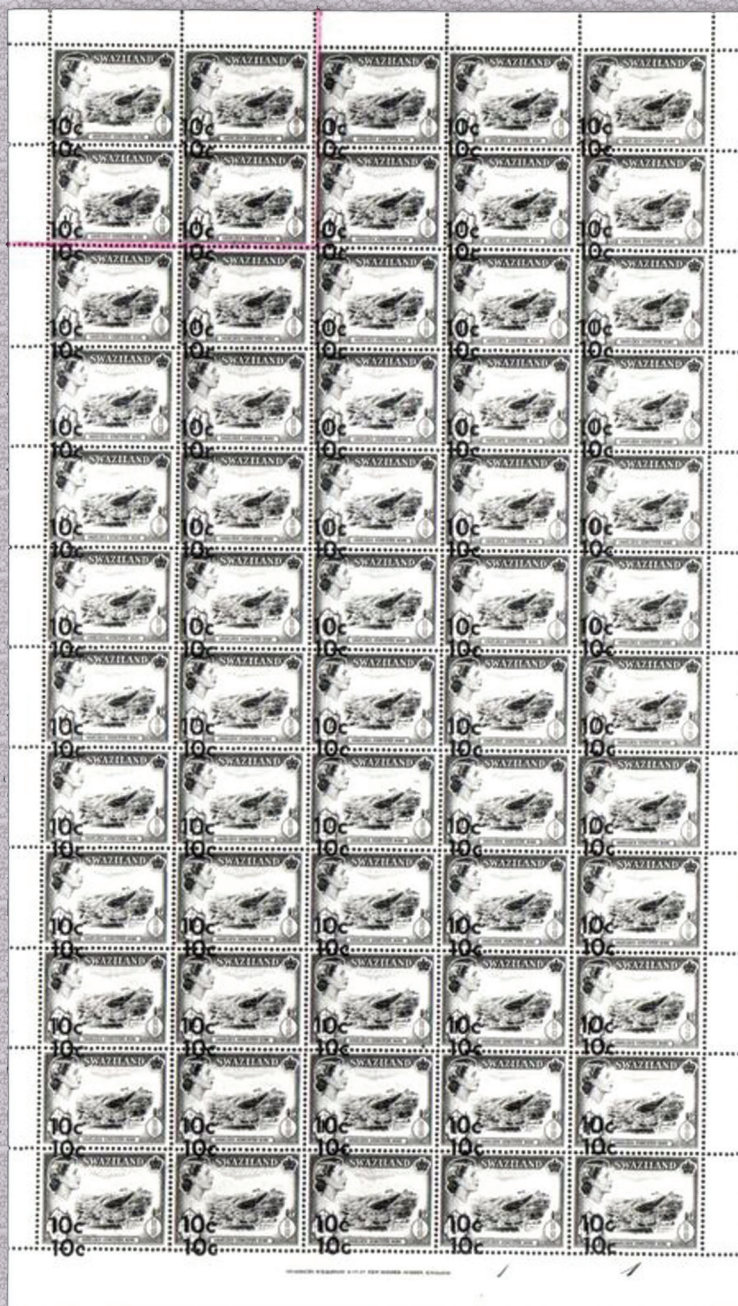


THE RUNNER POST

The Bechuanalands & Botswana Society



- Philatelic Forum
- NY-2016 Report
- Barred Oval B update
- Rare Stamps comments
- Postmark Update
- Recent Botswana
- 1961 Decimal Ovpts
- Sunset Covers
- Botswana 50 Years of Stamps Part II
- Mail to Botswana





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Southern Africa Annual Conference 11 to 13 November 2016 - Honiley Court Hotel - CV8 1NP

2017 Subscriptions - Inland £17 - Europe £22 - Overseas £25

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Next AGM

17 Feb. 2017

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Subscription

includes a

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Southern Africa

Philately

with each

Edition of

The Runner Post

Editorial - The New York International came and went and I spoke to several dealers who had a stand at the show. They said it was a long and tiring event. They were satisfied with the business they conducted, but I did not detect an over enthusiastic response from them. Tony Stanford and Brian Trotter, along with several other members of the society attended the show and a brief report appears on the next page. Despite the pre-show hype the NY show only produced one new member for the society and we welcome Ricardo Verra. Ricky works in Switzerland for David Feldman and he is a familiar face at Stampex and the York racecourse.

The June Leamington Spa philatelic weekend did not attract any UK based member. Peter Jukes was in the country and he did make it to Leamington...thank you for coming!

Brian Hurst resigned his positions with the society and on behalf of all the members I wish to convey a big thank you to Brian for his support and efforts made to this society. Until the next AGM, Tony Stanford has taken over the duties of the Secretary and Peter Thy agreed to be our Archivist.

Another Editor

On 25 May I received an email from Gordon Smith in Canada who wrote... *I was approached by Tony Stanford a while ago and said that I would be willing to take it on, but I wouldn't be able to do so until June of 2017 due to other commitments...*

I also noted in Gordon's correspondence ... *I also worry about content for the journal. I have a somewhat limited knowledge of the stamps of Bechuanaland and Botswana as my collection interests focus on relatively esoteric subjects related to Official Free covers, Meter Mark covers, Permit Mail, registration labels, On Botswana Postal Service markings, and On Botswana Government Service markings ... basically all the stuff without stamps! I will really need extensive support to get articles that are interesting for a wider audience. I hope that I can count on you for some articles!*

In my reply to Gordon I stated...*Your proposal to take over is welcome... If you anticipate that I will be writing most of the journal, then there is no point in me giving up. I suggest you initially come onboard as Assistant editor, put a few pages together and send it to me and we can take it from there.*

To date I have not received further communication on the above subject from Gordon.

I have previously commented on sourcing material for the journal and said that if there is insufficient content, it is up to the editor to fill in the space himself...if he is unable to do so...there is a potential problem. It ought to be appreciated that *The Runner Post* is the society's only asset as it seems that attracting anyone to a meeting is more or less futile...we are not the only society with the afore said scenario.

1) Report of the NY-2016 Show by Tony Stanford

The NY-2016 World Stamp Show was held at the Javits Convention Centre in New York from Saturday 28 May until Saturday June 4th. This was the major US International Show which is held every 10 years.

The Bechuanaland and Botswana Society had arranged to share a booth and display frame at the show with The GB Overprints Society. The joint GBOS/BBS booth was set up with a selection of publications and flyers including the Bechuanaland & Botswana Postal Stationery book and a stack of the CD's featuring David Wessely's collection, both of which were given to anyone that was interested. The display frame was set up in a separate area with material publicizing both societies. Peter Thy greatly assisted in manning the booth on behalf of the BBS.

The booth was situated in a row with a number of booths of other Southern African societies in an area that was generally fairly quiet but got busy after meetings had ended.

The members of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa (PSGSA) on the adjacent booth kindly kept an eye on our booth whilst it was not manned.



On the Monday afternoon Peter Thy presented two joint PSGSA/BBS seminars. The first session on 'The Future of Southern African Societies' was attended by around 15 and prompted quite a lively discussion without reaching any conclusions. The second seminar summarized the postal history of the Southern African Pioneers serving in WWII which ten people attended.

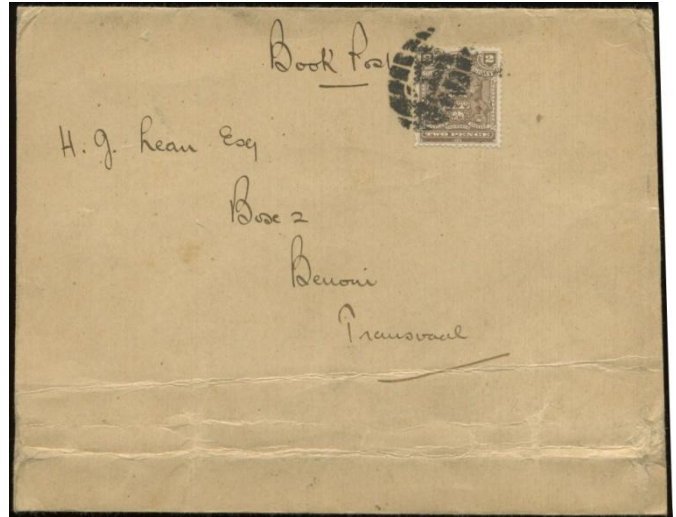
On the Tuesday afternoon I chaired a GBOS meeting at which I displayed mint and used GB and Cape postal stationery overprinted for use in the Bechuanaland. This meeting was well attended by a mix of around twenty GBOS and BBS members together with some non-members.

Altogether it was an excellent show with many very fine exhibits including Peter Thy's five frames of Bechuanaland Postal Stationery cards for which he was awarded a Vermeil.

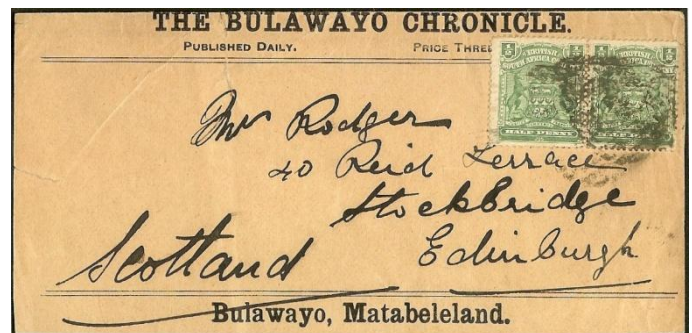
Peter Thy wrote...*There were about 845 competitive exhibits of which only twenty two had a Southern Africa theme. Peter van der Molen received Large Gold for his Swaziland book...Peter concludes...The Southern Africa exhibits received largely the same range of medals as the overall shower of medals.*

2) The Bulawayo Barred Oval B cancel

The Runner Post No 92 page 2310 - I sourced an illustration of the barred B on commercial mail from Tony Banks.



A 'Book Post' wrapper to Benoni in Transvaal with a Rhodesia 1898 2d Small Arms, but no datestamp on the piece.



Another wrapper of *The Bulawayo Chronicle* with Small Arms 1/2d x 2 cancelled with an indistinct oval B, again no datestamp, but this printed wrapper leaves no doubt as to its point of origin. Item courtesy Jefferson Ritson.

3) Rarer Stamps Study - Editorial Comment

The Runner Post No 92 pages 2308 and 2309

The time and effort Brian Hurst and Steve Wallace have devoted to this subject is commendable and worthy of praise. However I have an important issue with the very necessary provenance. In several cases their comment includes 'in *British Library*', 'in *Botswana Postal Museum*' or in '*Royal Philatelic Collection*'...that is as far as it goes, there is no 'ex Joe Bloggs' or 'Auction... date of sale & lot No. Thus when it simply states 'three known' and someone acquires an example, there is no way that the person can assess whether or not their copy is one of the three recorded or whether it is a fourth example!

The two researchers will at some point in time move to the big stamp club in the sky and that means that they can no longer be consulted. If there is a reference to an auction catalogue, one may locate the foregoing and either study an illustration or the description. In my opinion the study of philately is about publishing what is known, withholding vital information is of no assistance to fellow philatelists.

Brian Hurst has sold his collection, thus any of his rarities ought to be marked 'ex Hurst' and it would be equally helpful to note from what source he obtained them.

Rarer Stamps Study - Editorial Comment - continued

Reporting Rarities - In my opinion, another important point in the interest of philately is to accurately describe any feature worthy of note. For instance 'SG 54d - 3 mint' one '*in British Library*'. I interpret this as three single mint copies, yet *The Runner Post* No 92 includes an advertisement on its back cover illustrating an example in a lower marginal block of nine which includes said variety in the centre of the block. Part of '3 mint' really! It also informs us 'ex Hurst'...where did he get it from? None of the foregoing appears in the Hurst & Wallace study... why? A cloak and dagger policy has no place in the Philatelic world and I advocate...either publish all the information or do not bother, leaving an audience in the dark is not very helpful.

SG 99a KGV ½d - Imperforate between horizontal pair

A damaged pair plus a block of four, I was aware of the damaged pair and recall seeing it in an auction catalogue, but cannot recall when or where. As it is the only example I am aware of, I assumed it was the only surviving pair.

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I was pleasantly surprised to learn of a block of four and would be very interested to learn more about it...why dangle a carrot in front of me and then whip it away?

The Editor substantiates the foregoing comments

I have devoted much of my time on research and publishing. I have documented the Southern Rhodesia 1924 Admirals that boast an array of part- and imperforate between varieties. Whenever possible I have obtained illustrations of each and every piece, noted every detail and quote all my sources of information. At some point in the future this will allow someone else to cross reference everything I might publish and in turn pick up any error or omission that I might introduce. It allows my successors to thoroughly review whatever I wrote and hopefully build on my efforts...this I call 'ongoing philately'. I frequently review extensive articles that were presented half century or more ago and at the time they were regarded as the definitive work on the subject in question...not so...I regard philatelic writing as ...*the story so far is...*

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Botswana 2015 Postmark Update

By Bruce Warrender

Office	No	Type	Diam	Date 1	Comment
Broadhurst	45	23 M 46(5)	40	30 JUN 2015	
Gaborone	322	1 M 26(4)	40	3 FEB 2004	
Gaborone	323	1 M 26(11)	37	12 SEP 2014	
Gaborone	324	1 M 26(13)	37	02 SEP 2014	
Gaborone	325	1 M 26(15)	37	26 Aug 2014	
Gaborone	326	23 M 24(2)	38	2014-09-11	
Gaborone	327	23 M 60(2)	41	2013-12-21	
Gaborone	328	23 M 60(12)	43	2013-10-29	
Gaborone	329	MISC 3 z 16	41	2013-03-04	
Gaborone	330	MISC 6 z 65	40x60	2013-10-11	Oval cancel
Gaborone	331	MISC 6	29x43	30 JUN 2015	Oval cancel
Lobatse	63	23 M 46(2)	40	12 SEP 2015	
Metsimotlhabe	2	23 M 63	38	2014-08-18	
Mogoditshane	19	23 M 46(3)	40	15 May 2015	In Blue
Poso House	4	23 M 73(6)	38	2014-07-29	
Rasebolai	3	23 M 46(1)	40	29 JUL 2015	
Riverwalk	10	23 M 46(5)	38	2014-12-03	In Blue
Selebi-Phikwe	62	23 M 73(2)	38	08 JUL 2013	
South Sorting Centre	22	MISC 3 z 17	38	2013-01-31	
Sowa	23	23 M 24(1)	40	2012-11-16	
Thebephatshwa	4	23 M 24(7)	40	07 APR 2013	In Purple
Miscellaneous	22	MISC 7 z 3	21x40	30 MAY 2013	Box cancel In Red
Miscellaneous	23	MISC 7 z 4	21x39	03 JUN 2014	Box cancel
Miscellaneous	24	MISC 7 z 5	39x49	08 JAN 2014	Box cancel
Miscellaneous	25	MISC 7 z 6	39x49	11 FEB 2014	Box cancel
Miscellaneous	26	MISC 7 z 7	29x45	11 JUN 2014	21 ??? 2014
Miscellaneous	27	MISC 7 z 8	48x38	26 Aug 2013	Box cancel

Notes

No - Is the number of Office cancels on record

Type - (2) denotes Code 2

Diam - Diameter of circle

Date 1 - Only date seen

Note - Date as seen on postmark

Comment - Latest date seen or comment on Postmark e.g. Struck in Red



Type MISC 6



Type MISC 7

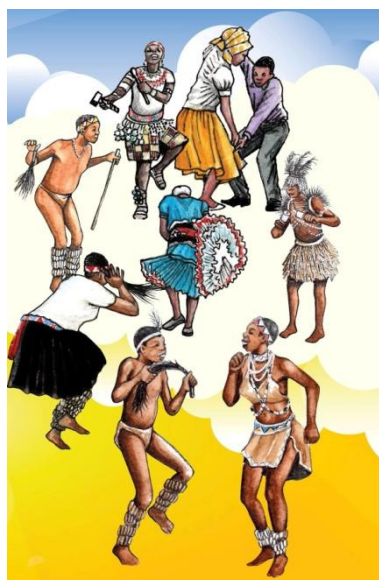
Comments

Miscellaneous cancels do not have an Office name on them but are applied by postal authorities in various departments. They are not always intended to cancel stamps. e.g. Main cage Mail Services. Supervisor Mail Services

Recent Botswana Issues

The previous and final 2015 commemorative set was the November *Vervet Monkey in Botswana*, four values plus a miniature sheet. During 2016 I have been advised of two new issues 14 March *Elephants in Botswana*, four values and a MS. Ought to be SG 1251 to 1254 and MS 1255.

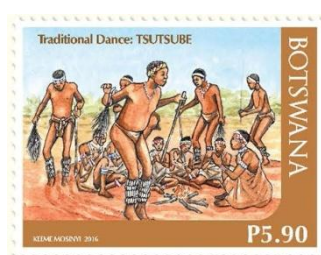
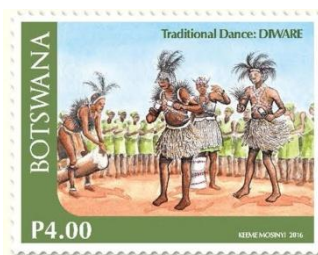
Traditional Dance in Botswana, a set of four values appeared on 26 May SG 1256 to 1259. The name of the printers has been absent on the Botswana Post brochures for some time and I pointed that omission out to Sheila Case. That has now been rectified and the 'dance' set is attributed to *Southern Colour Print* in New Zealand. The brochure for the foregoing depicts a happy scene of a group of people enjoying a dance.



The brochure informs us... *a sample of diverse ethnic dances. Various communities sustained identity through dances, the heritage being passed orally by community elders. These dances and songs without instruments addressed socio-psychological needs; such as healing, quest for rain, celebrating a harvest or purification. In the absence of modern technology and medicine, the tradition worked and reassured our ancestors.*

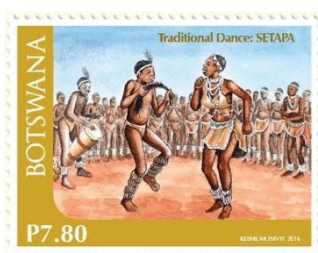
P4.00 Diware - A unique Hambukushu healing ritual, still alive today in Maun, Gumare, Etsha and Kasane.

P5.90 value Tsutsube - A healing dance by the ancient San/Basarwa who foraged in the Kgalagadi desert.



P7.80 value Setapa - A dance of the Bangwaketse.

P10.00 value Hosana - An ancient song and dance of the Bakalanga associated with the quest for rain and performed for the rain god Mwali.



Fiftieth Anniversary of Independence

I am advised that the FDC is dated 3 August, but the issue is to be launched on 11 August at the National Stadium with the President as guest of honour. As yet, no other details available.

BOTSWANA STAMPS

2016 Schedule **March** *The African Elephant in Botswana*, the fourth issue in a series of *Big Five in Botswana*
May *Traditional Dance in Botswana* - 4 stamps

August 50 Years of Progress

20 November 2015

Vervet Monkey in Botswana (Four values plus a MS)



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The 1961 Decimal Overprints

By Otto Pectoom

Introduction

The decimal overprints on the sterling QEII definitives for Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland captured the attention of the Philatelic world at the time. Their appeal never waned and there are individuals who collect nothing else.

The early 1960's was an era when straight forward stamp collecting was extremely popular. Thus an unorthodox issue such as temporary provisional overprints solicited enormous interest from dealers and collectors on a global scale.

October 1960 - The South African Philatelist

The *Robertson Stamp Company* in Johannesburg advised that Bechuanaland would issue surcharged stamps from 1c to 50c, nine values plus three overprinted Postage dues on 14 February 1961. They advised...*Various surcharges will also be made on postal stationery and revenue stamps. It is not yet known when the new permanent decimal issue, to replace the surcharges, will be issued.*

The announcement concluded...*No information appears yet to be available as to what stamps will be issued on 14 February by Basutoland, Swaziland and S.W. Africa, which will all have to issue decimal currency sets.*

May 1961 - The South African Philatelist

A page and a half was devoted to the new decimal overprints, attributed to J. Robertson who noted the reason for the surcharges...*The overprints came about in the first place because the Territories did not want to adopt decimal currency and it took them about six months to make up their mind. By then it was too late to have entirely new stamps printed, so overprinting had to be resorted to...*

An Unprecedented Scramble for the Stamps

The South African stamp trade was intent on receiving their share and the May SAP noted...*Mr Robertson has made two trips by car to Swaziland to secure stamps, as the P.O. is inundated with orders. Being only a small village P.O. they have been somewhat overwhelmed...*

Contemporary reports in the philatelic press intimate that orders from the USA, for the low values up to 5 cents, were so large that some orders from the UK could not be completed. Robertson wrote...*We do not think that any overseas dealer received supplies of every overprint; they had to take what was on hand when their orders were filled. Some of them have written indignant letters to the post offices, not knowing the circumstances.*

Numbers Overprinted, Sold and/or Destroyed

Gibbons Stamp Monthly - July 1961...*So much has been happening in the decimal surcharged provisionals of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland that anything written is out-of-date before it can get into print. There is, however, some chance that during July all Swaziland provisionals may be obsolete and a little later the new Bechuanaland pictorials may be ready. At the time of writing Basutoland is continuing with provisionals. Apparently, after the original supplies had been produced, the Printer distributed the type, and therefore had to reset it afresh when subsequent orders flooded in. This is what we have been told, but it does not fully satisfy us as to why there were so many changes or indeed any changes at all.*

The August 1961 GSM devoted a full page of figures supplied by the *Crown Agents*, along with relevant comments. More information followed in the September 1961 issue under '*Stamp News in Brief*'. The GSM column '*Crown Agents News*' in the June 1962 edition it released figures that included 'sold & destroyed' for the Swaziland overprints.

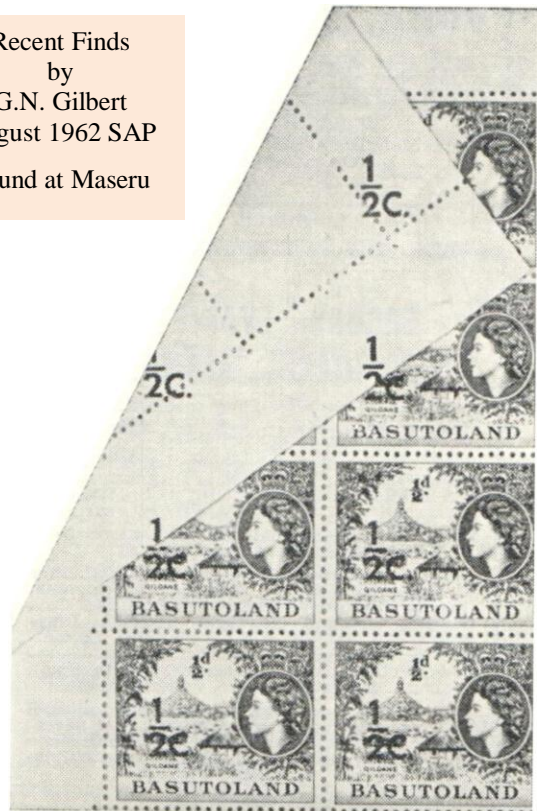
Basutoland 1961 Surcharges

In *The South African Philatelist* G.N. Gilbert took a particular interest in the Basutoland overprints and notes by him appeared during 1961 in July, August, September and October.

In 1962 minor varieties were noted in March, in May Gilbert reported a double overprint on the ½c SG 58a, he continued with lesser variations in June. In August a major overprint variety was noted on postal stationery that received further discussion in October.

½c Overprint Omitted due to a Fold-over (Unlisted)

Recent Finds
by
G.N. Gilbert
August 1962 SAP
Found at Maseru



The top left corner of a ½c sheet folded over resulting in the overprint being applied on the gummed side on that portion of the sheet. This impressive fold-over results in the overprint being omitted on row 1, stamps 1 & 2 and on row 2 stamp 1. On R2/2 only the foot of the 2 in ½ is present plus the 'c' in ½c. Finally on R 3/1 the fraction '1' in '½' is omitted.

In my opinion a wonderful item which, other than this report, I have not encountered or seen.

Basutoland Notes by G.N. Gilbert - SAP March 1963

The last contemporary report on the decimal overprints. He notes that with the arrival of the new decimal stamps, the remnants of the overprinted issue had been recalled and that a few good items had come to light.

The 1961 Decimal Overprints

2c Inverted Overprint - SG 60a

A complete sheet found at Mhaheshoek. Gilbert wrote...*There is no doubt about the genuineness of this, as in the normal sheets on row 3/1, the end of the curl of the 2 is slightly rounded or broken and in this inverted sheet the variety is found on R8/6 upside down of course.*



Other varieties - From the Maseru remains a ½c sheet with doubled overprint mainly at the top of the sheet.

A 1c sheet...*had the overprint shifted so much to the left that at the top of the sheet the '1' of the overprint was off the stamp.*

The overprint slanted down from the top and became normal at the bottom.

A Mr Dekker of Pretoria recorded an interesting variety of the 2c on 2d, used with a Maseru postmark...*the overprint is so low that it overlaps the upper part of the letters 'sut' of Basutoland.*

The usual position of this overprint is almost right in the middle of the stamp on the horse rider.

2½c on 3d Type II with Inverted Overprint SG 61b

This is without doubt Basutoland's rarest overprint error and is only known used. A Mr J.M. Weinstein reported this item in the September 1962 SAP. He relates that a collector examining some kiloware spotted the error and after searching the remainder of his consignment found three more examples. All postmarked Mokhotlong and dated 2 VII 62 or 3 VII 62.

The P.O. is located in a remote part of the country and after seeing the SAP report G.N. Gilbert wrote to the postmaster at Mokhotlong in the hope that he may locate a few remaining mint copies. The foregoing appeared in the November 1962 SAP. Gilbert received a reply stating that all the overprinted stock had been depleted and the postmaster promised to look for other used copies of the inverted overprint.

Bechuanaland's First Major Overprint Variety - SG 167a

The South African Philatelist July 196, Further notes on the *Bechuanaland Decimal Overprints* by R. Brownlow of Lobatsi is concluded by the Editor...*It may be noted that in a Harmers sale of 10 July there is illustrated a horizontal strip of the 1/- stamps with 10c surcharge so misplaced to the left that the right-hand stamp is un-surcharged. The estimated value is £50 - £100...it fetched £160 (SAP Sep 61).*

Brownlow¹ later stated (1969) that the top three rows of the sheet had been disposed of prior to the discovery of the error, thus seven out of ten strips are said to have survived. I cannot substantiate the foregoing and my own count remains at six.

Illustrated
Strip ex row 5
On the society website there is a photo of rows 6 to 10 prior to splitting



Bechuanaland's Rarest Overprint Variety - SG 159b

2½c on 2c Type II overprint, the earliest notes I have traced appeared in the April 1962 SAP in Brownlow's article on the 2½c value, he wrote...*the overprint is missing on the top row of six stamps. The sheet apparently was drawn out of position, the overprinting slipping down missing the top row and appearing just under the perforation separating the rows of stamps and ending in the base margin...*

I gain the impression that this variety was discovered as an intact sheet and it appears that it found its way to the British Stamp trade. The sheet was split into an array of different units and offered in a full page advertisement on the inside front cover of the July 1962 edition of *The South African Philatelist*.

BECHUANALAND 2½c SECOND PRINTING WITH MISPLACED OVERPRINT

As can be seen from the accompanying photographs, the overprint which normally occurs at the bottom of the stamp is entirely omitted from the top row, falling at the top of the stamp in the remaining nine rows, and also on the bottom margin. The variety is shown to best advantage in vertical strips of ten stamps.

Price per strip of ten stamps—£350.

Single stamp, overprint at top Price £20
Vertical pair, Price £40

Bottom two stamps from strip, two stamps overprinted at top, and overprint also on lower margin Price £50

BECHUANALAND
10c. horizontal strip of six, the sixth stamp with opt. omitted £250

BASUTOLAND
D8a block of 12 showing error —St. Edward's Crown wmk. £60

SWAZILAND
25c fourth printing (Type III) M. Used
600 printed £32-10 £35
Plate Number block of four £150 —
1c misplaced overprint CW37b £10 —

CAMBERLEY STAMP CENTRE
101 B LONDON ROAD, CAMBERLEY, SURREY, ENGLAND.
CASH WITH ORDER PLEASE.

The *Camberley Stamp Centre* offered the variety in a strip of ten for £350 or in a top marginal strip of three at £200.

A lower marginal vertical pair with one overprint in the margin was available at £50. Finally single stamps with the overprint at top could be had for £20 or a pair at £40.

It is also worthy of note that they had a 10c strip of six on offer for £250, perhaps the one ex Harmers?

The 1961 Decimal Overprints

The Varieties at Auction

The Inglefield-Watson collection included a top left vertical strip of five of the 2½c along with a complete strip of the 10c. Offered by Spink on 3 October 2007 as lots 1247 & 1248 and sold for £5,800 and £4,500 without the buyer's premium. At the time they were catalogued at £4000 and £2750 respectively.

A top marginal strip of three of the 2½c sold by Cherrystone Auctions in the USA in September 2013 as lot 624 realized a staggering US\$21,000. In my opinion the strip of three in the Camberley advert is different to the Cherrystone strip.

Recent Articles

The South African Philatelist

June 2015 and February 2016 editions Lawrence Barit, an enthusiastic collector of the surcharged issues, published articles on the Bechuanaland 2½c and 10c that includes a lengthy debate about both these major varieties.

It is clear that he has not seen or gained access to all the contemporary reports that are quoted in this article. He illustrated a top marginal pair ex R1/2 stamp four.

Hurst and Wallace note a complete strip of ten, as offered in the Camberley Stamp Centre advert, but provide no other detail.

Thus out of the six possible examples, there is said to be a strip of ten, a strip of five, two strips of three plus a pair. That makes five out of six possible. Does anyone have details of a sixth?

Illustrated at right a strip of three ex Cherrystone and a lower margin with cylinder No 2 with a 2½c overprint in the margin ex Kenji Nishida.²



Swaziland - *The South African Philatelist*

The annual 1961 Index to the SAP does not include any reference for Swaziland, but - by following the Bechuanaland index for the decimal overprints, one encounters several reports relating to the country.

May 1961 report by Robertson, the editor noted...*We have seen a photograph of some of the Swaziland 10c on 1/-, of which only one sheet of 60 stamps received a well-marked double overprint. The owner has sent this to London.*

Robertson wrote...*The quantities of the different values varied, in the case of the 1/- Swaziland overprinted 10c only 300 sheets were done, while of the ½d, value overprinted ½c the quantity was also small....Early orders were filled from the first printings as far as it was possible to do so, but there were not enough ½c and 10c Swaziland to go round...*

Robertson also noted...*½c and 10c Swaziland was included in the first overprinting only. The ½d value had little postal use, while most of the 1/- value were used up, two at a time, on telegrams, so not many remained for overprinting.* The article concluded with a list of overprinted stamps and postage dues.

September 1961 SAP - Illustrations of all the overprint types plus the number of sheets for each was published. There is a note that David Field in London acquired full sheets of the 1c and 10c double overprint. Another note reads...*The ½c has been reported with an inverted overprint, but we have no details yet about the find.*

David Field took a full page advert on the inside front cover of the SAP and illustrated the sheet of the 1c double overprint. He also notes that he had a full sheet with the 1c on 1d with the surcharge in the centre of the stamp and wrote...*Photographs of the sheet will be supplied to all purchasers and the position of their units will be clearly marked...* See illustration front cover.

October 1961 SAP...*No more overprintings have been undertaken and there are not likely to be any, seeing that a complete set of stamps with the old designs, but decimal values, is now on sale.*

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The 1961 Decimal Overprints

Swaziland continued

November 1961 SAP - Noted that the ½c inverted overprint was confirmed in *Stamp Collecting* (15 September), bought by a London dealer, the finder retained a block of four.



Note

At a later date forgeries of the inverted overprint came into circulation.

Illustrated block
Spink
20 May 2015
'Van der Molen' sale
lot 1197

50c Type II, Muscotts describes an overprint shift which falls at the bottom of the stamp. The 5c overprinted aerogramme with a double overprint.

February 1962 SAP, a summary of Swaziland Decimal Rarities, includes ½c Surcharge inverted, 1c and 10c double prints and 50c type III overprint. March SAP included a list of other 'lesser' varieties. October SAP a report of the 25c Type I with the overprint in the same position as type II, received via a new issue service in England.



Spink 20 May 2015 'Van der Molen' sale lot 1198

Gerald Bodily

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10c Double Print SG 73a, first reported May 1961 SAP
Ex David Field, Corrigan & Peetoom
Spink 20 May 2015 'Van der Molen' sale as lot 1201

50 cents Type III - SG 75b

This overprint is without doubt the rarest of all the recorded decimal surcharges and a report in the *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* July 1961 reads...*We had heard some time ago that there was this third 50c in a thin type, in a printing figure so small that we frankly thought a least one nought had been omitted. But we were wrong! The stamp is surcharged in the thin Tempo Medium, and the full quantity was a mere six sheets (360 stamps). These stamps were placed on sale and four sheets had been used on postal matter and telegrams before someone noticed the difference. In the remaining two sheets, there were some creased stamps, so that the number existing mint can be little more than one hundred! A thorough search through all Swaziland post offices has revealed no more.*



50c Type III Spink 20 May 2015 'Van der Molen' sale as lot 1208

The illustrated 50c Type III Imprint Cylinder block of eight is the largest known multiple. Another cylinder block of four was offered by Spink in their 25-26 November 2014 *Collector's Series* auction as lot 1432, estimated at £12,000 - £15,000. Needless to say, it did not sell!

Notes

¹ Brownlow's statement appeared in Barit's June 2015 SAP article

² Kenji Nishida, a Japanese philatelist, who assembled an outstanding collection of QEII definitive varieties. Stanley Gibbons bought his material in 2010. Nishida owned many major Commonwealth varieties

Sunset Covers and Emil Tamsen

Collated by Otto Peetoom with input from Tony Stanford

Tony Stanford advised...After the NY-2016 meeting new BBS member Ricky Verra showed me his fine collection of Bechuanaland postal history and the last item really caught my attention. This is a Tamsen cover franked with a range of GB overprints posted at Palapye on 31 March 1938 and with the endorsement 'Last day of Postal Use'. Ricky also showed me a similar cover posted from Francistown on the same date.



FRANCISTOWN 31 MAR 38

Tony asked whether I could throw more light onto the subject and a search through the 1938 editions of the SAP revealed...

The South African Philatelist - February 1938

Emil Tamsen wrote an article *Sunset Covers of South Africa* which has a bearing on the above...After the collecting of 'First Day'...the natural sequence was 'Last Day' or 'Sunset Covers'. The only difference is that while Sunrise Covers are born everyday somewhere in the world the Sunset Covers die off gradually and are therefore few and far between; still, they will continue to die as long as new stamps are born.

The collectors of Sunrise Covers have an easy task because these covers are plentiful, but the collector of Sunset Covers will find it a rather difficult job to get a good representative collection together; that is simply because in the past Sunset Covers have been neglected. Is it perhaps the human touch that one does not like to think of one's own funeral?

Well, no matter what the reason is, both classes of these covers have come to stay and will be considered part and parcel of every specialised collection...Current stamps become obsolete through new issues replacing them; still they usually retain their franking power for some time later, although after a year or two nobody but a collector or dealer may have any of them.

As far as I remember of the South African stamps, only the Cape Triangulars, Natal embossed stamps, all Zululand issues and the Transvaal V.R.I. and E.R.I. (the last on account of the extensive forging of same) have been officially declared as being of no franking value; the old pre-1900 stamps of Transvaal and O.F.S. lost their value through conquest.

We have precedents in amalgamations of different stamp Issuing territories into a larger one, for instance, Canada, four colonies combining into a Dominion, New Zealand annexing Cook Islands and Samoa, Italy on becoming a kingdom, absorbing nine separate states, Germany absorbing the several stamp issuing towns and countries, Colombia federating eight original states into a Republic.

During the Great War, 1914-18, and afterwards under Mandate, the several German Colonies lost the legal use of their stamps.

Remember, in all the above-mentioned instances, the then current postage stamps lost their postal franking value on the day of confederation, absorption or annexation, so their Sunset Covers would have to bear that date.

On the other hand, there is the Commonwealth of Australia, which started Federation of the six separate Colonies on 1st January, 1901, and which still allows the postal use of any of the postage stamps of the previous Colonies just as our Union of South Africa has done up to the end of 1937.

When in December last the Union Government gave official notice that all Pre-Union postage stamps of Cape, Natal, OFS, and Transvaal would become obsolete and lose their franking power on 31 December 1937. I considered that such a great interesting philatelic event ought not to be passed over silently, but should be philatelically celebrated and thereby become a memorial to present and future stamp collectors of South African stamps.

After consulting a few friends about this matter, we now have a very limited series of real Sunset Covers, namely, covers franked with only Cape stamps, posted in OFS and sent to Natal, also OFS stamps posted in Natal to Transvaal, and similar ones; further a series of one or two stamps of each of the four colonies mixed and posted in one colony for transmission to another colony. All covers were registered and flown by Airmail.

When these King Edward VII and Queen Victoria stamps were printed in London some 30 years ago, for the different colonies, then the Airmail service was not thought of. How these stamps must have wondered when being packed in postal bags, dropped into an aeroplane and flown to their destination I wonder how they must have felt during their trip and what they would say if they could have spoken, about the present state of postal transport!

Illustrations - Tamsen's February article is accompanied by two self addressed registered envelopes, the first with a Natal Queen Victoria- plus four KEVII stamps, cancelled Bloemfontein 31 XII 37 and sent to Nylstroom, Transvaal. The second with a combination of five stamps: a CGH ½d, CGH overprinted 'G', an OFS VRI, and Natal and Transvaal KEVII, registered and cancelled Johannesburg 31 DEC 37 to Harvey Pirie in Johannesburg.

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Sunset Covers and Emil Tamsen

Bechuanaland joins the 'Sunset' Party
The South African Philatelist - August 1938

More Philatelic Sunsets in Southern Africa by Emil Tamsen

He wrote...in the February number of this magazine I little thought that new covers would so soon be added to the list. Of late years some British Colonies have followed the example shown by the Mother country of demonetizing certain stamp issues after a more or less short interval and very often only giving short notice of their intention to do so.

A country, however, which really did need to clear out some of its many and varied old issues of stamps was Bechuanaland Protectorate. In that country all stamps issued from the beginning of the existence in 1886 of British Bechuanaland had franking power up till 31st March, 1938. After that date all stamps prior to those of the 1932 pictorial issue became invalid for postage and were demonetized.

This gave the ½d vermilion of 1887 a life of 50 years, surely a good age even for Africa, but in spite of it the head of Queen Victoria still looks very youthful. The accompanying illustration shows this and some other veteran stamps.



Sunset Cover - Posted PALAPYE 31 III 38

Tamsen illustrated a similar 'Sunset' cover in the Aug 38 SAP posted at LOBATSII 31 MAR 1931, addressed to him.

From now onwards there will not be many issues to put out of action in Southern Africa and complete sunsets can only be expected when the three Protectorates, Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland become absorbed in the Union and lose their own stamps.

Meanwhile the list of countries in this part of the world from which sunset covers can be collected stands as follows; Bechuanaland, Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Orange River Colony, Northern Rhodesia, Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia and Transvaal.

Other 'Late use' Tamsen Covers

Tamsen was a very astute philatelist who certainly had his feet on the ground regarding all philatelic developments in Southern Africa. Thus he was aware that obsolete Bechuanaland Queen Victoria stamps remained valid for postage and he was in the habit of creating self addressed covers to Nylstroom.

I have two registered covers, both from Lobatsi to Tamsen and franked with blocks of four. One with British Bechuanaland 1888 - 1895 CGH overprints ½d, 1d & 2d SG 30, 31 and 39. Posted 22 AUG 14 with 24 AUG arrival backstamp. Today the stamps alone catalogue at £225.



SG 30, 31 and 39 in blocks of four - LOBATSII 22 AUG 14

A Second Registered Tamsen Cover

Also with blocks of four the 1889 1897 GB ½d vermilion Jubilee overprints SG 53, 54 and 59, catalogue value £1032!



SG 53, 54 and 59 in blocks of four - LOBATSII 15 MAR 32

Basutoland and Swaziland 'Sunsets'

Late use of South African Provincial issues
 Until such time that the above two Territories acquired their own stamps, Swaziland in January 1933 and Basutoland in December 1933, they used the stamps of the Union. However as we saw earlier, many of the provincial stamps remained valid until 31 December 1937. South African issues had been withdrawn in the two countries prior to this date, thus many philatelic 'Sunset' covers are invariably dated during 1932-33. I have covers registered in Mbabane with ORC KEVII stamps and OFS VRI overprints used in DEC 32.



A Combination Sunset cover reflecting Old and New - 2 FEB 33

Botswana - Fifty Years of Stamps Part II - Commemoratives

By Otto Pectoom

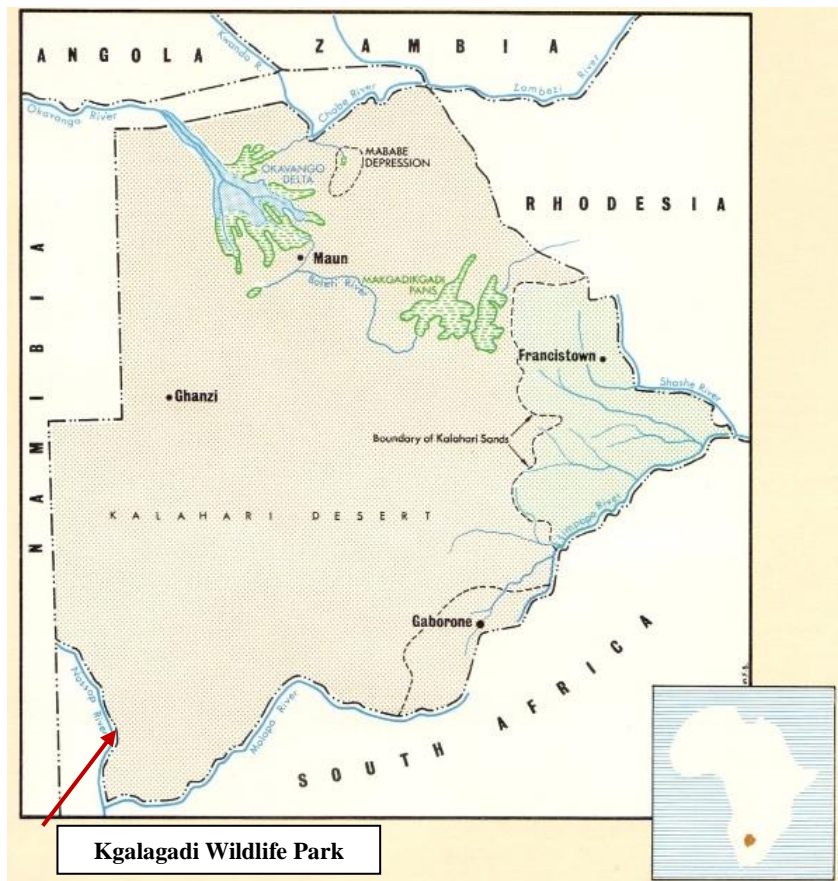
Botswana is a landlocked country in Southern Africa, located just north of South Africa. The country has a total area of 602,957 square kilometres (232,802 square miles), making it about the same size as the state of Texas. The length of Botswana's border is 4,011 kilometres (2,493 miles), and its neighbours are *Namibia* to the west, *Zimbabwe* to the east, and *South Africa* to the south. The capital is *Gaborone* and has a population of about 135,000 and is located in the southeast of the country, almost on the border with South Africa.

Population

Botswana's population was estimated at 1.58 million in July 2000, growing at the slow rate of .76%. The population was expected to reach 2 million by 2030. The birth rate was 29.63 births per 1,000 people, and the death rate was 22.08 deaths per 1,000 people. Approximately 41% of the population was less than 15 years old, 55% was 15-64 years old, and only 4% had lived over 64 years of age in 2000.

Stamp Issuing Policy

Botswana celebrated its Independence on 30 September 1966 by issuing a set of four stamps depicting the *National Assembly Building*, *Abattoir Lobatsi*, *National Airways* and *State House - Gaborone*.



During its first ten years a conservative issuing policy meant an average output of fourteen commemorative stamps per annum. In the next four decades that average increased to 21 per year. During the past

fifty years and by the end of 2015 Botswana had issued 197 commemorative sets, including 53 miniature sheets totalling 1029 stamps. In order to appreciate the foregoing nearby countries, such as South Africa and Lesotho churned out non-stop quantities of commemoratives. RSA produced just short of 400 issues in fifty years.

Commemorative Subjects - For some time, the Crown Agents continued to have an influence on the chosen subjects and certain issues that portray *International Anniversaries & Events or Centenaries* have little to do with Botswana itself. For instance the centenaries of the death of Charles Dickens in 1970, the IMO-WMO in 1973, UPU in 1974, Rowland Hill in 1979, Radio and Modern Olympics in 1996.



Charles Dickens



IMO-WMO

Anniversaries of von Stephan, the Founder of the UPU in 1981, Civil Aviation emblem and Organization plus milestones by the United Nations.

Education

7 April 1967 **First Conferment of Degrees by the University of BOTSWANA, LESOTHO & SWAZILAND** - Four values



The opening of the University (UBBS) on 1 January 1964 was the outcome of an agreement reached in the mid-1962 between the High Commission Territories and the Oblate of Mary Immaculate of Pius XII Catholic University, Roma, Lesotho.

The President Sir Seretse Khama in a speech of Chancellor at University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland graduation ceremony, 15 May 1970 remarked... *It should now be our intention to try to retrieve what we can of our past. We should write our own history books to prove that we did have a past, and that it was a past that was just as worth writing and learning about as any other. We must do this for the simple reason that a nation without a past is a lost nation, and a people without a past is a people without a soul.*

Subsequent sets which connect to the above subject are **Tenth Anniversary of University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland**

8 May 1974 - Four values.

25th Anniversary of University of Botswana

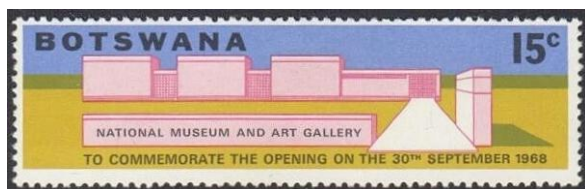
Four values - 13 October 2007.



Botswana - Fifty Years of Stamps Part II - Commemoratives

Culture - Opening of National Museum and Art Gallery

30 September 1968 - Four values plus a MS



Located in the capital Gaborone and is a multi-disciplinary institution that includes the National Art Gallery and Octagon Gallery. It displays traditional Botswana crafts and paintings and aims to celebrate the work of local artists.

The museum was established in 1967 via an Act of Parliament and it officially opened to the public in 1968.

The museum is also involved with the preservation of Tsodilo, the country's first world heritage area, among other efforts.

It is the caretaker of Tsholofelo Park, the burial place of the negro of Banyoles, known as El Negro in Botswana, following the body's return from the Darder Museum of Banyoles, in Spain.



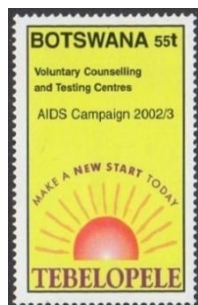
Later sets connected with the Museum are 30 September 1988 - **20th Anniversary of National Museum and Art Gallery** and **40th Anniversary of the Botswana National Museum** 29 September 2008

Independence Anniversaries Issues produced for the 5th, 10th, 20th and 40th Anniversaries that exclude the 30th. All the previous Presidents have been portrayed except the man currently in power since 2008 - Seretse Khama Ian Khama.

The Battle Against Aids

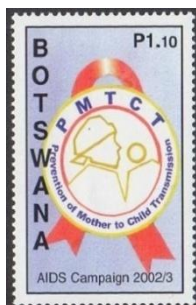
The rapid spread of AIDS in Botswana is a major reason that population growth is low. It is estimated that 25-36 percent of the population is infected with the virus, reflecting one of the highest rates in the world.

This has caused a great number of social problems including labour shortages and a health care crisis. AIDS-related health and safety information is openly available, but cultural practices, social mobility, and the fact that Botswana lies on major trucking routes between South Africa and the north have contributed to the spread of the disease.



AIDS Awareness

1 December 2002
Four values



2000 August - President Mogae says Aids drugs will be made available free of charge from 2001

2001 March - National diamond corporation, Debswana, says it will subsidise drugs for workers with Aids.

2004 March - HIV infection rate falls to 37.5%; Botswana no longer has the world's highest rate of infection.

Christmas Stamps

Starting in 1968 Annual sets, usually with four values were predominantly issued in November and occasionally during October. From 1968 to 1973 the stamps portrayed child-like or nativity scenes.



1968



1970

From 1974 the annual set depicted the Flora of Botswana. From 1978 the Christmas issues always included a symbolic emblem representing the Christmas star. Three exceptions to the flora theme are 1983 Dragonflies, 1984 Butterflies and 2005 Doves and Pigeons.

The Annual Christmas stamp policy includes six miniature sheets for 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1974 and 1987. The last annual Christmas set has a plant theme and was issued on 30 November 1998. A few erratic sets followed in 2004, 2005 and 2006 and no Christmas stamps have been seen since.



1982 35t Fungi

Traditional Life in Botswana

The above has been an ongoing theme since a 1971 issue depicting Important crops such as Sorghum, Millet, Maize and Groundnuts. Each set includes four values and on occasion a miniature sheet is also included.



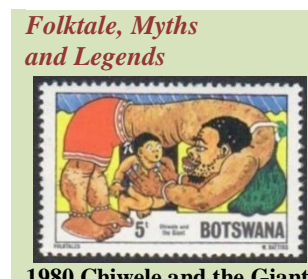
2005 Edible Crops Sorghum

1979 Beadwork



Themes include Agriculture, Livestock, Transport, Medicine, Musical Instruments, Artefacts, Toys, Weapons, Handicrafts, Weavers, Baskets, Pottery and Local Domestic Animals.

Also 1980 **Folktales** - Four values plus
2012 **Myths and Legends** - Six values



1980 Chiwele and the Giant



2012 Tumtumbolosa

Botswana - Fifty Years of Stamps Part II - Commemoratives

Scenery, the Environment and Tourism

Botswana's jewel in the crown is its flora and fauna, the various wildlife parks and the world renowned World Heritage site of the Okavango Delta. Many of the issued stamps reflect the foregoing.

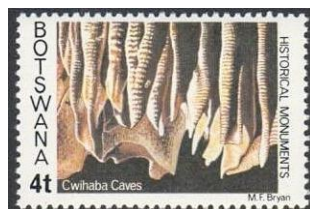
Historical Monuments 22 August 1977 - SG 399 - 404

Six values plus a miniature sheet.

4t Cwihaba Caves - Alternative spelling seen - Gcwihaba Caves. A Tourist attraction in Ngamiland East.

5t Khama Memorial Is located on the northwest side of Serowe not far from Thataganyane Hill.

15t Green's Tree Frederick Thomas (Fred) Green hailed from Montreal in Canada. Born 4 April 1829 - Died 5 May 1876 and was an explorer, hunter and trader.



Cwihaba Caves



Mmajojo Ruins

20t Mmajojo Ruins - Alternative spelling seen - Mamajojo Ruins. This area was long ago occupied by the Bakgatlheng, who were displaced by the Bangwaketse and receded west where they became part of the BaKgalagadi.

Some of the walls can still be found close to the Seoke at the southern base of the hill. Some of the area's exquisite walls are still standing intact. The well crafted stones and their quality have kept the wall's shape.

25t Ancient morabaraba board It is claimed that Morabaraba boards carved in rock are dated to be at least 800 years old, which would exclude a European origin.



35t Matsieng's footprint South East from Gaborone features an elongated human footprint and various animal spoor engravings which are estimated to have been carved between 3,000 and 10,000 years ago.

Okavango Delta 11 September 1978 - Six values plus a miniature sheet. Printed on sand-grained paper which has an uneven surface. The designs are not very attractive.

South African Tourism Year - Okavango Delta

30 September 1991 - Four values includes Crocodiles basking, African Fish Eagles and Delta Wildlife.



Okavango Delta



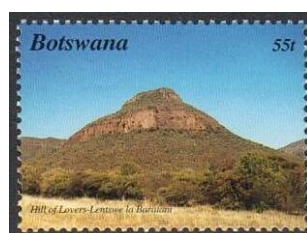
Tourism

Tourism 1st Series 23 March 1998 Four values, Boabab Trees, a Crocodile, Stalactites and Rock Paintings.

Tourism 2nd Series 24 May 1999 Four values includes Salt Pans and Rock Paintings

Natural Places of Interest 27 March 2003 - Four values

Hill of Lovers, Sand dunes, Moremi Falls and Gcwihaba Cave



Hill of Lovers



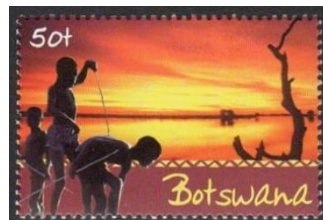
Telegraph office

Historical Buildings in Phalatswe 21 March 2005. Four values showing Blackbeard's store, a Primary school, Telegraph office and Magistrate's court.

Scenic Rivers 5 April 2000 and **Scenic Skies** 28 September



Scenic Rivers



Scenic Skies

The People

Botswana is one of the few countries in sub-Saharan Africa with a fairly homogeneous ethnic background.

The Batswanans make up 95% of the population, of which the Tswana tribes constitute 60%. The San people (also known as Basarwa, Khwe or Bushmen) number 60,000. Population density is low due to the harsh climate of the Kalahari desert, at 2.6 people per square kilometre (6.7 people per square mile). The majority of Botswana's people live in the southeast of the country, where the desert gives way to the more fertile land of the Okavango river delta and swamp, and 50% of the total population lives within 100 kilometres (62 miles) of Gaborone. At Independence in 1966 only 3% of the population lived in urban areas, but by 2000 this figure had risen to over 65%.

Ancient Art - Rock Paintings

Tsodilo - With one of the highest concentrations of rock art in the world, Tsodilo has been called the Louvre of the Desert.

Over 4,500 paintings are preserved in an area of only ten square kms of the Kalahari Desert.

The archaeological record of the area gives a chronological account of human activities and environmental changes over at least 100,000 years.

Local communities in this hostile environment respect Tsodilo as a place of worship frequented by ancestral spirits.



1991 Rock Paintings



1975 Tsodilo Hills

Rock Paintings in the Tsodilo Hills issued on 23 June 1975.

Set of 4 values plus a miniature sheet

4 March 1991 **Rock Paintings** - Four values

Botswana - Fifty Years of Stamps Part II - Commemoratives

Wildlife Parks in Botswana

Chobe Game Reserve 2 October 1967 (3 values)

Wetlands 2nd Series - Chobe River 12 December 2001

Five values plus a miniature sheet



The Chobe River area contains an interesting variety of habitats and is rich in plant life, with mopane woodland, mixed combretum, sandveld, floodplain, grasslands and riverine woodland. Many trees have suffered considerable damage from the high numbers of elephants, who push them over and rip off the bark - and some woods have been totally denuded.

The most popular area in and just outside Chobe National Park is the short 9-mile (15km) stretch of Chobe River from Kasane town to the Serondela campsite.



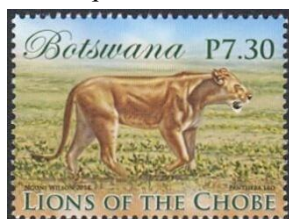
Bush Buck



Fishing on the Chobe River

Few people come to Chobe without taking a trip on this river to see hundreds of hippopotamuses and crocodiles. Both hippos and elephants epitomise this park more than any other animals and are often featured on the cover of brochures to the area. The only subject more photographed in Chobe are the exquisite sanguine sunsets sinking slowly over the water.

Chobe National Park is probably the most affordable of Botswana's parks and with the lure of excellent game watching both on and beside the river, the well frequented areas can become quite crowded.



Lions of the Chobe

20 June 2014 Four values plus a miniature sheet

This is a very attractive set and the designs do justice to the subject.

Chobe is situated in the far North of the country; the Okavango is Northwest and Makgadikgadi South of Chobe and South-East of the Okavango.

Environment Protection Makgadikgadi Pans

26 September 1994

Four values

Map of Makgadikgadi Pans



Wetlands 3rd Series - Makgadikgadi Pans

18 December 2002 Five values plus a MS



Aardwolf



Pelican in flight

World Tourism Conference - Manila 6 October 1980

One value

World Tourism Game Watching Makgadikgadi Pans



Okavango Delta - UNESCO's 1000th World Heritage Site

Wetlands 1st Series - 6 December 2000

Five values plus a miniature sheet.



Okavango Delta Wildlife 10 March 2015

Four values plus a MS. Printed on the reverse of this issue.

The Okavango Delta, in north west Botswana comprises of permanent marshlands and seasonally flooded plains.



It is an exceptional example of BIODIVERSITY through the interaction between climatic, hydrological and biological processes. Two stamps illustrated above.

Kgalagadi Transfrontier Wildlife Park 12 May 2001

Four values plus MS, this was a joint issue with South Africa



Leopard



Gemsbok

In contrast to the other parks, Kgalagadi is situated in the extreme Southwest bordering on Namibia and South Africa.

Kgalagadi offers excellent mammal viewing thanks to sparse vegetation and a concentration of animals in the dry riverbeds. It offers popular predator watching due to seasonal movement of blue wildebeest, springbok, eland and red hartebeest.

Botswana - Fifty Years of Stamps Part II - Commemoratives

Endangered or Diminishing Species

Botswana, along with many other countries in the world, find certain species in decline and the reason is either through poaching, such as Elephants and Rhinos for their tusks and horns. Loss of habitat or conflict with humankind, when carnivores target people's livestock, they are often killed or poisoned. Several stamp issues portray the foregoing.

Diminishing Species

7 June 1977 Five values
The Otter, Serval, Bat-eared Fox, Ground Pangolin (illustrated) and Brown Hyena



Endangered Species 19 April 1983
Four values include the Wattled Crane - Illustrated at left, Roan Antelope, Aloe and Ivory Palm.

Endangered Eagles 30 August 1993
Four values - The Long-crested Eagle, Short-toed Eagle, Bateleur and Secretary Bird.

Endangered Species - Brown Hyena 6 November 1995
SG 809 - 812 Four values plus a se-tenant sheetlet of sixteen, part of the *World Wide Fund For Nature* series (WWF)



Lechwe 6 June 1988 Four values



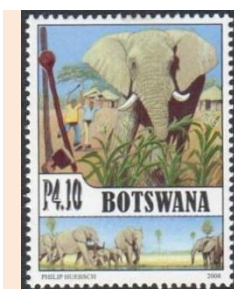
Lechwe



Wild Dog

Wild Dogs 18 December Four values

Botswana Elephants 20 June 2008 Four values



African Buffalo in Botswana

22 July 2015

Four values plus a MS



Black-footed Cat

25 October 2005 Four values plus a MS, part of the *World Wide Fund For Nature* series (WWF)

Black-footed Cat



Wattled Crane

Threatened Birds 5 June 2009

The Lesser Flamingo, Grey-crowned Crane, Wattled Crane and Blue Crane.



Endangered Species - Southern White Rhinoceros

21 November 2011 Four values plus a MS, part of the *World Wide Fund For Nature* series (WWF)



The miniature sheet for this issue is in the shape of a large Rhino with the four stamps se-tenant on its body.

Save Botswana's Vultures 28 September 2015 - Five values plus a miniature sheet. This species suffers when poachers or farmers lace a carcass with poison. Vultures are slow-breeding and its population does not easily recover from such a disaster.



Lappet-faced vulture



White-headed vulture

Other Featured Botswana Wildlife

Birds - Slaty Egret 5 July 1989 - Four values plus a MS.



Slaty Egret

Kingfishers 13 March 2007

Four values



Christmas Doves and pigeons 20 December 2005



First SAPOA National Birds

9 October 2004 SG MS 1027 eight designs plus P5 value SG 1026a, this being Botswana's Cattle Egret and this stamp was also printed in sheets.

Night Animals appeared on 1 December 2010 Six values

that depict a Spring hare, Fruit bat, a Pearl-spotted Owl, Aardwolf, Porcupine and a Civet.

Other sets feature *Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish and Insects*

Botswana - Fifty Years of Stamps Part II - Commemoratives

Development, Industry and Mining

Mining Industry

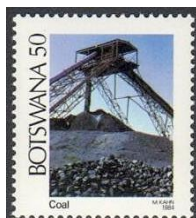
Mining provides 86% of the country's export earnings, most of this from diamond sales. However, the mining sector employs only about 4.4% of the formal labour force.



The country has three main diamond mines, at Orapa, Lethlakane, and Jwaneng. These are all owned and operated by Debswana, an equal joint venture between the South African diamond mining company De

Beers and the Botswana government. Though diamonds dominate Botswana's mining industry, the country is also rich in copper, nickel, and gold. Botswana also has sizable coal deposits.

Many of Botswana's mineral resources have not yet been discovered, but are presumed to exist given the country's geology. The area is expected to yield natural gas and crude oil; Central Botswana and the Kalahari Desert are perhaps the most likely sources of new discoveries.



1970 Copper-Nickel Mining

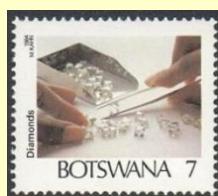
Early Mining 7 July 1980
SG 462 - 467 Six values

Developing Botswana
23 March 1970
SG 261 - 264 Four values

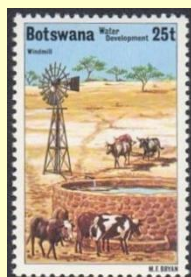
Mining Industry
19 March 1984
SG 554 - 557 Four values

Diamonds 1 February 2001
SG 940 - 943 Four values
Self Adhesive

Water Development
30 March 1979
SG 439 - 443 Five values



1984 Diamonds



Water Development



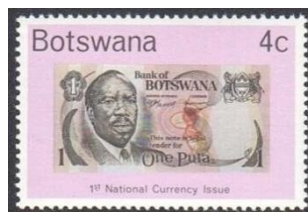
Early Mining - Smelting

Though Botswana has tried to diversify its economy away from mining, the minerals sector continues to dominate the economy. Fortunately, the Botswana government saved and invested a portion of the country's mineral revenues, producing additional income for the country as well as providing investment capital for new industries.

Botswana Events

First National Currency 100 Thebe = 1 Pula 28 June 1976
SG 362 - 365 Set of 4 values plus a miniature sheet.
The pula was introduced in 1976, replacing the South African rand at par and despite 12% devaluation in May 2005; the pula remains one of the strongest currencies in Africa. £1 = P16.62

Botswana Events

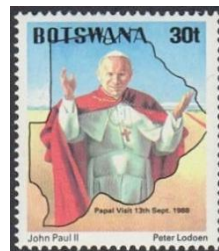


First National Currency

UNICEF Child Survival Campaign 1 June 1987, Four values



Child Survival



Visit of Pope



National Census

Visit of Pope John Paul II 13 September 1988 - Four values

First National Road Safety Day 7 December 1990, 3 values

National Census 3 June 1991 - Four values

De Luxe Railway Service 29 June 1992, 4 values plus a MS



National Road Safety



De Luxe Railway Service

Charitable Organizations in Botswana 29 March 1993

Six values and includes *Lions Club International, Red Cross society, Ecumenical Decade, Round Table, Rotary and Botswana Christian council.*

Local Charities 23 September 1996 Six values - *Pudululogong Rehabilitation, Family Welfare, Forestry Association, YWCA, Council of Woman, SOS Children's village.*

Events of Botswana 30 October 2008 - Three values *celebrate a Botswana movie Premiere, launch of Heart Foundation and establishment of the Botswana Diamond Trading Company.*



Botswana movie Premiere



DTC Building

National Population Census 9 September 2011, Four values

Malaria Prevention Campaign 25 October 2011, Four values

Energy Sources and Uses 8 October 2010 - Four values *Coal for the National Power Grid, Solar Power, Diesel Locomotive and a 'Save Money & Energy' slogan.*

Save Water 5 April 2013 - Six values

The Botswana Night Sky

Two Issues on the subject appeared in 1972 and 2009.

Botswana - Fifty Years of Stamps Part II - Commemoratives

African Development Coordination

It was established in 1980 at Lusaka, Zambia and known as SADCC. In 1992, Heads of Government of the region agreed to transform SADCC into the Southern African Development Community (SADC), with the focus on *integration of economic development*.

1980 - Botswana is founder member of Southern African Development Coordination. Conference grouping which aims to reduce region's economic reliance on South Africa.

Featured three times on the stamps, the set below features on the previous page under *Local Traditions and Life Styles*.

5th Anniversary of SADCC - Traditional Foods

18 March 1985 Four values plus a MS

5 March 1990 10th Anniversary of SADCC

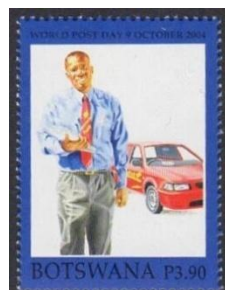


Southern Africa Development Community Day

17 August 1999 - SG MS 903. This commemorative was only issued as a miniature sheet, the flags of the participation countries are shown along the border.

Botswana Post

World Post Day - Sets issued twice, in 2004 and 2014.



World Post Day - Botswana Postal Network 9 October 2014

Four values



International Philately

Anniversaries 5 March 1990

SG 689 60t Penny Black, 150th Anniversary of the first Postage stamp.



Stamp World London 90 International Stamp Exhibition

3 May 1990 - Four values

Stamp Exhibition overprints on MS

HONG KONG 2001 Stamp Exhibition 1 February 2001

MS939 on SG MS938 (Wetlands 1st)



Philakorea 2014 World Stamp Exhibition

Seoul, South Korea 7 August 2014 SG MS1217 on MS1210, Lions of Chobe.

Royalty

Silver Jubilee 7 February 1977 - Three values

Golden Wedding of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip

22 September 1997 - Six values plus the first miniature sheet that incorporates a different design and value to the issued stamps.



Silver Jubilee



Golden Jubilee

Diana - Princess of Wales Commemoration 1 June 1998

Four values plus a miniature sheet



Princess Diana



Golden Wedding

Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee 25 July 2002 - Two values

This article was published in two instalments in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in their July and August 2016 issues.

The next instalment covers the miniature sheets of Botswana; this Part appears in the September 2016 GSM.

This is Africa - Mail to Botswana - There and Back

Contributions from Otto Peetoom, Tony Stanford and Peter Thy

1) *The Runner Post* has a Run-around by Otto Peetoom

In August 2015, Issue No 90 was airmailed to member Steen Jelgren at a P.O. Box in Mochudi with a BOTSWANAPOST 2015-09-11, MOCHUDI arrival cancel...then what?

Next it received a boxed cachet with an array of options and 'UNKNOWN' received a tick. Cancelled at Mochudi 27 FEB 2016 it appears to have been returned by surface and arrived back in England in July.

I suspected that an incorrect P.O. Box number might have been the cause, but an email to Steen confirmed it correct.

The question remains what did *The Runner Post* No 90 do at the Mochudi post office for six months?

2) *Returned Letter from Mahikana* by Tony Stanford

I was handed this cover for the forthcoming GBOS/BBS auction and I thought it would be worth including in the RP as it bears a recent Botswana Post hand-stamp of the type regularly featured in Bruce Warrender's postmark study.



From SOON Online Magazine, Derby, England - Front of the cover with RTS in red ink within encircled address of sender

This large cover contained a magazine and was addressed to the P.O. Box of a pastor in Kanye from where it was evidently not collected and eventually returned to the sender in a very worn and tatty condition, having at some stage received a Mahikana Post Office hand-stamp dated 30 November 2013.

3) *Forensic Postal History* by Peter Thy

A few days before Christmas, I mailed a letter to a correspondent in Botswana. The letter contained the usual philatelic Seasons Greetings and in addition a couple of US\$20 banknotes. It was obviously late in showing up at the Post Office in Botswana. We waited in vain and finally on 16 April 2016, I received the remains of my letter with a sincere apology from 'my' Postmaster on the reverse of the envelope.

The cover was franked with US\$1.20, slightly over the airmail rate to Botswana, and cancelled at Sacramento Sorting Centre on the 22 December and it also received a jet ink bar code at the base. At some point in time on its way to its P.O. Box in Gaborone, the item received a boxed cachet 'IMEC MAIL BUSINESS' in red with optional reasons for non-delivery and marked 'Box Closed/Sold' and at that moment my letter should have been returned to Sacramento.

However someone opened the letter and removed the content i.e. card and banknotes. The culprit tore the address off along with a portion of the IMEC cachet, all that remained was my return address and the reason for non-delivery.

Usually the South African Johannesburg sorting centre receives the blame for most lost letters, but obviously there are other mail sorting centres that could be to blame. For instance there is the Sacramento Sorting Centre that initially handled my letter, followed by the San Francisco International mail sorting centre, then Johannesburg and finally the Gaborone International mail department. Normally it is easy to blame Johannesburg, but in this case, perhaps they may be innocent. After the foregoing route the item was eventually received at Gaborone.

In 2011, Botswana Post built an International Mail Exchange Centre (the IMEC on the cachet) - To serve as a national and international mail hub. A Pitney Bowes sorting machine is capable of sorting 36,000 letters per hour. At this junction my letter passed through and received the decision that the P.O. Box was closed or sold. Sometime after that event, my letter was roughly opened and the content removed plus the receiving address torn off.



In my opinion I suspect that Gaborone might be to blame.

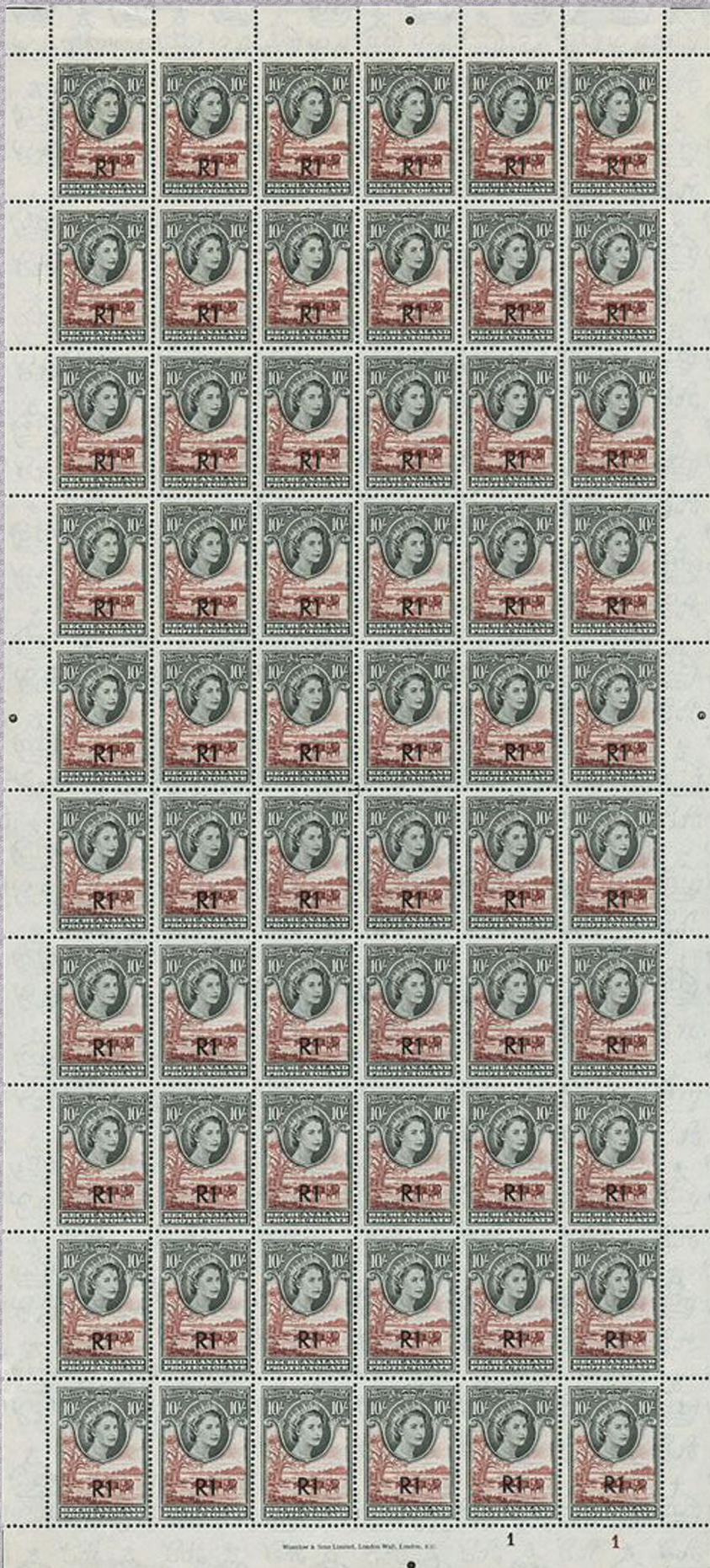
What I find strange is why my mutilated envelope was marked 'RTS' - 'return to sender' and finally ending up in an apologetic US Postmaster's envelope.

Perhaps someone in Gaborone found the discarded part of my letter and returned it so that I could appreciate the ordeal it had suffered!

This article, in its original form, was published in *Forerunners* No 85, March - June 2016.

ALAN MACGREGOR

Member of PTS - SAPDA - APS



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