florets (Huggins, 1970; Huggins and Baker, 2007). It is not known, by me at least, how many stamps that were imprinted as part of the British printed-to-order program. It is likewise not known how many envelopes were imprinted for use in Bechuanaland. We can only guess at a maximum total of about 1,500 for Size G envelope and much less for the larger sized envelopes, based on information for the first Bechuanaland definitive envelope about 10 years later (Thy and Inglefield-Watson, 2004).

The early collection of stamp and stationery essays assembled by F.A. Philbrick prior to 1890 (Hahn, 2008) included a sheet with impressions of stamps used for printed-to-order stationery (**Figure 2**). This sheet included two impressions of the 4d vermillion stamp both with florets inserted instead of date plugs. The Philbrick collection was sold to Phillip de Ferrari in 1888. Since de Ferrari had little interest in essays, he donated this part of the collection to a Viennese stamp dealer

that displayed it in his private museum (Sigmund Friedl) until 1896 when his stamp business was liquidated (Hahn, 2008). Although it cannot be proven that the imprint sheet was not added to the collection after being sold in 1888, it is plausible that it was part of the original collection prior to being sold. If this is correct, the floret plugs were probably inserted in the dies when not in use for postage printing and thus were in use long prior to being introduced for stamp printing around 1892-4. Huggins (1970) further shows an impression of the 4d dies (with blank date plugs) on a handmade envelopes what is thought to be an essay made prior to the first envelopes were issued in 1878 after a rate reduction to 2d. Unfortunately, these early imprints and essays were not available for this study in sufficient high resolution to allow detailed studies and comparisons.

So why is the chronology of these early British stamp dies important for understanding the production of the Bechuanaland envelopes? To answer this question, we need to understand how the dies were produced and how the printing was done. The following is largely based on the description in Scott (2001). Printed embossed stamps have the colorless or white parts raised above the colored flat background. Three different dies are involved in producing an embossed working die. The master die is engraved on the surface of a soft steel rod and is used to produce all subsequent dies. The parts that are to be colorless are engraved into the steel below the flat steel surface that will carry the ink. The master die is thus the negative image of the embossed stamp. The master die is after hardening transferred to an intermediate die (hub die) by hard pressing a soft steel rod into the hardened master die. The intermediate die is thus positive with the colorless parts protruding above the flat surface very much like the printed stamp. The intermediate die may be cleaned and sharpen by removing excess metal and may further be modified by reducing the design area (but not enlarged). The working die is made by pressure transfer from the intermediate die and thus is a duplicate of the master die (meaning that it is negative). This means that the working die can be further engraved and modified, however, without reducing or removing embossed parts. Two working dies may therefore not be exactly similar despite originating from the same master and even intermediate dies. A working die may also wear with use and may further require 'touch-ups' to improve a deteriorating print product.

The printing is done by pressing the working die against the paper (or envelope) into a resilient plate. The ink is applied only to the flat surface of the working die with the embossed lines and

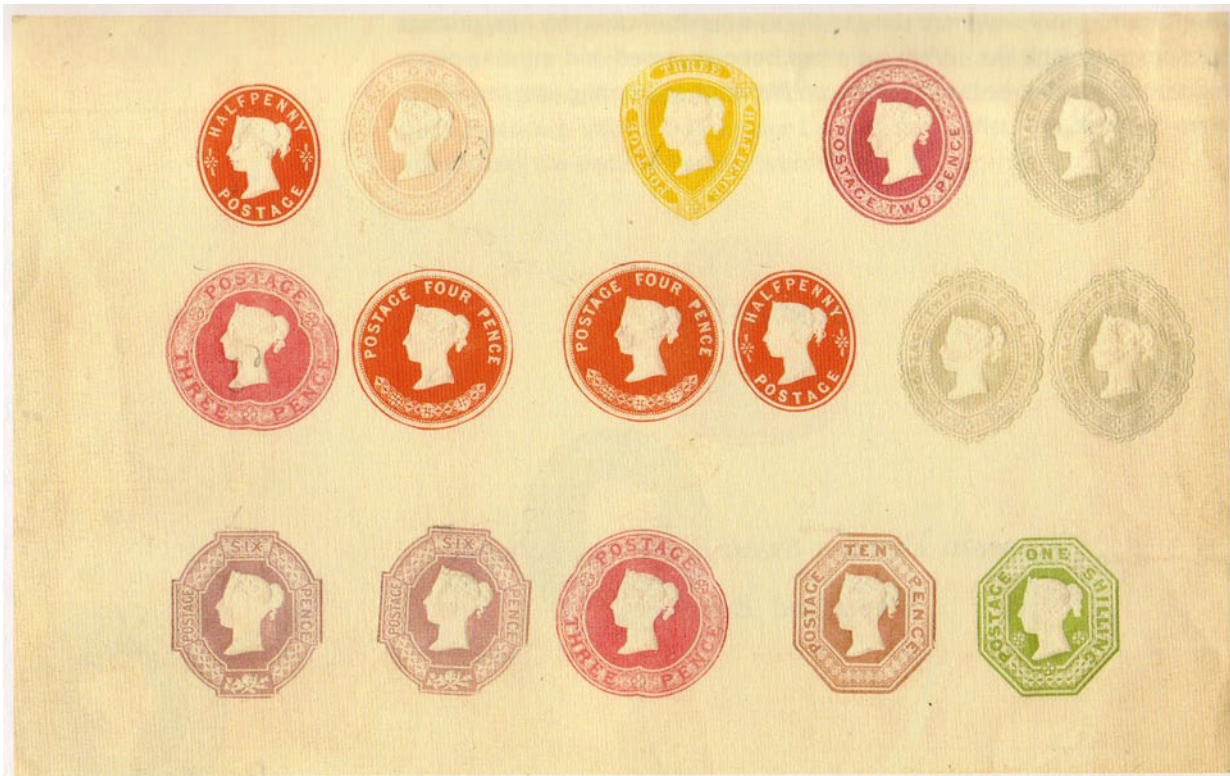


Figure 2. Proof sheet with impression of British stamped to order dies (Hahn, 2008). Stamps no. 2 and 3 of the central row is the 4d vermilion stamp used on the 1889 Bechuanaland Registration Envelopes. The image was scanned from Hahn's book and is thus reduced in size.

patches remaining unlinked. What is happening is that the flat inked surface is pressed against the paper and the paper is being pressed into the un-inked embossed parts of the die. Thus, the protruding parts are left un-inked, while the main flat parts are inked.

This method of printing may result in various printing flaws. The first group of these is non-constant flaws when accidentally ink fills or paper flakes cover engraved parts resulting in inking of what was supposed to be embossed. Such flaws do not represent die varieties. The second group of flaws is constant defects that appear on all subsequent imprints. Scratches and other defects in the surface will appear as un-inked embossing on the imprinted stamp. Other die modifications are intentional and represent changes to either the intermediate or working die. These are constant changes to the die and helps identifying the die and their progressive modifications.

Albino embossed imprints are the result of printing either without inking or with more than one envelope at a time fed into the press. Other typical printing errors are off-positioned and multiple embossed imprints. Such printing errors are common for many similarly embossed envelopes, but are nevertheless not reported for the Bechuanaland envelopes, probably due to a good quality control by the printer; although the small quantities produced may share part of the responsibility. Another type of printing error

that often is recorded is off-centered back inking. This happens when the press is used without paper and not cleaned before next envelope is fed into the press. Such characteristic back-inking has not yet been reported for the Bechuanaland envelopes. It should here be mentioned that the 1890 Bechuanaland envelopes appear always to show strong bleeding-through of the ink on the reverse suggesting a different ink-type (but not back-inking).

For our purpose, only constant modifications to the dies (intentional or accidental) are of interest for understanding the chronology of printing and the dies used. By observing the eight selected imprints in Figure 1, it can readily be seen that a few characteristic features appears on some, but not all imprints. The weak 'S' of 'POSTAGE' appears on all examples of the first printing of the Bechuanaland envelopes (1889; Figure 1, A, B, and C), but is not present on the remaining imprints, including the early proof imprints (D and E) and the 1890 Bechuanaland imprint (F). There are other irregularities that can easily be observed. The 'A' of 'POSTAGE' is partially filled by a gash on the horizontal stroke on all the 1889 Bechuanaland (A, B, C) and the early imprints (D and F). Only, the 1890 Bechuanaland imprint (E) appears to be missing this irregularity. A final irregularity to be noted is the deformed 'P' of 'PENCE' only seen for the early imprint with florets (F). These irregularities suggest that two distinctly different

working dies were used to produce the two Bechuanaland printings (1889 and 1890).

The low hanging pendant curls of the Queens hair dress may also be used to distinguish groups of working dies as done for other British stamp dies (Huggins, 1970). The majority of imprints in Figure 1 show nearly detached curls only hold in place by two thin hair threads. Although more detailed work needs to be done to support the point, it is felt that all the dies show the same nearly detached pendant curls. Differences appear to be caused by variable imprint pressure. It is significant that the 1890 Bechuanaland imprints show very variable degrees of detachments of the curls (Figure 1, A and B), despite many other similarities suggesting that all imprints were made using the same die.

The overall shapes of the Queen's neck regions are compared in **Figure 3**. When the neck outline is traced for the 1889 Bechuanaland imprints (Figure 3, B) and overlain on the necks of the 1890 (E) and the early British imprints (D and F). It is clear that the 1889 Bechuanaland dies have had the front neckline reduced and a weak projection of the Adam's apple eliminated. This reduction is only seen for the 1889 Bechuanaland imprints and not for the 1890 imprints.

These observations suggest that the dies used for the Bechuanaland envelopes represent two intermediate dies produced from the same master die (or a progressive modification of the same intermediate die). The 1890 die shows similarities with (or is identical) to the early dies prepared for the British stamped-to-order envelopes (one of the dies with 26.9.89 registration date). The 1889 die was prepared from a different intermediate die with a slightly reduced Queen's neckline (one of the dies with 12.11.55 registration date). It is currently not possible to compare the Bechuanaland imprints with those of the British envelopes for the simple reason that the present writer never has seen an example or know of similar studies of the British envelopes. It is thus still possible that the 1889 envelopes were prepared using a working die specifically prepared for the purpose.

Although this study did not provide the final answer to the questions, it hopefully provided

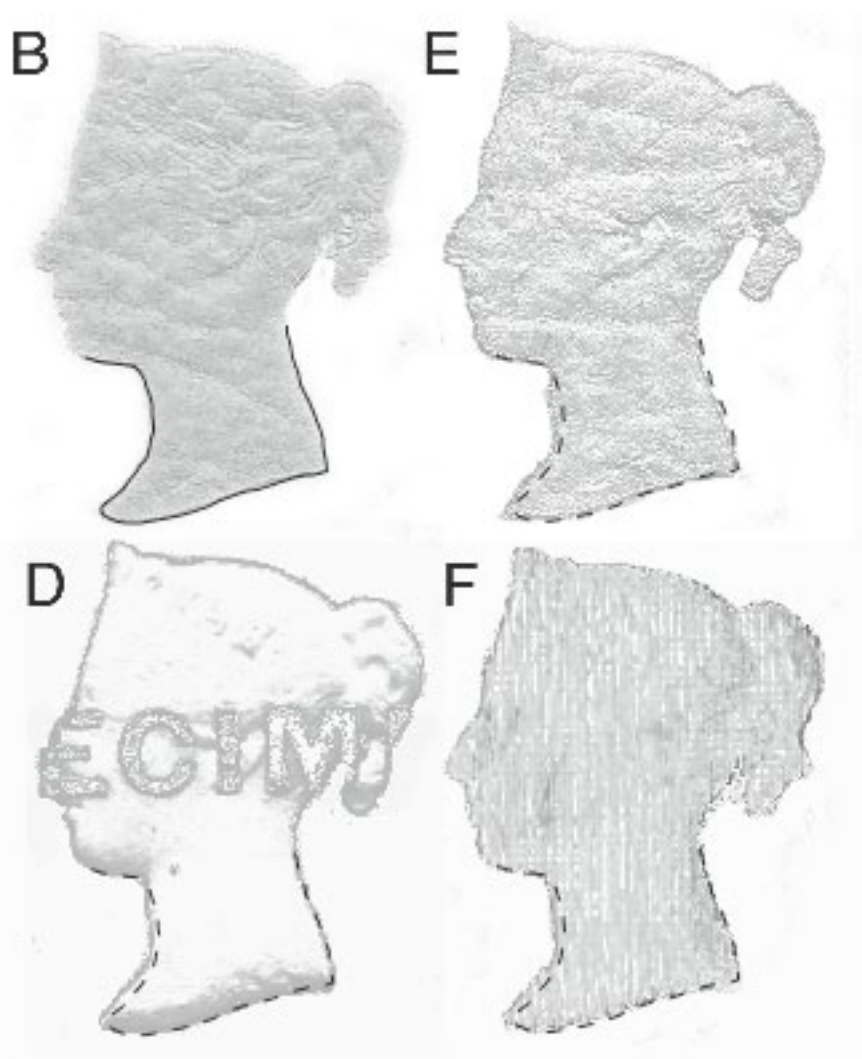


Figure 3. Comparison of the necklines relative to the 1889 Bechuanaland imprint. (B) 1889 Bechuanaland imprint. (E) 1890 Bechuanaland imprint. (D) 1855 British postmaster notice. (F) Early proof sheet imprint (from Figure 2). The letter notations are similar to Figure 1.

enough incitement for somebody to take on the study. Future studies should examine the imprints of the dies made on British envelopes. It would also be useful to obtain information on the quantities of envelopes made (British, Bechuanaland) to gain information of the numbers of dies that may have been required. The question is obviously whether the usage of the dies was so restricted that only two or a low number of working dies could have covered the need. It would also be critical to obtain high quality images of the dies both released and those found on essays and official imprints.

Acknowledgements

Brian Hurst and the American Philatelic Society Research Library are thanked for providing photocopies. Andreas Hahn and the 'Museumsstiftung Post und Telekommunikation' are thanked for access to a high-density scan of the Philbrick proof sheet.

References

Hahn, A., 2008. *Die Erfindung der Briefmarke. Erturfe und Probedrucke aus der Sammlung F. A. Philbrick und dem Preu en-Fund*. Museumsstiftung Post und Telekommunikation, Kassel, Germany.

Huggins, A.K., 1961. Postal stationery imprimaturs at Somerset House. *Great Britain Journal* 3, 2-5, 38-41.

Huggins, A.K., 1970. *British Postal Stationery*. Great Britain Philatelic Society, London, UK.

Huggins, A. and Baker, C., 2007. *Collect British Postal Stationery. A simplified Listing of British Stationery 1840-2007*. GB Philatelic Publications, Ringwood, UK.

Hurst, B., 2007. BEC2 'SPECIMEN' handstamp on Bechuanaland stamps - a mystery solved. *Runner Post*

70, 1700-1701.

Scott, 2001. *Embossing and printing dies, Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers*, p. 366-367. Scott Publishing Co., Sidney, OH (or later editions).

Thy, P., 2008. Postal stationery views and news - 9. *Runner Post* 71, 1743-1748.

Thy, P. and Inglefield-Watson, J., 2004. *The Postal Stationery of the Bechuanaland and Botswana*. British Philatelic Trust, London.

Thy, P. and Inglefield-Watson, J., 2006. Postal Stationery News and Views #6. *Runner Post* 60, 1449-1451.

King George V - Controls showing inverted watermarks

by Brian Hurst

Of the King George V stamps of Great Britain overprinted for use in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, four values have so far been discovered with inverted watermark. These are the 2d. orange, Die I with simple cypher watermark, and the 1d. scarlet, 3d. violet and 1s. bistre-brown with block cypher watermark.

Of these four values, just two are recorded with control letters, the 1d. and 2d.

Since this may be of interest to members, these two values are illustrated here. The 1d. B24 block is in the collection of the author, and the 2d. R21 illustration has been kindly provided by Jake Jacobson of South Africa. Jake has previously allowed his item to be illustrated in *Runner Post*, but improvement in printing techniques of the magazine allow for a much improved result.



2d Orange with R21 control letters and enlargement showing the watermark



1d Scarlet Block with B24 control letters (left) showing the watermark (centre) and using image manipulation to combining the two to render the watermark in violet (right)

The Rarer Stamps Study (Part 2)

by Steve Wallace

This second part completes the listing of British Bechuanaland stamps. Part 1 was in Runner Post #73 p1820-23

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)

<p>SG30ba 4m R 0u</p> 	<p>½d. grey-black, overprint in green. Overprint double, one inverted, "British" omitted on inverted due to a shift.</p> <p>A single lower half-panes of 30 stamps carried the variety "overprint double, one inverted". Because of a shift in the inverted overprint, all six stamps in row 6 had an inverted overprint reading "Bechuanaland" only, and with "British", inverted, falling in the lower margin below row 10. Four examples are recorded: a single, the lower stamp of a vertical pair, the upper stamp of a vertical pair (Royal Collection) and the upper stamp of a vertical strip of 3.</p>
<p>SG30ca 5m 2L,1R 0u</p> 	<p>½d. grey-black, overprint in green. Overprint double, one vertical, se-tenant with stamp without overprint.</p> <p>Two half-panes, totalling 60 stamps carried the variety "overprint double, one vertical". In both instances it is the upper half of a lower right-hand pane that is affected. A sufficient number of marginal examples still exist to provide the proof. In the case of one of these panes, the lower half received no overprint at all, and it is vertical pairs across rows 5 and 6 which constitute the listed variety. It is very easy to plate this variety simply by observing the position of the vertical overprint. The examples from columns 1 and 2 are in the British Library collections, those from columns 3 and 5 are in private hands and that from column 6 is in the Royal Collection. The fate of the pair from column 4 is unrecorded.</p>
<p>SG30 var. 2m 0u</p> 	<p>½d. grey-black, overprint in green. Overprint double, one vertical, se-tenant with normal stamp.</p> <p>In the case of the other half-panes which carried the variety "overprint double, one vertical", the lower half of the pane received a normal overprint. Two vertical pairs across rows 5 and 6, demonstrating the two different stamps, are known to exist. The pair from column 1 (illustrated) was once in the collection of Bob Holmes. The pair from column 4 was sold at Harmer's in London on 30th April 2001. The stamps with double overprint from columns 3, 5 & 6 have been separated from the normal stamps below, and that from column 2 remains unrecorded.</p>






SG31a 1m 0u	1d. carmine-red, overprint reading upwards. Horizontal pair, one without overprint.
	<p>This error is the result of a fold under of the corner of the sheet that has prevented an image being printed on the right-hand stamp. The stamps are R1/5&6 of an upper right pane, and the margin at right has been removed. The piece is almost certainly unique, and in fact was originally joined to the two pairs which constitute SG31c as listed below. Holmes' assertion that the variety was caused by the sheet "being inserted in the press too far to the left" is incorrect. The pair is believed to come from a block that was sold as Lot 196 of Emil Tamsen's sale on May 10th 1900.</p>





SG31b 0m 1u R	1d. carmine-red, overprint reading upwards. Error: "British" omitted, due to a shift
	<p>This variety, caused by a shift of the overprint to the left, must have occurred in the last vertical row of one of the panes. The overprint is about 5° out of true vertically, which means that any stamps further up the row would have "British" intruding on the perforations at the left in varying degrees, and would not constitute the true variety.</p> <p>image reproduced with the gracious permission of Her Majesty The Queen.</p>

SG31c 2m 0u	1d. carmine-red, overprint reading upwards. Error: "Bechuanaland" omitted.
	<p>This error occurs on the right hand stamp in pair with normal, both recorded examples being pairs. The pair illustrated (ex. Holmes) clearly shows the limit of the fold which caused the error in the way the base of "British" is sliced. This pair adjoins the SG31a pair above. The second pair (ex. Dale-Lichtenstein) shows a trace of the top of "Bechuanaland" due to the limit of the fold. Both pairs are believed to constitute part of the same original block of 12 that also contained SG31a from the Tamsen sale of May 10th 1900.</p>

SG31 variety 0m 1u	1d. carmine-red, overprint reading upwards. Error: overprint reads "Bechuanaland / British"
	<p>This recently discovered error is possibly from the same pane as the SG31b variety. Its rarity can once again be explained by the vertical misalignment of the overprint, which would have caused the overprint on stamps further up the row to read "British / Bechuanaland / British", or even read as normals.</p>

SG38a 0m 0u	1d. carmine-red, overprint reading downwards Pair, one without overprint
	<p>We have made careful and extensive enquiries, without success, to try and establish the existence of this variety; the only evidence for its existence being an anecdotal reference by H. R. Holmes. We do not believe it exists, and have requested that it be deleted from the Stanley Gibbons catalogue.</p>

<p>SG38b 4m R 8u 5L 1R</p>	<p>1d. carmine-red, overprint reading downwards Error: “British” omitted, due to shift</p>
	<p>This error is caused by a shift of the overprint to the right. All the used copies, five of which are in the Mosely collection at the British Library, appear to come from the first column of the same left hand pane. They were all originally affixed to a piece of card and cancelled at Vryburg on 20th September 1894. The card was subsequently subdivided. The recorded copies are from row 1, row 2 (Royal Collection) rows 3 to 7 (British Library) and row 8. The four recorded mint copies seem to be from different panes.</p>
<p>SG38c 4m 1u</p>	<p>1d. carmine-red, overprint reading downwards Error: overprint reads “Bechuanaland/British”, due to a shift</p>
	<p>We have carefully studied many auction records for this stamp, and find that in every instance, a fraction of a second “British” occurs in greater or lesser degree on the perforations at the right. In order to establish a standard, we have decided only to list those examples where this does not intrude into the right hand frame line of the design of the basic Cape stamp. Three of the four recorded mint copies occur in a single (currently) unbroken half sheet of 120 stamps.</p>
<p>SG38g 4m 0u</p>	<p>1d. carmine-red, overprint reading upwards. Error: “No dots to ‘i’ of ‘British’”</p>
	<p>This error was evidently caused by the insertion of a small number of sheets of stamps into the printing press in the opposite direction to normal. The damage caused to the letters is believed to have occurred during storage of the printing forme subsequent to production of SG31, and hence cannot be associated with the overprinting of that particular stamp.</p>
<p>SG39a 3m</p>	<p>2d. pale bistre, overprint reading downwards. Overprint double. ‘Mochudi’ type.</p>
	<p>Three panes of 120 stamps of the 2d. pale bistre are believed to have received a double overprint. One was sent to the Post Office at Mochudi, another to Gaberones and the third to Mafeking. The Mochudi type has two overprints of equal intensity displaced to the right and slightly separated. The quantity of used stamps is not recorded since its numbers exceed the parameters for inclusion in this study.</p>
<p>SG39a 2m 7u 2R</p>	<p>2d. pale bistre, overprint reading downwards Overprint double. ‘Gaberones’ type.</p>
	<p>The Gaberones type has two overprints relatively central on the stamp, separated diagonally and with one overprint lighter than the other. The Royal Collection contains a horizontal pair with a clear full ‘Gaberones’ CDS cancel. The mint example illustrated also exhibits the error ‘inverted “u” for second “n” of “Bechuanaland” double.</p>

SG39a 1m 3u	2d. pale bistre, overprint reading downwards Overprint double. 'Mafeking' type.
	<p>The Mafeking type has two overprints which are almost coincident, of equal intensity and displaced towards the left of the stamp. All used copies are cancelled with the squared circle of 'Mafeking'</p>
SG39c 0m 3u	2d. pale bistre, overprint reading down. Error: Bechuanaland omitted due to a shift.
	<p>The only recorded examples of this error comprise three stamps in an irregular block of six on cover that appeared at auction in 2003. The overprint on the remaining three stamps reads "Bechuanaland/British". What must have been a fourth copy appears to have been removed from the cover at some time.</p>
SG39g 1m 0u	2d. pale bistre, overprint reading upwards. Error: no dots to "i's" of "British"
	<p>This error was, like the similar one recorded on the 1d. carmine-red, presumably the result of a sheet of stamps being inserted into the printing press upside down. The only recorded example last appeared at auction in 2007.</p>
SG39 variety 1m 0u	2d. pale bistre, overprint reading down. Error: overprint reads 'Bechuanaland/British' and 'British' has no dots to 'i's'
	<p>This single example exhibits what can only be described as a "variety of a variety". It is probably unique.</p>

Update

I am informed that the number of used copies known of SG 1a (RP#73 p1821) has increased from 3 to 4

Two early covers from Barotseland sent via Bechuanaland Protectorate

by Alan Drysdall and Peter Hickman

There are a few mentions of the post in Coillard's own account of the story of the Paris missionaries in Barotseland, though it is obvious how much letters from home and newspapers were appreciated. For example on the 15th October, 1884, when he was temporarily based at Leshoma, near the confluence of the Chobe and Zambesi, he wrote¹:

There was a great surprise for us on our return from Sesheke - the post! Yes, the post, which we had not received for over five months. Even I, hardened old African as I am, felt my heart beat quicker on opening a packet of some sixty letters. No newspapers, for the obliging trader who acted as our postman had left Mangwato [Shoshong] on horseback to rejoin the waggons and had not been able to burden himself with a bag full of gazettes and reviews... A letter from Europe is at a premium when it reaches the Zambesi... Unfortunately, the post goes out again in a few days, so all our letters must be written at once... When shall we get the next post? And later on, how many times in the year? Once or twice? I do not know...

Six weeks later, on the 1st December, while still at Leshoma, he received more letters².

The post will always be an event at the Zambesi. The very evening before I left [Leshoma for Sesheke] two messengers came from Panda-matenga, bringing us a great packet of letters, which a trader had been so obliging as to bring from Mangwato; and what was more the good man added that he still had "a whole bag of newspapers and a pile of letters for us, with which he had not been able to load the porters". How tantalising! But never mind; we shall enjoy what we have. Adieu, dinner! Adieu sleep! The silent hours of the night fly by while we listen to the news!

Recording the arrival at Sefula on the 5th August, 1888, of mail forwarded from Sesheke, he notes that this was the first post they had received since September 1887, and that, "The oldest dates are of one year, the most recent of only four months". The post continued to be extremely erratic for some years. On the 21st November, 1892, he wrote³:

At nightfall, I received the post. Among others was quite a packet of letters, dated from the first months of 1891, some of which were discovered by a friend in some forgotten corner of the post-office at Palapye, whilst others returned from a long journey to Fort Salisbury, and a still longer quarantine there... Our postal service still leaves something to be desired.

There was no improvement in the next two years. On the 2nd May, 1894, when he was at Lealui, he recorded the

arrival of a messenger from Sefula with the post.

I opened the packet, which was not large. Nothing from Europe! I tore open the envelopes from Kazungula, Sesheke and Sefula. My breath was taken away! The whole of our March budget sunk in the Mambova Rapids, and lost for ever! The Adolphe Jalla's correspondence, Mlle. Kiener's and mine, my business letters and cheques, a banknote for £10, my long letter to you my friends - the whole lost, hopelessly lost!...

It often happens that our letters from Europe make excursions to Masona-land, and even to Mozambique and Quilimane! And then after lying forgotten and mildewed in some corner, and after having been sent from pillar to post all over the continent, they reach us, like flotsam, with torn envelopes and addresses covered with obliterated stamps - fortunate if they arrive at all.

There was no official mail service within the large, ill-defined area of central Africa that became Bechuanaland Protectorate from the 15th September, 1885, until the start of the Mafeking-Gubulawayo Runner Post in 1888. Wright and Drysdall⁴, describing the letters sent by Frank Oates during his expedition to the Victoria Falls in the 1870s, record that in mid-July 1873 the Rev. Hepburn at Shoshong established a monthly runner service via mission stations at Molepolole, Kanye to Linokana and Zeerust in the South African Republic (ZAR or Transvaal). By mid-1875 this had become a fortnightly service, supported by subscriptions from traders and European residents, linking the mission stations in Bechuanaland Protectorate and Trans-Protectorate (Tati and Gubulawayo) with the official postal service of the Transvaal.

Further information concerning the role played by the missionaries is included in a mention of the post by Coillard in a journal entry dated May 1884, when his party had started making their way north from Shoshong⁵.

I forgot to mention the post. The post! How it makes our hearts beat! A friend of ours, knowing that we were at Marico [Zeerust], had taken the opportunity of sending us a packet of letters. The man to whom they were entrusted proved friendly to the last degree; he spent a whole evening with us, chatting on every conceivable subject - except the post. On arriving at Mangwato [Shoshong], four days after, we learnt that this good man had had our letters! He had quite forgotten to hand them over. We had our compensation though; for beside the express messenger he sent on a fortnight later, Mr. Dawson, when he came to greet us, was followed by a man carrying on his head a large basket full of newspapers

and more correspondence... The postal service is interrupted now, because of the small-pox which is raging in the direction of Zeerust. Two postmen, who are sent every three weeks, take a fortnight to accomplish the journey, and it costs £3. In order to defray the cost of the service, a tax of £3 10s. is imposed upon every European without distinction who makes a stay in the country, and it means therefore £14 for us. But the Europeans of the district have held a consultation, and unanimously decided to make us pay only half that sum.

The earliest known cover sent by Coillard from Barotseland was described in an article by Richard Knight published in *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle* in December

to Lord Knutsford, the Colonial Secretary, enclosing "a copy of a postal advertisement which has been published [*The Cape Argus*, 31st August, 1888] notifying the charges on letters and newspapers to and from the Bechuanaland Protectorate, Matabeleland and Mashonaland". The Notice was headed, "Mails for Kanye, Molepolole, Shoshong, Lake Ngami, the Zambesi, Tati River, Matabeleland and Mashonaland", implying that there was a service north from Shoshong via Lake Ngami to the Zambesi. There is, however, no confirmatory evidence that such a service existed. The Postal Notice dated the 28th July, 1888, issued by the Acting Postmaster-General of British Bechuanaland setting the rates that would apply to mail posted in or addressed to the Protectorate and Trans-Protectorate,



Figure 1 The earliest known cover sent by Coillard from Barotseland

1999⁶ (Fig. 1). The enclosed letter is headed Sefula, the first mission station to be established on the flood plain of the upper Zambezi, and dated the 27th September 1887. It is addressed to the pastor of a small French village whom Coillard had briefly met during his visit to Europe to raise funds for his 1885 expedition and whose wife had since died. The letter, which is in French, consists mainly of lengthy commiserations, but does include a few sentences that serve to emphasize the uncertainties and dangers the missionaries faced.

...What is especially hard and painful for me is the continuous feeling of uneasiness as a result of the lack of safety and security. The feeling of uneasiness hangs in the air and everybody breathes it in. One speaks of another revolution and it would seem that Lewanika is doing all he can to provoke it...

Government correspondence files lodged with the Cape Archives include a manuscript copy of a letter written on the 5th September, 1888, by Sir Hercules Robinson, Governor and High Commissioner of the Cape Colony,

which is reproduced by Proud⁷, lists the "postal agencies that are being opened" and makes no mention of any agencies off the direct route between Mafeking and Gubulawayo. The first paragraph of this Notice states that, "The Post will commence to run from the 9th instant. The Mail service between Zeerust (Transvaal) and the Protectorate has been discontinued". The service that was discontinued was presumably the service established by the missionaries in the Protectorate to link via Linokana with the ZAR (Transvaal) post at Zeerust (see above) as there was no official post office or agency within the Protectorate prior to the establishment of the Mafeking-Bulawayo runner post. (Linokana became a postal agency on the 3rd February, 1876, with the Rev. Jensen as Postal Agent, but closed sometime after 1884 to reopen on the 1st July, 1890⁸.)

Coillard's letter would have been sent courtesy of a hunter or trader or possibly with a member or members of the mission staff, via Sesheke, Kazungula, Pandamatenga and the route crossing the Makarikari Salt Pan to Shoshong. The stamps may well have

been affixed by the mission. It would seem that it was then carried, presumably via Linokana, to Zeerust, and from there south to Lichtenburg to join the main postal route from Pretoria to Cape Town at Potchefstroom. The only Transvaal datestamp is a First British Occupation type, which records that the letter reached Zeerust on '23 FEB / 88', five months after it was written. The franking, however, was not cancelled until the letter reached Lichtenburg, which used the target-type canceller coded '7'. Other datestamps record that it reached Cape Town on the 3rd March, passed through London on the 28th, was forwarded the same day via Calais, Paris and Toulouse and was received in Vabre-Tarn the following day, a total transit time of six months (184 days). The letter would have been carried from Cape Town by the Union liner *Trojan*, sailing on the 8th March, a day late on the orders of the Cape Government, and reaching Plymouth on the 27th March after calls at St. Helena (13th March), Ascension (16th March) and Madeira (23rd March).

The franking, a total of 9½d, corresponds to the ZAR (South African Republic) inland/interstate rate, 2d per half ounce, plus the Cape packet rate to a destination in Western Europe via London, 7½d per half ounce from the 1st April, 1885. The accountancy marks are '7½' in red crayon, the amount payable to the Cape GPO, and a '2½d' handstamp, the amount payable by the Cape to the UK GPO.

At first sight the cover illustrated as Figure 2, although attractive in that it is neatly addressed and franked, is of no special interest. But appearances can deceive and

the initials at bottom left make it not just unusual but a veritable treasure. They identify the sender as Elise Kiener, a Swiss nurse with the Mission Évangélique du Haut Zambèzi then at Sefula, the first mission station to be established in Barotseland by François Coillard. This is the earliest known cover she sent. Moreover this cover and the one sent by Coillard described above are two of the very few surviving examples of missionary mail sent from Barotseland prior to 1898.

Coillard was certainly no fan of Lobengula, having been refused permission in 1877 to establish a mission among the Banyai (Mashona), who Lobengula regarded as a vassal tribe. There were, however, other reasons why Coillard preferred to avoid Lobengula and the route via Gubulawayo, which would have linked with the runner post to Mafeking. Seretse Khama and Lobengula had conflicting claims over the 'disputed territory' along the northern border of the Protectorate. Lewanika also had good reason to fear the Matabele, who were quite capable of raiding north of the Zambezi. Lewanika and Khama had obvious interests in common, strengthened by their friendship with Westbeech, the trader who ran the store at Pandamatenga. Moreover Seretse Khama was a devout Christian, who had encouraged and supported the missionaries in the Protectorate. Coillard would not have wanted to endanger his relationship with either of them by appearing to be over-friendly with Lobengula. This letter was written in April 1893, when these considerations would have applied, but by the end of the year the situation had changed dramatically; Matabeleland was occupied by Rhodes' forces, Lobengula had fled and was to die in exile, and the post office at Gubulawayo provided a possible



Figure 2 The earliest known cover sent by Coillard from Barotseland

link - the Gubulawayo-Mafeking runner post - with the postal services of British Bechuanaland and Cape Colony. However, the covers that were in the Holmes Collection and various others, particularly the cover illustrated as Figure 5, prove that the Barotse missionaries only started to use the route via Bulawayo sometime between April 1897 and June 1899, when there was an official postal service linking Kazungula with Bulawayo.

During the first decade the missionaries were in Barotseland they would have used the route running southwest from Kazungula, where a mission was established by Louis Jalla and his wife in 1889*, and Pandamatenga, the site of Westbeech's store and the base station of the Jesuit missionaries until they withdrew in 1885. The route followed the border between Bechuanaland Protectorate and what became Rhodesia, but in order to avoid Bulawayo and head for Palapye it would have been necessary to fork to the right and travel due south across the edge of Makarikari salt pan. We know from what Coillard wrote in his autobiography (see above) that the Barotseland missionaries had an arrangement with the missionaries in the Protectorate to receive and send mail, which would explain why they avoided Tati as there were no missionaries based there. Elise Kiener added her initials to the envelope to identify it as missionary mail from Barotseland and thereby ensure that it would be forwarded. It is certainly possible that the Barotseland missionaries had an account with the Bechuanaland missionaries to ensure that the necessary stamps were affixed.

From 1888 the alternative option would have been the route to Bulawayo to link with the Gubulawayo-Mafeking runner post, but no examples of mail showing Bulawayo transit datestamps sent prior to 1898 are known. Prior to 1897, when the first official post was inaugurated, mail could only have been sent or received on a very irregular basis, and would have been dependent on the missionaries themselves, and occasional travellers such as Selous, Holub and Oates⁹. Khama moved his capital from Shoshong to Palapye (formerly Palachwe) in 1889, which became an important staging post after the Pioneer Column had passed through in 1890 and occupied Mashonaland. Making use of the missionaries and the post office there would have been an obvious option. (One missionary known to have been in Palapye at this time was William Charles Willoughby, who was appointed by the London Missionary Society in 1893 to advise Khama, who was appealing the proposed transfer of the Protectorate to the British South Africa Co.¹⁰)

Elise's letter reached Palapye on 'MY 4 / 93', where the franking was cancelled with a Cape numeral-coded barred-oval canceller. The rate for a half-ounce letter addressed to a destination in western Europe via the UK was evidently 8d, which is consistent with the rate paid by Sitwell in 1892 - 6d - for his letters addressed to the UK¹¹.

* The mission station was on the north bank of the Zambezi opposite the mouth of the Chobe (or Linyanti) River; in 1892 a village was built on the site on the orders of Lewanika.

The strikes of the canceller are incomplete, but what is visible is consistent with it being coded '676', the canceller originally issued to Shoshong and later transferred to Palapye. Backstamps record a route south via Vryburg ('MY 15 / 93') and Cape Town (unreadable date). The letter reached London on the 6th June, and was received in Orvin, Switzerland, two days later. It was therefore carried from Cape Town by the Union liner *Tartar*, sailing on the 20th May, calling at Madeira on 2nd June and offloading the mails in Plymouth on the 6th June.

Putzel¹² records that Palachwe, Khamas Town, was listed as a post office in January, July and October 1892 and a sub-office in May and October 1893, but was not listed in 1894. Palapye was "first listed October 1894". Drysdall and Collis, however, record earlier usage of the Palachwe/Khamas Town datestamp on mail from the Pioneer Column¹³. The earliest such covers bear strikes dated the 18th and 20th September, 1890. Palachwe/Palapye was therefore definitely open in September 1890, and probably opened when Khama transferred his capital from Shoshong in 1889. It is certainly possible that Palachwe in the first instance used the Shoshong datestamp, which is known dated the 20th June and 29th August, 1890, struck on mail from the Pioneer Column. The canceller coded '676' was definitely transferred from Shoshong to Palachwe. The cover described above proves that the Palapye datestamp was in use on the 1st May 1893, which would appear to be the earliest recorded date¹⁴.

H.R. Holmes collection of the Bechuanalands included three covers that were sent by the Paris missionaries between 1889 and 1897. They were described in the auction catalogue¹⁵ as under.

1888 a cover addressed to France, bearing 1888 ½d., 3d. on 3d. (faulty first 'o' in 'Protectorate'), 6d. on 6d., cancelled '676' in bars, dated 'SHOSHONG JA 1 89' with datestamps of Mafeking, Cape Town, Southampton arrival and Paris and showing red '2½d' accountancy marking...

1895 a cover addressed to France bearing 1887 ½d., 1893-95 2d. single, pair (one showing broken 'ch'), rather unclear '676' cancellations, 'PALACHWE KHAMAS TOWN NO 25 95' datestamp and on reverse Mafeking and Pontarlier datestamps...

1897 cover to Italy bearing 1887 ½d. (9), 1891-94 1d. (2), circular 'PALACHWE KHAMAS TOWN AP 10 97' cancellations and on reverse Italian arrival datestamps...

Brian Hurst reports that the earliest of these three covers is now in the Botswana Postal Museum in Gaborone; the present whereabouts of the other two, one of which is addressed to L. Jalla, the father of Louis and Adolphe Jalla, is not known. However, it is evident that all three covers were forwarded via Bechuanaland Protectorate rather than Bulawayo.

Two more covers are listed in old auction catalogues.

The earliest is a British Bechuanaland postal stationery card, evidence that the missionaries were using such cards from their early years in Barotseland. The catalogue description¹⁶ reads as under. Unfortunately neither the sender nor his whereabouts are identified.

PALACHWE 1897 April 14, 1893 1½d. postcard cancelled PALACHWE KHAMAS TOWN from the Upper Zambezi Mission to Annonay [Ardche, France], c.d.s. of arrival 9 May... Dated at the Upper Zambesi Mission 20 February...

The illustration shows a cancelled manuscript tax mark, '2d T', and an Annonay receiving datestamp misdated '31 9'. There are no transit datestamps. The transit time from where the card originated to Palachwe was 53 days.

The second item is listed in three different auctions¹⁷, not one of which recognised it for what it was. Piecing together the sparse information to be gleaned from the descriptions and the illustrations, it is evident that this cover - there is no mention of an enclosed letter - is addressed to Mrs Louis Jalla in Italy. It entered the mails in Palachwe on 'MR 10 / 97', where the franking, totalling 6½d, was cancelled. There is no record of transit datestamps, but a backstamp records that the letter was received in Italy on the 5th April. The initials in the bottom-left corner of the envelope and the handwriting identify the sender as Elise Kiener.

Acknowledgements

Paul Peggie and Sean Burke, members of the Rhodesian Study Circle who are compiling an account of the postal history associated with the Paris missionaries in Barotseland, together with the present authors have identified a number of Rhodesia postal stationery cards that Elise sent in later years, all of which are addressed to Switzerland. In an article published in June 2009 edition of *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*¹⁸ Paul and Sean appealed for information regarding early covers from Barotseland in members' collections. A great deal of additional information has resulted from that appeal. There are, however, still some obvious gaps, for example the whereabouts of those early covers, two of which were in the Holmes Collection, and for some inexplicable reason we do not have a record of a single cover posted in 1908. Any assistance would be very much appreciated.

References

- 1 Coillard, 1897, p.153
- 2 Coillard, 1897, p.156
- 3 Coillard, 1897, p.490
- 4 Wright and Drysdall, 1988, p.20-2
- 5 Coillard, 1897, p. 125-6
- 6 Knight, 1999
Spink, 20.3.2003, lot 510
- 7 Proud, 1996, p.261
- 8 Putzel, 1987, p.285
- 9 Wright and Drysdall, 1988
Knight, 1995

- 10 Potgieter, p.422
 - 11 Drysdall and Catterall,
 - 12 Putzel, 1989, v. 3, p. 67 & 68
 - 13 Drysdall and Collis, 1990, Tables 4 and 9
 - 14 Trotter, 1987
 - 15 Harmers, London, 29.10.1981, lots 1362, 1363 and 1378
 - 16 Sotheby's, 22.9.1983, lot 100
 - 17 Collectors' Mail Auctions, 21.1.1974, lot 635; Robson Lowe, 15/16.6.1983, lot 1186; Stanley Gibbons, 9.5.1985, lot 435
 - 18 Peggie and Burke, 2009
- Coillard, F., 1897, *On the threshold of Central Africa, a record of twenty year's pioneering among the Barotsi of the Upper Zambesi*: translated from the French and edited by his niece, Catherine Winkworth Mackintosh, Hodder and Stoughton, London
 - Drysdall, A.R., and Catterall, J. (undated), *The Sitwell correspondence and Bechuanaland Protectorate and Mashonaland postage rates 1890-92*: Memoir 1, Rhodesian Study Circle
 - Drysdall, A.R., and Collis, D., 1990, *Mashonaland: a postal history 1890-96*: The Rhodesian Study Circle and Robson Lowe Ltd, London
 - Knight., R.C., 1995, An interesting early cover from the far interior sent by Dr. Emil Holub: *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*, v. 45, no. 4 (176), p152-5
 - Knight, R.C., 1999, A missionary cover from Barotseland: *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*, v. 49, no. 4 (193), p.148-53
 - Peggie, P., and Burke S., 2009, The Paris Missionary Society: *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*, v. 59, no. 2 (231), p.82-8 (see also v. 55, no. 1 (214), p.7-8)
 - Potgieter, D.J. (Editor-in-Chief), 1976, *Standard Encyclopaedia of Southern Africa*, v. II: NASOU Ltd, Cape Town
 - Proud, E.B., 1996, *The postal history of Basutoland and Bechuanaland Protectorate*: Proud-Bailey, Heathfield
 - Putzel, R.F., 1987, *The encyclopaedia of South African post offices and postal agencies*, v. 2: published by the author
 - Putzel, R.F., 1989, *The encyclopaedia of South African post offices and postal agencies*, v. 3: published by the author
 - Trotter, B., 1987, Palapye and its postmarks: *The Runner Post*, no. 8, p.132-8
 - Wright, E.K., and Drysdall, A.R., 1988, *The Oates correspondence; a postal history of Frank Oates' travels in Matabeleland and Zambesia 1873 -75*: published by the authors

Official Free Markings Supplement 2

by Dennis Firth

The main listing was in three main parts:

- Bechuanaland Protectorate (Runner Post #63)
- Botswana markings which show the office of use and the words "Official Free" or similar on the same handstamp (Runner Post #64 -69)
- Official Free handstamps (usually straight line) which are used in association with departmental cachets. (Runner Post #70-71)

Supplement 1 was in Runner Post #72

This second supplement includes the latest finds.

Acknowledgment

Many thanks to Peter Jukes, and Bruce Warrender for these latest finds.

Corrections to Supplement 1

A few errors crept into Supplement 1 in RP#72, two of

which were illustrated in RP#73. Here are the rest.

119: Date should read 02-11-2004

134: Date should read 03-02-2006

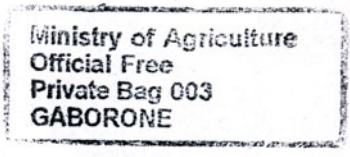
310: Date should read 08-10-2004 to 09-11-2004

440: Dimensions 55mm x 33mm

476: Date should read 25-07-2007

527: Date should read 22-04-2002 to 24-09-2007


548: Should read REGIONAL EDUCATION OFFICE...

	
Ministry of Agriculture Private Bag 003 GABORONE	428
Gaborone Station 04-07-2001 to 12-06-2003	
Rectangle 45mm x 18mm	

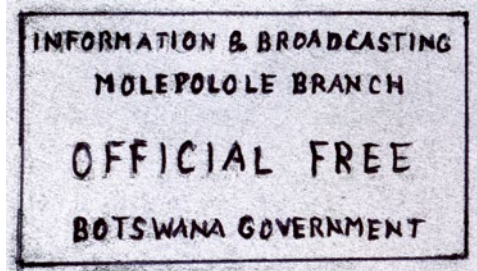
Part 2 - Botswana

150 RP#66 Add "From Palapye 22-02-01"

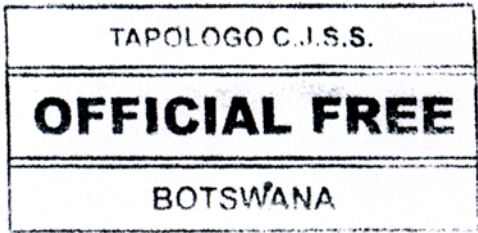
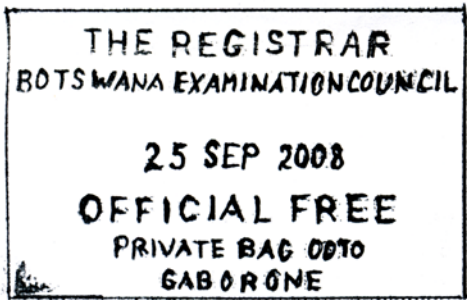
190 RP#66 Amend Dates to "15-05-2002 to 30-07-2002"

	
DIRECTOR OF MINES P/BAG 0049 GABORONE, BOTSWANA OF MINERAL EN & W	244
Gaborone 17-08-2008	
Rectangle 49mm x 31mm	

	
Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA	466
Gaborone 15-04-2008	
Rectangle 55mm x 19mm	

	
INFORMATION & BROADCASTING MOLEPOLOLE BRANCH BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT	388
Place not known 12-09-2008	
Rectangle 59mm x 33mm	

	
REGIONAL COOPERATIVE OFFICE PRIVATE BAG 23 MOLEPOLOLE, BOTSWANA [STRUCK IN BLUE]	547A
Molepolole 22-06-2007	
Rectangle 48mm x 17mm (approx)	

	
TAPOLOGO C.J.S.S. BOTSWANA	568
Werda 25-09-2006	
Rectangle 73mm x 35mm (approx)	
	
THE REGISTRAR BOTSWANA EXAMINATION COUNCIL PRIVATE BAG 0070 GABORONE [STRUCK IN PURPLE]	592A
Gaborone 25-09-2008	
Rectangle 60mm x 39mm	

Botswana Bar Coded Labels - Update

by Peter Jukes

Further to my previous article on the subject, in Runner Post 73 (and the follow up by Bruce Warrender and the Editor, in Runner Post 74), I have to apologize to those members who are avid collectors of these items and probably know far more than I do.


The article, as far as it went, was factually correct. What I was not aware of at the time of writing it was the fact that the very first labels used by the Botswana Postal Services were supplied only to the International Office of Exchange (better known to us all as the Gaborone Sorting Centre). These were issued on a trial basis, in (?) Nov 2002.

There were three types of labels issued,

- RR(for registered items)
- CP (for parcel registration)
- EE (for the Expedited Mail Service)

These were the fore runners to the white "in house" labels that the IT section of Botswana Post produced, in 2004.

Part 4 - Other Official Free Markings Used in Association with Office Handstamps

	
DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES P.O. BOX ? PALAPYE REGISTRY REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA	721
Pota 09-12-2008	
Oval 58mm x 38mm	

572 RP#72 Amend Dates to "04-08-2004 to 12-09-2006"

613 RP #70 Add "ACCOUNTS, SIGNALS REGIMENT, GABORONE, BOTSWANA DEFENCE FORCE" **Struck in Red** 10-06-2003

633 RP#70 Add "BOTSWANA CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, SOUTH CENTRAL COLLECTION, REGISTRY, GABORONE" **Struck in Red** 09-10-2001

636 RP#70 Amend Dates to "15-03-2002 to 04-09-2002"

698 RP#71 P.O. Box No. should read 19. Amend Dates to "28-10-2004 to 09-11-2004"

Ed: We've had a number of articles in recent issues. For reference these are Runner Post #72 p.1773; Runner Post #73 p.1807-1809; Runner Post#74 p.1839-1840..

Digressing for a moment, the Canadian Postal Services use a label very similar in design to that of the current EMS label in use here in Botswana, for their Parcel Items. The bar code is incorporated in it but it uses the letters CC as opposed to CP. I am reliably informed



UPU trial Parcel Label

that as the demand for Parcel Post items increases, Botswana Post will themselves begin to use a label of a similar nature. Also noted that the RSA uses the prefix RD for their Registered bar code labels, whilst Canada uses RT. I would have expected some sort of parity between the members of the UPU in these matters!

Of the three types of labels issued in the trial, I regrettably have only one example of these to illustrate, that being the Parcel Post labels

This is blue and white, with two "pull off" sections, shaped like a pencil with a blue tip. The main part, with the dual language, was normally affixed to the parcel. One of the pencil shaped bar codes was retained in the A book (or reference book) by the issuing office and the third was handed to the customer as their receipt. The label overall is 108x65mm, the bar code is 59.5x9mm and the letters/figures 3mm in height.

No amount of searching at the Sort Centre has managed to reveal examples of the others. One of the problems here is the fact that the reference (A books) are destroyed after two years. A second is that long serving employees, who may have had some knowledge of where examples might have been found or dates of use, have now retired from the Postal Services.

Kingsley's received the order for printing in mid 2006, commencing the printing a short while later but delivery dates to the Postal Service seem a little hazy.

The 'Kingsley' labels for registered mail have already



A current Parcel Label

been illustrated in RP#73/4).

The earliest date of use I can find recorded anywhere for EMS labels (sheet containing the label illustrated right)) is within the first week of November, 2007.

The deep salmon pink for parcel use is thought to have been introduced into service at the same time, Nov 2007, and again these are locally printed by Kingsley and associates, Gaborone. Regrettably, I have been unable to confirm this date.

The EMS label (E1) is a quadruplicate form, of which sheet 1 (original) goes with the item; sheet two is given to the sender, as their receipt; sheet three goes to the accounts and the fourth is filed at the office of origin. Notification of receipt is done via a hand held IPS keypad machine (which is networked all across the world), showing the recipients signature, date and time etc.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Kingsley Maplanka (Sort Centre Manager) and Kingsley Dobrowsky (director; Kingsley and Associates) and the EMS office staff for their time and patience, in what must have appeared to them, the very unusual requests from an "odd" old man, in attempting to glean information from their records about these items.

The current EMS label (quadruplicated sheets)

Checklist of Botswana Postmarks (Second Series)

Part Fifteen

The fifteenth 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.


Gaborone - Part 2


GABORONE CENTRAL	No 226 Type 23 M 20(4)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	14-Jun-2004
	Latest recorded date	14-Jun-2004
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE CENTRAL	No 227 Type 23 M 20(7)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	02-Nov-2004
	Latest recorded date	17-Jul-2005
	Number so far recorded	2


GABORONE CENTRAL	No 228 Type 23 M 20(8)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	30-Aug-2004
	Latest recorded date	22-Dec-2004
	Number so far recorded	3

GABORONE CENTRAL	No 229 Type 23 M 24(2)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	28-Aug-2007
	Latest recorded date	28-Aug-2007
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE CENTRAL	No 230 Type 23 M 24(7)	
	Circle diameter	41mm
	Earliest recorded date	04-Jun-2007
	Latest recorded date	19-Sep-2007
	Number so far recorded	3


GABORONE CENTRAL	No 231 Type 23 M 24(8) Two items struck in brown	
	Circle diameter	41mm
	Earliest recorded date	06-Mar-2007
	Latest recorded date	15-Sep-2007
	Number so far recorded	7

GABORONE CENTRAL	No 232 Type 23 M 24(9) Struck in purple	
	Circle diameter	41mm
	Earliest recorded date	11-Jun-2007
	Latest recorded date	26-Jul-2007
	Number so far recorded	2


GABORONE CENTRAL	No 233 Type 1 M 26(1)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	16-Apr-2005
	Latest recorded date	26-Jul-2005
	Number so far recorded	2


New sub-variant 26. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "C" followed by a numeral above [OFFICE NAME] (2 lines) at base.


GABORONE CENTRAL	No 234 Type 1 M 26(10)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	29-Jun-2004
	Latest recorded date	29-Jun-2004
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE	No 235 Type 23 M 30	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	15-Aug-2007
	Latest recorded date	15-Aug-2007
	Number so far recorded	1


New sub-variant 30. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "MORNING SHIFT" (horizontal) above "CENTRAL SORTING CENTRE" (2 lines) at base.


GABORONE	No 236 Type 2 J 41(12)	
	Circle diameters	18mm & 27mm
	Earliest recorded date	15-Jan-1997
	Latest recorded date	04-Jan-1999
	Number so far recorded	9
New sub-variant 41. "CENTRAL SORTING OFFICE" at top with [OFFICE NAME] followed by a numeral at base.		


GABORONE	No 237 Type 21 X 12(1)	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	05-Apr-2000
	Latest recorded date	05-Apr-2000
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant 12. "CENTRAL POST OFFICE" at top with "GBE" (in inner circle) above "COUNTER" followed by a numeral (in outer circle) at base. 'GBE' is the abbreviated office name.		


GABORONE	No 238 Type 21 X 12 (2)	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	28-Jun-2000
	Latest recorded date	16-Jan-2002
	Number so far recorded	17


GABORONE	No 239 Type 61 C 47 Struck in red.	
	Outer oval dimensions	38mm by 61mm
	Earliest recorded date	07-Jul-2000
	Latest recorded date	08-Dec-2000
	Number so far recorded	7
New sub-variant 47. [OFFICE NAME] at top with "AIRMAIL" (horizontal) above "POST OFFICE" (2 lines) at base		


GABORONE	No 240 Type 61 J 41 ? Struck in red	
	Outer oval dimensions	42mm by ??mm
	Earliest recorded date	02-Oct-2004
	Latest recorded date	22-Oct-2004
	Number so far recorded	17
		


GABORONE	No 241 Type 61 J 48 Struck in red	
	Outer oval dimensions	34mm by 55mm
	Earliest recorded date	28-Nov-2000
	Latest recorded date	01-Mar-2001
	Number so far recorded	5
	New sub-variant 48. "CENTRAL SORTING OFFICE" above "MAIL DELIVERIES" at top (2 lines) with [OFFICE NAME] at base.	


GABORONE	No 242 Type MACH 2 e	
	Circle diameter	24mm
	Earliest recorded date	20-Dec-1999
	Latest recorded date	??-Nov-2004
	Number so far recorded	37
	 Sequence dd.mm.yy.time	


GABORONE	No 243 Type MACH 3 a	
	Circle diameter	21mm
	Earliest recorded date	10-Dec-1999
	Latest recorded date	14-Apr-2006
	Number so far recorded	13
	 2 items with inverted centre Common sequence year day month.time 2 items with reverse sequence time day month year	


GABORONE		No 244 Type MACH 4 b	
 <p>2 items with inverted centre Common sequence year day month.time 8 items time day month year 1 item time year day month</p>		Circle diameter	21mm
		Earliest recorded date	03-Mar-2000
		Latest recorded date	11-Mar-2003
		Number so far recorded	25


GABORONE		No 245 Type 23 M 24(7)	
		Circle diameter	41mm
		Earliest recorded date	24-Jul-2006
		Latest recorded date	13-Sep-2006
		Number so far recorded	2
Similar to No.230 except larger lettering in BOTSWANAPOST and C7; also different date format			


GABORONE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE		No 246 Type SPEC 2a	
 <p>7th Definitive Issue Birds</p>		Cover date	04-Aug-1997
		Other recorded dates	None


GABORONE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE		No 247 Type SPEC 2a	
 <p>125th Anniversary UPU</p>		Struck in blue	
		Cover date	09-Oct-1999
		Other recorded dates	None


GABORONE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE	No 248 Type SPEC 2a	
 <p>Scenic Rivers</p>	Cover date	05-Apr-2000
	Other recorded dates	None


GABORONE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE	No 249 Type SPEC 2a	
 <p>Queen's Golden Jubilee</p>	Cover date	25-Jul-2002
	Other recorded dates	None


GABORONE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE	No 250 Type SPEC 2a	
 <p>40th Anniversary of Independence</p>	Cover date	29-Sep-2006
	Other recorded dates	None


GABORONE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE	No 251 Type SPEC 2a	
 <p>Christmas Palms</p>	Cover date	01-Dec-2006
	Other recorded dates	None


GABORONE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE		No 252 Type SPEC 2a	
 <p>Botswana Kingfishers</p>		Cover date	13-Mar-2007
		Other recorded dates	None


GABORONE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE		No 253 Type SPEC 2a	
 <p>Botswana Fungi</p>		Cover date	31-Jul-2007
		Other recorded dates	None


GABORONE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE		No 254 Type SPEC 2a	
 <p>25th Anniversary University of Botswana</p>		Cover date	13-Oct-2007
		Other recorded dates	None


GABORONE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE		No 255 Type SPEC 2a	
 <p>9th Definitive Issue Butterflies of Botswana</p>		Cover date	01-Nov-2007
		Other recorded dates	None

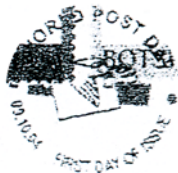
GABORONE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE	No 256 Type SPEC 2b	
 <p>SAPOA Second Joint Issue</p>	Cover date	09-Oct-2007
	Other recorded dates	None

GABORONE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE	No 257 Type SPEC 4a	
 <p>Literacy Decade</p>	Cover date	23-Aug-2000
	Other recorded dates	None

GABORONE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE	No 258 Type SPEC 4a	
 <p>Wetlands Series Part 1</p>	Cover date	06-Dec-2000
	Other recorded dates	None

GABORONE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE	No 259 Type SPEC 4a	
 <p>Joint Issue with South Africa (Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park)</p>	Cover date	12-May-2001
	Other recorded dates	None

GABORONE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE	No 260 Type SPEC 4a	
 <p>AIDS Campaign</p>	Cover date	01-Dec-2002
	Other recorded dates	None

GABORONE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE	No 261 Type SPEC 4a	
 <p>World Post Day</p>	Cover date	09-Oct-2004
	Other recorded dates	None

London 2010 Festival of Stamps

London 2010

International Stamp Exhibition

Business Design Centre, Islington

8 to 15 May 2010

including a major presence by Royal Mail

Empire Mail: George V and the GPO

Exhibition at Guildhall Art Gallery

7 May to 25 July 2010

with material from The British Postal Museum & Archive

and the Royal Philatelic Collection

**Special displays and talks presented by the
British Library Philatelic Collections**

Displays at the Royal Philatelic Society London

Open to all – 6 May 2010 by ticket

Members only – 7 May 2010

Themed displays at many venues

Throughout the year

including Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum;

Bath Postal Museum; Bletchley Park;

Museum of World Rugby, Twickenham;

and Marylebone Cricket Club Museum at Lords

One-day events

Organised by the member Federations of the ABPS



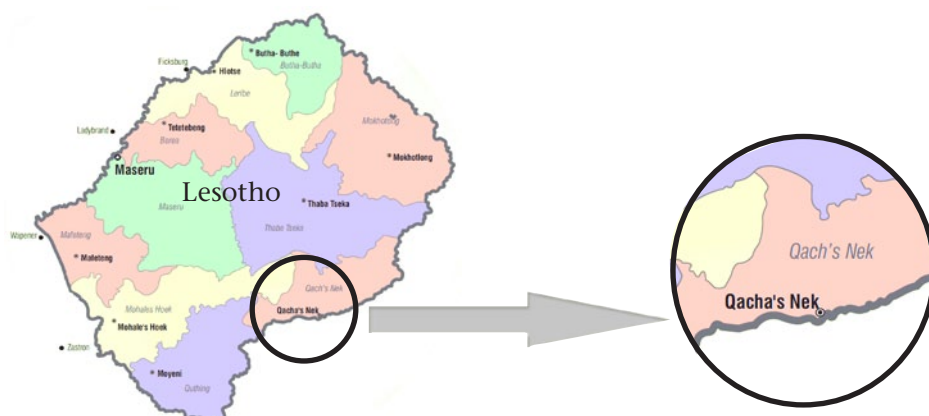
More details: www.london2010.org.uk



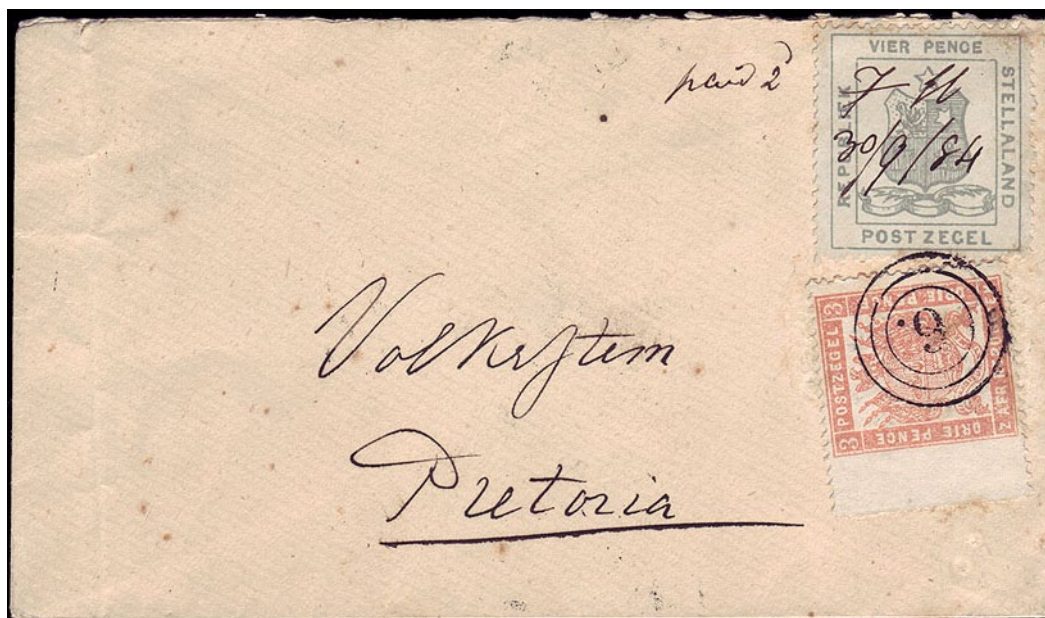
Steve Wallace writes:

Qachasnek 1st registered cover dated 26 Oct 1937 cancelled using SG15-17 Coronation issue with Enfield receiver 8 Nov with cachet. The earliest registration date given by Proud is 11 April 1938. Named after the headman Qacha who settled near the pass (Nek) circa 1850, and was an isolated outpost with Matatiele as its main link with the outside world.

The settlements in the mountainous eastern districts were difficult to reach. Qachasnek became the south eastern headquarters; its neat sandstone post office was built in 1937.



STELLALAND



STELLALAND / TRANSVAAL COMBINATION COVER

1884 (30th September) cover addressed to Pretoria, bearing a Stellaland 4d olive-grey (SG3) cancelled 'F H / 30/9/84' in manuscript. Also bearing a Transvaal 3d pale red (SG173) tied by the '6.' in concentric circles cancel of Christiana, which also ties the Stellaland stamp. The reverse is backstamped with a Christiana transit and a Pretoria (10 Oct) arrival datestamp.

Stellaland stamps had no postal validity beyond the border of the short-lived Republic, hence the addition of the 3d stamp (probably applied in Vryburg) to pay the Transvaal internal rate.

Exceptionally rare, with only 13 covers recorded bearing Stellaland stamps, five being Stellaland / Transvaal combination frankings (one of which is in a museum). This cover – the second earliest recorded - is one of the finest.

An outstanding item from a recently acquired gold medal collection of Transvaal Second Republic.

ALAN MACGREGOR

Member: PTS, SAPDA, APS

P O BOX 515, SIMON'S TOWN 7995, SOUTH AFRICA

Tel (+27 21): 786 1931 Fax: (+27 21) 786 1925

alan@rhodesia.co.za www.rhodesia.co.za

Over 800 items of Stellaland and the Bechuanalands are listed and illustrated on the website