

The Runner Post



SPECIAL PRESENTATION ISSUE

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Welcome to this special edition of *The Runner Post*. This issue is intended to provide collectors with an interest in the philately of 'The Bechuanalands' a small sample of the kind of articles they can expect to see in the pages of *The Runner Post* should they decide to join the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society.

The Society was founded in 1986. We have approximately 100 members in various parts of the world, with strength in the UK and in Southern Africa. *The Runner Post* is the Society's journal and primary means of keeping in touch with our membership.

The selection of articles you will find on the following pages are intended to show some of the subjects/areas which fall into our sphere of interest. All have been published in *The Runner Post* over the past 11 years. Of necessity this selection is limited to articles of one page or less and in some cases have been edited from the original. Each article also carries the issue and page number where it originally appeared.

Longer articles such as our ongoing postmark and stationery studies have had to be omitted from this issue as have numerous others which cover topics as divergent as Postal Rates, Revenues, Stellaland, News from Botswana (including new issues), Airmails, Postage Dues, Campaign and Expeditionary mail, Military Telegraphs, Postcards etc. in addition to a host of other subjects.

Stamps from all 'our' territories are frequently featured with particular emphasis on flaws, errors or methods of identification and production. We also have an ongoing 'Rarer Stamps' study which aims to record (with illustrations) all known examples of a group of particularly 'rare' stamps. Regular sections such as 'Members Comments and Queries' provides a forum for members to raise (and to respond to) philatelic questions while 'Items of Interest' allows members to share new discoveries and interesting items.

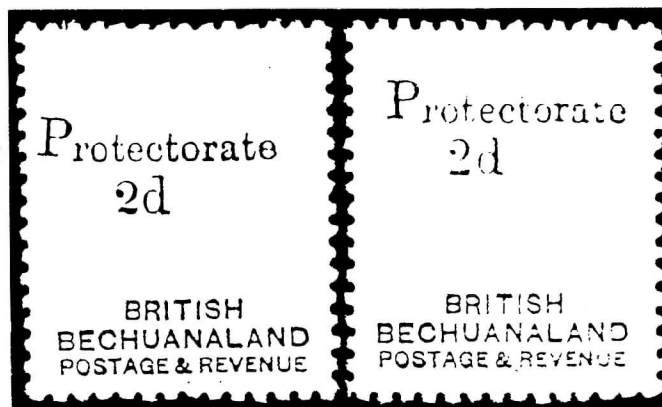
We hold two meetings a year in Central London - usually coinciding with some philatelic event such as Stampex or similar. The Society also holds postal auctions.

I sincerely hope this small 'sampler' will encourage you to join the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society.

Alan MacGregor (Chairman and Editor)

THE CURVED FOOT TO '2' (RP 9, p147)

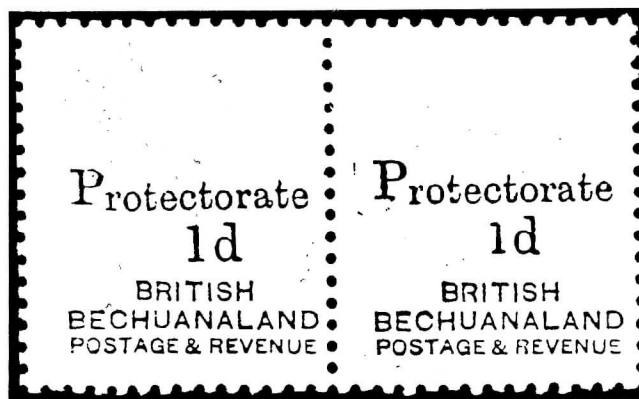
The illustrations in 'Koi's' article on the B.B. 2d issue of August 1888 (RP 7, p115), did not reproduce very well, and as there is ambiguity and confusion over what the true 'curved foot to 2' variety on the BB and BP 2d surcharges (SG 23b and 42) actually look like, we illustrate here an enlargement of the variety along with a 'normal'. Both have the background faded to show the surcharge clearly. This variety could be called 'small figure 2' and is distinguished from other pretenders in the setting by having a short shank, short foot and a wide loop.



CURVED FOOT TO '2'

THE SMALL FIGURE '1' (RP 10, p164)

Following the illustration of the true 'curved foot to 2' variety (SG 23b and 42b) which appeared in the last Runner Post (RP 9, p147) which was well received, we continue the 'series' by illustrating here the 'Small figure 1' (SG 41a) in a pair with normal. Unlike the 'curved foot to 2', this variety apparently only occurs on the 'Protectorate' overprint.



SMALL FIGURE '1'

THE SMALL FIGURE '1' (RP 11, p182)

In response to the article on the Small Figure '1' in the last Runner Post (RP 10, page 164) John Inglefield-Watson has written the following:

It is perhaps worth a reminder that there are three types/settings of the small figure '1'. 'Stamp no.' refers to the position in the setting (of 120):

Stamp no. 52 - tops of the '1' and the 'd' aligned. The '1' is in a different font from the normal, noticeably the sloping top serif.

Stamp no. 74 - bottoms of the '1' and the 'd' aligned, as illustrated in the article.

Stamp no. 110 - the '1' in an intermediate position in relation to the 'd'. Another different type of '1'.

Nos. 52 and 74 are shown in Holmes, plate 9. Unfortunately he does not illustrate No.110 and I have no example, so my description is based on notes of one that I have seen.

J.F.I-W.

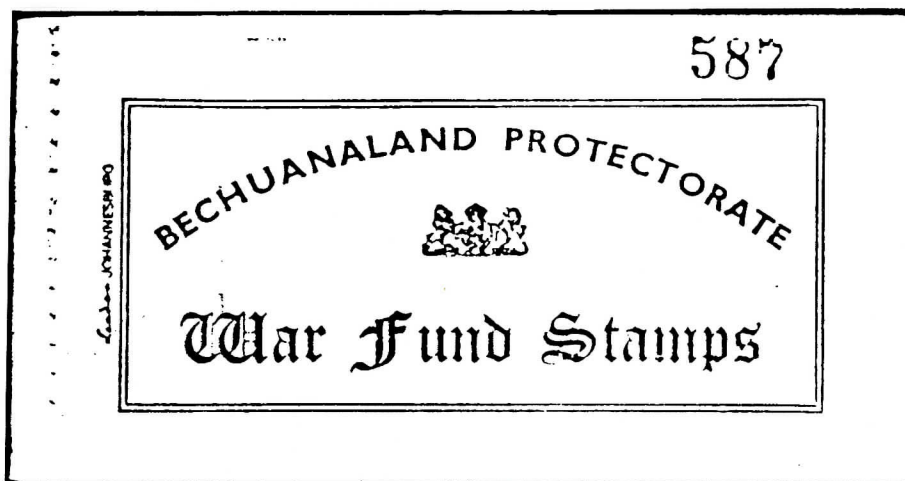
SMALL FIGURE '4' VARIETY (SG 44a) (RP 24, p446)

Steve Wallace wrote to ask if anyone can supply an illustration of Bechuanaland SG 44a, which is listed by Stanley Gibbons as occurring on the 1888 Protectorate 4d on 4d overprint. Steve says 'it would be interesting to evaluate rarity which must be considerable'.

Hamish Campbell's superb exhibit at the 'Cape Town 1991' Exhibition, included a mint example of this rare variety. Hamish kindly agreed to provide a photocopy of the stamp which we gratefully reproduce here. This is only the second copy I have seen, the other being a used example.



SMALL FIGURE '4'



BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE WAR FUND LABELS (RP 21, p377)

Thanks to a veritable deluge of information on the Protectorate War Fund label, (RP Nos. 15, 17 & 20) we can now considerably update our knowledge of this item.

Tony Chilton found a mention of these labels in the February 1940 issue of the South African Philatelist where they were recorded as having been recently issued, i.e. probably late 1939 - early 1940.

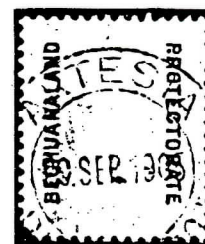
John Inglefield-Watson writes to say that he has seen one complete and another part booklet. The complete booklet contained five panes of 1d labels as already described. John does not recall if the back cover of the complete booklet was printed or plain and suspects that Tony's example may well be a back cover as it lacks features seen on other front covers:

- Printer's imprint at the left hand side of the frame lines, reading upwards 'Leader JOHANNESBURG' with 'Leader' in very small script lettering that is difficult to decipher.
- A serial number in black at the top right of the cover. Numbers seen are '581' and '655'.
- Stitched at the left. Tony's cover appears to have been torn along the line of stitching at the right.

Henk De Lange of Stephan Welz & Co, Johannesburg, pointed out that they had sold a complete booklet on their April 1982 sale (lot 57, illustrated above) described as '1914-18 War Fund Stamps Booklet, stitched buff cover and containing 5 panes (of which 2 are loose) each with 6 x 1d stamps, cover marked no. 587.' Henk adds that the booklet selling price was probably 2/6 and the date 1914/18 incorrect. A second booklet (lot 40) containing 2 stamps only was sold by them on their November 1982 sale. Both came from a dealers stock.

ARTESIA POSTMARK (RP 39, p859)

An used example of the KE7 2½d with variety STOP AFTER 'P' IN PROTECTORATE (SG 69a) was sold through a Cape Town postal auction. This is illustrated alongside courtesy of 'Cape Philatelics'. Although the stamp is described as having faults. However, what is equally, if not more interesting than the variety is that the stamp is cancelled with a fine strike of the very scarce ARTESIA cds dated 20 September 1905.



In RP 28 (p551) the Postmark Group stated "Although the office is listed in P.O. Guides for the early 1900's, ... No record of any strikes from the early period noted so far, other than an unspecified cancellation on a ½d 1902 stamp in the Holmes auction (lot 1470).

This would therefore appear to be the first confirmed example.

NEW TUBERCULOSIS LABEL DISCOVERED (RP 17, p298)

Howard Cook has sent this illustration of a different Bechuanaland Tuberculosis label to that illustrated in RP 15, p260. Apart from differences in design, this one is inscribed 'B.P.A.P.T.' rather than 'B.A.P.T.' This type additionally bears a part strike of a Gaberones datestamp.



IN THE AUCTION ROOM (RP 9, p145)

Sotheby's auction in London on 12th & 13th November 1987 contained only one lot in the Bechuanaland section, however, lot 394 (illustrated here) was of particular interest and was described as follows:

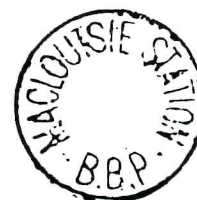
"Bechuanaland: 1932 ½d green, imperforate between vertically, SG 99 var., horizontal pair and block of 4 comprising three pairs of this previously unrecorded variety, the pair is defective at the lower left and has a small separation tear between at the top whilst the block is very fine apart from a few short perfs., unused unmounted o.g.; from a sheet format of 60 - ten horizontal rows of six, it is quite likely that only ten pairs of this variety ever existed. We understand that it will be listed in a future edition of Stanley Gibbons Part 1 catalogue as SG 99a. Both items with B.P.A. certs. 1987."

I understand from Mike Deverell of the Zimbabwe Stamp Company that these items were originally sold through the Salisbury Stamp Company by Auction some seven or eight years ago but nothing more seems to be known of their history or if any others from the sheet still exist.

The estimate was £6000-£8000 and realised £8920 (including buyers premium).

**MACLOUTSIE STATION B.B.P (RP 6, p81)**

Has anyone seen an example of this cancellation?, it is listed in Holmes (p.126) and illustrated in H.C. Dann's *The Cancellations of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland* (pub 1950, p64) as one of many early BSAC cancels (including four Bechuanaland 'settlements' - PALLA; PALAPYE STATION B.P and SHOSHONG ROAD BECH.D RLY) which were discovered in Salisbury in March 1939 by the C.J. Swift, the Postmaster-General. Dann states the cancellations were "used on the mail train on letters collected at those stations".

**INVERTED WATERMARKS: KGV ISSUES (RP 10, p168)**

Inverted 'Block' watermarks are known on the 3d (SG 94) and 1/- (SG 98) values. Although elusive, their scarcity may reflect the reluctance of collectors to spend inordinate periods of time wading through their collection trying to identify that vague pattern in the paper. The inverted watermark is also found on the 1d value (SG 92), and the 2d orange issue (SG 76a: Script watermark). The following offices of issue are recorded:

2d	SG 76a	Lobatsi FE 3 26
1d	SG 92	Palapye Road
1/-	SG 98	Francistown 23 JUL 31
"	"	Gaberones Village NOV 31 ?
"	"	Serowe Bechd. Prot (all at top) 29 OCT 19(??)

Although checking for inverted watermarks, both script and block, may be regarded as an onerous task, it is highly probable that other values exist. Does anyone have any additional information to add to this list? 'KOI'

THE BECHUANALAND DEFINITIVE REVENUE STAMPS (RP 27, p532)

Peter van der Molen

The £1 green and black denominations issued during the reigns of KG5, KG6 and QE2, together with the £5 orange and black QE2 stamp, tend to be of 'specialised' interest and are mentioned by Holmes only 'in passing' in his 'Bechuanalands'.

The Requisition Books that were kept by the Crown Agents, to record details of Security Printing contracts awarded, cover also Revenues in addition to Postage & Revenue stamps, Dues, Stationery, Passports, Bank-notes, etc. etc. For the benefit of readers who have an interest in these Revenue issues, I have extracted the details from the Requisition Books and tabulate the data below; in all cases the stamps were supplied by Waterlow & Sons Ltd in sheets of 60.

B&H	ISSUE	REQ BOOK PAGE	REQUISITION	QTY DESPATCHED	DATE DESPATCHED
38	KG5 £1	1931 p225	380/1	2,580	26 Oct 1932
38	KG5 £1	1935 p227	736/1	3,000	9 Mar 1937
39	KG6 £1	1941 p228	1194/2	3,300	12 Sep 1944
39	KG6 £1	1947 p164	1387/1	7,560	7 Nov 1947
39	KG6 £1	1952 p174	1929/1	6,600	30 Nov 1953
41	QE2 £1	1952 p177	1913/2	12,000	12 May 1954
42	QE2 £5	1952 p177	1913/2	3,000	12 May 1954
42	QE2 £5	1954 p235	2358/1	16,500	20 Dec 1956
41	QE2 £1	1954 p240	2420/1	13,200	26 Sep 1957

Note: 'B&H' = Barefoot & Hall 'British Commonwealth Revenues', 1990 Edition.

When the currency was decimalised on 14th February 1961, remaining stocks of the QE2 £1 and £5 values were surcharged with R2 and R10 respectively by the South African Government Printer in Pretoria. Because those surcharges were a 'local' arrangement, there are no references in the Crown Agents' records and quantities surcharged do not appear to be known, although there must have been records kept at the time.

In the decimal definitive Postage & Revenue issue produced by Harrison's which was released on 2nd October, 1961, the R2 value (SG 181) was the highest denomination and no R10 stamp for Revenue purposes was provided as might have been expected, but after Independence a R10 Revenue stamp was issued by Botswana.

Permission from the British Library, Philatelic Collections, to publish information from the Crown Agents' Philatelic and Security Printing Archive held by them, is hereby acknowledged.

P.W van der Molen, P O Box 12508, Benoryn 1504, South Africa.



£5 ORANGE AND BLACK



R2 ON £1 GREEN AND BLACK

BOTSWANA 1972 MAFEKING-GUBULAWAYO RUNNER POST ISSUE - 3C IMPERFORATE (RP 41, p937)

In RP 3, p17 (Spring 1986) we published the following query from John Inglefield-Watson:

"In 1976 I was informed by a collector resident in Botswana that one imperforate sheet of the 3 cents value (SG 294) of the 1972 Runner Post commemorative issue was sold at Francistown to a messenger of the Tati Company and that one vertical strip was known to have survived. Can any member confirm this report?"

Roy Setterfield maintained an enormous correspondence especially with the many friends and contacts he made while working in Botswana in the 1970's and 1980's. One of these friends was the late Jim Haskins of Francistown / Tati fame. Lurking within a file of odds and ends which Roy passed to me some years ago was a letter from Jim to Roy responding to John's query above, confirming the report and also giving the background of how he had acquired two imperforate strips of the 1972 3c Mafeking-Gubulawayo Runner Post issue. It was always intended to publish this information in The Runner Post but for some reason the reply found its way into the wrong file and, as far as I know, was never published. I am pleased to now do so, albeit nine years late. Sorry John!

The two items in question comprise vertical strips of five stamps with top and bottom margins completely imperforate between stamps and stamps and margins. They are reproduced alongside. The relevant part of Jim's letter reads as follows:

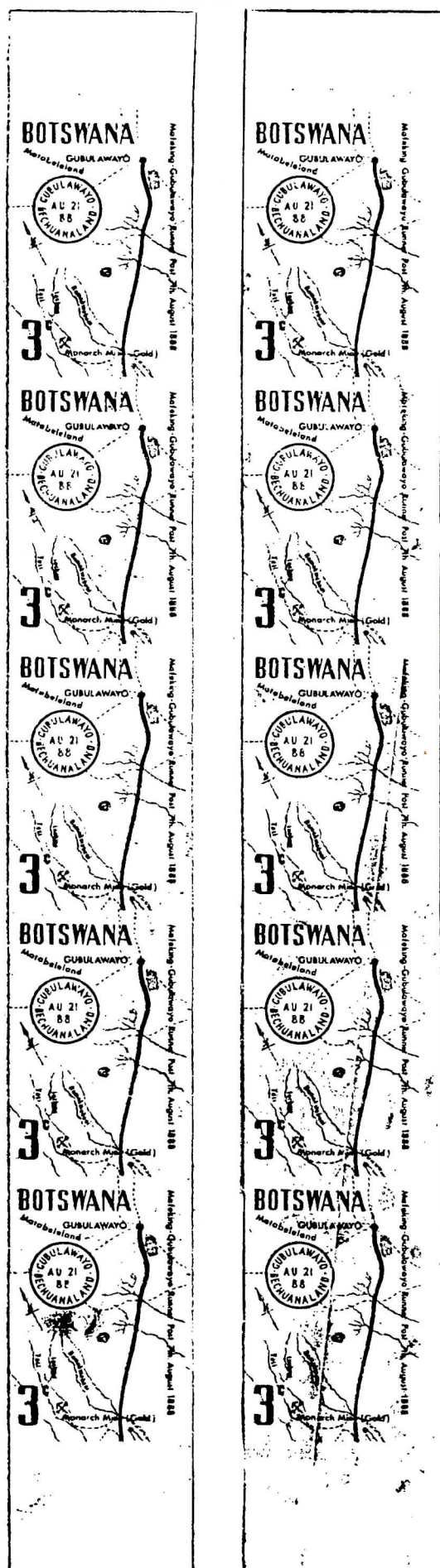
"I write to confirm the report as being correct. In fact the balance of the sheet was given me by the Gen. Manager of the Tati Company. The pity of it all was that the Office Messenger had already cut up most of the sheet before it was discovered - + 80 individual stamps were fixed to letters in the usual manner !!! Two of the strips are in my possession . . . I enclose for the record 2 photostats of the strips and one of the note that I made at the time."

The note reads as follows:

"The sheet from which these were cut, was purchased at Francistown Post Office by a clerk/messenger employed by Tati Co. Ltd, who decided that as the stamps were otherwise alright there was no reason other than 'to cut' them and utilise in the normal manner. The balance of the sheet was therefore posted. These are what were left when discovered by a sorting clerk at F.T. Post Office who noted some on Tati Co. Ltd. correspondence."

Although the photocopy is of poor quality, it appears these are the two strips offered on Christie's Robson Lowe London sale of 18 September 1991 as lots 2438 and 2439. They were described as the only known strips. The estimate was £200 each. They fetched £682 and £495 respectively (including the buyers premium). They are catalogued as SG 294a and priced at £400 for a vertical pair.

Do members know of any other examples or are these strips the only surviving examples of this rare variety? AMG





NORMAL

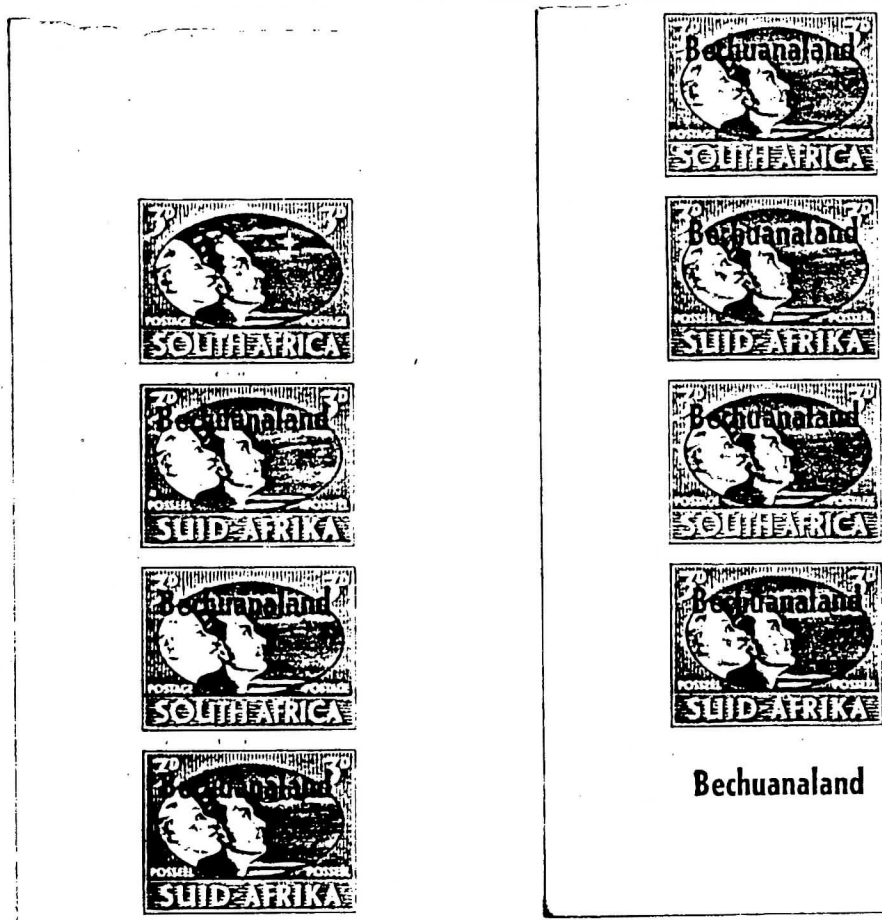


SHIFT

1945 3d VICTORY ISSUE (SG 131) WITH OVERPRINT SHIFTED UPWARDS (RP 38, p824)

Dickon Pollard writes: "A friend has sent me a Bechuanaland item I have not seen before; a single with the overprint near the top of the stamp. I enclose a photostat of the stamp, with a normal pair for comparison. I do not recall seeing any mention of this..."

Stanley Gibbons lists the 3d as occurring with 'Overprint omitted in vertical pair with normal' (SG 131a), with a footnote 'No 131a comes from a sheet on which the overprint was displaced downwards so that it is omitted from stamps in the top row and shown on the sheet margin at foot'. Is it possible this stamp comes from such a sheet and shows the overprint of the stamp above shifted downwards? It could also result from a sheet where the overprints were shifted upwards, though not off, the stamps. Can any member help?



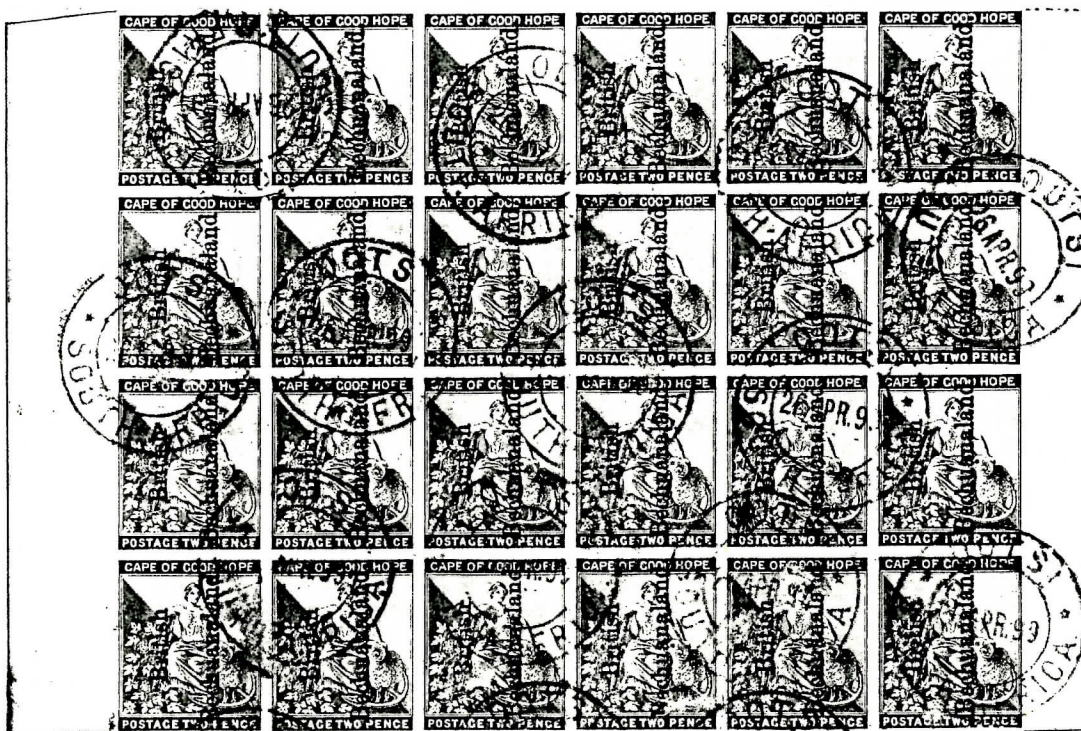
RPS 127369.

1945 3d VICTORY (SG 131) WITH OVERPRINT SHIFTED UPWARDS / DOWNWARDS (RP 39, p857)

In response to Dickon Pollard's appeal for help in RP 38, I enclose a photocopy of two left-hand marginal strips of four, one showing the missing surcharge variety (SG 131a) and the other the overprint displaced downwards into the bottom sheet margin. It is evident that Dickon's stamp almost certainly comes from such a sheet with the overprint shifted downwards. There were 20 horizontal rows of 6 in each sheet.

Acknowledgements are due to the owner of the strips who supplied me with the illustration.

J.F.I-W.



ITEMS OF INTEREST - 'OOTSI SOUTH AFRICA' (RP 13, p227)

Illustrated above is a spectacular item which has just come to light. It is a block of 24 of the Cape 2d with overprint reading up (SG 32) with margin at left and gutter margin at right. From a study of flaws in the overprint the stamps plate as being positions 7-30 from the left hand pane and show all but one of the flaws discussed by John Inglefield-Watson in his article 'The Provisional Issues of Nov 1891 and 1893-5' (RP 5, p13). Using John's numbering of the repetitive flaws, stamps 7 and 9 in the block show flaw 1 (defective top to 'B' in 'British') but this is not present on stamp 11. However flaw 4 (stop + broken 's') does occur on stamps 14, 16 and 18, and flaw 3 (defective 'B' in 'Bechuanaland') occurs on stamps 25, 27 and 29. Stamp 15 shows the well known variety 'No stop after Bechuanaland' (SG 32a).

Equally interesting is the fact that the whole block is cancelled by 12 full strikes of the previously unknown 'OOTSI / SOUTH AFRICA' double circle dated '26.APR.99.' This cancel is very similar to the well known 'CROCODILE POOLS' datestamp which saw service during the Boer War and which, until now was believed to be the only double circle cancel with the words 'South Africa' at base. One difference between them is that there are small stars between 'Ootsi' and 'South Africa' instead of dots, though the presence of small stops after the day and month are similar.

The late date of this cancel and the notable presence of gum on the reverse would tend to suggest that this was a 'by favour' cancel on some remaindered stock of the 2d. But what is amazing is why this cancel has apparently not been seen before. Part datestamps at the bottom suggest this was part of a bigger cancelled block. Is it perhaps a telegraphic cancel used by the railways? The wording 'S. Africa' at base is usually associated with use by offices along the railway, though why the other early version - single circle and spelling - of 'OUTSI' has 'CGH' at base, is a bit of a mystery.

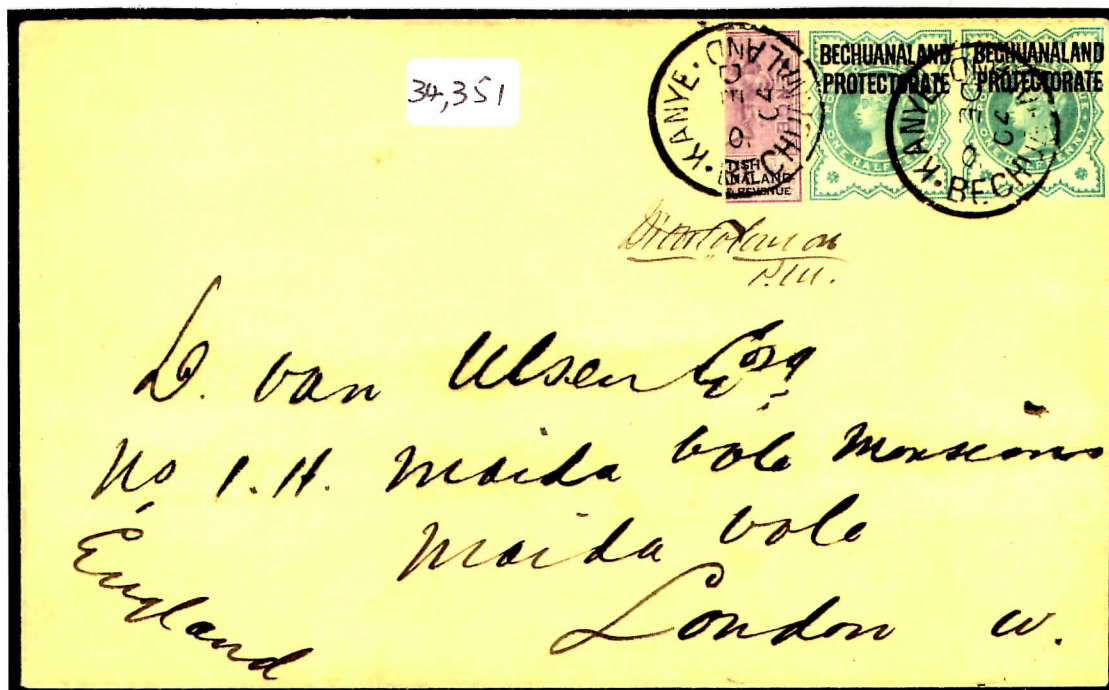
AMG

COLOUR SHIFT ON 5c 1961 DECIMAL DEFINITIVE (RP 25, p466)

While a generally high standard of printing by Harrisons of this issue seems to have precluded many errors of significance, an interesting shift in the black printing downwards by some 2.5mm has been noted on a 5c value, as illustrated - the error is quite striking in 'full colour'! Are any other errors known in this issue, apart from the 25c imperf and the error of yellowish colour on the 7½c with Republic overprint?

Peter van der Molen





KANYE BISECTS (RP 21, p378)

A fourth Kanye bisect cover is now known (illustrated above, courtesy of John Taylor). This is similar to John Inglefield-Watson's cover illustrated in RP 12, page 202. It is to the same addressee, has the same date and the bisected Unappropriated Die may well be the other half of John's 3d, though one can't be sure what value this originally was. The two other covers are those in the Royal collection and the Moseley collection in the British Library. Thanks to Dr Seligmann we now know that the Postmaster's initials on these covers are those of a 'Mr Solomon' though his first name (if that is what it is) remains unknown/illegible.

FORGED 'GUBULAWAYO BECHUANALAND' POSTMARK (RP 35, p734)

Jim Catterall supplied this illustration of a forged GUBULAWAYO BECHUANALAND / AU 21/88 cancellation on an example of the 'Protectorate/1d' overprint (SG 41). Jim reports the diameter of the forgery as 21mm whereas the genuine measures 23mm. There are also differences in the shapes of some of the letters and numerals. Have members seen other examples? [I recall seeing this forgery struck in red! - Ed].



STELLALAND REVENUES - 'REBUBLIEK VAN STELLALAND' DELETED (RP 35, p737)

At our Meeting on 2nd March, Arnold Berman showed an example of a Stellaland £5 revenue without JPM monogram, cancelled at Mafeking, with pen lines drawn through 'REBUBLIEK VAN STELLALAND' and 'British Bechuanaland' added in manuscript. Illustrated above are two further examples of this practice. Both are without monogram. The first, a 10/- orange, has pen lines through the territory name and a manuscript 'BB', initials and is dated '28/5/86'. The second stamp is a £5 carmine, also with pen lines through the territory name but no 'new' territory designation. It bears the same signature as the 10/- and is dated '3/1/87' in manuscript. It also bears a 'MAFEKING/BECHUANALAND' datestamp of the same day. AMG