

THE RUNNER POST

The Bechuanalands & Botswana Society



COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 3.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1889-1890.

(In continuation of Colonial Report No. 97, Old Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
January 1891.



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- Philatelic Forum
- Recent Botswana
- British Bechuanaland Annual Reports 1888-1890
- Sam Edwards of Tati
- Half-penny Provisional
- MOSITA P.A.
- Basutoland 1961 Overprint Varieties



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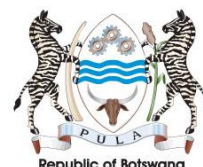
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The Society thanks Graham Edwards (Graphic Designer) for the front cover design

Contents

Contents - Editorial.....	Page 2370
Philatelic Forum 1) Colonial Reports 2) The Rare Stamps Motto - <i>Seek and ye shall find!</i>	
3) The two 3d Victory strips ex Graham Cooper 4) Basutoland 1945 Victory Overprint Variety	
5) Bechuanaland KGV ½d Imperforate between pair	
6) Gubulawayo Bechuanaland, a Historical Myth.....	2371
Recent Botswana Issues.....	2372/73
British Bechuanaland 1888 Third Annual Report.....	2374/75
British Bechuanaland 1889 Fourth Annual Report.....	2376/77
Sam Edwards of Tati and his September 1898 Statement.....	2378/80
The 'One half-penny' Provisional of December 1888 - SG 29 Ghost print By John Coates.....	2381
MOSITA British Bechuanaland By John Coates and Alan MacGregor.....	2381
British Bechuanaland 1889 - 1890 Fourth Annual Report.....	2382
Basutoland 1961 Decimal Overprint Varieties By Otto Peetoom and Brian Trotter.....	2383

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Subscription
includes a
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with each
Edition of
The Runner Post

Editorial

Once more I find myself collating the 'last journal' of the year.

I started this edition in late June, given that I need to complete three journals by September, I require ample time to ensure publication 'On time'...I believe that is not a luxury which is enjoyed by every Society.

As all of you ought to appreciate, *The Runner Post* is intended to be a 'Society Journal' and not the 'Editor's Journal'.

As time passes it appears that less and less input is forthcoming from third parties e.g. 'Members'.

What the foregoing brings into focus is that this 'Solo' act is no longer sustainable. *Southern Africa Philately* will continue to include articles on Bechuanaland and associated Territories and all members will continue receiving that journal.

Unless there is voluntary input into *The Runner Post* during 2018, it will turn into an eight or twelve page *production*...as you all know, during the '1998 - 2003 BBS Crises' members were reduced to 30 puny pages per annum.

Those of you who are appreciative of *Southern Africa Philately* are aware that your subscription guarantees a 44 page journal x 3

In anticipation that *The Runner Post* will contain fewer pages during 2018 we have decided to reduce the annual subscription rate by £2 for the forthcoming year.

See new rates above.

Society 'Minutes of Meetings'

I mentioned these in our last issue, they were with the last chairman and needed to find their way north via two third parties. I finally collected them at the July York Racecourse fair. The last journal presented a review of the society through the eyes of *The Runner Post*.

When time permits I will systematically wade through thirty three years of Minutes and do a write up on the Society's history. It does not surprise me that this has not been documented as most will state that they lack the time and/or inclination. It is certainly not Bechuanaland Philately, but without any articles from the members, it is as good as it gets.

Postal Auction - I am toying with the idea of putting one together and need to consider an array of practicalities to 'make it work'.

Society Banking and Finances

The type of Society Account held at the *Nationwide* Building Society does not provide 'Internet Banking'. Many banks now provide a service whereby one may deposit cheques at their nearest Post office.

Nationwide does not participate in the scheme ...my nearest NW branch requires a thirty mile round trip and I gain sight of a statement once a month when it arrives by post.

Besides the above I already collect payments via a variety of methods being credit card (In my name) PayPal (In my name) and those who subscribe to more than one journal pay me direct, either via cheque or direct debit.

At the February AGM we decided that a more practical method is the solution. Subsequently the Society funds are now in a Halifax account. Cheques will be deposited at my local post office and more importantly I have internet access!

Thus all future payments are payable to me and in the event that something happens to me, a safeguard is in place that a third party can access the society's 'Nest egg'.

The above may not meet with the approval of some, but bear in mind that for the past three years I have run this society single handed and appropriately hauled it 'out the ditch' during 2014.

Had the foregoing not occurred, the society would more than likely have folded by now!

Membership - No change, no New members have joined.

1) Colonial Reports

Extracts (summaries) from the foregoing have previously been published in this journal starting with Issue No 29 in March 1992, under a title *The Kimberley and Bechuanaland Railway* by John Inglefield-Watson (One page)

The Runner Post No 32, September 1993

Annual Colonial Reports 1889 - 1897 - Postal Matters collated by Inglefield-Watson (Two pages)

The Runner Post No 34, March 1994

Postal Services Some Excerpts from Bechuanaland Annual Reports (1902 to 1930) by David Finlay (One page)

The Runner Post No 47, June 1997

Report of the Acting Postmaster General (1897) collated by John Dickson (Three pages)

Thanks to Brian Hurst, I have been fortunate in gaining sight of an array of Colonial Reports, starting with British Bechuanaland, a total of seven reports dated from 1888 to 1895. Each report starts with a summary of events by the Administrator, followed by specific reports by the relevant Government Department.

Each report is directed to the Governor of the Cape Colony who in turn forwards it to London. These reports are presented to both Houses of the British Parliament, printed in booklets and available to the public via booksellers.

The earliest I have is for the year ended 30 September 1888 being Colonial Report No 44 - British Bechuanaland.

It was presented by F.J. Newton who was acting Administrator at the time and had only been in the Colony for three months. The Administrator, Sir Sidney Shippard, was away on a trip to the British Protectorate and Matabeleland. This document includes the special reports from 15 departments being:

1. The Bechuanaland Border Police
2. Receiver General
3. Crown Prosecutor
4. Surveyor General
5. Postmaster
6. Superintendent of Telegraphs
7. Registrar of Deeds
8. Chief Magistrates Court
9. Inspector of Native Reserves
10. Government Storekeeper
- 11 & 12 District Surgeon of Vryburg and Mafeking - Civil Commissioner and Magistrate of Vryburg
- (13) Mafeking
- (14) Taungs
- (15)

All the Annual reports include interesting information that is worthy of a place in this journal and relevant info appears in this issue of *The Runner Post* and more to follow next year.

2) The Rare Stamps Motto - *Seek and ye shall find!*

I wrote the above in the previous journal and I am pleased to put that suggestion into reality. In the July 1946 edition of *The South African Philatelist* I spotted the following item of news: At a meeting of the *Pretoria Philatelic Society* was shown:

Overprinted Victories

A vertical strip, three stamps wide, full depth of the sheet of the 3d overprinted 'Bechuanaland'.

The top row without overprint; the 2nd to 20th rows had the overprint 4 mm from the top frame line of the stamps, while the overprint occurred on the plain bottom margin 5 mm below the perforations of the lowest row of stamps.

3) The two 3d Victory strips ex Graham Cooper

Sold by Spink on 14 December 2016 (See *The Runner Post* No 94 on page 2331) These two strips are now offered 'for sale' on Alan MacGregor's website.

4) Basutoland 1945 Victory Overprint Variety

In *The South African Philatelist*, July 1946 issue, another item of interest shown at a meeting of the *Pretoria Philatelic Society* is described as...*A vertical strip, three stamps wide, and 10 stamps deep of the 3d overprinted 'Basutoland', the sheet No being 1911. In this the overprint was 5 mm from the bottom frame line of the stamps, this being above the 'South Africa' and 'Suid Afrika'.*

5) Bechuanaland KGV ½d Imperforate between pair

See *The Runner Post* No's 94 and 95 (SG 99a) It was noted that a damaged pair was sold by *Sotheby's* in London during November 1987. It appears that the buyer did not hold onto the item for very long as it featured in a *Stanley Gibbons* auction in Johannesburg on 21 April 1988 as lot 105. Described as...*A major error of Southern African philately...* and estimated at R4200 - 4600, it realized its lower estimate. Reported in *The South African Philatelist* (July 1988).

6) Gubulawayo Bechuanaland, a Historical Myth

The following item appeared in *The South African Philatelist* in September 1924 under a heading *Rhodesian Postmarks*

Mr A.C. Thornton writes: Mr A.C. Baxter informs me that he was PMG in Bechuanaland in 1888 and was responsible for the inauguration of the runner post to Bulawayo, at that time Lobengula's headquarters. The Rev. Moffat was, his Bulawayo postal agent, and current stamps of Bechuanaland were in use up to 1890.

As Mr Moffat's letters to him were always headed 'GUBULAWAYO', he in ordering the post cancellation stamp for the new agency, naturally ordered one reading 'GUBULAWAYO BECHUANALAND'. Mr Moffat on receipt of this, filed out the 'BECHUANALAND', giving the explanation to the PMG that if Lobengula saw this, he would think it was a ruse to place him in King Khama's dominion. Hence the postmark GUBULAWAYO only. Later, after 1890, the postmark was BULAWAYO MATABELETLAND.

Apparently Mr Moffat in heading his letters 'GUBULAWAYO' was simply using a native term meaning 'at Bulawayo' or 'at the place of slaughter'.

This is how the GUBULAWAYO came to be inserted in the original postmark.

Comment - A wonderful fairy-tale that took another half century to prove it was not true!

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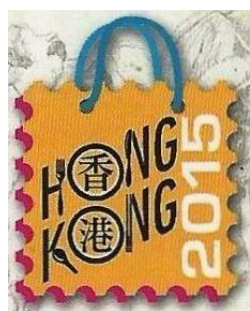


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Recent Botswana Issues

Mystery 'Hong Kong' Exhibition sheetlet

Nigel Haworth, who is a new issue dealer, asked me in June if I knew about a Botswana MS overprinted for use at a Hong Kong stamp Exhibition. He had not seen an example nor was he supplied with any from the Botswana Philatelic Bureau.



At first I assumed it would be a 2016 issue, but a search on the internet suggests that the 'Mystery MS' is connected with the 31st Asian International Stamp Exhibition held in Hong Kong from 20 to 23 November 2015. It is overprinted on the Vervet Monkey in Botswana MS.

It appears that supplying standing order customers with all the available stamp issues is not a high priority at BotswanaPost as Nigel had also not received his supply of *Kgotla Democracy through Dialogue* (Four values) issued on 1 December 2016. After a reminder Nigel's supply finally arrived in June.

1 December 2016 - *Kgotla Democracy through Dialogue*



P0.50 Traditional Adjudication



P4.00 Information Dissemination



P5.90 Coronation of a Chief



P10.00 Harvest Celebration

28 February 2017 - *Leopard in Botswana*

Recently received, another set in the 'Big Five' series with four values and an accompanying MS in the shape of a Leopard...try sticking that on an envelope!



The Designs

P4.00 Female and cub. Litters from one to three, weaned in three months but will remain with the mother for 22 months.

P5.90 Male Leopard in tree, after ambushing their prey, they will drag their prey to safety and often store the kill in a tree.

P8.00 Leopard returning from a hunt. Diet usually warm blooded animals such as mice, hares to large antelope. Being an opportunist, they will also eat birds, reptiles, rodents and insects. If close to people it may attack domestic animals.

P10.00 Leopard Portrait - Behavior. Stealthy and cunning, lives in a variety of habitats from semi-desert to tropical rain forests. Due to its versatility it is the most numerous of the African big cats. They are nocturnal, resting by day, often draped on a limb of a tree and go hunting at night. Well camouflaged and often difficult to see as they blend into their environment.



Recent Botswana Issues

Leopard in Botswana continued

I also received a brochure which indicates the stamps were printed by *Southern Colour Print* in New Zealand.

The designs are attributed to a local artist Ditshupio Mogapi, born in Selebi Phikwe. This is Ditshupio's third set of the 'Big Five' series being responsible for the African Buffalo (2015) and the Elephants (2016).

1 May 2017 - Netball World Youth Cup

The contest was held at Gaborone and five, larger than normal stamps, make up this set. Four designs measure 35 x 40mm and the top value is an elongated design (35 x 70mm).

The accompanying miniature sheet includes the top value and its shape reminds me of a keyhole.



The Competition

This was the *International Netball Federation (INF)* First World Competition to be held in Africa. Twenty countries qualified which included Australia, Barbados, Botswana, Cook Islands, England, Fiji, Grenada, Jamaica, Malaysia, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Samoa, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, Wales and Zimbabwe.

Held at two venues over nine days playing 70 Games that involved 240 Athletes and 100 Team Officials.

SG Numbering

The additional 'Hong Kong' miniature sheet has messed up my numbering that needs to be updated starting from the Vervet Monkey issue released on 20 November 2015. That set ought to be SG 1246 to 1249 plus MS 1250

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SG Numbering continued

20 November 2015 - Hong Kong Exhibition SG MS 1251

14 March 2016 - Elephants (4 values) SG 1252 to 1255 plus miniature sheet MS 1256

26 May 2016 - Traditional Dance (4 values) SG 1257 to 1260

1 August 2016 - 50 Years Progress (8 values) SG 1261 to 1268

August 2016 - Thailand Exhibition (2 x MS) MS 1269 & 1270

1 October 2016 - Favoutite Stamps (5 values) SG 1271 to 1275 plus miniature sheet MS 1276

1 December 2016 - Kgotla Democracy through Dialogue (4 values) SG 1277 to 1280

28 February 2017 - Leopards (4 values) SG 1281 to 1284 plus miniature sheet MS 1285

1 May 2017 - Netball World Youth Cup (5 values) SG 1286 to 1290 plus a MS SG 1291

British Bechuanaland 1888 Third Annual Report

Collated by Otto Peetoom

Papers Relating to HM Colonial Possessions by Hercules Robinson, Governor and High Commissioner of the Cape Colony on 3 December 1888 to The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford. The document was submitted by F.J. Newton, acting Administrator of British Bechuanaland.

Included in his summing up Newton wrote...*The work done by the Post Office and telegraphs is thoroughly satisfactory and Mr Baxter merits praise for the creditable manner in which the postal arrangements are being carried out. A new post cart contract has now been made with the same contractor... It seems very likely that in a few months the post-cart service may have to be extended to some point north of Mafeking...*

Annual Report by the Bechuanaland Border Police

In a lengthy report by George Puzey, the Police Commandant, the following item is included **Postal Service (up-country)** During the whole year all despatches and official correspondence both to and from the Protectorate have been carried by police riders, the duty, I consider, being performed very satisfactory.

On 1st of August last (1888) a post by native runners (one post per week each way) was established with the sanction of his Honour the Administrator. These runners have been supplemented by weekly dispatch riders from the police and so far the mails have been delivered with fair regularity.

Annual Report of the Postmaster

The acting Postmaster General, Ernest C. Baxter submitted a five page report with several appendixes detailing the quantity of mail dispatched and received plus income and expenditure. In his summing up, Baxter wrote...*As the officers engaged in post office work in this territory perform such duties in addition to those connected with other appointments which they hold and as none of them had any experience of post office work prior to their arrival in Bechuanaland, it is not surprising that mistakes are made by most of them occasionally. Serious errors, however, are remarkably few and when everything is taken into consideration the results achieved must be considered satisfactory...*

Baxter's Report begins with

Protectorate Post

During the last few months arrangements have been completed for the extension of our postal system for 500 miles beyond the northern boundary of British Bechuanaland, through the Protectorate, to the territory 'within the sphere of British influence'.

The mails are conveyed by native runners weekly between Mafeking and Shoshong, and fortnightly between Shoshong and Gubulawayo, the capital of Matabeleland. Five postal agencies have been opened along the route, viz., at Kanye, Molepolole, Shoshong, Tati, and Gubulawayo.

To defray expenses small extra charges are levied upon correspondence despatched and delivered. For letters these charges are 2d per ½ oz. within the limits of the Protectorate, and 4d per ½ oz. beyond those limits. To restrict the weight of mails within the carrying capacity of native runners neither books nor parcels are transmitted by this post, and heavy fees are charged upon newspapers.

The postal agents are remunerated by a commission of 2½% upon the value of stamps sold by them, and 25% upon the amount of extra charges collected on correspondence delivered by them. Some of the ordinary British Bechuanaland stamps have been overprinted with the word 'Protectorate' for use at these postal agencies. It is estimated that the receipt, from sale of stamps for postal purposes proper and to stamp dealers for collectors will more than cover the expenditure to the end of the present financial year.

Post Offices

Some changes have been made during the past year with regard to the post offices in this territory. There is now a postal money order office at Kuruman and two new postal agencies have been opened.

The agency at Pudumo has been closed in consequence of the post cart taking another route between Vryburg and Taungs, owing to the bad state of the Pudumo road. There are now four post offices at which money order business is transacted and nine postal agencies.

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British Bechuanaland 1888 Third Annual Report

The Baxter Report continued

Conveyance of Mails

The contract for conveyance of mails between Kimberley and Mafeking, which should have expired on 31st March last, was renewed for a further term of 12 months without fresh tenders being called for. The amount fixed by the contract for this service was low and the contractor gave notice on 1st August that as it did not pay him he would avail himself of the right of terminating the contract in four months from that date.

During the year mails were often conveyed by the contractor's passenger carts free of charge; but as the changes in his time tables were so frequent it was thought advisable to cease to utilise these carts.

The mails for Kuruman were conveyed from Taungs by native runners until 30th June 1888, but the weight of correspondence by that time had increased so much that fresh arrangements had to be made and the mails are now carried between Vryburg and Kuruman on horseback.

Circulation

Baxter notes that 4982 letters were dispatched to the United Kingdom and Foreign countries. 66,485 to offices in South Africa and 2346 registered letters, making a total of 73,813 dispatched during the year. The foregoing is an increase of 17,355 over the preceding twelve months.

There was also a steady increase in the weight of mails received from the Cape Colony, also the number and weight of inland parcels being a striking feature.

Colonial and Foreign Parcels Post

An agreement came into operation on 3 March 1887 for the exchange of parcels with the United Kingdom and foreign countries. During the past year 95 parcels were received valued at £100 14s 10d and customs duty on the foregoing amounted to £16 4s 3d all payable to the Cape Colony.

The figures for six months ending 31 August 1887 is 24 parcels worth £19 4s 9d attracting £3 13s 1d customs duty. Articles received included medicine, jewellery, clothing, photographs, albums, cutlery, plated ware, wedding cake, fishing material, Christmas cards, fancy articles, stationery, surgical instruments and a revolver.

The number of parcels dispatched also showed a significant increase. In six months ending 31 August 1887 was 19 parcels worth £54 3s 10d using £3 17s 4d postage. For the next twelve months to 31 August 1888, 79 parcels worth £305 11s 6d requiring £15 in postage. Outgoing parcels contained karosses, skins of birds and animals, fur caps, stamps, quartz, crewel-work, knobkerries and wedding cake.

Dead or Returned Letters

This had fallen considerably, the numbers returned to the Cape colony was: Letters 224, Registered 5, Official 4 and books, etc. 37. Thus only 748 items during 1887 - 88 as against 1388 in 1886 - 87.

Comment

We may imagine that certain correspondence was addressed to individuals whereby the sender was unsure re the actual location of the person concerned. In a vast territory such as Bechuanaland, the foregoing seems feasible.

People such as hunters, prospectors or adventurers were often frequently on the move and of no 'fixed abode'.

Postage Stamps

The postage and revenue stamps to which reference was made in the last annual report have been in use for postal purposes since 19th January last, and it is due to the issue of these that the financial statement of this department for the past year is such a satisfactory one.

Stamp collectors in various parts of the world are material aids in making our postal revenue equal expenditure; the sale of stamps to dealers in England and elsewhere being far in excess of what would be expected by anyone not conversant with the actual figures.

Several denominations of the stamps supplied were identical in colour and size, so to render mistakes less easy it was deemed expedient to overprint the bulk of these with figures denoting more clearly the values which had been given them in words.

During the year it was discovered that forgeries of the old Stellaland postage stamps had been issued in Cape Town, but as the Cape Post Office Act of 1882 did not clearly provide for the punishment of forgers of stamps of other countries and as the offence of printing them was committed prior to the passing of a later Act making such provision, no proceedings have been taken against the surviving forger.

Money Orders

On 1 January 1887 a Convention for the exchange of money orders with the Cape Colony came into force.

Telegraphic Money Orders

From 1 March 1888 money orders could be transmitted between offices in the Cape colony and Bechuanaland by telegraph. The charge for telegraphing the official advice was 1/- for each order over the cost of an ordinary money order.

This cheap and speedy method of remitting was a great convenience to the general public. A total of 121 orders valued at £740 were issued and 44 orders, valued at £316 1s 3d were paid by telegraph during the six months.

Postal Drafts

The drafts for collection received by Postmasters in Bechuanaland during the past 12 months was 49, amounting to £213 5s 3d, against only 8 the previous year, total £26 15s 6d.

Financial Statement

Baxter rounds off his report with a lengthy financial statement and the previous year showed a loss of £628 8s 4d which was deemed as being 'most satisfactory' when the scant population is compared to the size of the country.

Year ending 1888 provided a profit of £68 13s 9d, the PMG attributes this to the healthy sale of stamps which amounted to £2692 4s 9d. The previous year only £655 4s 3d worth of stamps were sold.

Telegraphs Department

Annual report by the Superintendent R. Tillard who wrote... *the only difficulties that have arisen being from the number of clerks who have left in consequence of obtaining better appointments elsewhere and from the old thin military wire in use, which, as I have previously reported, was never fit for a permanent line, and should have been replaced by a proper telegraph wire.*

The revenue, as I anticipated, has fallen off considerably since the Transvaal line was opened to Malmani.¹

Note¹ Malmanie, Southeast of Ottoshoop, T.O. opened 1.1.1888

British Bechuanaland 1889 Fourth Annual Report

1888 Third Annual Report (Concluded)

Telegraphs report continued

Superintendent R. Tillard wrote...*The expense of constructing a line to the Transvaal border was sanctioned some little time ago by Her Majesty's Government, but as the South African Republic Government did not agree to carry their line on to meet it, I reported that I did not consider the expenditure advisable and it has not as yet been carried out. A junction of the two lines would undoubtedly be of great advantage and I trust that the Transvaal Government will before long be brought to see its necessity; but extension on our side alone to the border, which is about nine miles from the nearest place from which any revenue might be expected and which place has a telegraph office of its own, would, it appeared to me, entail a very considerable expense both in construction and maintenance, without any prospect of adequate return...*

1889 Fourth Annual Report (No 97)

Collated by Sidney Sheppard, the Administrator and Chief Magistrate of British Bechuanaland. He was also the Deputy Commissioner. His report was submitted to H.A. Smyth at Government House, Cape Town.

The document includes special reports from 15 departments. Given that Sheppard was a 'legal man' much of his summing up revolves around judicial matters.

Sheppard's comments on **Post and Telegraphs** was:

In May 1889 the Postal and Telegraph Departments, theretofore worked separately, were amalgamated and placed under Mr J.E. Middleton, late of the Cape Civil Service and an Associate of the *Society of Telegraph Engineers and Electricians*. Mr Middleton's last previous appointment was that of Surveyor and District Engineer in the Postal and Telegraph Department for the Northern Division of the Cape Colony. There is every reason to believe that the management of a department of daily increasing importance has been placed in good hands, and will continue to prove satisfactory.

The conveyance of mails once a week each way between Kimberley and Khama's new capital in the Chapong Hills, near Palachwe, has been entrusted, under a three years' agreement, to the *Bechuanaland Exploration Company*.

Between Palachwe and Bulawayo via the Tati the mails will continue to be conveyed by live runners. Between Palachwe and the camp of the *Bechuanaland Border Police* at the Elebe River or elsewhere the mails will still be carried by the police. The postal route between Mafeking and Bulawayo is as follows: Kanye, Molepolole, Mochudi, Notwani Junction, Palachwe and the Tati.

The parcels post, money order and postal draft systems are all in working order in British Bechuanaland only.

As regards the telegraph, the substitution of a good No 8 wire the light military stranded wire left by Sir Charles Warren is a vast improvement and will effect a considerable saving in maintenance, as the new wire is far less liable to be fused by lightning during the thunderstorms which prevail here at certain seasons.

The British South Africa Company has undertaken construction of 500 miles of telegraph in the Protectorate; a noble work which will connect Matabeleland with the civilised world.

Notwithstanding the sudden falling off in receipts in consequence of the opening of a line of telegraph from Johannesburg to Kimberley via Klerksdorp, there is reason to hope for a gradual steady increase in the revenue from both post and telegraph in this territory.

The Bechuanaland Border Police Report

Presented by H. Goold-Adams, a section under 'Out-Station' caught my eye as it includes a few place names not familiar to me. Police out-stations that were withdrawn include: Langberg, Dry Hartz, Grootchooing, Tweeling's Pan, Massiminyane, Takoon, Morakwen, Eye of Maritzani and lower Maritzani.

PMG and Telegraph Superintendent's Report

Post and Telegraphs amalgamated May 1889, the telegraphists at the principal offices were appointed postmasters and conduct the business of both branches of the service...this arrangement is working very satisfactorily and is both a convenience to the public and an advantage to the service.

Vryburg post office moved from the court house to the telegraph office. A money order office for Setlagoli is under consideration.

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British Bechuanaland 1889 Fourth Annual Report

Post and Telegraph Report continued

Conveyance of Mail

The contractor conveying the mails between Kimberley and Mafeking having given the usual notice, in May last, to terminate the contract, tenders were called for, amongst those tendering being the *Bechuanaland Exploration Company*, who, in addition to the Kimberley-Mafeking service, submitted a tender for a cart service between Mafeking and Shoshong, in the Protectorate.

This offer of a through service having been strongly recommended by the 'Tender Board', the matter has been submitted for the consideration of HM Government.

As the present contract will expire on 3 October, the *Bechuanaland Exploration Company* are meanwhile making temporary arrangements for the conveyance of the mail between Kimberley and Mafeking, pending the decision of HM Government.

The mails for Kuruman are now conveyed by native runner from Taungs; the service is not a satisfactory one.

The weight of mail matter to be conveyed has increased so considerably of late that the runner is often unable to take the whole of the mail and extra runners have to be employed. The question of establishing a cart service on this route will shortly have to be considered.

Circulation

Mail to the united Kingdom and foreign countries total 7535 articles requiring £170 9s 3d postage.

Mail received was 62,968 items made up by 54,242 letters, 5905 Official, 2774 parcels plus 47 book packets.

Post to South African offices amounted to 43,753 letters, 7689 Official, 206 book packets and 715 parcels. Registered letters dispatched was 2679 and received 1595.

Foreign Parcel Post

Dispatched, 75 parcels valued at £529 17s 1d requiring £10 13s 6d postage. Received 166 parcel worth £168 16s 1d and customs duty collected was £21 14s 9d, all paid to the Cape.

Dead or Returned Letters

Total 922 articles of which 30 were destroyed due to illegible address and no trace of the writer.

Postage Stamps

The higher denominations of postage stamps at present in use in the territory having no distinctive colours to denote their respective values, officers dealing with them are constantly liable to mistakes and serious loss.

I have suggested to the Chief Distributor that a new issue be made, and have submitted particulars of the most suitable colours for the stamps of each denomination, so that their respective values may be seen at a glance, and so render any mistake or loss impossible.

Money Orders - During the past twelve months 1549 orders, valued at £5657 6s 6d were issued at offices in the territory.

Postal Drafts

This branch of the post office business has not found much favour with the public during the past twelve months. Only five drafts, valued at £18 17s, were drawn at offices in the territory and 31 drafts, valued at £119 0s 4d were drawn at offices in the Cape Colony on offices in this territory.

Revenue

Amounts collected under the different heads during the past twelve months. Postage stamps sold £1318 4s 11d. Unpaid postages and surcharges collected, £29 5s, private bag rents £4, commissions on money orders issued, £110 12s 9d, a total of £1452 2s 9d.

Protectorate

There are five postal agencies at the following places, Kanye, Molepolole, Shoshong, Tati, and Gubulawayo.

Up to the end of July last the three first named were served from Mafeking, once a week, by native runners, Tati and Gubulawayo being served from Shoshong once a fortnight.

The main body of the Bechuanaland Border Police having moved up into the Protectorate in May, there was a considerable increase in the weight of the mails to be conveyed, and although the mail was restricted to letters and newspapers only, it was found that the native runners were unequal to the work; they were therefore dispensed with and a mule cart service was established under the management of the police authorities. This service, I regret to say, ended in a complete failure after two months' trial, owing to some unexplained cause, the breakdown causing considerable delay to the mails, and great inconvenience to the public.

The total weight of mail matter despatched from Mafeking to the Protectorate during the two months cart service amounted to 2372 lbs, of which was 1025 lbs was for police alone.

Arrangements are now being made for the mails to be conveyed by native runners as before, the police authorities making their own arrangements for conveyance of police mail.

This arrangement will only be temporary pending the decision of Government with regard to the tender of the *Bechuanaland Exploration Company*, referred to under the heading 'Conveyance of Mail'. Should this tender be accepted, I propose to extend the parcels and book post up to Shoshong and establish money order offices at Molepolole and Shoshong; it will be a great convenience to the public and a source of revenue to this department.

The correspondence etc. dealt with at the five postal agencies in the Protectorate during the past twelve months was:

Received at Protectorate offices, 6786 letters, 419 official, 4776 newspapers and 124 registered letters.

Despatched from Protectorate offices, during same period, 6109 letters, 325 official, 126 newspapers and 177 registered letters, making a total of 18,842 articles dealt with.

Postage stamps to the amount of £241 18s 8d were sold, and surcharges and additional postages to the amount of £96 17s 9d were collected, a total of £338 16s 5d for the 12 months.

Telegraphs

The telegraph offices are at Mafeking, Setlagoli, Vryburg, Taung and Wittefontein; the latter, a testing station only and situated within the border of the Cape Colony, has been temporarily closed.

Some difficulty has been experienced in the working of the line between Barkly West and Mafeking, owing to the light strand wire in use, it being quite unsuited for permanent telegraph purposes in this country. The erection of a heavier wire, the material for which arrived from England in August.

The work has already been commenced and I hope to have the new wire completed to Mafeking by the end of October.

Sam Edwards of Tati and his September 1898 Statement

By Otto Pectoom

The Tati District

A tract of land cushioned between Matabeleland and Bechuanaland, situated between the Shashi and Ramaquabane rivers. Virtually uninhabited, it was unclear during the first half of the nineteenth century who owned it.

Historically it was regarded as a 'Disputed Territory' and it is said that the Matabele used to hunt there, whilst Khama's people grazed their cattle. It is also intimated that the majority of the original Kalanga inhabitants in the district were annihilated by Mzilikazi en-route to Matabeleland and the survivors relocated elsewhere.

It is said that prior to 1850 there was no European presence in the Tati district. Sam Edwards and Moffat arrived at Tati in 1854 and are regarded as the first Europeans to do so.

In 1866 Karl Mauch reported gold in the district and mining commenced in 1868.

In 1870 Lobengula granted a concession to A.L. Levert on behalf of the *London and Limpopo Gold Mining Company*. This venture was abandoned due to a lack of funds.

Various other claims to ownership turned Tati into a *disputed territory* for many years.

Samuel Howard Edwards

Born 27 November 1827 Bethelsdorp in the Cape Colony. Son of the Rev. Roger Edwards of the L.M.S. and his wife Mary. Along with David Livingstone he founded a Mission Station at Mabotsa in August 1843.

Sam was educated at Salem school in Grahamstown and he joined his father at the mission station at Mabotsa in 1846.

1848 - 1850 Sam began Hunting and trading in the Mangwato and Bechuanaland. Along with J.H. Wilson, they amassed a great deal of ivory in a period of almost three years. In 1850 he met and guided the naturalist J. Leyland from Cape Town to Lake Ngami.

1854 - Sam Edwards along with Robert Moffat travelled to Matabeleland to meet Chief Mzilikazi.

1859 - Tried his hand at sheep farming in Natal followed by trading from the Orange Free State to Natal and Zululand.

1869 - Edwards command of Bantu languages earned him the role of interpreter with the *London and Limpopo Company's* expedition to the Tati district and after a year, returned to Natal, tried his luck on the diamond fields of Kimberley.

1878 - Acted as guide and interpreter to Col. W.O. Lanyon during the disturbances in Griqualand West.

1881 - Sam returned to the Tati district and travelled to Matabeleland several times per year to visit his friend Lobengula.

1884 - On the request of Sir Charles Warren, Edwards met the Warren expedition near Hope Town and travelled as far as Lobengula's kraal along with Lieut C. Haines and A.E. Maund.

1881-1888

Sam Edwards was the Managing Director of the *Northern Light Company* that had obtained the exclusive concession for gold mining in the Tati region. Their concession was ratified on 21 September 1882 and extended in February 1887.

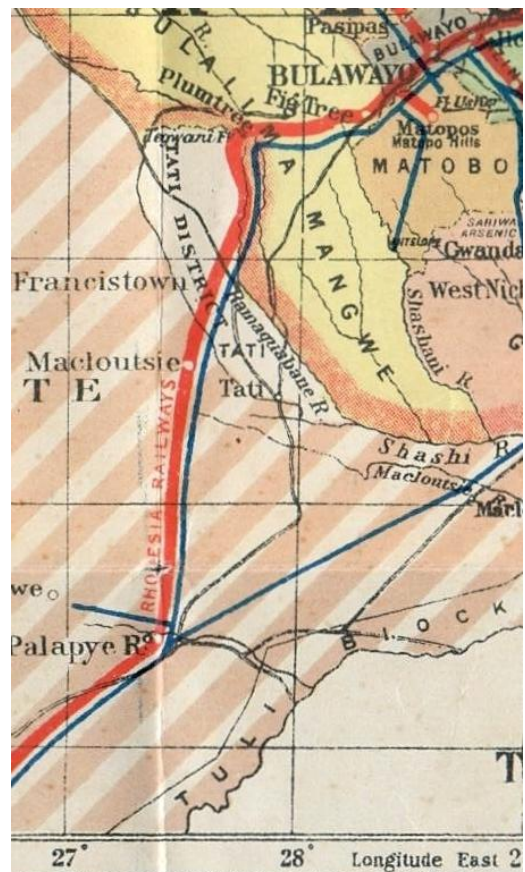
During 1887 Lobengula ceded the Tati district to Edwards who in turn passed the title to his Company.

The Tati Company assumed possession from Sam Edwards in 1887; however a dispute over ownership of the territory lingered on until mid 1894.

In October 1888 the rights of the *Northern Light Company* were taken over by a new *Tati Concession Mining and Exploration Company*.

During 1888 Edwards assisted J.R. Maguire with his negotiations in Matabeleland and on 30 October 1888 Lobengula signed the Rudd Concession.

Tati was specifically excluded from the *Rudd Concession* and also from the Royal Charter granted to the British South Africa Company on 29 October 1889.



Tati district between the Shashi and Ramaquabane Rivers

Sam Edwards retired from his post at Tati in 1892, took a trip around the world and settled down at Port Elizabeth.

Sam did not marry and is described as... A friendly man, he knew, and was associated with all the hunters and explorers of the nineteenth century in South Africa. F.C. Selous, C.J. Andersson and J.A. Wahlberg who referred to him as 'Far Interior Sam', 'Induna Sam' or just 'Sam'.

His knowledge of dialects and languages, including Dutch, was phenomenal and he was able to inspire in the minds of Bantu chiefs such as Kgama and Lobengula a great deal of confidence in the White man.

His pioneering in the region of the Thamalakane and Taokhe Rivers added much to our knowledge of these parts. There is a photograph of him in Selous and Le Roux.

Sam Edwards died aged 94 on 21 June 1922 in Port Elizabeth. His obituary appeared in *The Eastern Province Herald* on 23.6.1922.

Sam Edwards of Tati and his September 1898 Statement

Tati as a 'Transit Camp' to the North

Travellers en-route to Matabeleland usually paused at Tati before proceeding further as may be demonstrated by the Jesuit Fathers who made their way North in 1879.

North through Bechuanaland to Matabeleland

Father Depelchin along with ten other missionaries set off from Grahamstown on 16 April 1879 and crossed the Limpopo by 17 July. Shoshong, the residence of King Khama, on 23 July and finally Tati on 17 August 1879.

After a halt at Tati Father Depelchin, along with two others, pushed on to Gubulawayo so that they might meet Lobengula.

On 23 August 1879 the missionaries reached Ramaquabane, on the Bechuanaland Rhodesia border. Two days later the party stopped on the banks of the Kwesi river and Depelchin wrote...*It is usually that travellers stay in quarantine awaiting the pleasure of His Majesty Lo Bengula to send the permission to advance. One cannot penetrate the interior without the authorisation of the king. We are naturally a little anxious: travellers have found themselves stopped at the frontier for several weeks...*

Amongst the Jesuits they were skilled in carpentry, rope making, gunsmiths and Father Croonenberg was an excellent artist. After various demonstrations of their abilities as artisans which included restoring and decorating a wagon for the King they received permission from Lobengula on 15 October 1879 to bring up the remainder of their party from Tati.

Friday 29 August...*The royal messenger has at last arrived: he announces that Lo Bengula, happy to meet us, has opened the road to Gubulawayo for us. The letter is written by Mr Fairbairn, who seems very favourably disposed towards us.*

Sam Edwards Lobengula's 'Gate Keeper'

In a book *Crown and Charter: The Early Years of the British South Africa Company* (1974) by John S. Galbraith the author wrote...*Lobengula could not cope with a rush of white men into his territories, whether they were Boer or British...In the Tati district early in 1887 he tried the expedient of appointing 'Far Interior Sam' Edwards, an old and trusted friend, with full powers to make and enforce laws involving Europeans. This establishment of a buffer between himself and the whites worked quite well at Tati...*

A similar remark appears in *Rhodes and Rhodesia: The White Conquest of Zimbabwe 1884-1902* (1983) by Arthur Keppel-Jones, who wrote...*The notice prohibiting entry was posted at the Tati and the King asked Sam Edwards '...to tell all Hunters and Gold seekers arriving there not to trouble themselves to come farther as there was neither game nor gold in his country any more'. The prohibition was only partly enforced...*

Resolving the Tati 'Dispute' by Legal Means

During 1989 I acquired a six page document headed **Copy STATEMENT by MR SAMUEL H. EDWARDS, London, 19th September 1898.** I believe the item came from a cleared solicitors archive in Bulawayo.

The document is an actual carbon copy of the original. I was informed that the *National Archives* in Harare also hold a copy in their files under reference Misc/ED 3/1/1 Obit. 3/2/1-2.

Sam Edwards retired from the Tati district in 1892 and returned to South Africa. In February 1895 *Tati Concessions Ltd.* was floated as a public company in London.

The Sam Edwards Statement

In September 1898 Sam Edwards, then almost 71 years old, made the following statement in London...

I was born in South Africa and I first went up country as far as Tati in 1854 or 1855. I went up with Dr. Moffat, who was the well-known missionary who had been in the Transvaal previously; I think it was so long ago as 1836 or 1837. Lobengula's father was then living and his name was Umzilagas. The Matabele were always a fighting people. They conquered all the Transvaal natives and they conquered all the natives round them, but afterwards they were attacked by the Boers and finding that the Southern country was getting very hot for them they migrated to the North.

For many years the Matabele would not allow any strangers within their country, but some of us wanted to enter the country to explore, to shoot and to trade. Umzilagas said he would not open the road until he had seen Dr Moffat.

Accordingly I went up with the Dr as before mentioned. We went up in Bullock wagons. We had our native boys as drivers and we passed through the Tati. We did not come across any natives in Tati nor until we had got 40 or 50 miles to the North of the Tati, and we were then met by a lot of natives who stopped us and they told us that their orders were to let Moffat in, but nobody else. Those were the orders of the King.

Dr Moffat said he was Moffat, but the natives said, 'Oh, no, you have got a white beard, but Dr. Moffat had a black beard' and the Dr explained that having got older, his hair had got white. After some talk the Dr said, 'Very well then, I shall just turn back and go away', but thereupon an old chief came out and recognised Dr Moffat. This old chief had been hiding all the time and listening to all that had been going on, and we did not know that he was there. The old chief took us to his kraal and told us we should have to stay there 4 days until he could communicate with the King and get his orders.

On the expiration of the 4 days we started, and every day once or twice we were met by messengers with the orders of the king to hurry us up to see him.

Dr Moffat and I went up about 50 miles to the North of what is now Bulawayo (there was no kraal there then) and there found the King in the middle of his tribe. The king was exceedingly pleased to see Dr Moffat, and we found that he particularly wished Dr Moffat to cure him of sundry gouty maladies &c., &c. We stayed with the King about 3 months. We lived in our wagons, and the King supplied us with beef and corn and beer. We were never in want - we were treated hospitably and never had any cause to fear or to be nervous about anything. I remember Lobengula then. He was only a lad of 17 or 18 years of age. He was made no fuss of, but was just like any other youth about the kraal. He had no idea then of ever becoming king.

At that time nothing was said about getting concessions. I next went up country in 1869 with Sir John Swinburne and his party, consisting of several other Europeans. We went to Tati and we stayed there. We took up machinery and commenced mining operations. I stayed altogether with Sir John Swinburne for one year. The old king had died, and no new Chief had been elected. Sir John Swinburne and I applied for a concession of the *Northern Gold Fields*, but the Indunas told us that they could not grant anything, but that when a king had been elected we could go up again and ask him for what we wanted.

Sam Edwards of Tati and his September 1898 Statement

Sam Edwards Statement continued

My next visit Northwards was in 1881, and I stayed in the Tati District except when I occasionally made a visit elsewhere from 1881 to 1892. During that time I went 2 or 3 times a year up to Bulawayo and stayed with Lobengula. He and I were great friends. You will see my name mentioned in several of the Concessions.

As to the natives in the Tati in my time, we always considered that there were no natives settled there. I never saw a native kraal or village nor did I see any permanent native residence of any kind. The only natives I ever saw were sometimes members of the Matabele Tribe, who would come down to see me. They came down to trade with me. At other times a few hunters would pass across the district in ones, twos or threes. Those hunters came either from Khama's country or from Lobengula's country.

The district of the Tati as I knew it personally had been swept altogether free of native population in those terrible native wars. In those wars not only warriors were slain, but women and children, whenever they were come across - they were annihilated.

Sometimes members of the Makalakas would come down to trade with me. They would carry a little corn on their heads, and ostrich feathers and skins, and I would sell them beads, brass wire, knives, small hatchets, snuff boxes &c., and cotton goods and blankets, but the visits of those Makalakas were very few and far between. They said they came from somewhere on our North West boundary right up in the watershed of the rivers. Whether these were within our boundary or outside I really cannot say. There was no survey made in my time.

I went up towards the watershed with our engineer a French Swiss named De Maffey. We went up to where the Shashi becomes quite a narrow stream, and then we went across country to the Tati River and in all that time we never came across any native village or native huts or any natives.

I am surprised to hear it suggested that there should be native reserves. I never in my experience knew a necessity arise for anything of the kind. Of course if there are natives up on the watershed it would not be a kind thing to disturb them, but I think it might be a very dangerous thing to have new natives introduced into native reserves. It might be introducing a lot of lazy people, they might make a collection of all the scoundrels of the neighbouring countries, and it might be a ruinous experiment in the Tati District.

In 1884 and 1885 Sir Charles Warren commanded a military expedition going up country, and he communicated with me by telegram from Cape Colony, and I went down and met him at the Railway Terminus near Hope Town. He then begged me to accompany him northwards, and I was on his staff. I well remember the two brothers named Haines. There was Captain Charles and Captain Alfred. I think they were Lieutenants then. Captain Alfred was afterwards killed in the Matabele war.

The whole force of Sir Charles Warren's Company went up country as far as Mafeking, and I went with them. Then Sir Charles took a small escort and went up as far as Khama's country, and I went with them. At that time Captain Alfred Haines was Secretary to Sir Charles Warren.

Sir Charles Warren proclaimed British protection over Khama's country and the surrounding district, and it was a great pity I think that British protection was not also then proclaimed over Lobengula's country.

From Khama's country Sir Charles Warren sent Lieutenant Charles Haines with myself and A.E. Maund up to Lobengula, and we told Lobengula that the British Government were now the protectors of Khama, and his people, and that he must not make war upon them anymore, and that if he did so the British Government would consider it an act of hostility. We were well received by Lobengula, and we stayed there six weeks.

For our labour in our Mining at Tati we depended upon native labour. We got sometimes inferior men from the Matabele country. They were generally what we call Maholi, and were the remnants of conquered tribes. Sometimes the men who came to us were Makalakas. They used to build grass huts of a temporary kind. We found them in food and paid them wages in the shape of goods and whatever they might require.

S.H. Edwards. 20th September 1898

Witness E.H. Flux, of

144 Leadenhall Street in the City of London, Solicitor.

What was the purpose of the 1898 statement?

Edwards made reference to suggested native reserves; was the Government of the time planning to introduce them within the Tati District? Edwards made it clear that he opposed such an idea. Should the *Tati Concessions Company* be against the proposed reserves, then Edwards, with his experience of the Tati area, was the right man to make representations on behalf of the Company.

Edwards pointed out that the original native population in the Tati district had been annihilated during the native wars. He placed considerable emphasis on the fact that, during his time in Tati, he rarely encountered any natives in the area other than occasional travellers.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century several commissions examined the overall treatment of the indigenous population. At the end of his statement Edwards declared that the native labour employed during his time at Tati were paid a fair and adequate remuneration.

Bibliography

- 1) Dictionary of South African Biography Volume III page 265
- 2) Standard Encyclopaedia of Southern Africa Volume 10 page 428
- 3) *The Early Bulawayo Posts and Postmarks* by E.K. Wright Supplement to *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* (RSCJ) No 108
- 4) TATI by E.K. Wright RSCJ 141 & 142
- 5) Published article in *The Rhodesian Philatelist* No 16 April 1998 The above version amended and updated as appropriate
- 6) **Passenham** is a small village in the civil parish of Old Stratford in South Northamptonshire. The church of St Guthlac has a late 13th century tower, the upper part rebuilt 1626.

Sam Edwards Remembered

Passenham village - St Guthlac Church

(C11) (Tablet on the south wall in front of the pews)
To the glory of God and in memory of Major SAMUEL HOWARD EDWARDS, South African pioneer, explorer and soldier, a frequent worshipper in this church. Born 27th November 1827, died 21st June 1922 at Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

This tablet, a tribute to a beloved brother and much valued friend, is placed here by JANIE EDWARDS, his sister and ANNIE CAPELL and her children, formerly of Passenham Rectory.

'The Eternal God was his refuge'

The 'One half-penny' Provisional of December 1888 - SG 29 Ghost print

By John Coates

Following a shortage of ½d stamps in December 1888, Messrs. Townshend & Co. were instructed to surcharge six sheets - or 720 stamps - of the the 'Unappropriated' dies 3d which were surplus to issue (Holmes, 1971).

This denomination was required specifically to satisfy demand for posting local newspapers thus it is not surprising that used stamps are seldom seen as the majority would be destroyed on opening the wrappers. The overprinted stamp was in the pale dull lilac and black shade and the forme was set up in five horizontal rows of 12 such that a half sheet of 60 stamps could receive the overprint.

The first record of a 'Ghost' print is found in Spink's sale in March 2002 where Lot 105 is described as...*An unused example [9], variety surcharge double, the double impression very lightly impressed 5mm to the foot and 1.5mm to right, fresh with large part original gum; a couple of expert handstamps on reverse. A recently discovered variety. SG 29 var.* This lot was unsold.

The 'Ghost' printing was found in two separate auctions in the UK. Illustrated in figure 1, the vertical lines are visible 3mm to the right of the normal lines and are offset 4mm to the bottom. Note that the overprint is towards the top of the stamp. Authenticity is proven by the nick in the 'n' of 'One' and missing serif to the foot of 'f' in 'Half'; this plates to position 45 (R4/9). There is no evidence of an albino impression.

A second example is shown in figure 2 with the overprint located more centrally on the stamp. Ghost lines are seen 1mm to the right of the main print and offset 1mm to the top. These ghost lines are accompanied by a very weak printing of 'P' in 'Penny' which is similarly displaced but there is no impression of the remaining words.

Figure 1
Ghost lines



Figure 2
Ghost lines

MOSITA British Bechuanaland

By John Coates and Alan MacGregor

H.R. Holmes in *The Postage Stamps, Postal Stationery and Postmarks of the Bechuanalands* (1971) on page 79 described the various postmarks of British Bechuanalands and wrote...

Mosita - *This postal agency commenced business on April 1st, 1895, and its life as a British Bechuanaland office was a mere seven month. It continued as a Cape office and is included in the 1898 list of Cape post offices.*

In the checklist for Bechuanaland Post Offices, compiled by the late John Inglefield-Watson and Brian Trotter under 'Mosita' there is an the entry...*No Bechuanaland postmark recorded.*



John Coates sent in a scan of SG 39 with an example of

MOSITA dated
NO 75
5
(1895)

The Runner Post No 90 August 2015

On the back cover of this issue Alan MacGregor offered an On Her Majesty's Service envelope cancelled MOSITA



MOSITA B.B. AU 30 97

In the case of Mosita, examples of the original B.B. version are extremely rare and appear to be unrecorded used before annexation.

British Bechuanaland 1889 - 1890 Fourth Annual Report

Collated by Otto Peetoom

1889 - 90 Fourth Annual Report (No 3)

Collated by Sidney Sheppard, Administrator and Deputy Commissioner of British Bechuanaland. His report was submitted to Henry B. Loch, Governor and High Commissioner of the Cape Colony.

Loch in turn submitted the B.B. report to Lord Knutsford in London and commented...*I believe the large influx of European population, which is sure to result from the extension of the railway from Kimberley to Mafeking...*

This Annual report includes fourteen accounts from various Government departments. Sheppard includes numerous legislative proclamations before presenting his overall summing up of the last twelve months.

There was a general hype of the up and coming development of Matabeleland, in particular that man and equipment going north need to transverse Bechuanaland.

The Pioneer Column to Rhodesia

Sheppard wrote...Perhaps the most remarkable event of the year has been the brilliantly successful march of Lieut.-Colonel Pennefather, of the 6th Dragoons, from the Makloutsie Camp to Mount Hampden in Mashonaland. The forces of the British South Africa Company commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Pennefather, including the pioneers under Major Johnson, were guided by the well-known hunter, Mr F.C. Selous, who was accompanied by Dr Jameson, of Kimberley. A new road had to be cut as the force advanced; the route by along the flank of the most powerful native tribe south of the Zambesi.

In the not improbable event of a conflict the gallant little band might have been outnumbered at any point on the line of march in the proportion of at least twenty to one; they calmly and deliberately faced the risk of a second Isandlana; no possible precaution was omitted; nothing was left to chance; and the result was a triumph which deserves to take rank amongst the great achievements of British audacity.

For cool daring, perfect discipline, and steady determination the little force under Lieut.-Colonel Pennefather could hardly be surpassed.

The Railway...*a block of 12,000 square miles has been set apart for the British South Africa Company in consideration of railway construction...*

The Post Office...The report of the Postmaster- General and Superintendent of Telegraphs exhibits a steady growth in the work and revenue of these departments.

Fresh tenders have been called for in consequence of the construction of the railway and the desirability of altering the postal route in the Protectorate. Increased expenditure is inevitable; but, on the other hand, considerable increase of revenue may now be confidently expected...

The Police Report includes...A postal service has been established between Palapye and Macloutsie camp, by means of Scotch carts and relays of oxen, for the purpose of conveying mails from the Bechuanaland Border Police and of the British South Africa Company...the distance of 120 miles being covered in an average of 30 hours. No extra expense is attached to this service.

The Receiver General noted...Post Office revenue for the year, Colony £1499 11s 5d. Protectorate £868 16s 11d

Posts and Telegraphs Expenditure (12 months) £5492 9s 8d.

Postmaster-General and Superintendent of Telegraphs

There was no detailed report as previous and only a summary by J.E. Middleton...a postal Agency was opened at Bloemfontein in Gordonia.

The mails between Kimberley and Palachwe have been conveyed weekly under contract by the *Bechuanaland Exploration Company*. Owing to large losses by horse sickness from January to April this service was not satisfactorily performed north of Mafeking.

The railway was utilised between Kimberley and Fourteen Streams from 4th August 1890, and from the 1st of December there will be a daily mail service by rail between Kimberley and Vryburg, with a bi-weekly service by road between Vryburg and Mafeking. Kuruman is sill served from Taungs, and Bloemfontein from Upington by native runners.

In the Protectorate there are five postal agencies (Kanye, Molepolole, Palachwe, Tati, and Bulawayo), with a sub-agency at Macloutsie. The three first-named are served by weekly mail-cart from Mafeking, Macloutsie by weekly cart from Palachwe and the others by weekly runners from the same place. Macloutsie is the station through which passes all correspondence for Mashonaland, and will become the exchange station under the probable postal convention with the British South Africa Company.

The total weight of mail matter received into the territory from Kimberley during the year was 19½ tons, and the amount despatched to Kimberley was 9½ tons,

The number of letters, &c., parcels, money orders, and postal drafts dealt with shows a large increase during the year. The gross receipts for postal business for the territory amounted to £1812, showing an increase of £360; and those for the Protectorate to £883, showing an increase of £545.

The telegraphs have worked very satisfactorily during the year since the completion of the new No 8 wire. The instruments will need to be replaced at an early date, owing to the heavy work.

The extension of the line from Mafeking to Palachwe (290 miles), constructed and worked by the British South Africa Company, was completed during the year. Offices have been opened at Ramoutsa, Palla, and Palachwe. The line is now being pushed forward to Macloutsie and Tuli.

The total revenue of the government line was £1901, being a decrease of £18. Government messages dealt with represented a value of £1797, being an increase of £483.

At the end of this Annual report there is a letter from Henry B. Loch, Governor and High Commissioner of the Cape Colony to the Administrator of Bechuanaland.

He expresses a concern re the police report of 194 cases of fever at Elebe and Macloutsie.

He recommends...*At the police stations at Ramoutsa and Palla postal agencies should be established and the revenue might be greatly increased by the sale of stamps at those places, whilst the men at these out-stations could be regularly supplied with letters and papers...*

Basutoland 1961 Decimal Overprint Varieties

By Otto Peetoom and Brian Trotter



Overprint Varieties - An Update

In *The Runner Post* No 93 I documented a few of the known varieties and usually other items draw ones attention.

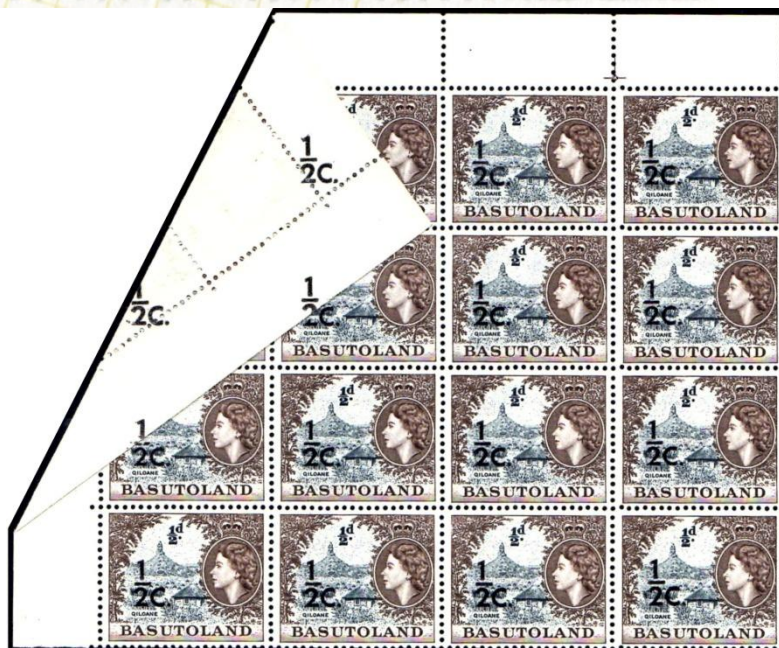
1/2c Overprint Omitted due to a Fold-over

Reported and illustrated in *The South African Philatelist* August 1962 Under 'Recent Finds' Found at Maseru.

After publishing issue No 93, Brian Trotter pointed out that he owns this particular example and two good colour illustrations demonstrate the item, with and without its 'fold-over'.

Stamps 1, 2 and 11 Overprint omitted
Stamps 12 and 21 Partial omission of Overprint

1c on 1d Overprint Omitted - The late Dennis Firth collection was auctioned by Cavendish and included the above strip of the 1c value with the last stamp having the overprint virtually omitted. This is the first example I have encountered.



2 1/2c 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 issue of SAP.

Postmarked Mokhotlong
2 VII 62 or 3 VII 62

The report suggests four examples found and assumed four singles...not so



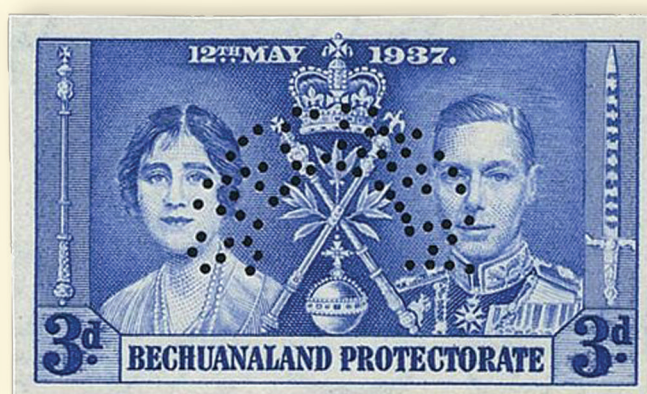
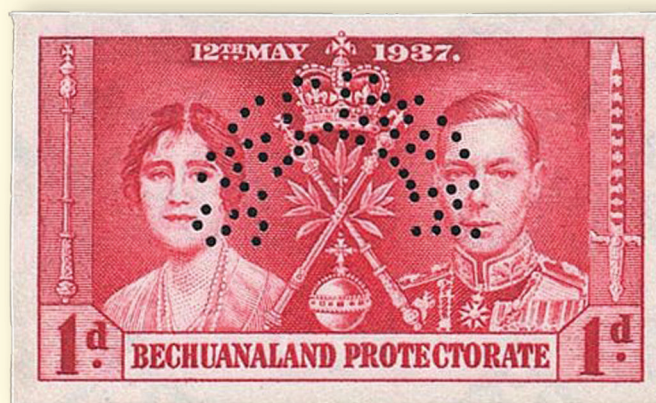
SAP July 1987 - Used Pair - Muscott Advert
Ex Captain Hampshire



ALAN MACGREGOR

Member of PTS - SAPDA - APS

Further Items from the Vic Visser Collection



Bechuanaland Protectorate 1937 Coronation

Set of three Imperforates and Perforated 'SPECIMEN' - Samuel type D20

Unmounted mint Very rare, only six sets possible

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