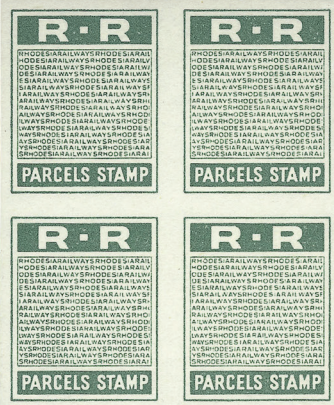


THE RUNNER POST

The Bechuanaland & Botswana Society



1A

1A

- Philatelic Forum
- Kalahari Air Mail
- Rare Stamps update
- Annual Accounts
- Recent Botswana
- 1961 Decimal Overprints
- Botswana Picture cards
- Railway Parcel Stamps
- Botswana 50 Years of miniature sheets
- Amended Constitution



Bechuanaland



www.bechuanalandphilately.com

List of Officers

Hon. Chairman

Tony Stanford

PO Box 2675, Maidenhead, SL6 9ZN,
TonyStanford@btopenworld.com

Hon. Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster and Editor

Otto Peetoom

Roos, East Yorkshire, HU12 0LD, UK.

Telephone +44(0)1964 670239

Email ottopeetoom@btinternet.com

List of Officers

Hon. Secretary

Tony Stanford - details at left

Archivist

Peter Thy - details at right

Committee Members

Brian Trotter

bjayt43@yahoo.com

David Bird

david_polyg@hotmail.com

Overseas Representatives

Botswana - Peter Jukes

PO Box 26746, Game City Kiosk,
Gaborone, Botswana

Email peterjukes391@gmail.com

South Africa - Alan MacGregor

PO Box 515, Simon's Town, 7995, RSA

Email alan@rhodesia.co.za

North America - Peter Thy

PO Box 73112, Davis,
CA 95617-3112, USA

Email thy@kronestamps.dk

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

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Editorial - The 15th Annual Southern Africa Conference was held at the Honiley Court Hotel in the Midlands and the overall facilities proved much more spacious and user friendly than those at Leamington Spa. Whilst a fair number of our members attended, it is noticeable that they are always the same faces and include individuals who invariably belong to several other Southern Africa Societies. These philatelic weekends are friendly gatherings and I recommend that you ought to consider coming to the 2017 Conference.

The Annual National in South Africa in October honoured Paul van Zeyl who was invited to sign the Roll of Honour and I was awarded the *Manfred Weinstein* Memorial Medallion for research and literature. Other individuals in the Society who also hold such a medal are - Alan Drysdall, Brian Trotter, Richard Stroud and Peter van der Molen.

The improved method for collecting annual subscriptions seems to be working and in future a form will accompany the last journal of the year. The idea being that everyone ought to be paid up before the end of the year. An automatic entitlement to a copy of *Southern Africa Philately* will continue and that journal has encouraged several people to join our society.

Membership Matters - Resignations

B. Hurst, A. Rutherford, A. Higson, Colin Palmer and D. Wall.

Deceased - Dennis Firth

2016/17 New Members

We welcome Bill O'Connell, Ricardo Verra, Derek Whitey, Toni Moco, John Isles, Alan Cawood and Patrick Koppel.

The foregoing means a we potentially maintain 85 members. UK (40) Europe (7) South Africa (16) North America (14) Botswana (7) plus Australia (1)

The Future Management of the Society

In recent years it has become a reality that very few people are prepared to perform the necessary tasks on hand. Thus from 2017 the society will be run by an Administrator, monitored by an 'Overseer' plus an Archivist. The foregoing will consist of myself, Brian Trotter and Peter Thy...the Constitution will be amended as necessary...the only other alternative is to disband the society...however with almost ninety members...the foregoing is not a desirable course of action.

Future Editions of *The Runner Post*

It ought to be appreciated that I am the editor of three journals, I single handed write *The Rhodesian Philatelist* and contribute a large chunk to *Southern Africa Philately*. To that end the size of *The Runner Post* is dependent on contributions from the members. The current intention aims at twenty pages, but lack of support might drop it to 16 or 12 pages...please bear in mind...*The Runner Post* is your journal and I cannot continue writing most of it indefinitely!

1) 1962 Definitive (Eight bird designs)

1c African Golden Oriole, 2c Hoopoe, 2½c Scarlet-chested Sunbird, 3½c Yellow-rumped Bishop, 5c Swallow-tailed Bee Eater, 7½c African Grey Hornbill, 10c Red-headed Weaver and 12½c Brown-hooded Kingfisher - SG 168 to 175.

A note in the January 1962 GSM reads...*Mr J. Robertson of Johannesburg sends us a press cutting which attributes the design of the eight bird stamps to Mr Peter Jones, an architectural assistant in the Roan Antelope Mine, Luanshya, Rhodesia. His designs, with those of a Pakistani entrant, were selected from 435 submitted by 80 artists in 10 countries.*

2) Rarer Stamps Study - Update

With reference to my Editorial comments in our previous journal I must express disappointment that no reaction has been forthcoming from either party. A specialized 'Study' group ought to enter into debates as well as observations and comments...Thus I will once more pick up the baton with a further observation.

The Runner Post No 36 - September 1994, pages 761 - 773
THE RARER STAMPS OF BRITISH BECHUANALAND AND BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE by David Finlay.

Finlay wrote...*The aim of this article is to give an indication of the relative scarcity and history of the selected items.*

The underlined text is in my opinion what the subject is all about, to be informative and to provide the reader with as much information as is possible. Articles shrouded in secrecy are not very helpful. For instance, in our previous journal I made the following comment on SG 99a...

SG 99a KGV ½d - Imperforate between horizontal pair...

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?

To my delight I found the answer to my question in Finlay's article...*The only known examples appear to be the block of four and pair described and illustrated in 'The Runner Post' No 9 (Dec 1987) page 145 (Also*

Turning to the relevant reference...*Sotheby's auction in London on 12th and 13th November contained only one lot in the Bechuanaland section, however, lot 394 was of particular interest and was described as follows... 'Bechuanaland: 1932 ½d green, imperforate between vertically, SG 99var., horizontal pair and block of 4 comprising three pairs of this previously unrecorded variety, the pair is defective at the lower left and has a small separation tear between at the top whilst the block is very fine apart from a few short perms., unused unmounted og; from a sheet format of 60 - ten horizontal rows of six, it is quite likely that only ten pairs of this variety ever existed. We understand that it will be listed in a future edition of Stanley Gibbons Part 1 catalogue as SG 99a. Both items with B.P.A. certs. 1987. Also in 1997 Special Presentation Issue.*

Moving on...can any reader update this information, have these two items been sold subsequently, if so, when and where?

1945 3d Victory SG 131a

Notes on the above appeared on page 2309 in *The Runner Post* No 92 being...Argyll Etkin 'County' Sale 24 September 2003. *Matching strips of four from the top and bottom of the sheet... offered in lots 1344 and 1343.*

On 14 December 2016 a second pair, in strips of four, was sold by Spink ex *Graham Cooper* collection as lot 201 being from vertical row No 1 and with a 1984 RPS certificate.¹

The strips are noticeably toned which is not surprising as Cooper resided in the tropical climate of the Bahamas. The lot was estimated £5000 - 6000 and was knocked down at £5800, add to that a 29% buyer's premium = £7482 about 58% of its current catalogue value. It would be interesting to know when and where Cooper obtained this pair from.



The Etkin strip (2003) offered by Murray Payne on 25.1.2016 was unsold at an estimate of £15,000.

Note¹ The Cooper strips were reported in *The Runner Post* No 38, page 824 and again in the 1997 *Special Presentation Issue*.

3) Report from the Archives by Peter Thy

After the resignation of Brian Hurst, I have volunteered to take over the position as archivist of the society. However this action is pending approval at the upcoming Annual General Meeting. I take the liberty of briefly reporting on the past and projected future activities concerning our society archives.

During the past number of years, the main focus has been in to assemble a complete archival collection of electronic versions of *The Runner Post*. The work was initiated by Neville Midwood and followed up by Brian Hurst and its present status is that it is close to completion. Pending an update of a handful of previous scans plus the replacement of some related documents with better quality copies.

The Journal Archives include

- 1) *Runner News*; 2) *The Runner Post*; 3) Auction lists;
- 4) Indexes; and 5) Society publications. The publications include the *Postmark Typology* by Brian Trotter and the Postal Stationery book by Thy and John Inglefield-Watson. Another item for consideration is Peter Lodoen's Postal Office Maps, providing arrangements can be made with copyright holders.

Please contact me with any suggestions.

Report from the Archives - continued

The limitation is the size of the storage media. All items will be included as PDF files that can be read by most computer systems using Adobe Acrobat (or similar). It is anticipated that the archives will be made available during 2017 to all members on either a DC/DVD (or similar) and/or from a web-based folder/website.

In addition, an attempt is being made to assemble a collection of minutes and reports from our Annual General Meetings and other important society documents. Of special interest are any photographs from membership meetings and stamps shows featuring society activities and members.

If you can help, please contact me via thy@kronestamps.dk or write to P.O. Box 73112, Davis, CA 95617, USA.

Please send either scans (at least 150 dpi) or originals, the later will be returned. Please contact me if your material is too large to email as an attachment. Finally, thanks to Neville Midwood and Brian Hurst for their long-standing efforts in putting the Archival Edition of *The Runner Post* together. *Peter Thy - 21 Nov 2016*

4) Bechuanaland SG 39 Missing 's' in 'British'

John Coates sent this piece in and writes...*Stanley Gibbons, in their Commonwealth catalogue, list SG 38 as 's' omitted. Is this also found on SG 39 or is the weak missing 's' a function of dry inking? (Plate 1).*



Plate 1
SG 39
Missing 's'?

The missing 's' variety was addressed by the late Sir John Inglefield-Watson in 'The Runner Post' No 59, April 2004 on page 1422.

5) White '4' in Corner by Bruce Warrender

This variety occurs on British Bechuanaland SG 35 and on Bechuanaland Protectorate SG 64. The basic stamp is a Great Britain 1887 4d Jubilee issue, SG 205.



GB - SG 205



BB - SG 35



BP - SG 64



In the centre of the '4' the engraved lines eventually over time wear and disappear creating the impression that the centre of the '4' is White

This can affect any number of the 4's. It is a known minor variety on the 4d Great Britain stamp. May I suggest that members check to see if they have any examples in their collection?

6) The KEVII 6d Transvaal overprinted Bechuanaland Protectorate - *The Runner Post* No 91, February 2016

On page 2281 I illustrated a lower marginal plate block of eight (ex Hurst) which was said to be the largest known multiple. Our member Alan MacGregor has certainly blown that statement out of the water in his advertisement on the back cover. *A Lower right marginal block of thirty 6 x 5 with plate number '1' at base. Comprising the complete half-pane setting of 30, the first stamp showing the variety Raised 'B' and stamp 5 showing Raised first 'a' in Bechuanaland.*

7) A Note on the 'Kalahari Air Mail' (See next page)

A Brief note on this flight appeared in *The Runner Post* No 20 in September 1990 by Inglefield-Watson on page 360. The author noted...*Outbound and inbound covers are known to exist between both Maun and Palapye and all or most of the other stages on the route and the UK. Three examples are illustrated...*

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The 'Kalahari Air Mail'

Introduction

Howard Cook sent in a few scans of an early flight in Bechuanaland which required further investigation and the October and December 1938 editions of *The South African Philatelist* came to the rescue.

During the foregoing era the journal featured a regular column 'Air Mail Notes' by I.H.C. Godfrey and the October issue of the SAP reported a survey flight.

The 'Kalahari Air Mail' (October 1938 SAP)

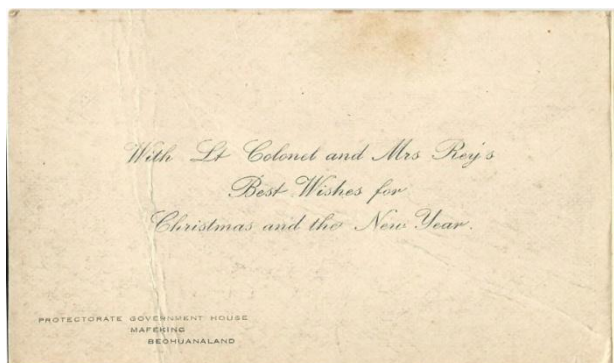
A survey flight over the proposed Kalahari Desert route was successfully undertaken by the South African Airways' Junkers JU86, 'Sir Gordon J. Sprigg,' during September, no mails being carried. It is proposed shortly to inaugurate a northern route to Windhoek, via Palapye Road, Maun and Gobabis, a distance of 1032 miles, thereby completing a circular airmail service, once weekly in each direction, in conjunction with the present Johannesburg - Kimberley - Windhoek route. Air distances between the new stopping places are: Johannesburg- Palapye Road, 240 miles; Palapye Road-Maun, 320 miles; Maun- Windhoek, 472 miles.

Six years ago the journey between Palapye Road and Maun, in Ngamiland, could only be made by ox-wagon and lasted from four to six weeks; at present it takes about two and a half days by car, but when the new service is in operation the journey will be made in about two hours.

Bechuanaland's First Air Service (December 1938 SAP)

South African Airways, November 1938.

Following the above Survey Flight, a regular airmail service from Johannesburg (Rand Airport) to Windhoek SWA via Palapye and Maun in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, was inaugurated on the 1 November. From Windhoek the service continues along the old route: Keetmanshoop, Upington and Kimberley, back to Johannesburg, thereby completing a circular service of 2,040 miles in thirty-one hours, which includes a night stop at Windhoek.



A Christmas Card - Illustrated in first Column

Depicting the Aircraft, captioned *First Flights in Bechuanaland* with a message...*With Lt Colonel and Mrs Rey's Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year*

PROTECTORATE GOVERNMENT HOUSE-MAPEKING-BECHUANALAND

The Return Flight - The first flight in the opposite direction left Johannesburg on 4 November and, stopping at the two Bechuanaland points of call, and remaining overnight at Windhoek returned to its base on 3 November.

The same plane which was used on the Survey Flight-the Junkers 'Sir Gordon J. Sprigg' piloted by Captain R. J. Stewart was employed to open the service on the 1 November. Mails despatched from Great Britain on 24 October connected at Johannesburg with the first outbound flight to Bechuanaland and arrived at Palapye and Maun on 1 November. In the reverse direction Bechuanaland mails, posted on the 5th, reached England on 11 November...in six days!



A First Flight Cover, cancelled Johannesburg 1 XI 38
Addressed to I.H.C. Godfrey

'Maun, Ngamiland to Southampton, England in 6 days'

Sounds quite normal, as things are nowadays, doesn't it? But when one stops to think that only six years ago, before a road was made to connect This Outpost of Empire with the nearest Railway at Palapye, letters took between four and six weeks to traverse the distance of 320 (air) miles by ox or donkey wagon (and about 20 days to cover the distance before 1 November this year by car). It is nothing short of a miracle. A letter posted in Maun can now be delivered in Great Britain (for 1½d.) in less than a week, whereas in 1931 such a letter took 7 to 9 weeks in transit!

Air Distances: Johannesburg - Palapye - 240 miles.

Palapye - Maun 320 miles. Maun - Windhoek 472 miles.

Airmail Quantities:

First Outbound Service 1 November

South African and all Overseas mails to Palapye, Maun and Windhoek - 132 lbs.

Palapye to Maun - 9 lbs,

Palapye to Windhoek and beyond - 1 lb 9 oz

Maun to Windhoek and beyond ?

First Return Service

Maun to Palapye, etc - No data

Palapye - Johannesburg and beyond 3lbs 15oz

Maun and Palapye to Great Britain - 60 items

A Review of the 1961 Decimal Overprints

By Otto Pectoom

Preamble - Available Literature

In our previous issue No 93 I presented an article that in the main deals with the overprint varieties found on Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland.

I collated contemporary information from two philatelic journals, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* and *The South African Philatelist* and realized that said information provides sufficient data for a follow up article.

A summary of the issues appear in *The Shelley Catalogue of Decimal Surcharges* published in November 1962.

After a search in our *Cumulative Index 1985 - 2005* by Peter Thy, I was amazed that only one article on the subject has appeared in the pages of *The Runner Post*. The foregoing was a four page effort on the Bechuanaland Decimal 1c on 1d by Peter van der Molen in No 31 in June 1993.

A 1978 publication is the *Robemark Catalogue Handbook of the Stamps of Basutoland* and a section on the 1961 Decimal overprints was collated by Franco Frescura. Having read the dialogue it is evident that the author drew on similar sources such as GSM and SAP...however certain comments by Frescura are worth quoting.

Finally recent articles on the decimal overprints have appeared in the pages of *The South African Philatelist* and are written by Lawrence Barit. I have known Lawrence for many years and whilst he has been a life-long collector of the decimal overprints, it is evident that he has not enjoyed access to the available contemporary reports, he does however quote Frescura.

This follow up article draws on all the above sources and over the years I have handled a fair amount of the material including most of the major varieties.

Comment in the May 1961 SAP...*The stocks of unoverprinted stamps held by the Crown Agents in London were sent to Pretoria. It would appear that these were not all overprinted at once, but that the Chief Postmasters of the Territories sent orders to the Government Printer to overprint sufficient to meet orders on hand and orders expected...As orders from stamp dealers throughout the world continued to pour in further overprintings were ordered of some values and again different type was used. Of the low values fairly large quantities appear to have been treated in the initial overprinting; it is in the high values that two and sometimes three overprintings were made.*

Franco Frescura wrote...*The three Territories' post offices were small and unsophisticated establishments concerned in the main with catering with relatively small postal needs...The confusion was compounded by the fact that individual post offices were able to order directly from Pretoria and that the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau in London did not handle this issue...*

Decimal Overprint Types

The July 1961 *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* included an article with sub-heading **The Tempo was Hot!** Extracts from said article are worthy of note and include certain updated modifications...*the type used for surcharging by the South African Government Printer at Pretoria was (with a few exceptions) from the type-face known as Tempo, in various forms- Tempo Bold, Tempo Medium and Tempo Bold Condensed.*

GSM continued

The work has in general been carefully done, but knowing what types were employed does help in the classification of what varieties do exist. The fact however that Tempo is a normal printer's type does mean that one must be on the alert for forgeries of the rarer items...

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...we have a number of very interesting issues, clearly identifiable one from another.

25c 25c 25c
Tempo Bold Tempo Medium Tempo Bold Condensed

Basutoland

Initially the low values from ½c to 10c were all one type being Tempo Bold (Type I).

On the 2nd printing of the 2½c, 3½c, 5c and 10c the overprint was replaced in Tempo Medium (Type II).



Type I - Bold



Type II - Medium

It is in the higher values where we have at least two of each. The first printings of all four values, 12½c, 25c, 50c and R1, were in Tempo Bold. (Type I). The second printings in Tempo Medium. (Type II). The 25c Tempo Medium (SG 66a) is a very elusive stamp and the first two R1's seem scarce.



Type I - Bold



Type II - Medium

The GSM article continued...*The second 12½c (SG 65a) is interesting. The type was changed from Tempo Bold to Tempo Medium, but there are a number of thick 'I's, which at first sight might seem to be Tempo Bold. We do not however believe that they are in a different fount. Close examination under a good magnifier shows an ink spread (in some cases there is almost the appearance of a double impression) and we believe that the thickness is more likely the result of poor make-ready of the surcharging forme.*



SG 66 & 66a

Tempo Bold & Medium



A Review of the 1961 Decimal Overprints

These have been followed by a 25c in *Tempo Bold Condensed* and a R1 in small (14 pt instead of 18 pt) *Tempo Bold* - Type III.



Type I - Bold Type II - Medium Type III - Condensed

The 1c and 2c *Tempo Bold Condensed*



The 1c is only known with the above overprint, the Condensed overprint on the 2c was footnoted in the Stanley Gibbons Part I catalogued by 1980...it was not an overprint that was put into circulation.

Barit¹ points out that the 1c value was not overprinted with a smaller font, whereas the 2c exists with a large and small font. He speculates that the large font was perhaps 'experimental' and subsequently rejected for use on the 2c on 2d. I have not traced any reports on the large 2c font in *The South African Philatelist* and the earliest seen is a note in *Stamp Collecting* dated 19 July 1963 along with an illustration of a top right corner marginal single (Courtesy of HR Harmer)

The note states...*Only one full sheet has been reported and the owner, a Maseru resident, states he purchased it over the counter at a local post office 'quite some time ago'...*



Unique
Cylinder
1A 1A block
of four
Courtesy
Brian Trotter

The 2c on 2d Inverted Overprint SG 60a

'One sheet found' was reported by G.N. Gilbert in the March 1963 SAP. Barit¹ suggests at least three sheets and Frescura is very critical about this variety and wrote...*Originally it was believed that only one sheet of the item existed. However since 1963 when this error was first reported several full sheets at a time have been offered to dealers both in South Africa and abroad leading to the belief that the rarity and price of this item are both overrated...*

The 2c on 2d Inverted Overprint (continued)

Frescura continues...*Further there is some doubt as to the legitimacy of this error. No copies are known used; none are documented to have been sold over a post office counter...*

Note - The foregoing seems somewhat over the top as Gilbert intimated in the March 1963 SAP that at least one sheet originated from Mohaleshoek and Frescura offers no viable explanation for his mistrust of said variety.

Barit¹ in his SAP article illustrates an impressive bottom two rows of twelve stamps of the inverted overprint with a full De La Rue Imprint plus Cylinder No's 1A 1A.

Postage Dues



14 February 1961 - First overprint 1c x 2 & 5c, SG D5 - 7
Tempo Bold Condensed

In the Dues, early in June, a second 5c appeared, in very small quantities, surcharged in the old 1933-type 2d on chalky paper. This was a stamp in which the St Edward's Crown watermark error appeared and sure enough the error has been found in conjunction with the new provisionals, very rare error in a stamp itself already elusive!



D7a Small ovpt.
Tempo Medium

5c on 2d Chalky
Paper, includes
watermark varieties
D8a Missing Crown
D8b St Edwards
Crown



D8 on D2a

Watermark Varieties - The August 1961 GSM noted a printing figure of 47 sheets for the second printing of the postage dues and it is assumed that these are the figures for SG D8. Given that the missing crown variety (SG D8a) is priced much higher than the St Edward's Crown (SG D8b) it suggests that there are perhaps only a few examples of first variation compared D8b.

The small overprint on the 1957 2d due (SG D7a) the Shelly catalogue² intimates a mere 780 stamps overprinted. In GSM August 1961 noted...*We are told that only a very few got out, as it should not have been placed on sale, there still being good stocks of the large surcharge, SG D7.*

Gibbons Stamp Monthly December 1961

The Controller of Posts...states that all existing stocks of the provisional Postage Dues are with the large surcharges on Type D2. There is sufficient stock to meet PO requirements for many years and no obsolete variations will be repeated in future printings. This is good news for the fortunate owners of the rare small '5c' on 2d, SG 7a.

Basutoland Notes

¹ *The South African Philatelist* October 2015 article by Lawrence Barit
Basutoland - The 1954 Queen Elizabeth 2d Stamp and its Surcharges

² *The Shelley Catalogue of Decimal Surcharges* (Nov 1962)

A Review of the 1961 Decimal Overprints

Bechuanaland - Introduction

The following information has been gleaned from contemporary accounts published in the *Gibbons' Stamp Monthly* during 1961. Whilst some of it is replicated in *The Shelley Catalogue* (1962) and in Holmes's book (1971). Certain statements conflict which cannot be reconciled as the respective authors do not quote the source for their information. The aim of this review is to collate info that has not previously appeared in the Society Journal.

GSM July 1961 - Here the original issue was all in 18 pt *Tempo Bold*, except for the R1 which was in a smaller (14 pt) size of the same face. This first R1 is a great rarity. There are reported to have been only about 1,400 issued, of which about half were used on first-day covers.



In the first printing, the interesting stamp is the 3½c, where two different types of '3' were used. The setting additionally showed 'wide spacing' varieties in the last vertical row.

The June 1961 GSM supplement provides a list of the different settings for the 3½c overprint and on page 136 the actual sheet arrangement is included. Also see Holmes³



Sheet	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	I	I	I	I	I	I ^w
2	I	II	II	II	I	I ^w
3	I	I	I	I	II	II
4	I	I	II	II	II	II ^w
5	I	I	II	I	II	I ^w
6	I	I	I	I	I	I ^w
7	I	I	II	II	II	I ^w
8	I	I	I	II	II	II ^w
9	I	I	II ^{tc}	II	I	II ^w
10	I	II	I	II	I	I

I Type I - II Type II - II^{tc} Type II Thick 'c' - I^w - Type I wide spacing
II^w Type II wide spacing between 3½ and c

GSM August 1961 - Notes on the 3½c

...Incidentally the Type II '3' cannot strictly be called a wrong font, since this '3', with the long centre stroke, is what is known typographically as a 'variant' in the *Tempo Bold* face. If a printer orders *Tempo Bold* from the makers, he has the choice between Types I and II. In this case Pretoria has them both in the one setting!

GSM July 1961 (continued) - Notes on the R1

The first printing of the R1 being immediately sold out, a second printing was ordered. This second printing (SG 167a) was not large (8,000 approx.) mostly, if not entirely, done in half-sheets of 30, and...This is important...with the surcharge 'Tempo Medium' at the bottom left of the stamp. It did not last long, and it was necessary for a further printing of the original 10/- stamp to be made from the Waterlow plates. This printing (30,000) was rushed out to Pretoria and surcharged in the same *Tempo Medium* type, but the stamp (SG 167b) is easily identifiable as the surcharge although placed low on the stamp as in SG 167a, is always central or slightly to the right of centre. The paper of the 10/- reprint is slightly whiter than that of SG 167a, but the positioning of the surcharge is really sufficient for identification. Too much attention should not be paid to possible shade differences. We have seen shade variations in No 167b and considering colours only complicates identification.



Type II Tempo Medium

R1 at left SG 167a
on original 10/-
printing

R1 central SG 167b
on special 'late'
reprint



The July GSM gives the impression that there were only three overprintings of the R1 on 10/- however in a Crown Agents report which appeared in the August 1961 GSM it intimates that there were in fact five printing. Quoted from the July 1961 *Crown Agents' Stamp Bulletin* reproducing figures provided by the South African Government Printer.

Value	Ptg.	No's	Value	Ptg.	No's
1c on 1d	1 st Ptg.	342,000	12½c - 1/3	1 st Ptg.	54,000
	2 nd Ptg.	50,040		2 nd Ptg.	72,720
2c on 2d		360,000	25c on 5s	1 st Ptg.	24,000
2½c on 2d		600,000		2 nd Ptg.	24,300
2½c on 3d		120,000	50c on 5s	1 st Ptg.	42,000
3½c on 4d	1 st Ptg.	54,000		2 nd Ptg.	19,620
	2 nd Ptg.	198,060		3 rd Ptg.	8,400*
5c on 6d	1 st Ptg.	36,000	R1 on 10s	1 st Ptg.	1,800
	2 nd Ptg.	65,040		2 nd Ptg.	1,260
10c on 1s	1 st Ptg.	48,000		3 rd Ptg.	6,780*
	2 nd Ptg.	63,120		4 th Ptg.	30,000
Surcharged in half-sheets of 30 stamps*				5 th Ptg.	3,000*

Comment - In the first instance it ought to be noted that the figures provided by the *Crown Agents* do not tally with those published for the R1 on 10/- in the July 1961 GSM.

Shelly's Information

This differs in several instances, for the 1c on 1d he notes a first and second setting for Type II and states...The second setting of the 1c type II is a 'cleaner' printing of the 'I' with the 'c' slightly lower...

A Review of the 1961 Decimal Overprints

Shelly's Information (continued)

2½c on 2d Type II, second setting (another 1,155,300 stamps) and notes...*The second setting of the 2½c on 2d is a thicker, rougher printing with the '½' of '2½c' below the '2' and 'c'.*⁴

Holmes comments...they were issued on July 26th...



1c & 5c Type II (SG 157a & 162a) - 3½c Type III (SG 161d)

GSM August 1961 - Notes on the Middle Values

In the 10c, 12½c, 25c and 50c we believe that later printings matched the type of the First. This is certainly so for the 10c and 25c which we have seen in sheets. Differences of shade and paper thickness have been reported, but on our opinion there is no justification in attempting to separate them.

Holmes comments on the 10c...the greater part of the stamps surcharged at the second printing, being stock sent from London by the Crown Agents on April 18th 1961...

Holmes also states on the foregoing date the CA sent 67,020 stamps for 12½c on 1/3 and 18,000 stamps for 25c on 5/-.

Shelly's comment on the 12½c...the later printing of the 12½c is a wider setting of the surcharge, differing on average by 1mm, with the difference more pronounced to the left of sheets.⁴

GSM August 1961 on the R1 Value

The first R1 First Printing is our Type I (SG 167) a very rare stamp of which between four- and five- hundred are understood to have gone to the UPU for circulation to member countries, while another 700 are reported to have been used on First Day Covers by the enthusiastic local philatelic society.

The Third Printing is definitely SG 167a, as is almost certainly the Second. The Fourth and Fifth printings are on the Waterlow reprint of the basic stamp, as 33,000 were done, the odd 3,000 in half sheets. These are SG 167b.

Shelly's on the R1 Type I...was limited to 30 sheets of 60, of which some 400 are said to have been destroyed...

Postage Dues - GSM July 1961

The first issue of Postage Dues (SG D7-9) seems quite common, but among the 5c stamps there are relatively small quantity printed on roughish paper of an early printing of the basic ½d stamp. The shade is also slightly different from that of the main supply on the smoother paper. Rather mysteriously there later appeared the 1c and 2c with much larger surcharges (Tempo Bold 30pt instead of 18pt). These were never freely available and there is another complication. Both values were on chalky paper, but among the 1d a very small quantity turned up on the original ordinary paper, rumoured at a mere 14 sheets (840 stamps).

Postage Dues					
Value	Ptg.	No's	Value	Ptg.	No's
1c on 1d	1 st Ptg.	18,000	2c on 2d	1 st Ptg.	24,000
	2 nd Ptg.	6,600		2 nd Ptg.	6,300
	3 rd Ptg.	51,000		3 rd Ptg.	51,840
			5c on ½d		26,820

GSM Notes on the above

In the 'Postage Dues', the large numeral 1c and 2c on chalky paper have become common stamps, as the large Third Printings are identical with the Second Printings and indeed the original stamps, SG D7 & 8, are relatively good. But what looks like another rarity has turned up the large 2c on ordinary paper. There are reported to be only five sheets of this, which may be the odd five sheets in the Second Printing of 105 sheets.



GSM September 1961

In the Postage Dues a rare error has turned up - the 1d large surcharge on chalky paper with surcharge double. The two impressions are close together, but it is a definite double and not a 'shift' and only one sheet of sixty stamps has been found.

Bechuanaland Notes

³ See Holmes Bechuanaland book, Chapter 43 page 165

⁴ Shelly's overprint comment on 2½c on 2d and 12½c on 1/3 was published in the September 1961 GSM under Stamp News in Brief.

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Botswana Pictorial Post Cards

By Peter Thy and Otto Peetoom

Postal Stationery and Commemorative Cards

After Independence, in March 1967 a Postal Stationery card was issued, printed by Harrison & Sons depicting a 2c Hoopoe which is identical to SG 221. Then, twenty seven years later, a Commemorative Pictorial Stationery card with an imprinted 50t stamp coincided with the *World Meteorological Organization 11th Session* in Gaborone 14-25 November 1994.

Another two similar postcards followed in 1997, one for *African Under-17 Football Championship - Botswana - May 1997* with a 50t imprinted stamp.

The other for 9.10.97 *World Post Day* with a 35t imprinted stamp depicting the UPU logo and on the reverse a portrait of Heinrich Von Stephan 1831 - 1897, Founder of the UPU.

Von Stephan's 150th Birth Centenary was marked by a two stamp issue in January 1981 - SG 477 & 478.

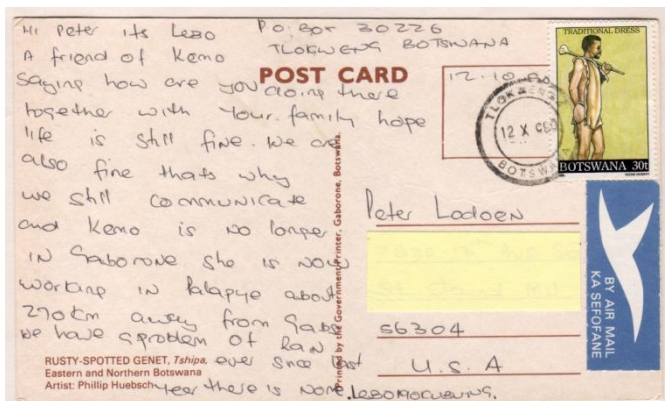
The above cards are listed in Thy and Inglefield-Watson Postal Stationery book as PC 24 to 27.

Botswana Post Office Pictorial Postcards

Circa late 1980, for a small fee, the post office offered 'blank' cards (without an imprinted stamp) and very little is known about them. The first of these depict the original artwork for the 1987 Animal definitive (SG 619 to 638). On the one hand they resemble a 'Maximum Card', usually prepared by Philatelic Bureaus with the issued stamp affixed to the picture side with a first day cancel. As far as is known Botswana Post did not issue a similar 'gimmick' and it appears that they were purely intended as attractive commercial postcards as illustrated.



Rusty Spotted Genet used for the 6t value SG 624



Written & Posted at TLOKWENG 12.10.90

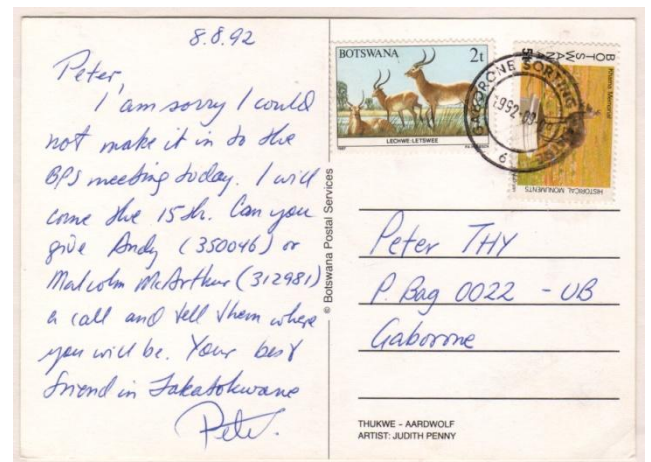
Currently, the assumption is, that these cards were issued in the same year (1987) as the stamps and it ought to be appreciated that, whilst these cards may be utilised as Maxi-Cards, to date none are recorded.

PPC 1 - 1987 Animal Card Series depicting the original artwork for the definitive, a set of twenty cards, one for each value. Card imprinted on the front *Printed by the Government Printer, Gaborone, Botswana*, plus a description followed by *Artist: Phillip Huebsch*.



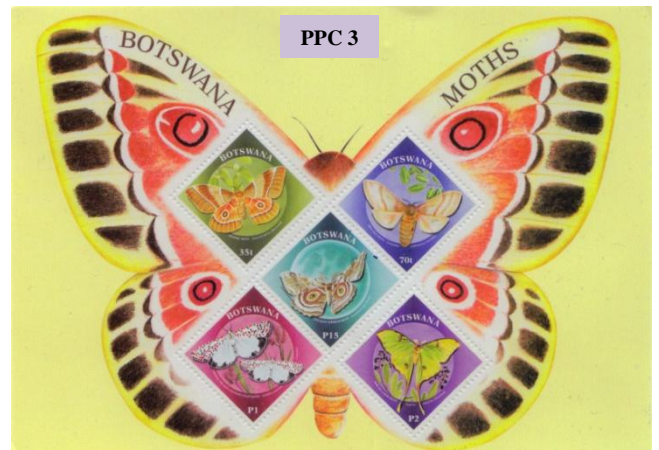
Water Mongoose used for the 50t value SG 750

PPC 2 - 1992 Animal Card Series depicting the original artwork for the 1992 definitive. Set of eighteen, one for each value. Each card imprinted © Botswana Postal Services, description plus *Artist: Judith Penny*



Address side - 15t Aardwolf SG 744 used at Gaberones in 1992

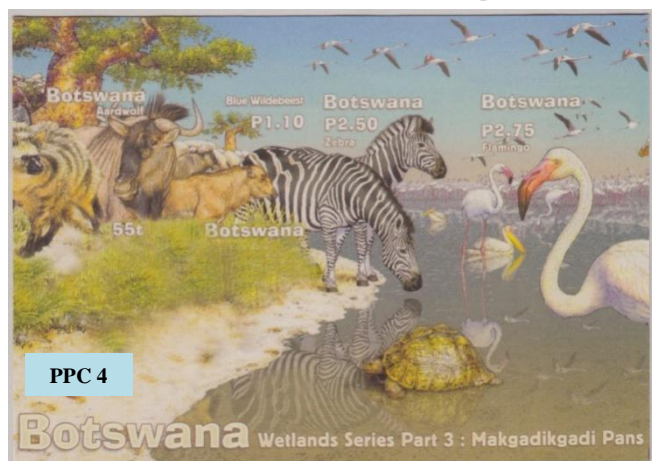
PPC 3 - 2000 Moths card depicting the miniature sheet. Card imprinted on the reverse with a motto *BOTSWANA POST / We deliver, whatever everywhere* followed by contact information.



Commercially used to Romania from Gaberones 25 SEP 2014
It is interesting to note that it was used fourteen years after the miniature sheet was issued - SG MS 920.

Botswana Picture Post Cards

PPC 4 - 2002 Wetlands Card, Part 3: Makgadikgadi Pans & showing part of the artwork for the miniature sheet. Card imprinted as PPC 3.



PPC 4

PPC 5 - 2005 Black-footed Cat Card depicting artwork for the issued stamps. Card imprinted as PPC 3.



PPC 5

PPC 6 - 2009 Night Skies Card depicting the four issued stamps plus text *SKY at NIGHT / FOLKLORE OF BOTSWANA*. Card imprinted as PPC 3. Description and inscribed *Illustrations: Poul Melenhorst*.

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PPC 7 - 2011 White Rhinoceros Card depicting the issued miniature sheet. Card imprinted as PPC 3 - contact information in small font. Space for stamp with *PLACE STAMP HERE*.

PPC 8 - 2012? Set of three Wildlife Cards showing animals gathering around water hole. Some explanatory text in addition to *BOTSWANA* on picture side. Card imprint as PPC 3 plus *PLACE STAMP HERE*

PPC 8a Botswana wildlife at water hole 1 (water lily in front)

PPC 8b Botswana wildlife at water hole 2 (zebra in front)

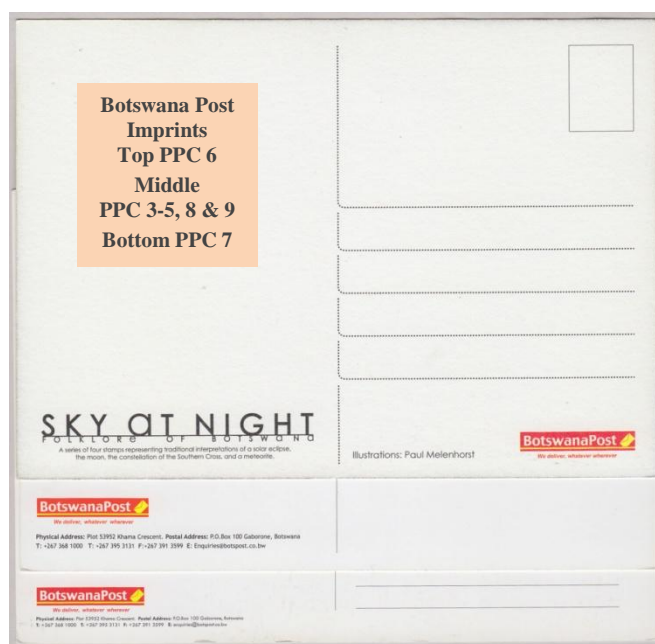
PPC 8c Botswana wildlife at water hole 3 (elephant in front)

PPC 9 - 2016? Set of three Tourist Cards depicting plants, animals, and people of Botswana. Explanatory text on picture side using a fancy font. Card imprint as PPC 3 and *Photographer: ...* vertically to the right

PPC 9a Water lily Maun Botswana

PPC 9b Hippopotamus Chobe Botswana

PPC 9c Basarwa Kgalagadi Botswana



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Recent Botswana Issues

Botswana Post Communication - During the last quarter of 2016 it unfortunately has not been very successful. Attention to a 12 August Advertising invoice required numerous reminders and after much persistence was allegedly paid 4 months later. My request for information re issues after *Traditional Dance* also fell on deaf ears. Thus I was totally unaware what issues are/or might be in the pipeline. Nigel Haworth distributes new issues and until I receive recent Botswana from him, I usually remain in the dark. Normally the Botswana Post website is out of date, but as I write this, it came as a surprise that on this occasion it has been updated. There is an alleged link to 'Download Booklet' but that takes one to a blank untitled page.

1 August 2016 - Botswana 50 Years of Progress

Eight values 30t, 40t, 50t, P4.00, P5.00, P5.90, P7.80 and P10.00. Should list as SG 1260 - 1267, large format 'gaudy' looking stamps. Four horizontal plus two vertical designs.

1 October 2016 - Favourite Stamps of Five Decades

Five values plus a self adhesive diamond shaped miniature sheet, 50t, P4.00, P5.90, P7.80 and P10.00 plus MS P10.00. SG 1268 - 1272 & MS 1273. Attractive vertical designs



1 December 2016 - Kgotla Democracy through Dialogue

Four horizontal uninspiring designs P0.50, P4.00, P5.90 and P10.00 - SG 1274 - 1277.

All Botswana issues and MS may be viewed on our website

Botswana Fifty Years of Stamps

This turned out as a successful project in conjunction with *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* and an extensive article was published in four parts in editions from April to September 2016.

Bechuanalands & Botswana Society - 2016 Financial Reconciliation

By Otto Pectoom

Introduction

It ought to be appreciated that I am the Editor of three journals and collect subscriptions for all three at the same time. Geared to this I deal with 30+ advertisers, thus to facilitate all, sundry cheques are often made out to me, the funds of which may need to be allocated to more than one cause. My credit card facility is also available to all concerned. The foregoing funds which are destined for our society are treated as 'cash'.

Society Bank Account

Lodged with Nationwide and my nearest branch requires a thirty mile round trip. The type of account does not afford internet access, thus payments made by direct debit are only brought to my attention on a monthly statement.

In order to create a simple account, I present it as cash plus banking and it provides a fully reconciled 'bank balance'.

Date	Details	Cash		Banked		Payments		Receipts		Balance	
31.12.2015	Closing balance									£5185	02
2016	Income										
1.01.16	Subs in advance - Received 2015			325	00			325	00	5510	02
	Subscriptions - Received during 2016	508	00	618	13			1126	13		
	Journal Advertising £80 owed by BotsPost ¹	130	00	140	00			270	00		
	Book sales	30	00	20	00			50	00		
	Bank Interest			10	99			10	99		
	Stanford P+P (See below)	5	00					5	00		
	Auction Commission			6	75			6	75		
	Totals	673	00	1120	87			1793	87	6978	89
2016	Expenses	Cash		Cheque							
	Website			275	00	275	00				
	Runner Post 91, 92 & 93			438	00	438	00				
	Postage ²			196	33	196	33				
	ABPS			40	00	40	00				
	New York show			50	00	50	00				
	Southern Africa Philately	118	00	837	00	955	00				
	Page sponsor for above			20	00	20	00				
	Stanford P+P (£8.50 loss)	13	50			13	50				
	Administration	100	00			100	00				
	Totals	231	50	1856	33	2087	83			£4891	06
31.12.2016	Bank account reconciliation	Actual end of year bank balance								4901	56
		Deduct 2017 Subs in advance ³								(452)	00
										4449	56
		Add Cash on hand (£673 - 231.50 = 441.50)								441	50
31.12.2016	Actual end of year balance									£4891	06
		Advertising Botswana Post owed ¹								80	00
		Anticipated Total								£4971	06

Notes ¹ Notification of payment dated 7 Dec. 2016 received, but no deposit is reflected in our bank account - I have queried this.

² Remaining postage (£113.77 - purchased April 2012) used and depleted. The society no longer needs to hold postage and only pays a portion of the overall cost of posting its journal.

³ A different strategy for collection subscriptions is to send out a form along with the last journal of the year in September. The aim is to have all subscriptions paid before the New Year. During 2015 I was still chasing subs in September!

Comments

2015 expenditure was £1006 + 409 postage = £1415 and during that term members only received two journals. In 2016 each person received six journals as opposed to two. The foregoing resulted in a small deficit which is sustainable and is a far cry from the £1500+ losses incurred during 2012/14.

A small society such as ours does not need to maintain a £5k bank balance; a reasonable margin is all it requires!

To appreciate the foregoing, Society funds stood at £2737 in 2005, £3536 in 2006 and £4642 in 2008. Taking the foregoing into account, I see no reason or justification to increase subscriptions in the foreseeable future.

I have now been 'in office' for two years and during that time I collated 4½ years worth of accounts and published three financial statements in this journal and prior to that only one set of accounts appeared in a period of six years!

O. J. Pectoom

Proposed (Revised 2017) - Rules of the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society

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 Administrator may (at his/her discretion) admit to membership an applicant on payment of an Annual Subscription in force at the time and thereafter payable by the first day of January ¹ each year. Any member who has not paid his/her subscription will not receive any journals until payment has been made. If no payment is received by 31 March the member shall automatically be deemed to have resigned.
4. The Annual Subscription should be reviewed every year by the Administrator. Any increase in the Subscription to be notified to all members in the last journal of each year.
Note ¹ *A subscription form will be included with the last journal of each year, the aim being to have all subscriptions paid by the end of December.*
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 a Report from the Administrator and any other individual in Office for the preceding year.
 - (b) Approve as necessary the Statement of Accounts presented by the Administrator or any other relevant person.
 - (c) Commencing in 2017 anyone is welcome to stand for election for any relevant duty in the Society.
Their term of office is to serve for a minimum of one year.
Only fully paid up members are eligible for election.
 - (d) Consider any other business resolutions or matters arising, subject to Rule 11.
6. The OFFICERS of the Society, who shall be Honorary, will comprise of an Administrator, an 'Overseer', Archivist and any others it is deemed necessary to appoint from time to time ².

**The Society needs an Editor!
Are You that person?**

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Comments on the Proposed (2017) Amendments

Traditional philatelic Societies are 'allegedly' run by a team of individuals that dictates many names on badges. Meetings and AGM's are often conducted with pomp and ceremony with much promise and enthusiasm. Nowadays reality no longer supports the foregoing.

A fair amount has been voiced regarding the former decline in interest for *The Bechuanalands and Botswana Society* and as may be anticipated opinions differ.

I have studied the decline and it appears to have started towards the end of 2009 when the last 'Statement of Account' was published in the November issue of Journal No 76. The next account to appear in *The Runner Post* was August 2015, No 90.

From mid-2012 to early 2015 the 'rot' in the structure spread like wildfire...the last bank statement seen was June 2012...by late 2014 only 59 out of 108 members paid their subscription ...there was only one Journal during 2014...the Society lost £1500+ and no-one knew that until I calculated it in 2015...

Note ² 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.

7. The Administrator will effectively operate the society for as long as it remains a viable proposition.

It ought to be understood that any member who is prepared to take on any specific task may volunteer to do so.

8. Specific tasks within the Society are, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Journal Production and Distribution and Webmaster ³.

Note ³ The above tasks are self explanatory and do not require further definition.

9. **Journals for Members** - Each member will receive a copy of *Southern Africa Philately* along with *The Runner Post* three times per year being scheduled for February, June and October.

Note ³ The continued viability of *The Runner Post* is subject to input from the Members; currently the Editor contributes a high percentage of each journal.

10. An Archivist will retain for reference purposes at least one copy of every publication of the Society (either printed or in PDF), together with similar material acquired by the Society in connection with its objects.

11. 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.

12. The Administrator/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.

Honorary Life Membership

A noble idea that has only been awarded to the late *Roy Setterfield* (Co-Founder and first Secretary of the Society), the late *H.R. Holmes* (Life-President) and the late *John Inglefield-Watson*. Recent attempts to nominate others did not come to fruition thus as a practical measure it is suspended.

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...In late April 2015 the previous Editor withdrew his services... but didn't tell anyone until August...By June 2015 I could no longer see a viable way forward unless I took on another task such as Editor...Thus since August 2015, besides being the Webmaster, I am also Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Journal Production and Distributer. Effectively I operate the Society with no help or assistance from anyone else.

Thus in my opinion the idea of simply Administrating the society as best one can is preferable...the other alternative, as I mentioned in the editorial, is closure...the fact is that during 2016 our numbers remain steady and this is encouraging.

The Bechuanalands and Botswana Society has been turned around from one journal during 2014 to six journals in 2016. That trait can, and will, be continued as long as I have the will and energy to continue...after that it is anyone's guess.

The good news is that we are the first society to make such radical changes and as others also go into decline, they may have to adopt similar ideas...only time will tell!

Rhodesia Railway Parcel Stamps - The Bechuanaland Connection

A Review by Otto Peetoom and Bruce Warrender

Preamble

Bruce sent in a short article plus illustrations on the above subject and in his opening lines wrote...*It is thought that 13 different station codes are believed to have been applied to the Rhodesian Railway stamps for use in the territory...*

To fully appreciate the subject, as suggested by the title, it is obvious that it is predominately a 'Rhodesian' topic. My own interest in it started during the 1980's when I acquired a stock book crammed with thousands of used copies of these parcel stamps which included multiples on parts of waybills. It was in the main stations in Northern Rhodesia circa mid to late 1950's with no Bechuanaland parcel stamps present.

Past Articles

The earliest on the subject was by Harvey Pirie and appeared in the April 1959 edition of *The South African Philatelist*.

Railway Philately - A journal published by the *Railway Philatelic Group* includes several articles - In September 1971 by Alan Johnson. H.C. Russell was another enthusiast of railway stamps and his efforts appeared in September and October 1973. Finally in March 1976 and June 1976 both by W.F. Simms.

Other Articles - The above was combined into another article by Simms in *The Philatelist* (December 1979) and Peter Collins produced a summary of events in one of the UK Stamp magazines in January 1982.

H.C. Russell then presented a comprehensive two part article in *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle* No's 140 & 141. December 1987 and March 1988.

Finally Geoff Brakspear produced a further review in the *Rhodesian Study Circle* No 249 (December 2013)¹ and wrote... *Although most of the works have gone into some detail of what the stamps were about, how they were used and so on, I have been unable to find any articles that deal with the classification of the stamps themselves. There are articles that show there are different types but nothing comprehensive, this I hope to rectify.*

In a recent communication Brakspear commented...*My article is partly an update on Russell's work, but also a correction on some of the assumptions he made...He had not previously looked at the dates that the different types were used and I found that some of them were earlier than Russell indicated which meant that 'Rhodesian Printers' (later Mardon) were involved much earlier. I did not list all the stations or the use of the stamps. I concentrated on the stamps themselves and when they came into use, for this I have an extensive data base of all the stations and their use of the stamps.*

The Railway Parcel stamps

There were thirteen sterling values from 1d to £1, at first (believed) printed by Waterlow and Sons, Type I² and put into circulation from 1 August 1951. It is suggested that at first the values were added to the stamps, followed by station codes and finally the perforations. Russell stated that local printers³ took over the production of the stamps circa 1959 using Type II² and Brakspear's research suggests about 1955.

Bechuanaland comes into View

On 30 November 1959 *Rhodesian Railways* took over the operation of the lines through Bechuanaland from South African Railways, initially from Bulawayo to Mahalapye.

This extended throughout the route south and thirteen Stations were allotted codes. Parcel stamps were prepared for use in the Territory effectively after decimalisation on 14 February 1961. Ten values from 1c to R2 were overprinted on the various colours and ought to be Type II² only.

The Purpose of Railway Parcel Stamps

Formerly handwritten receipts and the parcel stamp system paid the charge for railage and were applied to the Waybills. Larger stations used the National Cash Register System, but this did not apply to Bechuanaland. Russell wrote ⁴...*Every conceivable type of article could be conveyed by train, from day-old chicks to bicycles, from cut-flowers to a coffin complete with corpse...*

Station Codes on Parcel Stamps

The larger stations have their code overprinted on the stamps, others may be handstamped or even applied in manuscript. In the case of Bechuanaland, only six out of 13 stations had their codes printed on the stamps Francistown (FT), Mahalapye (MAG), Palapye (PY), Seruli (SR) Shashi (SHH) and Tsessebe (TES). It is suggested that decimal overprints, without a station code, were used at 'other' stations in the Protectorate. Yet Francistown has been observed either using a handstamp or denoted with a manuscript notation.



No Station Code - Used at small Stations

R.R.	Colour	Bech.	Stations N to S	Code
1d	Red/orange red	1c	Tsessebe ⁵	TES
2d	Blue	2c	Francistown ⁵	FT
3d	Purple/violet	-	Shashi ⁵	SHH
4d	Pale emerald	3c	Seruli ⁵	SR
5d	Pale blue-green	4c	Palapye ⁵	PY
6d	Light blue	5c	Mahalapye ⁵	MAG
9d	Magenta	-	Debeeti	DEB
1/-	Deep blue	10c	Aretsia	ART
2/-	Emerald	20c	Pilane	PIN
2/6	Orange	-	Gaberones	GS
5/-	Yellow brown	50c	Ramoutsa	RSA
10/-	Lemon	R1.00	Lobatsi	LI
£1	Grey	R2.00	Ramathlabama	RAB

⁵ Station code overprinted on Parcel Stamps



**Francistown
Error of Colour**

10c on 5c colour⁶
20c on 9d colour⁷



⁶ Seen used on Waybills from December 1967 - October 1968 Alan MacGregor offers part of a Waybill serviced on 10.10.68 which includes the 10c Error of colour

⁷ Seen used on Waybill circa February 1966 - Russell RSCJ 141

Station codes on Bechuanaland - Despite the 13 allocated codes only nine have been recorded on parcel stamps.

Rhodesia Railway Parcel Stamps - The Bechuanaland Connection

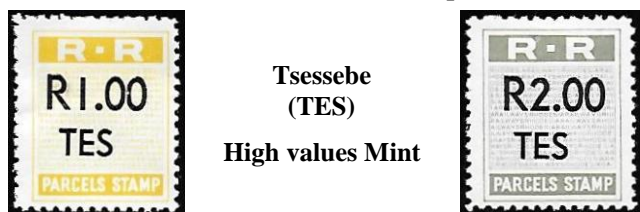
Printed Station codes on Bechuanaland Parcel Stamps
Brakspear⁸ made the following comments...*Used examples have been found for all these stations, except Shashi, whilst mint examples have only come to light for Mahalapye, Shashi and the higher values for Tsessebe. The usage of the stamps appears to be shortly after decimalisation to the end of 1969, at much the same time as Rhodesia ceased using the stamps.*



Mahalapye (MAG) Mint examples



Shashi (SHH) Mint Examples

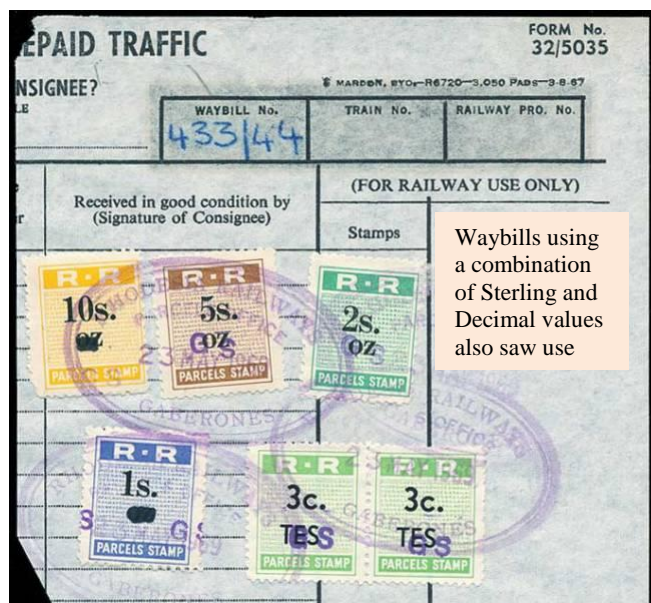


Tsessebe (TES)
High values Mint

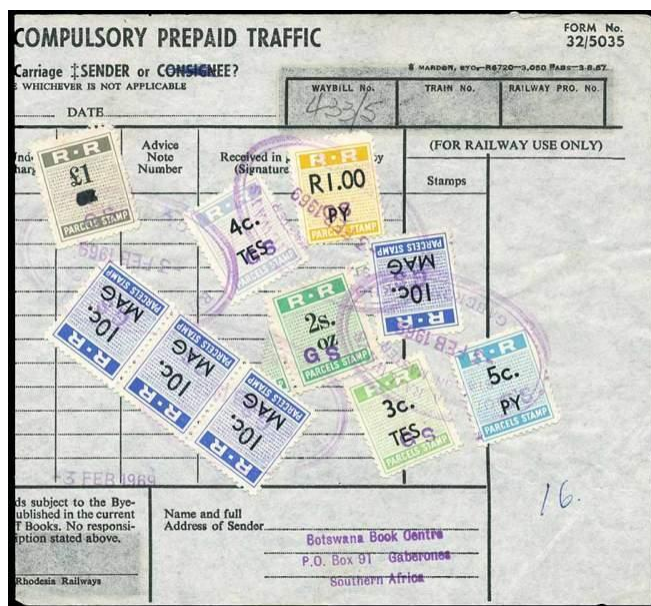
Previous researchers agree that the use of Railway Parcel Stamps ended on 31 August 1969 when the system was computerized. Both Russell and Brakspear suggest that the foregoing date also applies to, what was by then, Botswana. Parcel stamps continued in use in Zambia until circa 1979/80.

Obsolete Sterling/Decimal Values used in Botswana

Towards the end of the period of use, it appears that 'anything' will do. For example a 2s overprinted OZ (Odzi) handstamped 'FT' Francistown on a 21 MAR 1969 waybill and 2s, 5s and £1 'OZ' handstamped 'GS' (Gaberones) on 5 FEB 1969.



Illustrated at foot in the previous column - Sterling values 1s, 2s, 5s & 10s ex Odzi plus 3c pair ex Tsessebe 'TES' all handstamped 'GS' used at Gaberones 23 MAY 1969.⁹



Gaberones 3 FEB 1969 - Above, another 'cocktail' of various parcel stamps, all handstamped 'GS' 2s & £1 sterling values ex Odzi, a 10c strip of three and single ex Mahalapye (MAG), 3c and 4c ex Tsessebe (TES) and 5c plus R1.00 ex Palapye (PY)⁹

Palapye used at Shashi - Brakspear illustrates a 20c value overprinted 'PY' crossed out and 'SHI' inserted by hand, instead of the usual 'SHH' used in 1969.⁸

The above is merely a small sample of observed combinations and I suspect that similar permutations are endless.

Bruce Warrender concluded his write up...*I would be interested to see if members have stamps from any of the other offices not shown here.* The foregoing inspired this review which includes invaluable input by Cecil Russell and Geof Brakspear and much of the information is attributed to these individuals.

Postscript - The Reminders

Imperfector and perforated Parcel stamps, without value or station code are in circulation and noted by Russell. Brakspear wrote...*Given that the stamps when attached to waybills should have been destroyed after auditing, a remarkable number have survived. Mint stamps on the other hand are largely remainder stock that the railways offloaded.*

During the 1990 London International at Alexander Palace, a dealer offered me a parcel of mint remainder, mostly in full sheets...the quantity was enormous, sufficient to fill a suitcase ...I decline interest and said...*what in heaven's name does anyone do with this mountain of obsolete Parcel Stamps?*

Notes

¹ Brakspear's article is available in PDF on the Rhodesian Study Circle's website

² Type I - Last line of script reads 'AR/' Type II - Last line of script reads 'ARAI'

³ Rhodesian Printers, circa 1962, known as Mardon Printers

⁴ Rhodesia Study Circle Journal No 141, page 34

^{5, 6 & 7} See relevant text on page 2342

⁸ Rhodesia Study Circle Journal No 249, page 190

⁹ Courtesy MacGregor Website

Botswana 50 years of Miniature sheets

By Otto Pectoom

Botswana Commemorative Issues

Following Independence, in 1966 only one set of four stamps was issued to celebrate the Independence of the country. A conservative policy was adopted that avoided a flood of unnecessary issues that is the hallmark of many Independent African States that started with Ghana in 1957 and is mirrored by a close neighbouring country of Independent Lesotho.

Miniature Sheets

Issuing Miniature sheets to accompany a set of commemorative stamps became a Universal Philatelic gimmick that was an innovation boosting the income of Philatelic Bureaus. Miniature sheets essentially have no postal use and are simply an instrument to ensure that a stamp collector buys the same set of stamps twice.

The miniature sheets steadily evolved into a philatelic curse of today and at first they only included the same values that were issued in sheet format. Then they either included some of the values of a set or a totally different design to the rest of the set. Another gimmick was to use the same designs but each stamp has a much higher denomination. Over the years the sheetlets steadily grew in size and from initially being square or rectangular, larger and strange shapes were introduced.

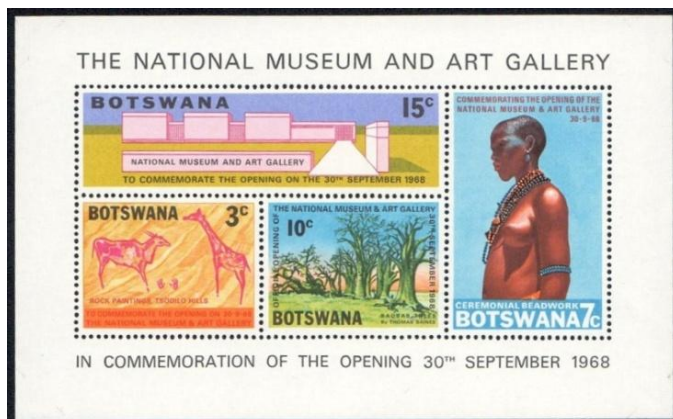
Botswana Miniature Sheets

Although Botswana Post indulged itself with the miniature sheet market, they extended a conservative policy that avoided the over-kill that other African states resorted to.

Since Independence in 1966, in fifty years Botswana issued 53 miniature sheets which is an average of one per annum.

In reality the numbers ranged from one per year to as many as four in 2001 and in 2015. There were several years in which no miniature sheets appeared.

On 30 September 1968 the first Botswana miniature sheet made its debut to commemorate the opening of the *National Museum and Art Gallery*.



The Botswana National Museum, also known as the National Museum and Art Gallery, is 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. In 2008 under a banner of Museum as Agents of Social Change and Development, it celebrated a year-long 40th anniversary.

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.

Christmas stamps accompanied by a miniature sheet

Botswana introduced an annual set of Christmas stamps that was usually issued during November, but in some instances in late October or in early December. The first set made its debut on 11 November 1968 and the first miniature sheet followed with the second Christmas issue on 6 November 1969.



1970 Christmas Miniature Sheet

The designs of the Christmas stamps slowly evolved from local people observing the *Christmas star* to *Nativity scenes* and 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.

A Review of Pictorial and Interesting Miniature sheets

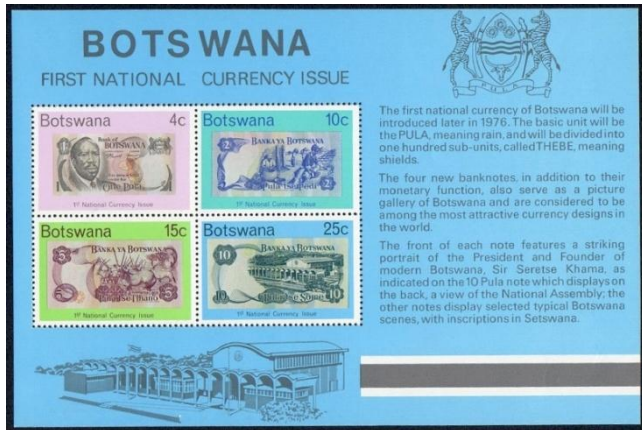
MS No 3 1970 Death Centenary of Charles Dickens, this subject somehow does not really tally with Botswana, however the accompanying miniature sheet is enhanced by various 'Dickens' scenes around the margins of the sheetlet. I am told that after Independence the Crown Agents still dominated policy and that it was their doing to issue an unrelated subject.

MS No 6 1972 Mafeking - Gubulawayo Runner Post - This sheetlet reflects the entire historical route and includes images of the Mafeking 638 Barred oval numeral canceller (BONC). A miniature version of the foregoing sheetlet was issued in 1988 to mark the Centenary of that Runner Post (**MS No 21**)

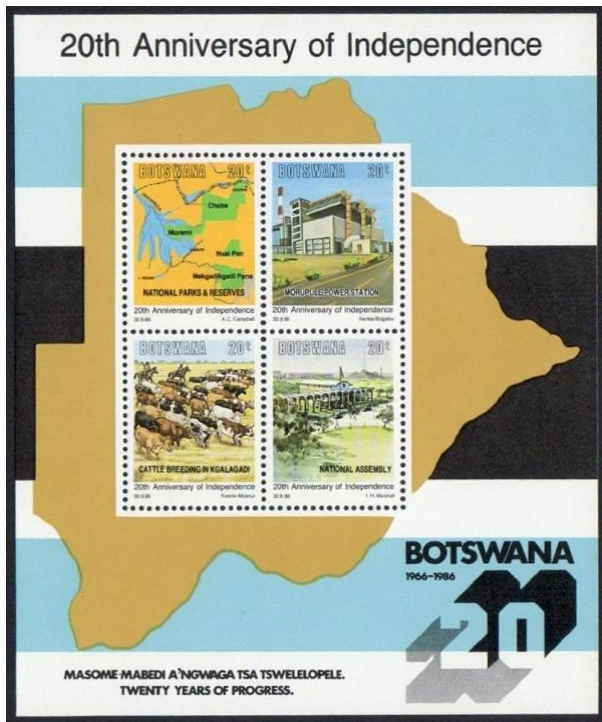
MS No 10 1975 Rock Paintings in the Tsodilo Hills, a rather oversized six inches square sheetlet (150 cms) which portrays the rock painting designs of the stamps with the hills as a background on the selvage plus a small map of the country which indicates its location.

Botswana 50 years of Miniature sheets

MS No 11 1976 First National Currency, the selvedge of the miniature sheet offers an informative description and explanation of the new Pula (rain) and Thebe (shields) currency.



MS No 19 1986 20th Anniversary of Independence, the miniature sheet includes four 20t values and was only issued in this format.



1986 20th Anniversary of Independence

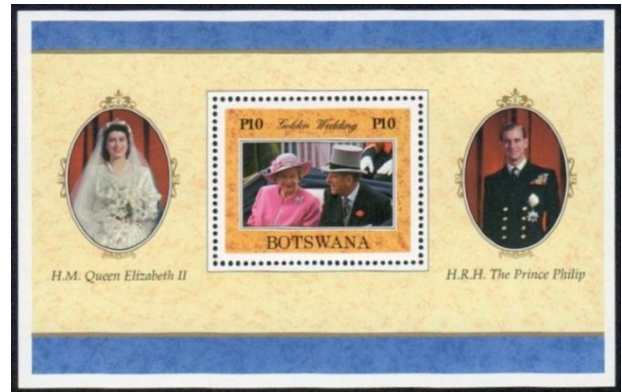
1995 A change of policy for Miniature sheets or sheetlets
1995 Endangered Species - the Brown Hyena, the four stamps were printed in sheets of fifty and in addition se-tenant strips of four were arranged in a sheetlet of 16 with pictorial selvedge. The foregoing is not regarded as being a miniature sheet.



It appears that Botswana Post joined the trait of exploiting the stamp collector who desires all the available formats, a set of single stamps, a se-tenant strip plus a complete sheetlet.

It requires the purchase of six sets at a cost of 15 Pula instead of one set at P2 50t. I was told that the foregoing was not a post office decision, but was upon the insistence of the World Wildlife Fund.

MS No 27 1997 Golden wedding of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, for the first time the miniature sheet depicts a different design with a top value of ten Pula. The reason for the foregoing was to follow the Crown Agents Omnibus policy.



MS No 28 1998 Diana, Princess of Wales Commemoration, a set of four cost P5 85t and the miniature sheet includes the same designs, but each with a face value of P2 50t costing ten Pula in total.

MS No 29 1998 Botswana Weavers, a miniature sheet with a different design and face value of P2 50t.

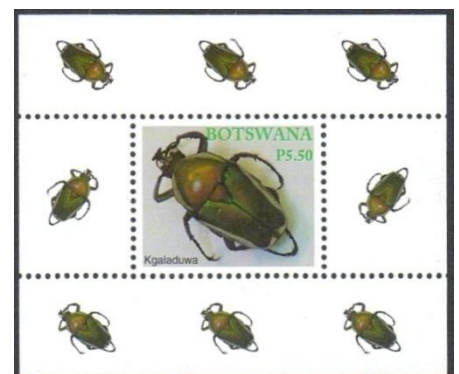
MS No 30 1999 Southern Africa Community Day, one value and only issued as a miniature sheet.

MS No 35 2001 Kgalagadi Transfrontier Wildlife Park
 This was a joint issue with South Africa and the miniature sheet only includes two of the four values.



MS No 39 2003 Beetles

This was the last of the different design/single value miniature sheets.



Botswana 50 years of Miniature sheets

2000-03 Wetlands series 1 to 4

MS No 33 - 2000 Series 1

Okavango Delta

MS No 37 - 2001 Series 2

Chobe River

MS No 38 - 2002 Series 3

Makgadikgadi Pans

MS No 40 - 2003 Series 4

Limpopo River

These colourful miniature sheets paint a complete picture of the stamps and selvedge to an extent whereby the individual stamps are more or less surplus to requirement.



2000 Series 1 - Okavango Delta

MS No 32 2000 *Moths* - The first odd shaped miniature sheet which represents a giant moth that includes all five values.



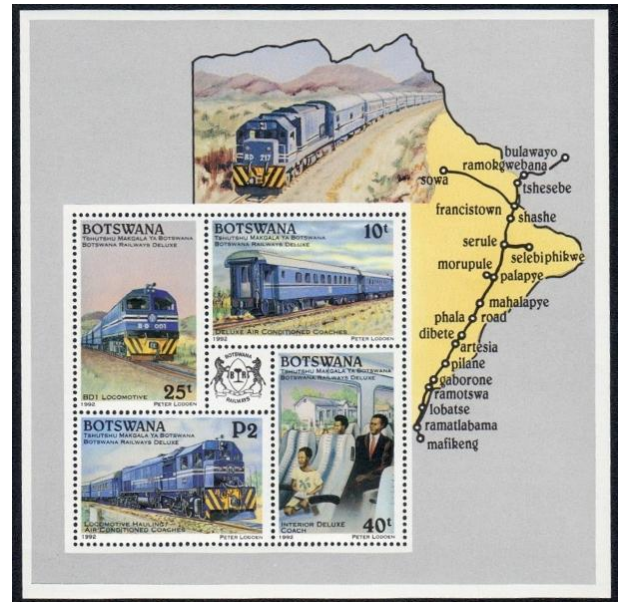
The 'Moth Monstrosity' was produced during the two year 'reign' of the New Zealand advisers to Botswana Post.



A second odd shaped sheet was the 2011 Endangered Species White Rhinoceros (No 47) a set of four stamps inserted into a giant Rhino. This was a World Wildlife Fund idea.

MS No 42 2005 *Endangered Species Black-footed cat*

Two se-tenant sets of four incorporated into a large miniature sheet, thus one had to buy two additional sets instead of one. Again the World Wildlife Fund insisted on the above.



1992 Deluxe Railway Service (No 24)

2004 Joint Issues of Southern Africa Postal Operators

Association Members - This marks the beginning of pictorial miniature sheets with unusual shaped stamps and the identical designs were issued by other African countries.

MS No 41 2004 *First SAPOA National birds*, eight hexagonal designs - Also issued by Angola, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

MS No 44 2007 *Second SAPOA National Animals*, five square designs - Also issued by Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

MS No 45 2010 *Third SAPOA World Cup Football*, nine circular designs - Also issued by Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

2015 Commemorative Issues

Four out of the five sets produced included miniature sheets, No's 50 to 53. They all depict Botswana Wildlife and include Okavango Delta Wildlife, Buffaloes, Vultures and Monkeys.

No	Year	MS	Botswana Miniature Sheets - Details
1	1968	248	Opening of National Museum and Art Gallery
2	1969	260	Christmas
3	1970	269	Death Centenary of Charles Dickens
4		279	Christmas
5	1971	289	Christmas
6	1972	298	Mafeking - Gubulawayo Runner route
7		303	Christmas
8	1974	340	Christmas
9	1975	345	Tenth Anniversary of Self Government
10		350	Rock Paintings, Tsodilo Hills
11	1976	366	First National Currency
12	1977	405	Historical Monuments
13	1978	434	Okavango Delta
14	1979	448	Handicrafts
15	1981	485	Insects
16	1983	549	Traditional Artefacts
17	1985	576	5 th Anniversary of SADC Conference
18		594	Centenary of Bechuanaland Protectorate
19	1986	603	20 th Anniversary of Independence
20	1987	643	Christmas - Grasses and Sedges
21	1988	656	Centenary of Mafeking - Gubulawayo Runner Post
22	1989	677	Slaty Egrets
23	1990	701	Traditional Dress
24	1992	737	Deluxe Railway Service
25		760	Olympic Games - Barcelona
26	1993	775	Railway Centenary
27	1997	876	Royal Golden Wedding
28	1998	889	Diana, Princess of Wales Commemoration
29		894	Botswana Weavers
30	1999	903	South African Development Community Day
31		910	Miss Universe
32	2000	920	Moths
33		938	Wetlands 1 st Okavango Delta
34	2001	939	Hong Kong 2001 Exhibition Overprint on MS938
35		948	Kgalagadi Wildlife Park
36		953	Traditional Baskets
37		963	Wetlands 2 nd Chobe River
38	2002	999	Wetlands 3 rd Makgadikgadi Pans
39	2003	1008	Beetles
40		1014	Wetlands 4 th Limpopo River
41	2004	1027	First SAPOA National birds
42	2005	1044	Endangered Species Black-footed Cat
43	2006	1061	40 th Anniversary of Independence
44	2007	1079	Second SAPOA National Animals
45	2010	1146	Third SAPOA World Cup Football
46		1157	Night Animals
47	2011	1174	Endangered Species White Rhinoceros
48	2014	1210	Lions of the Chobe
49		1217	Philkorea Stamp Exhibition Overprint on MS1210
50	2015	1230	Okavango Delta Wildlife
51		1239	African Buffalo in Botswana
52		1245	Save Botswana's Vultures
53		1250	Vervet Monkey in Botswana
54	2016	1255	Botswana Elephants
55		1273	Favourite Stamps, 5 Decades

Illustrated at right

1981 insects (No 15) The se-tenant stamps create an impression that all the insects are perched on the bark of a tree

All Botswana stamp issues may be viewed at
www.bechuanalandphilately.com

1972 Runner Route (No 6)



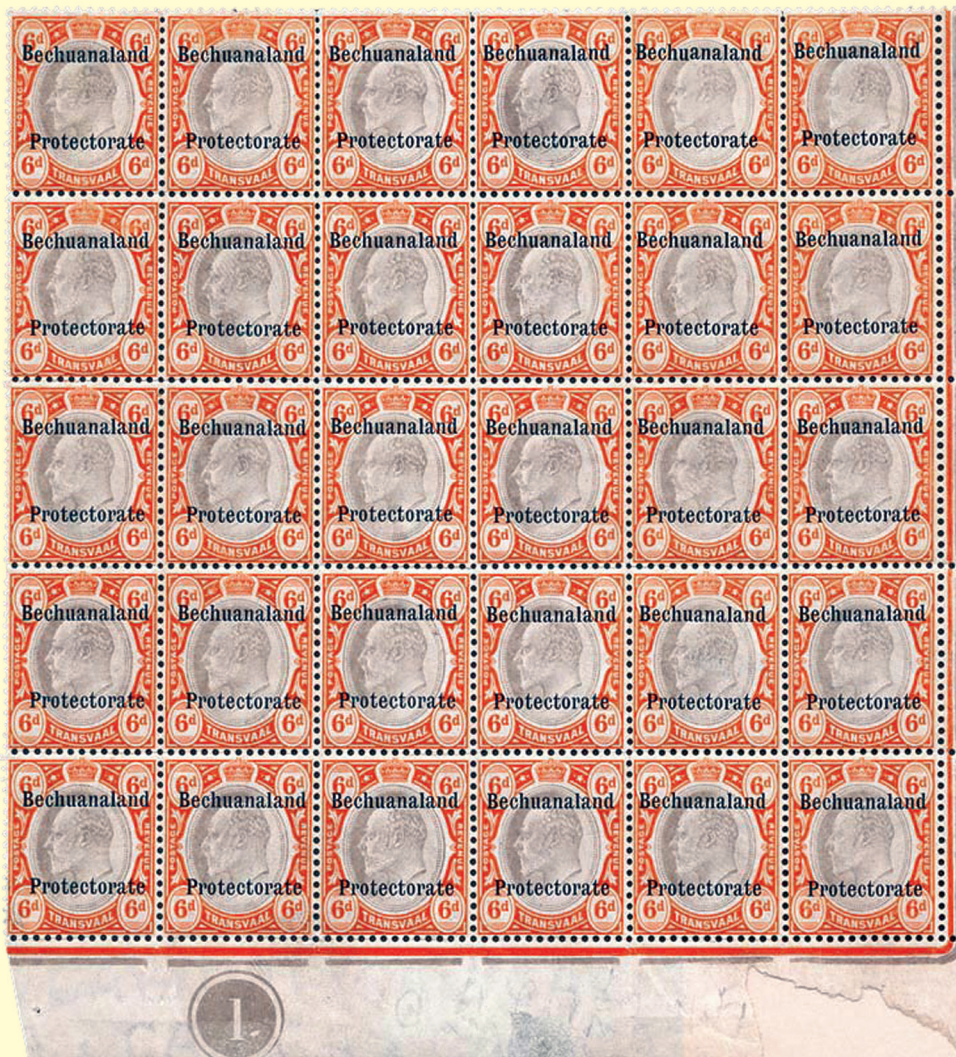
Miniature Sheet Printers

De La Rue MS 1 - Walsall MS 3
Harrison MS 2, 5, 22, 24, 25
Questa MS 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 27 A & M MS 6
Enschedé MS 9, 29, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 47
J. Waddington MS 12
Govt. Printer, Pretoria MS 15, 19
Mardon MS 16, 17, 18
National Printing, Zimbabwe
MS 20, 21, 23, 26, 30
Cartor, France MS 28, 32, 33, 34, 35, 39, 42, 46
Southern Colour MS 31, 48, 49



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The Bechuanaland

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BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE Postal Fiscal. 1910 Transvaal 6d 'black' and orange overprinted in blue-black. Lower right marginal block (6x5) with plate number '1' at base. Comprising the complete half-pane setting of 30, the first stamp showing the variety Raised 'B' and stamp 5 showing Raised first 'a' in Bechuanaland. Marginal fault, the stamps superb unmounted mint. Exceptionally rare, and believed to be the largest surviving multiple. SG F1

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Member: PTS, SAPDA, APS

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

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

Alan Drysdall RDP, RDPSA, FRPSL

23 May 1933 - 11 January 2017

Southern Africa Philately lost one of its finest supporters of the hobby, after a short illness Alan passed away on Wednesday 11 January at the age of 83.

A Doctorate and Geologist by profession, Alan was a keen collector of Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland Field Force, Transvaal and Southern Africa Railways.

Alan formed collections, wrote extensively on each subject and over time disposed of his holdings. Much of his Northern Rhodesia was acquired by Kevin Ashworth; I bought Alan's Nyasaland Field Force in 1992. Spink sold his Transvaal in a named sale on 1 March 2006 consisting of 359 lots.

After Alan retired, he dedicated his time to philately and was without doubt one of the most prolific writers of his time. Being an academic, he meticulously assembled information that either cumulated into an extensive article or a book.

As a staunch supporter of the *Rhodesian Study Circle*, Alan was instrumental in the idea of producing Memoirs. Which over the years became prolific and many of these works invariably includes his name.

I first became acquainted with Alan during the early 1980's and we often exchanged information or compared notes.

Alan supported many of the Annual Philatelic weekends and was one of the prominent figures at the last *Annual Southern Africa Conference* in November 2016. He was one of the early recipients of the *Manfred Weinstein Memorial Medal*, awarded by the PFSA for research and literature. Alan was also one of the few to be invited to sign two Rolls of Honour, as a distinguished Philatelist in the United Kingdom (RDP) and in South Africa (RDPSA).

Alan may you R.I.P.

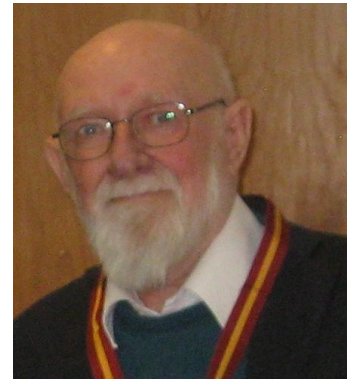
Otto Peetoom 14 January 2017

Introduction in the Spink Drysdall Transvaal Sale

Perhaps because he was born in Livingstone Road, Southampton, Alan has always been intrigued by Africa, and even as a schoolboy was entranced by the writings of Rider Haggard. After getting married and completing his doctorate in 1957, he took up an appointment with Her Majesty's Colonial Service as a geologist with the Geological Survey of Northern Rhodesia. He, together with his family that eventually included two children, was to be based in Lusaka for the next 18 years - for the last eight as Director of the Survey. Those years saw the demise of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland at the end of 1963, and the emergence the following year of the Republic of Zambia.

In the early 1960's Alan became a born-again philatelist, collecting the stamps of the whole of east, central and southern Africa. By the end of the decade he was writing articles for publication, and a few years later Robson Lowe published his first book - which Alan describes as an oversized pamphlet - on the stamp issues and postal history that marked the transition of Northern Rhodesia from the Federation back to Protectorate status and finally to the Republic of Zambia.

He maintained his interest in the stamps and postal history of most of Southern Africa and has published a number of books and more than 200 articles. He has been the Hon. Editor of and a major contributor to *The Transvaal Philatelist* for the last 15 years, the Hon. Editor of the *Natal & Zululand Post* since it was first published in 1997, vice-Chairman of the Rhodesian Study Circle since 1996 and a significant contributor to *The London Philatelist*.



Group photo taken at the November 2016 *Southern Africa Annual Conference*

Recipients of the *Manfred Weinstein Memorial Medal* - Left to right

Brian Trotter (2004) - Chris Board (2015) - Otto Peetoom (2016) - Alan Drysdall (1991) - Richard Stroud (2005)

Obituary Alan Drysdall 1933 - 2017

Southern Africa Philately - The Rhodesian Philatelist - The Runner Post

January 2017