



******FORERUNNERS*

JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA

Affiliated with the American Philatelic Society and the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

Volume XX, Number 3, Whole No. 58

March-June 2007



WWII patriotic South African Christmas card published by the Newman Art Publishing, Cape Town.

Highlights of This Issue

PSGSA 20th Anniversary
Visit of Chamberlain to Bloemfontain
Censorship: The Hunt for Code P
Soldiers Letter from Orange River Station
South African Postage Rates
Early Bechuanaland Protectorate Postmarks
Postmark Discoveries
Subject and Author Index



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Front Illustration:

World War II patriotic South African Christmas card published
by Newman Art Publishing, Cape Town. The card was mailed
from Umtali on 15. Oct. 1941 and endorsed 'card only.'

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Large Silver at WASHINGTON 2006, Vermeils at STAMPSHOW 2005 and C7NPLE, Toronto; Silver at CHICAGOPEX 2005; Silver-Bronze at LONDON 2000; Silvers at JOPEX 99, STAMPSHOW 99, and COLOPEX 99; Silver-Bronze at PACIFIC 97; Vermeil/Certificate of Merit at OKPEX 96; Large Silver at New Zealand National Philatelic Exhibition 96; Silvers at SESCAL 95, CAPEX 96, WAPEX 93, and HAFNIA 94; Silver-Bronze at ESPAMER 96, SINGAPORE 95, and PHILAKOREA 94.

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Thanks to Ashley Cotter-Cairns for proof reading

Editorial Notes

This is the completion of Volume XX of Forerunners. Over 100 pages of exciting new and old information relating to the philately and postal history of southern Africa. It has as usual been compiled with the aid of many society members (and non-members). All members are encouraged to submit articles and ideas for the journal. Remember that it is not a requirement for publication that the writer is a member of our society. So if you have a friend that is collecting or working on an interesting subject, please mention the Forerunners and perhaps drop the Editor a note. I will contact the person if asked with an invitation. Authors that are not members will receive an electronic copy of their article or a paper copy of the journal. The Editor, however, needs your help to find new articles to fill future issues. We are always struggling to fill the pages and to maintain a fair balance of interesting subjects. Most often, there is no backlog of articles for future issues. Each issue starts with blank pages. Nothing to fill them. It should be no secret that if you see an issue that contains several articles (or even one article) written by the Editor, there was a problem and your help with the next issue is urgently needed.

This issue contains an evaluation of PSGSA's 20th anniversary celebration at the Postage Stamp Mega-Event in New York by Tim Bartshe. Tim also continues his exhibiting column. Robin Pelteret tells the story about Joseph Chamberlain's visit to South Africa in 1903. Jonathan Talbot continues the Orange River Station theme from the previous issue with a presentation of a 1899 letter from a soldier in the relief column to the sieged Kimberley. Richard Barnett summarizes some South Africa postal rates deduced from various sources. Chris Miller details his hunt for the 'code P' in World War 2 censor marks. Werner Seeba shows us some recent postmark finds. Finally, we bring a review of Bechuanaland Bechuanaland postmarks belonging to the classic period (see note above about too many articles written by the editor!). It looks at least to the Editor to be an interesting mixture of subject that should appeal to many members.

I have had the opportunity recently to meet with two of our southern African members. Peter Lodoen of Molepolole, Botswana, passed by Davis on a trip to a bold game in San Francisco and Alan MacGregor of Cape Town came to Westpex in bringing a stack of interesting postal stationery. Good to hear news and to learn that stamp collecting is still strong in southern Africa.

Instructions for Manuscript Submissions

Manuscripts should be sent to the appropriate member of the Editorial Board or directly to one of the Editors. Electronic versions of submissions are preferred either embedded in an email message, email attachments or on a floppy disk or CD. MS Word files are preferred. Avoid complex tables, unless in text format. Illustrations should be scanned at least at 150 dpi and submitted in tif, gif, or jpg formats. Illustrations should not be embedded in manuscript files. Contact the Editors if you have any questions and your submission requires special attention. Needless to say, good old fashioned typed or written manuscripts and photocopies can still be submitted and are most welcome.

Small specialist philatelic societies, like PSGSA, struggle worldwide for survival. A dwindling membership basis and problems with recruitment for important society functions such as president, membership secretary, treasurer, and journal editor. We are no exception. Our auctioneer position has been vacant for long time and may have cost us dearly in membership recruitment. Other societies often have been able to maintain auctions. Another small specialist society that I am a member of recently completed a very successful auction that reached a total of £7,000. We should be able to do the same for the benefit of our members and the society coffers. All we need is a volunteer. Please come forward!

Another vacancy is our treasurer position. Bob Hisey has long ago expressed the desire to retire after many years of service. Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to find his replacement. This is a serious matter for the well-being of our society. Without a treasurer and an updated membership rooster there will be no mailing labels for Forerunners and, therefore, the magazine will cease to appear in your mail box. It is that simple. Please come forward.

Congratulations to Ashley and Carolina with their family expansion. According to Ashley, two brand new bantams not previously catalogued.

The deadline for the next issue will be October 15, 2007. Please let us have your contributions - small or large - as soon as possible.

Society Affairs

The Forerunners is the official journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa. The journal is published three times per year for the periods July/October, November/February, and March/June. Subscription to the Forerunners is included in the membership fees to the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa (PSGSA). The membership fees are \$25 to North America and \$30 by air to Europe and southern Africa. A sample copy of Forerunners is available from the Editor for \$9. Presentation issue can be freely downloaded together with application form from psgsa.thestampweb.com. Advertising rates can be found in the Market Place section. Payment options are (1) check drawn on a US bank and made payable to PSGSA, (2) £ Sterling bank draft at current exchange rate with 'payee' left blank, (3) US \$ or £ Sterling bank notes at the current exchange rates and mailed at the sender's own risk, or (4) Paypal to the Society Treasurer at bobhisey@comcast.net. All membership fees and other payments should be mailed directly to the Treasurer. All communications about membership, subscriptions, publications, activities, and services of the Society should be sent to the Secretary.

Back Issues Available

Back issues of the Forerunners are in stock and available for purchase. These are listed by whole number: #1-4, 6-9, 11-17, 22-27, 28/29,* and 30-57. The price per copy is #1-3, \$2; #4, \$4, #6-11, \$3; #12-13, \$4; #14-15, \$5; #16-17, \$6; #22-27, \$7; #28/29, \$10; #30-33, \$7; #34-58, \$9. Prices include shipping by lowest rate. Many back issues only exist in few remaining copies. Send orders to the Editor together with payment. * Combined as a British Africa Anthology with articles from 15 speciality groups celebrating PSGSA's 10th Anniversary during PACIFIC 97.



President's Corner

Greetings once again from Ontario where the weather has been extremely kind, even to the point of my shorts being put into service again and the golf clubs polished up. But not yet time to put the stamps away for the summer!

One of the things that we as philatelists rely on is sources of information. Needless to say, most of this in our particular field of interest comes from journals such as "*Forerunners*", "*The Rhodesia Study Circle Journal*" and many others. However, there are dozens of other publications out there covering every aspect of philately and many of them from different countries. A friend of mine recently loaned me two copies of "*ThemNews*", the journal of the Thematic Southern Africa group. My other collecting interest to go along with Rhodesia is insects on stamps, a subject of great fascination since I have been an amateur entomologist for many years. "*ThemNews*" is a very good publication, in full color, 8" by 6" in size, and the October and December (2006) issues had a wide range of interesting articles, including one in each journal on Minerals-Fossils-Mining by Uli Bantz, a name familiar to most of you. Incidentally, if anyone has any spares of some of the overprinted values on butterfly stamps from Lesotho, please contact me and maybe we can do some business!

Just the other day, two copies of "*Setempe*", the South African Post Office philatelic magazine arrived in my mailbox, without any detail on who sent them. Possibly just a promotional mailing. Anyhow, I found them quite interesting examples of what most post offices issue in the way of a journal, but they had some interesting content, including an article titled "*To paint the portrait of an ape-man*" by Dr. Francois Durand, based on a November stamp issue. Such data as the article contained would be very useful to a thematic collector who has an interest in paleontology. This was in the October-December 2006 issue and the January-March 2007 issue contained an article on "*Fascinating Dinosaurs*" by none other than Uli Bantz. It would seem that he keeps busy writing on behalf of philately.

Included with the two journals was a booklet titled "*Exploring the fascinating world of stamps*", with 36 pages covering 13 chapters aimed at interesting the uninitiated person in stamp collecting. I shall pass this on to a friend who participates in the Summer Seminar given by the APS and I am sure he will find it useful.

We have a special event coming up in Toronto in October, and that is the annual ROYAL show of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, held in different cities from year to year. It would be really nice to see some exhibits of Southern African material and Tom Fortunato is the US Commissioner (stamptmf@frontiernet.net).

While on the subject of shows, the American Topical Association annual show (NTSS-2007) is being held in Irving, Texas from June 15-17. One of the members of the jury is Tim Bartshe, who seems to be judging every other week as far as I can make out. I shall look forward to hoisting a couple of single malts with Tim while my wife and I are down there.

Until next time...

Speciality Editors for Forerunners

The Editor and the Forerunners depends on our Speciality Editors. These are listed on the first page of each issue together with their speciality areas. The duty of a specialist editor is straight forward.

It is not a requirement that the Speciality Editor will write an article for each issue, but it will certainly not be discouraged. An important function is to seek out potential authors and encourage them to write articles for Forerunners. This may involve technical and editorial assistance to potential authors. The Editor may also need assistance with evaluating and editing submitted articles whose subject is outside his own expertise.

The ideal description for a Speciality Editor: Broadly knowledgeable philatelist. Specialist collector and perhaps exhibitor. Active in organized philately. Well versed with the existing literature and specialist journals. Perhaps already writing articles for the specialist journals and hopefully also for Forerunners. Admittedly, few of our existing Speciality Editors will fit this description so don't restrain yourself from coming forward.

As a regular reader of the Forerunners you will be aware that some areas are well represented on the pages of Forerunners. Other are poorly represented. It is difficult to hide that the Bechuanalands recently have been overrepresented. Nobody has complained, but it would be ideal if we could produce a more evenly balanced Forerunners. Look at the Speciality Editor list and decide if you can help. Contact the Editor even if your subject is already covered.

Show Reports

Tim Bartshe received GOLD for 'Postal Stationery of the Orange River Colony: Usages from 1902 to Union (1913)' at Greater Reno Stamp and Cover Show in June 2006. The New York Postage Stamp Mega Event in March, 2007, saw quite a few British Africa exhibits, including **George Krieger's** 'British East Africa 1890-1902' exhibit that received the Reserve Grand and **Keith Klugman's** 'Victorian Natal' that took home the Grand Award. The latter also received the PSGSA Plaque. See Tim Bartshe's description of the event and the award results on page 80.

Address Changes

All address and e-mail changes should be reported to Bob Hisey to be properly corrected on the membership list. This will assure arrival of the Forerunners in the mail without delay. However, if you want your new address and e-mail also to be included in the Forerunners, please advise the editor.

Search for Society Treasurer

Bob Hisey has after many years of services expressed a wish to 'retire' as society treasurer and to concentrate on his Orange Free State Philately books. Bob has left us in healthy financial conditions. Please come forward and contact Alan or any other board member if you are interested in taking over this most important society function.

Two New Bantams

Ashley Cotter-Cairns, his wife Carolina Pla and son Jasper are proud to welcome two new Bantam issues into their family! Declan and Julian Cairns were born on May 16th, weighing 7lbs and 6.5lbs respectively. Ashley hopes that readers of Forerunners understand his lateness in hitting deadlines and the occasionally patchy quality of the writing he does submit.



Reluctant Seller

Due to the arrival of his twin babies and other pressures on time and finances, Ashley Cotter-Cairns is reluctantly attempting to sell several of his postmark collections. "I found myself gravitating more and more towards railway cancels in recent years," Ashley says, "So I'll be keeping those, along with my numeral cancel collection and my cork cancellers." Ashley intends to remain an active member of the PSGSA. Ashley's collection consists of pre-Union issues, KGV issues and Interprovincials. If you're interested in acquiring part or all of his collection, please email him at acottercairns@hotmail.com or write to PO Box 603, Hudson, QC, J0P 1H0, Canada.

The Editor's Most Urgent Wantlist

It is a constant struggle to fill the pages of Forerunners. The problem is not so much feature articles and the regular columns. The problem is more the smaller items related to news from the collecting community, stamps issues, significant auctions, books and books reviews, major articles in other journals, and development in the postal services covering southern Africa. Also needed are reports of changes of addresses and email, requests for help with research projects, requests for the free membership adds, and simple or complex questions for our expert panel. In fact it is a long time since the editor has received a letter or email that was not solicited. Even correspondences with complaints and corrections to an article are rare occurrences. It cannot be that everything written and shown in Forerunners is perfect and that nobody has better and unknown covers and new information. Please let the letter and emails come. Forerunners is for you - the reader.



PSGSA 20th Anniversary Celebration at the Postage Stamp Mega-Event

by Tim Bartshe

We celebrated our 20th anniversary at Madison Square Garden in New York this March 15-18 by being the lead Society at the Mega-Event hosted jointly by the ASDA and the APS. Of the 31 exhibits on the floor, African related displays represented 20 of them filling 91 frames. It was the best showing of African material in the US since PSGSA held its 15th Anniversary meeting at Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (then ROMPEX) in 2002. Yes, that includes Washington 2006!

Not only was it a very good showing of material with displays from first time exhibitors, but Africa virtually swept the awards given at the show. From Washington (Nick Carter) to the Bay Area (Peter Thy and Kurt Schau) and from Bermuda (David Cordon) to South Africa (Patrick Flanagan), the participation was truly global in extent. The list of exhibitors and their exhibits and awards are on the adjoining page.

The jury consisted of five judges and one apprentice, all of which include the British Commonwealth as within their specialized areas. These were Chair Guy Dillaway (Cape of Good Hope), Dave Herendeen (postage dues), David McNamee (Tasmania), Tim Bartshe (OVZ/ZAR) and David Springbett of England. The apprentice was Steve Zwillinger who specializes in Indian Edwardian material. (If you think it was confusing to have three David's on the jury you are right!) Of the 13 Gold medals awarded, 10 of them went to the African exhibits, so congratulations to all who elected to exhibit at this show.

It will be of some interest to know that there will be three different South African exhibits competing for the Champion of Champion award at Stampshow this year in Portland. Keith Klugman's Victorian Natal will join Tim Bartshe's two Orange Free State exhibits, the Republican Issues which won at BALPEX and the VRI overprints which won at COLPEX. For those of you who have thought about exhibiting, but never have gotten around to it or believe that your material is not good enough, rethink your position. It is one of the best ways to increase your knowledge of your material and an excellent way to show your material to fellow collectors. It is fun, even if you don't get a "good" award and it is an excuse to go to another stamp show! For information on exhibiting, from beginning tips to getting a mentor to advanced questions, feel free to contact Liz Hisey Secretary of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors or myself, Tim Bartshe, President of AAPE.

The festivities were completed when after the awards luncheon at the Garden, the group in attendance reconvened at the close-by Collectors Club of New York where a number of presentations were given related to Southern Africa. The seminar started off by an introduction by Richard Maisel and was followed by several other presentations (see adjoining page). The seminar was closed with final comments by Richard Maisel and was

followed by a no host dinner at the Maple Garden Duck House. There was a lot of very interesting material shown via power point presentations and those in attendance were appreciative of the time and effort that the presenters put in for their talks.

Many thanks to Colin Fraser and his lovely wife Pamela

in being the front “men” for the Society, arranging for the presentation at the CCNY and rounding up all of the exhibits. It is too bad that more could not have attended and that more exhibits could not have been seen from the UK and South Africa. Well there is always next time!

Mega-Event Exhibitors, Exhibits, Medals, and Awards

Exhibitor	Exhibit	Medal	Awards
Martin Eichele	Transvaal Forgeries and Reprints	B	
Gordon Smith	A Botswana Meter Mark Typology	S	APS Post-1980 Award of Excellence and felicitation from the jury
Peter Smith	Postage Due in Southern Africa	S	
Caroline Scannell	Save the Monuments of Nubia (Thematic Exhibit)	S	
Regis M. Hoffman	Allied Forces in East Africa, World War I	V	
Nicholas Carter	Gold Coast 1938-The Christiansborg Castle	V	AAPE Gold Award of Excellence
Peter Thy	Southern Africa Pioneers in World War II	V	
Peter Thy	The Postal Stationery Cards of Bechuanaland	V	
John Bloor	The Provisional Airmail Stamps of Mocambique	V	AAPE Gold Award of Excellence
Paul Benson	“With the Flag to Pretoria”	V	AAPE Creativity Award
William Crabbs	Evolution of East African Air Routes	G	
Larry Gardner	Morocco Foreign Post Offices and Agencies	G	Postal History Society
Patrick Flanagan	Rhodesia Small Arms Issues	G	
Robert Hisey	South African “Officials”	G	
Robert Hisey	WWII Airmail 1939-1945, South Africa--North America	G	APS 1940-80 Award of Excellence
David Cordon	The History of the Bermuda Boer War Prisoners Through Their Mail	G	AAPE Novice, APS 1900-1940 Award, APS Research Award
Kurt Schau	Orange Free State: The Republic 1868-1900	G	
George T. Krieger	British East Africa 1890-1902	G	Reserve Grand
“	UGANDA on British East Africa	G	Single Frame Grand
Keith Klugman	Victorian Natal	G	PSGSA Award and Grand

Presentations at British Africa Symposium

Richard Debney	Cape of Good Hope-Great Mistakes in Expertising
Patrick Flanagan & Colin Hoffman	Rhodesia - Arms Issues
Tim Bartshe	Orange Free State Revenues through 1900
Colin Fraser	British Central Africa
Ken Sanford	Imperial Airways Air Crash Mail with a Southern Africa Connection
Keith Klugman	Postal Use of the Natal Embossed Issues



A Blink in History: the Visit of Joseph Chamberlain to Bloemfontein, February 1903

by Robin Pelteret

“A war over the points of contention, which can be solved by negotiation or arbitration, would not only be an insult to Christianity and civilisation, but would be a crime against humanity”

M T Steyn¹



Illustration 1: Ex-President Steyn. Duffus Bros, Cape Town. ND.

Presented is an 1898 halfpenny definitive BRIEF KAART overprinted “V.R.I.” fifth setting variant 3 (issued first in July 1900) and bearing a canceller Bloemfontein O.R.C. (Putzel No. 47a) dated 18 December 1902 (illustration 2).



Illustration 2.

Cards such as these are two-a-penny and engender very little philatelic enthusiasm. However, what this card serves to do is remind us of a little documented event, namely the visit of Joseph Chamberlain (illustration 3) to southern Africa after the cessation of the hostilities which were *Die Engelse Oorlog* 1899-1902.

The card (illustration 4) was sent by WA Koller, the then Town Clerk of Bloemfontein to SE Gasson, requesting his attendance at a meeting convened to consider a programme welcoming the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain to the town.

“.....the technical casus belli is a very weak one”
J Chamberlainⁱⁱ



Illustration 3: Joseph Chamberlain. Duffus Bros, Cape Town. 1903

BACKGROUND TO VISITING BLOEMFONTEIN

Generals Botha, de la Rey and de Wet had visited London in August 1902 after coming to the realisation that the Treaty of Vereeniging (21st May 1902) was to form the framework within which South Africa was to be reconstructed. There they met Joseph Chamberlain, the British Secretary of State for the British Colonies, on the 5th September 1902 in an attempt to have him moderate the terms. Though he declined, the concerns they expressed left Chamberlain less than comfortable with the belief that he was fully *au fait* with the political realities facing Great Britain and its Empire in the aftermath of a disastrous war. Contrary to the expressed opinions of many at home, therefore,

he decided to visit and appraise the *status quo* for himself.

Following a farewell banquet in Birmingham a week earlier, Joseph and Mary Endicott, the third Mrs. Chamberlain, embarked on H.M. Cruiser *Good Hope* on the 25th November 1902 *en route* for Egypt, British East Africa and South Africa. After a sojourn that took them to Port Said and Cairo, through the Suez Canal to Mombasa, and through much of British East Africa by special train, they re-joined the *Good Hope* in Zanzibar on the 20th December 1902 and headed for Natal. Purposely delayed so as not to inconvenience Chamberlain’s hosts, the vessel arrived off Durban on 26th December 1902.

The party was met in Natal with great pomp and ceremony; and Chamberlain made the first of very many speeches crafted to promote reconciliation between former combatants whilst asserting the authority of the Imperial Crown for the benefit of those who remained adversaries: “I am come to express on behalf of the King and his Government and the people of the motherland their sympathy with all their kinsmen across the seas; their desire to understand them better, and their hope for a closer and more personal intercourse”.

By any stretch of the imagination, the visit must have been an arduous one. The first stage of the tour taken by the Chamberlains and their entourage described a broad anticlockwise sweep; their traveling *inter alia* through Pietermaritzburg, Ladysmith and Standerton to Pretoria; then on to Johannesburg and via Potchefstroom, Mafeking and Vryburg to Kimberley. Their progress was punctuated by welcoming addresses, Chamberlain granting audiences to various delegations and petitioners, whilst all the while reiterating the purpose of his touring southern Africa: the promotion of Unity, Loyalty, Self-sacrifice and Service.

BLOEMFONTEIN 3rd to 9th FEBRUARY 1903

On the 31st January 1903, the couple entered the Orange River Colony and camped at Paardeberg. Having inspected the battle field and later Abrahamskraal, the party made its way to Bloemfontein.

Arriving in the former capital of the Oranje Vrij Staat Republiek on the 3rd February 1903, the Chamberlain’s were received with an affability that was altogether unexpected.

However, on the 6th February, Chamberlain was faced with the perceived realities of a vanquished people when he received a delegation led by General de Wet. He was presented a petition in which the British government was accused of breaking three terms of the Treaty of Vereeniging. Chamberlain took considerable umbrage at the contents of the document and what he construed as the discourteous manner in which it was delivered. As a consequence, he engaged in a two hour argument with General / Judge JBM Hertzog, the man responsible for its drafting. Though Hertzog, realising he had somewhat overplayed his hand, is reported as trying to pacify Chamberlain, the latter remained indignant and unequivocally said so.

THE BLINK

And what of the Brief Kaart ?

William Alfred Koller was an experienced bureaucrat when he wrote this card inviting SE Gasson to a meeting convened to

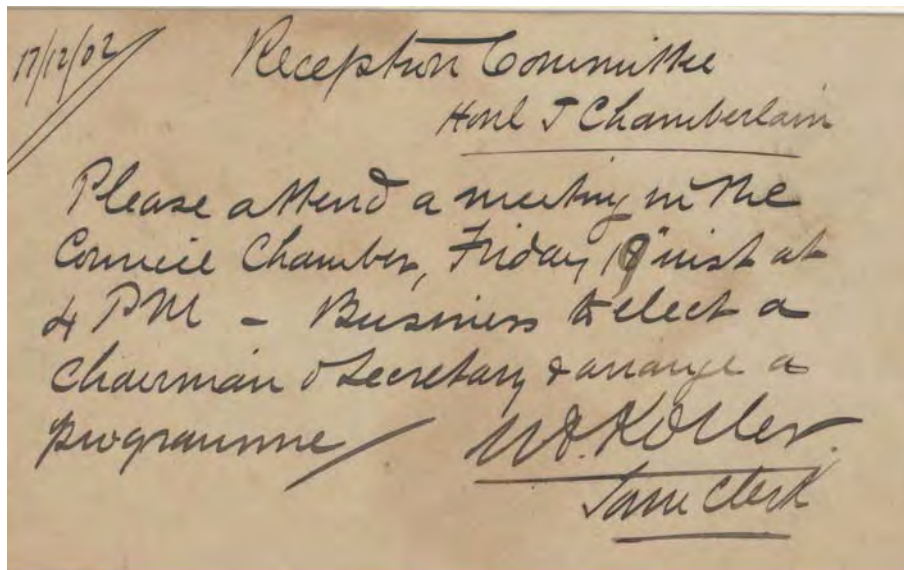


Illustration 4

prepare for Joseph Chamberlain's reception. A registered House, Estate and Law Agent by profession, the date and circumstances in which he was appointed Town Clerk of Bloemfontein are not known. Though he hailed from the Cape, by 1894, he and his family were resident in Bloemfontein. But a few archival remnants remain of Koller's activities in Bloemfontein. He and his wife, Elizabeth Ann Turner, who bore him eight children, later retired to their farm "Bequest" in the Heilbron district. He died in Parys, Orange Free State on the 16th October 1949.

Sidney Edward Gasson (SEG), together with George Henry Gasson and Alfred Wallace Reid formed Gasson & Company, which traded as wool brokers and general merchants. Measured by the size of their estates, each was successful in their own right. SEG., however, was extraordinarily so. He was born in London circa August 1864. In June 1894, he married Christina Elizabeth Stock in Bloemfontein. She bore him five children. Gasson died in East London on 7 May 1943 in his 79th year, leaving an estate well in excess of £500,000.

The efforts of WA Koller and SE Gasson bore fruit. On the 7th February, the Chamberlain's attended a banquet held by the town in their honour; and on the 11th February 1903, the Legislative Council passed the following carefully crafted motion:

"The Council desires to record its high, appreciation of the visit of the Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, which has been carried out at so much personal sacrifice to himself, and its conviction that the intimate acquaintance with the affairs of this Colony which he has acquired thereby, and the personal interviews which he has had with so many of its inhabitants, will be of the greatest benefit to the country in general, and result in increased good feeling among all classes of the community and greater confidence in the future of South Africa under British rule". This, it appears, did much to settle Chamberlain's ire. It was acknowledged with thanks in a telegramme addressed to the Lieutenant Governor on the 13th February 1903.

DENOUEMENT

Leaving Bloemfontein on the 9th February 1903, the Chamberlains traveled on to the eastern Cape via Grahamstown, Port Elizabeth and Graaff-Reinet, thence to Beaufort West and Paarl, arriving in Cape Town on the 17th February 1903. In the Cape, Chamberlain found that the Afrikaners were more accommodating than many members of the English speaking community. Indeed, Dr Leander Starr Jameson, at the time leader of the Progressive Party, characterized Chamberlain as "the callous devil from Birmingham". By all accounts, the time spent in the Cape appears to have been less than easy.

On the evening of the 25th February 1903, the Chamberlains embarked on the Union Castle liner *Norman*, reaching Southampton on the 14th March 1903.

Whilst touring through the four southern African colonies, Joseph Chamberlain and his wife are stated as having visited twenty-nine towns, to have received eighty-four deputations, and to have delivered sixty-four speeches. Chamberlain, a man with a strong imperialist vision, is quoted as saying that he went to South Africa at some inconvenience to himself, having no personal motives nor personal ambition to satisfy. He left convinced that the natural forces which drew people together were more potent than evil that tended to separate people. Sadly, his vision, and that of most others that held the reigns of power over the following ninety years, at no time embraced a meaningful political role for the indigenous people of colour.

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Footnotes

- i Marthinus Theunis Steyn, President of the Oranje Vrij Staat. Quoted in Gronum, MA. Die Engelse Oorlog 1899-1902. [p. 111]. Publ. Tafelberg, Cape Town. 1972.
- ii Joseph Chamberlain to Sir Alfred Milner on 2 September 1899 quoted in Nutting, A. Scramble for Africa: The Great Trek to the Boer War [p. 414]. Publ. Constable, London. 1970.

Exhibiting

The Third Way to Tell a Story

by Tim Bartshe

“Honest-to-God-Story Lines” are a necessity if we are going to have people come to view our exhibits. If only specialists or advanced collectors came to exhibitions, it would be a sparse show indeed. The number of people who would walk across the street to view any exhibit you have created because they also collect it might well number into a full hand of fingers! However, if you design the exhibit properly so it is easy to follow and has a cogent story line, you would be surprised at how many people actually stop to look at an exhibit that is totally outside of their areas of interest or expertise.

In the ranks of exhibitors, there are two basic schools of write up technique; the telegrapher and the essayist. The former bullets the information directly to the brain of the experienced while the later may lull even the most interested into a state of torpor. Obviously, the above is an exaggeration and represents the extreme ends of both schools, but these are not either/or decisions. In seminars I have lead and critiques that I give to any who ask, I give a “third way” recommendation that may be your problem’s solution.

The way to appease both judge and viewer is to give them what they want and need. For the judges, place all the pertinent information needed to explain why the particular item is in the frame in the first sentence of description. This is particularly critical in postal history treatment of items. I tend to highlight that sentence in bold font. Boom, the judges know you have a usage for such and such a rate using such and such combination of stamps. What about the rest of the information about the cover? Who was it from if important? What route, transit or ancillary markings are of interest? How long did the trip take? Most of those questions are not germane to the judge nor your particular story line, but might add a little more interest to the casual viewer. The judges are not swamped by having to wade through copious quantities of verbiage, the “bullet to the brain”

sentence. The viewer is not left totally confused by telegraphic information, but can now learn a little more about your area if he or she chooses.

Even though shows may not utilize the point system for most formats of exhibits, a good judge still weighs in his mind certain categories when evaluating a medal level. One of the areas is treatment, traditionally looked at as “completeness and correctness” of material chosen. Completeness is less and less of a necessity as space limitations are restricted to the number of frames available. However, based upon the “story” that you have chosen, the correctness of the material is paramount. What you choose will weigh heavily on the minds of the judges on how well you do in the treatment arena. This is also critical in attracting the attention of the casual viewer. If you really take the time to think things through, most exhibits can and do become compelling based upon what you choose to display in order to complete your story. The other area important to judges is that of knowledge and research (a third of the score at FIP shows). Sometimes it is difficult to display philatelic knowledge in an interesting way via telegraphy. My descriptive text style addresses both the needs of the judges and the viewers.



South Africa World War II: the Hunt for Code P

by Chris Miller

The necessity of alternative code letters at Cape Town in addition to the normal code A has interested collectors for some years. No convincing explanation has ever come forward. It is clear that different examiners must have dealt with mail using the letters E, J, M, and P and that there must have been a reason for this. The least common of all codes for the unframed arms handstamp is code P.

My own theory is that it was used for prisoner of war mail despite that code B at Johannesburg usually appears on this type of mail. Here lies one of the biggest problems since a code B handstamp with a poorly struck lower half to the P could be taken as a code P. The first example below is one such case (Figure 1), which had been accepted by a number of experts as a code P until examination under powerful magnification showed the ghostly outline of the remainder of the B (Figure 2).

The only example of the code P handstamp that can be assumed to be genuine is that from the proof book, which was previously in the collection of the late Alec Page. This is shown as in Figure 3. Note the size of the round portion of P.

The second cover with the clipped corner (Figure 4) is the most believable example of the code P that I have seen even after comparing it with the proof. The lack of other covers suggests that it is unlikely that a number of different code P handstamps were made.

The last code P cover shown here (Figure 5) is also believable without knowledge of where items were most likely to be censored. It was purchased as a code P but as mail terminating in South Africa was normally censored in the censor station at the town of delivery if there was one this is almost certainly a code F and not a code P.

I would be most interested to hear any comments on the above and to see any examples readers may have of code 'P'. If you can help let me know either through e-mail at cpbmiller@aol.com or by post to 161 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7JR, U.K.



Figure 3. Code P 'Proof.'

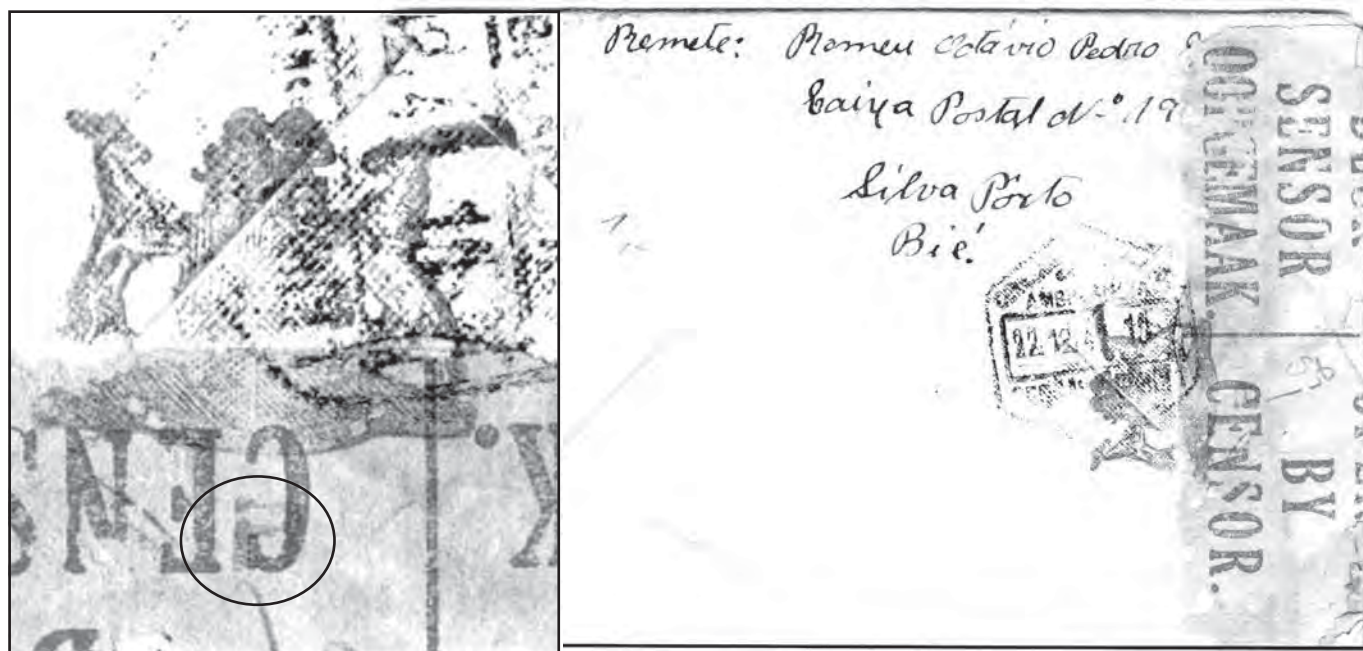


Figure 1. Code 'P' from exhibit.



Figure 2. Code enlarged from cover above. Code P or more likely B below large 'C' inside oval.



Figure 4. Code P.

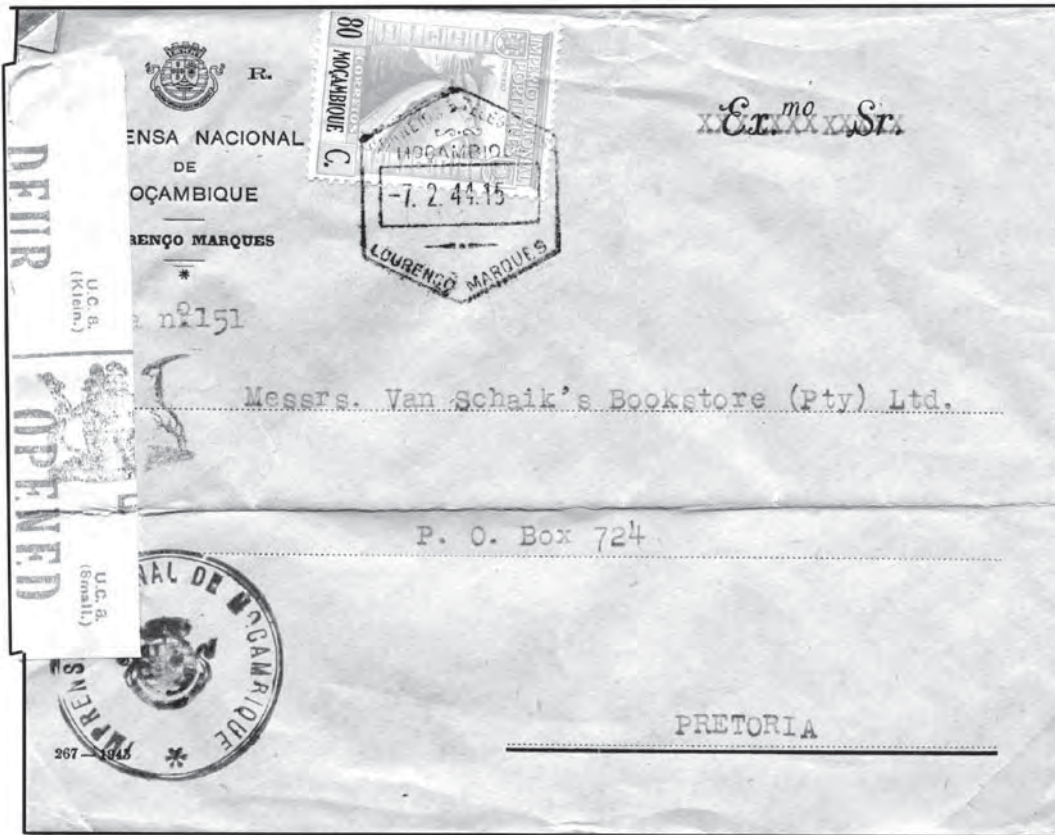


Figure 5. Pretoria code P or F.

Soldier's Letter from Orange River Station

by Jonathan Talbot

I recently acquired an envelope with contents, sent by a British soldier in the 11th Field Company, Royal Engineers, based at Orange River Station. The letter was written and sent on 21st November 1899, the day the British set off to begin the march towards recapturing Kimberley from the Boers, which was besieged a few months before. The letter mentions that the soldiers were to begin their march at 10 pm at night on the 21st, as well as mentioning that a Colonel had been killed a few days before, as well as two soldiers of the Telegraph Battalion being captured by the Boers, and taken prisoner.

Walter Aldritt was likewise a soldier during the Kimberley siege. He served in 7th Field Company, likewise of the Royal Engineers. He was assigned Regimental Number 28375 and the rank of Sapper.* The information below relates to Aldritt and the 7th Field Company, as he served in the same column like the soldier in my letter. Aldritt's story thus allow us to understand what happened on that day and the days after as both would have gone through and seen the same or similar actions together.

In the early summer of 1899, with the probability of a conflict with the Boers in South Africa increasing, it was decided to send the 7th Field Company (ENGINEERS) to Natal. The company, under Brevet Lieutenant Colonel W.F.H.S. Kincaid, sailed for South Africa in July. Upon its arrival in the Cape Colony the company was sent to Orange River Station, with one section of 50 men, under Lieutenant R.L. Mc Clintock, detached to Kimberley. This section was to render valuable service during the Boer siege of that town. Alldritt's service record contains no entries indicating that he served with this section which took part in the defence of Kimberley.

The men of the 7th Field Company were assigned to Lord Methuen's column for the relief of Kimberley. The engineer units with this column consisted of the 7th and 11th Field Companies, the 8th Railway Company, the 31st Fortress Company, and a

*Sapper (Spr) is Royal Engineers' equivalent of private.



Telegraph Section, all under the command of Lieutenant Colonel J.B. Sharpe, R.E. as the Commander Royal Engineers. The move northward commenced from Orange River Station on the 21st of November 1899 and by the afternoon of the following day the division arrived within 2 miles of Belmont Railway Station where the Boers decided to make their first stand on a range of hills commanding the railway (see map on next page). The Boers were driven from this position on the 23rd of November and the advance was continued.

The Royal Engineers were assigned the task of repairing the railway that had been considerably damaged by the Boers before they retreated. On the 25th of November the Boers made a further stand at Graspan and then retired to the Modder River. On the 28th, the 7th Field Company was pushed on with an escort to endeavor to save the railway bridge over the Modder. The company was greeted by a salvo from the Boer artillery that had taken up a position on the north bank of the

river. Alldritt and his mates soon discovered that the bridge had been destroyed. The Royal Engineers of the column were given the task of constructing a temporary bridge, a difficult task that was completed by the 10th of December.

For his service in the war, Sapper Alldritt, who had taken part in most of the major actions with the 7th Field Company, was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with clasps [BELMONT] [MODDER RIVER] [PAARDEBERG] [DRIEFONTEIN]. For his participation in the guerrilla war phase of the conflict in 1901 and 1902 he was also authorized the King's South Africa Medal with clasps [SOUTH AFRICA 1901] [SOUTH AFRICA 1902].

The progress of the relief column was recorded by J.E. Symons of the Telegraph section of the Kimberley Post Office. Relevant extracts from his narrative are given below as published in 1900 by the British Post Office's magazine "St. Martin's-Le-Grand." The first entrance is on November 21 about the start of the relief column. The last chronicles the final relief on February 15, 1900.

H/495 Spr Harrison T.E.
 11th Field Company
 Royal Engineers
 Orange River
 South Africa
 Monday Nov. 21st 11.99

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Wood.

Just a line to let you know
 I am still in the land of the living
 Charlie came from De. Aar. today
 ready for the fight. We start off
 to night at 10 o'clock that is our
 orders. We had a rest too the other
 day got a Colonel killed & killed
 and a few privates and two

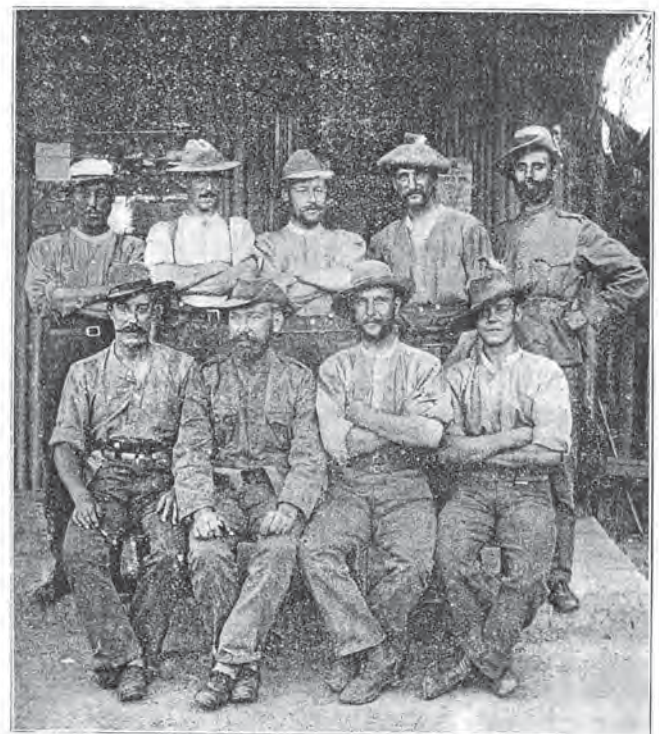
Sappers of the Telegraph Battalion
 made prisoners. I cannot say
 when Charlie will shift from
 Orange River they have to wait
 further orders. You must excuse
 me for not calling when home. I
 forgot to call at many places
 but I quite forgot it so you must
 excuse me you see my line is
 expired but still have to leave
 the British expect to fly the British
 flag on Pretoria Christmas Day
 We go to Belmont & from there to
 Kimberley to meet the other Army
 Lady Smith with love to you all
 tell Sarah & Annie I hope they are both in
 the best of health. Your sincere friend
 G. Smith

... 495 Spr Harrison T.E.
 11th Field Company
 Royal Engineers
 Orange River
 South Africa
 November 21st. 11. 99

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Wood

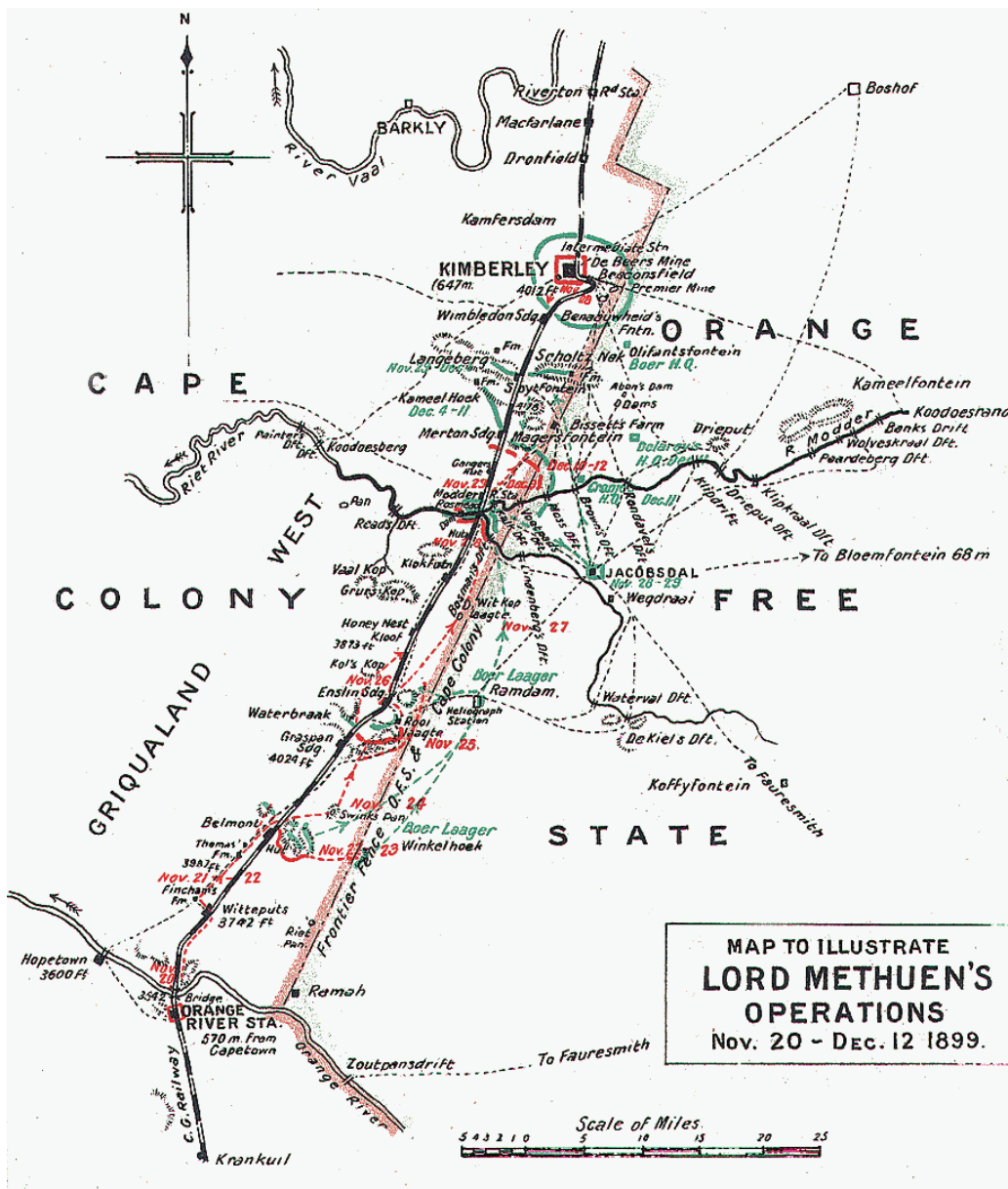
Just a line to let you know I am still in the land of the living.
 Charlie came from De Aar today ready for the fight. We start
 off tonight at 10 O'clock that is our orders. We had a ... too the
 other day got a Colonel killed and ... and a few privates and two
 sappers of the Telegraph Battalion made prisoners. I cannot say
 when Charlie will shift from Orange River they have to wait
 further orders. You must excuse me for not calling when home.
 I forget to call at many places but I quite forgot it so you must
 excuse me you see my ... is expired but still have to The
 British expect to fly the British flag on Pretoria Christmas Day.
 We go to Belmont and from there to Kimberley to meet the other
 Army Lady Smith. With love to you all tell Sarah I hope
 they all in the best of health.

Your Sincere Friend



ROYAL ENGINEERS (TELEGRAPH DIVISION), SOUTH AFRICAN FIELD FORCE AT ORANGE RIVER.

St. Martin's-Le-Grand, Volume X, 1900. p. 263.



With the “Telegraph Squad” in Besieged Kimberley

Early in October last a number of armed Free State burghers were observed hovering about in the vicinity of Kimberley, but within their own border, which is but four miles from the Kimberley Market Square and runs very close to the “Premier” diamond mine. On the 7th October a review was held of the defence forces of the town. As the troops marched past the town hall they were cheered lustily by the great crowd of spectators. The “town guard,” composed of citizens of all ages, sizes and grades, came in for the greatest amount of cheering. This section of the defence force numbered about 2,000. It has, however, been considerably augmented since the day of the review.

The telegraph wires were cut between Maribogo and Mafeking on the 12th October about 3 p.m., and we knew that the war had begun. On the same day an armoured train proceeding from Vryburg to Mafeking toppled over a culvert which had been

destroyed by the Boers, and after a brisk fight the men inside it were forced to surrender. Fifteen were taken prisoners; the engine driver escaped. Two of the men were wounded, and one died the following day from scalds received after the engine boiler had been struck by a shell. (...)

Tuesday, 21st November. - Not much shelling lately. The last we heard from the Boers in the way of bombardment was on Saturday. It is generally believed that many of them are trekking south to oppose the advance of the relief column. We continue our sorties and reconnaissances, which seem to worry the Boers considerably, and probably prevent them from drawing closer in. We have “scraps” (a term used by the regulars for a fight) almost every day within a mile or two of the town. The Boers made a boast that they would have possession of Kimberley two weeks after the war started, and intended arranging their commissariat from here, as well as drinking our beer and whisky. They have made a miserable show so far. Every little engagement we have

had has been forced upon them by our men, who go out to attack. (...)

Saturday, 25th November. - (...) Instructions were issued to-day that all searchlights are to play in the direction of the relief column for two minutes every half-hour throughout the night. It is cloudy to-night and the effect is very weird. A long stream of brilliant light shoots out into the darkened sky, whitening the lowering clouds. Another light appears, streams away towards the south, then moves hither and thither, crossing and re-crossing the path of the first. Then others stream out, search here and there, up and down, to right, to left, like great uncanny eyes looking in vain for something that is lost. Here, there is darkness for a moment, then brilliant light; and so the search goes on until two minutes have expired, when all the lights are hurried down on to the floors, leaving a darkness that can almost be felt. (...)

Monday, 27th November. - (...) We received a couple of messages from the relief column tonight. They are using lime light, and flash the signals up over the kopjes which intervene between this and Modder River. The column is evidently some little distance south of Modder River. A couple of complimentary messages were signalled from the column, and we were asked to be ready for more messages two hours afterwards; but we could not get them again. I do not know why, but probably the lime-light apparatus had got out of gear, for we saw that attempts were being made at signalling, but the light was too faint. (...)

Monday, 11th December. - We were awakened early by the booming of distant guns to the South. This was no doubt the relief column engaging the Boers. I hastened to the conning tower, but could see little and that little only smoke. To judge from the continuous dull roar the cannonading must have been terrific. As the morning wore on we could plainly distinguish a balloon floating close to the scene of battle, which was near Spytfontein, about 12 or 13 miles away. The firing was first heard at 4 a.m.; it continued without a moment's cessation until 9 a.m., when it slackened off gradually and at 10 o'clock ceased altogether. We saw the balloon travel along slowly from our right to left and then disappear. I noticed many a blanched face as I made my way through the streets that morning. We knew that the positions had not been taken, for if they had, the relieving force would have established heliographic communication with us from the kopjes which are plainly visible from Kimberley. (Note. - We learned later on that this was the battle of Magersfontein, in which 831 of our men were killed and wounded.)

During the afternoon the Boers turned their heliograph on to us and informed us in Dutch that our Relief Column had been cut up. We signalers - Loyal Lancashires and Telegraphists - want to get hold of the man who sent that message. He has, on many occasions, bid us "Good morning," and asked "Have you any whiskey there?" "Have you any food in Kimberley?" and such like questions, which we do not answer. We want to have a personal interview with him badly. (...)

Saturday, 13th January. - Heliographic communication established with Relief Column this afternoon. Eggs have been selling at 21/- per dozen. (...)

Thursday, 18th January. - We struck a Boer heliograph which said: "We are the Royal Artillery at Modder *Rivier*" - note the

Rivier. We didn't swallow that! (...)

Thursday, 15th February. - (...) Things grew strangely quiet soon after midday. 'The Boers knew more than we did at this time! General French with a flying column was approaching Kimberley; at about half past two we saw a cloud of dust in the far distance; shortly afterwards a message flashed the words, "Look out for us on the next ridge." The cloud drew nearer. Again came the thrilling message to look out on the *next* ridge. We can see dust in many directions, clouds of dust rising high in the air all round us. The Boers are clearing, leaving in a hurry. Carts and horses are seen to be careering over the veldt from the enemy's positions; presently the cloud of dust rises on the nearest ridge. We can see lines upon lines of mounted men. On they come! See them rush over the fort to the west of Susanna Kop, so lately vacated by the Boers!

Presently I see a white line of smoke, that looks like steam, rushing through the air and into the Boer position; they tell me it is lyddite, Some shells burst over Susanna, and the flying column turns slightly to the left and makes its way hitherward. Crowds of people gather on the debris heaps and other prominent positions to watch the column as it comes in. Flags are going up already; cabs and carts are rushing down to Beaconsfield to see the men come in. We are away from the spot and cannot hear anything; but I can imagine the cheering, of the crowds down at Beaconsfield, and I want to throw my hat high into the air and shout out a lonely cheer for very joy. But the officer in charge up above in the tower might object, so I restrain myself, although positively gurgling with delight.

They say the mobility of the Boer forces is marvellous. It is! They say that every man is his own general. So he is! I fancy I can see every one of the generals leaving for home in a hurry. "Huis toe" is the cry, and each one spurs and sjamboks his horse to try and get there first. No attempt was made to oppose French's advance. The Boers have gone; the siege is raised; and the relief, so long looked for, has come at last. We have been besieged for 124 days. We have had a rough time of it, and most of us are thinner than we were. But, now at last we are free!

From J.E. Symons. With the "Telegraph Squad" in Besieged Kimberley.

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Selected South African Postage Rates

by Richard Barnett

The following is offered with the hope that it will ad to our collective knowledge of South African postage rates. The compiler is well aware that the listing is incomplete and will appreciate corrections and additions at richdiane@tesco.net. The Editor received this summary some time ago, but have by now forgotten the detailed circumstances and apologizes to all involved.

				Airmail	Surface
Start	End	From	To		
1914/12/24		SA	France		2½d for first oz. (Note 2)
1927/01/03		SA	Germany		1½d Postcard (Note 2)
1929/04/10		SA	Germany		3d for first oz. (Note 2)
1929/04/16		SA	Canada		2d for first oz. plus 4d reg. fee. (Note 2)
1929/08/26		SA	SA	4½d per ½oz. (Note 2)	
1929/08/30		SA	SA	1/1d per ½oz. (Note 2)	
1930/01/23		SA	Australia	6d per ½oz. (Note 2)	
1930/11/14	1931/07/23	SA	UK	6d per ½oz. (Note 2)	
1932/??/??		SA	Kenya	6d per ½oz. (Note 2)	
1932/??/??		SA	SA	4d per ½oz. (Note 2)	
1932/02/06		SA	UK	10d per ½oz. (Note 2)	
1932/05/03	1936/??/??	SA	Germany, Holland, Austria, France	1/- per ½oz. (Note 2)	
1932/06/24		SA	USA		3d for first oz. (Note 2)
1932/08/23	1933/10/24	SA	UK	1/- per ½oz. (Note 2)	
1933/04/07		SA	Austria		3d for first oz. (Note 2)
1933/11/12		SA	UK		2d for first oz. (Note 2)
1935/08/09		SA	Rhodesia	4d per ½oz. (Note 2)	
1936/04/18		SA	USA	1/3 per ½oz. (Note 2)	
1937/07/01	1939/09/05	SA	UK	An all-up rate (all letters by airmail) of 1½d per ½oz.	
1937/11/21		SA	Germany		3d for first oz. (Note 2)
1937/12/24		SA	UK		1½d for first oz. (Note 2)
1938/10/31		SA	USA		3d for first oz. (Note 2)
1940/08/12		SA	UK		1½d for first oz. (Note 2)

1941/07/04		SA	USA	2/6d (Note 2)	
1943/12/25		SA	UK		3d for first oz. (Note 2)
1945/11/22		SA	UK		2d for first oz. (Note 2)
1946/??/??		SA	UK	6d per ½ oz. (Note 2)	
1946/05/23		SA	Germany	7½d per ½ oz., via the UK. (Note 2)	
1946/06/12		SA	USA	2/6d per ½ oz. (Note 2)	
1947/02/17		SA	Uganda		2d for first oz. plus 4d reg. fee. (Note 2)
1947/04/20		SA	Israel	10d per ½ oz. (reg). (Note 2)	
1947/05/??	1948/05/28	SA	Germany	1/- per ½ oz. (Note 2)	
1947/10/21	1948/??/??	SA	Germany	2/- per ½ oz. (Note 2)	
1949/12/17		SA	USA	1/6 per ½ oz. (Note 2)	
1951/05/05		SA	Italy	3/4d per ½ oz. (reg) (Note 2)	
1951/06/06		SA	Germany	1/- per ½ oz. (Note 2)	
1952/04/03		SA	SA		6d for first oz. (Note 2)
1952/09/06	1952/11/06	SA	Australia	1/6d per ½ oz. (Note 2)	
1953/??/??		SA	USA	2/3d per ½ oz. (Note 2)	
1953/09/06		SA	Australia	2/- per ½ oz. (Note 2)	
1955/02/27		SA	USA	1/3d aerogram (Note 2)	
1959/09/29		SA	UK		1½d for first oz. (Note 2)
1959/12/24		SA	UK	1/3d per ½ oz. (Note 2)	
1960/07/06		SA	SA		4d for first oz. (Note 2)
1961/02/14		SA	Rhodesia		2½c for first oz., 1c for ea. extra oz.
1961/02/14	Currency converted to decimal				
1961/02/14		SA	Foreign		5c for first oz., 3½c for ea. extra oz..
1962/??/??	1963/07/24	SA	SA		2½d for first oz. (Note 2)
1962/05/03		SA	SA		7½c per first oz. (reg) (Note 2)
1971/01/01		SA	Rhodesia	5c per 10g.	4c up to 40g. 6c up to 100g. 10c up to 250g.
1971/04/01		SA	Foreign		5c for first 20g. 3½c for ea. extra 20g.
1971/07/01		SA	Foreign		9c up to 20g.

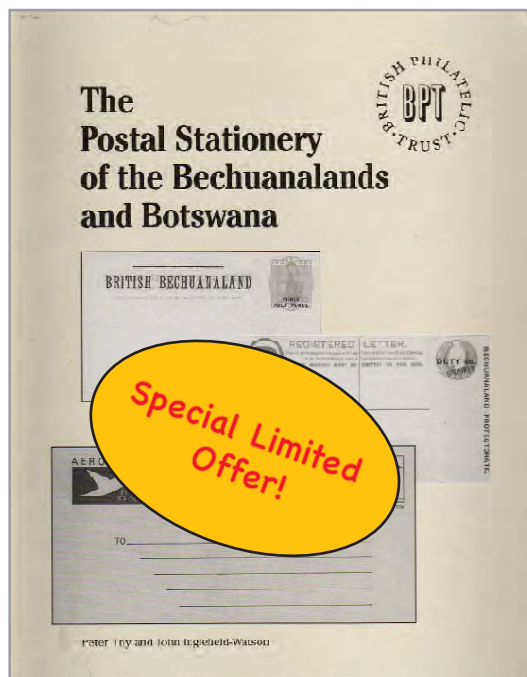
1976/01/01		SA	Foreign		10c up to 20g.
1976/01/01		SA	Rhodesia	7c per 10g	5c up to 50g. 8c up to 100g. 13c up to 250g.
1980/02/01		SA	Zimbabwe		7c up to 50g. 15c up to 100g. 25c up to 250g.
1981/01/01		SA	Foreign		15c up to 20g.
1981/01/01		SA	Zimbabwe	15c per 10g.	10c up to 50g. 25c up to 100g. 50c up to 250g.
1988/05/20		SA	SA		8c up to 20g. (Note 2)
2002/09/00	2002/09/17	SA	Foreign	Small letters R3.30 (Note 1) Medium R12.00 Large R21.00	Small letters R2.80 (Note 1) Medium R9.00 Large R14.00
2003/02/15	2003/02/19	SA	UK - (Foreign)	Small R3.30 (Note 2)	
2003/05/13	2004/01/14	SA	UK	Small R3.80 (Note 2)	
2004/03/10	2005/03/31 Possible last day	SA	UK - (Foreign)	Small R4.00 (Note 2)	
2005/06/07	2005/11/26	SA	UK - (Foreign)	Small R4.25 (Note 2)	

Note 1: Small letters - up to 120 x 235 x 5 mm, up to 50g.
Medium letters - up to 176 x 250 x 10 mm, up to 250g.
Large letters - up to 250 x 353 x 30 mm, up to 300g.

Note 2: Rate taken from actual cover.

The Postal Stationery of the Bechuanalands and Botswana

New Distributor



"The Postal Stationery of the Bechuanalands and Botswana' by Peter Thy and John Inglefield-Watson was published in 2004 by the British Philatelic Trust in conjunction with the Bechuanalands & Botswana Society. The Society has now assumed responsibility for distribution of the book, and wishes to make it available for a limited period at a special promotional price, coupled with an optional offer of free Society membership.

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The Bechuanalands & Botswana Society

Early Bechuanaland Protectorate Postmarks

by Peter Thy

The northern part of Bechuanaland, south of the 22nd latitude, was proclaimed a British protectorate on September 30, 1885, following the Warren military expedition. This happened at the same time as the Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland was established further south. The Protectorate was for all practical purposes administrated from Vryburg in British Bechuanaland. The postal services were controlled by the Postmaster-General of British Bechuanaland until 1893 (April 1), when the Cape Colony took over the administration of the postal and telegraph services of both Bechuanalands. The Cape Colony (and later the Union of South Africa) continued in control of the services in the Protectorate after the annexation of British Bechuanaland to

the Cape in 1895 (Nov. 16) and remained in control until 1962, when the Bechuanaland government took over the responsibility and moved the postal headquarter to Lobatsi.

Private postal services were early organized by the London Missionary Society with stations in Kuruman and Hope Fountain near Gubulawayo in Mashonaland. When the Warren Expeditionary Forces withdraw, they left a telegraph line that reached to Molepolole in Bechuanaland. The first organized postal service was a relay Runner Post (Figure 1) established in 1888 between Mafeking and Gubulawayo, primarily to serve the British diplomacy in Mashonaland (John Moffat). The runner post was shortly after replaced by a mule or ox coach service and the telegraph was extended all the way to Mashonaland and further ahead. The rail line soon followed from Vrybury (1890), to Mafeking (1894), and Bulawayo (1897). The telegraph line was relocated to the rail line.

The rail line became the main artery for the postal, economic, and social development of Bechuanaland. Only a few villages of importance are located off the rail (Kanye and Molepolole; Figure 2). Mafeking was the Protectorate administration center located in the Cape Colony (see the British Bechuanaland survey in Forerunners #49). Gubulawayo (or Bulawayo) was the end point of the Runner Post located in Mashonaland. Tuli was a border village located in Mashonaland and therefore not included in this survey. A Runner Post was also established between Lake Ngami and the rail at Palapye. However, since no special cancellers were issued to this service, it is also not covered here.

The 1904 census shows that there were about 120,000 inhabitants in the Protectorate, half of which were under 15 years of age. There were only 1,000 Europeans about 25 % of which were women. We can thus assume that the juvenile part of the European population was small. There is no easy way of estimating the literacy rate of the non-European segment of the population, but it was probably significant smaller that for the Cape (estimated at 20 % or below). The European population in the Protectorate remained below 2,000 until well after World War II.

Because the postal services of the Protectorate were administrated by the British Bechuanaland or Cape services, it are not surprising that postal cancellers issued to postal agencies in the Protectorate have the same characteristics and were issued in the same design as those used further south. In Forerunners #49 (p. 92-100), we surveyed the postal cancellers of British Bechuanand. Here we will continue the survey with a study of the early Protectorate postal cancellers using the same methods and many of the same sources as for British Bechuanaland.

Illustrations of postmarks are either taken from the existing literature or are based on actual covers. Illustrations in the literature are often hand traced from actual items and have typically been redrawn to look better. More recent studies are often based on photocopies or have been produced by tracing. Most modern studies are based on electronically scanned and

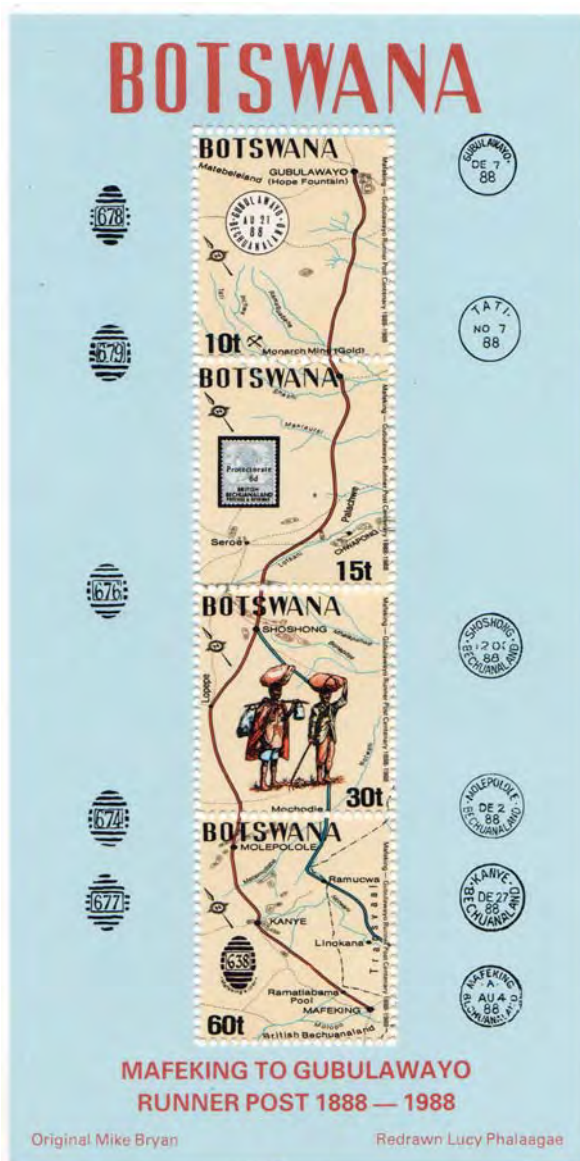


Figure 1. Miniature sheet issued by Botswana Post in 1988 on the occasion of the centenary of the Mafeking-Gubulawayo Runner Post. The sheet illustrates the eastern and western routes of the Runner Post.

lifted postmarks from the background, such as stamp or envelope. The result is that many illustrations of cancellers may not be accurate in the details. A good example of this is an illustration from Knight and Mitchell (1984) shown in Figure 3. Despite being obviously very different, the two cancellers are actually



Figure 3. Two illustrations of the 'same' cancel. The first was electronically lifted from a cover, the second was traced and redrawn from an original postmark and used by Knight and Mitchell (1984).

Gubulawyo/Bulawayo

The Gubulawyo office was the end point of the Runner Post organized in 1888 between Mafeking and Gubulawyo by John Moffat. The office was thus under Bechuanaland control until May 15, 1894, when BSAC took over administration of Matabeleland. The first postmaster was Rev. C.D. Helms at Hope Fountain. The postmark inscribed 'BECHUANALAND' is thought to have been modified before arriving in Gubulawyo in order not to meddle into the conflict between Chief Lobengula of Matabeleland and

Chief Khama of Bamangwato. The first postmark used thus had 'BECHUANALAND' removed from the base. The only existing strike of the full cancel was probably done at Vryburg as a favor to collectors on Aug. 21, 1888 before the canceller was despatched north. In 1895, the BULUWAYO/MATABELELAND canceller arrived and replaced the old Runner Post cancel (later replaced by a cancel with the spelling 'BULAWAYO'). (Figure 4.)

BONC.678: Known used between Nov. 10, 1888, and Dec. 24, 1895.

SC.BECHUANALAND.GUBULAWAYO: Known used on Aug. 21, 1888, only.

SC.empty.GUBULAWAYO: Known used between Nov. 10, 1888, and June 11, 1895.

SC.MATABELELAND.BULUWAYO: Known used from Mar. 22, 1895.



Figure 4. Gubulawyo postal cancellers.



Figure 2. Summary map of the early Bechuanaland Protectorate. Shown are runner post, coach, and rail mail routes.

Tati

The Tati office was opened in connection with the Runner Post organized by John Moffatt in Aug. 1888. Prior to arrival of the postal canceller in Sept. 1888, the postmaster, Samuel Edwards, or later A.S. Kirby, canceled stamps in manuscript. The postmark sequence at Tati is very similar to that seen for Gubulawayo. The first canceller was inscribed 'BECHUANALAND' and has only been seen used on Aug. 21, 1888. Because the sovereignty of the Tati District was disputed, 'BECHUANALAND' was removed from the canceller probably before it reached Tati. A regular postal office was opened in 1893, but was transferred to Francistown at the rail line in July 1897. The office was under British South Africa Company administration from May 15, 1894 (canceller inscribed MATABELELAND). A canceller with removed location is known to exist and was probably used at Francistown after the transfer to the rail line. Several BONC cancellers have been suggested to have been used at Tati (and later at Francistown) (551, 557, 638, 679), but only BONC 679 has been confirmed. (Figure 5.)

BONC.679: Known used from 1890 and until July 31, 1897. Probably used at Tati until transferred to Francistown in July 1897.

SC.BECHUANALAND.TATI: Known used on Aug. 21, 1888, only.

SC.empty.TATI: Known used between Nov. 7, 1888, and July 1, 1894.

SC.MATABELELAND.TATI: Known used between May 19, 1895, to June 11, 1897.

SC.MATABELELAND.removed: See Francistown.



Figure 5. Tati postal cancellers.

Francistown/Francistown

The Tati post office was relocated to Francistown during July 1897 when the rail bypassed Tati. The office was under BSAC administration until July 1, 1898, when it passed to the Bechuanaland postal services. The spelling of 'Francistown' as 'Francestown' was an error. Some Tati cancellers may have been used at Francistown until the arrival of the canceller inscribed 'S. AFRICA' at the base. (Figures 6 and 7.)

BONC.95: Known to have been used in Francistown between Apr. 18, 1899, and June 26, 1900.

BONC.679: Probably transferred from Tati to Francistown in July 1897.

SC.MATABELELAND.removed: Known used between Aug. 31, 1897, and Apr. 4, 1898.

SC.S.AFRICA.FRANDESTOWN: Known used between Sept. 6, 1897, and May 4, 1915.

SC.BECHD PROTEC.FRANDESTOWN: Known used between Nov. 11, 1902, and Sept. 13, 1921.

A canceller similar to the 'FRANDESTOWN/S.AFRICA' canceller, but with smaller lettering and with the date in three lines is known to be a forgery by Fournier.



Figure 6. Francistown postal cancellers.

Macloutsi/Macloutsie

A postal agency was opened at Macloutsie during June 1891, just after the arrival of the telegraph line. The office was shortly thereafter upgraded to post office and J.E. Symons appointed in December as postmaster. In Sept. 1892, Symons accepted a job as postmaster in Vryburg and Lance Corporal Pearson was appointed as postmaster just prior to the downgrading to postal agency. The agency was closed Jan. 1, 1904, but the telegraph office remained open until 1917/18. (Figures 8 and 9.)

BONC.968: Known used between Dec. 31, 1891, and Mar. 15, 1897.

SC.star.MACLOUTSI: Known used between Jun. 10, 1891, and Sept. 4, 1899.

SC.empty.MACLOUTSIE: Known used between Oct. 25, 1892, and Sept. 10, 1900.

A postmark reading 'MACLOUTSIE STATION/BBP' was illustrated by Dann and also by Holmes. There is no definitive evidence that this canceller was ever used. It is possible, but not likely, that it can have been prepared around 1897 for Macloutsie Siding along the rail where this crosses the Macloutsie River.



Figure 8. Macloutsie postal cancellers.



Figure 7 Cover from Francistown to London showing the 'FRANCESTOWN' canceller. Used September 16, 1898, after Bechuanaland resumed responsibility for the postal services in the Tati District.



Figure 9. 'Northumberland House' Captain Sitwell's headquarter at Macloutsie around 1892. Source unknown, here reproduced from Proud (1996, p. 314).

Shoshong

The office was established in Aug. 1888 in connection with the Runner Post to Gubulawayo. During 1889 and 1890, Shoshong was abolished due to insufficient water supply and inhabitants and institutions were transferred to Palachwe (Palapye). It is uncertain whether the SHOSHONG/BECHUANALAND canceller was used at Palachwe, however, BONC 676 is known to have been transferred to Palapye when the postal office was moved to the rail line. (Figure 10.)

BONC.676: Known used on Oct. 12, 1888. Later used at Palachwe/Palapye.
SC.BECHUANALAND.SHOSHONG: Known used between Oct. 12, 1888, and Sept. 5, 1890.



Figure 10. Shoshong postal cancellers.

Molepolole

Postal office may have been established at Molepolole in 1888 in connection the Runner Post to Gubulawayo. (Figures 11 and 12.)

BONC.674: Known between Dec. 31, 1888, and Mar. 1, 1921.
SC.BECHUANALAND.MOLEPOLOLE: Known used between Apr. 27,



Figure 11. Molepolole postal cancellers.



Figure 12. Molepolole canceller on block of nine.

Kanye

Kanye was the end point of the telegraph line erected during the Warren Expedition. A postal office was established later in connection with the Runner Post in Aug. 1888. (Figure 13.)

BONC.677: Known between Dec. 31, 1888, and 1898.
SC.BECHUANALAND.KANYE: Known used between Aug. 6, 1890, and Feb. 22, 1926.



Figure 13. Kanye postal cancellers.

Palachwe/Palapye

The postal office was established in 1890 at what was later known as Palapye Village. Chief Karma's capital at Shoshong was moved to Palachwe around 1889 and 1890. The canceller inscribed 'KHAMAS TOWN' was used at the transferred office. The SHOSHONG canceller may in addition have been used at Palachwe that around 1893 was renamed to Palapye. When the rail line reached the area, the main part of Palapye was moved to the rail and the previous town was referred to as Palapye Village. The new town was generally referred as Palapye or specifically Palapye Station. (Figures 14 and 15.)

BONC.676: Known used between Apr. 18, 1891, and Dec. 22, 1897, at Palapye Village after being transferred from Shoshong.
BONC.1052: Known used between Jan 24, 1897, and July 24, 1897.
SC.KHAMAS TOWN.PALACHWE: Known used between Sept. 18, 1890, and May 7, 1898.
SC.empty.PALAPYE: Known used between June 10, 1893, and June 20, 1894.
SC:dot.PALAPYE: Known used between Apr. 28, 1897, and June 23, 1902.
SC.B.P.PALAPYE STATION: Known used between May 28, 1897, and Mar. 24, 1906.



Figure 14. Palapye/Palachwe postal cancellers.



Figure 15. Palapye Post Office around 1895?. Source unknown, here reproduced from Proud (1996, p. 332).

Magalapye/Mahalapye

The office was established in Feb. 14, 1898, shortly after arrival of the rail. (Figure 16.)

SC.C.G.H MAHALAPYE SIDING: Known used between July 17, 1898, and Apr. 13, 1918.

SC.B.B.P.MAGALAPYE: Known used between May 22, 1914, and July 23, 1918.



Figure 16. Mahalapye postal cancellers.

Palla

The office was opened in May 1893. A canceller with 'PALLA ROAD' and 'SOUTH AFRICA' used on Jul 18, 1900, was described in Harmers sale of the Holmes collection (lot 1419), but no illustration is known to exist. (Figure 17.)

BONC.758: Known used between June 5, 1895, and June 6, 1896.

SC.empty.PALLA (narrow): Known used between Feb. 28, 1894, and Jul 22, 1896.

SC.empty.PALLA (wide): Known used between Feb. 28, 1894, and July 18, 1897.

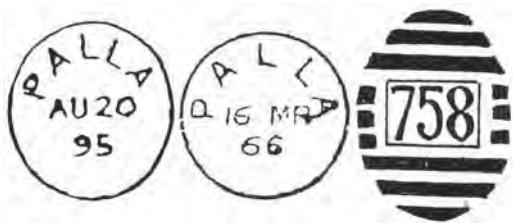


Figure 17. Palla postal cancellers.

Mochudi/Muchuli

The office was established in 1889 perhaps in connection with the eastern route of the Runner Post. No canceller is however known to have been used prior to 1894, consistent with the listed opening date by Putzel. (Figure 18.)

BONC.390: Known used between Dec. 12, 1894, and Sept. 1, 1899.

SC.B.B.MOCHUDI: Known used between March 13, 1895, and Dec. 15, 1921.

SC.empty.MOCHULI: Known used between Nov. 25, 1895, and Nov. 7, 1897.



Figure 18. Mochudi postal cancellers.

Crocodile Pools

The office was opened as a telegraph office along the rail south of Gaberones in 1897 and had a short history during the Boer war. The canceller was often used on letter gone by the biweekly northern runner route from besieged Mafeking. (Figures 19 and 20.)

DC.SOUTH AFRICA.CROCODILE POOLS: Known used between Dec. 12, 1899, and Dec. 17, 1901.



Figure 19. Crocodile Pools postal canceller.



Figure 20. Mafeking cover mailed during the 1900 siege and transit cancelled at Crocodile Pools of the northward mail route from besieged Mafeking.

Gaberones

Gaberones was opened July 1, 1893, as a sub-postoffice with K.A. Leahy as postmaster. Gaberones Station was open at the rail when it reached the area in June 1, 1897. The original office is invariably referred to as Gaberones Village despite that 'village' was first used on postmarks in 1921. (Figure 21.)

BONC.568: Known used between Dec. 1890 and Aug. 24, 1895.

BONC.1000: Only listed by Proud as having been used at Gaberones. Known used Sept. 23, 1904.

BONC.1145: Listed by Holmes as having been used at Gaberones. Listed by Frescura and Nethersole as having been used at Gaberones on May 15, 1921.

SC.BP.GABERONES: Known used between Apr. 21, 1900, and Jan. 2, 1921.

SC.BBP.GABERONES: Known used between June 27, 1893, and Aug. 23, 1899. 'B.B.P.' likely stands for 'British Bechuanaland Protectorate' and not 'Bechuanaland Border Police.'

SC.empty.GABERONES: Known used between Oct. 14, 1892, and Nov. 24, 1895.

SC.BB.GABERONES STATION: Known used between Mar. 10, 1890 and Mar. 2, 1914.



Figure 21. Gaberones postal cancellers.

Ramoutsa

The office was opened in 1891. Occupied by Boer forces between 1899 and 1900. (Figure 22.)

BONC.836: Known used between Dec. 31, 1895, and Jan. 17, 1895.

SC.B.P.RAMOUTSA: Known used between Oct. 13, 1891, and Sept. 1, 1918.

SC.star.RAMOUTSA: Known used between Feb. 5, 1891, and June 4, 1899.

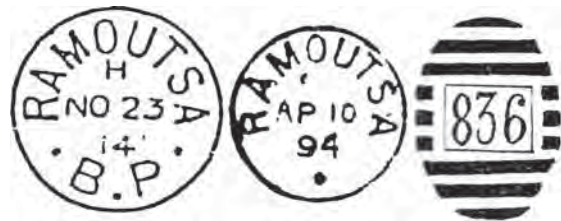


Figure 22. Ramoutsa postal cancellers.

Outsi/Ootsi

The office was opened in 1896 on the rail line north of Lobatsi. Was occupied by Boers intermittently during 1899-1901 and had the station and telegraph destroyed. An 'ARMY TELEGRAPHS' canceller has been reported to have been used at Outsi. (Figure 23.)

SC.C.G.H.OUTSI: Known used without clear date.

DC.SOUTH AFRICA.OUTSI: Known used on Apr. 26, 1899.

Probably a telegraphic canceller, similar to that used at Crocodile Pools.

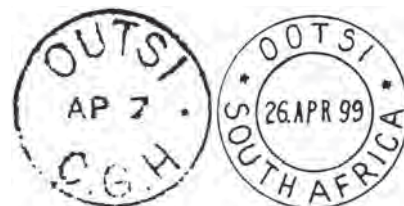


Figure 23. Outsi postal cancellers.

Lobatsi

Lobatsi was opened in 1896 as a telegraph office at the rail line and a postal office added in 1897. (Figures 23 and 24.)

BONC.1003: Known used between Jan. 19, 1897, and Sept. 29, 1899.

BONC 1159: Known used between Oct. 23, 1900, and Sept. 15, 1901.

SC.BP.LOBATSI: Known used between Oct. 23, 1900, and

Aug. 29, 1918. The earliest date added in manuscript.

SC.SOUTH AFRICA.LOBATSI RS: Known used between June 1, 1896, and Sept. 29, 1899. 'R.S.' likely stands for 'rail station.'



Figure 23. Lobatsi postal cancellers.

Sandpits

The office was opened around 1895. The location is uncertain, but was probably located in Bechuanaland Protectorate just north of Mafeking. (Figure 25.)

BONC.669. Known used between Dec. 15, 1895, and July 24, 1896.

SC.B.B.SANDPITS: Known used between Dec. 15, 1895, and May 24, 1896.



Figure 25. Sandpits postal cancellers.

Pitsani

The office was opened in 1898. Occupied by Boer forces during 1899-1900. (Figure 26.)

BONC.1014: Known used between Sept. 10, 1898, and Oct. 15, 1898.

SC.S'AFRICA.PITSANI: Known used between June 19, 1898, and Apr. 14, 1999.



Figure 24. Part of registration envelope cancelled with BONC 1003 at Lobatsi Rail Station.



Figure 26. Pitsani postal cancellers.

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Filling Putzel's Gaps

by Ashley Cotter-Cairns

Three items sold recently by Ashley Cotter-Cairns on eBay have filled some gaps in the Putzel encyclopaedias.

The first up is Mill Street (Figure 1). The somewhat tatty postcard bears a MILL STREET CDC. According to Putzel, Mill Street was first listed in 1913 (spelled in Afrikaans), so this card predates that office by at least six years and is very clearly in English!

Next mystery item is Queen Street, Port Elizabeth (Figure 2). This postcard was used in 1907, long after the office was supposed to have closed for the third time in 1905 and five years before its apparent re-opening in 1912!

Finally comes a very rare office, Witwatersraand (Figure 3). This transit mark was used in 1889, two years after Putzel says it disappears from the Transvaal PO guide.



Figure 1. Mill Street.



Figure 2. Queen Street.

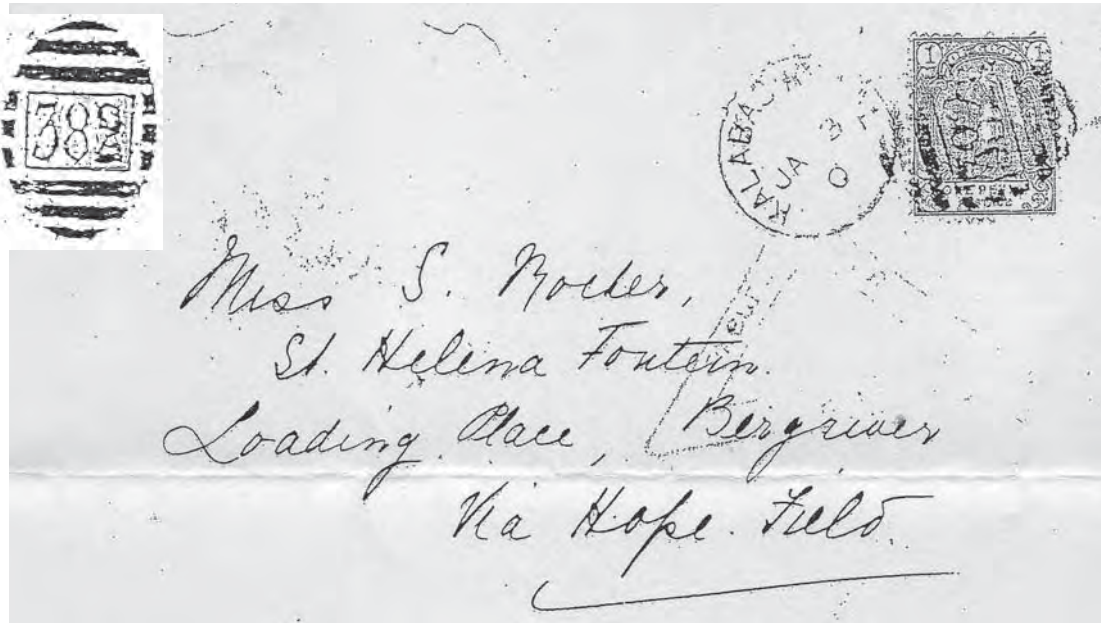


Figure 3. Witwatersraand at right.

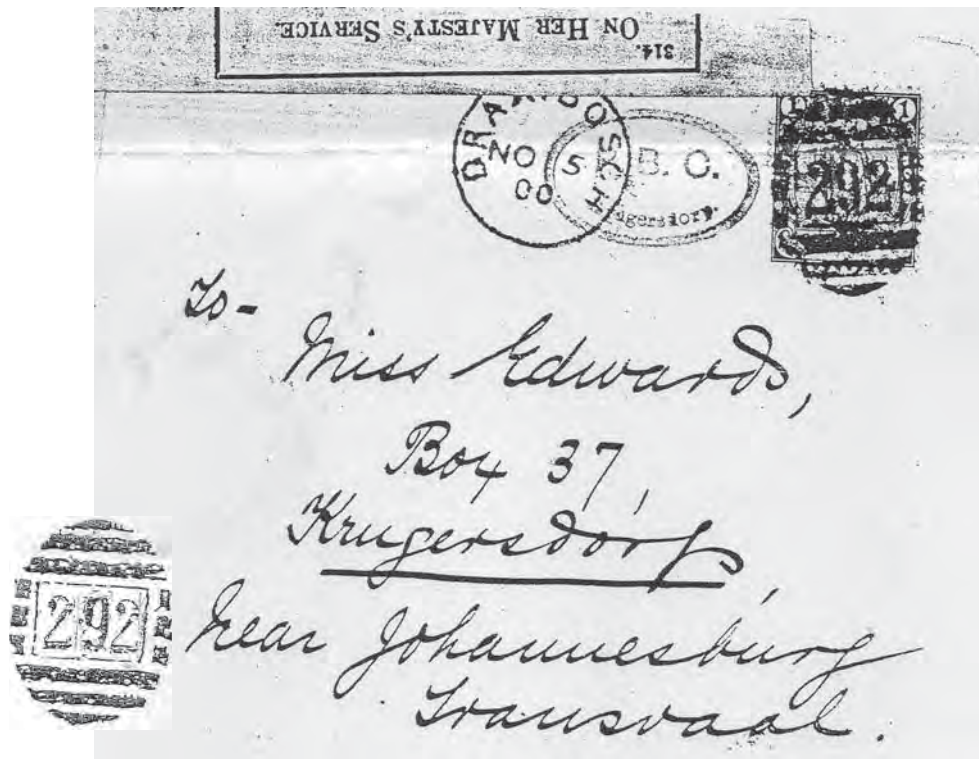
Postmarks enlarged to 150 % of the originals.

New and Old Postmark Discoveries

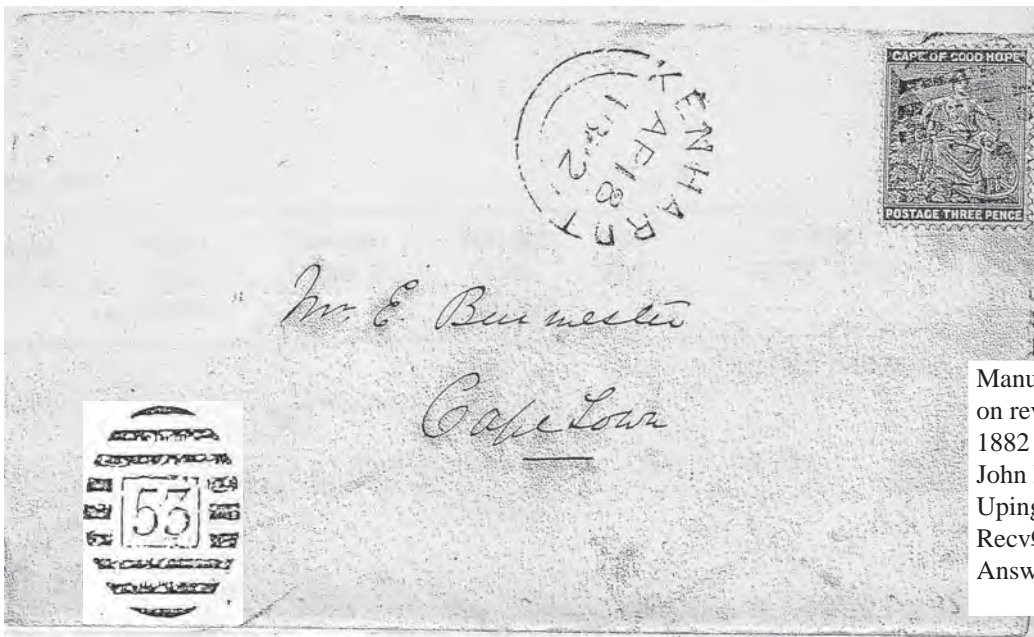
by Werner Seeba



Proving cover for BONC 382: 1902 cover to St. Helena Fontain, Bergriver, cancelled Kalabas Kraal and BONC 382. Weak triangular censor handstamp beneath stamp. Kalabas Kraal is located on the railway southwest of Malmesbury. The reverse shows Malmesbury CGH (JA 3 02) and Hopefield (JA 6 02) cancellers. Frescura (2002) lists BONC 382 as having been used at Kalabas Kraal between 1890 and 1902 (Oct. 1).



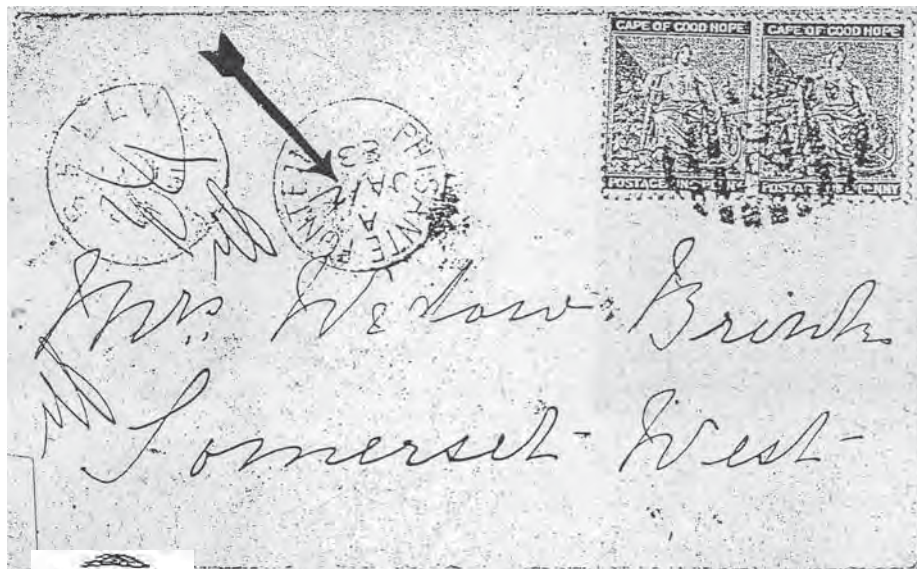
Proving cover for BONC 292: 1900 cover from Draaibosch to the Transvaal. Cancelled Draaibosch (NO 5 00) and BONC 292. Opened under Martial Law tape. This location for BONC 292 is not listed by Frescura and Nethersole. (1991) or by Frescura (2002).



Manuscript inscription
on reverse:
1882
John H. Scott
Uppington 10/4
Recvd 25/4
Answd

Proving cover for BONC 53: 1882 cover to E. Burmeister of Cape Town. It is canceled by Kenhardt (AP 18 1882) and BONC 53. Cape Town receiving canceller on reverse (AP 24 82). Burmeister wrote the receiving details on the reverse of the cover indicating that the letter originated at Uppington. See Forerunners #56 for an article about Burmeister of Cape Town.

John A. Scott owned a small trading store in Uppington established probably as early as 1876. At that time the settlement was known as Olyvenhouts Drift. A postal agency was established at the trading station in 1882 with Mrs. E.A. Scott as the postal agent. She run the agency until Feb, 1886. By March 1886, the office was upgraded to head office for the Gordonia Province. Mr. Hohn Davies was appointed as postmaster, but was shortly after replaced by Mr. C.J. Bam. The BONC 53 could have been issued to Uppington, however, since BONC 429 was used at Uppington this is perhaps not likely (see Forerunners #49). The settlement was renamed Uppington after the 1844-1898 Prime Minister of the Cape Colony, Sir Thomas Uppington.



Proving cover for BONC 52: Cover used from Phisantefontain to Somerset West. Canceled by Phisantefontain (JA 12 83, day in manuscript) and BONC 52.

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	57/69	error	57/59	OAT marking	58/108	56/9	T mark	56/15
Bechuanaland Border Police	58/110	exhibiting	56/13	octagonal	56/10	58/111	Talbot, J.	58/88
Bechuanaland National Airways	56/36		57/62	Orange Free State	56/37	57/51	tax mark	56/15
	58/110	EXPONET	56/35	Orange River Station	57/64	58/111		56/31
Bechuanaland Protectorate	58/95	forgery	56/35		57/67	56/32	TB label	57/69
			56/37		58/88	57/48	telegram form	57/57
Birkland, H.	57/72		58/110	OVS	56/32	58/111	Thy, P.	56/27
Bloemfontain	58/82	Frescura, F.	56/21	page making	57/62	58/109		56/34
BONC	58/95	good-fors	57/48	Pan African Postal Union	56/35	57/71	Rhodesia and Nyasaland	58/111
	58/110	Groenevald, J.	57/72	Pelteret, R.	56/29	56/31	Rhodesian Study Circle	58/109
book review	57/44	Hanks, A.	57/50		56/32	57/71	Robin, P.	57/71
	57/70	hospital surtax	56/32		56/37	56/31	Roman T mark	57/63
	58/108	Hurst, B.	56/20		57/64	58/110	Rorke's Drift	57/70
Botswana	56/27	hut tax	56/38		58/82	58/88	Royal Engineers	58/95
	56/34	Imperial Airways	57/52		57/48	57/72	Rustenberg	57/72
	56/37	Imperial Reply Coupon	57/71	perforation error	57/59	56/26	Ryan, J.	58/108
	57/70	Inglesfield-Watson, J.	58/107	Pierron's catalogue	58/110	57/73		58/111
	58/110	international reply coupon	57/51	Plumstead	56/21	56/4	sale lists	58/107
	58/111	IRC	57/51	Post Office Stone	56/38	57/72	Sandilands, J.	58/112
British Bechuanaland	56/20	Kalahari	57/44	postage due study group	58/108	57/52	Sanford, K.	57/71
	58/110	KGVI Coronation	57/73	Postage Stamp Mega-Event	57/44	58/108		58/107
British Central Africa	57/57	Lesotho	57/73		58/80	56/36	Seeba, W.	58/104
Burmeister	56/29	letter rate	56/20	postal marking	58/108	57/74	Setempe	57/74
C7NPLE	57/45	Lodoen, P.	57/44	postal order	56/37	56/5	short story	56/5
Camberlain, J.	58/82	Mafeking	57/48	postal rate	56/37	58/79	show report	58/79
canteen token	58/110	Mafeking siege	58/88		58/92	56/3		56/3
Cape of Good Hope	56/10	mail sorting machines	58/109	postal saving book	58/111	57/43	Solly, R.	56/37
	56/21	mail volumes	56/27	postal stationery	57/59	56/37	South Africa Post Office	57/74
	57/59	Malkin, D.	56/37	Postal Union	57/73	58/92	South Africa postal rate	58/92
Cape Town	56/29	Mashonaland Philatelic Society	58/110	posted late	57/50	58/102	South African Philatelist	58/102
censoring	56/33	Methuen, Lord	56/28	postmark	56/9	58/110		58/86
	58/86		57/67		56/10		Wynburg	56/21
ensorship	57/60						Zimbabwe	58/110

Closed Album: John Forbes Inglefield-Watson



Sir John died 80 years old peacefully at home on Wednesday, February 7, 2007, after battling illness for several months.

We often know little about the 'private' life of our philatelic contacts. John was no exception. The little I know is that he was born in 1926 and educated at Eton. He later joined the Royal Engineers and saw active service during World War II in a Northern African desert where he told me that he did solar compass research. He retired from active army service with the rank of Lt. Col. He succeeded in 1986 to the baronetcy of Earnock, Lanark. He was also an active football referee and youth coach through much of his life.

My first contact with John and his trusted typewriter was in 1990. I was in Gaborone teaching petrology and geochemistry at University of Botswana. The late Andy Andersson signed me up to receive the Runner Post and an article caught my interest. I wrote a letter to the author offering some additional pieces of information. The subject is long forgotten, but I got a long nice letter from John thanking me and also elaborating on a subject on which I clearly knew little. This first contact soon led to many more and eventually to our first article in the Runner Post in 1995 on the modern Botswana stampless registration envelopes. Sometime after returning to the US, I received a letter from John suggesting that we should collaborate on writing a checklist of Bechuanaland postal stationery. John had assisted Holmes with the stationery sections in the 1971 book and had subsequently completed a checklist that had never been published. It sounded simple enough to update an existing list – and I accepted the challenge, little knowing that the subject would expand to a major book and that it would take us nearly ten years to complete.

John never embraced the new computer technology and email, despite suggestions that it would have made the work on the book easier. His trusted old manual typewriter served him just as efficiently and just as well, he claimed. He always made me write the first drafts, but had little reservations about rewriting and correcting – often pages of neatly typed suggestions and comments to which he had added handwritten color-coded comments. The fact was that this made it easy to complete the revisions and prepare a new version. Typically, a chapter would cross the Atlantic up to ten times before we were satisfied and could start on the next chapter. There is no doubt that it was John's attention to detail, and his own vast knowledge and exceptional collection that led us to succeed and to decide in 1998 that we had a reasonable draft. During that summer, I had been on a failed marine geology expedition to East Greenland and unexpectedly found myself in Iceland with some extra time to dispose of before my scheduled return flight to US. To make the story short, I met with John in London during STAMPEX and we had a successful talk with representatives of the British Philatelic Trust, who were eventually to publish the book. Later we traveled by train to Hamilton while discussing postal stationery. At his home we went over the whole book in detail and also had time to look at his collection of stationery. A memorable visit to what in my eyes looked like a castle. As you all know, our book was finally published in 2004 after much delay and many proof stages that must have driven the editor nearly crazy and came close to bankrupting the Trust.

It had been a pleasure and a privilege to work with John on the postal stationery project and other subjects. John was the ideal collaborator. In my professional life as a researcher I have still failed to come across anybody with John's ability and dedication. If it were not for his sudden death, I would have volunteered with little hesitation for another project.

John was the pre-eminent Bechuanalands and Botswana collector and scholar of our times. He was always very generous with his time and knowledge and had many friends throughout the philatelic world. He will be missed.

Peter Thy

Society Auction Manager

Since our previous auction manager retired after having managed our society auctions for many years, we have been unable to locate a replacement. A society auction is clearly one of the most important benefits of being a member of a specialist society like PSGSA. The lack of an auction may therefore hurt us in the long run. Traditionally society auctions are done using printed lists that are distributed to members as part of a newsletter or separately. Several specialist societies similar to ours are able to maintain auctions at regular or intermittent intervals. Most of these are done purely using printed auction lists. However, times have changed and emails and web pages have become common and should be considered. If anybody is in for the fun - there is a challenging society board position available. Contact any board member or the editor if you feel the urge and excitement.



Book Reviews

OAT and AV2 Markings, *Third Edition* by Murray Heifetz. Published by the American Air Mail Society, 2007, 167 pages, softcover, 8 1/2 x 11 format.

This 167 page book is the third edition, which provides comprehensive coverage of the O.A.T. and A.V.2 markings. A.V.2 & O.A.T markings related exclusively to airmail items and are known recorded between 1938 and 1974. The book provides a summary of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) procedures for the use of the O.A.T. and A.V.2 markings and shows the forms and tags/labels which were used by postal authorities. Since the second edition, a number of new markings are recorded and some previous assumptions have been modified. The database of markings has almost doubled, resulting in changes to the order of rarity. Main additions are sections on forgeries and facing tags and labels, and modifications to places of marking origins. In marking types there is one new OAT and 10 new A.V.2's. The book is copiously illustrated with all varieties of markings, including many covers with these airmail markings.

The cost is US\$15 plus \$4 domestic postage, from Greg Schmidt, 1978 Fox Burrow Court, Neenah, WI 54956. If ordering for shipment to a country outside the USA, contact Greg first in order to determine shipping charges. Greg's email address is gschmidt7@new.rr.com. Greg accepts PayPal payment from purchasers located outside the USA, provided the PayPal fee of 5% is added.

Ken Sanford

Exploring the Fascinating World of Stamps by the South African Post Office, 2007. Booklet 35 pages. Available from Philatelic Services. Private Bag X505, Pretoria, 0001 South Africa, www.sapo.co.za/.

The South African Post Office has produced an introduction to collecting stamps and postal history for the beginning collector. The chapters include 'what and why,' historical and rare stamps,' educational and creative values,' 'how to start and run a stamp club for children,' 'enhancing quality of life,' 'how to start a collection,' 'selling your collection,' and 'stamp design proposals.' A well produced and well written booklet that is likely to further stamp collecting in South Africa.

Peter Thy

Postage Due Mail Study Group

The Study Group was formed in 1997 to bring together collectors and researchers into one of the most complex fields of postal history. The Study Group's scope is worldwide postage due mail - meaning anything posted without full prepayment - from the time when prepayment became usual until the present day. The influence of the U.P.U. and the interchange of ideas amongst countries, together with the fact that insufficiently pre-paid mail was - and continues to be - a problem faced by all postal administrations, make this a coherent subject.

South African Philatelist



The South African Philatelist is published bimonthly by the Philatelic Foundation of South Africa. The magazine is in full color and printed on glossy paper. Although it primarily appeals to the general collector, it still contains articles of more specialized nature. The most recent issue the Editor has seen (June 2006) includes articles on cinderellas (back of the book), printing of the first definitive stamps of the SA Republic, perfins, airgraphs, and clivias flowers. Any collector of the southern African areas should receive the South African Philatelist. The editor is Alan Rose. The editorial offices can be reached by writing to P.O. Box 131600, Benornyn, 1504 South Africa. The Foundation's membership secretary is Jan Bakker, bakkerexpress@absamail.co.za.

The Study Group publishes an illustrated, quarterly journal in March, June, September and December of each year, averaging 30 pages per issue. The main emphasis is on original articles of lasting value, at all levels of specialization. The subject matter reflects members' interests: items on aspects of British postage due mail appear in most issues, along with at least one article per issue on another country or topic. There has been a strong commitment to material relating to the U.P.U., which in the past had relatively modest exposure in philatelic circles and is relevant to a large proportion of members. Tables of post-

age rates are often included. There are also regular columns for 'Questions & Answers', appeals for help by members undertaking specific research and reviews of useful books or articles published elsewhere. Each quarterly journal is accompanied by a Newsletter, to keep members informed of relevant philatelic events, including forthcoming displays by members, The Study Group's plans, and so on.

Other important activities are the building up of a bibliography and, where possible, a library of published material on postage rates and any aspect of postage due mail (including postage due labels). A postal auction is run twice a year and a circulating packet also operates.

Anyone interested in becoming a member should contact the Membership Officer: Peter Williams, 41, Manvers Road, Childwall, LIVERPOOL, L16 3NP, United Kingdom.

Membership dues for 2007 are as follows: U.K. £8, Europe £9, Rest of World £11. Non-U.K. members are welcome to pay with their personal cheque in their own currency: U.S.\$ 24, CAN\$ 26, AUS\$ 28, NZ\$ 32, HK\$ 175, SING\$ 35, Euro 14. Cheques payable to the Postage Due Mail Study Group should be sent to the Treasurer: John Rawlins, 13, Longacre, CHELMSFORD, CM1 3BJ, United Kingdom.

For the Record

16. Amos Advantage has released their STAMP 2007 PRODUCT GUIDE. Amos Advantage is the publisher of the Scott Catalogue as well as Linn's Stamp News. Visit www.linns.com and www.scottonline.com.

17. Pierron's Online Catalogue contains images, quantities, and values of all recorded modern Great Britain and Commonwealth missing color errors. Claimed to contain 1,400 varieties and 3,000 images. Visit www.errors.info.

18. Congratulations to PSGSA member **Tim Bartshe** who has been elected President of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors.

19. Grosvenor offered the **Sahgal collection of the 1935 Silver Jubilee issues** in 430 lots in their May 2007 auction. This is a well-produced catalogue that will become a major reference source for the issue. Also offered is the second copy of British Bechuanaland overprinted on Great Britain 1s dull green with surcharge 2s and also overprinted 'MAFEKING/BESIEGED' in a serified front. Estimated at £12,000-14,000. Visit www.grosvenorauctions.com.

20. The South African Post Office has produced a small appealing booklet in full color for beginning collectors: **Exploring the Fascinating World of Stamps**. It answers the basic questions and provides information on how to do it.

21. The **South African Post Office** has installed new high-speed, mail sorting machines at the Cape Town, Durban, and Johannesburg mail sorting centers. The machines are Siemens IRV 2000 (integrated reader video) and Siemens FSM (final

sorting machine) machines. The system is reported to be able to sort 40,000 letters per hour with an accuracy of 95 % and to have increased the mail sorting speed by 50 %. The total investment is reported to have been R61 million. From Setempe, January-March 2007.

22. Following the successful introduction of the **Digital Philatelic Exhibition** at the fall 2006 American Stamp Dealers Association Mega-Event in New York City, a second exhibition will be held at the fall 2007 show. Full details and an application form may be obtained from the ASDA website - www.asdaonline.com. The digital exhibits from the fall 2006 Mega-Event can be seen at the ASDA's website - www.asdaonline.com. Contact Edward Grabowski (edgpe2003@yahoo.com), Richard Maisel (rm3@nyu.edu), Colin Fraser (frasers@writeme.com), or Jim Roselle (joroselle@erols.com) for more information.

22. The **Rhodesian Study Circle** has launched a revision of their website. The new site included a very useful forum section (www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk). All users are required to register to post comments in the public areas of the forum. Members of the RSC will by request have access the various sections in the Member's area. Try it out – you will be surprised. Some of the areas open to the general public include Auctions, Admirals, Double heads, Postal history, and British Central Africa, Extremely useful and informative. Kind of site that one easily gets addicted to.



23. The **Rhodesian Study Circle** has posted a MS WORD copy of the updated **Cumulative Index** to the Circle's newsletter. It now covers 1948 to 2006 (Volumes 1-56). Cliff Wheatley has updated Alan Drysdall's index from 1994. It is available from the membership section of the forum on www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk. Non-members may try to contact the Rhodesian Study Circle, c/o Colin Hoffman, 9 Oaker Avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester M20 2XH, UK.

24. Alex Visser (alex.visser@up.ac.za) writes: "Fellow postmark collectors. I have substantially updated the Addenda previously sent out, and have also completed letters H, I, J and XYZ. Many thanks to all the contributors, your assistance is greatly appreciated. Since the volume of material is now more than 50 Mb, although individual file sizes are still less than 5 Mb, I have placed all the files on an FTP site. This means that you can

download what you want and when you want by simply clicking on the web address below, or pasting it into your web browser. I will always keep the latest version in this site, so if you have a hard disk crash you can restore with ease. Please let me know should you encounter problems. Happy postmarking, and let me have the missing items. With kind regards, Alex.

The 24 postmarkfiles can individually be downloaded by replacing the 'X' in the address below with the letter

combinations: A, BA, BE, BI, BO, BR, CA, CAP, CAR, CO, DA, DI, DU, EA, EM, F, GA, GI, GR, HA, HI, I, J, XYZ.

<http://www.up.ac.za/academic/civil/books/AddletterX.pdf>

There is also an explanatory note file at <http://www.up.ac.za/academic/civil/books/EXPLANATORY NOTES.pdf>



Forerunners Forum

Questions, Comments, and Answers

Bechuanaland National Airways

Gary Brown (garyjohn951@optushome.com.au) emails from Australia to offer information on the Bechuanaland aircraft shown in Forerunners # 56 (p. 36). The Bechuanaland National Airways' aircraft is a DC-4 and is shown in Gatwick Airport during July 1966. The aircraft is either A2-ZEA or A2-ZEC (see <http://nl.airliners.net/photos/middle/1/0/9/0451901.jpg>). In the mid-1060 a Captain Gibson formed Bechuanaland National Airways, later Botswana National Airways. Starting with one Dakota, he enlarged the business until it had 2 Dakota's, 2 DC-4, and a presidential aircraft for Sir Seretse Khama, whom he piloted. A2-ZEC later became ZS-FLO. It was registered in the then rebel state of Rhodesia as VP-YTY and is believed to have been destroyed after service.



BONC 637 Used in British Bechuanaland

An illustration of BONC 637 that was used in Taung between 1887 and 1894 has surfaced. When the review in Forerunners was written an illustration was not available on a proving cover.



Bechuanaland Border Police Canteen Token

In Forerunners #54 (page 87), we showed an example of the Bechuanaland Border Police canteen token. Another example has recently surfaced on eBay. This time it is a '3d' token that

again is inscribed '1893.' These tokens are known to exist in four denominations (1d, 3d, 6d, 1s) and are very rare.

Forged Botswana 2t Overprint

Steen Jelsgren from Mochudi of Botswana has emailed to offer an alternative interpretation of the alleged 2t forgery shown in Forerunners # 56 (p. 37). He notes that he recall having seen other similarly overprinted low values of the mineral definitive set offered on eBay in used condition. Steen suggests that it is very conceivably that a few set of the stamps may have been overprinted by the Postal Services as instructional samples for the overprinter (or other purposes). It is plausible that some of these may have been sold to the public and ended up on letters accepted. He thinks that this is plausible based on his extensive experience with how the Botswana Postal Services operates. He points out that anything will be accepted as postage as long as it looks like a stamp.

Steen finally laments the problems facing internet users in Botswana. High-speed internet connection is not yet available in Mochudi where he lives. The available dial-up service now costs him about US \$3 for an hour, a ten-times increase within the past few years.

Zimbabwe's 27th Anniversary

Steve Wells has emailed to draw our attention to BBC's coverage of Zimbabwe's 27th anniversary of independence. You might like to take a look at their web pages: bbc.co.uk/specialreports.

Mashonaland Philatelic Society

Uli Bantz has emailed an electronic copy of the current May-June newsletter from the Mashonaland Philatelic Society. Subjects covered include Dodecanese Islands of the Aegean Sea, the Walther Model and J.A.C. Harrison collections of the British Library, and the temporary suspension of Zimbabwe's 2007 stamp program.

Murder at Rorke's Drift

Somebody has mailed the Editor clippings from the Mail on Sunday (Jan. 28, 2007) detailing the tragic death of David Rattray at his farmhouse at Rorke's Drift, Zululand. David Rattray was a well known historian who had dedicated his life to the Zulu community and the local history of the Anglo-Zulu war. Indeed sad news from South Africa.

News From Botswana

by Peter Thy

Botswana Post has issued a set of four Christmas stamps showing palms and palm fruits. The set was issued on December 1, 2006. The designer was Gillian Cody and the stamps were printed by Enschede in sheets of 50.

A set of four stamps showing various kingfishers were issued during early 2007 (March). The stamps were designed by Gwithie Kirby and printed by Enschede in sheets of 50 stamps. None of these two issues have as yet been listed on the philatelic pages of Botswana Post's website.

Botswana Post was distributed a pamphlet (News Bulletin No. 1: January 2007) detailing the 2007 stamp program. Planned are in addition in June new definitive issues with butterflies of Botswana, in September another SAPOA joint issue, in October a University of Botswana 25th year commemorative issue, and in November/December the traditional Christmas issue featuring fungi of Botswana. With the description of the program is included a collector survey. Nice initiative that is an outcome of the recent contacts between the postal services and the local philatelic society. Hopefully someday they will discover how important the internet and their own website could be for promoting their own philatelic emissions.

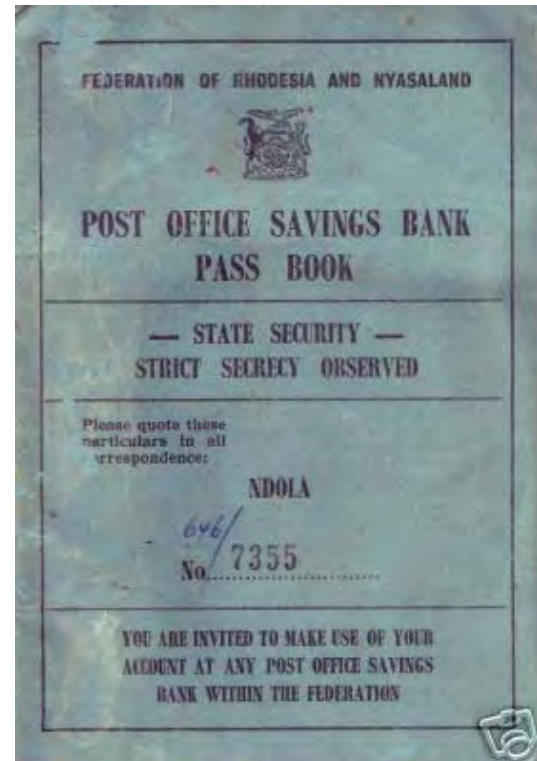


"You will be all right - you'll be among friends" [Bechuanaland will become Botswana when it Achieved Independence on September 30]. Cartoon from Punch Aug. 3, 1966.

Rhodesian Back-Of-Books

by Peter Thy

I am always looking for the unusual and the uncommon from southern Africa. Recently eBay has become a good source for such material. The kind of stuff that the judges will never let me include in my philatelic and postal history exhibits. Some good examples are, to mention a few, stationery without imprinted stamps, postal orders, telegram forms, postal savings books, parcel labels, and reply coupons. Here is two examples from the Rhodesias. The first is a postal savings book from the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Clearly it had other functions than postal savings and also served as personal identification (Pass Book). Such books are good sources of money order branch postmarks that is rarely found on the regular mail.



The second is a UPU reply coupon again from the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyassaland. A rare item and a good addition to postal stationery and postal history collections.



New Books

- Ross, R.W., 2006. Empire Exhibition Johannesburg 1936, South Africa. Published by the author, 28 Duddon Drive, Borrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA14 3TW, UK.
- South African Post Office, 2007. Exploring the Fascinating World of Stamps. Booklet 35 pages. Available from Philatelic Services. Private Bag X505, Pretoria, 0001 South Africa, www.sapo.co.za/.
- Stanley Gibbons, 2007. Stamp Catalogue, Indian Ocean, 1st Edition. Stanley Gibbons, London and Ringwood.
- Jonkers, G.H. and Groenewald, J., 2006. Die Machadodorp-briefkaarte van die Anglo-Boereoorlog. Philatelic Federation of South Africa. PO Box 9248, Cinda Park 1463, South Africa; pfsasec@mweb.co.za.

Society Publications

- Hisey and Bartshe, 2003. Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 1, The Postage Stamps. Hardbound, 280 pages in full color, \$35 plus \$5 s/h in the US, plus \$10 elsewhere by air.
- Hisey and Bartshe, 2004. Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 2, The Telegraphs. Hardbound, 250 pages in full color, \$35 plus \$5 s/h in the US, plus \$10 elsewhere by air.
- Forerunners on CD, Issues 1 to 50 (CD-ROM). \$25 plus \$5 s/h.
- Taylor, Robert. Early Postal Services of the Cape of Good Hope PSGSA Exhibit Series (CD-ROM). \$15 pp.
- Lodoen, Peter. Accepted - Rejected: Life of a Botswana Stamp Designer. \$25 full color print, \$10 on CD-ROM. Postage paid.
- Hisey, B. (compiler), 2006. Postal Office Names of Southern Africa According to Ralph Putzel (CD-ROM). \$15 pp.
- To order contact Bob Hisey at the addresses given on page 1.

The Market Place

SA Homelands used. Seeking postally used stamps and covers (larger lots with duplication OK). Have used Homelands and GB, Commonwealth (Australia, NZ, others) to trade. Send description/scan/price to Chris Oberholster, 2013 Yancy Drive, Bessemer, AL 35022; pangolin100@aol.com.

For Sale: Postmarks of Zululand by H. Joseph and Tony Davis, copy no. 7 of 250. US\$ 55.00. Very fine condition, autographed. Postpaid. Contact Jim Ryan at 4419 17 Avenue NW, Calgary, AB T3B ON7, Canada, or jfsipryan@hotmail.com.

Wanted: Aerogrammes reproducing the 6d Rhodes Centenary stamps for Northern Rhodesia and for Nyasaland Protectorate. Please state condition and price. Contact Jim Ryan at 4419 17 Avenue NW, Calgary, AB T3B ON7, Canada, or jfsipryan@hotmail.com.

Wanted: Postal Savings Books and related items from any southern African territories and countries. Send photocopies/scans and descriptions to Peter Thy, P.O. Box 73112, Davis CA 95617-3112, thy@kronestamps.dk.

Bophuthatswana used. Wish to trade for used in/off cover,

including revenues and postal stationery. Have all Homelands used, some mint and older general worldwide to trade. Write Will Ross, 4120 Schuykill Dr., Calabasas, CA 91302.

South West Africa postal stationery. I am seeking pre-1969 items. Please send offer to Jan Stolk, Waterhoenlaan 24, B-9120 Melsele, Belgium; janstolk@belgacom.net.

Mafeking covers. Want to purchase or trade for covers to/from, or through Mafeking, 1885 to present. Send photocopies, prices or trade want list to Frederick Lawrence, 658 W. Douglas Ave., Gilbert, AZ 85233-3219; ieconsulting@cox.net.

South African postage due covers. Looking for postage due mail from and to South Africa, all periods welcome. Please send offers to Jan Stolk, Waterhoenlaan 24, B-9120 Melsele, Belgium; janstolk@belgacom.net.

Bechuanaland and Botswana postal stationery. Used, stamped and unstamped, stationery from any territory and any period are needed for collection and exhibit. Send offer to Peter Thy, P.O. Box 73112, Davis, CA 95617-3112 or email thy@kronestamps.dk.

Postmarks. Specialist collector seeks trading partners and unsorted low value duplicates in quantity. I collect pre-Union to 1935. Anything later is available to swap with you. Please contact before sending material. Ashley Cotter-Cairns, P.O. Box 603, Hudson, QC, JOP 1HO, Canada, or acottercairns@hotmail.com.

Join the American Philatelic Society. Membership applications and benefits information: APS, 100 Match Factory Place, College, PA 16803, USA.

Madagascar postal stationery. Used and unused, stamped and unstamped, stationery from the greater Madagascar area. Any period and type are needed for collection and exhibit. Send offer to Peter Thy, P.O. Box 73112, Davis, CA 95617-3112 or email thy@kronestamps.dk.

Send request for your free non-dealer membership ad to the Editor. Multiple ads per issue per member are admitted as long as space is available. Ads will run for several issues unless specified otherwise. Limits of 40 words plus name and postal and e-mail addresses.

Commercial Ad Rate Schedule

Premium positions (full covers only):

1/1 page inside front cover single issue \$60, annual \$150, two years \$280.

1/1 page inside back cover single issue \$50, annual \$120, two years \$200.

1/1 page outside back cover single issue \$60, annual \$150, two years \$280.

Front cover sponsorship banner \$70 single issue, annual \$180.

Non-premium position:

1/3 page: single issue \$20, annual \$60, two years \$100.

1/1 page: single issue \$40, annual \$95, two years \$170.

All advertisers who reserve space for one year or longer will receive full membership to the PSGSA. Contact the Society Marketing and Advertising Director for any special requirements and for booking your premium spaces. All payment should be addressed to the Treasurer. The Editor will assist with ad designs.



The block house at Orange River Station which Rina Wiid and her husband restored. (see [www.pelteret/bric-a-brac/*Doornbult at Oranjerivierstasie*](http://www.pelteret/bric-a-brac/*Doornbult%20at%20Oranjerivierstasie*), the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) Concentration Camp, Hopetown, South Africa). It stands on the south bank between the bridge crossing the Orange River and the station. Trains approaching from the direction of Kimberley (often pulling over 100 carriages) run down the hill passively driven by gravity and momentum and across the bridge so as not to set up a resonance that could ultimately destroy the bridge. Thus one hears a train fast approaching from the north, followed by a sudden silence except for the “clickety-clack” of the bogies on the rails whilst crossing the bridge, followed by a sudden resurgence of engine (or rarely steam) as the opposite bank is reached. Adds to the eeriness of the place. Fascinating! By Robin Pelteret. See also Forerunners #56, 29-31.

Membership Application

Membership fees are \$25 US and Canada and \$30 Europe and southern Africa (contact the Treasurer for other destinations). Initial membership includes all back issues for the year joined (July to June). Payment options are as follows: (1) US dollar check drawn on a US bank, (2) dollar money order, (3) PayPal to bobhisey@comcast.net, (4) pound sterling bank check drawn on a UK bank and payable to E.M. Hisey, and (5) US \$, pound sterling, or Euro currency sent registered mail. Complete the following form and mail to Robert W. Hisey, PSGSA Treasurer, 7227 Sparta Rd, Sebring, FL 33875. Or email bobhisey@comcast.net.

Name:

Address:

Email address:

Collecting interests:

Comments:

Philatelic Literature

Greater Southern Africa
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