# Runner Post

THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY











# **Issue 86 Contents**

LIST OF OFFICERS - DIARY 2137 · JSAS CONFERENCE - RP SCHEDULE - NEW ZEALAND AIR LETTERS 2138 · A RING FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE 2139 · BECHUANALAND POSTCARDS PART 5 2142 · OFFICIAL FREE MARKINGS SUPPLEMENT 4 2144 · STELLALAND PROMISSORY NOTES 2146 · JOINT AUGTION 2148

**Summer 2013** 

# CROCKER & WIGMORE PROFESSIONAL PHILATELISTS

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Tel: (Int: +27 23) (RSA: 023) 6141424 or e-mail: dcrocker@lando.co.za

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List of Officers		
Chairman	Don Jeffreys Turret House, Station Road, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 OAB, UK. +44 1494 722098(Office) 722792(Home) gordon@gordonjeffreys.co.uk	
Vice Chairman	<b>Tony Stanford</b> TonyStanford@btopenworld.com.	
Secretary	David Wall  8 Walkwood Rise, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 1TU, UK.  +44 1494 681217 davidawall1@gmail.com	
Treasurer/ Membership Secretary	Martin Taylor De Montfort Stamp Co., PO Box 6, Thurnby, Leicester, LE7 9ZU mt@demontfortstamps.co.uk	
Editor	<b>Neville Midwood</b> 69 Porlock Lane, Furzton, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK4 1JY, UK. rp_editor@nevsoft.com	
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	<b>Steve Wallace</b> Flat 11, Highbank, Bolton Road, Pendlebury, Lancs, M27 8UP, UK.	
Postmarks	<b>Bruce Warrender</b> 66 Brodie Court, Stenton, Glenrothes, Fife KY7 4UD, UK.	
Official Free Marks	Dennis Firth 28 Greenside Drive, Wortley, Leeds. LS12 4SF, UK. ©2013 The Bechuanalands and Botswana Society	

Diary of Events – 2013		
21st September	Stampex, London Design Centre, Islington, London 12.30 to 2.30pm	
8 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Joint Southern Africa Societies Conference	
	Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa	

#### Joint Southern Africa Societies Conference 2013

from Simon Peetoom

It is time that I gently nudged all of you to consider what you would like to display at the Joint Southern Africa Societies Conference, 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at the Falstaff Hotel in Leamington Spa. As in previous years, there are six slots available on the Saturday, then Sunday is reserved for "Bring & Show." You will all be pleased to learn that the South Africa Collectors' Society will not be holding an AGM on the Saturday, so as there is a little more time available in the late afternoon it may be possible to accommodate a later start or a longer lunch break.

**Runner Post Schedule** 

from The Editor

Just a quick note to say I'm now running on a "material to hand" schedule. Runner Post has to be a multiple of 4 pages to fit the new folded A3 format. The target starts as 32 pages and drops 28, 24, 20, 16 until I've roughly enough material to get an issue out. 16 pages is really the minimum to make an issue worth printing and posting. This issue dropped to 20 pages.

**New Zealand Air Letters** 

by Brian Fenemore

I am delighted to have acquired these World War II Air - Letters (Fronts only... pity!) were written by Bechuana Native Drivers serving in North Africa and the Middle East, to their Paramount Chief Tshekedi Khama, father of Sir Seretse Khama, and Grandfather of Ian Khama, President of Botswana.

The interesting thing here is that these chaps were seconded to New Zealand Divisions. I have managed to find out that Field Post Office 567 was located in Syria from 1942-1945. I have absolutely no idea as to the location of K.W.2.

Tobruk in Cyrenaica fell on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1942, to Rommel's Panzer Army. Any ideas on this one? I have never seen these Air-Letters bearing New Zealand stamps into Bechuanaland before! Perhaps they are quite rare? Pity the poor censor - I feel pretty sure he didn't have any knowledge of Tsetswana!

Anyone wanting a copy of the Auction Catalogue for the Leamington Auction please drop me [The Editor] an email and I'll send you the PDF. There do not appear to be any Bechuanaland lots, but plenty of interest.

I am open to any suggestions.

Last year we did not see much from any of the Pre-Union provinces, so please think if you have something suitable to display. Also, in the three years I have organised the conference, we have not had a Saturday display of Basutoland or Swaziland.

There will be an auction on the Sunday and the usual coterie of dealers will be in attendance!

Simon Peetoom

simon@africastamps.co.uk

Still a nominal three issues a year Summer, Autumn, Winter/Spring with a target of 72 pages a year. Obviously if there isn't enough material it will be two issues. Peter van der Molen's Queen Elizabeth II articles should start again next issue but more short articles, scans of your favourite items are always welcome (as long as you say why it's a favourite)

[Below and FRONT COVER] Two fronts of World War II Air Letters sent from Bechuana Native Drivers who were seconded to New Zealand Divisions. Both were addressed to Paramount Chief Tshekedi Khama.



THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY

#### A Ring for the Chief Constable

by Philip E Robinson FRPSL

The letters shown here were sent from Kuruman in 1891 by Edward Ilsley Finnis, who at that time was the town's Chief Constable. Public records show that he was born in Brentford, Middlesex, England in 1855, the third son of a London solicitor, Robert Finnis, and his Cheshire-born wife Jane. Edward is not to be found in the 1881 census, and so he must have emigrated to Southern Africa (as a single man, as there is no UK marriage record) between 1871 and 1881. It is known that during the Second Anglo-Boer War he served in the Kuruman Defence Force. I can find no UK death record, and so he must have died abroad, perhaps still in Kuruman.

In July 1891 Edward Finnis wrote to the leading Cape Town jeweller Emil Burmester; the envelope is shown



Figures 1 and 2 Front and back of a JY 2 91 letter from Edward Finnis to Emil Burmester

SG11, cancelled by a barred oval numeral cancellation with the number 534 for Kuruman, alongside which is a KURUMAN / BECHUANALAND c.d.s. of JY 2(0) 91, both of these marks being struck in blue. On the back (Fig 2) is a KIMBERLEY transit mark of JY 25 91 and a G.P.O. / CAPE TOWN receiving mark of JY 27 91. The contents of the letter (**Fig 3**) are transcribed over. The Chief Constable must have been happy with the price quoted, as he wrote again a few weeks later, requesting a ring to be made. The envelope (Figs 4/5); and postmarks are similar, the c.d.s. being dated SP 2 91, but this time the letter is franked with two 1d stamps, SG10. There is a VRYBURG transit mark of SP 4 91 and a G.P.O. / CAPE TOWN receiving mark of SP

The contents of the envelope are transcribed overleaf (Figs 6/7).

Apart from being of philatelic interest, these two letters give a little insight into a commercial transaction of the 19th century in a distant part of the British Empire.

I am grateful to Alan MacGregor for the illustrations of the first letter, which had been in his stock.

Lignely 45 Juptown of Cultinano.

Of 16 111 Land Land Land James.

Cost more Suly 20 4891

Lie.

Please aform for return—

to hat it would cost for a plani

Ming-west thorogen suggested

The atters are. E.S. #.

I don't would a very experient any

force fach?

Cope Journ

Well enews Signi when I order.

The letter (Fig 3 - left), with an embossed 'British Bechuanaland' letterhead, reads:

Kuruman Via Taungs July 20 1891

Sir,

Please inform per return what it would cost for a plain Ring with monogram engraved the letters are E.I.F.

I don't want a very expensive ring.

E. Burmester Esq Yours faith<sup>ly</sup>.

Cape Town E I Finnis

Chief Constable Kuruman

Will enclose size when I order.

A note at top left, written by the addressee, reads

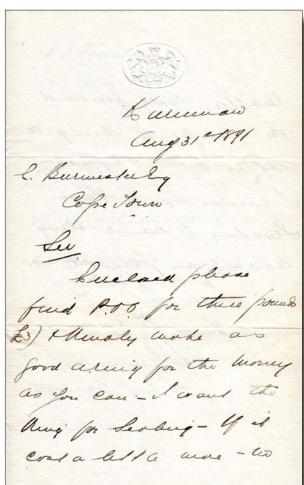
Signet ring 45/upwards Eng. 2/6 to 10/-. if for sealing it will cost more.

Figures 4 and 5 Front and back of a SP 2 91 letter from Edward Finnis to Emil Burmester





THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY



Figures 6 and 7 This letter (left/below) reads:

Kuruman Aug 31st 1891 E. Burmester Esq Cape Town

Sir,

Enclosed please find P.O.O. for three pounds £3) & kindly make as good a ring for the money as you can. I want the ring for sealing. If it cost a little more - no matter. Will forward on receipt of Ring or letter to that effect.

I enclose size of Finger. Trusting to receive Ring as early as possible.

I am Sir Yours truly E. I. Finnis Chief Constable E.I. Finnis E. I. FINNIS

Put 2d on letters to B. Bechuanaland My second name is (Ilsley) not a J

Matter. West forward

The receipt of dring or

Letter to that effect—

Levelor Lying Lunge

Surling to seems thing

as early, as proseste by sens name

forward thing

Letters

#### **Bechuanaland Postcards - Part 5**

by Peter Thy/Neville Midwood

Fifth part of the series started in Runner Post #82 with Townshend's Vignettes. #83 featured H.E.Sargent and T.D.Ravenscroft cards whilst #84/85, like this part, showed a general assortment of pre-1920 card



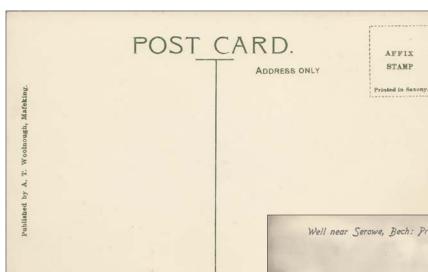


#### **Kilted Tribe Commandant**

[above] Card CKT-1 Front and Back. An unused and featureless card. I have found no further details on printer, photographer or the Kilted Tribe. Can anyone help?

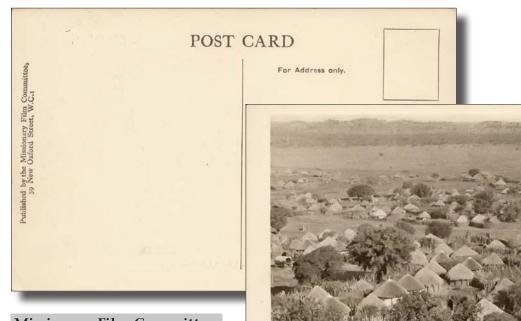
#### A.T. Woolnough, Mafeking

[below] Card ATW-1 Front and Back. "Well near Serowe, Bech: Protec:" unused with "Printed in Saxony." in the Affix Stamp box. I have found references to at least 5 other ATW cards - anyone have examples?



Card No.	Name of Card
ATW-1	Well near Serowe, Bech: Protec:
ATW-2	Cape Mounted Police Barracks, Mafeking
ATW-3	Interior of English Church, Mafeking.
ATW-4	Recreation Ground, Mafeking, Showing Pavilion, Hospital & Convent
ATW-5	The Convent & Drill Hall, Mafeking
ATW-6	Tillard Street, Mafeking.





#### **Missionary Film Committee**

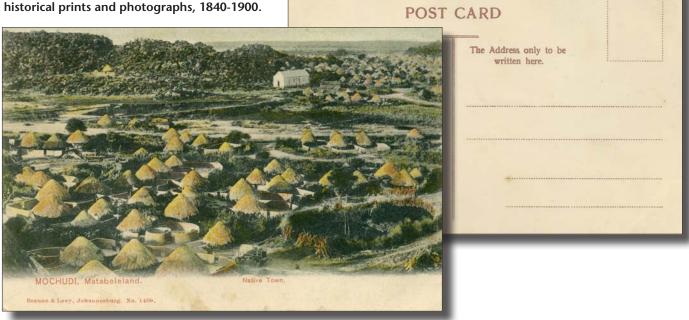
[above] Card MFC-1 Front and Back. An unused card "Published by the Missionary Film Committee, 59 New Oxford Street. W.C.1". No idea of year or if other cards exist.

#### **Braune & Levy**

[below] Card BL-1409 Front and Back.
The back is featureless. The front has
"MOCHUDI, Matabeleland. Native Town" and
"Braune & Levy, Johannesburg. No. 1409"
which is one of over 500 produced by Braune
& Levy - mostly of South Africa
(see http://www.postcard.co.uk/research/
lists/sa2.htm). No idea of year.
I have seen an almost identical image (right)
on sale as a print on eBay, without colourising.
Entitled "The Kaffrarian city Mochudi and
the mission church" dated 1899 and noted as
from an engraving in a collection of German
historical prints and photographs, 1840-1900.



SEROWE—SHOWING LANDING PLACE FOR AEROPLANES



#### Official Free Markings Supplement 4

by Dennis Firth

The main listing was in three main parts:

- Bechuanaland Protectorate (Runner Post #63)
- Botswana markings which show the office of use and the words "Official Free" or similar on the same handstamp (Runner Post #66 -69)
- Official Free handstamps (usually straight line) which are used in association with departmental cachets. (Runner Post #70-71)

Supplements 1, 2 and 3 were in Runner Post #72, #75 and #80 respectively.

This fourth supplement includes the latest finds.

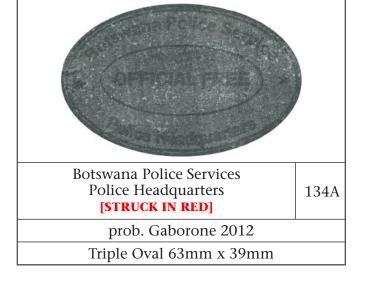
#### Part 2 - Botswana

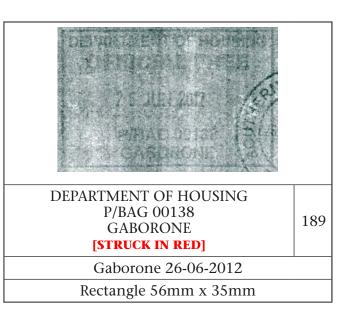


DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS PRIVATE BAG 0058 GABORONE BOTSWANA ISTRUCK IN BROWN!

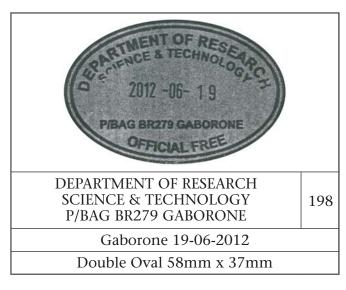
188

Gaborone 23-08-2012 Rectangle 58mm x 38mm











DEPARTMENT OF TOWN & REGIONAL PLANNING P/BAG 0042 GABORONE

216

Gaborone 26-07-2012

Double Oval 54mm x 35mm



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM TEL: 3953024 P/BAG 004F GABORONE WILDLIFE AND TOURISM

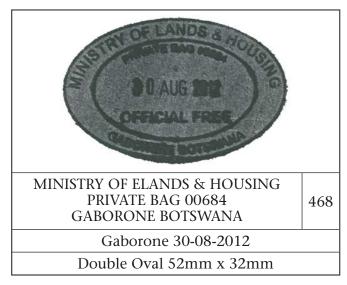
447A

Gaborone 28-08-2012

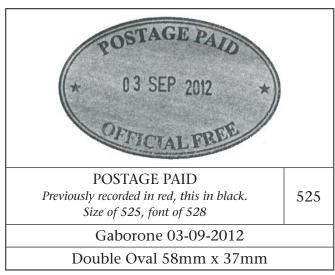
Double Oval 52mm x 32mm



Double Oval 58mm x 37mm









TSETSEBYE C.J.S.S BOTSWANA

574

P/Bag 001, Tsetsebye, Botswana 05-09-2012

Square 39mm

#### Part 3/Section 3 Boxed Markings



Used by Regional Development Agency

726

Place and date not known

Rectangle 47mm x 18mm

#### **Stellaland Promissory Notes**

by Neville Midwood/Brian Fenemore

As promised here [right] is the inside of the item on the cover of Runner Post #85.

Dutch to English online translators are improving, but Alan MacGregor pointed me towards Brian Fenemore for the rarer English version of this Notice [below].

#### Notice.

OLD STELLALAND DEBT.
PROMISSORY NOTES.

A LL persons owing Promissory Notes to the late Stellaland Government and still unpaid, are hereby requested to furnish me with satisfactory security for the due payment of the same within two (2) months from date hereof, failing which legal prospectings will be instituted against them forthwith.

This notice does not apply to Promissory Notes given in consideration of Landed Property, which remain a first charge against the same.

TITLEDEEDS TO ERVEN IN VRYBURG.

A LL persons who have not redeemed the Titledceds to Erven in the Village of Vryburg, are hereby requested to do so before the 30th of June next, and to pay the Quitrent due, otherwise such Titledceds will be cancelled and the Erven they represent be declared forfeited to the Crown.

By order of His Honor the Administrator,

P. J. TRUTER.
Civil Commissioner.
Civil Commissioner's Office,
Vryburg, 14th April, 1887.

### Kennisgeving.

OUDE SCHULD VAN STELLA-LAND. PROMESSEN.

A LLE personen die promessen verschuldigd zyn aan het vroegere Gouvernement van Stellaland, en thans nogonbetaald, worden hiermede verzocht my te voorzien met voldoende securiteit voor de behoorlyke betaling daarvan, binnen 2 Maanden na datum dezes, in gebreke waarvan dadelyke regterlyke stappen zullen ingesteld worden.

Deze kennisgeving heeft geene toepassing op promessen gepasseerd met betrekking tot vaste eigendommen, welke eene preferente eisen tegen dezelve blyven.

GRONDBRIEVEN VOOR ERVEN TE VRYBURG.

A LLE personen die de Grondbrieven van Erven in het Dorp Vryburg niet hebben uitgenomen, worden hiermede verzocht zulks te doen voor den 30sten Juny aanstaande en de vervallen recognitie te betalen, anders zuilen zoodanige Grondbrieven worden vernietigd van de Erven daardoor vertegenwoordigd worden verbeurd verklaard ten voordeele van het Gouvernement.

Op last van ZEd, Achtbare den Administrateur, P. J. TRUTER,

Civiele Commssaris.

Kantoor van de Civiele Commissaris, Vryburg, den 14den April, 1887.



[Left] is the front of the English Promissory Note. Again the authorities were unable to trace the addressee Asheton Behyrues (?)

Starting with a "VRYBURG MY 18 87" canceller it also bears a backstamped "BARKLY G.W. JY 24 87", a rare "HEBRON JY 26 87" and finally a "RETURNED LETTER OFFICE CAPETOWN DE 6 87".

In manuscript there is an "Unclaimed Left" in red ink and a forwarding address of "New Diggings Vaal River".

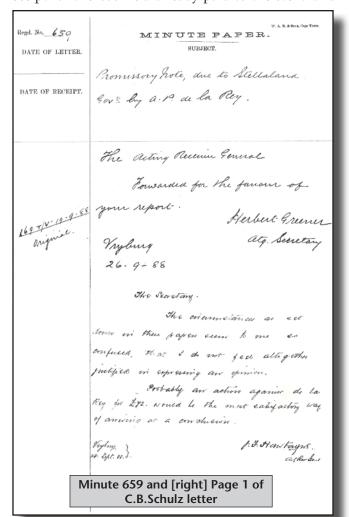
Front bears E.C. Baxter's signature. Ernest was the Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate in Vryburg.

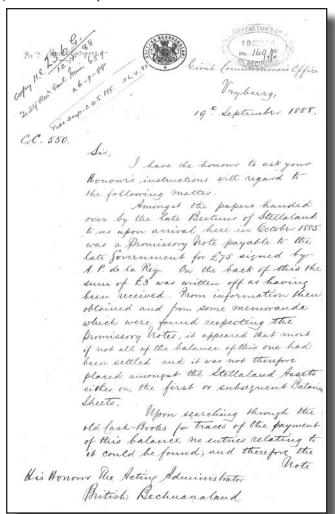
Brian also sent me a number of scans ex. the Cape Town Archives relating to one particular Promissory Note. The four pages consist of a single "Minute Paper" and a three page letter from C.B. Schulz.

The Note was held by. A.P. de la Rey and was for £75 to the Stellaland Government. The British Government received the note with a "£3 received" written on the back and eventually asked Messrs Rosenblatt & Wessells to recover the remaining £72. De la Rey said he has a receipt for the £55 he'd already paid to the Stellaland

Government. The Acting Civil Commissioner C.B. Schulz concluded (19<sup>th</sup> September 1888) that £17 'plus interest' was the likely due amount, as Stellaland's "President" Mr. van Niekert had used the £55 to pay various amounts owed to people.

Herbert Greener the Acting Secretary forwarded this conclusion to the Acting Receiver General on 26-9-88 J. T. Hawtayns [can anyone confirm this name?] on the 28 Sept 88 noted it was "so confused" and they should just ask de la Rey for the £72.





hote was handed ( amongst others ) by methres? Rosenblass & Wessels on 24? July last, to collect on behalf of this forement from At de la Rey In reply to their letter of demand delakey stated that he could produce a receipt from the late forenument for £55 on account of the £72, and he Our attorneys then enquired of M. ran hickerk what had become of the money for which he gave the receipt in question whilst President of the Republic. Translations of his reply and of a letter from him to me on the same subject are enclosed ho record appears in the old cash books of any payments of \$12.10. date specified which fact tends to confirm Wirhickerk's statement that they were paid with money received from dela Rey. We are bound to give dela Rey credit for the amount he paid to the their forenment: and although In! raw hickert is willing to pay

the £25 if demanded by us from him,

I beg to respectfully accommend that
his explanation be accepted as correct
and that under all the circumstances
he he absolved from payment.

If your Romonvapproves of this

course being adopted with regard to the.

You hieter I will instruct Mess.

Rosenblatt Wissels to collect Lig
to Interist from Achdela Rey in full
settlement of the matter.

I have the honor to be,

John obedient Servant

Q. Vo. Schale.

Acting livit Commiss.

As always they're not that easy to read so I've transcribed them [see IBC]

#### **Joint Auction**

from The Secretary

The GBOS (GB Overprints Society) and the BBS are planning to have a joint auction. The plan is that the list of auction lots will be available to members of both societies by end-October with last bids by end-Jan 2014. It is hoped that the auction list can go out with an edition of the Runner Post before Christmas. Please note that only certain material can be accepted for the auction: Pre-1932 Bechuanaland stamps, covers, postal stationery, revenues or ephemera and 'Cattle or Baobab tree' issues

BBS members can bring lots for inclusion in the auction to give to Tony at Stampex. If, however, members can't attend Stampex, then they can deal directly with the auctioneer:

Colin Baker, 4 Greenhill Gardens, Sutton Veny, Warminster, Wiltshire. BA12 7AY. UK.

Colin will be able to accept lots until the end of September but please email him first before sending your auction material. In your email let him have a description of each lot, its reserve - and details of the vendor.

Colin's email address is colin.baker333@gmail.com

#### [below] Transcription of the Minute Paper

Regd. No. 659

#### MINUTE PAPER SUBJECT

Promissory Note, due to Stellaland Gov<sup>t</sup> by A.P. de la Rey.

The Acting Receiver General Forwarded for the favour of your report

Herbert Greener Atg. Secretary

Vryburg 26-9-88

The Secretary

The circumstances as set down in these papers seem to me so confused that I do not feel altogether justified in expressing an opinion.

Probably an action against de la Rey for £72. would be the most satisfactory way of arriving at a conclusion.

Vryburg 28 Sept 88 J. T. Hawtayns. Act Rec Genl

Note was handed (amongst others) by me to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Rosenblatt & Wessels, on 24<sup>th</sup> July last, to collect on behalf of this Government from A P de la Rey.

In reply to their letter of demand de la Rey stated that he could produce a receipt from the late Government for £55 on account of the £72, and he tendered the balance.

Our Attorneys then enquired of Mr. van Niekerk what had become of the money for which he gave the receipt in question whilst "President" of the "Republic". Translations of his reply and of a letter from him to me on the same subject are enclosed herewith.

No record appears in the Old Cashbooks of any payments of £12 10/each to Mussman & Celliers near the date specified, which fact tends to confirm Mr v Niekerk' s statement that they were paid with money received from de la Rey.

We are bound to give de la Rey credit for the amount he paid to the then "Government" and although Mr. van Niekerk is willing to pay

the

Civil Commissioners' Office Vryburg 19th September 1888.

Sir,

I have the honour to ask your Honour's instructions with regard to the following matter.

Amongst the papers handed over by the late Bestuur of Stellaland to us upon arrival here in October 1885 was a Promissory Note payable to the late Government for £75 signed by A P de la Rey. On the back of this the sum of £3 was written off as having been received. From information then obtained and from some memoranda which were found respecting the Promissory Notes, it appears that most if not all of the balance of this one had been settled and it was not therefore placed amongst the Stellaland Assets either on the first or subsequent Balance Sheets.

Upon searching through the old Cash Books for traces of the payment of this balance no entries relating to it could be found; and therefore the

Note

the £25 if demanded by us from him, I beg to respectfully recommend that his explanation be accepted as correct and that under all the circumstances he be absolved from payment.

If your Honour approves of this course being adopted with regard to Mr. van Niekerk. I will instruct Mess<sup>rs</sup>
Rosenblatt & Wessels to collect £17
& interest from A P de la Rey in full settlement of the matter.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient Servant

C.B. Schulz

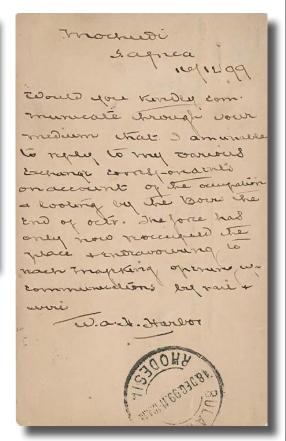
Acting Civil Commissnr

# BECHUANALAND

### **CROCODILE POOLS**







**BECHUANALAND** / **Anglo-Boer War 1899 (December)**, British Bechuanaland 1d postal stationery card (H&G 5) addressed to the USA and cancelled with a fine strike of the rare CROCODILE POOLS / SOUTH AFRICA (16 Dec) double circle datestamp. The message, written by W.A.H. Harbor reads: "Mochudi / S. Africa / 16/12/99 / Would you kindly communicate through your medium that I am unable to reply to my various exchange correspondents on account of the occupation & looting by the Boers the end of Octr. The force has only now reoccupied the place & endeavouring to reach Mafeking opening up communications by rail & wire / W.A.H. Harbor". Bulawayo (18 Dec) transit backstamp and with Durban (4 Jan) and Richmond (4 Feb) transit / arrival datestamps on the front. Rare early usage, especially as an origin rather than a transit datestamp.

Note: This card bears what is believed to be the earliest recorded example of the Crocodile Pools datestamp and supports the theory that at this date the actual location where the canceller was applied was Mochudi. Following the Boer occupation of Crocodile Pools and the Gaberones area in late October 1899, the Imperial Forces retreated north, probably taking with them the postal paraphernalia of Crocodile Pools. In November they reoccupied Mochudi where they established a base camp for the Armoured train and no doubt a post office. The fact this card was written at 'Mochudi', cancelled 'Crocodile Pools' and travelled north via Bulawayo, indicates it never went south to the actual site of Crocodile Pools and therefore strongly supports usage of the Crocodile Pools datestamp at Mochudi at this time.

#### **ALAN MACGREGOR**

Member: PTS, SAPDA, APS

P O BOX 515, SIMON'S TOWN 7995, SOUTH AFRICA Tel (+27 21): 786 1931 Fax: (+27 21) 786 1925

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