

The **Runner Post**

THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY



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(SECOND SERIES) - PART 19 1975 • 1884-5 MILITARY TELEGRAPH STAMPS DISPLAY 1987

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CROCKER & WIGMORE

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**Founder members SAPDA (RSA);
plus members PTS (UK) and APS (USA).**

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DIARY OF EVENTS - 2011

26 th February	Spring Philatex , The Royal Horticultural Hall, London Society meeting is on Sat 26 th Feb. from 3pm
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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

David Wall, Hon. Secretary

Held at 10.30 on Saturday 6th November 2010 at The Royal Horticultural Halls, London

1. Present: Brian Hurst (Chairman), Dennis Firth (Vice Chairman), Don Jeffreys (Secretary), Neville Midwood (Editor), Alan MacGregor, Howard MacNay, George King, Alan Biddlecombe, David Wall
2. Apologies for Absence: Brian Fenemore, Morris Taber, Chris Cordes, Tony Sandford, Bill Latzko, Peter Thy, Peter Jukes, Peter Van Der Molen, Barry Stow, Gordon Smith

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2010, which had been previously circulated, were approved and signed by Brian Hurst as Chairman.

4. Matters arising:

Brian Hurst said that most of these were largely covered in the main agenda.

Officers' Reports

5. Secretary:

Don Jeffreys said that the only room available for the next meeting was at 3pm (on Saturday February 26th 2011). He apologised for such a late start but asked members whether, for meetings after that, they had any preference for morning or afternoon. Generally there was no strong preference about the starting time. However, members asked if clashes with other similar societies (especially the GB Overprints Society) could be avoided so they could attend both.

6. Treasurer:

The Treasurer's Report and the Accounts for the year to 30th June 2010 were circulated at the meeting. The Chairman commented as follows:

- The Society is in good shape with around £5,000 in the bank.
- There had been a big jump in Runner Post production costs during 2009/10 - to £1,746. This was mainly due to the cost of toner cartridges. Moreover, auction income would be lower in the coming year (see Future Auctions below). [Ed: I arrived late and missed this discussion. I should also add that there was a 20% increase in 2009/10 over the number of pages in 2008/09 Runner Post, postage rate and paper consumable costs continued to increase and the 30000 page replacement of printer parts that happens every few years became due.]
- Subs for 2011/12. Two issues here: Brian wondered whether more members could be encouraged to receive a PDF of the Runner Post by email so that they could then print off their own hard copy. Alan explained that a two-tier subscription rate already existed so that members not wanting a hard copy of the Runner Post could pay a lower rate. The general consensus amongst members present was that most members preferred to pay the higher rate and receive a high-quality hard copy. Nevertheless Brian felt that the rates of £10 for UK members and £12 for overseas members meant that UK members were heavily subsidising overseas members. Alan said that a rise, for instance, from £12 to £14 wouldn't be felt immediately because the Rand was relatively strong at present. However, he felt that any rise might have a psychological effect and could lead to some resignations. After some discussion George proposed (and Alan seconded) that all subs be kept at the same level for 2011/12 - largely because we have such a healthy bank balance. The motion was passed unanimously.

Neville also asked whether there had been any problems collecting the subs for 2010/11 as individual letters were not sent out this year. Nobody knew, so Don agreed to take this up with the Treasurer.

7. Editor of the Runner Post:

Brian asked Neville whether he might investigate the possibility of outsourcing the printing. Not only might this make the printing costs more predictable, but it would relieve the burden on Neville; and enable the Runner Post to be distributed more promptly. George pointed out that Pardy & Sons do this sort of thing for several societies - so they could be approached for a start. Neville agreed to look into it.

The discussion then centred on material currently in hand awaiting publication; material that we hoped to receive; and how we might encourage more contributions.

Neville said that Peter Van der Molen had promised a series of articles (based on his 32 page Stamp 2010

Society Room QEII display) starting in 2011. There remain around 22 pages of material from Bruce Warrender relating to his Postmark Study. Dennis Firth's annual "Official Free" update has also been received.

Regarding encouraging more material Don pointed out that the West Africa Society tended to include a number of very small articles instead of just a few large scholarly articles. Neville said he would include an appeal for more articles especially smaller articles e.g. we have many dealer members and they might be willing to feature a "cover for sale" - and say why it is of interest to them.

8. Chairman's Remarks:

Brian, who was standing down as Chairman, said it had been a great pleasure being Chairman for four years and that he had made some very good friends. He said that the Runner Post was the lifeblood of the Society and that it was paramount that it continued. He expressed his gratitude to the officers who had helped him through difficult times - and he was pleased that nominations had been received for all the posts up for election at the meeting.

The members thanked Brian for all his efforts over many years.

9. Future Auctions:

Brian explained that because of ongoing health issues, he couldn't continue to do another huge auction such as the most recent 270 lot auction. He said he could only agree to continue as auctioneer if he could limit the annual auction to just 50 lots - and that each lot should have a minimum SG value of £100. If someone had uncatalogued material for sale (e.g. postal stationary), they should write first to Brian about what they wanted to sell and he would decide whether it could be included. Members expressed their gratitude to Brian for having devoted so much time to running the Society auctions over the past years - and they agreed to his proposed reduction in the scale of future auctions.

It was noted, however, that a smaller auction would lead to a fall in the Society's income in the coming year.

10. Election of Officers:

Nominations were:

- Chairman: Don Jeffreys
- Vice Chairman: Dennis Firth
- Secretary: David Wall
- Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Joe Taylor
- Editor: Neville Midwood
- Auctioneer: Brian Hurst

Brian Hurst proposed that all the above were appointed. This was seconded by Alan MacGregor and approved unanimously.

11. Any Other Business:

The Botswana Postal Museum: Brian reported that despite several concerns regarding an incident between the museum in Gaborone and a bulldozer, he was able to reassure members that the historic material was safely stored in air-conditioned vaults. He is visiting South Africa in January and while there hopes to spend a few days in Gaborone.

With attendance at the AGM in single figures the question was asked how societies such as Botswana Philatelic Society are faring. BBS member Peter Jukes is currently chairman of the BPS and it was thought they too had problems getting members to attend meetings.

Basutoland and Swaziland: It was suggested that Neville might wish to ask Peter Van Der Molen if he was able to scan parts of his medal-winning display of the 1932 Swaziland definitive set that included the original artwork and die proofs - for inclusion in a future Runner Post.

Brian Hurst apologised for forgetting to bring his planned display with him. Instead he described his next research project which had been inspired by a telegram he had come across in which a private individual had made a number of serious accusations against Colonel Paul Methuen, the officer in command of the First Mounted Rifles.

The next meeting will be at 3pm on Saturday 26th February 2011 at The Royal Horticultural Halls.

The meeting ended at about midday.

From Bechuanaland to the WW1 Battlefield

Further Correspondence

I received this letter from non-member Frank Schofield, regarding Peter Thy's article in Runner Post #78.

My good friend and member of your society, David Loffstadt, knowing of my interest of the Postal History of the First World War, passed on to me a copy of "From Bechuanaland to the WW1 Battlefield" article in the June 2010 issue. It proves that even something scruffy with a stamp removed can still be very interesting.

But what really caught my eye was the postcard, addressed to Bechuanaland, the addressee having the same surname as myself (no known relation). Other than the three line write up at the bottom there is no

indication of the ownership of the card. Perhaps you would like to pass on the following to the owner, if he/she has not already researched the card.

The censoring officers signature and certainly the writer of the card, was Lieut. James Humphrey Clare Schofield, 1st Battalion, Durham Light Infantry the censor mark No 1939 was allocated to the 1st/8th Battalion, DLI, 151 Brigade, 50th Division, the faintish Field Post Office strike should be FPO D50, Headquarters of the 50th Division.

Lieut. J.H.C. Schofield, was later attached to the 15th Battalion, DLI, because he was killed in action on 26th September 1916, he has no known grave and is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.

Late usage

Correspondence from Alex Visser

Alex writes:

I have found an example of a later date of usage for Pilane No.1 Type 2 E 62, currently 23OCTblock40.

Right [200%] is a faint impression of a Pilane skeleton type relief canceller. The date of 30X11 is clear, but the year only shows the 0, but it looks like 40. This would tie in, as the above No. 1 strike looks rather worn. The Putzel Encyclopdia does not show a closing date, nor opening date of the Station PO.

I trust that this information will stimulate the search for previously unrecorded date stamps, and I would welcome comments.

My email is alex.visser@up.ac.za

South African Philatelic Societies Conference

12th to 14th November 2010

Simon Peetoom took over from Brian Trotter this year as our host/organiser. Numbers were only slightly reduced, for this, the ninth year of the SAPC Conference at Leamington Spa - despite competing philatelic events in both the UK and South Africa.

The program was as interesting and varied as ever. The six main Saturday displays and talks were:

Mkushi (N. Rhodesia) - Otto Peetoom

Union London Pictorials - John Shaw

Cape of Good Hope Postage Rates - Robert Johnson

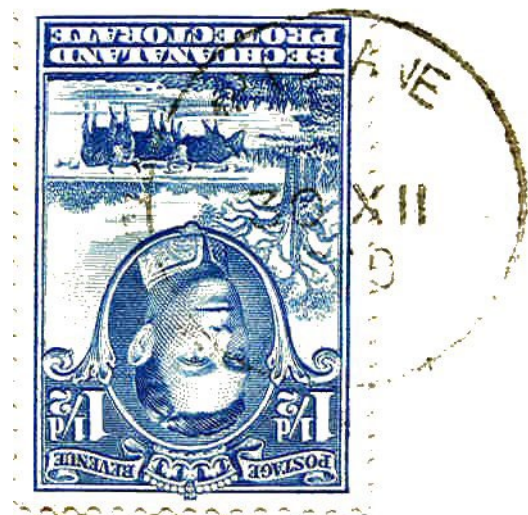
SWA Postal History - John Sussex

Transvaal's Early History - Paul van Zeyl

Travel through S.A. by Postcard - Bob Hill

The Tony Chilton trophy this year went to John Shaw who just pipped the rest to the winning post.

Sunday morning was again full of short displays and a 400+ lot auction took place in the afternoon.



Recent Botswana Issues

Images from John Schaerer

The update to the BotswanaPost Philatelic pages has happened. Unfortunately any useful information to specialist collectors, such as printer/designer/sheet dimensions has disappeared and there's just an image of the stamps.

BOTSWANA BEES OF BOTSWANA



OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVER



Bees of Botswana First Day Cover - 25th March 2010

8/10

3rd joint SAPOA Issue 2010 FIFA WORLD CUP SOUTH AFRICA™



Handwritten signatures: A. Deutscher and another signature.



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One of ten auctioned limited edition 2010 Football World Cup Covers - 9th April 2010
(see over for more details)



The Botswana stamp set for the 2010 FIFA World cup

The numbered cover was one of 10 covers auctioned at the launch of the 2010 FIFA World Cup issue.

The cover has been signed by the Minister for Transport & Communication, The Honourable Minister Ramsden, (with the cachet of the Permanent

Secretary for Transport & Communication on the reverse). The cover is also signed by the artist Anja Denker.

Top price realized - for the 10th cover - was P5 000,00.

Question and Answer

I received a question from a non-member, Mike Ellis, regarding a Bechuanaland 1935 Silver Jubilee stamp cancelled 'Palapye Road' which I forwarded to a few of our members.

Mike asks - Was Palapye Road just a name change for Palapye PO or was it new? If so when did this take place?

I received this reply from Brian Hurst

I'm currently out in Cape Town with Alan MacGregor, so we've put our heads together and come up with the following answer.

The earliest settlement was set up in 1889 at Palachwe,

later known as Palapye Village, but the post office closed around 1902 when most of the population moved to the vicinity of the railway station. The post office there used a Palapye Station cancel up to around 1913 when the wording was changed to Palapye Road. This was the canceller in use at the time of the Jubilee. Shortly after the Jubilee the wording was again changed to Palapye and cancellers worded thus continued in use through to Independence.

Any member have any further details on this question or similar questions?

Appeal for articles

From The Editor on behalf of the Society

Below is an article (or two) I've created from scans Brian Fenemore sent in scans of four pages of his collection. The layout was hap-hazard so I decided it was best to extract the images and text. The items had a write-up on the pages which is what I OCR'd for the text part. The scans were at 300dpi so the images were usable as is.

Later in this issue there are pages from Brian Hurst's Military Telegraphs display - already with a layout and text - so I used as is.

Members prefer a varied range of articles so it's probable that with a quick scan and maybe a few additional words you, the reader, could produce a short article on an interesting subject or item.

If you've got an award winning Bechuanalands.

Basutoland/Swaziland display then members would be interested in seeing it.

Many members of this Society are also dealers. Dealers have interesting items for sale. Some of their stock lies in a cupboard waiting for years (probably it's over priced) for the right person to come along and buy it.

The Society doesn't care. If you have an **interesting** item/collection and you are prepared to send in a scan and write up then the Society isn't going to call it an advertisement and charge you. It can even finish "Item described here is still for sale from Joe Bloggs Philatelic". Just don't send scans of every item just the interesting ones.

Make 2011 the year you send in an "Item of Interest", "Display of Interest" or "Stock Item of Interest"!

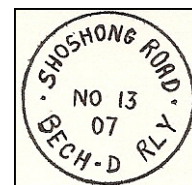
Brian Fenemore's Items of Interest (Part 1)

I received scans of a number of album pages from Brian Fenemore, containing the items of interest presented here.

Telegraph Offices in the Bechuanaland Protectorate under the control of Rhodesian railway authorities

SHOSHONG ROAD BECH-D RLY

This was a telegraph office under the control of the Rhodesian railway authorities. A very rare postmark, possibly unique.



RAMAQUABANE S. RHODESIA

Skeleton/Relief type datestamp 12 MR 13, struck twice on a block of six Protectorate 1/2d. vermilion. Extremely rare.

At Ramaquabane from 1912 to 1913 there was a Postal Agency, run by the Bechuanaland Protectorate authorities. There was also a Railway Telegraph Office, run by the Southern Rhodesian authorities through their Department of Posts and Telegraphs. This reflected the long standing involvement of Rhodesia in the establishment and running of the railway and telegraph from Bechuanaland to Bulawayo.

On 1st April 1912, the same day that the Bechuanaland authorities opened their Postal Agency at Ramaquabane, control of the Telegraph Office passed from the Administration of Southern Rhodesia to the Commercial Branch of the British South Africa Company.



Acknowledgements:

Ian Johnstone RSCJ 198 March 2001. 'Ramaquabane S. Rhodesia' Skeleton Cancellor of 12 March 1913

Dr. K. Wright RSCJ 141/37 March 1988. 'Ramaquabane' Part 1 Tati.

British West Charterland

An early reply paid card from the "Camp at Botletli River" in the Ngamiland area to Shillong in the Assam region of India.

The card appears to have been written by Lieut. E.J. Lugard, who had joined his brother Capt. F. Lugard, the head of an expedition to Ngamiland, on behalf of a company prospecting for gold, known as "British West Charterland Ltd.". This company was set up as a rival to Rhodes' "British South Africa Company". It was unsuccessful and survived for only a few years.

Arrangements were made with Khama who provided runners to maintain contact with the outside world. For some while contact with the expedition was lost as six runners died of thirst, and one was devoured by a lion.

The expedition passed through 'Palapye' on the 15th June 1896, and at the time of writing [9th Aug 1896] had just crossed into Ngamiland. A rare card from this little known expedition.

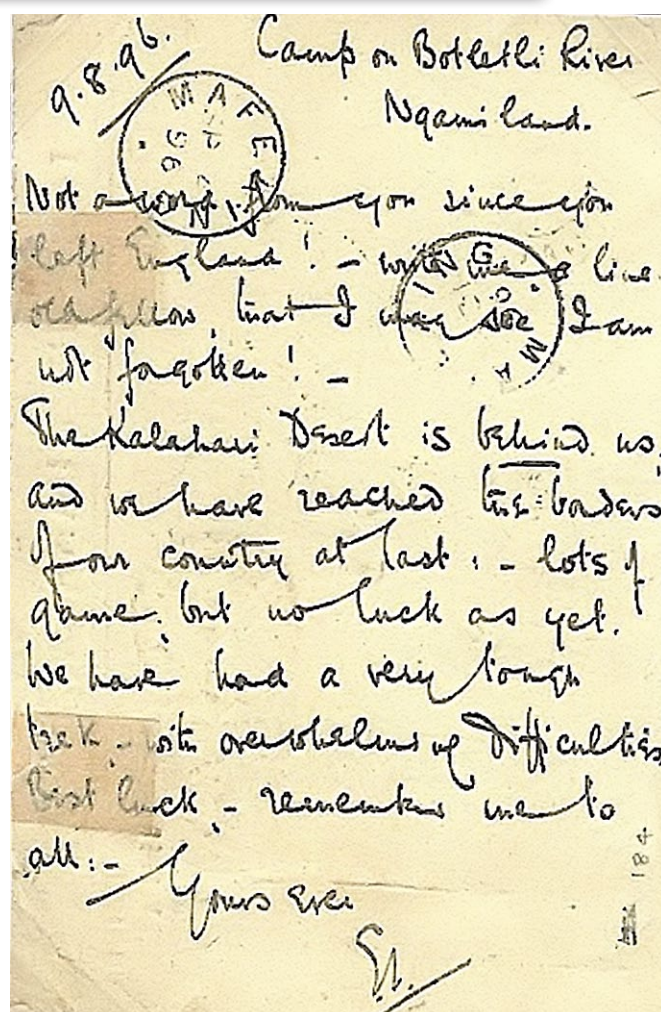
Initial cancellor: Proving Barred numeral '676' and CDS 'Palachwe Khamas Town' Aug 24th 1896.

Reverse side of card: Transit cancels 'Mafeking' Aug 31st 1896 and Sep 2nd 1896.

Transit cancels: 'Durban, Natal' Sep 9th 1896. 'Tuticorin' 2nd Oct 1896.

Destination cancellors: 'Shillong' 10th Oct 1896.

Acknowledgements: The late Tony Chilton.



If you want to send in such written up pages as scans use at least 200dpi and save as a high quality JPG and they should each be only a few Mb to e-mail.

Similarly, single stamps with "features", aim for 600dpi or greater.

SG38/39 Provisional issue 1893-95 “British Bechuanaland” reading down - broken letter varieties

by Bruce Warrender

This issue consists of only two stamps. Now there are a number of well known listed varieties which can be expensive and difficult to find, but there are quite a few minor varieties of broken letters to be found which can make for an interesting study.

Over time the typeset forme became damaged, resulting in broken letters. Try finding the same broken letter on both SG38 and SG39 and then see if they also occur on the earlier issue of SG31 and SG32.

The only thing you need to remember when dealing with SG31/32 is the position will be opposite to that of SG38/39. So no.2 below (the chopped ch variety) on SG31/32 would now be found on the RH pane row 1 stamp 1.

So have a look through your collection or stock book and see if you can find any of the broken letter varieties listed below, or maybe some that I've not listed here.



1



2



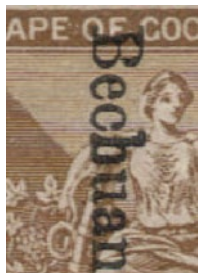
3



4



5



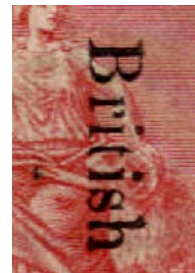
6



7



8



9



10

1. Defective 's': This later becomes the missing 's' variety and is found on the RH pane R10/4.
2. Chopped 'ch': This is found on LH pane R10/6.
3. Broken 'B' looks like R: The 'B' in Bechuanaland broken LH pane R1/1.
4. Broken 'B' looks like K: The 'B' in British broken RH pane R10/1.
5. Broken 'c': RH pane R10/3.
6. Damaged 'h' looks like b: Damaged 'h' in Bechuanaland RH pane R3/3.
7. Broken 'l': LH pane R9/4.
8. No 'i' to dot : The first 'i' in British RH pane R8/2.
9. Broken tail on 't': R H pane R8/6.
10. Broken first 'a' in Bechuanaland: RH pane R8/1. This stamp is next to the missing 'i' variety R8/2.

Visit Your Local Stamp Fair

by Bruce Warrender

Well summer is but a distant memory (if we actually had a summer), gardening is all done and the days are getting shorter.

Time then to bring out the stamp collection. Browse through the pages and see what gaps need to be filled. Now if you have been building up your collection over a long time you may not have too many gaps to fill. The only problem is that the gaps left to fill are the rarities, they tend to be expensive and sometimes hard to find as they do not appear at auction too often. So what to do over the coming months?

May I suggest try visiting your local stamp fair. Now I'm not talking about Stampex, Philatex or York racecourse I'm talking about the stamp fair held in the

village or church hall. The reason I suggest this venue is because you might just happen to get lucky.

The dealers at these venues are general dealers in stamps or postal history not specialised dealers and therefore don't know all the varieties of Bechuanaland or Botswana. Look through the album pages or the stock books to see if there are any hidden varieties lurking there. Over the last couple of years I've had a bit of success at local stamp fairs.

Some of the stamps that I've found at these fairs being sold as normal stamps are shown below. So during the coming months try going to your local stamp fair to see if you can find any varieties just waiting to be found.



1

2

3



1. SG23b curved foot to '2'.
Now this is not the best quality stamp, but still it fills a gap.
2. SG38d inverted 'u' for 'n' [400% below]
3. SG160a spaced 'c' (left) with normal example (right) [200% below, var/normal]
4. SG161a variety thick 'c' row 9/3 (top left) [200% below, var/normal]
5. SG161d variety thick 'c' row 7/3 (left) [200% to right, var/normal]
6. SG417 variety faulty 'O' reading 'C' [400% below]
7. SG817a shaved '2' (right stamp) [400% below normal/shaved]



5



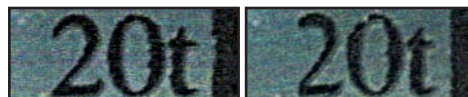
4



6



7



Checklist of Botswana Postmarks (Second Series)

Late Arrivals Section - Part 3

The Botswana Postmark Project Team set out to extend the earlier work done on Botswana Postmarks (First Series) by Brian Trotter. Botswana Postmarks (Second Series) followed the same Postal Marking Classification System (Typology) as the First series and continued the numbering from the First series.

The earliest date included in the Botswana Postmarks (Second Series) was 01-Jun-1995 i.e. only new postmarks and markings appearing after this date, which had not been previously recorded, were included.


Since Runner Post #60 in June 2004 there have been sixteen installments of the Second Series Checklist. In the last five and a half years the Project Team has consisted of Bruce Warrender and David Wall - with assistance from Sheila Case, Barbara Andersson, Steen


Jelgren, Dennis Firth, David Allison (a non-member), Peter Jukes and the late John Inglefield-Watson. Bruce wishes to thank all those members who contributed.


In the period of time covered by the sixteen installments more and more postmarks have been recorded thanks to members interest in the postmark study. Unfortunately some of these have been too late to be published in the correct section, so here is a further part of the "Late Arrivals Section" - to be followed by annual supplements.


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.


Late Arrivals Section - Part 3 - Offices K-M


KANG	No 12 Type 61 M 24(2) Struck in purple	
	Oval dimensions	31mm by 46mm
	Earliest recorded date	18-Apr-2007
	Latest recorded date	19-Apr-2007
	Number so far recorded	2


KANYE	No 20 Type 61 J 27 Struck in red	
	Oval dimensions	34mm by 54mm
	Earliest recorded date	01-Nov-2004
	Latest recorded date	01-Nov-2004
	Number so far recorded	1


KASANE	No 24 Type MISC 3 v	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	20-Jun-2007
	Latest recorded date	11-Jun-2008
	Number so far recorded	2
New sub-variant v. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "CHOBE BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATION CENTRE" (curved) above [OFFICE NAME] (2 lines) at base.		


LETLHAKANE	No 14 Type 61 M 24(1) Struck in brown	
	Oval dimensions	30mm by 45mm
	Earliest recorded date	28-Aug-2008
	Latest recorded date	28-Aug-2008
	Number so far recorded	1


LETLHAKANE	No 15 Type 61 M 24(3) Struck in brown	
	Oval dimensions	30mm by 45mm
	Earliest recorded date	27-Jun-2008
	Latest recorded date	27-Jun-2008
	Number so far recorded	1


LETLHAKANE	No 16 Type MISC 6 z 52 Struck in red	
	Oval dimensions	36mm by 56mm
	Earliest recorded date	11-Aug-2004
	Latest recorded date	11-Aug-2004
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant z 52. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "POSTAGE PREPAID" (horizontal) above [OFFICE NAME] (2 lines) at base.		


LETLKAKENG	No 7 Type 1 F 25	
	Circle diameter	44mm
	Earliest recorded date	18-Aug-2007
	Latest recorded date	18-Aug-2007
	Number so far recorded	1


LOBATSE	No 57 Type 61 M 24(3)	
	Oval dimensions	31mm by 46mm
	Earliest recorded date	11-Sep-2006
	Latest recorded date	11-Sep-2006
	Number so far recorded	1


LOBATSE	No 58 Type 61 M 24(4) Struck in purple	
	Oval dimensions	30mm by 45mm
	Earliest recorded date	08-Apr-2009
	Latest recorded date	08-Apr-2009
	Number so far recorded	1


LOBATSE	No 59 Type 61 M 24(2) Struck in purple	
	Oval dimensions	30mm by 45mm
	Earliest recorded date	31-Mar-2009
	Latest recorded date	15-Jun-2009
	Number so far recorded	2

MABUTSANE	No 6 Type 23 M 50	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	12-Jul-2009
	Latest recorded date	12-Jul-2009
	Number so far recorded	1


MAHALAPYE	No 41 Type 1 M 19(1)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	04-Nov-2003
	Latest recorded date	04-Nov-2003
	Number so far recorded	1


MAHALAPYE	No 42 Type 1 M 19(4)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	04-Jun-2008
	Latest recorded date	04-Jun-2008
	Number so far recorded	1


MAHALAPYE	No 43 Type 1 M 46(1) Struck in brown	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	24-Jun-2010
	Latest recorded date	24-Jun-2010
	Number so far recorded	1

MAITENGWE 	No 8 Type 61 M 23 Struck in red	
	Oval dimensions	Approx. 38mm by 58mm
	Earliest recorded date	??-Sep-2004
	Latest recorded date	??-Sep-2004
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant 23. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "PMR" (horizontal) above [OFFICE NAME] (2 lines) at base		

MAKOPONG	This postal agency opened in 1998.
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MAKOPONG 	No 2 Type 61 M 48 Struck in red	
	Oval dimensions	38mm by 58mm
	Earliest recorded date	14-Dec-2007
	Latest recorded date	14-Dec-2007
	Number so far recorded	1

MASUNGA 	No 8 Type 1 M 21	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	02-Aug-2007
	Latest recorded date	02-Aug-2007
	Number so far recorded	1

MASUNGA 	No 9 Type 23 M 24(1)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	03-Sep-2008
	Latest recorded date	03-Sep-2008
	Number so far recorded	1

MATSILOJE	No 5 Type 61 M 16	
	Struck in red	
	Oval dimensions	36mm by 56mm
	Earliest recorded date	15-Sep-2008
	Latest recorded date	15-Sep-2008
	Number so far recorded	1



MAUN	No 55 Type 23 M 22	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	12-Jul-2007
	Latest recorded date	20-Jul-2007
	Number so far recorded	2





MAUN	No 56 Type 23 M 24(4)	
	Struck in purple	
	Outer circle diameter	41mm
	Earliest recorded date	27-Oct-2007
	Latest recorded date	27-Oct-2007
	Number so far recorded	1

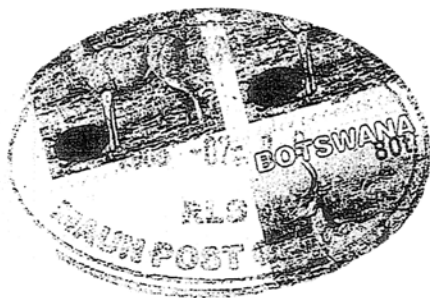



MAUN	No 57 Type 23 M 50	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	13-Dec-2008
	Latest recorded date	06-Apr-2009
	Number so far recorded	3




MAUN	No 58 Type 61 M 22	
	Oval dimensions	31mm by 45mm
	Earliest recorded date	15-Jul-2008
	Latest recorded date	06-Aug-2008
	Number so far recorded	2


MAUN	No 59 Type 61 M 27 One struck in purple	
	Oval dimensions	36mm by 56mm
	Earliest recorded date	02-Apr-2007
	Latest recorded date	08-Nov-2007
	Number so far recorded	3
New sub-variant 27. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "RLS" (horizontal) above [OFFICE NAME] (2 lines) at base.		

MAUN	No 60 Type 61 M 27 One struck in red	
	Oval dimensions	37mm by 57mm
	Earliest recorded date	14-Jul-2006
	Latest recorded date	10-Mar-2007
	Number so far recorded	2
Similar to No.59 except larger lettering and larger dimensions.		


MAUN	No 61 Type 6 MISC z 60 Struck in red	
	Oval dimensions	Approx 34mm by 58mm
	Earliest recorded date	09-Sep-2008
	Latest recorded date	09-Sep-2008
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant z 60. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "RECLAMATION" (horizontal) above [OFFICE NAME] (2 lines) at base.		


MAUN	No 62 Type MISC 6 z 61	
	Outer circle diameter	39mm
	Earliest recorded date	23-Dec-2009
	Latest recorded date	23-Dec-2009
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant z 61. "BOTSWANA POST" at top with "CB SUPERVISOR" (horizontal) above [OFFICE NAME] (2 lines) at base with star separators.		


MAUN AIRPORT	This office was temporarily closed in 2003, but was open again in 2007.
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MAUN AIRPORT	No 1 Type 61 M 38	
	Oval dimensions	39mm by 60mm
	Earliest recorded date	22-May-2007
	Latest recorded date	06-Feb-2009
	Number so far recorded	3
New sub-variant 38. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "POSTMASTER" above [OFFICE NAME] (2 lines) at base with cross separators.		


METSEF	This office is in Francistown. Date of opening unknown.
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METSEF	No 1 Type 23 M 16	
	Outer circle diameter	39mm
	Earliest recorded date	31-May-2008
	Latest recorded date	31-May-2008
	Number so far recorded	1

MIDDLEPITS	No 10 Type 21 B 55	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	08-Nov-2004
	Latest recorded date	08-Nov-2004
	Number so far recorded	1


MMADINARE	No 9 Type 61 M 24(2)	
	Oval dimensions	30mm by 45mm
	Earliest recorded date	23-Jul-2007
	Latest recorded date	23-Jul-2007
	Number so far recorded	1


MMANKGODI	No 6 Type 5 J 26 Struck in red	
	Oval dimensions	28mm by 41mm
	Earliest recorded date	24-Jul-2001
	Latest recorded date	24-Jul-2001
	Number so far recorded	1


MMASEKOU	No 14 Type 23 M 24(2)	
	Outer circle diameter	41mm
	Earliest recorded date	17-Aug-2005
	Latest recorded date	30_Mar-2007
	Number so far recorded	2


MMASEKOU	No 15 Type 23 M 46(2)	
	Outer circle diameter	39mm
	Earliest recorded date	04-Sep-2008
	Latest recorded date	04-Sep-2008
	Number so far recorded	1


New sub-variant 46. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "C" followed by a number above [OFFICE NAME] (2 lines) at base with star separators.


MMASEKOU	No 16 Type 23 M 46(1) Struck in brown	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	19-May-2009
	Latest recorded date	19-May-2009
	Number so far recorded	1


MMASEKOU	No 17 Type 23 M 46(4) Struck in red	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	15-May-2009
	Latest recorded date	15-May-2009
	Number so far recorded	1


MMATHETHE	No 6 Type 23 M 50	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	??-Nov-2009
	Latest recorded date	??-Nov-2009
	Number so far recorded	1


MOCHUDI	No 28 Type 1 M 24(1)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	12-Sep-2007
	Latest recorded date	12-Sep-2007
	Number so far recorded	1


MOCHUDI	No 29 Type 1 M 24(2)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	19-Jun-2009
	Latest recorded date	19-Jun-2009
	Number so far recorded	1


MOGODITSHANE	No 16 Type 2 C 23(2)	
	Circle diameters	18mm & 27mm
	Earliest recorded date	24-Jan-1996
	Latest recorded date	24-Jan-1996
	Number so far recorded	1


MOGODITSHANE	No 17 Type 23 M 24(3) Struck in brown	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	11-May-2009
	Latest recorded date	11-May-2009
	Number so far recorded	1

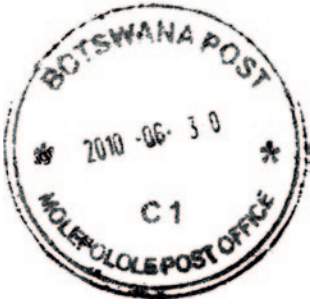
MOLEPOLOLE	No 20 Type 21 B 51	
	Circle diameters	22mm & 35mm
	Earliest recorded date	09-Oct-2004
	Latest recorded date	09-Oct-2004
	Number so far recorded	1


MOLEPOLOLE	No 21 Type 6 J 56 Struck in red	
	Oval dimensions	23mm by 40mm and 34mm by 51mm
	Earliest recorded date	14-Jun-2007
	Latest recorded date	14-Jun-2007
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant 56. "E.M.S. COUNTER" at top with [OFFICE NAME] at base.		


MOLEPOLOLE	No 22 Type 61 M 24(2)	
	Oval dimensions	Approx. 31mm by 46mm
	Earliest recorded date	30-Dec-2005
	Latest recorded date	30-Dec-2005
	Number so far recorded	1

MOLEPOLOLE	No 23 Type 61 M 44	
	Oval dimensions	30mm by 45mm
	Earliest recorded date	20-Apr-2008
	Latest recorded date	20-Apr-2008
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant 44. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "EMS" (horizontal) above [OFFICE NAME] followed by "POST OFFICE" (2 lines) at base.		

MOLEPOLOLE	No 24 Type MISC 11	
	[OFFICE NAME] above design with the words "Census Botswana 2001:- Be there to be counted 17 th - 26 th August 2001"	
	Earliest recorded date	12-Jul-2001
	Latest recorded date	12-Jul-2001
	Number so far recorded	1

MOLEPOLOLE	No 25 Type 23 M 46(1)	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	30-Jun-2010
	Latest recorded date	30-Jun-2010
	Number so far recorded	1

MOLEPOLOLE	No 26 Type 23 M 32	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	10-Jul-2010
	Latest recorded date	10-Jul-2010
	Number so far recorded	1

MOPIPI	No 7 Type 61 J 43 Struck in red	
	Oval dimensions	38mm by 58mm
	Earliest recorded date	01-Nov-2004
	Latest recorded date	01-Nov-2004
	Number so far recorded	1

1884-5 Military Telegraph stamps and their use during the Warren Expedition to annexe the Bechuanaland.

A display by Brian Hurst

Military Telegraph stamps were ordered initially in 1884 as an accounting procedure for the telegraphs in Egypt and the Sudan during the unsuccessful campaign to relieve General Gordon at Khartoum. A further supply was requisitioned in November 1884 for use with the Warren expedition, and it is these stamps that are the subject of the display.

Exhibited are De La Rue's striking book pieces for both the early overprint that covered just a third of a sheet

of stamps, and also for the full size plates that were produced in January 1885. An original unused set of stamps is shown, both with and without 'Specimen' overprint, and also extremely rare examples of stamps that have been used on telegraphs and subsequently removed from the forms.

The display concludes with an actual Military Telegraph addressed to Colonel Paul Methuen, commanding the 1st Mounted Rifles at Setlagoli.

BECHUANALAND

Military Telegraphs

A series of Inland Revenue key plate stamps known as the 'Unappropriated Dies' printed by De La Rue of London, and appropriated for use by additional imprinting of the words 'MILITARY TELEGRAPHS'

Watermark: pence values: 'orbs'
 shilling values: 'vr' sideways
 pound value: 'two orbs' sideways



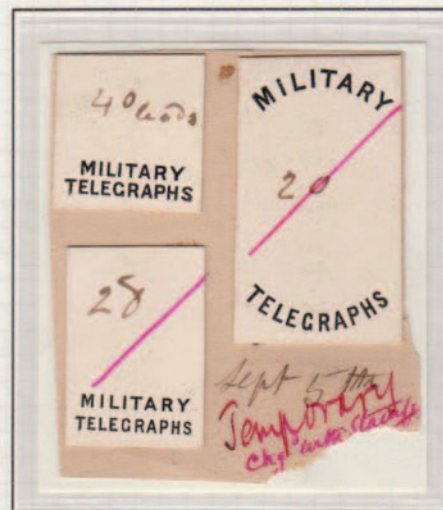
BECHUANALAND

Military Telegraphs

Military Telegraph stamps were first requested in 1884 by Colonel Webber, Director of Telegraphs in Egypt to assist with his accounting procedures. The request was made personally to the Controller of Stamps at Somerset House.

Plates for overprinting with the words 'MILITARY TELEGRAPHS' were produced by De La Rue on 5th September 1884, but as can be seen from the piece below that has been extracted from their Striking Book, the plates only covered 40, 28 and 20 stamps respectively, being exactly one third of a pane of the relevant unappropriated stamps.

It appears that since the stamps were regarded as experimental, the Board of Inland Revenue would not pay for the preparation of the plates. De La Rue responded by producing one-third size plates as an economy measure, and considerably raised their printing charges because of the number of 'pulls' required to apply the overprints.



An initial printing was made from these plates on the 11th September 1884 and supplied to Colonel Webber for use in the abortive 1884 Nile Expedition intended to relieve Khartoum.

Communication with the outposts of Empire was essential in those times, and when the expedition to take control of the Bechuanalands under the leadership of Maj.Gen. Sir Charles Warren was being raised in November of 1884, it was natural that a Company of Royal Engineers should accompany him in order to construct the necessary telegraph line. A further printing from the plates was therefore made on the 28th November and delivered directly to Captain Jelf of the Royal Engineers on board the 'Pembroke Castle' which was waiting to set sail for Cape Town.

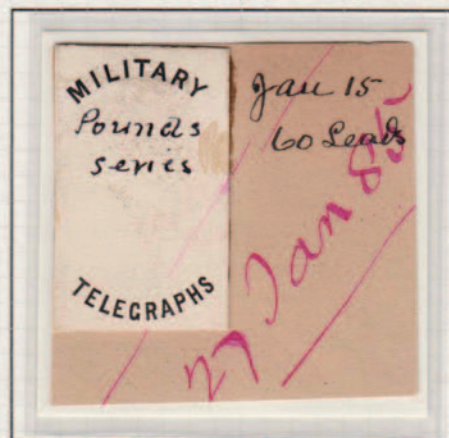
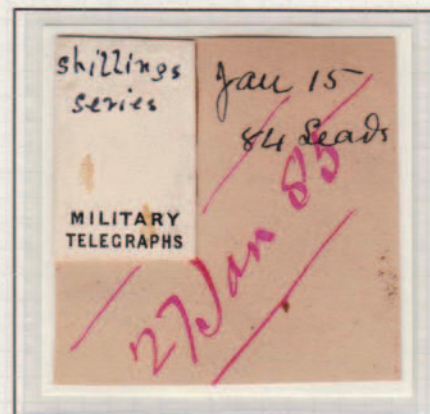
The expedition commenced construction of the Telegraph line at Barkly West on the border of Stellaland on the 9th January 1885, and reached Mafeking, some 224 miles distant, on the 2nd or 3rd of April.

BECHUANALAND

Military Telegraphs

The pieces below from the De La Rue Striking Book show that permanent full size plates of 120 leads for the pence plate, 84 leads for the shillings series and 60 leads for the pounds series were made in January 1885. The red inscription '27 Jan 85' is believed to be the date on which the plates were charged to account.

No further supplies were made to the Bechuanalands, and all stamps overprinted from these new plates were used for telegraph purposes in Egypt and the Sudan.



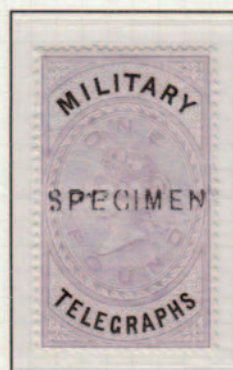
Quantities of stamps overprinted for use by the Warren Expedition in Bechuanaland were:
1d. - 12,000; 3d. - 12,000; 6d. - 11,880; 1s. - 8,232; 2s. - 8,316; 5s. - 8,400; 10s. - 8,400 and
£1 - 5,880.

BECHUANALAND

Military Telegraphs

Additionally handstamped 'SPECIMEN' by the
Board of Inland Revenue Stamping Department
at Somerset House, London

Handstamp: pence and shilling values: Samuel Type GB9
pound value: Samuel Type GB11



BECHUANALAND

Military Telegraphs

Fourteen telegraph offices were opened in total. Double circle Field Telegraph cancellers were used with purple ink. The cancellers for Vryburg (VR) and Taung (TS) have been recorded used on stamps, and those for Setlagoli (SH) and Mafeking (MF) on Military Telegraph telegrams, Army Book form 295C



1s. green and black Military Telegraphs stamp
cancelled at the Field Telegraph Office, Vryburg, on 19th March 1885

Supplies of stamps of the most commonly used values, sixpence and one shilling, quickly ran out, and by mid-June it became the practice to surcharge some of the lesser used values in manuscript. Examples are recorded of a 6d. surcharge on the one penny and ten shilling stamps, and a 1/- surcharge on the five shilling and one pound values. A very small number of these have survived.



6d. surcharge in manuscript on 10s. Military Telegraph stamp
cancelled at the Field Telegraph Office, Taung, on 18th June 1885

BECHUANALAND

Military Telegraphs

In order to overcome the shortage of sixpence and one shilling Telegraph stamps, a supply of the then current Cape of Good Hope stamps were obtained and overprinted '**Military Telegraphs**'. These were used in the latter part of 1885 and the early part of 1886. All known used copies have manuscript cancels.



Anchor
Watermark



Crown CC
Watermark



Inverted 's'
in 'Telegraphs'



Overprint
almost transposed

BECHUANALAND

Military Telegraphs

Two page delivery copy of a Military Telegraph - Army Book, 295 C.
Sent on the 16th July 1885 from Mafeking to Setlagoli
Cancelled with the double circle Field Telegraph canceller for Setlagoli (SH)



Army Book, 295 C.

MILITARY TELEGRAPHS.

No. of Message

Inquiries respecting this Telegram, or application for repetition of the same, may be made at the Delivering Office; but any complaint as to its delay, &c., should be made in writing, and addressed to the officer in charge. In either case this form must accompany such inquiries or complaint.

Date Stamp of

Charges to pay £..... s..... d.

Handed in at the } Office at m. Received here at } m.

Delivering Office.

From

To



McHattie
To Col Methuen
Setlagoli

In on my arrival here
as a prisoner I was at once
released as there had never
been any charge made against
me. I then wrote you for
copies of telegrams on which

The telegram was sent from Mafeking by a certain Frederick Stuart McHattie to Colonel the Hon. Paul Methuen, Officer Commanding the 1st Mounted Rifles, stationed at Setlagoli. McHattie had been arrested on the 13th July 1885 near Setlagoli on the orders of Colonel Methuen who was acting on instructions received from Mr. J. M. Wright, the Assistant Commissioner at Mafeking. He was suspected of fraudulent dealings in the procurement of forage for the military stationed at Mafeking, but protested his innocence very forcibly.



Army Book, 295 C.

MILITARY TELEGRAPHS.

No. of Message

Inquiries respecting this Telegram, or application for repetition of the same, may be made at the Delivering Office; but any complaint as to its delay, &c., should be made in writing, and addressed to the officer in charge. In either case this form must accompany such inquiries or complaint.

Dated Stamp of



Charges to pay £.....s.....d.

Handed
in at the }

Office at

Received
here at }

Delivering Office

From

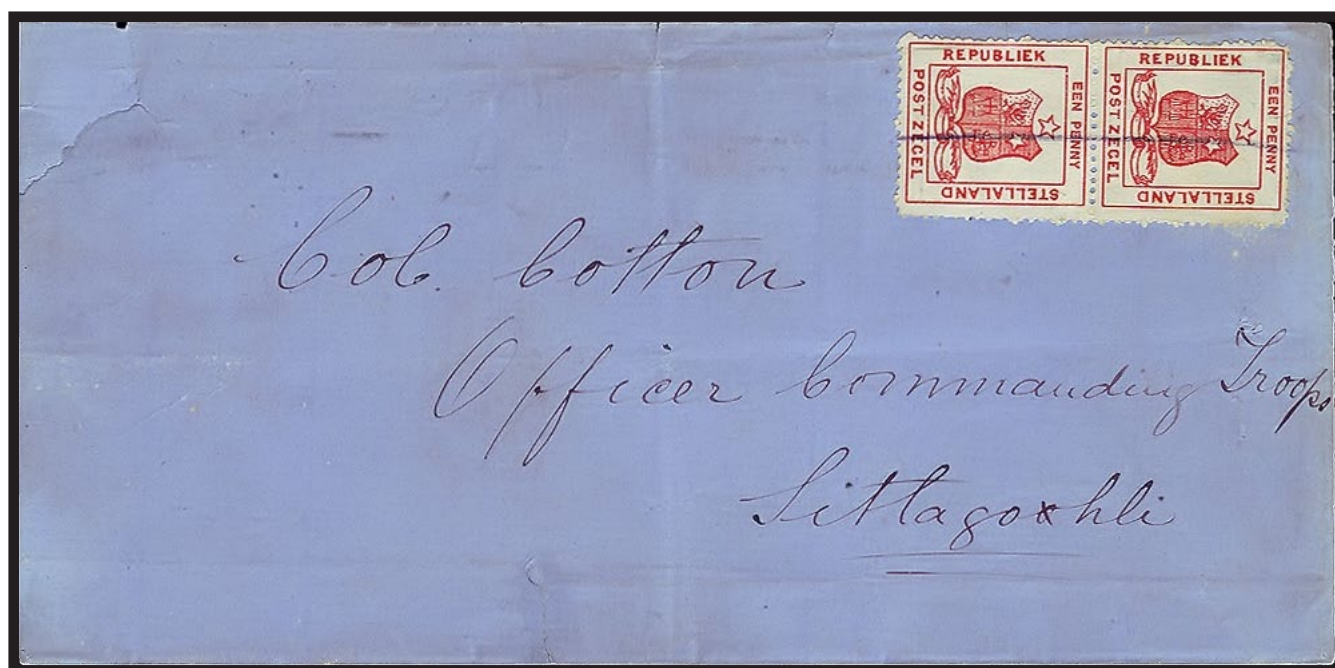
To

you arrested me on horse which you evidently refuse to supply me with, I therefore now give you notice which I will give you later in writing that I hold you personally responsible for three thousand pounds damages and will take such steps as I think necessary to recover the same before your leaving country

The tiny number of recorded examples of actual surviving military telegraphs from Bechuanaland are all concerned with the 'McHattie incident'. The threat of litigation contained in the example exhibited no doubt led to its retention by Colonel Methuen.

STELLALAND

WARREN EXPEDITION



1885 STELLALAND : THE 'COLONEL COTTON' COVER

1885 (June) cover addressed to 'Col Cotton / Officer Commanding Troops / Sitlagohli' bearing a vertical pair of Stellaland 1d red (SG 1) tied by a horizontal blue crayon stroke. The reverse is annotated "This letter came by the despatch riders this day at 3.15 p.m. from Vrijburg and was delivered to me. Paul Methuen. Col Command. Setlagoli. June 28. 1885. Setlagoli".

A small defect on the right hand stamp has been expertly repaired subsequent to the issuance of a clear RPSL certificate (1978). Ex Jonkers.

Exceptionally rare, being one of only 13 covers bearing Stellaland stamps recorded in 'A Postal History of Stellaland' by Alan R. Drysdall, FRPSL (London Philatelist, March/April 1992).

Outstanding, and a most attractive contrast of red on blue.

ALAN MACGREGOR

Member: PTS, SAPDA, APS

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