

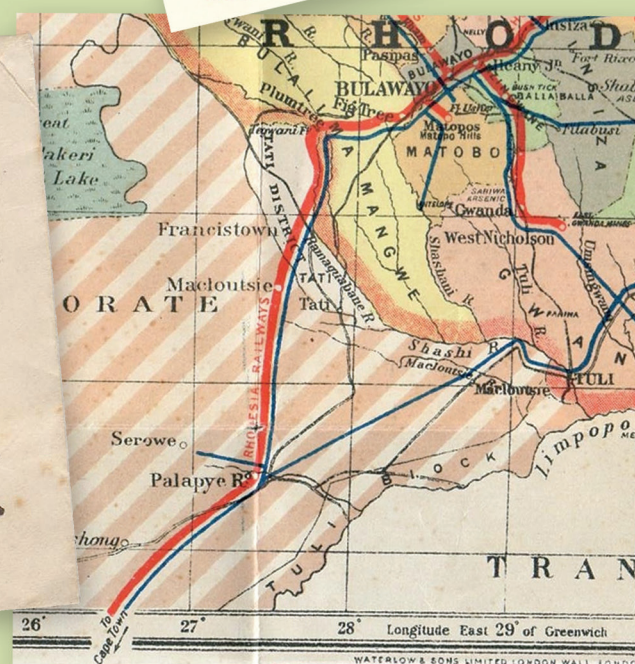
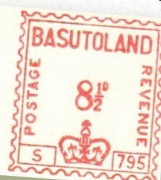
THE RUNNER POST

The Bechuanalands & Botswana Society



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TV1.

ELECTRICITY
ALWAYS AT
YOUR SERVICE





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The Society thanks Graham Edwards (Graphic Designer) for the front cover design

Matters Arising By O. Peetoom

(1) - Issue 89 - Page 2234

A miniature sheet depicting a Turtle is described as a *Forgery*. This is incorrect as that only applies to a replica of a genuine stamp.

This particular item ought to be referred to as a Bogus Issue.

(2) - Issue 56 Page 1369

Rarer Stamps Study: A progress report by Steve Wallace
1961 Decimal overprints SG 163a, right hand stamp without overprint is rated A (1 to 5 examples) There is evidence that out of the possible ten, at least six may have survived. There is a photograph of the lower half of the sheet (5) plus I have an illustration of a strip that fits above the photograph that suggests at least six examples possible. The foregoing may be viewed on the website. www.bechuanalandphilately.com

Brian Hurst commented on the above... Bob Brownlow, the Secretary of the Mafeking and Bechuanaland PS at the time, writing in the issue of *Stamp Collecting* for 14 August 1969 states...S.G.163 (10c) *One sheet had the overprint displaced to the left and shows the 10c missing in the right vertical rows but appearing in the left margin. Three rows were destroyed at the counter before the error came under notice.....*

I think that leaves seven.

Lawrence Barit did a good article on the stamp in the last *South African Philatelist* with a bit of help from me.

(3) Society Journals

Many societies that have been going for 30 to 60 years all share a similar dilemma in as much that their members are all getting older. They no longer have the same energy and/or drive to write articles for their society journal that puts increasing pressure on editors to source sufficient material for publication.

Should a society journal appear more successful than others, it invariably means that the editor is himself a philatelic writer and that much of the content originates from that person.

I can certainly relate to the above as I launched my own journal in July 1993 being *The Rhodesian Philatelist* and when the first edition was circulated, I received a string of offers from people wanting to write articles for my publication. Now, twenty two years on, I have included two short articles by Alan Drysdall and everything else has been written by me.

Several editors resort to all sorts of gimmicks to fill their pages, use wide margins instead of narrow and/or wide headers and footers. Large font, make images larger than is necessary and spread them over a huge area. Use a full page showing a map of *how to find the venue for the next meeting* - that will be attended by five people. The all time favourite is to source a paper from someone that takes up twenty to thirty pages and bingo the next journal is done!

I may submit an article that precisely fits three pages and some editor manages to spread it over four pages. What the foregoing achieves is it increases the cost of printing by a third.

The Future of Southern Africa Philately

Observations on *The Runner Post*

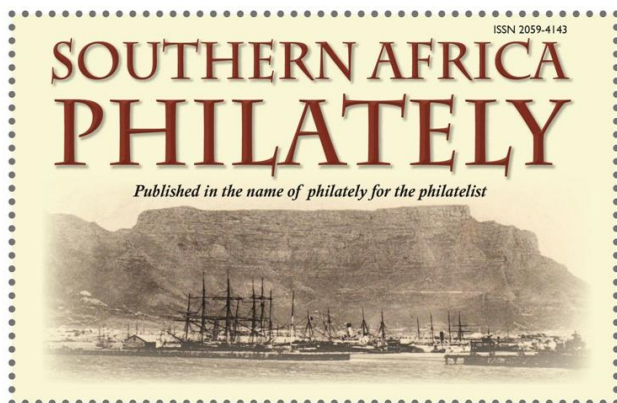
Last year there was only one journal and in our previous edition we indicated that it was the intention to produce at least three journals during 2015. The immediate concern was whether sufficient material was available. I offered assistance and proposed issue No 90 should be in the post by the first of June.

I consulted a friend, who is a Graphic designer, sought his opinion on the current layout and asked if he would design a new front cover. He produced nine different options and between us we made a choice. By 7 April I had had twenty pages ready, complete with a re-designed front cover.

I suggested to the editor that he could have the next journal done and dusted by the end of April. On 25 April I circulated a report entitled *The Runner Post - Expenditure - Then and Now* which appears to have bruised the editor's ego, he no longer communicated and went into hiding.

In the meantime I had offers from eight dealers who were prepared to advertise. The June deadline came and went and as the editor failed to keep his side of the bargain, I cancelled the advertisers and withdrew my articles. After I enquired what the state of play was, a third party informed me No 90 was to be ready by August. On 7 August Brian Hurst was told by Mr Midwood that he had resigned in May and he may do one more journal if and when it suits him. Who he allegedly tendered his resignation to remains a mystery.

Brian Hurst is rather distressed with such flippant behaviour as the society now requires an editor. My own concern is...the society's activities are minimal and attendance at meetings low. About 50% of the members live overseas, thus what is the point of being a member? Only the journal and the onus is on the society to ensure the members receive something in return for their subscriptions.



A Viable Alternative - How it all Started

2002 Chester Racecourse -The late *Tony Chilton* had put a paper together to highlight some of the difficulties societies were facing with an aging membership and a small number of members doing the administration of these societies. Many members served on the committees of more than one society. Unfortunately by the time the event took place, Tony had passed away, however his paper was read and discussed at the Chester conference but his suggestion did not find favour.

A new Journal *Southern Africa Philately*

It is not a society, there are no meetings or minutes and its aim is to promote the philately of Southern Africa.

The venture is not in competition with anyone and there are no constraints from individuals who prefer to drag their feet.

The new journal is scheduled to be launched in September and was completed by end July. It enjoys strong support from the stamp trade and includes 26 advertisers. Contains 44 pages, 26,500 words plus some 170 images. Issue No 1 may be down loaded free from several Southern Africa websites that includes www.bechuanalandphilately.com Included in the contents there is Stellaland, Bechuanaland and Botswana interest. There will be three journals in 2016 containing between 36 to 44 pages and the subscription is modest Inland £10 and overseas £15.

What is the purpose of all the above

It is intended to please the members and offers something to read in between issues of *The Runner Post* (Its future at present is in the balance). I have my hands full and do not wish to be the editor of this journal. I have agreed to produce this issue because this journal should and could have been in the post on 1 June, but the previous editor sabotaged those intentions.

Southern Africa Websites

The majority of philatelic societies strive for a website and invariably a debate as to how to make that possible can drag on for years. The foregoing includes the BBS and the idea came up time and again at an AGM. A basic site will cost from £750 to £1000 to put into place and alterations are available at around £50 per hour. Most societies cannot afford that.

Besides my four commercial websites, in January 2014 I constructed a site for the *South African Collectors' Society*. I began to develop a *Collect Southern Africa* theme on the internet that is proving popular.

On 28 December 2014 I phoned Gordon Jeffreys and discussed a website for Bechuanaland and by mid January 2015 it was good enough to go live. I asked for assistance and input from the committee and nothing was forthcoming. The only member who sent in as much as he could was Peter Thy and I thank him for that. It took two months and hundreds of hours to scan, crop, resize and put up over 1300 images.

As may be anticipated there were promises from certain people that they would send in material for the website...dream on!

Membership and Accounts

After the Bechuanaland website experience I had had my fill of the BBS, the society required a Membership Secretary and Treasurer and there were no volunteers. I took pity and like a fool took on the job only to be faced with two and a half years of neglect and in short, a complete shambles.

Before I was a stamp dealer I worked in the Marine industry and in my later years did my fair share of *Trouble Shooting*. I work at high speed and take no prisoners, the guilty dive for cover and criticize what I achieve. More precise details follow later on in this journal.

Membership

In February this year only 59 out of 108 members had paid their previous subscription and an arrears campaign is still ongoing.

Two members rejoined the society; they are Chris Palmer and Barry Forrester-Smith.

Two new members came to us via the website and we welcome Mike Smith and Clive Carr.

The One Half-Penny Provisional of December 1888 SG 29

By Brian Hurst

Late in November 1888, the proprietor of *The Bechuanaland News* found he was unable to obtain supplies of the halfpenny stamps he required for mailing the newspaper. A shortage of the issued halfpenny vermilion stamp had occurred owing to the appropriation of a significant amount of stock a few weeks earlier to be overprinted for use in the Protectorate.

Ernest Baxter, the acting Postmaster General, issued instructions to Messrs. Townshend & Co. the Vryburg printer of the newspaper, to surcharge a quantity of the existing 3d stamps with the words **One / Half- / Penny** to overcome the shortage.

There has long been speculation as to the precise quantity of stamps overprinted and the exact date of issue. Reference to the *Register of Stamp Accounts* in the Bechuanaland section of the Cape National Archive solves this mystery.

Page 36 - left (figure 1) deals with stamps held by the Chief Distributor of Stamps and an entry on Dec 8 1888 lists 7 sheets of 120 stamps each *To stamps - 3d (not overprinted with figures) surcharged 1/2d*, and transfers them from the 3d stock column to the 1/2d stock column.

Page 36 (right) (figure 2) deals with the issue of stamps. It clearly shows the issue of 7 sheets of 3d stamps on the 7 December to be surcharged and the issue of 7 sheets of surcharged 1/2d stamps to the Vryburg Postmaster on 8 December.

Thus the conclusion is that the issue date was 8 December 1888 and the quantity of stamps surcharged was $7 \times 120 = 840$.

H.R. Holmes covers the stamp quite comprehensively in Chapter 8 of his *The Postage Stamps, Postal Stationery and Postmarks of the Bechuanaland* although his suggestions as to issued quantities are speculative. However, I have always been curious of his statement that the surcharge setting covered 5 horizontal rows of 12 stamps; i.e. half a sheet, especially in view of the fact that the Register of Stamp accounts shows seven full sheets to have been surcharged.

I finally have the answer and confirm that Holmes is correct. The illustration in his book (figure 3) shows a half sheet which, by careful examination of the margin remnants, can be confirmed as the UPPER half of a sheet. I remembered seeing in the Botswana Post collections a few years ago a photograph of a half sheet and assumed this to be the source of the illustration in Holmes book. Thinking that a new scan of the original may prove better I recently got Peter Jukes, the Society's Botswana representative, to send me a scan of the photo (figure 4).

It was immediately clear that the photo showed the LOWER half of a sheet and it was apparent that this was the half sheet sold at Plumridge & Co in 1921 mentioned in Holme's book. The missing **f** of **Half-** variety is clearly present at row 5 stamp 11 on both upper and lower half sheets, thus confirming the setting of 60.

There are many forgeries of the surcharge, both errors of spelling and/or inverted surcharges. They were carried out on stock that did not arrive in Vryburg until January 1889 and are on stamps of a distinctively different shade of lilac.

Illustrations of SG 29 in blocks of 4 & 6 - Courtesy D. Jatho

Register of Stamp Accounts

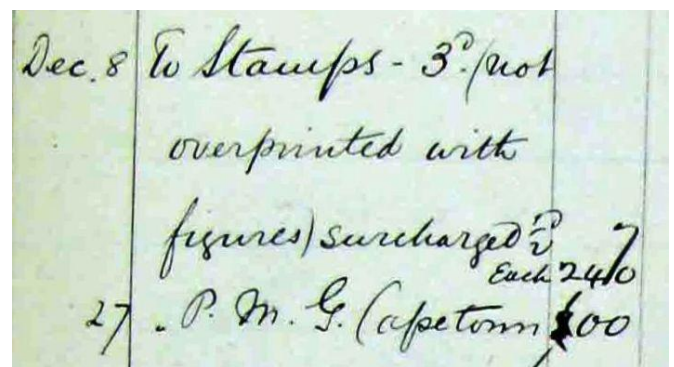


Figure 1 - Page 36 left

Figure 2 - Page 36 Right

The One Half-Penny Provisional of December 1888 SG 29



Figure 3 - SG 29 Upper half of sheet
Illustration Ex Holmes Page 52



Figure 4 - From a photograph in the Botswana Post collection
Plumridge Auctions Sale 658 (1921) Ex Herbert Royle collection

It was broken up and the blocks of 4 and 6 in the Holmes collection were No's 41 42, 53 54 and 43 45, 55 57 in setting

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Published as a Supplement in *The Runner Post* No 45

December 1996 - I was given a scan of a scruffy photocopy of the Rules and felt the time had come to present them in a neat and professional way!

Until such time that the following rules are formally amended by the correct procedure. Any such amendments ought to be published in this journal before being implemented.

The following Rules (Revised 1996) are currently in force and this is the Constitution of the Society - O. Peetoom

1. The TITLE of the Society shall be

THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY

2. The OBJECT of the Society shall be to encourage study of all aspects of the Philately and Postal History of these territories.

3. The Hon. Secretary may (at his/her discretion) admit to membership an applicant on payment of the Annual Subscription at any time in force and thereafter payable on 1st day of July each year. Any member who has not paid his/her subscription by 1st October shall be deemed to have had the benefits of membership suspended until such time as payment has been made. If no payment is received within a further three months the member shall automatically be deemed to have resigned. - Amendment approved at 13 October 1993 AGM.

4. The Annual Subscription shall be reviewed annually by the Committee, any increase in the Subscription to be notified to all members and to be endorsed at the next Annual General meeting of the Society before being implemented.

5. A General Meeting of the Society shall be held annually at the Autumn meeting of the Society. It will normally be held in October on a date to be determined by the Committee. The Annual General Meeting shall:

- (a) Receive the Reports of the Officers for the preceding year:
- (b) Review and approve as necessary the Statement of Accounts presented by the Hon. Treasurer and shall appoint a Hon. Auditor for the ensuing year.
- (c) In alternate years, commencing in October 1990, elect the Officers of the Society and other Committee Members to serve for the ensuing two-year period.
- (d) Determine the rate of the Annual Subscription for the ensuing year.
- (e) Consider any other business resolutions or matters arising, subject to Rule 16.

6. The OFFICERS of the Society, who shall be Honorary, will comprise: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Auctioneer, Archivist and any others it is deemed necessary to appoint from time to time.

These OFFICERS shall constitute the Committee of the Society and shall be empowered to co-opt other Members to the Committee as necessary. They shall be elected biennially at a General Meeting of the Society, where any postal votes previously received from Members unable to attend in person shall be deemed valid.

The CHAIRMAN shall serve for a maximum period of two consecutive two-year terms before standing down for at least one term of office. However, after serving the maximum period, the ex-Chairman shall become eligible to serve on the Committee in any other capacity. (Amendment approved 19 September 1996)

7. The Chairman or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairman, shall conduct the Meetings, but in the event that both are absent the Committee shall elect one of its number to take the Chair. The Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote where this is necessary. (Amendment approved 19 September 1996)

8. The Hon Secretary shall conduct the Correspondence of the Society, keep a Register of Members and maintain a Minute Book. The latter shall be available for reference at General Meetings.

9. The Hon. Treasurer shall have charge of the Funds of the Society and maintain a Bank Account in the name of the Society, depositing therein Annual Subscriptions and other income, and paying there out all sums validly due. He/she shall present to the Annual General Meeting of the Society a Statement of the Society's Accounts, duly audited, for the twelve-month period ended on the preceding 30th June.

10. An Honorary Auditor shall be appointed.

11. An Auctioneer shall, under the direction of the Committee, organise and control Auctions or Exchange Packets, whether postal or otherwise, on behalf of the Society. The Committee shall have power to make and vary Rules necessary for these purposes which will then be deemed to be a part of the Society's Rules.

12. The Editor will be responsible for production of the Society newsletter entitled *THE RUNNER POST*, and such other publications as the Society may decide to issue from time to time.

13. An archivist or other appointed Officer or Member shall retain for reference purposes at least one copy of every publication of the Society, together with similar material acquired by the Society in connection with its objects.

14. Honorary Life Membership may be awarded to any member of the Society who is deemed to have made an outstanding contribution, over a long period, to the well-being of the Society. All nominations are to be submitted to the Hon. Secretary in writing, signed by a proposer and seconder, for consideration by the Committee. The Committee will be wholly responsible for establishing and maintaining appropriately high standards for the award and for deciding, by a majority of at least three-quarters of the Committee Members voting, upon the merits of the nomination. The Committee will submit each successful nomination for final approval at general meeting of the Society. Amendment approved at AGM on 5 October 1991

15. That if in the considered view of the Committee it shall be in the best interest of the Society that a Member shall be removed from Membership, then his/her Membership be terminated forthwith.

16. That all Resolutions should be notified to the Hon. Secretary in sufficient time for their inclusion in the Agenda of an Annual General Meeting and that any other items should be notified to the Chairman before the start of the meeting: the Chairman to rule whether the item is of sufficient urgency to be included on the Agenda.

17. The Committee shall be the sole authority for interpretation of these Rules and shall decide on all relevant matters affecting the Society not provided for within them.

Constitutional irregularities

Since January 1997 various methods of operating the society were changed and none of them were amended in the constitution. Whilst this may be regarded as petty, over the years there is a knock-on effect and it certainly got out of hand. Committees tend to sweep all irregularities under the carpet, which is all very well, except they will not go away.

The Secretary, Treasurer and membership secretary

Under rule 8...*The Hon Secretary shall conduct the Correspondence of the Society, keep a Register of Members*

The above rule has never been amended and the Editor also took on the job as membership secretary. Under the constitution he effectively filled two positions and should be entitled to two votes at any committee meeting.

At the 3 November 2007 AGM the role of membership secretary was bestowed on the Treasurer, thus whoever filled that role continued to be entitled to two votes.

Under rule No 6 it states...*The CHAIRMAN shall serve for a maximum period of two consecutive two-year terms before standing down for at least one term of office.*

Gordon Jeffreys was elected as Chairman at the 6 November 2010 AGM and stood down on 21 February 2015 and *exceeded his term of office*. In his capacity as Chairman, the AGM was shifted from Autumn to Spring and the onus was on the chairman/committee to amend the constitution. Complacency and disinterest meant that it did not happen.

Rule 3...*Subscription at any time in force and thereafter payable on 1st day of July each year. Any member who has not paid his/her subscription by 1st October shall be deemed to have had the benefits of membership suspended until such time as payment has been made.*

If no payment is received within a further three months the member shall automatically be deemed to have resigned.

Amendment approved at 13 October 1993 AGM.

The ex-vice chairman and chairman

Tony Stanford submitted his 2012/13 subscription on 19.10.12 and paid his 2013/14 arrears plus a 2015 sub on 8.3.15.

Under rule No 3 he ceased to be a member on 30.9.2013 and therefore was not eligible for election as vice president in February 2014 or as chairman in February 2015.

He effectively re-joined the society on 8.3.15 and was not entitled to be in office between 1.10.13 and 8.3.15. He may present himself for election at the next AGM.

The Treasurer and Membership Secretary

At the 23 February 2013 AGM Martin Taylor was supposed to take over from Joe Taylor. However the Society bank account was not amended to reflect Martin's address nor was he made a signature to the account. This made his job unattainable and led to him losing interest in his duties.

At some point in time chairman Jeffreys became the signature to the account but Martin had the cheque book. This comedy of errors led to accounts not being paid and according to Martin, Jeffreys often claimed that he had not received the cheques that were sent to him for signature. Seven cheques were cancelled which is absolutely preposterous.

As far as Joe Taylor was concerned he had not only handed over the reins, but he also moved house.

In the meantime all bank statements went to Joe's old address and the last statement seen was No 60 dated 1 June 2012.

Allegedly Jeffreys took Joe off the account in July 2014 and added non-member Stanford to the account in January 2015.

21 February 2015 AGM This will go down in the history of the society as the most un-constitutional meeting ever. Stanford the vice chairman, a non-member, was elected chairman who then made proposals and decisions that are, under the constitution, effectively invalid, null and void.

A new Treasurer and Membership Secretary

I took over on 23 February and it took me two months to straighten out the Nationwide bank account. Joe was still on the account, whereas Stanford was not (see above). I was faced with two and a half years of neglect. I systematically pieced together the accounts from June 2012 to date. The subscription audit was like doing a jigsaw without knowing what the picture looks like.

In the *Constitution*, Rule 3 is quite specific, if a member has not paid within six months he or she is *deemed to have resigned*.

On 31 December 2013 - 68 out of 108 people fell into that category leaving only 40 paid up members. By June 2014 nineteen people paid their arrears, thus there were 59 members. Despite the foregoing all 108 people continued receiving a journal incurring a loss of £1500+ over the period.

I commenced an arrears campaign, managed to recover over thirty payments and after three reminders those remaining have terminated their membership due to non-payment.

During 2014 there was only one journal and it therefore comes as no surprise that several people simply ignored my request for arrears.

Life-Members

Under Rule 14, there is a provision for this and strange as it may seem, only one person was made a Life-member, the late Inglefield-Watson. Two of our Founder members deserve to be Life-members and they are Alan MacGregor and Brian Trotter.

Alan was Editor for some 15 years from Issue 2 through to No 50 and currently holds the record for producing more journals than anyone else. Brian was also very active and made many contributions from various corners of the world, starting in Switzerland, then in Honk Kong and finally in Indonesia.

I recall many years ago, having lunch with Brian in London, he told me that once he retired he intended embracing Philately in full. He has certainly achieved that goal!

Journal Advertising/rates and invoicing

The *Constitution* suggests that the above is under the control of the Editor and I gain the impression that the ex-editor assumed it is up to someone else. Exactly who remains a mystery!

Present Advertising

Is £20 per page and cost £16.80 to print, thus what was the point of it? However, our veteran advertiser, Alan MacGregor is a long standing and founder member of the society and in my opinion deserves a little leeway.

The Current Situation - I invoiced and attempted to collect outstanding Advertising (Not my Job) - David Wigmore still owes the Society £76 and after two reminders still hasn't paid.

I have calculated the cost of subsequent journals and assessed the situation for 2016 (Also not my Job).

Meter Franks for Basutoland, Swaziland, Bechuanaland and beyond

By Otto Peetoom



Introduction - Meter mail is a subject that tends to fringe on the edge of postal history and for many the general appearance of a display of meter mail is essentially boring and mundane. Given that meter franks are not that popular, the result is that information on early use is often patchy or difficult to obtain.

History of Meter Franking - Invented by Carle Busch in Paris and obtained a British patent in August 1884. Trials conducted from 1900 - 1912 in Norway, Great Britain and USA. New Zealand started in March 1904 and, prior to UPU approval at the 1920 Madrid Congress, became the first country to use franking machines on a large scale.

Distribution of Franking Machines - Between 1923 and 1929 most European countries adopted the idea and from 1923 to 1931 six countries in South America followed suit. By 1930 only fifteen Commonwealth countries used meter franks and that number rose to 34 after Barbados joined the trend in 1952.

Southern African Meter Franks

South Africa was the first Country to introduce Meter Franks in the mid 1920's. SWA and Southern Rhodesia were next circa 1931. Northern Rhodesia plus Nyasaland followed in the early 1950's and Basutoland and Swaziland taking the plunge during the late 1950's. Bechuanaland appears to have considered the idea in 1957, but it was only after it became Botswana that the first machine was licensed in late 1970.

Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland

From the available information it appears that circa 1956/7 the agents for Universal Simplex were marketing their machines in the above three territories. They succeeded in two of them, but not in Bechuanaland.

Publications that include Southern Africa Meter Franks

An early British enthusiast was A.H. Harris who by 1935 had produced a *Meter Postage Catalogue*, a second edition in 1937 and his third appeared in 1940. In 1953 Barfoot and Simon (B&S) published an updated version with a similar title *The Meter Postage Catalogue*. The authors continued to build on the work started by Harris and commented that since 1940 the increase in the use of meter franks...has been phenomenal.

Our member Gordon Smith is keen on Botswana meter franks and has a website www.postalhistory.ca

Meter Essays, Proofs or Samples

Essays are submitted by the manufacturer for approval or rejection by a relevant postal authority.

Proofs are taken when a machine is ready for dispatch and are usually retained by the manufacturer for reference. Multi-value proofs are often set with its maximum value suggesting an absurd postage rate. Dates are set when a proof is struck and are earlier, perhaps by years, before its first day of use. Confusion may arise from a proof illustrated in a catalogue which creates an illusion that it is an early commercial use.

Basutoland Meters

Introduced by 1956 and in the September 1956 edition of *The South African Philatelist* a note appeared that *Whitaker's Agencies* in Maseru had started using a Simplex **S600** and an accompanying illustration is dated 20 VII 56.

Proof strikes on cards - I have two pre-decimal Universal Simplex items each with MASERU date stamps, **S795** 8 1/2^D 20 VII 57 (see above) and **S859** 1 1/2 - 21 III 58.

Whitaker's Agencies

Continued to use S600 into the decimal period and I have an airmail envelope with a 12 1/2c **S600** meter frank dated 9 VIII 63 that was posted with sample strikes of two values with the same date being 2 1/2c and 10c.



The Standard Bank in Maseru used a Pitney Bowes machine **UA 160** and I have a commercial cover '.05=' dated 26 VII 63 that contained an envelope with a 0.0 1/2 sample strike.

Before Independence on 4 October 1966 the only other device recorded is a multi-value Neopost Frankmaster 355 used at Roma, numbered **NB5**, by *The University of Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland*.

I have a commercial envelope to Johannesburg with 0.02 1/2 dated 23 II 66 plus a Maseru 25 FEB transit.



Lesotho - *The Standard Bank* continued with **UA160**, but with the crown removed at the base. I have a note stating that their die, with the new country name, was changed to **LESOTHO** on 6 October 1966.



The University at Roma continued using **NB5**, also with the crown removed and in a letter from them it states...*Our franking die was changed from 'Basutoland' to 'Lesotho' in February 24th (1967)*. I have a 0.02 1/2 - 24 XI 67 sample strike.

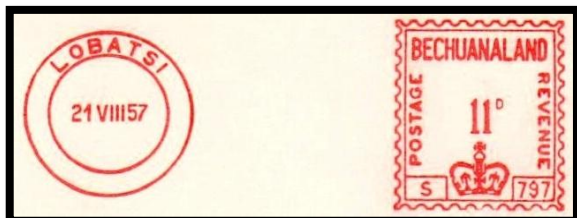
Meter Franks for Basutoland, Swaziland, Bechuanaland and beyond



Whitaker's Agencies acquired a new, limited value Pitney Bowes-GB Simplex numbered **SB1** (without a crown at its base) and a Maseru 3 X 67 is illustrated below. I have sample strikes on the same date of a 4½¢ and 5¢.



Bechuanaland Meters Franks In the September 1991 journal *The Runner Post* No 24 an article appeared that illustrated a drawing of a Simplex die and is dated 17.7.57. This is probably in keeping with an era when agents were attempting to sell the idea of meter franks to the postal authorities in Basutoland, Swaziland and Bechuanaland. They succeeded in the first two countries, but not in Bechuanaland.



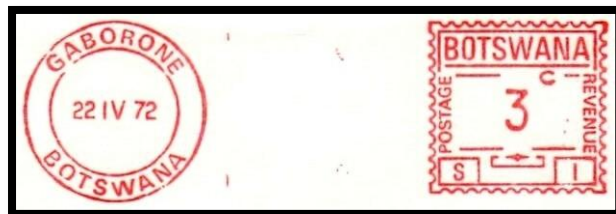
What appears to be relatively unknown is that an actual die was prepared, as illustrated above, a **S797** dated LOBATSI 21 VIII 57. The country attained Independence in 1966 and introduced its first device at the Standard Bank in late 1970.

Botswana - The Standard Bank used a multi-value Universal / Pitney Bowes *Automax* machine numbered **UA1** and I have an envelope dated 7 XI 70 that might be a proof .



UA1 Standard Bank, Gordon Smith lists his earliest known date as 13 XI 70 and the illustrated example predates that by six days. Gordon notes that their license expired and his last date seen as 16 XI 71.

Another early user of meter franks was the *Botswana Book Centre*, PO Box 91; Gaborone who used a limited value Universal/Pitney Bowes *Simplex* numbered **S1**.



Gordon notes its use from 14 X 71 to 14 X 73 and illustrated above from a commercial cover to Cape Town is an example dated 22 IV 72.

Swaziland Meter Franks

Peter van der Molen's 2013 book *Swaziland to 1968* that is regarded as the definitive work on the philately of that country surprisingly does not include meter franks. The American online meter catalogue states...*The first meter appeared in the early 1960's...* yet they illustrate a **S796** proof dated 20 VIII 57.

The first limited value Universal Simplex machine **S792** was introduced at the *Standard Bank* on 5 December 1957 in Bremersdorp. The foregoing is confirmed by a note from the bank that accompanied sample strikes of ½d, 1½d, 2d, 5d & 6d all dated 9 VI 58.



I have a commercial cover with **S792** dated 21 I 58

The Standard Bank at Mbabane used **S796**, and the online catalogue illustrates a proof strike dated 20 VIII 57. Examples in my possession are after Swaziland went decimal on 14 February 1961. I have an envelope dated 13 VIII 63 that contained samples of a ½c, 1c, 2c, 2½c, 3c, 4c, 5c and 7c. I have also seen a 3½c and 6c value.

Meter Franks for Basutoland, Swaziland, Bechuanaland and beyond

Universal Simplex **S862** - illustrated at the top of the previous page dated 17 II 58 is a proof strike and I do not know whether or not this number was licensed in Swaziland.

Swaziland became a Protected State on 25 April 1967 and attained Independence on 6 September 1968. In keeping with the policy adapted in Lesotho, the Universal Simplex machines that continued in use had their crown at the base removed.

1968 Post Independence - I have several examples of **S863**, without a crown, dated from 1972 to 1980. This machine was allocated to *Robertson, Bertram & Currie* - Solicitors at Mbabane.

Different Inscriptions - There are two styles of machines worthy of note. The first is inscribed **SWAZILAND** only followed by **KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND**

Swaziland only - LV = Limited value and MV = multi-value

Pitney Bowes-GB *Simplex* (LV-21) - Prefixed **S...**



Simplex S863 - Crown removed

Universal *Automax* (MV) - Prefixed **UA...**

Universal *Automax* (MV) - Prefixed **UA...** (different die)

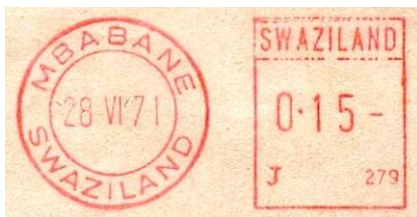


Universal Automax - UA1 Different die



Pitney Bowes *5000* (MV) - Prefixed **PBH...** (**PBH48** above)

Neopost *Frankmaster 305* (MV) - Prefixed **R...**



Neopost *205* (MV) - Prefixed **J...** (**J279** above)

Hasler *Mailmaster* (MV) - Prefixed **HAS...**

Kingdom of Swaziland



Pitney Bowes 6300 - P.B.1393

Pitney Bowes-GB *Simplex* (LV) - Prefixed **P.B./S/3-75**

Pitney Bowes *6300* (MV) - Prefixed **PBL, P.B., SG** or **P.B./S/1-**



Pitney Bowes 6300 - SG022

Neopost *105* (LV) - Prefixed **NB OF ...** or **J OF ...**



Neopost 205 - J OF 92

Neopost *205* (MV) - Prefixed **J OF ...**, **H...** or **RS...**

Neopost *2205* (MV) - Prefixed **2 X ...W**

Neopost *2205* - Prefixed **RS** (Different die)

Neopost *Electronic* (MV) - without prefix

Neopost *Electronic* (MV) - Prefixed **G... or GN...N**

Neopost *Electronic* (MV) - Prefixed **ET**

Neopost *Electronic* (MV) - Prefixed **ET** (Different die)

Francotyp-Postalia *EFS3000* (MV) - Two different dies

Examples of all the above different dies may be viewed on the online catalogue. Just Google *meter frank catalogue*

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1. The TITLE of the Society shall be
THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY

2. The OBJECT of the Society shall be to encourage study of all aspects of the Philately and Postal History of these Territories including Basutoland and Swaziland.

3. The Hon. Membership Secretary may (at his/her discretion) admit to membership an applicant on payment of the Annual Subscription in force at the time and thereafter payable on first day of January each year. Any member who has not paid his/her subscription within three months shall have the benefits of membership suspended until payment has been made. If no payment is received by 30 June the member shall automatically be deemed to have resigned.

4. The Annual Subscription ¹ should be reviewed every year by the Treasurer. Increase in the Subscription to be notified to all members prior to the end of each year ².

Notes ¹ A subscription should cover the cost of the journal plus an administration fee around £3 to £4 per head

² Notification of an increase to be published in the last journal of the year and a subscription form may also be emailed. (Those without email will receive a copy by post). That allows around 3 months leeway before the next journal is posted.

5. An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held at the beginning of the year or as is practical.
At the Annual General Meeting shall:

(a) Receive the Reports of the Officers for the preceding year.

(b) Review and approve as necessary the Statement of Accounts presented by the Hon. Treasurer and, if practical, shall appoint a Hon. Account Examiner ³ for the ensuing year.

(c) Commencing in 2016 to elect the Officers of the Society and other Committee Members to serve for a minimum of one year.
Note - Only fully paid up members are eligible for election ⁴.

(d) Consider any other business resolutions or matters arising, subject to Rule 16.

Note ³ Currently we do not have an Account Examiner

⁴ In view of recent history this clause is important.

6. The OFFICERS of the Society, who shall be Honorary, will comprise: Chairman, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Secretary, Editor, Archivist, Auctioneer (Optional), and any others it is deemed necessary to appoint from time to time ⁵.

⁵ Given the low level of activity within the society, it ought to avoid having too many committee members.

These OFFICERS shall constitute the Committee of the Society and shall be empowered to co-opt other Members to the Committee as necessary. They shall be elected, as is practical, at the AGM of the Society and any postal votes from Members unable to attend in person shall be deemed valid.

The CHAIRMAN may serve for a maximum period of four years. After serving the maximum period, the ex-Chairman is eligible to serve on the Committee in any other capacity. The position of the Chairman requires him to be familiar with each and every aspect of the Society ⁶.

Note ⁶ The Chairman ought to be responsible and not simply a figure head that has no idea what is going on.

7. In the absence of Chairman, the most capable Committee member will conduct a Meeting. If necessary the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

8. The Hon. Secretary, shall notify members of meetings, draw up an agenda and maintain a Minute Book.

9. The Hon. Membership Secretary shall keep a Register of Members.

10. The Hon. Treasurer will take charge of the Funds; maintain a Bank Account in the name of the Society and present at the AGM, a Statement of Accounts, duly examined ³, for a 12 month period from 1 January to 31 December.

11. An Honorary Account Examiner shall be appointed - See ³

12. An Auctioneer is currently an optional position and may be appointed and/or approved by the Committee.

13. The Editor will be responsible for production of the Society Journal entitled *The Runner Post* ⁷. Journal costs to be kept within budget and the recruitment of advertising encouraged.

Note ⁷ - The journal represents the largest expenditure of the society. The number and frequency of publication to be planned in advance. The current 'if and when' ought to be avoided. In view of the lack of activity of the society plus many live overseas, the journal is the society's most important asset.

14. An Archivist will retain for reference purposes at least one copy of every publication of the Society, together with similar material acquired by the Society in connection with its objects.

15. Honorary Life Membership may be awarded to any member of the Society who is deemed to have made an outstanding contribution, over a long period, to the well-being of the Society. Nominations to be approved by the Committee ⁸.

Note ⁸ It appears that, to date, only one person has been made a life member - the late Inglefield-Watson. (See page 2262)

16. That if in the considered view of the Committee it shall be in the best interest of the Society that a Member shall be removed from Membership, then his/her Membership be terminated forthwith.

17. That all Resolutions should be notified to the Hon. Secretary in sufficient time for their inclusion in the Agenda of an Annual General Meeting and that any other items should be notified to the Chairman before the start of the meeting: the Chairman to rule whether the item is of sufficient urgency to be included on the Agenda.

18. The Committee shall be the sole authority for interpretation of these Rules and shall decide on all relevant matters affecting the Society not provided for within them.

Observations

Any member who takes on more than one task in the society ought to have more than one vote regarding any decision making. Currently one member is Secretary and Archivist and another is Membership Secretary, Treasurer and has also assumed the role of the Editor on a temporary basis.

**The Society needs a new Editor!
Are You that person?**

1897 - 1899 FRANCISTOWN - BONC 679 - TATI (Excised) MATABELELAND

By Otto Peetoom

A Brief Railway History

Before Rhodesia was granted its Royal Charter, Cecil Rhodes appreciated from the outset that a route from the Cape to Rhodesia had to go via British Territory which dictated a Cape - Bechuanaland - Rhodesia Railway line.

At first the line from Cape Town terminated at Kimberley and by 1893 had reached Vryburg. The Rhodesia Railway system started at Vryburg and was begun in May 1893. By October 1894 the line to Mafeking was complete. Then a distance of 263 miles to Palapye was reached in May 1897.

During construction the urgency of a rail link to Rhodesia was echoed by an outbreak of rinderpest and the 1896 Matabele Rebellion. The line was extended rapidly and in October 1897 reached Bulawayo, a distance of 590 miles from Vryburg and 1360 miles from Cape Town.

The Tati District

Lies between Rhodesia and the Bechuanaland Protectorate, in extent about 100 miles North to South by 30 to 40 miles. The railway line runs through it for 75 miles, thus all the territory is within easy reach of the railway. The principal town in the district is Francistown and the railway line crosses the Tati river close to the south of the town, with Francistown station at an elevation of 3,254 feet (992 metres) - 1,235 miles from Cape Town and 126 miles from Bulawayo.

The rail journey North is via Bosoli Siding, Tsessebe Siding and Ramaquabane Siding (80 miles from Bulawayo) and is at the north-eastern boundary of Tati. The Ramaquabane river lies just north of the siding and is the border between the Tati district and Rhodesia.

Preamble

Certain subjects that appeal to me tend to linger on, especially when new items come to light, that may add another piece to an ongoing story. The late E. Kenneth Wright was spell bound by the Tati story and by July/August 1897 the focus on a BONC 679¹ and a single circle Matabeleland datestamp, used at Tati, shifted its attention to Francistown.

Tati Matabeleland - The town of Tati is situated about ten miles south of Francistown and was a staging post on the initial Runner route for mail to and from Rhodesia via Bechuanaland.

This Postal Agency had two cancellers, a BONC 679 - In large figures² and a single circle TATI with MATABELELAND at foot. During 1897 the new line of rail from Francistown to

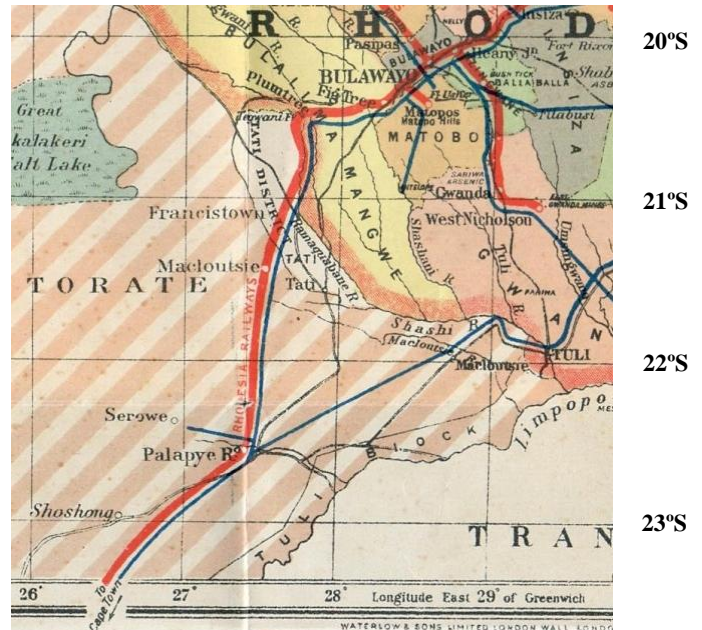


Bulawayo bypassed the town and circa late August 1897 the Tati Postal Agency closed. Proof that Tati did not close in July 1897 and remained open may be seen from the illustration TATI MATABELELAND AU 15 7 (1897)

FRANCISTOWN P.T.A.

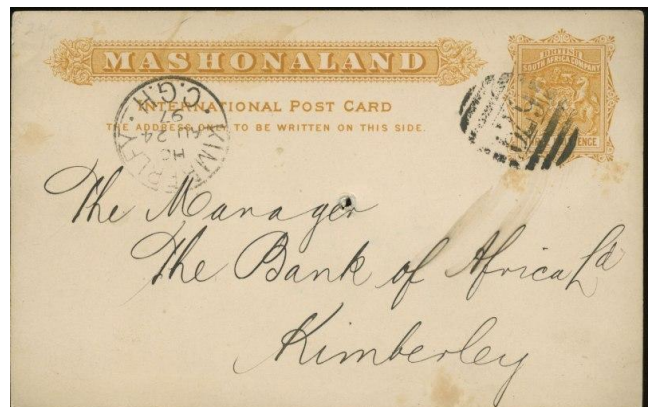
According to Hoyte and Lashbrook³ the office opened on 30 June 1897 coinciding with the appointment of a Mr A.R. Ramsbottom as postmaster and telegraphist.

Holmes⁴ stated that Francistown opened in July 1897, when Tati was closed - This is incorrect as the date of closure overlapped with the opening date of Francistown.

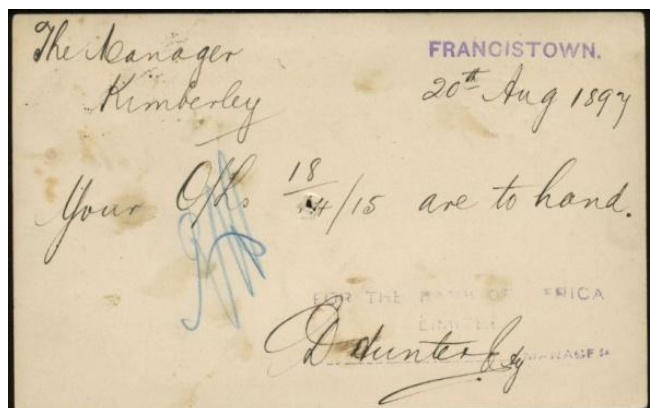


Although the office is in Bechuanaland, it was under the control of the British South Africa Company up to end of June 1898⁵. As a result of the foregoing BSAC stamps and Postal Stationery were used at Francistown.

From the evidence of the illustrated Postal Stationery card below, dated 20 August 1897, it appears that the Tati Barred Oval Numeral Cancel (BONC) 679 was initially pressed into service on its own. Proud⁶ records a 30.8.97 date of use.



BONC 679 Applied at FRANCISTOWN



Card from the Bank of Africa, written on 20 August 1897 at Francistown, to Kimberley, with an AU 24 97 arrival cancel.

At some point in time, after 15 August 1897 and before the 30th, the name Tati was excised from the datestamp and put into use at Francistown. The earliest use seen is AU 30 7 (97)

A new custom made handstamp for this office is a 25mm single circle inscribed FRANCESTOWN with S. AFRICA at foot, its earliest recorded use is 6 SP 97. During the 1990's I possessed this cancellation, thus I am able to confirm said date.

Note - D.A. Mitchell in a small A5 booklet *The Postmarks of Southern Rhodesia* (1988) page 45 incorrectly recorded the earliest date for Francistown as being 2 OC 96.

From early September 1897 until at least mid April 1898, the Tati excised and Francestown cancellers were both in service. However neither datestamp has been seen used in combination with the BONC 679. In my 1993 article in *The Rhodesian Philatelist*⁷ I speculated that the permanent canceller was perhaps used at the Post office and the excised datestamp at the Railway station, there is of course no evidence to support this.

Tati (Excised) used at Francistown

All known examples are on British South Africa Large Arms Stamps and/or on BSAC Postal Stationery plus two plain envelopes with Large Arms stamps. Values seen are ½d, 1d, 2d, 4d and 6d and known dates range from 30 August 1897 to 16 April 1898.

Tati (Excised) and a Tale of a Drunken 6

The earliest note on the Tati excised canceller that I am aware of appeared in H.C. Dann's second publication on Rhodesian Cancellations⁸, published after his death by Robson Lowe in 1950. Dann notes *MATABELELAND (only) at foot. Town name eliminated. SC dented circle. Probably Tati.*

The above is accompanied by a hand drawn illustration that omits the two dots flanking Matabeleland, the date is DE 25, with a drunken 6 placed above the date at an angle.

The six makes no sense and it was to take about sixty years to solve the puzzle completely.

The Drunken 6



Dann

Nodder

Knight & Mitchell

During 1956 W.G. Nodder, in a series of articles on Postmarks, in *The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*⁹ included a similar illustration like Dann's with a leaning six. Nodder emphasized the denting of the circle and commented...*this handstamp shows that it was dented at the top left and right, due, possibly to damage when name at top was erased.*

Some thirty years later, on page 138, Knight and Mitchell in their 1984 book¹⁰ provided a modification to Dann and Nodder's illustration by producing a perfect circle (without dents) added the two flanking dots and inserted a six, leaning slightly.

Rarity Factor

In *The Runner Post* No 7 Kenneth Wright¹¹ remarked on the excised Tati...*It is certainly rare; I have been unable to find a copy. My illustration is a photocopy.*

When a postmark is very rare, one of the problems with a repetitive mistake is that it is quite possible that some of the authors may not have seen such a mark. Without being able to examine an actual copy, they have no choice other than to follow in the footsteps of their predecessor.

Dann and Sinton

In his first book (1940)¹² Dann's postmark information was based on his own collection and that of C.E. Nelson, by the late 1940's; both these collections were acquired by J.H. Sinton, a Newcastle upon Tyne Solicitor.

Sinton passed away on 18 July 1955 and part of his collection was sold on 5 December 1955 by Harmers in London. His postmark collection went to his son and remained intact & untouched for more than fifty years. Locked away in this collection lay many answers to questions raised by postmark researchers during the last five or so decades.

Dann and Nodder's Illustration Comes Alive

The Sinton collection of Rhodesian Postmarks was sold on the 15 November 2007 by Corbitts of Newcastle. The estimates were ridiculously low, but the realisations were not!

I bought all the Postmark lots; they were crammed with rarities that include a DE 25 TATI (excised), with the alleged drunken six, on a BSAC 6d Large Arms - Illustrated on the next page.

Earliest Recorded Date Tati (Excised)

For some twenty five years my earliest recorded date was AU 31 7 (97) with a sixteen day period to the latest date of Tati Matabeleland AU 15 7 (97) until I picked up a cover out of a well known Postal History dealer's stock.



No 1 - TATI excised AU 30 7 (97) - Earliest date seen
Kimberley SP 3 arrival backstamp

It improves the earliest known date by one day and I appreciate the crisp additional strike alongside that clearly shows some of the remains of the TATI letters. The ring of the datestamp is not severely dented as implied by Dann and Nodder.

The illustrated cover is one of four recorded.

My Interest in the Tati excised Cancel

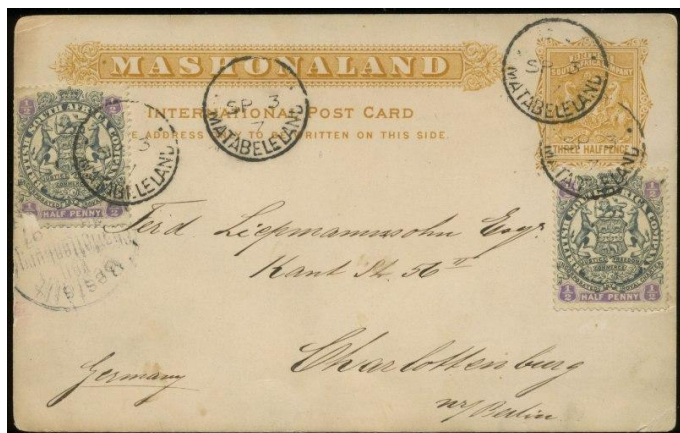
My fascination began in 1989 during a SAPDA show at the Rosebank hotel in Johannesburg when John Semmler was trying to sell a BSAC Postal stationery card with a Tati excised cancellation. Betty Fraser had first refusal and turned the item down as it was 'Too expensive'.

Alan MacGregor had no such reservations and bought the card from John, Alan in turn showed the card to me with 'look what I've just bought' to which I replied 'how much do you want for it?' After he converted the ZAR sign to GBP, I wrote out a cheque and took my prize back to England. I knew it was rare, but had little idea exactly what the story was, but that is the joy of Postal History, I would do my research and find out.

A Proving Cover

The Semmler - Macgregor - Peetoom card is dated SP 3 7 and was written at Francistown which for the first time confirmed that this dumb canceller was used at Francistown. An article and illustration appeared in *The Runner Post* No 15¹³.

A defining characteristic of the above cancel is that the foot of the second L in MATABELELAND is joined to the A in LAND.



No 4 - This item went into Jim Catterall's collection and was sold by Grosvenor Auction on 23 May 2001 as Lot 1165.

Collating the known data on Tati (excised)

Another two covers with Tati excised cancellations were illustrated in *The Runner Post* No 10 and 22, one ex Hickman¹⁴ and another ex Berman¹⁵ (No's 11 & 5).

In 1993 in the first edition of *The Rhodesian Philatelist*⁷ I collated all the examples of the excised datestamps known to me. I was able to provide the details of nine examples used between 31 August 1897 and 16 April 1898 and illustrated the three known covers, at that time, plus four of the cancellations on stamps.

TATI (excised) MATABELELAND

No 2



AU 31 7 (97)
Very Early Date

No 8



DE 25 9 (97)
Xmas Day Ex Sinton

A Leaning 6 becomes a horizontal 9

It appears that the Tati Matabeleland handstamp may have suffered a certain amount of wear or damage. I have a strike recorded on 17 MR 96 with a two digit year followed by 20 JY 6, 23 JY 6 and 30 AU 6, all with a one digit year (1896).

By the time the name had been excised, examples have only been seen with one digit below the date being either a 7 or 8 (1897-8). The AU 30/31 and SE 2/3 dates only show one digit (7) below the date. By 12 OC 97 and up to 16 AP 98, a digit 9 was inserted above the date where one would normally anticipate a code letter.

It appears that it was easier to insert a 9 on its side rather than upright, thus the infamous drunken 6 is in fact a 9 on its back with its leg to the left.

Copies seen are 12 OC 97 (Postal stationery card), DE 25, JA 9 98, MR 6 98, AP 10 98 (On registered Cover), 11 AP 98 and 16 AP (inverted) 98 - L.R.D (No's 5, 8 and 10 to 13).



No 5 - Stationery Card Ex Matopopo Siding OC 12 97¹⁵
The earliest example with a 9 on its side above the date.

A Horizontal 9 on its front, leg to the right

On a Large Arms 6d NO 18 7 (97) and a 2d pair NO 27 (97)¹⁶ with a strike on each stamp - **No 6 and 7**.

No 6



NO 18 97

No 9



JA 9 98

A Horizontal 9 on its back without a digit below the date
DE 25 9- (No digit below DE 25 - 1897) Ex Sinton - **No 8**



No 11 - TATI (excised) AP 10 98 - Registered to South Africa (Hickman Collection)¹⁴

An Upright 9 - One example only dated JA 9 98, with a 9 above JA 9 and an 8 below on a 6d Pair - **No 9**.



11 AP 98
No 12 - Late Date



16 AP (inverted) 98
No 13 - Latest Recorded Date

Summary of known Tati excised cancels		
No	Date	Details
1	AU 30 7	4d on cover to Kimberley - Traces of excised lettering visible. Earliest Known date
2	AU 31 7	4d SG 32, traces of excised lettering visible
3	SP 2 7	2d Large Arms SG 30
4	SP 3 7	1½d Stationery card with ½d x 2, written at Francistown - Proving cover
5	6 OC 12 7	1d Stationery card with ½d + 1d, written at Matopposiding, 9 on side above date. See also RSCJ 148/167 ¹⁷
6	9 NO 18 7	6d SG 46, Faint digit below date, assumed to be a 7 - 9 above date on its side, foot at right
7	9 NO 27 7	2d Pair, two strikes, 9 above date on its side, foot at right - Reported by Arnold Berman
8	6 DE 25 -	6d Xmas day, 9 above date on its side, no digit below date - Assumed 97. Ex Sinton with the alleged drunken 6
9	9 JA 9 8	6d Pair SG 46, only example with upright 9 above date
10	6 MR 6 8	4d Large Arms, 9 on side above date, from a photocopy illustrated in RSCJ 142/93 ¹⁸
11	6 AP 10 8	Cover 4d x 2, Registered to South Africa. Incorrectly reported as AP 4 (9 on side)
12	6 11 AP 8	On 2d Large Arms, 9 on side above date
13	9 16 AP 8	On 2d Large Arms, 9 on side above date, 16 AP inverted. Latest known date

The above summary of thirteen items includes twenty two individual strikes of the Tati excised datestamps and none of them show a dented circle as alleged by Dann and Nodder. I have examined all the above pieces except No10.

FRANCISTOWN S. AFRICA

A single circle datestamp inscribed FRANCISTOWN S. AFRICA has been recorded used from 6 SEP 97 to 18 DEC 99. Up to mid 1898 cancellations are usually on BSAC Large Arms stamps and thereafter on Bechuanaland Protectorate overprints.



SP 14 97



MR 26 98



JU 6 98

Three examples illustrated above, 14 SEP 97 a relative early date. 26 MAR 98, cancel on a 1/-, values above 6d are not often seen. 6 JUNE 98, quite a late date on a BSAC Large Arms.



JY 22 98

**FRANCISTOWN
S. AFRICA
On COGH and
GB Overprints**



SP 27 98

Bibliography

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Notes

- ¹ BONC 679 Recorded in Volume II - The Empire in Africa (1949) By Robson Lowe page 22
- ² The Cancellations of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland (1950) By H.C. Dann page 41
- ³ South of the Zambesi (2003) by Hoyte & Lashbrook Page 118
- ⁴ The Postage Stamps, Postal Stationery and Postmarks of the Bechuanalands (1971) by H.R. Holmes page 125
- ⁵ The Postmarks of Rhodesia 1888 - 1980(1998) J & J Barry page 127
- ⁶ The Postal History of Southern Rhodesia (1997) E.B. Proud page 366
- ⁷ The Rhodesian Philatelist No 1 (July 1993) pages 10 & 11
- Postmarks 'TATI' Excised Cancellation By Otto Peetoom
- ⁸ The Cancellations of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland (1950) By H.C. Dann page 31
- ⁹ The Postal History and Postmarks of the Rhodesias (28.4.1956) By W. Nodder - *The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* page 172
- ¹⁰ The Postmarks, Postal Route and Principal Postage Rates of Southern Rhodesia to 1924 (1984) by Knight & Mitchell
- ¹¹ The Runner Post No 7 (June 1987) page 110 - Tati by E.K. Wright
- ¹² The Romance of the Posts of Rhodesia (1940) By H.C. Dann
- ¹³ The Runner Post No 15 (June 1989) pages 261/2
- Francistown - The Tati excised cancellation by Otto Peetoom
- ¹⁴ The Runner Post No 10 (March 1988) page 167
- (TATI) Matabeleland cds
- ¹⁵ The Runner Post No 22 (March 1991) page 397
- Another Tati Excised cancel found on card
- ¹⁶ Reported by Arnold Berman (5.4.2015)
- ¹⁷ The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle, September 1989 page 167
- ¹⁸ The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle, June 1988 page 93

Acknowledgements

My thanks to Tony Banks and Arnold Berman for their input

Recent Botswana Stamp Issues

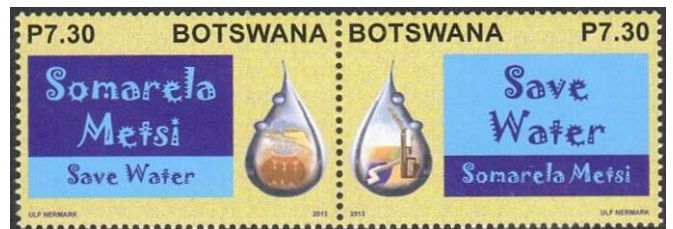
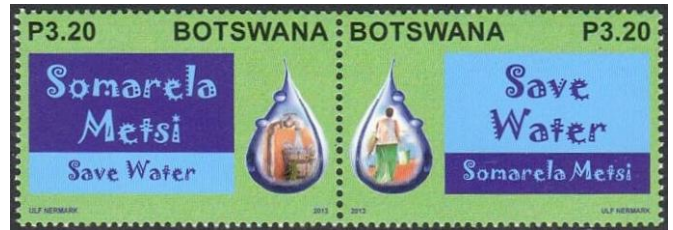
5 April 2013 Save Water (SG 1186 - 1191) - The titles are

P3.20 *Water from a standpipe* and *Carrying water home*

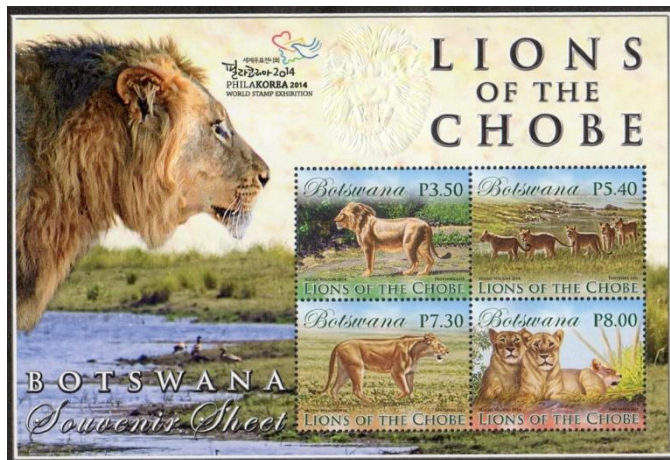
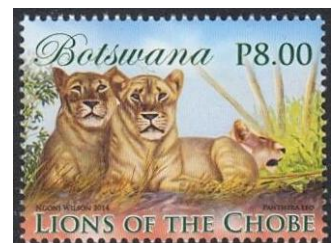
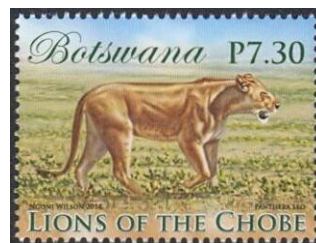
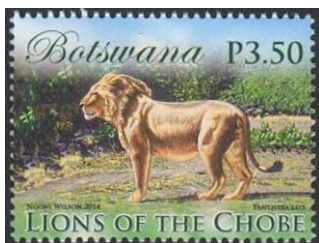
P4.90 *Traditional water-cooling pot* and *Modern water tower*

P7.30 *Water mining in factories* and *Water uses in mining*

Sheila Case advised - The water droplet with image inside is a symbol from Water Utilities Commission. The official image has been modified...the original vignette within the water drop is replaced; the six replacement vignettes originate from a mural created by school children for the *Water Utilities Commission*.



20 June 2014 Lions of Chobe SG 1206 - 1209 plus a Miniature sheet SG MS 1210

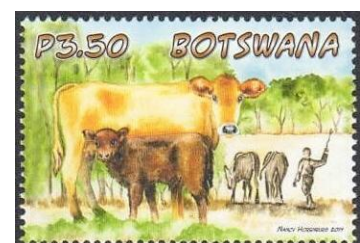


7 August 2014 Philakorea 2014 World Stamp Exhibition, Seoul, South Korea SG MS 1217

The Chobe lions miniature sheet was overprinted for this exhibition and placed to the right of the lion's head at left.



1 August 2014 Local Domestic Animals
SG 1211 - 2116
Six values as illustrated below.



A Crisis within the Society

By Brian Hurst

Dear Fellow Member

Most of you will be unaware of a crisis that currently pervades the Society.

The following are the facts:

At the February meeting of the Society there was a virtually total change of the Officers of the Society. On taking over, Otto Peetoom found the finances of the Society in disarray and a good deal of uncertainty as to the accuracy of the list of members and the current state of their accounts.

Apathy prevailed - This crisis has been brought under control through the efforts of the incoming Treasurer, Otto Peetoom, who spent hours, days and weeks getting control of the Society's accounts and bank account. Trawling through membership lists and bringing subscription payments up to date.

It has been discovered that the February meeting was not held in accordance with the Society's rules. It was held six months later than dictated by the rules. One person, who was not a paid up member, was elected to Office at this meeting and under the foregoing circumstances was therefore ineligible to stand.

The society has lost its editor Neville Midwood and we thank him for his sixteen years of unstinting service. Unfortunately his failure to communicate his resignation more clearly has led to confusion and delayed this journal which Otto is currently addressing.

At the very last moment Otto agreed to step in and produced the latest issue of *The Runner Post*. I was pleasantly surprised that, from scratch, he completed it in less than three days.

It would be unfair, however, to prevail on Otto to produce the magazine on a permanent basis, so a new Editor needs to be found. **Volunteers please!!!**

There is a dangerous degree of apathy creeping into the Society with poor attendance at meetings, articles for *The Runner Post* coming from a limited number of sources and a general unwillingness to help with the running of the Society's affairs. I would really like to see a healthy discussion about this at the September meeting. I realise that a significant proportion of the membership is derived from dealers and members overseas, but a not insignificant number of you live near London after all.

I intend bringing along a display, but it would be good to see members using it as a forum to show items they would like discussing or seek information about. This is how it used to be.

Sadly I predict that if there is not a general awakening of interest, it is unlikely the Society will survive another year. This would be a pity since it provides a remarkable amount of information and expertise, especially in the difficult collecting area of overprints and surcharges where the Bechuanalands are unique in retaining such stamps for almost 50 years.

Editorial Comment

Brian Hurst is an enthusiastic and diligent member of the society and has, along with many of his predecessors, demonstrated that a philatelic society is only feasible if other members are prepared to do whatever is necessary, if and when required.

In my opinion the reason organisations go into decline is when those who are elected put the needs of their society at the very bottom of their list. *It can wait...I will do it tomorrow...I forgot, I have other things to do...perhaps next week or after I get back from my holidays.* On the one hand all the forgoing is in most people's book normal and acceptable. On the other hand it is unfair to the society that someone takes on a task that they haven't got time to do. If you take on employment and fail to turn up for work...you are pointed in the direction of the door.

The stock answer on how to implement delay, without losing face is...*we will discuss it at the next meeting!* Take for instance a Bechuanaland website, since 2010, it has been discussed at AGM's again and again, yet when I offered to construct one and asked for assistance...the answer was...*we will discuss it at the AGM!* At the time that was two months away, yet I had it up and running ten days later.

A Typical AGM - Philatelic Societies appear to have at least one or more individuals who bring a low loader full of **Stumbling Blocks** to each meeting, they systematically block and postpone each idea which is concluded by a **We will discuss it at the next meeting!**

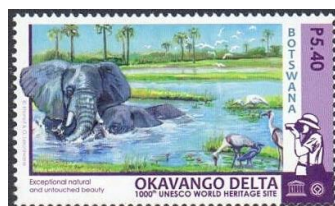
Meetings in general follow a similar pattern, there is a debate, a proposal that is seconded and voted on, it all goes into the minutes and everyone goes home happy and does nothing. After all it provides good fodder to kick around at the next meeting.

Brian Hurst asked me on Friday afternoon 7 August if I would produce the next *Runner Post* as soon as possible. Having only just completed a 44 page *Southern Africa Philately* journal, the prospect did not appeal and could easily have been avoided by those magic words...*We will discuss it at the next meeting!*



Recent Botswana Stamp Issues continued

20 May 2015
Abstract Art in Botswana



10 March 2015 - Okavango Delta Wildlife

The Bechuanaland and Botswana - A Financial Reconciliation 2012 - 2014

By Otto Peetoom - 1 May 2015

30 June 2012 End of year balance = £5,700.11 and not £5497.37 as per photocopy (No 60) with manuscript notations.

In the paperwork ex Martin Taylor, there is an account collated for year ended 30 June 2012 by Joe Taylor. It includes deposits made during August; September & October 2012 thus said account does not reflect the position on 30 June 2012.

I must emphasise that Joe's presented a neat and tidy account, but it would become a time consuming exercise for me to reconcile his data with the next thirty months. I started this job on 23 February 2015 and not on 1 July 2012. For that reason I begin with the balance on 1 June 2012 of £6557.11 and continue, up to and including, the balance on 31 December 2014 = £4,777.80.

I have gleaned the necessary data from the Bank statements, paying in books/receipts and sundry papers.

Date	Details	Payments		Receipts		Balance	
1 June 2012	Statement No 60 <i>See comment above</i>					6,557	11
12 June	Chq No 100075 - Runner Post No 83	383	00			6,174	11
21 June	Chq No 100076 - Postage*	474	00			5,700	11
*Postage purchased 19/20 April 2012 - 2 nd class large 300 x 0.58 = £174 and 1 st class large 400 x 0.75 = £300 Had not be utilized at all and now in my possession, was completely intact - Being used starting with Runner Post No 89							
1 July 2012	Opening balance					5,700	11
5 July 2012	Chq No 100077 - ABPS for 2012	57	20			5,642	91
Aug - Oct	Credit - Back No's of The Runner Post			66	00	5,708	91
Sept - Dec	Interest				29	5,709	20
Sept - Nov	Credit Subscription			555	50	6,264	70
Feb/Apr 2013	Credit Subscription			139	00	6,403	70
20 February	Chq No 100078 - Runner Post No 84¹	335	04			6,068	66
March - June	Interest				31	6,068	97
6 March	Credit Crocker £60 (advert) + £12 (Sub)			72	00	6,140	97
2 April	Chq No 100079 - ABPS for 2013	55	00			6,085	97
9 April	Credit - Back No's of The Runner Post			20	00	6,105	97
1 July 2013	Opening balance					6,105	97
22 July	Chq No 100080 - Runner Post No 85²	670	53			5,435	44
Sept - Dec	Interest				29	5,435	73
Mar/Jun	Interest				27	5,436	00
1 March	Credit A. MacGregor 2012/13 SA subs			153	00	5,589	00
	Advert MacGregor			60	00	5,649	00
June	Credit Subscriptions			349	00	5,998	00
June	Credit - Back No's of The Runner Post			32	00	6,030	00
1 July 2014	Opening balance					£6,030	00
7 August	Chq No 100087 - Runner Post No 86 & 87	1,358	35			4,671	65
19 August	US\$ 125 Ex Peter Thy - Shortfall £8³			72	00	4,743	65
Sept - Dec	Interest			4	15	4,747	80
10 December	Credit Subscriptions			30	00	4,777	80
31 December 14	End of Account Closing balance					4,777	80
Summary - Financial Reconciliation 2012 - 2014							
1 July 2013	Opening balance					5,700	11
	Income 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2014						
	Subscriptions ⁴			1310	50		
	Journal Advertising £60 x 2 ⁵			120	00		
	Runner Post back No's Sold			118	00		
	Interest			5	31	1553	81
						7253	92
	Outgoings 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2014						
	The Runner Post No's 84, 85, 86 ⁶ , 87 & 88 ⁷	2363	92				
	ABPS 2012 & 2013 ⁸	112	20				
31 December 2014		2476	12	1553	81	(2476)	(12)
	Closing balance					4,777	80

The above must be taken as read - There is no profit & loss account. Numerous entries in the 2015 bank account relate to 2014, these are noted on the following page and go up to 1 June 2015.

Summary - Reconciling 2012 - 2014

¹ Copies Printed in the USA add to the amount \$114.29 = £76.20

Total £411.24 (Not in the accounts, found written on a piece of paper)

² No one appears to have noticed or commented that the cost of Journal 85 was 61%+ higher than before

³ Currency exchange should not lose the Society money - Starting in 2015 - As long as I am Treasurer, this will not happen again!

⁴ There was no indication in the paperwork as to who had not paid their subscriptions by December 2014 - This was in a complete shambles when I took over

⁵ Advertising for 2013/14 was not invoiced or collected. Editor's responsibility, but he thought not!

⁶ Invoice for Journal 86 was overcharged by £268.70 (double the cost) No one noticed this error - I recovered the funds on 28.4.2015

⁷ Journal 88 Invoiced 25 September 2014 and remained unpaid until 2 March 2015

⁸ 2014 ABPS subscription not paid - Previous chairman didn't bother.

⁹ Subscriptions in advance, this figure was not available on 31.12.2014 and was calculated by the new Treasurer in March 2015.

Notes on 1 June 2015		
⁴ Subscription Arrears		
2013/14 23 Inland unpaid x 25	300	00
Overseas unpaid x 24	417	00
Received by 1.6.15 - £482 - Outstanding £235	717	00
⁵ Advertising Three outstanding £30 + £60 x 2	150	00
£90 paid - £60 outstanding (Wigmore)		
Overseas Funds due to Society		
South Africa (A. MacGregor)	172	00
USA (P. Thy)	120	50
March 2015 - Full amount received	292	50
⁶ Joshua Horgan Error No 86 -Paid 28/4/2015	268	70
⁷ Runner Post 88 a/c unpaid	806	88
⁸ 2014 ABPS sub not paid		
2014 Stampex Room Hire unpaid	48	00
Both Paid 26.1.15 & 2.3.15	854	88
Asset - Postage held by Chairman for 2 Years	474	00
With Treasurer - Now in use from RP No 89		
⁹ Subscriptions in advance - 18 covering 2015	215	00
One covering 2016/17	10	00
	225	00

Balance Sheet 1.7.2012 to 31.12.2014 (Adjusted to 1.6.15)

Assets Postage	474	00		
Debtors				
Unpaid Subscriptions (31.12.14)	717	00		
Advertising	150	00		
Cash held Overseas	292	50		
Joshua Horgan (23.4.15)	268	70		
Cash at Bank	4,777	80	6,680	00
Liabilities - Creditors				
Unpaid Accounts	854	88		
Unpaid Subscriptions (1.6.15)	235	00		
Six months subs written off	613	00		
⁹ Subscriptions in advance	225	00	1,927	88
Nett Assets			4,752	12

Society Accounts in the Journal

Although they are not included in the list of contents, the last *Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2009* appeared on the inside back cover of Issue No 76 (November 2009).

Nett assets reflected £5271.98. As far as I am aware the 2010 - 2012 Accounts were not published in the Journal.

Taking the above into account, these are the first figures to be published in six years.

Overseas Postage - Royal Mail relents - Until recently, the Journal was treated as a small parcel by the Post Office, up to 100 grams: Europe £3.45, Overseas £4.10. During May I have been informed that the Journal will in the future be classified as a Large Letter, up to 100 grams: Europe £2.45, Overseas £3.15

Runner Post No 88 - Demonstrates past Society management. No 89 - Printing costs reduced by half, weight over 100 grams.

Journal	Cost	Adverts	Nett
No 88	£807	(£40)	£767
No 89	£413	(£20)	£393

Members' displays on 21 February 2014 at Stampex

Dennis Firth showed an interesting selection of Bechuanaland material: **1.** Special touring train post office covers **2.** First flight covers **3.** Tati Co cheques **4.** Sheets of charity labels **5.** Boer war covers **6.** BP Fiscal and Revenue Stamps used.

Tony Stanford showed Trans-Protectorate material, which was an area to the north of Bechuanaland Protectorate, comprising Tati District and part of the southern area of Matabeleland (centred on Bulawayo).

The display included: A sample set of stamps cancelled Gubulawayo/BP - Gubulawayo & Tati cancels after the "BP" had been removed - Photos of the first and second Gubulawayo post offices - Covers carried by Runner Post - Commonwealth Reply Coupons, Money Order and Telegram Form postmarked Bulawayo - Examples of all the Barred Diamond Cancels used in Rhodesia with a different letter for each post office.

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BECHUANALAND

MOSITA



BECHUANALAND 1897 (30th August), official pre-printed entire, folded and mailed to Cape Town, bearing a superb strike of the MOSITA / B.B. (30 Aug) single circle datestamp. The address portion reads 'On Her Majesty's Service / The Military Secretary, / Government House, / CAPE TOWN.' The contents concern a Trooper in the Bechuanaland Border Police and reads "I hereby acknowledge to have received a Medal granted by the British South Africa Company for Service in" with '1893' inserted in manuscript along with a signature ('N.J.Poynton?') The address of the sender is given as 'Mosita' and is dated '30/8/97'. SETLAGOLI (1 Sep), MARIBOGO (1 Sep), Kimberley (4 Sep) and Cape Town (4 Sep) transit / arrival single circle datestamps. A fascinating historical document and a scarce example of official free mail out of Bechuanaland. (AB2248) **SOLD**

Note: Mosita, Setlagoli and Maribogo were situated in British Bechuanaland which was annexed to the Cape on 16th November 1895. In some cases, these old cancellers with territorial designation 'B.B.' or 'Bechuanaland' continued in use for some time. In the case of Mosita, examples of the original 'B.B.' version are extremely rare and appear to be unrecorded used before annexation. This is the first example I have handled.

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