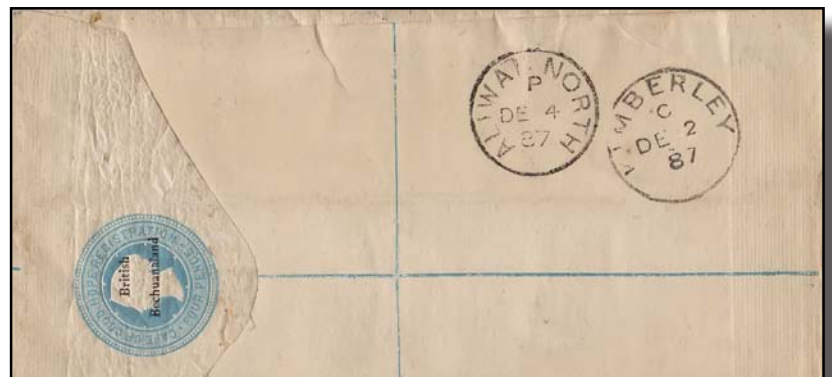


The **Runner Post**

THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY



Issue 82 Contents

LIST OF OFFICERS □ DIARY 2049 • NOVEMBER 2011 AGM 2050 • FEBRUARY 2012 MEETING 2051 • TIME FOR A RUMMAGE 2052 • SHORTS □ EDITOR'S CORNER 2053 • TOWNSHEND'S VIGNETTE POSTCARDS 2054 • NEW SG CATALOGUE 2061 • A PURCHASE EXAMINED 2062 • QEII 1961 DECIMAL SURCHARGE MUSINGS 2064

ISSN No 0953-3354

Winter 2011/12

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

Cover Image: November 30th 1887 registered cover (RE8) from Vryburg to Rouxville, Orange Free State bearing three SG6 with BONC 555 cancels. Covers bearing stamps from the 1885 issue are very rare.

If you have, or know of, a cover bearing SG1-8 please email the Editor with details (and preferably a scan).

LIST OF OFFICERS

Chairman	Don Jeffreys Turret House, Station Road, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 0AB, UK. +44 1494 722098(Office) 722792(Home) gordon@gordonjeffreys.co.uk
Vice Chairman	Dennis Firth 28 Greenside Drive, Wortley, Leeds. LS12 4SF, UK.
Secretary	David Wall 8 Walkwood Rise, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 1TU, UK. +44 1494 681217 davidawall11@gmail.com
Treasurer/ Membership Secretary	Joe Taylor Well Cottage, Olchard, Sandygate, Newton Abbot, TQ12 3GX, UK +44 1626 852415 olchard@hotmail.com
Editor	Neville Midwood 69 Porlock Lane, Furzton, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK4 1JY, UK. rp_editor@nevsoft.com
Auctioneer/ Archivist	Brian Hurst Field House, 54B Pease Hill Road, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3JH, UK. +44 1773 742619 jbhurst@btinternet.com

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES

Botswana	John Schaerer Private Bag BR 354, Broadhurst, Gaborone, BOTSWANA jsi@info.bw
South Africa	Alan MacGregor PO Box 515, Simon's Town, 7995, RSA alan@rhodesia.co.za
America	Peter Thy PO Box 73112, Davis, CA 95617-3112, USA thy@kronestamps.dk

STUDY COORDINATORS

Rarer Stamps	Steve Wallace Flat 11, Highbank, Bolton Road, Pendlebury, Lancs, M27 8UP, UK.
Postmarks	Bruce Warrender 66 Brodie Court, Stenton, Glenrothes, Fife KY7 4UD, UK.
Official Free Marks	Dennis Firth 28 Greenside Drive, Wortley, Leeds. LS12 4SF, UK.

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DIARY OF EVENTS – 2012

19 th -21 st April	Spring Philatex , The Royal Horticultural Hall, London No Society meeting arranged.
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Nov 2011 Annual General Meeting

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 5th NOVEMBER 2011 AT THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL HALL, VICTORIA, LONDON

Present: Don Jeffreys (Chairman), Dennis Firth (Vice-Chairman), David Wall (Secretary), Brian Hurst (Auctioneer/Archivist), Alan Drysdall and Tony Stanford.

Apologies for absence: Chris Cordes, Brian Fenemore, Alan MacGregor, Howard MacNay, Neville Midwood, Karl Seligmann, Gordon Smith, Morris Taber, Joe Taylor, Peter Thy, Peter van der Molen, David Wessely.

Minutes of last meeting (on February 26th 2011):

These were approved and signed by Don Jeffreys.

Matters arising from last meeting:

Brian Hurst said he would speak to Peter van der Molen about a Swaziland article and Eddie Bridges about a Basutoland article.

Other matters arising were to be covered in the agenda.

Membership Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership numbers: The Society now had 113 members; 13 down on last year. The geographical spread of the membership is UK 55; South Africa 21; USA 13; Botswana 10; Europe 9; Canada 4; others 2

Year-end accounts:

Although only the unaudited accounts for year ending 30th June 2011 were circulated at the meeting, Don had belatedly received the audited version and the figures were unchanged from the unaudited version. The final accounts were therefore approved and the Society expressed its gratitude to Andrew Higson for again acting as independent auditor.

Editor's Report

Runner Post in the past year: Three issues (#79 to #81) were published for the 2010/2011 period - with a total of 84 pages, the same as in 2009/2010.

The editor apologised for the delay in despatching the Summer 2011 issue (#81), which went out after the end of the subscription year. *Runner Post* #82 is in production.

Runner Post material (actual or promised) in pipeline:

- another one or two parts of Elizabeth II series from Peter van der Molen
- annual update from the Postmark Study (maybe Official Free markings)
- 4 page article from Brian Fenemore and a few part pagers
- something from the Rarer Study report series (Brian Hurst responded saying he had this in hand).
- long-standing promises for Basutoland/Swaziland articles (see Matters Arising above)

Scanning Runner Post: Peter Thy had raised the position regarding the scanning of the *Runner Post* in

a searchable format and, as part of his Editor's Report, Neville summarised the current position:

RP#1-6 : These were scanned and serialised in *Runner Post* and are electronically available.

RP#7-39 : Not scanned

RP#40-49 : Scanned by Gordon Smith (Canada) but not in searchable format.

RP#50-54: Not scanned

RP#55-81: Electronic - available as searchable PDFs.

Action: DW to clarify position with Neville and with Gordon Smith (who has offered further assistance).

Communications between members: Neville has set up a "groupspaces" facility for exclusive access by BBS members (a bit like facebook).

The less technical of those present (most of us) thought this might be too difficult for most members to master. Instead, couldn't we simply ask all members if they were willing for their e-mails (and postal addresses) to be supplied to other members?

Action: DW to discuss with Neville

Chairman's remarks

Low attendance at meetings: Don expressed concern about low attendances at meetings (only six at this one). Others present reported that most other societies that day had had similar turnouts. Don proposed that we have our next meeting at Stampex (25th Feb 2012). This would cost £30 (+VAT) but Stampex enjoys bigger attendances than Philatex - so this might improve the turnout. This was agreed - and Brian offered to do the main display for the next meeting.

Action: DW to book room for Sat. morning of Stampex.

Action: BH to prepare a display.

Insufficient quality material for the Runner Post:

Don was also concerned about a slight decline in the content of the *Runner Post* because of insufficient quality material. In response to this, various offers emerged:

- Tony has two items that he will endeavour to write up this autumn: two covers ex-Danzig (???) and an early Bechuanaland postcard cancelled Barklay.
- Dennis offered to write up some material from his Basutoland collection.
- Brian also offered to do an article.
- Alan Drysdall said that the RSC Journal recently included an article about a mission in Barotseland which sent its mail through Bechuanaland and into the Transvaal (as unofficial mail). From Transvaal the mail then entered the official postal system. He would see about possibly re-doing this as an article for the *Runner Post*. He also said he was currently doing a memoir about the postal history of Bulawayo - but the problem was finding time.

Committee elections in November 2012: Don reported that Joe Taylor (*Membership Sec/Treasurer*)

would be standing down next November. Brian Hurst suggested that maybe Andrew Higson (currently our *Honorary Auditor*) could be approached as a possible replacement.

Action: BH to ask Andrew Higson about the Membership Sec/Treasurer post.

New *Auctioneer* needed: Don also said that Brian was no longer able to continue as auctioneer. Were there any suggestions? Brian said he would approach Mike Deverell - who is a London-based dealer.

Action: Brian to ask Mike Deverell about the auctioneer's post

Future subscription rates

The current rates (for 2011/12) are £10 for UK and Europe members; and £12 for the Rest of World. Neville had included (in his Editor's Report), the cost of printing and posting three issues of *Runner Post* (per annum) to members depending on where they lived. On this basis he argued that it cost £13 for EU members and £16 for RoW members. But Brian Hurst was concerned that we might start losing overseas members if we put up rates significantly - and in any case the Society has money in the bank. It was therefore proposed by Brian that the subs remain at their current levels for 2012/13 - subject to review, depending on how much UK postal rates rise next April. This was agreed. It was further agreed that if members were willing to receive a PDF version of *Runner Post* instead of a printed version, their annual subs would be reduced to £5.

David Wessely DVD

Along with his apology for missing the meeting, David added that he hoped the DVD would be of benefit to the Society - but apologised in advance for any errors.

Don proposed that complimentary copies be sent to the British Library, the Royal Philatelic Society and the Botswana Postal Museum. This was agreed.

Feb 2012 Spring Meeting

MINUTES OF THE SPRING MEETING HELD ON 25th FEBRUARY 2012 AT THE BUSINESS DESIGN CENTE, ISLINGTON

Present: Don Jeffreys (Chairman), David Wall (Secretary), Brian Hurst (Archivist)

Apologies for absence: Brian Fenemore, Peter van der Molen, Morris Taber, Tony Stanford, Colin Hoffman, Peter Thy, David Spivack, David Wessely, Eddie Bridges, Eric Burnett, Alan MacGregor, Chris Cordes, Barry Stow, Howard MacNay, Neville Midwood, Joe Taylor.

Minutes of last meeting (Nov 2011)

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and

Action: Don to send copy to the RPS; DW to send copies to BL and BPM

It was agreed that any additional copies requested be charged at £5 plus postage.

Action: DW to notify Peter Thy who will hold spare copies for US and Canada. DW will hold spares for UK and Rest of World

Southern African Societies Convention

Don reminded members that this was being held next weekend in Leamington Spa

American Philatelic Society (APS)

Peter Thy had offered to make an application on behalf of the BBS for affiliated society membership of the APS. Did we want to pursue this? Those in the know explained that affiliated membership would mean that the APS would put us on the Register of Specialist Societies and would occasionally feature us in their publication. Also, it was believed that there was no fee payable for such membership. So it was agreed that Peter be asked to prepare such an application - conditional on confirmation that membership was free.

Action: DW to ask Peter Thy to submit an application for affiliated membership subject to confirmation that membership is free.

Next Meeting

Stampex, Saturday 25th February 2012 at 10am.

After the Meeting

Members showed a variety of material including:

Tony Stanford: several covers including two from Ghanzi that were taken by camel or donkey to the railhead at Gobabis in SWA, thence to Windhuk; and a Bechuanaland postcard from Taungs postmarked Barklay.

Dennis Firth: some Basutoland covers including a SA postcard of 1917 postmarked Mount Morosi, May 1927.

Don Jeffreys: British Bechuanaland unappropriated dies, overprinted specimens.

signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from last meeting:

Scanning Runner Post: Neville had sent details of some websites of UK-based companies who might be able to do the job of scanning those *Runner Post* s not yet scanned to PDF.

Action: Brian Hurst (as Archivist) to follow up these websites and find out whether they could do them and at what price.

David Wessely DVDs: Actions: Don Jeffreys to pass his stock of spares to David Wall.

APS Affiliation: Not yet heard whether Peter Thy has taken this forward.

Action: DW to follow this up.

Runner Post: Neville Midwood (Editor) reported that he was getting back into the swing of RP#82 (the winter issue) and that he expected to do RP#83 (spring) and RP#84 (summer) as a double issue.

Communication between members

It was agreed that this was probably best achieved on a case-by-case basis. So if a member had a query or wanted to communicate with another member on a particular topic, that member should contact either David Wall (Secretary) - who would forward the query to the most likely member - or Neville Midwood (Editor) who would include the query in the next *Runner Post*.

Autumn Elections

Don reported that Andrew Higson had said he would not be able to become Treasurer/Membership Secretary.

David reported that Dennis Firth did not wish to stand again for re-election as Vice Chairman.

Brian reported that Mike Deverell had said he would be unable to take on the role of Auctioneer.

Don expressed concern over the situation and agreed to contact all members to ascertain who might be willing to fill these vacancies.

Future meetings

The reason the Spring 2012 meeting was switched

from Philatex to Stampex was in the hope that the greater popularity of Stampex would lead to a higher attendance than we had recently enjoyed at Philatex. In the event, an attendance of just three at this meeting may have established a new all-time low for the Society.

Naturally there was much discussion as to why so few members had made it - and if there was anything we could do about it. Should we have just one meeting (the AGM) each year? If it's to be in London we may as well switch back to Philatex, where the rooms are free - Stampex charges £30. Another option is to arrange a meeting in Leamington as part of the Southern Africa Philatelic Conference held every November.

Actions: Don to update an earlier members' survey questionnaire which would aim to determine how the location and timing of meetings might be revised in order to attract more members.

David to book a room for Philatex for November. If we decide to go with the Leamington option for November then this room would not be taken up.

Having concluded the business side of the meeting, Brian then presented a superb three-frame display of the unappropriated dies including dieproofs, cancelled and specimen stamps and rare multiplies. It was worthy of a far larger audience than just the Chairman and Secretary.

Time for a Rummage Through Your Collection

by Brian Hurst



SG4 with inverted "Cabled Anchor" watermark [150%]

This 1885 Cape halfpenny stamp with black overprint has an inverted 'Cabled Anchor' watermark as can be seen from the illustrations.

The un-overprinted stamp is listed as Cape of Good Hope SG48w. Currently that catalogues at £475 which suggests how few examples exist.

It's not catalogued for British Bechuanaland, this is the only example seen to date, which probably means only one sheet exists.

A sheet was 240 stamps divided into four panes of 60 stamps each. The inverted watermark would appear on all four panes.

Overprint forme was 120 set to cover two horizontal panes. It was applied to each sheet twice since the records show that the sheets of 240 remained intact and were only divided upon distribution.

So now's the time for members to get checking. Please report to me (or the Editor) if you find another..

Shorts

SG818

A non-member, Ian Johnstone wrote:

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 you tell me 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 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. Can you suggest the best way to dispose of these or their value?

SG162a **flaw**

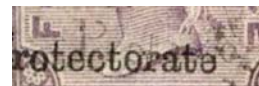
Jake Jacobson asks:

QEII 6d definitive (overprinted 5c Type II). A normal SG148 is on the right below (un-overprinted). The stamp on the left, SG162a, shows what appears to be either smudged ink or else perhaps evidence for a double print? The item in question is also in a deeper shade. Note as well the "mole" over the Queen's right eyebrow. Is this a constant flaw?

[right] The basic SG148.

[left] SG162a with flaws

[above] enlargement of the 'mole',



SG51a, normal and enlarged

BECHUANALAND 1888

SG number: 51(a)

Condition: USED

Issue Year: 1888

1888 (10 Dec) 4d on 4d lilac and black, type 6 surcharge in red, with type 12 'Protectorate' opt in black, ERROR 'Protectorate' DOUBLE, lightly used.

Of the two impressions, one is fully inked (and misplaced to left), the other very under inked (with the capital 'P' to left of Queen's throat) but clearly impressed and readily visible under magnification.

A true double, where the printer has deliberately applied a second impression, to correct problems with the first.

Very rare, being the only example known to us, although this very stamp was originally submitted to the RPS over 100 years ago!

To be listed in Part I 2013. BPA cert (2009).

Shelley Catalogue

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

[If so email the Editor and I'll put you in touch.]

Editor's Corner

If all had gone to plan this issue would have been with you around January. For the last 10 years I've started on a new issue by first scanning and laying out Bruce's Postmarks Study. However that's now complete and no articles arrived to spur me on to start producing this issue. Then other interests took up all my free time for a while. Eventually with a lot of too-and-froing of e-mails I was able to become interested in the mysteries of early 1900 postcards based on some scans Brian Fenemore had e-mailed me and hence get back into the Editor's saddle.

I've recently purchased a number of documents which included within them the Annual Report of the British Bechuanaland Postmaster General for 1887 (and for years 1888-1894) which I will serialise. The British kept detailed records of everything; the number of letters per post office, the number and types of revenue documents issued - even the number of letters to the UK (4819 in 1887).

Townshend's Vignette Postcards

by Brian Fenemore

I recently exhibited my cards of "Vryburg, Mafeking and the Bechuanalands" at the Royal Cape Towns Centenary Exhibition, where I was awarded a "Vermeil".

I thought that now was a good time to revisit the rare Townshend vignette postcards which were exhibited in the *Runner Post* some 24 years ago (*Runner Post* #12 p.210-213 Sep. 1988)

Back then there were 11 cards known. I can confirm that there are currently 17 cards known. The 14 cards in my collection are illustrated here.

[Editor] I contacted two owners of further cards that

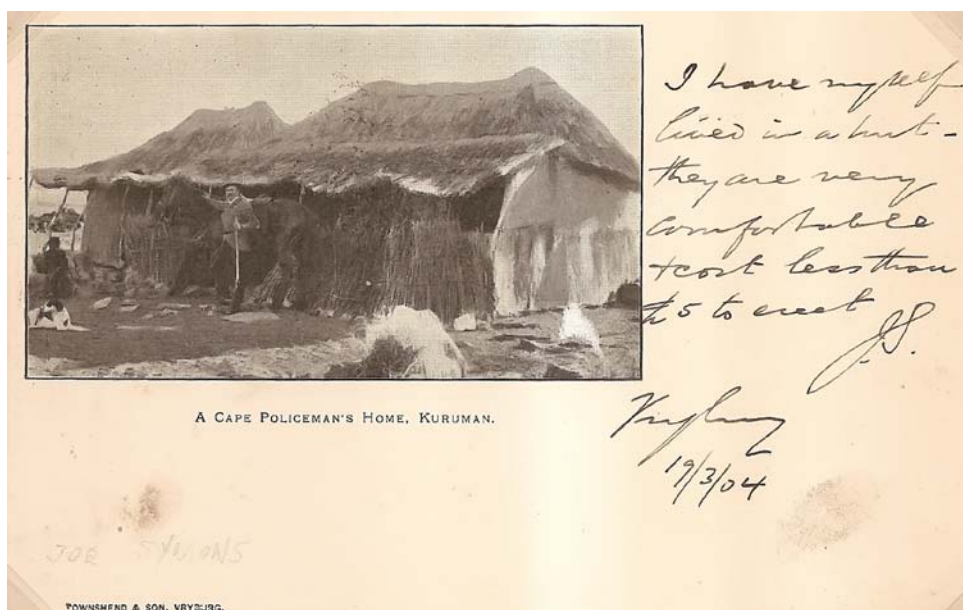
The cards are about 14 x 9cm, but were not cut very square. To illustrate them for this article, as they arrived from a number of sources, they have all been squared, deskewed, trimmed and reduced to about 90%.

Brian knew - Howard Cook and Bram Leeftang. They kindly provided scans included in this article. Howard Cook, also provided his latest list of cards.

This I sorted alphabetically and numbered for ease of referral. The card owners also provided some usage dates from which I compiled early/late usage dates (canceller date else inscribed date). This is all **tabulated below**.

Card #4 - "After Heavy Rains : Vryburg, 1903." is the only one not illustrated here (It was illustrated in *Runner Post* #12 p.211).

Card No.	Name of Card	Earliest Date	Late/Latest Dates
1	A CAPE POLICEMAN'S HOME, KURUMAN.	17-Mar-1904	
2	A GLIMPSE OF VRYBURG, FROM THE SOUTH.	30-Apr-1905	22-Jun-1927 (SA stamp)
3	A NATIVE WEDDING : VRYBURG LOCATION.	10-Sep-1903	
4	AFTER HEAVY RAINS : VRYBURG, 1903.		
5	CROSSING A "DRIFT" : SOUTH AFRICA.	04-Dec-1912	
6	CROSSING THE VAAL RIVER.	19-Dec-????	
7	GROOT CHWAING SALT PAN : NEAR VRYBURG.	-used-	
8	MARKET STREET VRYBURG, 1895.		
9	MEMENTO OF WAR : BURGHER CAMP, VRYBURG.		
10	NATIVE HUTS : A BECHUANALAND SNAPSHOT.	25-Apr-1905	
11	SOLDIERS' GRAVES, VRYBURG CEMETERY.		
12	THE GARDEN WALK, KURUMAN.	19-Mar-1904	16-Dec-1906
13	THE HOSPITAL, VRYBURG.	24-Oct-1904	01-Apr-1914, 19-Mar-1917
14	THE TREES IN MARKET STREET, VRYBURG, 1900.	31-Mar-1905	
15	VIEW OF THE CROCODILE RIVER, SOUTH AFRICA.	06-Jan-1906	
16	VRYBURG TOWN GUARD : 1900.	28-Oct-1903	
17	VRYBURG : THE WILLOWS.	19-Mar-1904	

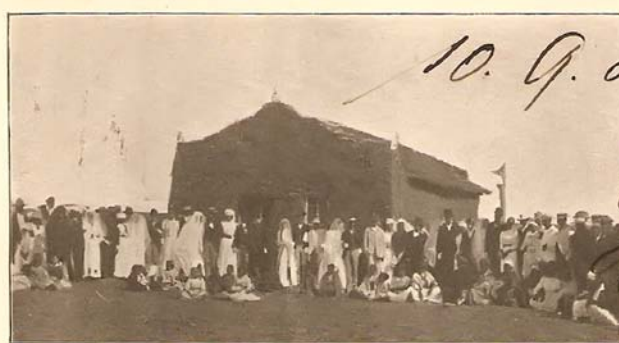
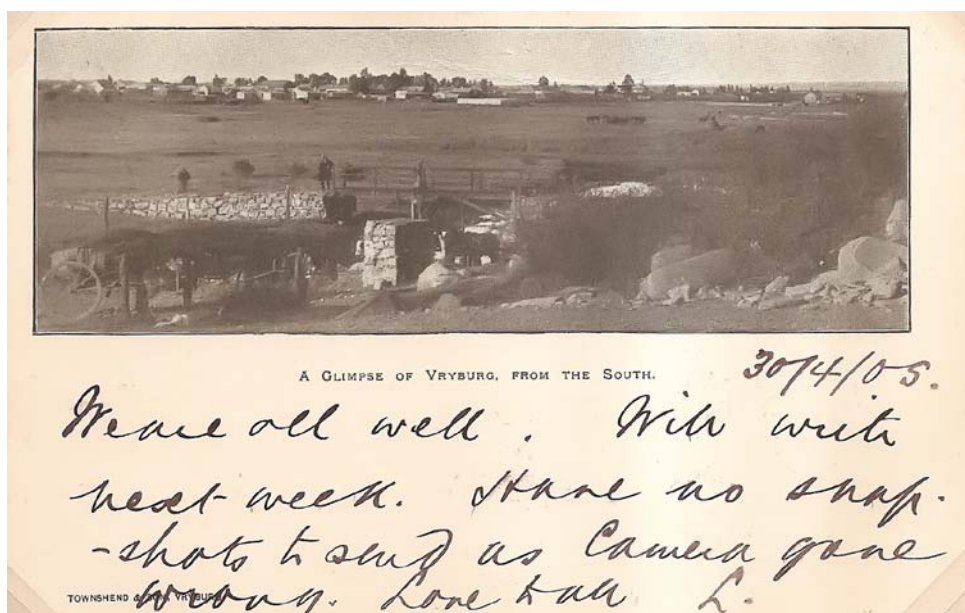


Card 1
A Cape Policeman's
Home, Kuruman.

This one is inscribed
Vryburg 19/3/04

Card 2
A Glimpse of Vryburg,
from the South.

This one is inscribed
30/4/05



Card 3
A Native Wedding :
Vryburg Location.

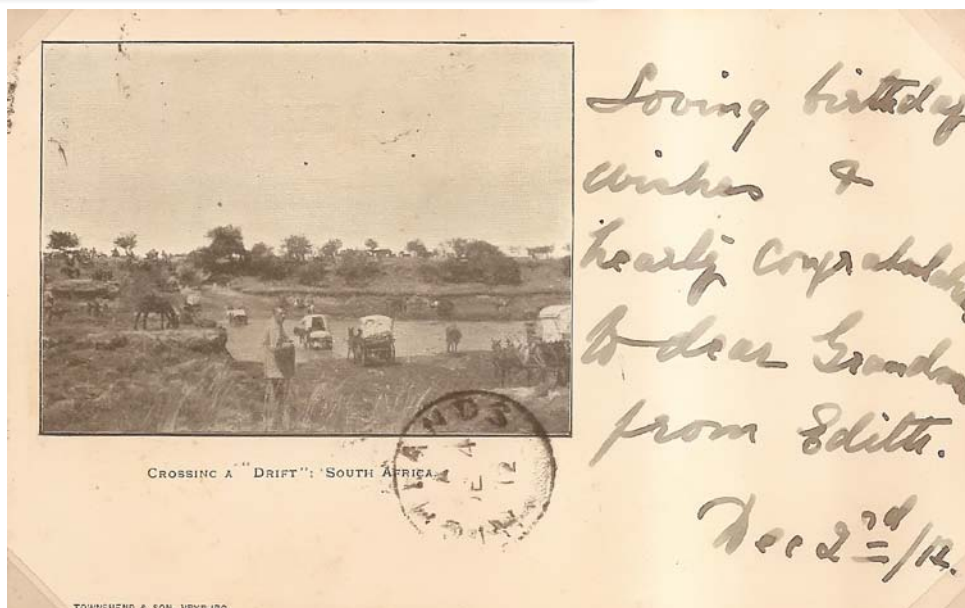
This one is inscribed
10.9.03 Vryburg

Card 4 [not illustrated]
After Heavy Rains :
Vryburg, 1903.

See Runner Post#12 p.211

Card 5
Crossing a "Drift" :
South Africa.

This one is inscribed
Dec 2nd/12.
Cancel appears to be
HIGHLANDS DE 4 12





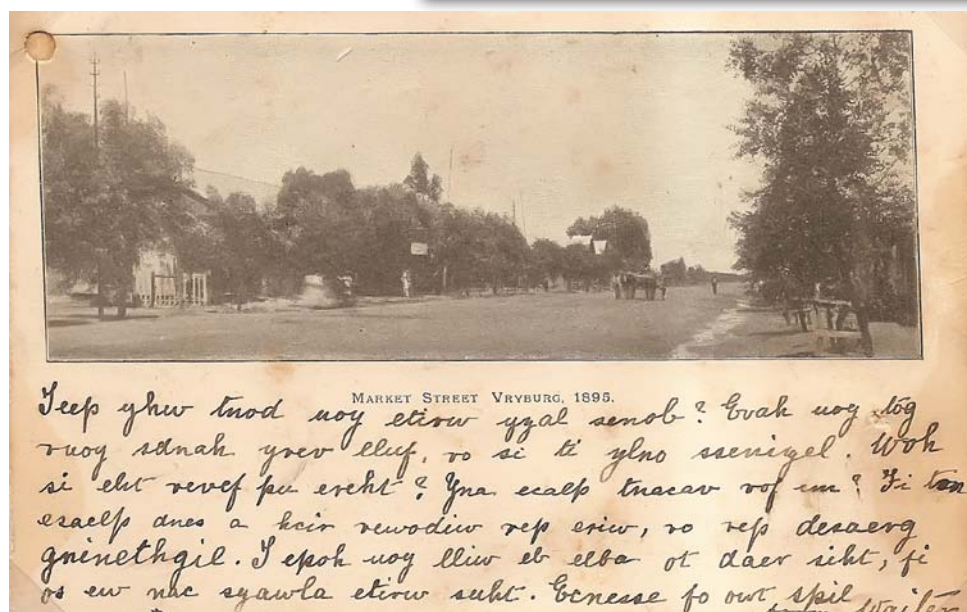
Card 6
Crossing the Vaal River.
from the South.

This one is inscribed
Vryburg, Dec 19
No visible year.



Card 7
Groot Chwaing Salt Pan :
Near Vryburg.

Used, but no visible date



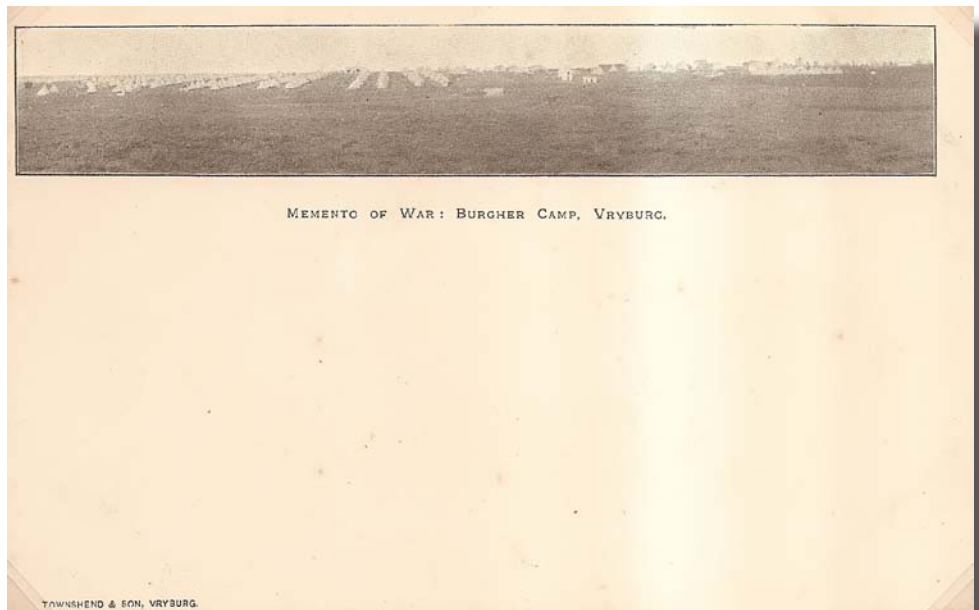
Card 8
Market Street Vryburg, 1895.

Doesn't bear the
"Townshend & Son, Vryburg"

Used, but no visible date

Card 9
Memento of War :
Burgher Camp, Vryburg.

This one is unused

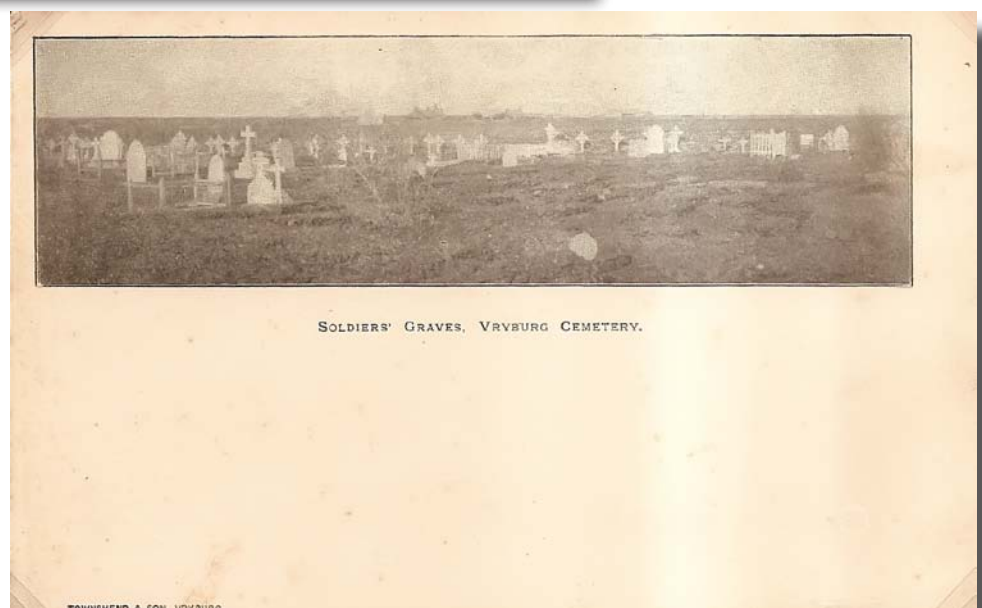


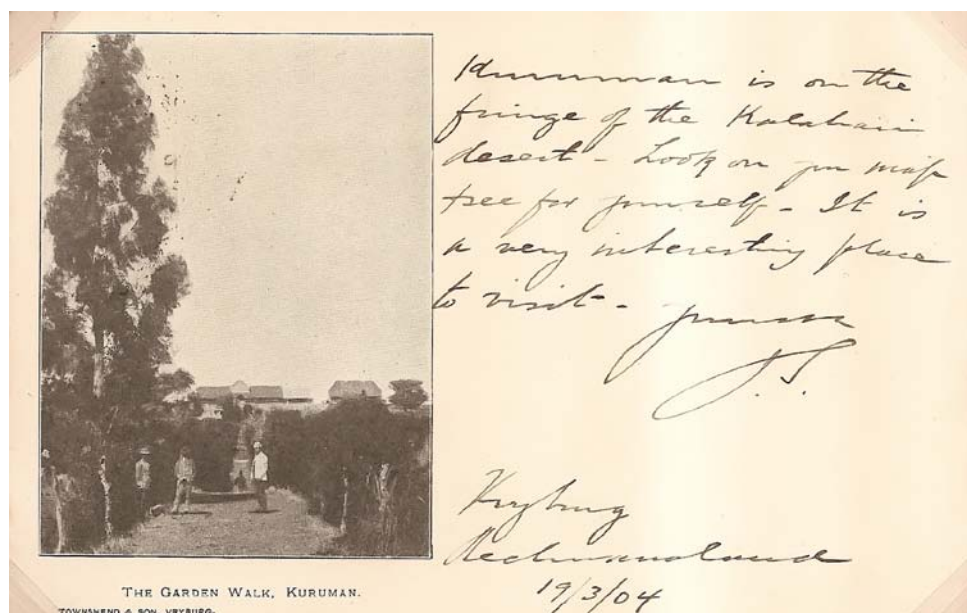
Card 10
Native Huts : A
Bechuanaland Snapshot.

This one is unused.

Card 11
Soldiers' Graves, Vryburg
Cemetery.

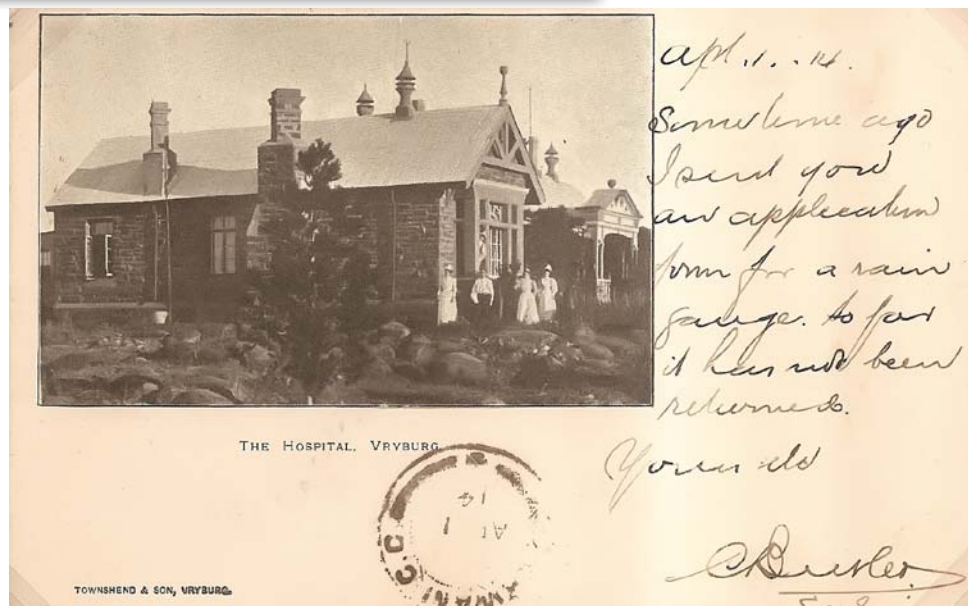
This one is unused





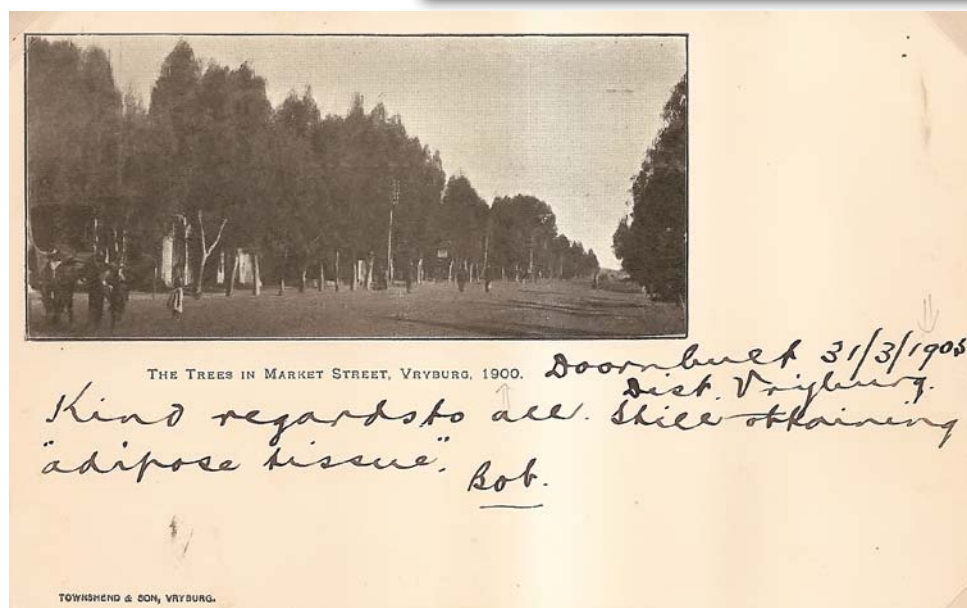
Card 12
The Garden Walk,
Kuruman.

This one is inscribed
Vryburg, 19/3/04



Card 13
The Hospital, Vryburg.

This one is inscribed
Apr 1 14
Postmark unclear except
..WANI C.G. AP 1 14.

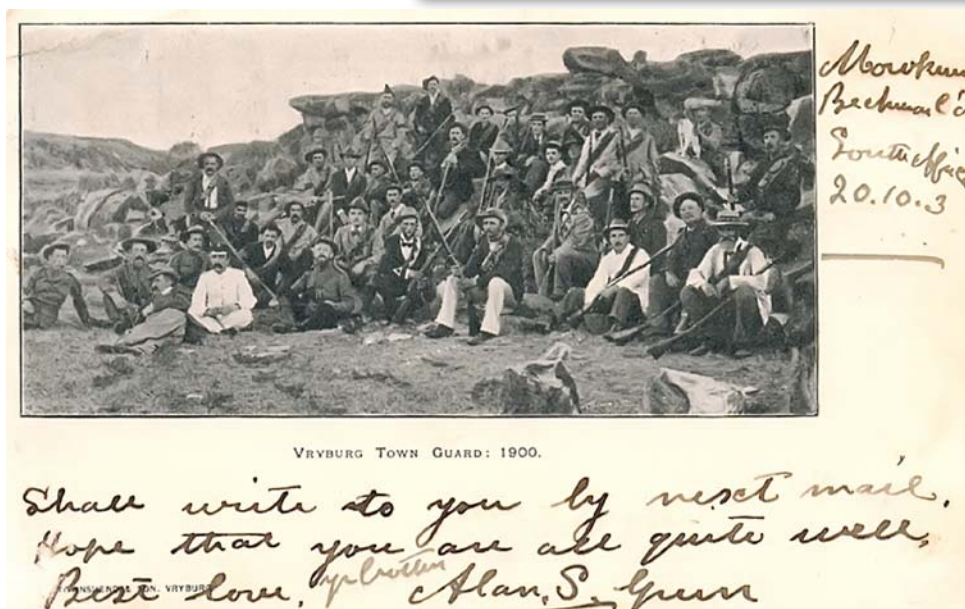
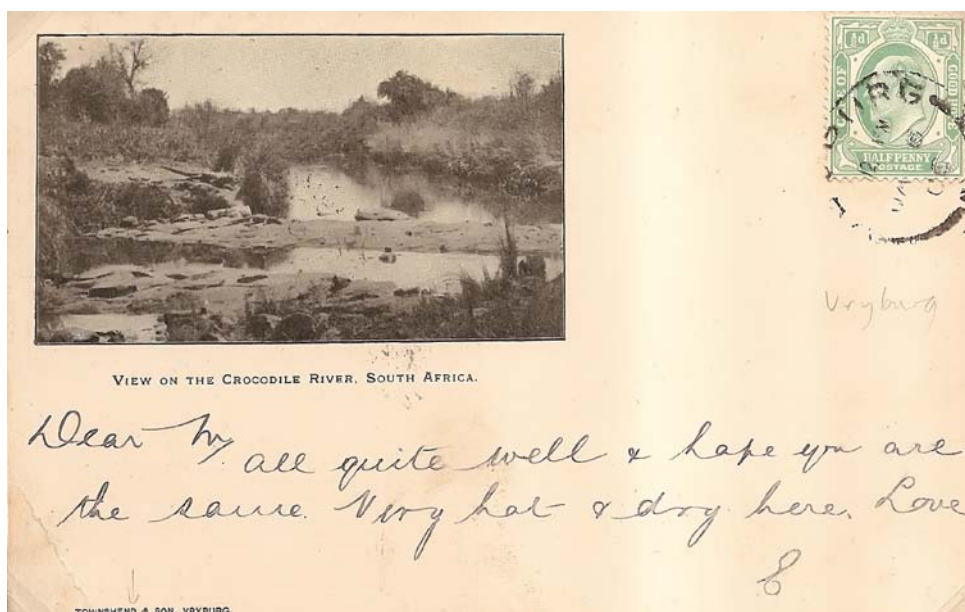


Card 14
The Trees in Market
Street, Vryburg, 1900.

This one is inscribed
31/3/1905

Card 15
View of the Crocodile
River, South Africa.

Franked ½d on the
picture side - cancelled
VRYBURG, MA 6 06

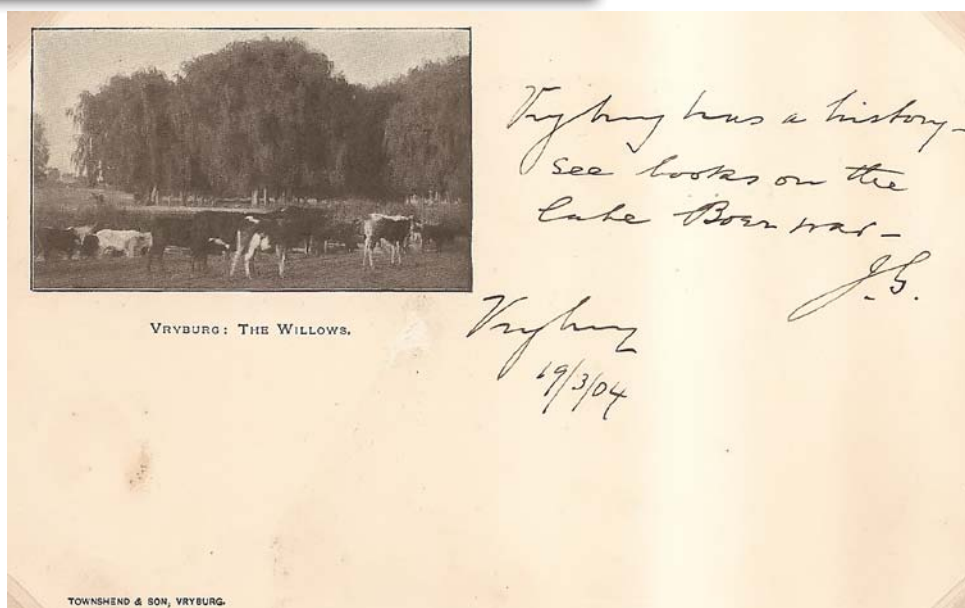


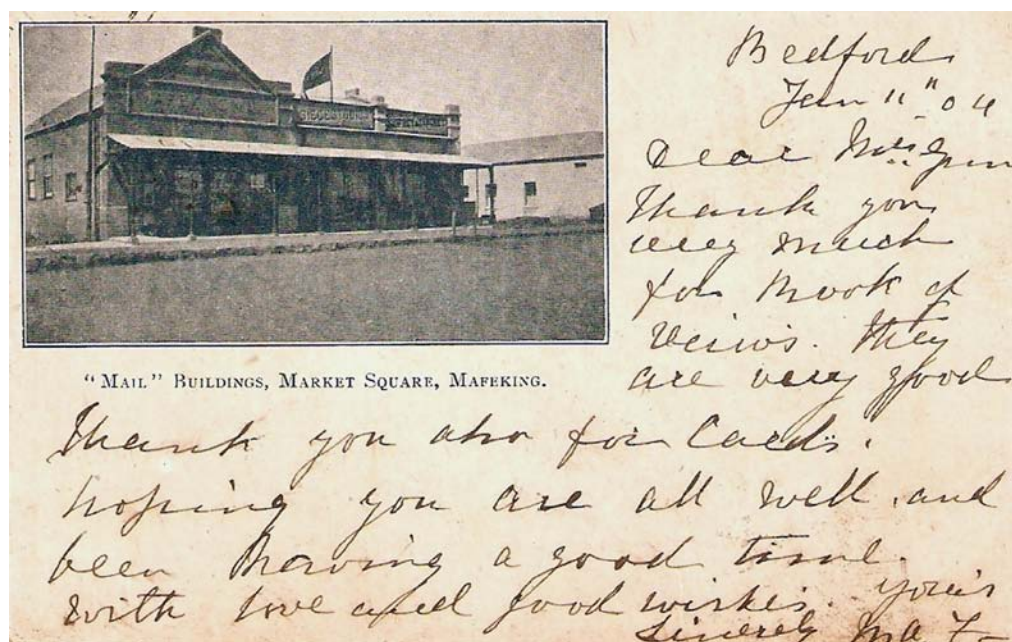
Card 16
Vryburg Town Guard : 1900.

Franked with 2d,
postmarked Vryburg
28.10.1903 addressed to
Melbourne, Australia.

Card 17
Vryburg : The Willows.

This one is inscribed
Vryburg, 19/3/04





Due to the different font used this card

"Mail" Buildings, Market Square, Mafeking.

is currently thought not to be a Townshend postcard.

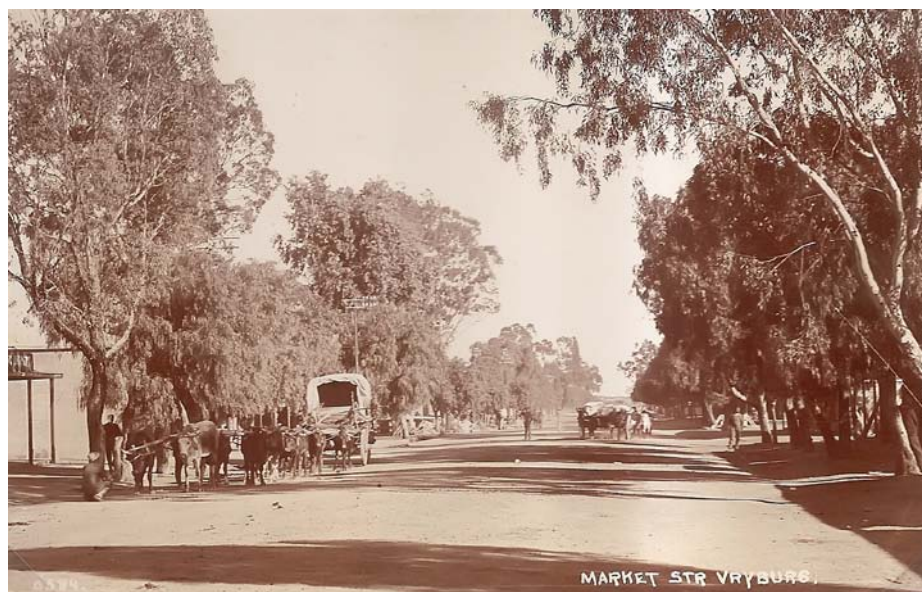
It was used in the same 1903-4 period as many of the Townshend's.

This one was written Jan 11th 1904

The two photographic image postcards [right] are from a large series by SAPSCO (South African Photo & Stereo Company).

These two are believed to be "O584 MARKET STR VRYBURG" "X947 THE HOSPITAL VRYBURG"

For info: A list of many of the SAPSCO cards was found online at <http://www.postcard.co.uk/research/lists/sa10.htm>

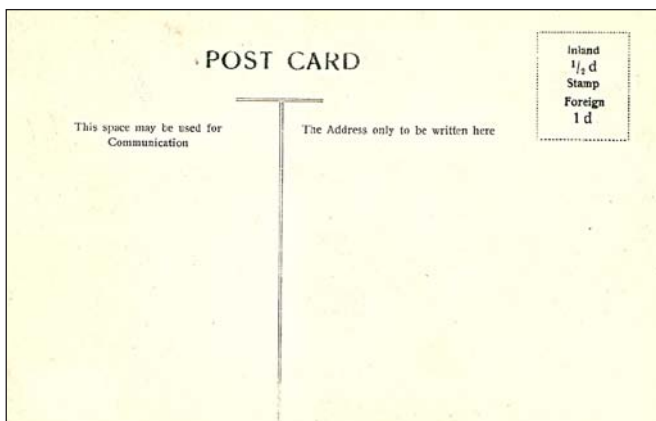


Card #8 - "Market Street Vryburg, 1895." doesn't have "TOWNSHEND & SON, VRYBURG" printed on the card. It may have been the first card produced. It is the card name with the earliest year (1895) present.

It is believed that cards #1, #12 and #17 illustrated here bear the signature of Joe Symons; charismatic Postmaster at Macloutsie in 1892, and later Postmaster at Vryburg.



Examples showing the change in postcard backs



New Stanley Gibbons Catalogue

The 1st Edition of the "Southern & Central Africa" Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue is now out - price £29.95.

It's full colour, 400 pages a nice to handle 24x17cm. [image right is 40%]. It includes Botswana to October 2010 (the 6p.10 of Energy Sources is SG1150), Lesotho to April 2010 and Swaziland to October 2008. Prices for pre-1970 issues are from the 2012 Commonwealth and Empire Stamps 1840-1970 Catalogue.

It falls into SG's "Comprehensive" range which means it has plenty of information for the general collector. There is some information on e.g. sheet positions for SG41a small figure "1" - but you're going to have to keep reading *Runner Post* for your "Specialised" details.

If you've not bought a catalogue for a while this is worth considering for the recent information, full colour and nice size.

The 1988 article referred to a change to the backs of postcards. The backs of post-1902 postcards of the region having a dividing line (one side for writing, one side for address) and a ½d rate [**lower left image**]. Townshend cards checked so far are without a dividing line and with "Only the Address to be Written on this Side" [**upper left image**].

Does any member have further examples of Townshend cards or vignette postcards? Maybe you have a card using a similar font to the "Mail Buildings" card which also has a printers name on it?

Are members in possession of postcards from other Bechuanaland postcard series? Do these cards have divided backs?

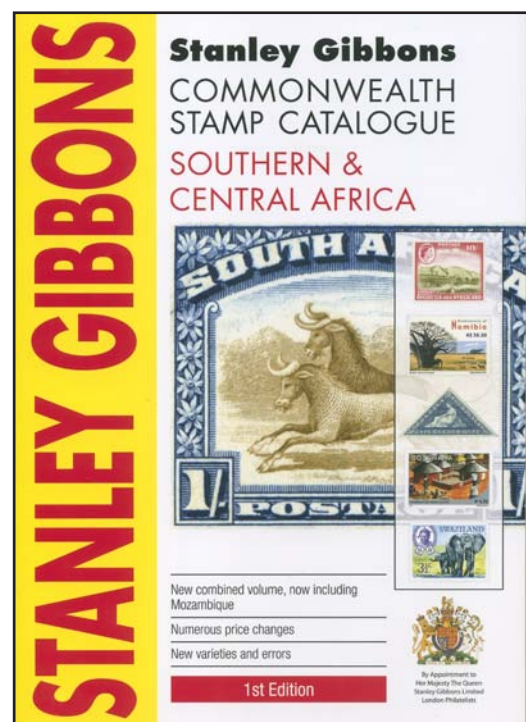
Searching online, I found a reference (<http://www.south-african-postcards.info>) to a series of postcards from H.E. Sargent, Vryburg.

- Vryburg from Dam
- Post Office, Vryburg
- Town Hall, Vryburg
- General View of Vryburg
- Police Camp, Vryburg
- Vry Street, Vryburg

Howard Cook has promised images of these for the next *Runner Post*.

There will be follow-up articles in future *Runner Posts* so it would be helpful if other owners of used examples of cards could let me [the Editor] know dates of use and destination. Send a scan if you can.

Images of all the postcards in this article are courtesy Brian Fenemore except "A Native Wedding" and "Mail Buildings" (courtesy Howard Cook) and Vryburg Town Guard (courtesy Bram Leeftang).



A purchase from the David Wessely sale examined

by Brian Hurst

I've always been interested in the stamps of the Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland and particularly enjoy trying to collect them as multiples.

Multiples of the 1885-87 issues (SG1-8) are especially difficult to find, so I viewed lot 524 of the Wessely sale with some degree of excitement. What I happened to realise was that this block of 28 of the halfpenny grey-

black value with black overprint is, to the best of my knowledge, probably the largest block remaining in private hands. It is exceeded in size only by a block of 30, ex Holmes, that is hidden away in the archive of BotswanaPost in Gaborone.

The bid placed proved successful, and the lot duly arrived. The block is illustrated at **figure 1**.



Figure 1. SG4, block of 28. Lot 524 of the Wessely sale.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND First Definitive Issue - 1885

The 1885 issue was printed in sheets of 120 stamps (two panes of 60 each). Few multiples remain. The 1/2 pence block of 28 comes from the lower half of a right hand pane

Figure 2. Illustration of page header on which the block was mounted

The heading of the page on which the block was mounted, illustrated at **figure 2**, contained a couple of statements with which I was not entirely comfortable namely: "The 1885 issue was printed in sheets of 120 stamps" and "The ½ pence block of 28 comes from the lower half of a right hand pane". I decided to investigate these further and a bit of delving came up with some results.

“The 1885 issue was printed in sheets of 120 stamps”

To check this, I turned to a set of photos of the pages from the Stamp Accounts for the Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland, held in the Cape Archive in Cape Town. Sure enough at page 8, illustrated at **figure 3**, I found the information I was looking for.

[illegible]

Figure 3. Page 8 of the British Bechuanaland Stamp Accounts book.

Here it is clearly stated that the stamps were "In sheets of 240 ea." That is to say, they were overprinted and supplied in the original sheets of 240 (four panes of 60 stamps each), which is the format in which the original stamps were printed by De La Rue and supplied by the Postmaster General in Cape Town. 50 sheets of 240 stamps each of the ½d. value are shown as being received in Vryburg on the 25th November 1886. There was a further supply of 50 sheets received on the 19th July 1887. It has not been possible to decide from which of the two supplies the block originates.

“The $\frac{1}{2}$ pence block comes from the lower half of a right hand pane”

Clearly the block, with its horizontal rows of six stamps, covers the full width of a pane; the format of

the pane being 6 x 10. However, with the absence of any margins, I just couldn't see how the position of the block within the pane could be proved.

I happened to bump into Dave at the International Stamp Exhibition in the Design Centre and asked him about this. He told me that he was simply passing on the information that had been provided when he purchased the block himself. In fact it was repeating the description given in the "Holmes" sale catalogue for lot 1016, which is almost certainly the origin of the block.

It was at this point that a total piece of good fortune intervened to solve the mystery. Some years ago I was shown an example of the Cape halfpenny grey-black from De La Rue plate 1 that showed a plate flaw. The flaw was a virtual joining of the letters "G" and "E" of "POSTAGE" in the lower value tablet of the stamp. I



Figure 4. Plate flaw. "G" and "E" virtually joined.

was asked if it was possible to plate this and by examining some complete panes of the stamp as used to produce SG30, eventually found that it plated to the second stamp of row 5 of the lower right hand pane. Sure enough, the flaw was found at the second stamp of

the bottom row of the block as illustrated at **figure 4**. It now became clear that the block was actually rows 1 to 5 of a lower right hand pane, not rows 6 to 10 as had previously been stated.

I'm not sure what this all proves, except to say "don't always take things at face value". And a little bit of research can be a great deal of fun. It's where I believe stamp collecting turns into philately.

References

The H R Holmes Collection of The Bechuanaland -
Harmers 29th Oct 1981

Lot 1015

Lot 1016

The David Wessely Sale - Argyll Etkin 20th May 2010

Lot 524

The National Archives, Cape Town. Archives of the Bechuanaland Crown Colony Government: Volume 244, Register Stamp Accounts 1885-1889, page 8.

QEII 1961 decimal surcharge musings

Further to Peter van der Molens article in *Runner Post* #80, Bruce Warrender and Barry Stow exchanged information on a raised "3" on SG161d.

Barry: Further to the article on varieties of the QEII 1961 decimal surcharges, members might be interested in this variety of SG161d; the left hand stamp of the pair with a clearly raised '3' [top, near right]. I have quite a few examples of this stamp in singles and multiples but this variety occurs only on this one stamp. Any information gratefully received!

Bruce: that variety occurs on all ten(10) stamps in vertical column 1 of the sheet of sixty stamps [top, far right (only 2 of the 3 rows shown)]. The variety is listed in the Shelly catalogue as V 19.

Barry: I also have a nice example of the wide spaced 'c' on SG160. {below}



The SERETSE KHAMA ERA



The history of the Republic of Botswana and
its first president as seen through the nation's
postage stamps 1966 to 1980

Our member in Botswana, Peter Lodoen, has prepared a display for Botswana Post on the Seretse Khama era in philately of Botswana. It is a total of 75 pages that has been scanned and saved as a high resolution PDF file. Although the display is meant for the general public, it contains information and particularly previously unseen artwork and essays from the postal archives of Botswana. It is available on a CD for the mailing expenses or direct from either Peter Thy, P.O. Box 73112, Davis CA 95616, USA, or Peter Lodoen, P.O. Box 1088, Molepolole, Botswana.

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 £1700

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Member: PTS, SAPDA, APS

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

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

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