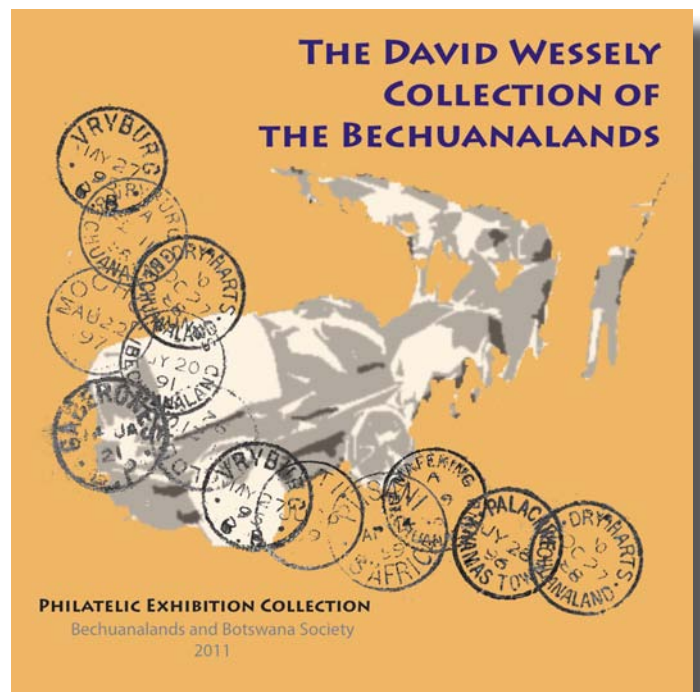


The **Runner Post**

THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY



Issue 81 Contents

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Summer 2011

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DIARY OF EVENTS – 2011

3 rd -5 th November	Autumn Philatex , The Royal Horticultural Hall, London Society AGM (time and room tbc) on Sat 5 th Nov
11 th -13 th November	Southern African Societies Convention Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa, UK Contact Simon Peetoom (simon@africastamps.co.uk) for more details.

Cover DVD (free to Members)

David Wessely has been a longtime member of the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society. He has specialized since the 70's in the Bechuanalands and formed without comparison the largest philatelic and postal history collection of that area in the US and probably world-wide. David frequently exhibited his collection. He received the Grand Award twice at US WSP shows. Most recently, he showed it internationally at Pacific in San Francisco in 1997 and receiving a Large Vermeil. The collection was sold in 2010 at auction by Argyll Etkin. Before selling, he made a high resolution scan (600 dpi) and is now making the collection available on a DVD.

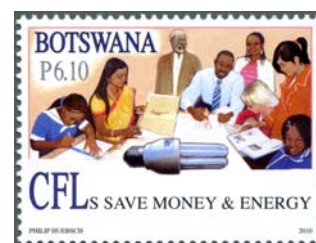
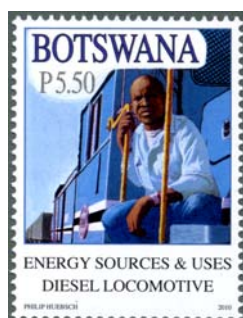
David lives in Elyria, Ohio, as a retired secondary school math teacher. His interest in the philatelic story of Bechuanaland began when he was posted to Botswana as a member of the United States Peace Corps. He taught at Moeng College from 1966 to 1970. Dave currently enjoys life as an age group competitive swim coach and is an active postal history dealer.


The DVD contains the most recent version of the Exhibit, together with numerous extra pages. Also found on the DVD is the relevant pages from the Argyll Etkin auction catalogue together with the prices realized.



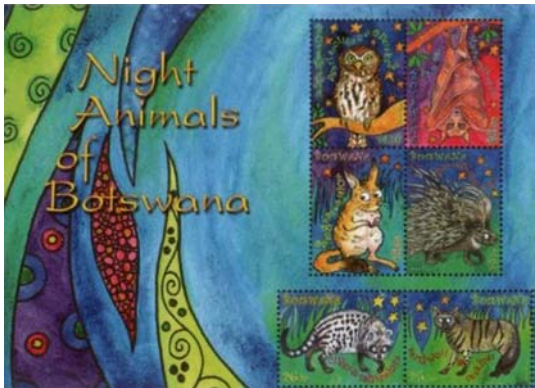

The DVD is distributed by the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society. Additional copies are available from David Wall, Secretary, 8 Walkwood Rise, Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 1TY, UK. davidawall11@gmail.com and in the US from Peter Thy, PO Box 73112, Davis CA 95617-3112, USA. thy@kronestamps.dk. Price tbc.

Recent Botswana Issues



<i>Energy in Botswana</i>		Date of issue		8 th October 2010
Denominations	P2.60, P4.10, P5.50, P6.10	P2.60	Energy Sources & Uses - Coal for National Power Grid	
Designer	Philip Huebsch	P4.10	Solar Power - Voltaic Panels	
Printer	OSD Österreichische Staatsdruckerei GmbH	P5.50	Energy Sources & Uses - Diesel Locomotive	
Process	Offset; 4 process colour	P6.10	CFLs Save Money & Energy	
Stamp Size	40mm x 30mm	Period of Sale	One Year	
Sheet Format	2x25 stamps with gutter	FDC Size	110mm x 220mm	
Paper	110gsm, gummed, bluish PVA			

<i>Night Animals of Botswana</i>		Date of issue		29 th November 2010
Denominations	P2.60, P3.00, P4.10, P5.50, P5.60, P6.10	P2.60	tbc	
Designer	Amanda Page	P3.00	tbc	
Printer	Cartot Security Printing	P4.10	tbc	
Process	Offset lithography	P5.50	tbc	
Stamp Size	40mm x 30mm	P5.60	tbc	
Paper	110gsm, gummed, bluish PVA	P6.10	tbc	
Period of Sale	One Year			
Souvenir Sheet Size	135mm x 170mm	FDC Size	162mm x 229mm	

This information is from the BotswanaPost booklet scanned for me by Peter Thy. Neither I nor my new issues supplier have received these stamps/mini sheet. Can anyone confirm their existence?

Editor's corner

Runner Post #81 is coming out much later than I hoped, but the weather seems to agree it's still Summer as it's been 28-30°C the last few days! Editor's block, two holidays and other hobbies conspired to get in the way. I'm also finishing this issue on a new PC, the old one having developed some registry hive corruption that will result in it being rebuilt.

Sadly Part 2 of Peter Van der Molen's Queen Elizabeth II article is delayed. Peter hopes it will be ready for the Winter issue.

Some of you may have a subscription notice in your issue. I've had them a while so you may have paid in the meantime. If you haven't you're definitely late!

All of you should have a "Cover DVD" - even though it's between the pages.

One dealer member took advantage of the Society's offer to print, free of charge, "Dealer's Items of Interest". Hopefully members agree it's interesting to see items that could otherwise stay hidden in a safe then disappear into a private collection never to be known about.



Finally, I have another new bit of PC hardware - a digital microscope (above) which plugs into a USB port on my PC. Stanley Gibbons, Leuchtturm and others stock USB microscopes of varying magnifications, features and price. Mine's one of the extensive Dino-Lite range, a AM413T Pro2, which has 8 LEDs, magnifies 20x to 230x and has measurement facilities in the software. It will prove useful in detecting forgeries (e.g. Stellaland below), capturing features too small for a magnifying glass and giving accurate measurements. It's quite interesting how some of the Bechuanaland overprints look at the high magnification. I've put a number of images on the inside back cover of this issue.

Stellaland SG1 showing the star on the crest at high magnification from
 [left] a genuine stamp
 [centre] 1886 "Stone" forgery (genuine plates)
 [right] a common forgery



Dealer Items of Interest

Deverell & MacGregor (www.rhodesia.co.za)

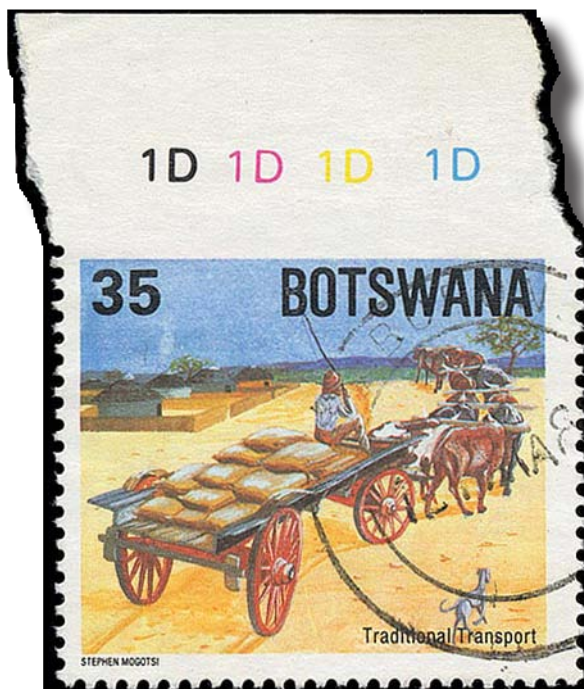


BRITISH BECHUANALAND

1886 ½d grey-black of Cape of Good Hope overprinted 'British Bechuanaland' in black. Showing what is believed to be a previously unrecorded error WATERMARK INVERTED. The stamp is unused without gum and has a few faults including a corner thin, marginal tear and light soiling at top mentioned on an APEX certificate (2010). Believed to be unique. SG 4 var. [200%]

BOTSWANA

1984 Transport 35t wagon. An upper marginal example showing cylinder numbers and apparently unrecorded variety IMPERFORATE BETWEEN STAMP AND MARGIN. Used with light Gaborone datestamp. SG 560 var. [200%]



BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE

1889 ½d vermilion surcharged 'Protectorate / Fourpence'. A mint example showing an unusual variety with the 'c' of 'Fourpence' being completely omitted. As there is no albino impression of the 'c' on the reverse, it is assumed that letter had become loose and either raised above the surface of the other letters in the overprinting forme, thus failing to print, or had completely fallen out. SG 53 var. [200%]

The End of a (Printing) Era

[aka Bar Code Registration Labels article 5]

by Peter Jukes

For quite some time now, the contract for printing the Bar Coded Registration labels had been awarded to Kingsley and Associates of G/West, Gaborone. They however, farmed out the work to various companies in South Africa, which worked out nicely for them until a few problems arose.

The first company to do the sub contract work was Labelnet of Johannesburg. The first problem was the printing of the 'rogue' labels.

For reference: Bar Code Registration Label articles 1 to 4 appeared in RP #72 p.1773, RP#73 p.1807-09, RP#74 p.1839-40 and RP #75 p.1869-70.



A Labelnet 'rogue' label

This came about when the company doing the printing had a problem with their machine. For the very technically minded I'll put all the details that I

have as an appendix at the end. The long and short of it was that the machine/process they tried to complete the order with did not work out as expected, the labels came slightly differently as regards the font size etc; also the colour was very different.

They no longer print for Kingsley, as the machine first used could not be repaired and it was scrapped; the replacement equipment could not produce the labels in a format acceptable to them under UPU regulations; the sheet must be 210mm wide and the replacement printer could only manage 110mm.

The result of this change led to Kingsley shipping his orders to a company in Durban, Direct Marketing Data, who managed to carry on for a while but too many errors were picked up (duplicated and missing numbers being amongst them) up and the orders to Kingsley's (and his sub contractors) were cancelled.

In the second week of September of 2010, labels supplied by the UPU of Berne were brought into use.



A UPU Berne label

Appendix:

I am indebted to Anton Aucamp of Labelnet, Johannesburg for all the technical information, his time and perseverance with my (as they must have seemed to him) inane questions.

The algorithm used to calculate the full code to be printed is as follows:

- Pad the number to be printed with leading 0's to make it 8 characters
- Apply a multiplier to each figure using the figures 8 6 4 2 3 5 9 and 7 respectively
- Sum the eight resultant values
- Calculate the modulus 11 of this sum
- Calculate the check digit (chkdig) as 11 less the modulus 11 value
Modulus values 0 and 1, when they occur can lead to a two figure chkdig so where $\text{chkdig}=11$ use 5 / where $\text{chkdig}=10$ use 0
- Add RR in front the padded eight figure value, followed by the Chkdig and BW

For example the number 133995:-

Pad to 00133995

$$0 * 8 = 0 / 0 * 6 = 0 / 1 * 4 = 4 / 3 * 2 = 6 /$$

$$3 * 3 = 9 / 9 * 5 = 45 / 9 * 9 = 81 / 5 * 7 = 35$$

$$0 + 0 + 4 + 6 + 9 + 45 + 81 + 35 = 180$$

Modulus 11 of 180 = 4 (i.e. $180/11 = 16$ remainder 4)

$$\text{Check digit} = 11 - 4 = 7$$

Full code is RR001339957BW

The next value 133996 becomes RR001339965BW

The labels were produced using a Delphax Ion Deposition unit attached to a variable data file with the check digit included in the string of data. The replacement unit was an ink jet system which was limited to just 110mm wide on the web, which did not meet the Post Office criteria.



A part sheet of correctly printed labels (three across of each code) [90%]

A Forgotten Story -Umfreville Percy Swinburne and the Defence of Francistown during the Anglo-Boer War

by Brian Fenemore



Barred oval numeral '95' proving cover from "Francistown S. Africa" to England.

The addressee on this cover 'Sir John Swinburne', was a director and major shareholder in the 'Tati Mining Group', and an earlier letter from Lobengula to Sir Sydney Shippard said "I gave 'Tati' to Sir John... (Swinburne) but he went away and did not come back". Lt. V.P. Swinburne (son of Sir John) was the General-Manager of the Tati Concession, and did important work in arranging for the defence of Francistown, and the mine. He played a prominent role in the defence of 'Mafeking' during part of the siege, but returned to Tati in April 1900, to continue with his administrative duties.

The cover with barred numeral '95' was in all probability posted from the mine itself and not Francistown.

This scarce numeral has only been recorded on mail during the Boer War period.

Much has been written and documented about the Anglo-Boer War of 1899 to 1902. However, in a corner of what is now Francistown, in North-Eastern Botswana, there is the fascinating story of one man's involvement in the defence of the Tati Mining Concessions, and what was in 1900, the small town in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, named Francistown.

The majority of this text originates from reports compiled by the General-Manager of the Tati Concessions Ltd., Umfreville Percy Swinburne; son of Sir John Swinburne, Bart, a British Parliamentarian who led the London and Limpopo Exploration Company during the 1868 Tati gold rush ([National Archives of Zimbabwe, Historical Manuscripts section, TA 2/4/1/2](#)).

At the closing of the Nineteenth Century, Francistown was the main settlement in the Tati Concession. This territory was the preserve of a private company, the Tati Concessions Limited which had its roots in a number of companies involved in gold exploration in

the district since the late 1860s (see Baxter and Burke 1970: 458-64 for background). The area was treated by the Imperial authorities as part of the sphere of influence of the British South African Company [B.S.A. Co.], and was probably due for eventual incorporation into Southern Rhodesia. Yet Tati Concessions Limited was frequently at loggerheads with its larger and more powerful competitors as it sought to establish its own identity. There had been territorial border disputes, cattle raiding and counter raiding, and serious tensions over issues and rights relative to 'Native Labour' and hut tax ([Baxter and Burke 1970:p458-64, Burnett](#)). The Tati Company always maintained a stronger Imperial connection and compared to the B.S.A. Co. its policies towards the indigenous peoples of the region were a little more open; conciliatory rather than confrontational. This more liberal approach possibly results from the history of the Tati Company having derived its rights of occupation on the basis of earlier concessions from more equal partners -Lobengula and Khama, rather

than as victor over vanquished as was the case of the B.S.A. Co. Because of these differences, the Tati Company initially tended to distance itself from the actions of the B.S.A. Co. It was only with the Anglo-Boer War and its wider threat to British interests that the activities of the two parties drew closer together.

Previously the Headquarters of the Company and its predecessors had been at Old Tati, some 60km to the South East (TA 2/1/3/6). With the extension of the railway from the Cape to Matabeleland in the latter part of 1897, the Company found it expedient to move their administrative centre to the open plain at the base of the Nyangabgwe Hill, some 60 kilometres North-West and the present site of Francistown (TA 2/1/1). While the earliest dates located concerning the movement, which involved negating the existing gold claims pegged by White's Consolidated Syndicate, are from May 1897, it would seem that the formal relocation was 18th October 1897 (TA 2/1/3/6). Thereafter the little settlement grew rapidly and, although administratively fiercely separate, it was always the economic and social child of Beltway.

In early 1899 the clouds of war, already created by the fiasco of the Jameson Raid in 1895/6, began to gather along the Transvaal/Rhodesia Border. In order to organise matters on the Northern Frontier Colonel R.S.S. Baden-Powell, who was later to found the Boy Scout movement, and 19 other Imperial Officers were sent to the area from Britain in July 1899. Their briefing was to begin recruiting men, make the necessary defences, and to create a diversion along the Western borders of the Transvaal, thus drawing off Boer forces from Natal and the Cape (Hickman 1970: p59-60: LO 7/1/1; Pakenham 1979: p399).

Throughout the war the battlefield remained some distance from the Tati Concession and Francistown, but the town was certainly the largest and most strategic settlement in the region. It controlled the Northern sections of the railway, a strategic link between the Cape Colony and the rest of British territory to the north, all of which threatened the Western borders of the Transvaal Republic. The capture or at least neutralisation, of these centres and lines of threat to the weak Western flank of the Boer Republics would have undoubtedly have been of importance to their military leaders (Hickman 1970: p96: LO 7/1/1). In addition to the large amount of stores laid up at the settlement, both consumables and mining explosives were seen as a highly desirable prize. The general feeling of unease amongst Francistown's anglophile population was heightened once they learnt about the early encirclement of Mafeking and Kimberley further down the main railway line. Would they be next? This dread of invasion from the Transvaal, by either an organised Boer force, or later haphazard Commandos, remained a constant fear in the Protectorate, Rhodesian and Tati Concession authorities (see comments throughout the

15 volumes of correspondence B.S.A. Company London Office, LO 7/1/1-15).

Locally the first indication of the coming storm was in early July 1899. Most of the BSAP No.1 (Bechuanaland Division), who were stationed in Francistown under the command of Sub-Inspector B.J. Kinsman, were withdrawn and reassigned to the border with the Transvaal Republic. Kinsman was the local Chief of Police, Special Justice of the Peace for the entire Tati Concession, and the most senior government official in the area. Only one white police sergeant, Sergeant Beamish (Quick - personal comments 3/1/99), and the Francistown gaoler remained as local representatives of Imperial government authority. To fill the vacuum, initially from July to the beginning of September, Francistown was visited regularly by the Assistant Commissioner (North) for the Bechuanaland Protectorate who was nominally resident in Palapye. Monthly court sessions could continue, although word soon got out about the lack of government police and several problems arose. Many so called undesirables began to arrive in the territory when they heard there was no civil control. These were probably white drifters from the gold mines which were then closing on the Rand, white criminals and simply elements of the 'poor white' community who were subject to significant British Colonial class snobbery. There was therefore a very real danger of complete failure of the peace because of potential internal strife.

In response to repeated requests Swinburne was, in August 1899, appointed by telegram from the Resident Commissioner as Justice of the Peace in place of Kinsman. After the 20th September 1899, however, the Assistant Resident Commissioner found he could no longer come from Palapye to Francistown and the civil court had to be suspended. About the middle of September 1899 the local African inhabitants showed signs of unrest and civil disobedience. Swinburne was informed that local Boers, who in turn had been incited by some Dutch strangers, were encouraging trouble and tampering with the Native population. Given the seriousness of both the white and black discord Swinburne decided on a show of legislative force despite his lack of legal authority to do so. He held court illegally and fined heavily the first man brought before him. Later he passed on the judgement to Palapye for ratification.

The authorities were obviously in agreement with both the verdict and the need for real action, for on the 21st September Swinburne was appointed Special Justice of the Peace. This judicial responsibility enabled him to hold a regional court. In addition he was asked by the Imperial, and Rhodesian authorities for lists of the inhabitants of the territory, and was requested to watch closely the movements of any strangers. Swinburne effectively became the government authority in the Concession. A controversial action on the part of the Imperial

authorities when one remembers how they had specifically separated the roles of Company Manager and civil control in the B.S.A. Co. territory after the Jameson Raid.

With his increased authority Swinburne issued a decree that all arms and ammunition in the Concession should be collected and placed under a central controller. These were then given out to trustworthy men; one assumes Anglophiles. The Company stores were completely overhauled and six months of supplies were laid in. The local Chiefs were also requested to have ready any number of Native Scouts to assist in operations if need be.

On the 12th October the Adjutant in Mafeking telegraphed through the declaration of war from the previous day, but soon all communications to the South were cut off. In response on the 15th October a general meeting of all the town's inhabitants were held. A defence committee was elected and it was decided to fortify the town. Swinburne also decreed that if the territory was attacked all Europeans were to come to Francistown and not remain on the many scattered mines and claims - "as we would be stronger in force". Although some residents left soon after for Bulawayo, 50 men put their names down on the defence roll.

It was agreed to keep a train engine under steam day and night, to enable the rapid removal of all women, children and other noncombatants in the event of an attack. A large number of refugees left on a train to Bulawayo on the 19th October when the town was gripped by the first serious wave of anxiety after the declaration of war. A large patrol of Boers numbering about 800 men, accompanied by an unspecified number of armed native sympathizers, was said to have crossed Baines Drift on the Limpopo on the 18th and cut the telegraph lines between the first line of defence at Macloutsie and Francistown (LO 7/1/1). The fear was that Francistown would be the next target. Although certainly the line was cut, it would seem the report may have been exaggerated, and there was no direct attack on the town, or even Macloutsie (Headquarters of the Bechuanaland Border Police - Northern Protectorate), during the entire conflict.

In addition to the general preparedness in the town Swinburne established a system of telephones and other signals, such as fires on selected hilltops, which would allow rapid communication between the town, outlying mines and farms. 50 Native Scouts were then provisioned for a month and assigned duties along the Tati Concession borders. 4 white Scouts were also sent out to patrol the area between Francistown and Macloutsie. Later the Native Scouts were further reinforced by more volunteers through the collaboration (Insistence) of Chief Rawe who like many Bechuanaland tribes, had little love of the Boers, following clashes dating back several decades. There is evidence that some Boer Commandos took

the opportunity presented by the crisis to raid kraals and cattle posts along the Macloutsie and Crocodile Rivers (AM 4/1/1). This could have only heightened sentiments of the indigenous population in the Tati Concession and Protectorate.

The Francistown defences were completed in two weeks. They consisted of six small, sandbag redoubts around town, while a large stone store in the centre was fortified and provisioned. This was to form the main laager or central fort. Most of the town assisted in building these defensive works, while a large group, mainly Tonga from the Zambezi Valley, were also drawn from the mines to complete the forts and trenches. Of these works no remains can be traced today. The relative speed of the construction was chiefly the result of the efforts of the Tati Medical Officer, Dr. Gem, and the Transport Manager, W. Lakie. Featuring that the water supply might be cut off, 7000 gallons were stored in large tanks in the Laager and at the Tati Concession's offices. To strengthen the small white force, a town guard of 30 of Chief Rawe's people were formed and assigned to guard one of the town redoubts nearest the African section. In case the presence in Francistown of a large herd of cattle belonging to the Company might attract raiding parties, all the livestock (regardless of ownership) were sent to a Company cattle post 35 miles North-East of the town and kept there under Native guard.

On 20th October 1899 a system of white and Native Scouts commenced a regular series of patrols and information gathering which continued for the next eight months. This would have given the Francistown inhabitants at least 24 hours notice of any intended Boer attack. A number of fixed outposts, especially along the Southern border, were also established.

After completion of the town's defences Swinburne paraded all the civil volunteers and allotted each man his position in the town's trenches. This group was named the _Francistown Defence Force. Instructions were also given to the Captains of the 6 redoubts to draw off their men from the trenches and take shelter in the main Laager in case of an overwhelming attack.

During these rather trying times Swinburne faced many problems, not least of which was to prevent panic amongst the inhabitants and the abandonment of the town and mines within the Concession. It must be remembered that he remained the General Manager of a commercial unit which required continued mining to generate profits for the Tati Company. There was also a vested interest held by the Imperial authorities, who wished to retain this British presence on the war front. Generally Swinburne appears to have been successful, and the same report which includes these war details outlines concurrent mining developments in the Company territory for that period.

The maintenance of the Rhodesian Railways was one

vital element and the BSAP under Commandant-General John Sanctuary Nicholson in Bulawayo, were anxious that the system go unhindered. Their efforts enabled the continued transport of troops and materials down the line from the North maintaining the war effort on this flank of operations (*Hickman 1970: 183-198*). The war in the Transvaal and Natal, however, limited the railway's success to coal supplies and operations were threatened. Accordingly on 27th October Swinburne instructed that the rail authorities were allowed to cut free of charge any wood fuel, something previously strictly forbidden and subject to much controversy. Also it was agreed they could use at cost any of the Tati Company's already amassed wood chords at the mines. The result was that the railway was able to maintain operations throughout the war, although the area along the line was quickly denuded of trees.

On the 26th October 1899 the B.S.A. Co sent its Native Commissioner for the neighbouring Mangwe area to investigate the loyalty or otherwise of the African inhabitants of Southern Rhodesia and the Tati Concession (*AM 4/1/1*). Native Commissioner Hepburn found strong support of the Imperial cause, although the villagers near the borders were very concerned about enemy attack. In response Hepburn requested police assistance to protect these people from possible incursions (*AM 4/1/1*). Manpower was, however, in short supply. As a result on 28th October the Rhodesian Commandant-General Nicholson, sent down to Francistown a quantity of arms and ammunition, requesting that Swinburne allocate them to certain specified loyal African Chiefs living in the B.S.A. Co territory near the Tati border. This was for their defence only, and Swinburne saw that these materials were properly distributed. Also on that day, through the courtesy of the Rhodesian authorities, Swinburne was enabled to borrow 10 more rifles and another 1000 rounds of ammunition for the defence of Francistown.

On the 4th November, owing to the opinions openly expressed by some of the Boer residents, Swinburne issued instructions to disarm all Dutch inhabitants and travellers in the Concession area. To prevent any possible dispatch riding for the enemy they also appropriated all the Boer horses, which were handed over to the BSAP to care for at the Tati Company's expense. These horses were returned to their rightful owners once British successes had become clear. It pre-empted by several weeks similar efforts by the Rhodesian authorities, but the latter's efforts were much more hard banded, and considerable resistance was encountered. One Boer resident who openly boasted that he was going to cross over and assist the enemy was locked up in the gaol for a few days. Swinburne says in passing "this was as much for his protection as ours". One can imagine that the jingoistic feeling of the time was not tolerant of such

statements, which were probably alcoholic bravado anyway. The Tati Company supported his family while he was in gaol.

About this time a number of Boers and other stragglers were moving into the Tati territory. All were well equipped with wagons, horses and stores. By the sounds of it most were simply refugees -Boers who had settled many years previously in the Protectorate (*LO 7/1/1*). Transvaal Boers not endowed by the nationalist war, those of mixed marriage and allegiance; and others who were simply non-Boer residents of the Transvaal who had feelings towards neither cause. To avoid possible problems in terms of sabotage and friction with the Anglophile residents, all these newcomers were requested to move on out of the Tati Concession. At the same time the Boers in these parties were forbidden to carry arms. All groups were eventually persuaded to leave, entering either the Bechuanaland Protectorate or Rhodesia. Their details however, were closely recorded and reported by telegraph to the police in these neighbouring areas.

On the 10th November, after hearing that the Rhodesian Regiment had suffered a series of setbacks along the Limpopo and a rumoured pullback from Tuli and elsewhere, Swinburne raised a body of 50 local men providing them with mule transport and rations for 6 weeks. On the 13th November this Border Force was offered to the Commandant-General in Bulawayo for active service on the Rhodesia-Transvaal border. They remained ready to move from Francistown for several days, but the rumoured disasters proved overstated, and the active service of the Corps was declined with thanks (*LO 7/1/1*). Shortly afterwards the Boers retired from the Tuli-Limpopo area where a stalemate had set in. Instead they began to concentrate their actions against the railway line, causing all the border towns and railway settlements great anxiety, Francistown included.

About the middle of December 1899 the Tati Concession was invaded by quote 'a well equipped party of mixed nationalities'. From the first instant their movements were closely monitored by the Scouts. I cite Swinburne here to give an idea of the emotional feelings of the era.

"These armed strangers were followed day and night, and eventually turned out to be a gang of freebooters on the look out for anything they could pick up, and willing to fight under the Dutch flag if necessary. All the cattle owners became greatly alarmed for the safety of their stock, and an attack at the bank and stores was only frustrated by the vigilance of the police and volunteers. After considerable trouble this gang was evicted from the Concession without any bloodshed or actual fighting. They left behind them a considerable amount of arms and ammunition, a Transvaal flag, and some obliterating branding irons for altering the brands of horses and cattle. A sworn declaration was made before me by one of the party

that they were enrolled to fight under the Transvaal flag, but that their main objectives were cattle and loot”.

With the retreat of the Boer forces from the Limpopo and the potential threat by way of the Tuli area somewhat reduced, it is probable that the FDF was dissolved. True they did not see action, but their efforts were commendable. At the end of December 1899, Colonel Plumer and most of the Rhodesian Regiment moved from Tuli to successfully prosecute the war South of Gaberones and the eventual relief of Mafeking in May of the following year.

On the 10th January 1900, Swinburne received what he terms “reliable information” (but more probably rumour) that there was an immediate danger of pro-Boer sabotage against the rail line, the purported plans being to uproot the lines and destroy all the bridges and drains. This would have cut off communications with Colonel Plumer’s column, which was already further south, and was aimed at stopping the highly successful system of armoured trains which supplied him from Bulawayo. Suspensions justified or not, fell upon the local Boer residents and other sympathizers in neighbouring Southern Rhodesia where an arms cache had been located in the Mangwe area. In response the Rhodesian authorities requested that the Tati Company should ensure the permanent guarding of that part of the railway line and all bridges in its Territory. It should be remembered that, although in foreign territory, the line and associated infrastructure were all Rhodesian property -owned, maintained and operated by Rhodesia in Bechuanaland and later Botswana, and in fact only relinquished in the 1980s.

In response to this request on 12th January Swinburne organised a railway patrol, and several guard posts were established. In addition the entire length of the line was watched over by Native Scouts, and bridges were guarded day and night. On his own initiative, and without asking for consent from his London Directors, Swinburne also offered through the Tati Concession Limited Company a reward of fifty pounds for the conviction of anyone damaging or tampering with any rail line, telegraph line, or any bridge in the territory. It would seem that no such rewards have been paid out, much to the relief of the Company, no doubt.

Early in February 1900, setbacks further down the line towards Gaberones, and areas to the South along the Transvaal border, heightened tensions yet again. It seemed that all able hands were now required further South both to prevent a possible invasion of the Tati Territory and to assist with that ultimate aim of jingoistic fervour of the period - The Relief of Mafeking. As a result Swinburne left Francistown for active service on the front. Given his knowledge of the area and Colonial thinking, he was required to assist with planning the attack against the Boer lines. At Mafeking he served with distinction, and was

mentioned in despatches by Colonel Baden-Powell:

“Through the courtesy of Colonel Plumer, I obtained a Commission in the Rhodesian Regiment, then engaged in keeping the enemy out of Rhodesian Territory”.

While Swinburne was on service much further to the South he retained constant contact with the Acting General Manager and Tati Company employees, both on the front and back in the Concession. In April 1900 he took leave from the front, visiting Francistown to settle several administrative matters which had arisen in his absence. After the final relief of Mafeking on 17th May 1900 he returned to his post in Francis town.

Therein comes to an end the association of Francistown and the Anglo-Boer War. The settlement was no longer under any threat, real or imagined. It is an interesting cameo of local events, and gives one insight as to how people on the ground, not the higher echelons of the military arena, thought and reacted. It sheds light on the degree of Anglophile fears and determination, and it repudiates the now known fallacy that this was a ‘White Man’s War’. The role and motives behind Chief Rawe’s and his people’s involvement in the conflict have previously gone unrecorded, and this cries out for further research. It also answers the questions of one Francistown historian and resident who had relocated an old photograph in the town, of the Francistown Defence Force. *Who were they and what did they do?* They were another of the many voluntary Corps in what was probably the last major war of voluntary Corps, rather than strictly enlisted national forces. But, they are a Corps forgotten.

I think to end off it is useful to quote in full Swinburne’s official letter summarising the impact of the war which was both a justification to the Imperial authorities for his actions and to his London Directors.

“During the past 8 months many exceptional incidents have occurred in our territory which required to be promptly dealt with, and although every case brought before me was investigated as thoroughly as possible, yet in times like these we have passed through, it appeared to me to be necessary to deal very sharply with persons and cases that threatened the safety of the country, and it was perhaps not always possible to adhere to the strict legal notice laid down for times of peace”. “Practically isolated from any superior court I made it my object to enlist the residents here in their own interests to assist me in preserving peace and order. Our police being represented by one Sergeant, a great deal of real police work has fallen on the Tati Concession employees and the residents were assisted by our Chiefs”.

“After seeing to the safety of our territory my great object has been to keep all our mines and claims working and to keep down the price of the necessities of life. Our work continued as usual through the war, our staff were fully employed, and the town’s and

district inhabitants never suffered for want of provisions. Mr Gregson during my absence at the front was left in charge and was successful and untiring in pursuing the best interests of your Company”.

“I was informed during November that Marshall Law over the whole Protectorate had been proclaimed by the Resident Commissioner, but owing to the investment of Mafeking the proclamation had not reached us. During the war I took no steps to enforce Marshall Law here, except that I issued instructions that no flour was to leave the Concession without permit, and in court all the small civil cases were dealt with as in times of peace”.

“My act of disarming the Dutch was at the time considered rather harsh, but the work that was done here on 4th November by myself and one constable, necessitated the employment of a special volunteer force when the Chartered Company (B.S.A. Co) disarmed the Southern Rhodesian Dutch some weeks later. From the start the foreigners in the Concession have always been treated fairly and have not been unnecessarily harassed. There are several Boer families living here at present who are carrying on with their usual occupations of mining and timber cutting”.

“Defence Costs = total 125 Pounds... U.P. Swinburne”

Acknowledgements

Rob. S. Burrett, G. Quick

Photograph [below] of Francistown Defence Force 1899. is the property of J. Haskins and Sons. (Francistown) and is reproduced by permission.

Cover from Tati sent by U. P. Swinburne to Sir John Swinburne. (Brian Fenemore collection.)

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Francistown Defence Force 1899 [reproduced by permission of J. Haskins & Sons]
Swinburne, Gregson, Lt. Robinson, Maleham (Sr), J Rouncivill (Jr), Rey, Lloyd, J Haskins is near the horses in a dark suit. ‘Rey’ may be a name or a misprint for ‘Rev’, as Lloyd was the chaplain.
[Swinburne is in all probability the person in the front of this group]

SG21 with Hartebeeste Pan cds/ BONC over oval cancel - a scenario

by Martin Boyd

A local stamp dealer in York, where I live, drew my attention to an SG21 £5 lilac, which had both a genuine looking postal cds of 'Hartebeeste Pan' (which I knew was one of the scarcer Bechuanaland postal cancellations), and a BONC cancel over a violet oval fiscal cancel. I said I would take it home, and consult reference sources.



One of these references told me that the number in the barred oval, 340, was the one allocated to Hartebeeste Pan. I wondered if this was a forged cds on a genuine fiscally cancelled £5, so I sent a message to Alan MacGregor. He replied that Hartebeeste Pan was such a remote place, and the post office there had had such a temporary existence, that it was unlikely that any forgers would have ever heard of it. I sent him a scan, to see if there was any more he could tell from this. The date on the cds (DE 7 93) fell within the short timeframe when this post office was known to have been open.

We both knew very little about Hartebeeste Pan, and knew of no reason why stamps should receive a fiscal cancellation before a postal cds/BONC. So I proposed a scenario which might explain these circumstances, which I sent to Alan

"Early in 1893 someone found something (e.g. a diamond) at a remote spot in British Bechuanaland - there were several hartebeeste(s) around when this discovery was made. On taking the item to say Kimberley, word spread about a place where something valuable had been found. As a consequence, there was a rush of prospectors to the area, and a sudden burst of commercial activity - construction of buildings, staking of claims, and deals done to purchase promising areas of land. This would have required legal work, so an office was hurriedly set up along with a post office for all the correspondence/supply orders etc. To notarise such legal documents, an oval stamp (and violet inkpad) was provided. This oval stamp didn't contain any mention of Hartebeeste Pan. So, each time a legal document was produced and stamped with the violet oval, it was taken to the post office (which may have been the same office). The postal authorities were more on the ball, and had already provided their office with its own BONC number, and circular date stamp. This proved that the legal document had been finalised at Hartebeeste Pan, and nowhere else, in case it should be contested in any way, subsequently. After a year or so, when no more finds had occurred, prospectors started drifting back to Griqualand, where the situation was more promising, and the post office at Hartebeeste Pan was closed, for lack of business."

[left] The SG21 with Hartebeeste Pan cds (DE 7 93) and 340 BONC

PHOTOSHOPPED IMAGES
[upper right] fading the cds and BONC makes it easier to see the oval cancel.



[centre right] Lifting a fiscal cancel from another stamp and aligning with what is visible of the oval cancel gives good alignment when the position of the town name "VRYBURG" is 75% down the oval, such as on the "Office of the Registrar of Deeds" cancel.



[lower right] HARTEBESTE PAN B.B. cds lifted from the SG21



Alan pointed out that there may be a weak point in my scenario in that there's no record of anything valuable being discovered in, at or near a Hartebeeste Pan! He thought diamonds were discovered further north in the Protectorate - and much later. And of course further south around Kimberley. He wondered if there was another reason for this location to rise from obscurity for only a year. Maybe a temporary staging post by the BSAC during the early development of Rhodesia?

Once we got as far as we could with these speculations, I contacted the Editor and sent him a more detailed scan. He used Photoshop to fade the BONC and cds, to help reveal the underlying violet fiscal cancellation which was identified as a VRYBURG cancel. He mentioned that Mafeking used BONC over fiscal ovals in the late 1880s, but examples are not known for Vryburg.

Diamonds were first discovered around Kimberley in 1866, and gold on the Witwatersrand in the 1880s, so by the 1890s (when Hartebeeste Pan 'Post Office' came into being, briefly) it would only require a small chance find of something valuable, like a few flashes of gold in a pan, to set off the chain of events I suggested. In neighbouring South West Africa, diamonds were first discovered in April 1908, on the railway line between Aus and Lüderitz, at a place which became Kolmannskuppe. "In less than two years after the discovery by Zacharias Lewala, the booming mining town of Kolmanskop was born, complete with casino, skittle alley, hospital, shop and even a lemonade factory. The Post Office first opened on 21 February 1909." This is exactly the kind of scenario I had in mind to explain the Hartebeeste Pan BONC and cds - except that here nothing much materialised, so it was just a 'flash in the pan.'

I am not sure exactly where Hartebeeste Pan is or was. What I am hoping that there is someone in the Society, who has the answers to some or all of these questions.

[Ed: A 1906 Geological Report I found online mentions "outcrops of the Zoetlief beds on the farms Hartebeest Pan, Kaffir Pan, Klipfontein, and Schildpad Kuil, in Vryburg". No sign of gold or diamonds, just lava beds.]

Checklist of Botswana Postmarks (Second Series)

Late Arrivals Section – Part 5

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 5 – Offices SER-Z


SEROWE	No 37 Type 61 J 27	
	Struck in red	
	Outer oval dimensions	32mm by 59mm
	Earliest recorded date	13-Mar-2003
	Latest recorded date	13-Mar-2003
	Number so far recorded	1


SEROWE POST OFFICE	No 38 Type 23 M 46(5)	
		
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	27-Aug-2008
	Latest recorded date	27-Aug-2008
	Number so far recorded	1


SEROWE POST OFFICE	No 39 Type 23 M 46(6)	
	Outer circle diameter	39mm
	Earliest recorded date	06-Oct-2008
	Latest recorded date	06-Oct-2008
	Number so far recorded	1

SEROWE POST OFFICE	No 40 Type MISC 6 z 62	
	Outer circle diameter	39mm
	Earliest recorded date	16-Dec-2008
	Latest recorded date	16-Dec-2008
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant z 62. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "PRE PAID" (horizontal) above [OFFICE NAME] (2 lines) at base		


SHAKAWE	No 8 Type 1 F 25	
	Circle diameter	44mm
	Earliest recorded date	14-Oct-2004
	Latest recorded date	14-Oct-2004
	Number so far recorded	1

SHAKAWE	No 9 Type 61 M 24(1)	
	Outer oval dimensions	40mm by 60mm
	Earliest recorded date	12-Dec-2008
	Latest recorded date	12-Dec-2008
	Number so far recorded	1


SIR SERETSE KHAMA AIRPORT	No 3 Type 23 J 43	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	08-Mar-2006
	Latest recorded date	08-Mar-2006
	Number so far recorded	1

SOUTHERN SORTING CENTRE	No 14 Type 23 M 35	
	Outer circle diameter	41mm
	Earliest recorded date	10-Apr-2007
	Latest recorded date	15-Aug-2007
	Number so far recorded	3


New sub-variant 35. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "AFTERNOON SHIFT" (horizontal) above "OUTWARD" (horizontal and to the left) above [OFFICE NAME] (3 lines) at base.


SOUTHERN SORTING CENTRE	No 15 Type 23 M 37 One item struck in brown	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	11-Apr-2007
	Latest recorded date	09-Oct-2007
	Number so far recorded	5


New sub-variant 37. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "INWARD MAIL" (horizontal) above [OFFICE NAME] (2 lines) at base.


SOUTHERN SORTING CENTRE	No 16 Type 23 M 40	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	15-Aug-2007
	Latest recorded date	23-Oct-2007
	Number so far recorded	2


New sub-variant 40. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "OUTWARD MAIL" (horizontal) above [OFFICE NAME] (2 lines) at base.


SOUTHERN SORTING CENTRE	No 17 Type 23 M 52	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	20-Jan-2009
	Latest recorded date	20-Jan-2009
	Number so far recorded	1
	New sub-variant 52. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "RETURNED LETTER OFFICE" (curved) above [OFFICE NAME] (2 lines) at base.	


SOUTHERN SORTING CENTRE	No 18 Type 1 X 17	
	Circle diameter	32mm
	Earliest recorded date	10-Sep-2007
	Latest recorded date	24-Sep-2007
	Number so far recorded	4
New sub-variant 17. "BOTSWANAPOST" (outside single circle) at top with "INWARD MAIL" (horizontal - inside circle) and [OFFICE NAME] (outside circle) at base.		


SOUTHERN SORTING CENTRE	No 19 Type MISC 3 x	
	Circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	05-Jan-2008
	Latest recorded date	12-Sep-2008
	Number so far recorded	2
New sub-variant x. [Note misspellings] "BOTSWANAPOST" above "SORTING CENTER [CENTRE] SOUTH" (curved) at top (2 lines) with "GOVERNMENT MALL [MAIL] SECTION" at base.		

SOUTHERN SORTING CENTRE	No 20 Type MISC 11	
	Circle diameters	21mm & 29mm
	Earliest recorded date	15-Aug-2007
	Latest recorded date	15-Aug-2007
	Number so far recorded	1


SOWA	No 10 Type 23 J 43	
	Outer circle diameter	41mm
	Earliest recorded date	02-Feb-2006
	Latest recorded date	28-Aug-2008
	Number so far recorded	2


TAKATOKWANE	No 5 Type 23 M 48	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	04-Mar-2009
	Latest recorded date	07-May-2009
	Number so far recorded	3


TATITOWN	No 21 Type 61 M 26(1)	
	Outer oval dimensions	31mm by 46mm
	Earliest recorded date	20-Aug-2008
	Latest recorded date	20-Aug-2008
	Number so far recorded	1

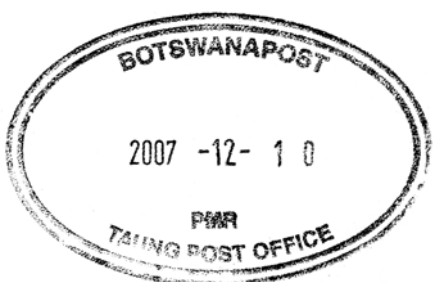
TATITOWN SORTING CENTRE	No 22 Type 23 M 54	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	21-Jan-2010
	Latest recorded date	07-Feb-2010
	Number so far recorded	2


New sub-variant 54. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "AFTERNOON SHIFT" (horizontal) above [OFFICE NAME] (2 lines) at base with star separators.


TATITOWN 	No 23 Type 23 M 46(3) Struck in purple	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	02-May-2009
	Latest recorded date	02-May-2009
	Number so far recorded	1


TAUNG 	No 2 Type 23 M 24(2) Struck in purple	
	Outer circle diameter	41mm
	Earliest recorded date	10-Dec-2007
	Latest recorded date	10-Dec-2007
	Number so far recorded	1

TAUNG 	No 3 Type 23 M 24(4)	
	Outer circle diameter	41mm
	Earliest recorded date	10-Dec-2007
	Latest recorded date	10-Dec-2007
	Number so far recorded	1


TAUNG 	No 4 Type 61 M 47 Struck in red	
	Outer oval dimensions	36mm by 55mm
	Earliest recorded date	10-Dec-2007
	Latest recorded date	10-Dec-2007
	Number so far recorded	1


TONOTA	No 14 Type 23 M 24(1)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	01-Aug-2008
	Latest recorded date	01-Aug-2008
	Number so far recorded	1


UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA	No 9 Type 61 M 24(1)	
	Outer oval dimensions	40mm by 60mm
	Earliest recorded date	09-Apr-2008
	Latest recorded date	09-Apr-2008
	Number so far recorded	1


WOODHALL	No 6 Type 23 M 50	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	15-Oct-2009
	Latest recorded date	15-Oct-2009
	Number so far recorded	1


Late Arrivals Section – Part 6 – Gaborone


GABORONE	No 292 Type 23 M 24(4)	
	Outer circle diameter	39mm
	Earliest recorded date	16-Mar-2009
	Latest recorded date	16-Mar-2009
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE	No 293 Type 23 M 24(5)	
	Outer circle diameter	39mm
	Earliest recorded date	19-May-2008
	Latest recorded date	19-May-2008
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE	No 294 Type 23 M 24(6)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	25-Jun-2008
	Latest recorded date	25-Oct-2008
	Number so far recorded	2

GABORONE	No 295 Type 23 M 24(12) Struck in purple	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	15-Jul-2008
	Latest recorded date	15-Jul-2008
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE	No 296 Type 23 M 31	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	29-May-2008
	Latest recorded date	29-May-2008
	Number so far recorded	1

GABORONE	No 297 Type 23 M 41	
	Outer circle diameter	41mm
	Earliest recorded date	30-Dec-2008
	Latest recorded date	30-Dec-2008
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE	No 298 Type 61 M 31	
	Outer oval dimensions	30mm by 46mm
	Earliest recorded date	05-Jun-2008
	Latest recorded date	27-Nov-2008
	Number so far recorded	5


GABORONE	No 299 Type MISC 3 w	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	25-Sep-2008
	Latest recorded date	25-Sep-2008
	Number so far recorded	1


New sub-variant w. [Note misspelling] "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "GOVERNMENT MALL [MAIL] SECTION" at base, with star separators.


GABORONE	No 300 Type MISC 3 z 1	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	24-Dec-2008
	Latest recorded date	24-Dec-2008
	Number so far recorded	1


New sub-variant z 1. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "PHILATELIC MANAGER" at base with star separators.


GABORONE	No 301 Type MISC 3 z 2 Struck in brown	
	Outer circle diameter	41mm
	Earliest recorded date	??-Nov-2008
	Latest recorded date	18-Nov-2008
	Number so far recorded	2
New sub-variant z 2. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "POSTAGE PAID" above "P.O. BOX 100" above [OFFICE NAME] (3 horizontal lines) at base.		


GABORONE	No 302 Type MISC 6 z 57	
	Outer oval dimensions	35mm by 57mm
	Earliest recorded date	18-Nov-2008
	Latest recorded date	16-Mar-2009
	Number so far recorded	2
New sub-variant z 57. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "BUSINESS MAIL OFFICE" above "P.O. BOX 100" above [OFFICE NAME] (3 horizontal lines) at base.		


GABORONE POST OFFICE	No 303 Type MISC 6 z 59	
	Outer oval dimensions	36mm by 56mm
	Earliest recorded date	29-Sep-????
	Latest recorded date	29-Sep-????
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant z 59. "BOTSWANA UNIFIED REVENUE SERVICE" at top with [OFFICE NAME] at base with star separators		


GABORONE	No 304 Type MISC 6 z 63(2) Struck in brown	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	22-May-2010
	Latest recorded date	22-May-2010
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant z 63. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "MAIN CAGE" followed by a number at base.		

GABORONE	No 305 Type MISC 6 z 64 Struck in red	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	28-Aug-2009
	Latest recorded date	28-Aug-2009
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant z 64. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "EMS AND PARCELS" above "DEPOT" (2 horizontal lines) above [OFFICE NAME] at base with star separators.		

GABORONE	No 306 Type 23 M 19(2)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	21-Aug-2009
	Latest recorded date	21-Aug-2009
	Number so far recorded	1

GABORONE	No 307 Type 23 M 19(3) Struck in brown	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	28-Jun-2010
	Latest recorded date	28-Jun-2010
	Number so far recorded	1

GABORONE	No 308 Type 23 M 19(4)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	14-Aug-2008
	Latest recorded date	14-Aug-2008
	Number so far recorded	1

GABORONE 	No 309 Type MISC 11	
	Struck in red	
	"STOP AIDS. KEEP THE PROMISE"	
	Earliest recorded date	01-Dec-2008
	Latest recorded date	24-Dec-2008
	Number so far recorded	3

Botswana Postmarks Study (Second Series)

Final Thoughts from Bruce Warrender

The first discussion regarding a new postmark study took place in July 1999 during a visit to the late John Inglefield-Watson. He encouraged me to start recording the new postmarks that were coming out of Botswana.

As luck would have it in 2000 BotswanaPost started to completely replace the old postal cancellers in use at that time, some of which had been in use since independence with new cancellers.

The announcement of the postmark study was in RP#52 in July 2000 and the first results were published in RP#60 in June 2004.

We have had excellent results from the study.

- 842 new postmarks
- 179 post offices/postal agencies recorded.

During the study we have also found 20 new post offices/postal agencies being opened in Botswana.

and finally...

Barry Stow wants to know "if anyone has an unwanted copy of the Shelley Catalogue of Decimal Surcharges on Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland for sale"

Ian Johnstone (non-member) writes: "I acquired a collection which included full sheets of Botswana SG 818, the 30t on 1t surcharge of 1996, with misplaced overprint.

Each sheet comprised two panes: 1A and 1B; and 1C and 1D. Can anyone say if this was normal, or was each such sheet normally guillotined into two before issue to postmasters?

The sheets had evidently been stored away for years in bad conditions, so most of the stamps were damaged by moisture, creasing, and staining. I therefore broke up the sheets and threw away the damaged stamps, which were the majority.

On the 1A and 1B panes, there was a drastic shift of the overprint to the top, such that it obliterated the

All in all I think this is a great result and valuable information about Botswana's postal service has been saved and recorded.

To try and keep up to date with new postmarks from Botswana, once a year I will publish an update of the new postmarks being issued by Botswana. PLEASE CONTINUE to send me any new postmarks from Botswana for future recording. I must say a big THANK YOU to everybody that sent in postmarks for the study.

There are two people who need a special mention: David Allison of Cape Town (non-member) who contributed at least 30% of the postmarks and the late John Inglefield-Watson who gave valued help with the classification of the new postmarks, the new typology for those postmarks and the recording worksheets for the study.

designer's name on the stamp above, and touched the name 'Botswana'. On the 1C and 1D panes, there was a drastic shift of the overprint to the right, such that it failed to obliterate the original denomination, and touched the name 'Botswana' on the adjacent stamp.

I preserved a few inter-panneau and other multiples. Is any member interested in these?"

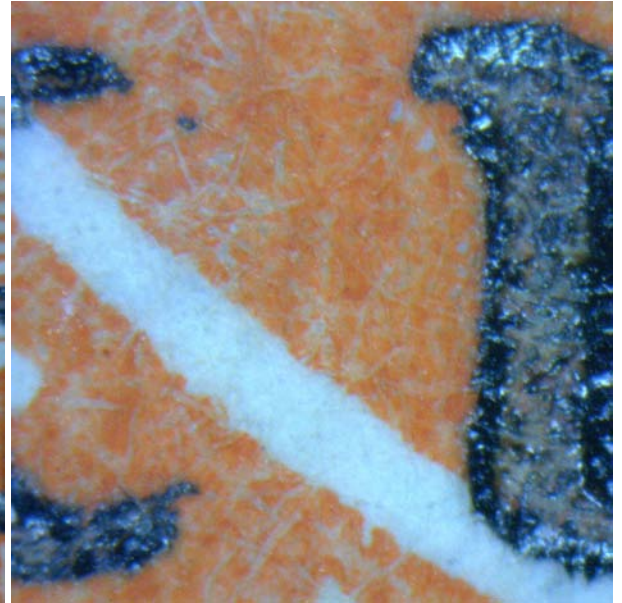
Steve Wallace asked: "Please could you note the following error in the SG catalogue.

SG D4/6b set of 3 is impossible, should be SG D4/6c."

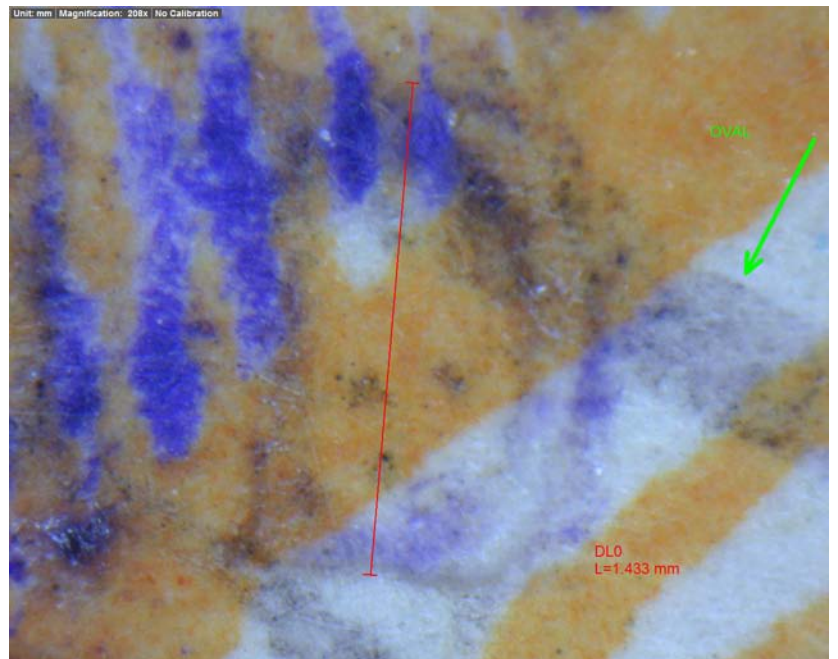
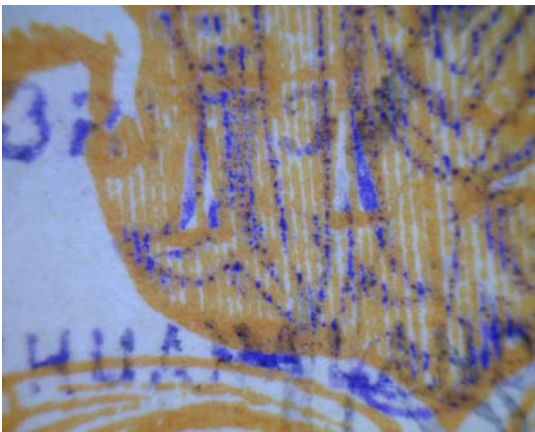
Simon Pectoom announced the six main displays for November's Southern African Societies Convention: Francis Kiddle – *Revenue Stamps of South West Africa*; Brian Trotter – *Booklets: Colonial and Union King's Heads*; Alan Drysdall – *The Railway Pioneer Corps and Imperial Military Railways*; Tony Howgrave-Graham – *South Africa Unhyphenated Pictorials*; Mike Smith – *O.F.S. Postal Stationery*; Paul van Zeyl – *Transvaal 1896-1910*.



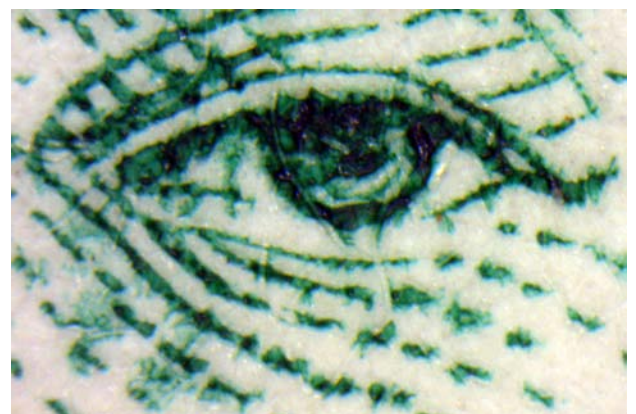
SG53 at 1x, 60x and 220x showing part 'o'.
Missing metal rather than missing ink.
Note how shiny the ink is around the characters. Looks like a thick ink forced to the edge by the pressure.



BB.3n.1 at 1x, 55x[reduced] and 208x showing the 'BRITISH BECHUANALAND' handstamp on a stamp with oval handstamp (a handful of examples may exist).
Note the ink of the 208x 'D' isn't in the middle but at the side of a pressure valley (shiny white paper fibres), and that the oval stamp also misses this valley - showing it came after the handstamp.
(Measurement and annotation can be added - the 'D' is ~1.43mm high)



SG133 at 1x, 210x showing the quality of the Waterlow and Sons Ltd. plates and printing on George VI's (his) left eye



Scans from a digital microscope

BECHUANALAND

1932 KGV 'CATTLE' DEFINITIVES



1932 KGV definitives, complete set of 12, 1/2d to 10/-, in blocks of four, all but three are marginal and several show the full Waterlow & Sons imprint. A few, including the 10/-, with light gum yellowing, otherwise all are superb unmounted mint and of remarkably fresh appearance. A very rare and spectacular set in multiples, the 10/- being one of the few recorded blocks with imprint. (ab1717) SG99-110

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