

# THE RUNNER POST

The Bechuanalands & Botswana Society



- Stellaland - 1s Imperf between
- Goshen - 'Local Labels'
- Botswana 1c SG 220a
- Bechuanaland 1925 Royal Tour
- Botswana Bird Philately
- Stellaland Facts and Speculation
- Stellaland - New Discovery
- Crocodile Pools Revisited
- Botswana New Issues
- Are Stamps Still Relevant





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

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A copy of  
*Southern Africa  
Philately*  
accompanies  
each  
Edition of  
*The Runner Post*

#### Editorial

Britain has enjoyed one of the warmest summers for many a year and some opinions suggest that the previous occasion when we enjoyed similar weather was way back in 1976.

In 1976 I recall taking my family on holiday to Corfu and on our return the neighbours sported a better 'backyard tan' than we had acquired on a Greek Island.

As a result of the weather, philately and writing has taken a back seat. In the first instance it is unbearably hot in my office. The appeal to be 'outside' outweighs the computer and I have had to think of a compromise. Subsequently I have set my laptop up in the conservatory and devote a few hours in the early morning to writing.

I am pleased that on this occasion the journal includes the input from some of our members...there ought to be plenty of 'life' left in Bechuanaland as well as Botswana philately.

I point this out on the following page that little or nothing has been written about the various Royal Tours that took place during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. I will not surprise me that there are numerous other subjects that have not received their fair share of attention in *The Runner Post*.

Although 2019 ought to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> journal, it is not quite as straight forward as that as noted in the *Forum*.

Milestones in Philatelic Societies are not always what they purport to be.

For instance last year I collated a special edition of *The Springbok*, the journal of the *South African Collectors' Society* (SACS), it was allegedly their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1947 - 2017)

#### Milestones continued

According to some of the members 'in the know' the SACS was founded in October 1947. During 2018 I conducted some research into the history of said society and found definitive proof that it was in fact founded in May 1948. Thus its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was in 2018 and not in 2017.

**Botswana 1 cent Watermark Variety** - Peter Jukes has contributed further information on the foregoing subject which is more than likely 'Chapter and Verse' on it!

The only reference I found is in issue No 59/50 page 1223, a member (Chris Cordes) having found a used copy in a junk box, the stamp has a small tear.

#### Birds on Stamps by Species

At the SACS Annual Philatelic weekend in June I provided a display, supported by a power point presentation, on the birds of Southern Africa. This included the stamps of the Republic of South Africa, South West Africa and Namibia plus the former Homelands. In addition I collated a systematic listing of the species based on Howard and Moore subdivision (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition).

Considering the relatively large number of 'birds on stamps' issued by Botswana, I have carried out a similar exercise published in this edition of our journal.

#### 2018 Botswana Stamp Issues

On 30 August 2018 Botswana Post issued its 11<sup>th</sup> Definitive of 15 values which covers three themes being Fish, Reptiles & Amphibians, Mammals and Birds. Each of the foregoing will be issued as a sheetlet with five values.



## 2019 Society Subscriptions

In view of the excessive bank balance and the uncertain future of the Society. In order to reduce the funds on hand I suggest that there is no call for a subscription for the coming year.

The Society's current annual outgoings are in the region of £2100+ per annum of which half is attributed to *Southern Africa Philately*. Each member will continue to receive *Southern Africa Philately* plus *The Runner Post*. The number of pages of the latter being dependent on the amount of input that is received from the members.

## An Encouraging Letter

In July I received a note from our member Patrick Koppel in the USA, he wrote...*Regarding your comments in the June 2018 issue of 'The Runner Post' about the future of the journal. I just wanted to let you know how much I am enjoying the variety of information included in each issue of 'Southern Africa Philately'. Should you decide to cease publication of 'The Runner Post' and supply us Bechuanaland members with 'Southern Africa Philately' I would be quite satisfied...*

**Editorial comment...** Thank you Patrick for your sentiments, it is nice to know that the 'other journal' fills a potential void in the Society's future. It appears that it may indeed assist in keeping this society 'going'...I would appreciate comments and/or input from other members.

## The Runner Post No 100 not quite a 'Century'

In my previous editorial I said that the next journal is effectively 'No 100'. In hindsight this is not entirely correct due to the fact that on two previous occasions the Editors pretended to roll two journals into one.

## The Runner Post No 49/50 and 64/65

The previous journal (No 48) was dated September 1997 and nothing else appeared for over a year. The Society was then presented with the above issue dated December 1997 - March 1998.<sup>1</sup>

The next Editor repeated the foregoing gimmick with an alleged 'double issue' *The Runner Post* No 64/65 dated Nov 2005/Mar 2006.<sup>2</sup>

Taking the above into consideration issue No 102 will effectively complete 100 journals... Are we likely to achieve this goal?

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> See *The Runner Post* No 95 page 2357

<sup>2</sup> See *The Runner Post* No 95 page 2360

## Royal Visits passing through Bechuanaland

During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century there were three occasions when members of the Royal Family visited Southern Africa.

In 1925 Edward VIII, the Prince of Wales, enjoyed an extensive train journey. He toured South Africa, Basutoland, Swaziland, Bechuanaland, Southern and Northern Rhodesia.

In 1934 HRH Prince George made a similar journey, but instead of returning South from Northern Rhodesia he continued into the Belgian Congo and travelled via Angola ending the trip at Luanda.

## Royal Visits continued

After WWII in 1947 the reigning Monarch KGVI, Queen Elizabeth and their two daughters Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret also toured Southern Africa. Again, en route to-and-from Rhodesia, the Royal Train passed through Bechuanaland.

## A 'Royal Visit' void in *The Runner Post*

After checking the 'Cumulative Index' for this journal it came as a surprise that virtually nothing has ever been published on this subject. Two minor items for the 1934 and 1947 events appeared in Issues No 41 (1995) page 934 and No 14 (1989) page 243. Some of our members ought to have an interesting 'holding' of the Royal Tours providing potential material for future issues of this journal!

## 1925 Prince of Wales Tour

An extensive article is included in *Southern Africa Philately* No 10 and I have located information on the Bechuanaland portion in the appropriate Annual reports for the Protectorate. The foregoing is included in this journal.

## Stellaland - 1884 1s Imperforate between Variety

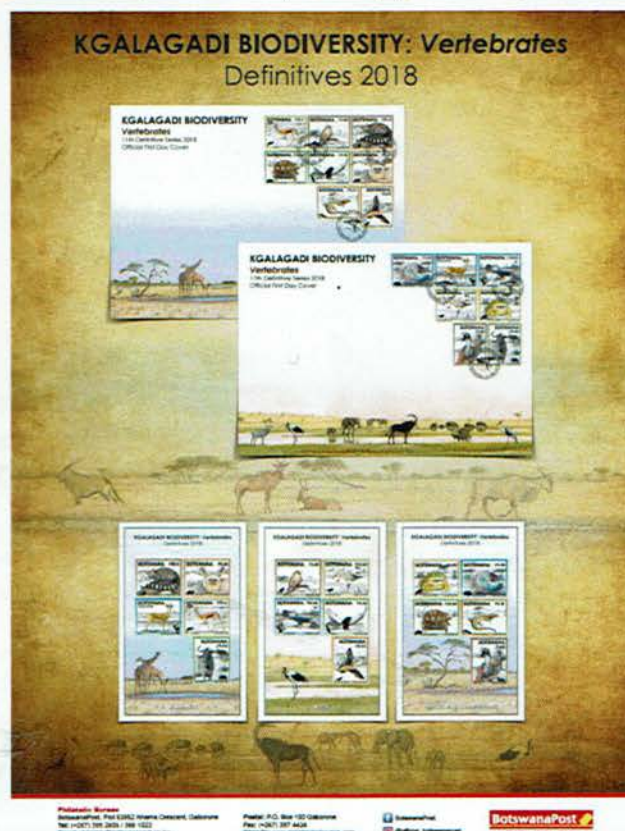
A second example of a 1s vertical pair imperforate horizontally between (SG 5a) has made its debut.

See *Southern Africa Philately* No 10 page 380

## Goshen - Bechuanaland - 'Local Labels'



See *Southern Africa Philately* No 10 page 380





### Botswana 1 cent Watermark Variety (SG 220a)

See *The Runner Post* No 98 page 2399

Peter Dukes responded to the appeal for more information published in our previous journal.

Peter writes...The story behind this item came to me via Andy Andersson when he was the Curator of the Philatelic Museum some 20 years ago. He claimed that there were no mint examples, as the error was not discovered until a few years later by which time all the affected stamps had been sold.

The affected stamps (one single sheet of 50) was apparently due to an error from the Crown Agents who mysteriously managed to put a single sheet of the Maltese paper into a consignment due to be printed for the 1967 Definitive of Botswana.

I think the figure of six known copies must be taken with a pinch of salt, as I have three, one excellent, one very good and one almost scrap. I seem to recall another article, quite recently, whereby someone (possibly in the UK or RSA) had found another copy, also in poor condition.

I have known of at least two more collectors here in Botswana who have reasonable to good copies. Another discovery in the USA (again a poor copy) plus the one mentioned in your article would suggest more, but probably no more than ten.

I recall having enquired from our membership many years ago, via *The Runner Post* for information on this particular stamp, but received no response to the enquiry.

I have attached copies of the two good stamps in my collection, the one as you will no doubt see that the watermark can be viewed from the front. I hope this information throws some light on the subject...Peter...



SG 220a x 3 - The middle stamp has the 'White Claw' variety.



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# The 1925 Royal Tour in Bechuanaland

By Otto Peetoom

## The Journey

The eldest son of KGV, Edward VIII, the Prince of Wales, departed onboard HMS *Repulse* from Portsmouth on 28 March and returned on 16 October 1925.

He visited the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast and Nigeria, arriving in Cape Town on 30 April 1925. On 4 May an extensive railway journey began taking him through the Cape, Orange Free State, Basutoland, Natal, Swaziland and into the Transvaal.

The train left Johannesburg on 25 June and via Zeerust arrived at Mafeking on Friday 26 June.

Over the weekend of 27/28 June the Prince of Wales was in Bechuanaland. After his visit to Southern and Northern Rhodesia Edward VIII made his return journey to South Africa via the Protectorate on 18/19 July.

After an unscheduled second visit to Johannesburg 20/22 July the train arrived back in Cape Town on 26 July. HMS *Repulse* sailed for South America (via St Helena) on 29 July.

## Royal Train TPO

Attached to the pilot train was a full post and telegraph service accommodated in an ordinary first class compartment. Telephones were also fitted for use on and off the train.

The TPO was supplied with a special oval date stamp plus seals and also had a boxed cachet inscribed *ROYAL TOUR*.

A moveable date stamp was surmounted by the Arms of the Union and inscribed bilingually in English and Afrikaans *SOUTH AFRICA ROYAL TOUR*.

## Bechuanaland Colonial Report for 1925-26

### General Events of the Year

In June and July the Territory was honoured by the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales who, in addition to his suite headed by Vice-Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey, was attended by the Imperial Secretary (Captain B.E.H. Clifford) representing His Excellency the High Commissioner.

The Prince first met the Resident Commissioner, some of the Protectorate Headquarter officials and the Assistant Resident Commissioner at Pitsani Siding, where also came to greet him about a hundred European residents from the outlying farms and from the Bangwaketse Reserve.

Another reception of Europeans, headed by the Resident Magistrate of the District, took place at Lobatsi and as the Royal train travelled thence through the night many fires along the railway revealed little groups of Europeans assembled for the occasion.



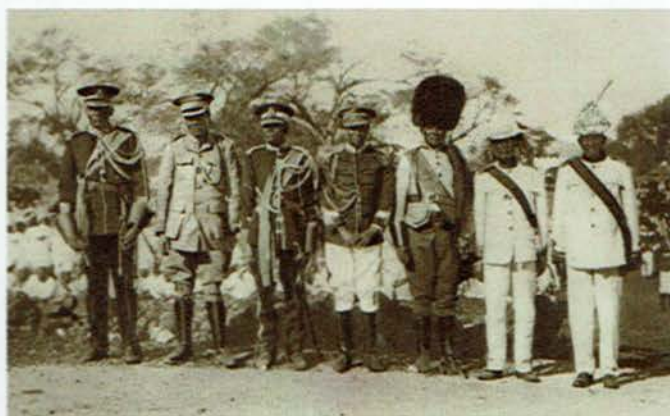
Serowe - Awaiting the arrival of the Prince

The following morning the Prince detrained at Palapye Road and was there greeted by the Government Secretary and other principal officials, Sekgoma Khama, Chief of the Bamangwato, and the European residents from Francistown and Palapye Road. After inspecting the guard of honour and the returned soldiers, His Royal Highness motored thirty-six miles to the camp which had been prepared for him in a picturesque situation outside Serowe. En route, he received the Resident Magistrates of the Ngwato, N'gamiland and Francistown Districts and the European residents at the Residency.



Chief Sekgoma addressing the Prince

After luncheon he met the Bamangwato tribe in Kgotla and was pleased to return a gracious reply to the addresses there presented to him by Chief Sekgoma and also by Chief Mathiba Moremi of the Batawana tribe in N'gamiland. He then unveiled the Memorial to the late Chief Khama on the adjoining eminence and afterwards reviewed the Bamangwato regiments on the race-course.



Chief Sekgoma's Suite

In the evening, after watching at the camp the great bonfires lit by Chief Sekgoma on the seven hills of Serowe and then a cinematograph record of a portion of his previous progress through South Africa, and other films, His Royal Highness attended dances given by Europeans at Serowe and at Palapye Road, where he spent the next day shooting.





## *The 1925 Royal Tour in Bechuanaland*

**18 - 19 July 1925**

On his return from Rhodesia His Royal Highness received at Mahalapye the Resident Magistrate and European settlers from the Tuli Block and the local residents. The same day he detrained at Gaberones and after reviewing about thirty returned soldiers received the Resident Magistrates of the Gaberones and Ngwaketsi Districts, the Acting Resident Magistrate of the Kweneng District, the European residents of the surrounding country, and the British Indians resident in the Territory, the last of whom presented an address

His Royal Highness then motored three miles to the Gaberones Crown Reserve, where some 8,000 natives of the Barolong, Bakwena, Bangwaketsi, Bakhatla, Bamalete and Batlokwa tribes, headed by their respective Chiefs, had assembled to greet him.

Addresses were presented by each Chief in person, one of whom, Chief Gaberone of the Batlokwa, was 100 years old, and His Royal Highness returned a gracious reply. At the conclusion of these proceedings His Royal Highness walked among the natives and listened to native children from Mochudi and Molepolole singing songs. By this act he gave great joy to the tribes, as witnessed by the Bangwaketsi Chieftainess Ntebogani in the following words 'that one so high should have condescended to get down from the dais and walk among them all, they considered the greatest of compliments.'



The Commandant of the kilted tribe- Serowe



The unveiling ceremony of the Memorial to the late King Khama



## The 1925 Royal Tour in Bechuanaland

At the conclusion of the visit the Prince of Wales caused to be handed to the Resident Commissioner the following letter for publication :-

Royal Train, Bechuanaland, 18 July 1925.

Dear Colonel Ellenberger,

Now that the Prince of Wales's visit to Bechuanaland is concluded, I am desired by His Royal Highness to express to you and your officials, and to the European and native population of the Territory, his appreciation of all the trouble that has been taken to make his visit to the Protectorate a successful and enjoyable one.

His Royal Highness shares your regret that the weather conditions on the occasion of his visit to Serowe were so unfavourable. We had sincerely hoped that the wind might drop after sunset, but as there appeared no prospect of its subsiding and as he had no further engagements at Serowe on the following day, the Prince decided to fall in with the suggestion that he should return to the train after the evening programme was concluded.

In view of the reports which appeared in the papers, His Royal Highness wishes me to assure you that the arrangements made for his reception were quite satisfactory and that he found the programme spectacular and interesting throughout. He thanks the European community for the friendly welcome he received from them and wishes you to express to the Chief Sekgoma his admiration of the excellent display provided by the regiments.

The Prince feels that the Chief and his people must have spent much time and money building roads, making new uniforms and preparing the decorations and illuminations, and he was very impressed by the brilliant spectacle provided.

The Prince of Wales had heard that it was a custom with Sekgoma and his people to furnish a parting guest with necessaries for his journey, but His Royal Highness did not feel able to accept for this purpose so magnificent a gift as £700, particularly as the Chief had already done so much to entertain him at Serowe.

In explaining to the Chief how much he appreciated this token of his friendship the Prince intimated that he would be prepared to accept the money and cause it to be increased to £1000 if the Chief would favourably consider the desirability of handing the total amount over to the High Commissioner on the understanding that it would be spent upon some national service for the benefit of his people which would commemorate his visit to Serowe during Sekgoma's Chieftainship.

His Royal Highness is pleased to be able to inform you that the Chief readily agreed to this proposal and it was decided in consultation with him that the £1,000 should be devoted to the erection of a hospital at Serowe.

His Royal Highness was very pleased to meet the European inhabitants and the Chiefs and tribesmen of the Southern Protectorate at Gaberones today and thanks them also for their friendly welcome.

Believe me,

Yours, etc.,

LIONEL HALSEY



A typical Souvenir sheet depicting the Prince of Wales feathers. Includes the stamps of South Africa, Northern and Southern Rhodesia and Bechuanaland. Endorsed...

*The only occasion on which the same date stamp has been used by the Postal Services of four countries...*

Cancelled with the oval South African bilingual Royal Tour date stamp 18 JUL 25. The day the train arrived in Bechuanaland from Bulawayo on its return journey to South Africa.

During the Bechuanaland transit post and telegraph facilities continued to be provided by the South African Post Office.



Bechuanas at Serowe

Numerous Sources include *The Rhodesian Philatelist* No 25 (January 2006) *The South African Philatelist*, *The Prince of Wales' African Book* (Photographs) other sources are published in *Southern Africa Philately* No 10 (October 2018)



# Bechuanaland/Botswana Bird Philately

By Otto Peetoom

## Introduction

A recent sideline interest started purely by chance. From an estate I acquired a collection of bird stamps, laid out by species, thus all the various sets are split up and scattered through the collection. I decided to count them and reached 8000 in total.

Towards the end of 2017 I decided to do 'something' with the accumulation of birds on stamps and I separated them into three groups. **Group I - Commonwealth Bird Stamps** Collated by country into their respective sets.

## Group II - Foreign Bird Stamps

I assembled a reference collection by species, but only picking attractive stamps.

## Group III - South and Central Africa Bird Stamps

Includes countries from the Cape to the Congo, not all the Congo, but sort of to its Southern end. This cumulated into a webpage on the SACS website.

## Birds on Stamps

Essentially I know very little about birds, however a friend of mine gave me a 1992 Stanley Gibbons Bird Catalogue. It includes a listing by species based on Howard & Moore 1<sup>st</sup> Edition (1991) with a total of 175 species, although not all the species are represented on stamps.

Subsequently I secured a 2003 SG 'Collect Birds on Stamps' (5<sup>th</sup> Edition) which includes numerous changes as it now uses Howard & Moore 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (2000). Another set of authors split the birds into 240 separate species and I am informed that it is somewhat academic as to how one approaches this rather confusing sub-division of birds.

Howard & Moore's second edition is numbered from 1 to 173 and No 155 split into A to E sections, with a bit of juggling I have established 170 bird species on stamps.

## Birds on Stamps - Certain Exclusions

This includes birds that form part of a Coat-of-Arms, symbolic birds, poultry and 'Peace Doves'.

## The Earliest Bird Stamps

Some say it is the 1843 'Basle Dove' but as it is regarded as symbolic...it doesn't count. Thus it has to be Western Australia's 1854 Black Swan (SG 1). The Americans always wish to join in by claiming the 1869 Eagle is their first...not so...being part of their Coat-of-Arms it does not qualify as a 'bird stamp'.

## Nineteen Century Bird Stamps

Only fifteen designs appeared between 1854 and 1899, issued by eleven countries being *Western Australia*, 1854 Black Swan. *Japan*, 1875 Bean Goose, *Columbia*, 1876 Andean Condor, *Guatemala*, 1879 Resplendent Quetzal, *New South Wales*, 1888 Emu and Superb Lyrebird, *Cook Islands*, 1893 White Tern, *North Borneo*, 1894 Great Argus Pheasant. Three countries in 1897, *China*, Bean Goose, *Tonga*, Red Shining Parrot and *Newfoundland*, Willow Red Grouse plus *New Zealand* in 1899 with a Hula, Kiwi, Kaka and Kea.



Red Shining Parrot

## Southern African Bird Stamps

The collectors ought to have a field day with this particular theme as the Southern continent abounds with bird life...there is however a slight problem...the Union of South Africa during fifty one years of stamp production did not issue a single stamp which depicts a bird!

In neighbouring **South West Africa** they came up with one value being the 1931 ½d definitive depicting a Kori Bustard.



Between 1931 and 1952 the same stamp is overprinted with three types of 'OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL'.

**Belgian Congo** - One of the earliest Central African countries to show 'birds on stamps' is the 1939 Leopoldville Zoological Gardens 1Fr being the lowest value in the set of 5, SG 226 depicting Marabou Storks and white-backed vultures.



Hornbill



1939 B. Congo



Whydah

**Angola** - In 1951 this Portuguese Colony set an example on how to do justice to Southern Africa's bird life by issuing a set of 24 values. In my opinion this set is definitely an African 'Classic bird issue' and I usually have a set or more in stock.

## Bechuanaland 2 October 1961

This pictorial definitive includes eight low values from 1c to 12½c depicting birds.



Golden Oriole



African Hoopoe



Bee Eater

When the country became a Republic in 1966, on 30 September 1966 the same stamps were overprinted 'REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA'. Their first 'proper' definitives of 14 values, all depicting birds, followed on 3 January 1967.

Bechuanaland/Botswana offers 116 different birds that belong to 44 species.

## Flightless birds

Howard & Moore commence their listing starting with '1' The Ostrich and three Botswana stamps feature this bird.

'2' Rhea (South America) '3' Cassowaries (Papua New Guinea) '4' Emu (Australian) '5' Kiwi (New Zealand) and '7' Penguins.

No '6' Tinamou, a poor flyer, when threatened, prefers to hide rather than fly.



# Bechuanaland/Botswana Bird Philately

## Systematic Listing 'I' = Illustrated

### 1 OSTRICHES

1-1 Ostrich *Struthio camelus*  
Botswana 346, 518, 1011 (I)



### 15 PELICANS

15-1 Eastern White Pelican  
Botswana 998 (I), MS999

### 20 HERONS, BITTERNS

20-7 Black-headed Heron  
Botswana 423 (I)

20-11 Goliath Heron  
Botswana 1229\*



20-12 Purple Heron  
Botswana 864

20-16 Slaty Egret  
Botswana 673 to 676, 1227\*

20-26 Cattle Egret Botswana 521, 627\*,  
692\*, 725\*, 726\* MS1027

20-33 Green-backed Heron  
Botswana 422 (I), 497



### 21 HAMMERKOP

21-1 Hammerkop  
Botswana 526 (I)

### 23 STORKS

23-3 Yellow-billed Stork  
Botswana 523, 613

23-12 White Stork  
Botswana 867

23-15 Saddle-bill Stork  
Botswana 427, 911, 1228\*

23-19 Marabou Stork  
Botswana 412

### 24 IBISES, SPOONBILLS

24-1 Sacred Ibis  
Botswana 860 (I)



24-28 African Spoonbill  
Botswana 1197

### 25 FLAMINGOS

25-1 Greater Flamingo  
Botswana 997, 1307 - 1310, MS1311

25-3 Lesser Flamingo  
Botswana 472\*, 793, 1121, 1307, 1309,  
MS1311

### 27 DUCKS, GEESE, SWANS

27-7 White-faced Whistling Duck  
Botswana 421 (I), 718\*, 720\*

27-56 Comb Duck  
Botswana 231, 1324



27-60 African Pygmy Goose  
Botswana 520 (I), 612

27-95 Red-billed Pintail  
Botswana 524

27-102 Cape Shoveler  
Botswana 861

### 30 HAWKS, EAGLES

30-35 African Fish Eagle  
Botswana 228, 719\*, 720\*, MS1027

30-44 Lappet-faced Vulture  
Botswana 1240, MS1245

30-45 White-headed Vulture  
Botswana 1241, MS1245

30-46 Hooded Vulture  
Botswana 1243, MS1245

30-52 Cape Vulture  
Botswana 531, 1244, MS1245

30 White-backed Vulture  
Botswana 1242, MS1245

30-58 Short-toed Eagle  
Botswana 777

### 30 HAWKS, EAGLES continued

30-62 Bateleur  
Botswana 778, 1318

30-74 African Harrier Hawk or *Gymnogene*  
Botswana 853

30-128 (Ovampo) Sparrowhawk  
Botswana 868

30-189 Augur Buzzard  
Botswana 532

30-203 Verreaux's Eagle or Black Eagle  
Botswana 1010

30-211 Martial Eagle  
Botswana 426

30-213 Long-crested Eagle  
Botswana 776 (I)



### 31 SECRETARY BIRD

31-1 Secretary Bird  
Botswana 224, 779 (I), 1202

### 32 FALCONS, CARACARAS

32-17 African Pygmy Falcon  
Botswana 944 (I)

32-53 Lanner Falcon  
Botswana 522

32-60 Peregrine Falcon  
Botswana MS 1027



### 35 PHEASANTS, GROUSE

35-120 Harlequin Quail  
Botswana 855, 1192

35-208 Helmeted Guineafowl  
Botswana 530, 614

### 39 CRANES

39-11 Wattled Crane  
Botswana 541, 935, 1123, 1227\*

39-13 Stanley Crane or *Blue Crane*  
Botswana MS 1027, 1124

39-15 South Africa Crowned Crane or  
Botswana 1122

Based on Howard & Moore (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) - No's are from Stanley Gibbons (SG)

\*Small Image



# Bechuanaland/Botswana Bird Philately

## Systematic Listing

### 42 RAILS, COOTS

42-92 Spotted Crake  
Botswana 869

42 African Swampphen or *Purple Gallinule*  
*Porphyrio madagascariensis*  
Botswana 1194

### 47 BUSTARDS

47-2 Denham's Bustard or *Stanley Bustard*  
Botswana 1295, MS1297

47-8 Kori Bustard  
Botswana 1196, 1292, MS1297

47-12 Red-crested Korhaan  
Botswana 1294, MS1297

47-13 Black Bustard  
Botswana 411 (I)



47 Ludwig's Bustard  
Botswana 1296, MS1297

47 Black-bellied Bustard  
Botswana 1293, MS1297

### 48 JACANAS

48-2 African Jacana  
Botswana 415 (I), 1082, \* 1228\*

### 53 AVOCETS, STILTS

53-8 South African Stilt  
Botswana 527 (I)



53-10 Pied Avocet  
Botswana 1195

### 56 PLOVERS

56-10 Crowned Plover or *Crowned Lapwing*  
Botswana 419

56-11 Senegal Wattled Plover  
Botswana 529

56-24 Blacksmith Plover  
Botswana 528

56-46 chestnut-banded Sand Plover  
Botswana 1326

### 61 GULLS, TERNS

61-31 Grey-headed Gull  
Botswana 519

### 62 SKIMMERS

62-2 African Skimmer  
Botswana 913\*, 1199

### 64 SANDGROUSE

64-4 Namaqua Sandgrouse  
Botswana 1312

64 Burchell's Sandgrouse  
Botswana 1193

### 65 PIGEONS, DOVES

65-61 Red-eyed Dove  
Botswana 1046

65-62 Ring-necked Dove  
Botswana 1040\*

65-67 Laughing Dove  
Botswana 1047

65-89 Namaqua Dove  
Botswana 1045

65-198 African Green Pigeon  
Botswana 1048

### 68 PARROTS

68-90 Brown Parrot or *Meyer's Parrot*  
Botswana 854 (I)



### 69 TURACOS

69-4 Go-away Bird or *Grey Loerie*  
Botswana 229

69-7 Violet (Purple)-crested Turaco  
Botswana MS 1027

### 71 CUCKOOS

71-35 Didric Cuckoo  
Botswana 233

### 72 BARN OWLS

72-2 Barn Owl  
Botswana 525

### 73 OWLS

73-68 Spotted Eagle Owl  
Botswana 424, 1204

73-81 Pel's Fishing Owl  
Botswana 852 (I), 936

73-105 Pearl-spotted Owl  
Botswana 1151, MS1157

### 83 TROGONS

83-28 Bar-tailed Trogon  
Botswana MS 1027

### 84 KINGFISHERS

84-2 Giant Kingfisher  
Botswana 420

84-5 Lesser Pied Kingfisher  
Botswana 1066 (I)



84-19 Malachite Kingfisher  
Botswana 227, 1067, 1273

84-50 Woodland Kingfisher  
Botswana 863, 1068

84-53 Brown-hooded Kingfisher  
Bechuanaland 175  
Botswana 213, 1069

### 87 BEE EATERS

87-6 Red-throated Bee Eater  
Botswana 517 (I)

87-11 Swallow-tailed Bee Eater  
Bechuanaland 172  
Botswana 210

87-23 Carmine Bee Eater  
Botswana 414 (I), 958



### 91 HOOPOES

91-1 Hoopoe  
Bechuanaland 169  
Botswana 207 (I), 221, 451

### 92 WOOD

#### HOOPOES

92-1 Green Wood  
Hoopoe  
Botswana 413

92-8 Scimitar-bill  
Botswana 230



Based on Howard & Moore (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) - No's are from Stanley Gibbons (SG)

\*Small Image



# Bechuanaland/Botswana Bird Philately

## 93 HORNBILLS

93-4 Bradfield's Hornbill  
Botswana 1203

93-6 African Grey Hornbill  
Bechuanaland 173  
Botswana 211

93-14 Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill  
Botswana 225 (I)



## 96 BARBETS

96-77 Levallant's Barbet  
Botswana 232

## 97 HONEYGUIDES

97-8 Black-throated (Greater) Honeyguide  
Botswana 862 (I)



## 99 WOODPECKERS

99-58 Bennett's Woodpecker  
Botswana 417 (I), 498

## 122 SHRIKES

122-33 Burchell's Gonolek or  
*Crimson-breasted Shrike*  
Botswana 226 (I)



## 130 THRUSHES, CHATS

130-266 Groundscraper Thrush  
Botswana 222 (I)

130-273 Kurrichane Thrush  
Botswana 857, 1185

## 141 MONARCHS, FANTAILS

141-20 African Paradise Flycatcher  
Botswana 416, 1201

## 152 SUNBIRDS

152-37 Scarlet-chested Sunbird  
Bechuanaland 170  
Botswana 208

152-60 Miombo Double-collared Sunbird  
Botswana 516



152-81 Mariqua Sunbird  
Botswana 856 (I)

## 162 WAXBILLS

162-131 Paradise Sparrow or  
*Redheaded Finch*  
Botswana 858 (I)



162-40 Cordon-bleu or *Blue Waxbill*  
Botswana 223, 1200 (I)



## 163 WEAVERS, SPARROWS

163-7 Shaft-tailed Whydah  
Botswana 866

163-12 Red-billed Buffalo Weaver  
Botswana 859 (I)



Red-billed Buffalo Weaver

163-21 Sociable Weaver  
Botswana 1321

## 163 WEAVERS, SPARROWS continued

163-86 African Masked Weaver  
Botswana 515

163-133 Red-headed Weaver  
Bechuanaland 174  
Botswana 212

163-150 (Southern) Red Bishop  
Botswana 418, 1198, 1205

163-152 Yellow-rumped Bishop  
Bechuanaland 171  
Botswana 209

## 164 STARLINGS

164-107 Yellow-billed Oxpecker  
Botswana 865, MS1079\*

164-108 Red-billed Oxpecker  
Botswana 1229\*

## 165 ORIOLES

165-11 Golden Oriole  
Botswana 220 (I)



165-12 African Golden Oriole  
Bechuanaland 168 (I)  
Botswana 206

## Botswana's National Bird

In October 2004 the First Joint Issue of the *Southern Africa Postal Operators Association* is a miniature sheet depicting the National Bird of each country. For Botswana this was the Cattle Egret (SG 1026a, MS 1027).

According to the internet Botswana does not have a 'National Bird' but opinions favour a Lilac-breasted Roller.

Another item on the internet is published by *Birdlife Botswana* who claims that on 12 May 2014 the Kori Bustard was chosen as Botswana's National bird.



On 1 August 2017 a set of five stamps depict the *Bustards of Botswana*. The lowest value (50t) being a Kori Bustard (SG 1292) and described in the brochure as being the National Bird of Botswana.

Based on Howard & Moore (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) - No's are from Stanley Gibbons (SG)

\*Small Image



# C.D. Denison, Facts and Speculation

By Dr W.J. Latzko

Major Charles George Dennison D.S.O. (1844 - 1932) was a military man receiving both the Queen's South African Medal and the King's South African Medal. He was commander of Dennison's Scouts as an acting Lieutenant Colonel.

What makes him interesting was that he moved from his former home to Vryburg when it was first established.

From Major Dennison's *History of Stellaland* (1971) we learn that...After a few months of guerrilla warfare and stock-gathering by Massouw's (Chief of the Batlapin Tribe) commando, the Filibusters so termed by the outside world. (This term was applied to the white volunteers of Massouw), but despite the condemnation by many who were supposed to know more of what was done during this war than the chief actors themselves knew, the fact remains that a considerable area of practically unused territory overrun with game of a description and a most valuable farming country especially for cattle, was secured for European occupation.

As the Reverend John Mac Kenzie in the writer's hearing said...*a safe road to the North was opened...* So much credit was and is due to the much condemned Stellalanders' or so called Filibusters, Freebooters, etc., etc.

Major Dennison was a member of the three man committee that laid out Vryburg - the capital of Stellaland and the farms surrounding it. He moved to Vryburg as soon as he got his allotment. He was part of the faction that wanted to annex Stellaland to the Cape Colony.

In October 1885 the assumption of rule by the Great Britain was declared in Vryburg by Sir Hercules Robinson, Governor and High Commissioner of the Cape (Dennison, page 18). Some changes in administration took place.

The magistrate, Mr Dekker was replaced by A.F. Robertson from the Cape Colony. Mr E.C. Baxter was named distributor of stamps and taxing master. Dennison does not say whether the stamps were fiscal or postal stamps or both.

He informs us...*while those practicing as law agents, conveyancers etc. etc. were displaced...*

This affected him personally since he was principal of the firm Enslin and Dennison. Because of his loyalty Dennison was later appointed Magistrate's Clerk and Postmaster.

There is a cancelled (?) 3d bearing the initials 'C.G.D.' and 'pm'. A pen stroke goes through the word REPUBLIC. Another pen stroke is above the initials. Three sides are perforated. The writer could not assign a Poole's type from the image. Could this be an approval of a proof?

Proofs are made apart from the production lot and thus do not have the characteristic described by Poole (1908).

Unfortunately, the position 8 of the 3d stamp also has none of the distinguishing marks so could pass for a proof. The imperforate edge at top could also be from a production lot.

## Bibliography

Dennison, C. G. (1971). *History of Stellaland, previously Bechuanaland, now the District of Vryburg (the Texas of the Republic of South Africa)*. Vryburg Northern Newspaper Co., 197.

# Poole, Holmes and a New Discovery

By Dr William J. Latzko

When Whitfield King & Co. received the remainders of the Stellaland stamps, they invited Mr Bertram W.H. Poole to examine these. Mr. Poole did so, as well as research in the available literature and published his findings in two issues of the *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*. (Poole 1908)

He found that a 'mother' die was used with the word of value inserted. From this a transfer strip was created with eight (in the case of the 6d) nine images. These were replicated 12 times for all but the 6d value. The 6d had 9 positions on the transfer strip and 13 rows for 117 stamps per sheet. The original die had some characteristic flaws by means of which one identifies real Stellaland stamps from fakes. In making the transfer strip additional flaws were created which Mr Poole catalogued (Poole, 1908, pp. 249-252) and which he called types. In addition, further flaws occurred in specific areas of the sheets which were also noted.

In 1971, H. R. (Henry Robert) Holmes published *THE POSTAGE STAMPS, POSTAL STATIONARY, AND POSTMARKS OF THE BECHUANALANDS*.

He begins his book with a discussion of the Stellaland stamps. On pages 20 to 24 he cites Poole's findings but waits until his last page (189) to inform us that Poole was the original author and that Holmes 'used with slight alterations in this work'.

I was curious as to what these alterations amounted to and so compared the two works line by line and in a few cases Holmes removed adjectives.

He also removed the quotation marks when Poole cites the word printed on the stamp such as REPUBLIC. Holmes does contribute to Poole's taxonomy by showing the type for those stamps with flaws that were not columnar types.

There is very little difference between Poole's and Holmes's version of the types. Because some of the removed adjectives created a cautionary mood, I prefer Poole's work and prefer that the types are attributed to Poole rather than Holmes.

In examining many Stellaland stamps, I noticed a minor flaw in addition to the common flaws mentioned by both Poole and Holmes. The flaw appears to be on the die since it appears on proofs of the Stellaland stamps. In the lower left quadrant of the coat of arms, the one with the scales of justice, the sixth line from the right extends about 1 mm below the outline.

I noticed that this flaw was not always visible when heavy inking was used. Below is an illustration of a proof and a good way to show that the flaw is in the die plus an enlargement.





## Crocodile Pools Revisited Part II

By Otto Peetoom

Part I of this article appeared in issue No 98 on pages 2406/7. I noted that before the Imperial forces could move south they had to repair the 100 foot Metsimasuane bridge (south of Gaberones). It was blown up during late October 1899 by Boer forces. Repairs started on 21 January 1900 and the 'Battle' for Crocodile Pools was effectively in progress. The Boers occupied Sepitsi Ridge and the British held Fortress and Basuto Kopje.

Night sorties were undertaken in attempts to blow up the Boer's 12½-pounder. One attack was called off because of lack of surprise; another was cancelled due to a severe thunderstorm. A night attack on 12 February had eight men killed including Captain French.

On 13 February Wallis crossed the repaired Metsimasuane Bridge and made further progress south feasible. He recorded further brushes with the enemy on 16 & 21 February, finally on the night of the 24<sup>th</sup>, the Boers evacuated Crocodile Pools.

**The aftermath** - The Boers left behind ransacked buildings and damaged equipment and Lt Wallis's force re-occupied the siding the following day i.e. 25 February 1900.

After the evacuation, Lt-Col. Holdsworth was left in command of Basuto Kop and another detachment occupied the former enemy positions on Sepitsi ridge.

South of Crocodile Pools a bridge and a culvert were repaired on 27 February and 50 miles of line had to be 'weeded' as it was overgrown to an average height of three feet. A stretch of line had been removed and had to be re-laid.

### Crocodile Pools Date Stamp

Its latest recorded is 11 JAN 1900 on a loose stamp (SG 62) and although the Imperial forces re-occupied the Railway siding from 25 February, the earliest date (2<sup>nd</sup> Period) of use is 20 MAR 00.

Lt Col Plumer initially advanced as far south as Lobatsi before deviating west to Sefhikile via Kanye. His men had a running battle with the Boers on 31 March. Owing to insufficient strength in numbers Plumer remained at Sefhikile for most of April and many of the surviving examples of Crocodile Pools cancels are during April.

### Cancelled Crocodile Pools (April - May 1900)

April 1900 - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Bulawayo transits - 4<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

May 1900 - 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Bulawayo transits 6<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.  
This is an incomplete listing, but one has to start somewhere.

When Mafeking was relieved on 17 May 1900, the Boer forces retreated and effectively the war in Bechuanaland was over. On 18 May Plumer took his column back along the railway line to Pitsani to repair the track. After completing the work on 24 May, a supply train from Bulawayo arrived in Mafeking. It appears that the use of the Crocodile Pools datestamp declined rapidly.



### Reported or Known 'Late Dates'

I have seen 17 SEP 00 and 27 NOV 01 on loose stamps. Proud in his book *The Postal history of Basutoland and Bechuanaland* (1996) notes three dates 5 JUN 00, 30 OCT 01 and 17 DEC 01. Proud suggests that the datestamp was used at the Base Camp Post Office at Gaberones from 7.2.00 to 5.6.00. I have not seen any evidence to support that claim. Proud concludes...

*The datestamp certainly returned to its own office by October 1901 which evidently reverted to becoming a telegraph office by 1902, until it closed 1 November 1914...*

The Author offers no source that the foregoing is correct.

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## Recent and Forthcoming Botswana Issues

### Ongoing Stanley Gibbons Numbering

In our previous edition on page 2405 I noted the *Crossing Rivers in Botswana* miniature sheet as MS1302 which tallies with SG. The 5 December 2017 Christmas stamps include four values and are SG 1303 to 1306. Thus the first 2018 stamps continue with SG 1307, however the *Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Supplement*, published in GSM (August 2018) note the foregoing (in error) as starting with SG 1306.

### 15 March 2018 Endangered Birds of Botswana - Flamingos

Four values plus a miniature sheet SG 1307 to 1310, MS1311.

Heads of Greater and Lesser Flamingos (P5.00)

Flamingos Filter Feeding (P7.00)

Greater and Lesser Flamingos (P9.00)

Crop Milk Feeding (P10.00)

Printed by Southern Colour Print, New Zealand.



Out of six species of flamingos worldwide, Botswana is home to two of the species, the Lesser- and Greater Flamingo. The Makgadikgadi saltpan complex of northern Botswana comprises one of the most important habitats in the world for the Lesser Flamingo, which has now been given a global conservation concern status of 'Near Threatened' by the *World Conservation Union* (IUCN).



### 22 June 2018 First Anniversary of Remembrance

Three values, P5, P7 & P10. SG 1312 to 1314

Sir Ketumile Quett Joni Masire (6.7.1925 22.6.2017) a former President of Botswana.

Printed by Southern Colour Print, New Zealand.



The designs portray him as 'The Educator' (P5.00)

'The Nation's Leader' (P7.00)

'The Farmer and Political Dignitary' (P10.00)

## The Botswana Gazette - Are Stamps Still Relevant

### Introduction

Alan Knox, a Botswana member, sent me a copy of an article by Sesha Molebatsi published in *The Botswana Gazette* (27 June - 3 July 2018, it reads...During the official launch of Sir Ketumile Quett Joni Masire's stamp marking the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of his remembrance, Botswana Post CEO Cornelius Ramatlhakwe assured those gathered that there is a reason why they are still making stamps even though the letter mail is known to be on the decline world-wide.

'According to Sheila Case in her 'Guide to development of Botswana Philately' handbook, inevitably with the evolution of the dotcom platform (world wide web), the stamps became a rare artistic beauty with rich historical interests. This led to the development of stamps as a hobby.

This hobby, known as Philately, has developed into an international business, valued at 10 billion dollars annually', revealed Ramatlhakwe.

The CEO further said in the past five years they embarked on a Philately Resuscitation program which aims to position their Philatelic Bureau as one of the best in the world. He said they have observed that the stamp was declining both in popularity and commercially as technology invaded the communication space almost rendering mail irrelevant.

Ramatlhakwe further stated that since they had little knowledge of philately they engaged experts to assist them to reposition their own product. He said they appointed the first philatelist to assist with what they called phase I which focused on.

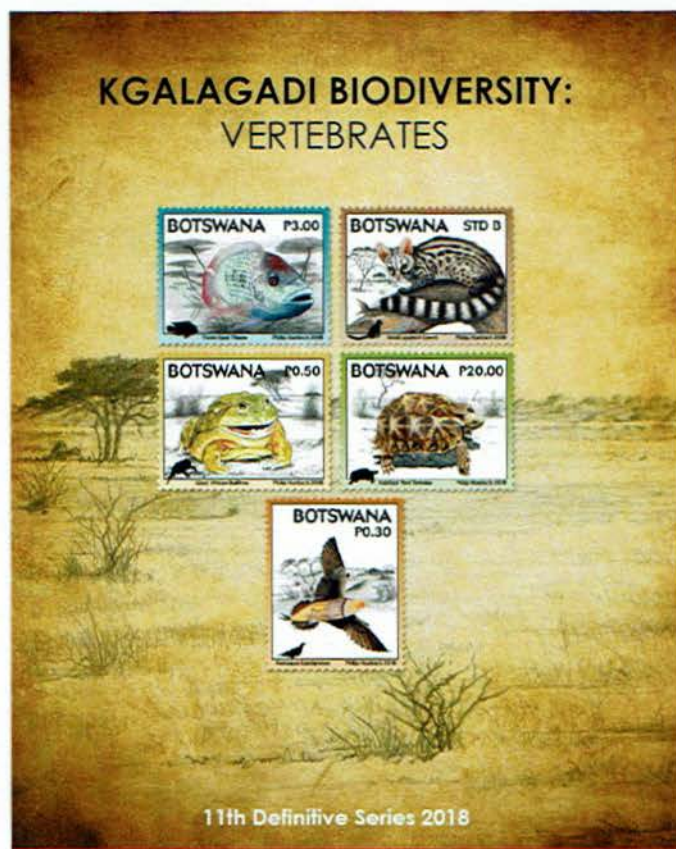
1. Re-institution of the stamp issuing program.
2. Re-institution of the stamp adversary committee.
3. Introduction of the artist's workshop program to identify potential talent.
4. Dealing with philatelic practices.

Ramatlhakwe highlighted that the program has helped them to get back on track with their production which is guided by their stamp issuance policy. 'I am happy to say we have consistently adhered to the policy, releasing 4-5 issues annually for five years now. We do not only pride ourselves in adhering to the stamp release policy but also the quality of the stamps released with relevance to both our local and international collectors', he closed.



## Recent and Forthcoming Botswana Issues

**30 August 2018 - New Definitives** 15 values plus three sheetlets of five stamps each SG 1315 to 1329.  
Currently I do not know whether Stanley Gibbons will treat these additional three units as miniature sheets (MS) or as sheetlets which may be numbered differently.  
The 11<sup>th</sup> Definitive series comprise of Reptiles, Fish & Amphibians, Mammals and Birds.



**BotswanaPost**  
By design, by nature, by intention

### 2108 Kgalagadi Biodiversity Vertebrates

SG	Value	Design
1315	10t	Kalahari Ground Gecko
1316	20t	Bat-eared Fox
1317	30t	Namaqua Sandgrouse
1318	40t	Bateleur
1319	50t	African Giant Bull Frog
1320	P1	Black Mamba
1321	P2	Sociable Weaver
1322	P3	Three Spotted Tilapia
1323	P9	Blue Wildebeest
1324	P10	Knob-billed Duck
1325	P20	Kalahari Tent Tortoise
1326	P30	Chestnut-banded Plover
1327	STD A	Springbok
1328	STD B	Lesser Spotted Genet
1329	PC Rate	Puku (Antelope)

#### Provisional Numbering

MS1330	P29.20	Mammal Sheetlet
MS1331	P42.70	Bird Sheetlet
MS1332	P24.60	Fish, Reptiles, Amphibians Sheetlet

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Reptiles, Fish & Amphibians



Mammals



Birds



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