

The Runner Post



RUNNER POST No. 30 (ISSN No. 0953-3354)

MARCH 1993

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Editor's Comments	
Stellaland Flag	595
Obituaries: Bill Hart and Bennie Illman	596
Members' Comments and Queries	
Inoculation Siding / Karl Seligmann	597
1897 B.P. ½d Yellow-Green (SG 56) / J.F.I-W.	597
Bechuanaland Postal Archive Sale	597
Items of Interest	
Boer War - Crocodile Pools Cover / Jim Catterall	598
'An African Postal Runner' Cigarette Card	599
Essay For 4d on ½d (SG 53) / Brian Fenemore	599
B.B. 1894 ½d Postcard on 'Thick White' / B. Fenemore	599
1888 B.P. ½d Vermilion - Settings / J.F.I-W.	600
1961 Decimal Defin. Presentation Sheets / P. v.d. Molen	601
Airgraph Service During World War 2 / Jim Catterall	603
B.P. - Quantities Printed - KGV KGVI & QEII / J.F.I-W.	606
Stellaland Revenues / Alan MacGregor	607
Early Bechuanaland and Mashonaland Mail - The Parker Correspondence / Alan Drysdall and Jim Catterall	610
Prices Realised in BBS Sale, March 1993	Supplement
Index to Volume VII (Issues 26-29)	Supplement

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NEW MEMBERS

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members:

Michael Hamilton, 5 Winbrook Fold, Winfrith Newburgh, Dorset DT2 8LR, UK. Michael is a dealer specialising in postmarks.

Colin Hoffman, 9 Oaker Avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester M20 8XH, UK. Colin is Chairman of the Rhodesian Study Circle and was Editor of the RSC Journal.

Stuart Cockerill, The Bungalow, Scullsgate, Benenden, Cranbrook TN17 4LD, UK. Stuart is a collector of GB overprints.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

At the meeting of the Committee on 3 March, it was agreed that Jim Catterall would take on the duties of Membership Secretary (in addition to his role as Society Archivist). We are very grateful to Jim for volunteering for a key role!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 13 OCTOBER 1993

The AGM of the Society will be held on Wednesday 13th October at the Cardinal Hume Centre, Arneway Street, Westminster, at 2.30pm. This new venue is conveniently situated opposite the side entrance of the Barley Mow, Horseferry Road, which has now become established as "the Society pub"!

RUNNER POST - BACK NUMBERS

A small quantity of back numbers of the *Runner Post* are available for purchase at a cost of £2.50 each plus postage. The issues concerned are nos. 10 and 17-27 except 19.

Orders to: Jim Catterall, Trevessa, Upper Castle Road, St Mawes, Truro TR2 5BZ, UK

DR KARL SELIGMANN'S MAGNUM OPUS NEARING COMPLETION

Recent communication with Dr Seligmann reveals that work on finalising the manuscript for his long awaited work on the philatelic history of the Bechuanalands is now in top-gear. Karl said recently: "The past three weeks have been seriously spent on the book and another two months on a full-time basis, DV, should guarantee completion... It has been a big investment in time and energy and it is hoped that it will add a little to the enjoyment of the philately of Africa".

Karl has been working for many years towards publication of the book which now contains an amazing wealth of information on virtually all aspects of the postal arrangements and background of the early Bechuanalands (including Stellaland) and also contains many fascinating glimpses of philatelically related social history. I witnessed a small fraction of the enormous amount of time, energy (and money) that Karl has personally invested in the project when I met him after a typical week of concentrated research in the Cape Archives - laden with 900 photostats of invaluable information! Further updates as and when available.

HAMPSHIRE MEETING OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN STUDY CIRCLES - 23/9/93

Members living in central southern England will have an opportunity to meet fellow enthusiasts with similar interests at a joint meeting of the South African Collectors Society, the Transvaal, OFS and Rhodesian Study Circles, the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society and the Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society to be held during Hampshire's 1993 Convention HAMPEX '93 - at Ringwood in the New Forest on the 25th September, 1993. The venue will be a Specialist Society room at the Greyfriars Centre, which will be available to members from 10.30am to 1.30pm. A display with something of interest for everyone is planned, but anyone who has something to show or a query to raise is welcome to take advantage of the opportunity. Members planning to attend should contact the Hon. Secretary, Mike George, P O Box 108, St Albans, Herts AL1 3AD.

THE STELLALAND FLAG

The following letter was sent to Jeff Woolgar, Secretary of the Transvaal Study Circle. Jeff is also a member of the B&BS and has an interest in Stellaland, and particularly the flag (Jeff has spent many hours of research in libraries). As there is an obvious overlap of interest between members of our Societies, Jeff kindly provided us with a copy:

"A definitive article on *The Riddle of the Stellaland Flag* by Dr C Pama was published in No. 100 of our bimonthly journal, *The Flag Bulletin*. This book length issue is fully illustrated and contains 12 other flag-related articles. The price postpaid is \$10 or £7. The £1 revenue stamp of Stellaland, which illustrates the coat of arms, is included and explained in the above-mentioned article.

We also publish other articles from time to time on flags of southern Africa. Our 30th anniversary issue, available for \$6 (£4) is devoted entirely to Africa, but a major part of it concerns southern Africa. Whitney Smith, Ph.D."

Some payment details: No credit cards accepted. US currency, international postal money orders, US\$ cheques drawn on a US bank (i.e. without charges) and, by prior arrangement, payment in other major currencies (Cd\$, DM, £).

EARLY USE OF 10t SURCHARGE ON 12t HIPPO

Steen Jelgren of Denmark reports an 'early release' of the 10t surcharge on 12t Hippopotamus dated MOCHUDI/-6IIIc92/BOTSWANA, three days before official issue date of 9th March. [see David Wall's article in *Runner Post* No.27, p519].

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM HART, B.Sc., F.C.I.S.

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the sudden death of Bill Hart on the 8th November, 1992. Bill had suffered a brain haemorrhage a week earlier and was taken by air ambulance to a hospital in Birmingham. He appeared to be making a good recovery, and his passing was therefore all the more unexpected.

Bill was known to many of our members from his regular attendance at fairs and exhibitions in the UK and in many other countries. But it was not just as a dealer, nor just in South African philately that he made his mark. Bill was a respected international judge and expertizer, a renowned postal historian, and a dedicated collector of Natal, Zululand and the Anglo-Boer War. He was moreover knowledgeable in many other fields, including early Australian issues and English postal history.

Bill served as Chairman of the Transvaal Study Circle for ten years from 1969 to 1979 during which time he became a full time dealer, firstly in partnership with Angus Parker, and secondly when he moved to Shropshire and established his own business.

It may have been Bill's love of rugby which attracted him to South Africa, but whatever the reason, he became a regular visitor, exhibiting in national exhibitions and in later years acting as a senior judge. As a result he made many friends there, and it was with two of them, Basil Kantey and Leslie Leon, that he co-authored *The Postal Markings of Natal*, which was published in 1977 and won a silver-gilt award at Potchefstroom the following year.

Bill will be remembered as a mine of information and a great supporter of philately. He will be greatly missed, and we extend our condolences to his wife Sheila and their two sons, Michael and Graham.

Tony Chilton

BENNIE ILLMAN

With the death on the 17th December last year of Bennie Illman, the Bechuanalands & Botswana Society lost one of its most enthusiastic and knowledgeable members. Bennie had, over the years, built up many collections to high standards and he enjoyed exhibiting these collections both at National and club level.

One of Bennie's finest collections and subject of much in-depth research, was his Unappropriated Dies and when he exhibited these at 'Johannesburg 100' in 1986, Bechuanaland collectors were amazed at the range and quality of material he had built up and with the research and knowledge which the collection displayed.

Bennie's enthusiasm for philately was infectious and one could always share his enthusiasm and joy in the finding of a new item for his collections whether it was an important cover or merely a lowly priced but elusive stamp for which he had been seeking.

Besides his fine Unappropriated Dies and Bechuanaland collections, he also won many awards with displays of Mauritius and Natal which won the State President's Award in 1984 and 1988 respectively; Orange Free State, Russia, Griqualand West and St Helena.

We extend our condolences to his wife Mavis, and family.

David Crocker, RDPSA

Members Comments and Queries

INOCULATION SIDING - Dr Karl Seligmann writes:

"I would like to revisit the Inoculation Siding item (RP 13, p223). It was reported that Inoculation was changed to Bisoli, the anglicized version of Bosole. In a letter dated July 16, 1909, headed "Inoculation Siding - alteration to name of 'Tsamayi'", the Secretary of the Rhodesia Railways Ltd, informed the General Manager of the Cape Government Railways that his Company was agreeable to the adoption of 'Tsamaea' as the new name of the siding known as Inoculation. Note the two spellings used in the letter. I would not like to take issue with anybody as knowledgeable as the late Jimmy Haskins and he may well have had some other references not available to me. The Place Names Commission said that Bisoli was an anglicized version of a person's surname (without giving the exact derivation) and not Bosole (or 'that which related to the army' or 'war')." Karl Seligmann

[Dr Seligmann supplied a copy of the letter referred to above which unfortunately would not reproduce well in *Runner Post*. I would be pleased to forward best possible copies to any interested member on request. Still on Tsamayi/ae, my copy of the *Third Report of the Place Names Commission (Sept 1984)* gives a derivation of 'Tsamaya' (their spelling) as 'Go Away!' - Ed]

1897 PROTECTORATE & YELLOW-GREEN (SG 56) - CONSTANT FLAWS

"My thanks to Brian Fenemore for providing a photocopy of the complete setting of the overprint on two panes of SG 56 in response to my article in *Runner Post* No.27. This enables me to confirm all the information given in the article in respect of SG 56. It also reveals that there are no constant repetitive flaws other than the one already recorded.

There are a few broken or damaged letters that are not repetitive, mostly either a break in the 'B' or short vertical strokes in the 'H' of 'BRITISH'. On the limited evidence so far available it is not possible to say whether any of these are constant, though some but not all could be so. However, in my opinion, they are of no great significance." John Inglefield-Watson

BECHUANALAND POSTAL ARCHIVES - FURTHER INFORMATION

Dickon Pollard, of Murray Payne Ltd (KG6 Specialist dealers), has supplied the following details in response to the query in *Runner Post* No.27 (p518) about a sale of 'Bechuanaland Archival holdings':

"About 3 years ago, [a US dealer] offered Stuart and I a bundle of the sorriest-looking KG VI Specimens you have ever seen. All had no gum and were in what might charitably be described as being 'tired' condition. They were perforated Specimen, as usual, and the majority had a receiving 'Specimen' handstamp in somewhat washed purple (a few had obviously been missed).

There were a good range of colonies represented, mainly (from memory) Coronation and Victory sets with a good smattering of definitives. The story was that they were ex the Bechuanaland Postal Archives, which I saw no particular reason to doubt. Subsequently, these sets started to appear at Western Auctions where they sold sporadically over a period of 12-18 months. The more popular issuing territories went quite well, the others didn't - frankly, they were not in the sort of condition that I would choose to have in an album of mine! The remainder found their way to Phoenix [Auction House]..." Dickon Pollard

ITEMS OF
INTEREST

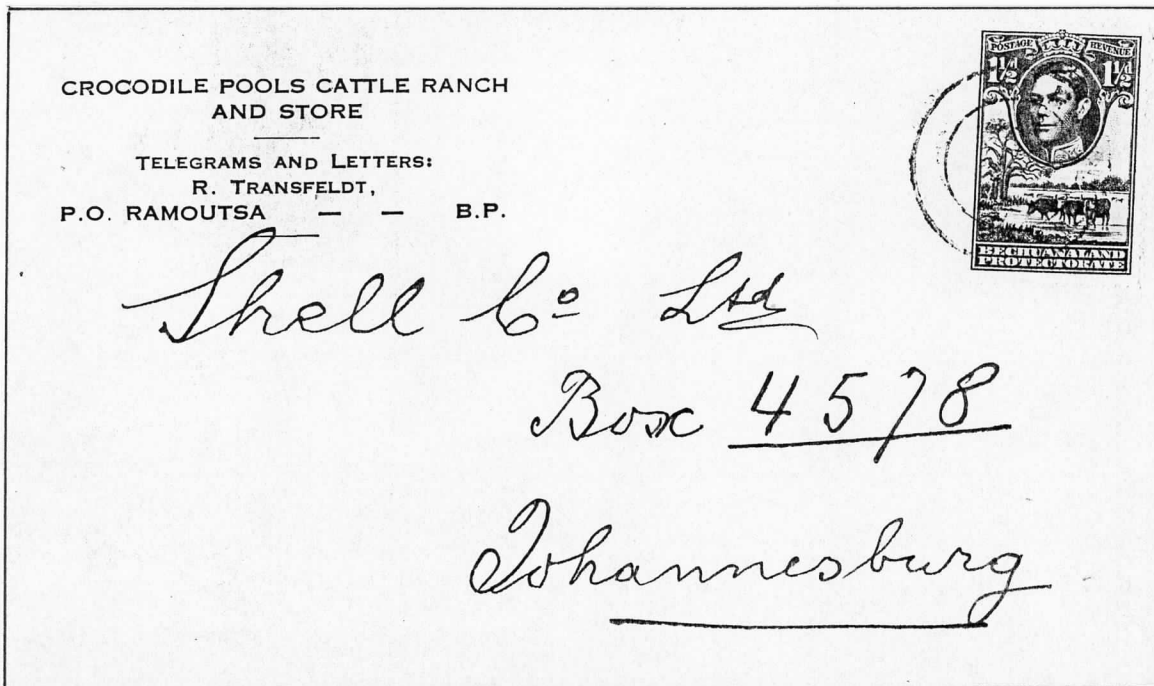


CROCODILE POOLS REVISITED

Jim Catterall provided this illustration of a Boer War - Crocodile Pools cover in his collection. The cover was sent to England from Lieutenant A.S.Chalmers of D Squadron S.R.V. (Southern Rhodesia Volunteers) stationed at Fortress Kopje, Crocodile Pools. The cover was countersigned by his O.C. and dated 5.2.1900.

Although the British Forces had been forced to abandon Crocodile Pools and close the post office there at the end of 1899 the cover shows that Colonel Holdsworth and his Rhodesian Volunteers had, by early February, re-established control there. Despite this the P.O. was not re-opened until April.

The cover was routed via Bulawayo where it was backstamped (date unclear). As no stamps were available it was taxed ('T4' in blue crayon) & on arrival in England the 'London Paid' handstamp was applied. Backstamped with the Southampton arrival cds of 17 March.

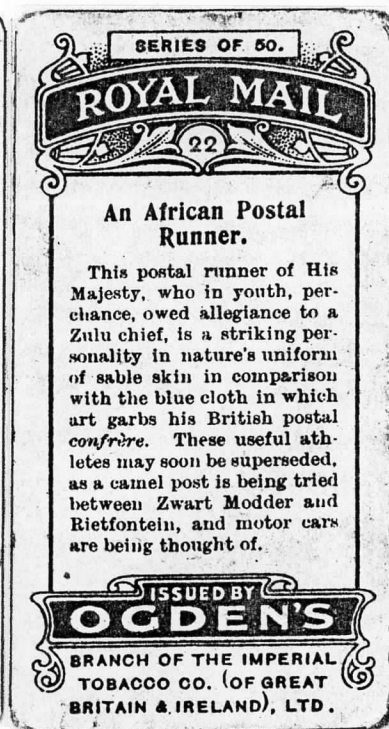


Another interesting 'Crocodile Pools' cover - of a more recent vintage - bears a 'Crocodile Pools...P O Ramoutsa B.P.' imprint and a KG6 1½d (SG 120a) cancelled with faint Ramoutsa cds. The location of Crocodile Pools (between the old Fort Gaberones and Ramoutsa) is discussed in RP 9, p159).

ITEMS OF INTEREST (CONT.)

'AN AFRICAN POSTAL RUNNER'

John Taylor provided the charming 'Cigarette Card' from which this enlargement was taken. The full colour card is titled at the base 'An African Postal Runner'. The 'Runner' portrayed is probably as realistic as, or perhaps more so, than the noble warrior currently gracing the cover of *The Runner Post*. However, this one appears to be wading through water, a scarce commodity in the Zwartmodder-Rietfontein ('Camel Post') district referred to in the text. Perhaps he is ankle deep in sand?



Would you like to see our 'Runner' replaced by this or another substitute? All offers of possible replacements, and illustrations by budding member/artists to the Editor, please.

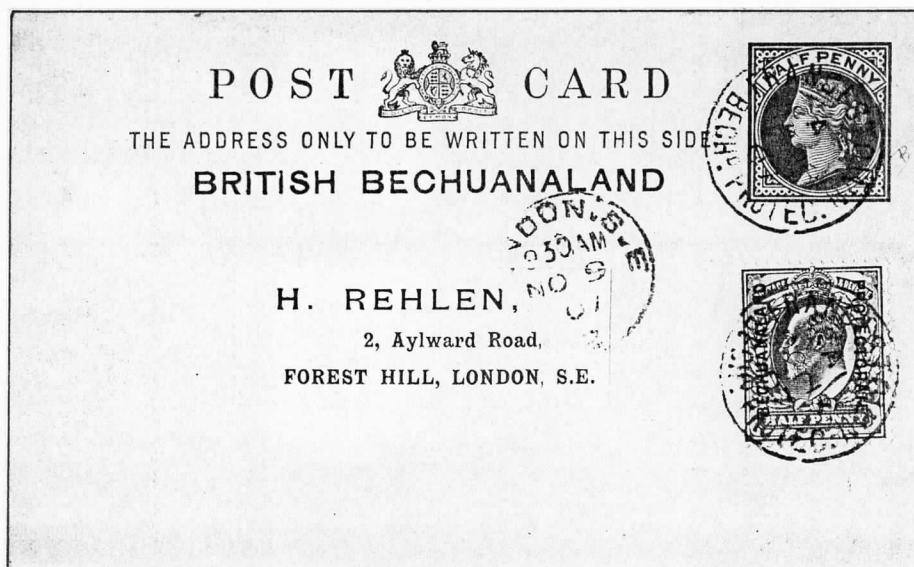
ESSAY FOR THE 4d ON ½d PROVISIONAL SURCHARGE (SG 53)

Two essays for this issue were illustrated in RP 24, p447. This illustration, provided courtesy of Brian Fenemore, shows another essay similar to the second of the two types in that the surcharge has a small 'd' after '4' rather than a capital 'D'. However, Brian's example differs in that both the '4' and the 'd' are in smaller, thinner letters. Does an member know how many essays exist for this issue?



B.B. 1894 ½d POSTCARD ON 'THICK WHITE' (H&G 3)

Brian Fenemore reports the discovery of another example of this elusive card. Like Howard Cook's & Hamish Campbell's examples (see RP27, p523) this card was also used at Francistown, but over a month later (18 OC 07) and is used to the UK. A KE7 ½d (SG60) was added to make 1d. A message on the reverse refers to an order for postcards and bears later annotations regarding the route and transit time of the card. The London arrival cds is dated NO 9 07.



THE 1888 PROTECTORATE AND VERMILION - IDENTIFICATION OF SETTINGS

by

John Inglefield-Watson

In response to my article in *Runner Post* No.24 Alan MacGregor has provided a photocopy of a complete pane of 120 from the 1st setting, an invaluable piece of reference material. Alan's inspection of the original pane revealed that it had been folded vertically down the middle, probably before the ink was completely dry as it shows many traces of offset of the overprint. I am also grateful to other members who have provided photocopies of items in their collections, particularly positional blocks. These confirm the positions of several of the varieties already recorded and show one additional variety. Details follow:

1st Setting

With regard to overprint varieties in the pane from the 1st setting:

- a. Stamp no.60 shows the expected defective 1st 'o' in 'Protectorate', as recorded by Holmes.
- b. Stamp no.69 shows a dropped 1st 'r', confirming that the example illustrated as fig.3 in my original article comes from the 1st setting.
- c. There are several variations in the alignment of the initial 'P'. Most frequently this is slightly raised so that its base is about half-way up the lower case letters, but on two stamps (nos.47 and 73) the base is almost level with the tops of these letters and on some others it is almost correctly aligned.
- d. There are a few other minor misalignments, mostly a slight drop in the 'ro' or 'ot' of 'Protectorate'.

No examples have been reported of 'Specimen' stamps from the 1st setting.

2nd Setting

There was an omission in my original article. The raised 1st 'r' variety is found on stamp no.110 as well as on no.23.

The new variety reported is a slightly dropped final 'e' on stamp no.8. The misalignment is less than on stamp no.118, the recorded variety.

Conclusions

We now have evidence of hitherto unrecorded variations of alignment in the 1st setting and no examples have been reported of less heavy impressions of the 2nd setting that resemble the 1st setting. Although this is not conclusive, I am now content to accept the criteria for distinguishing the two settings as stated by Holmes and summarised in my original article. On this basis the double overprint variety (SG 40a) exists in both settings, as recorded in Steve Wallace's article in *'Runner Post'* No.24.

THE 1961 DECIMAL DEFINITIVE
PRESENTATION SHEETS

by Peter van der Molen

Of this issue, at least two types of Presentation Sheet appear to have been produced by the printers, Messrs Harrison & Sons Ltd.

The Presentation Sheet

My copy is shown (reduced) at left; the sheet, of size 202mm wide by 253mm high is coloured a medium olive-grey, with the four coat-of-arms at the top embossed in gold and all other printing in black. The stamps have been very firmly stuck onto the sheet and have not been cancelled or defaced in any way.


The Presentation Folder

Below is shown (reduced) Sir John Inglefield-Watson's copy, opened out with the front at top right, the rear at top left and the inside below; the central vertical lines are not printed but added to indicate the folding line. Sir John has also provided the following details:


Printed on white card, with folded size of 187mm wide by 139mm high, the front has a yellow-ochre overlay but leaving in white an outline map of Africa behind the camel (insufficient contrast to come out on copy); the printing is in carmine including the indication of Bechuanaland on the map (to right of camel). The white inside features a set of the stamps stuck down and not cancelled or defaced in any way; at right the text is printed in carmine on a yellow-ochre overlay strip. On the rear, the printing is in carmine on the white card.

The above Presentation Sheets were most probably issued by Harrisons for advertising their printing capabilities. If anyone has further information, such as quantities produced, dates of issue and to whom these folders were mainly issued, please contact either Sir John or myself.


P.W. van der Molen - P.O. Box 12508 - Benornyn 1504 - South Africa




BY APPOINTMENT
TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
PRINTERS



BY APPOINTMENT
TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
PRINTERS



BY APPOINTMENT
TO THE QUEEN MOTHER
PRINTERS













BY APPOINTMENT
TO THE LATE QUEEN MARY
PRINTERS & BOOKSELLERS

HARRISON AND SONS LIMITED

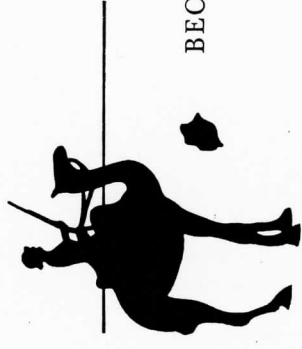
44-47 ST. MARTIN'S LANE, LONDON, W.C.2.

PHOTOGRAVURE STAMP PRINTERS



HARRISON & SONS LIMITED
 44-47 ST. MARTIN'S LANE · LONDON · ENGLAND



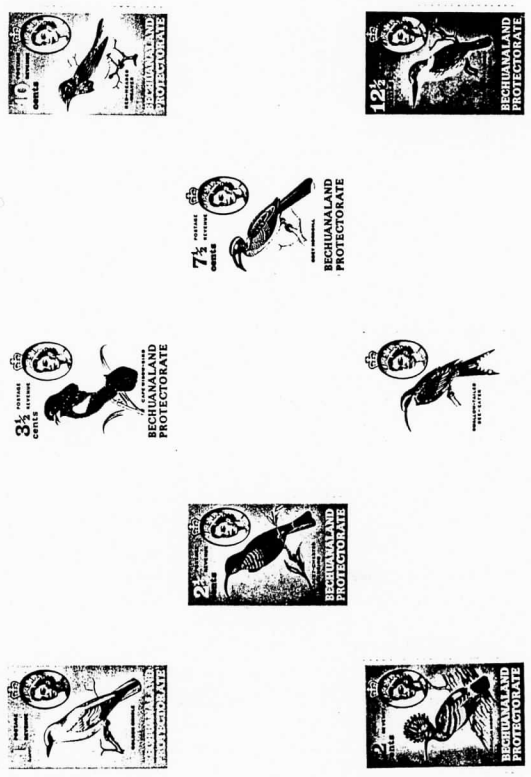
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE
 NEW DEFINITIVE ISSUE

Behind the excellent reproduction of many of the world's most handsome stamps is the name Harrison & Sons, photogravure printers to the British Post Office and to ninety-six postal authorities overseas. Top craftsmanship, wide experience and great attention to detail combine to bring superlative philatelic standards to all our productions. Prices are competitive, delivery is fast, and the strictest security operates on all commissions. Your enquiries are welcome at any time.

Printers by authority to the Governments of Their Majesties Kings George III and IV, King William IV, Queen Victoria, King Edward VII, Kings George V and VI and Queen Elizabeth II.

Bechuanaland's new definitive issue introduced on and October 1961 is one of the most colourful in the Protectorate's history. The previous issue which continued for nearly thirty years was a uniform recess-printed stamp depicting cattle drinking under a 'Baobab' tree.

The new stamps are printed in two and four colour photogravure by Harrison & Sons Limited. The colourful bird illustrations in the lower values are taken from plates in Robert's 'Birds of South Africa'. The higher values feature other subjects from Bechuanaland life. Each stamp includes a portrait of Her Majesty The Queen.



THE AIRGRAPH SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR 2

Jim Catterall

General Background

Airgraphs were conceived as a way of reducing the bulk of mail carried by air. The system involved photographing letters on to 16mm film, transporting the film by air and then printing enlargements for delivery to the addressees by the regular postal service. Standard airgraph forms, which eventually existed in many variations, had to be used for writing the original letters.

The benefits were expressed clearly by a press release by the G.P.O. in 1942 which stated "Two bags of mail weighing 50lbs contain some 1500 letters; a film roll representing exactly the same number of letters weighs only a few ounces."

On April 22nd 1941 the first airgraph service was announced, it was from the Middle East to London, the filming being done at Cairo and the printing by Kodak in England. Later in the year on August 5th a return service from England was begun. Services to other parts of the world soon followed.

According to the G.P.O. 20 million airgraphs were sent during the first year of operation and a total of 300-350 million was reached before the service ended on July 31st 1945. To begin with the cost to the user of sending a message was 3d but the service was only available to or from members of the Forces. Later, the service was opened for messages between civilians at a cost of 8d. On October 25th 1943 the rate was standardised at 3d for everyone.

The airgraph service to Southern Africa was opened officially on May 1st 1942 although R.A.F. personnel in S.Africa and S.Rhodesia had been using the facilities for some months previously. Airgraph forms from S.Africa had to be sent to Nairobi for filming and incoming films had to go to Johannesburg for printing.

Bechuanaland

Airgraphs either to or from Bechuanaland are extremely scarce and the few I have seen are due to Major Creasy who was deputy Provost Marshall at Bulawayo. Major Creasy communicated with his friends world-wide wherever there was an airgraph service and eventually formed an extensive collection. Due to the large number of servicemen, mainly R.A.F., in Rhodesia and not least to the activity of Major Creasy, airgraphs to and from Rhodesia are comparatively common. However, the Major did send a few examples from Francistown in the Protectorate.

Various types of airgraph form were in use in Rhodesia and South Africa but in his book 'Airgraph Handbook', E.H.Keeton specifically mentions two as being used in Bechuanaland:

1. Keeton Cat. type SA/X1A - a pictorial Christmas Greeting form of which two examples are illustrated, both postmarked Francistown 23rd Nov.1944.
Fig.1 To Mrs Creasy in Yorkshire.
Fig.2 To A/Cdr. Townesend at R.A.F. station, Henlow.
2. Keeton Cat. type SA/4E - a standard letter type. Not illustrated as no example available but it would be similar in general lay-out to the British type shown in Fig.3.

In the type codes above the final letters 'A' and 'E', although different, merely mean in each case, used in Bechuanaland.

Fig.3 shows a standard letter airgraph from England which is a reply to Creasy from A/Cdr. Townesend - see Fig.2. This bears the Henlow Camp datestamp of Dec 18th. Illustrated at Fig.4 is the official bi-lingual South African envelope used for delivery. The envelope is backstamped with date of receipt at Francistown, 30 Dec.44, whilst the front shows the date of re-direction to Bulawayo, 2 Jan.45.

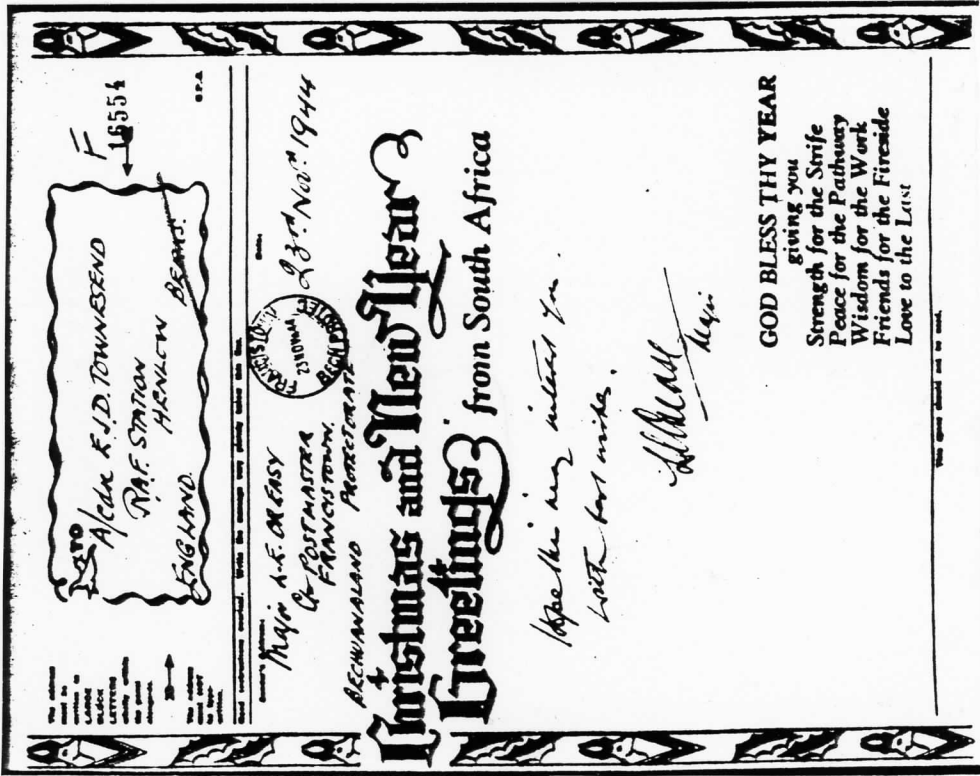


Fig. 1

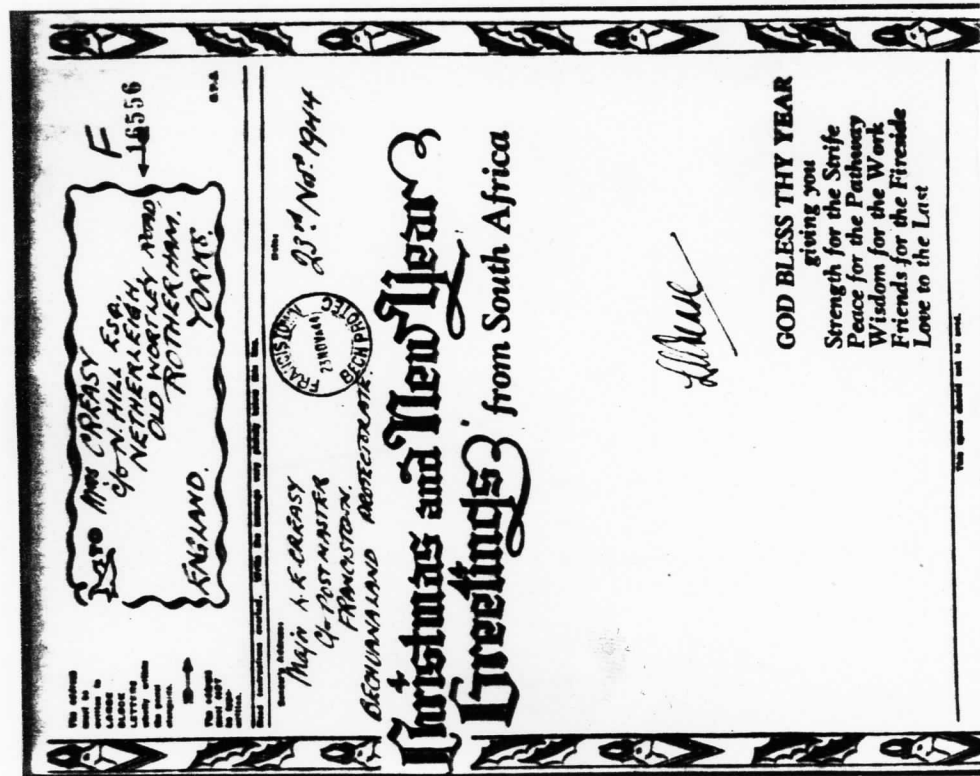


Fig. 2

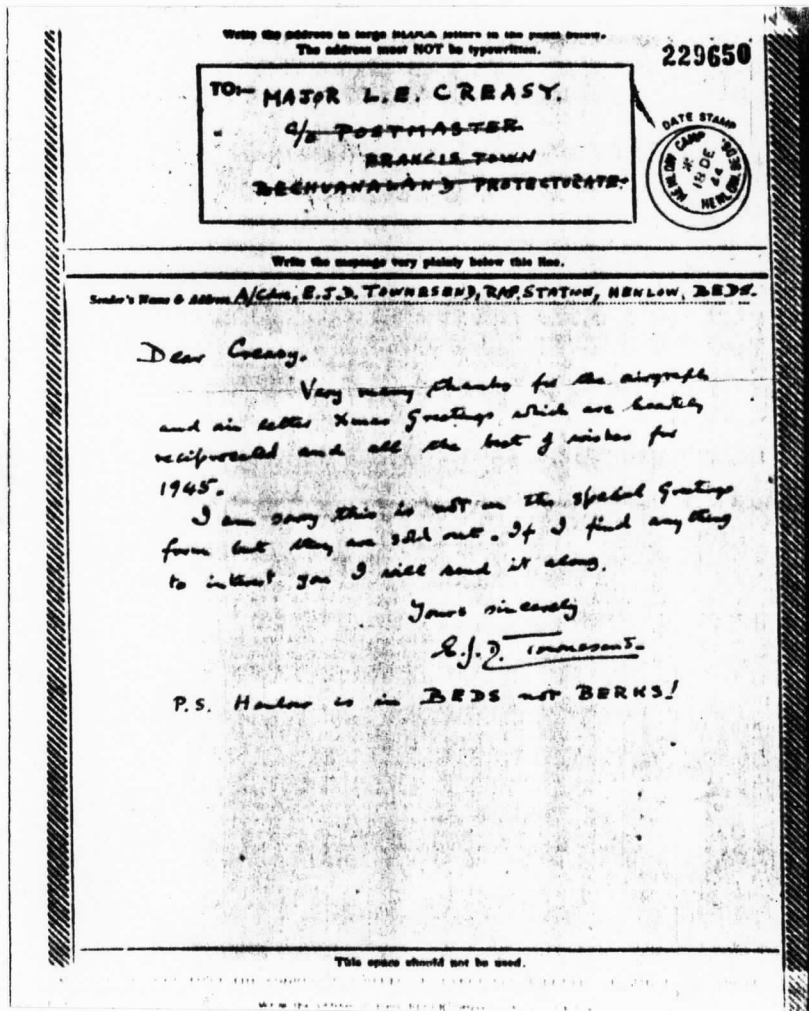


Fig.3

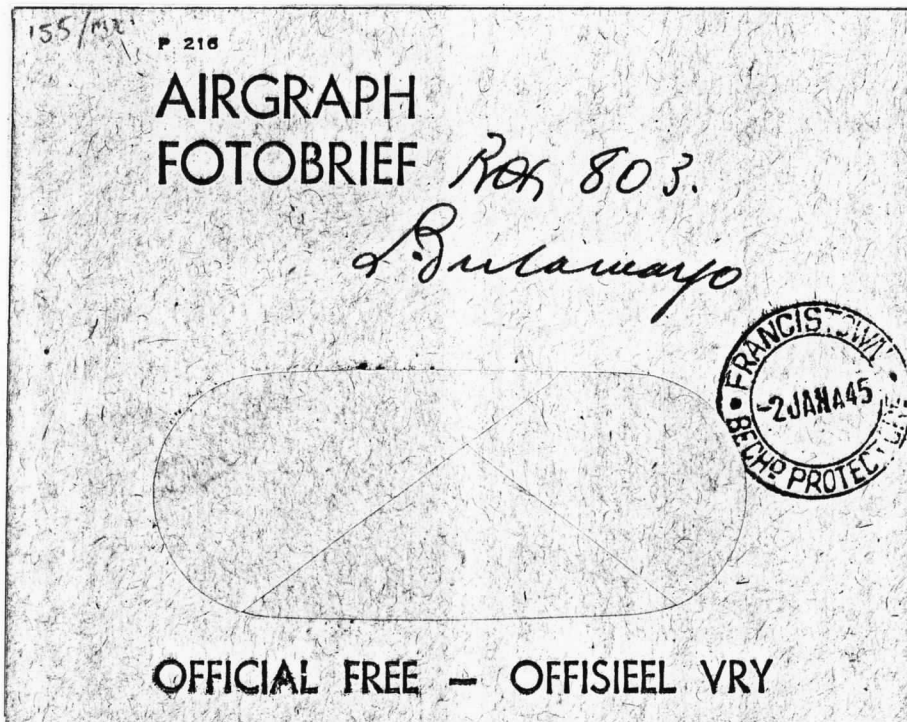


Fig.4

Acknowledgements

'Airgraph Handbook' by E.H. Keeton
 'J.Stephen's Airgraph and V Mail Catalogue'
 The airgraph illustration Fig.2 by courtesy of Lt.Col.Sir John Inglefield-Watson

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE -
QUANTITIES PRINTED - KGV, KG VI & QEII ISSUES

by

John Inglefield-Watson

Holmes in his book records the quantities printed of various definitive and commemorative postage stamps, postage due stamps and items of postal stationery from 1932 onwards. He states on page 134 that the stamps retained by the Crown Agents in London for 'Specimens' and for supplies to dealers were additional to those sent to the Protectorate. His Preface indicates that the source of his information was the late Major H.M. Criddle. Articles published by Major Criddle in the Journal of the King George VI Collectors Society show that he extracted the information from the Requisition Books now held in the Crown Agents' archive at the British Library.

My own recent examination of these Requisition Books reveal that for each requisition the entries in the three columns relate to quantities: the quantity requisitioned, the quantity despatched and, in a 'Remarks' column, the quantity, if any, retained by the Crown Agents. I could find no evidence to support or discount the Criddle/Holmes interpretation that the quantities retained by the Crown Agents were additional to those despatched and the staff of the British Library Philatelic Collections were unable to provide any definitive interpretation. However, they undertook to investigate further.

The outcome is given in the following extract from the Curator of the Philatelic Collections' letter to me, dated 1 October 1992:

"I have now had a reply from the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau concerning the points raised when you visited us last month.

The quantities requisitioned are the quantities asked for by the Country (colony) plus the quantities required by the Crown Agents making the total quantities to be ordered for printing by a printer.

The quantities despatched include the quantities shown in the remarks column for the Bureau and specimen needs."

It is therefore apparent that, unless the Crown Agents are mistaken about their former recording system, the Criddle/Holmes interpretation is wrong. For some issues, but unfortunately not for all, Holmes does record separately the quantities retained by the Crown Agents. Where he does, it is possible to arrive at the actual quantities printed by deducting the quantities retained from his grand totals. For the remaining issues it will be necessary to extract revised figures from the Requisition Books.

STELLALAND REVENUES

Alan MacGregor

This article is an attempt to record what exists in Stellaland Revenue stamps.

It is based on notes made whenever I recorded Stellaland Revenues in private collections, exhibits or on auction. In each case, I noted the numbers of each value and whether they were: without monogram; with 'JPM' monogram upright; or with 'JPM' monogram inverted, and in each case whether mint or used. I have totalled these figures and tabulated them below. As there must be many more revenues that I have not recorded, this table can only give an indication, though probably representative, of relative scarcity.

Also recorded are all the 'imperforate between' varieties I have been able to trace, though again, there are probably other varieties in existence. I would be grateful to hear from members who can add to either listing.

VALUE	WITHOUT MONOGRAM		'JPM' MONOGRAM UPRIGHT		'JPM' MONOGRAM INVERTED	
	MINT	USED	MINT	USED	MINT	USED
6d	6	14	15	55	NES	NES
1s	8	6	6	37	3	10
1s6d	9	12	41	22	4	NES
2s	4	7	45	19	NES'	NES
2s6d	47	18	NES	2	18	5
5s	19	14	38	11	NES	NES
10s	42	15	9	5	30	NES
£1	1 ²	20	2	19	NES	1
£5	6	14	11	6	18	2

NES = No Example Seen

1. Lot 1013 on The Robson Lowe auction of 15th June 1983 consisted of a range of 12 Stellaland revenues. The description stated that it contained a 2s value with monogram inverted. The lot was not illustrated and I have been unable to confirm the existence of this stamp. It is possible that '2/-' was a misprint for the 2s6d value.
2. Reported by Ron Carlson in *Forerunners Vol IV No.2, July/Oct 1990 - Journal of the Philatelic Society For Greater Southern Africa*, and by personal correspondence.

IMPERFORATE VARIETIES

Vertical pairs, completely imperforate, of the 6d and 1s values, in the issued or close to issued colours, have been recorded. The following imperforate singles, also in issued/close to issued colours, have been recorded (most copies have margins large enough to preclude the possibility that their perforations have been trimmed off): 6d, 1s, 1s6d, 2s6d, 5s, 10s, £5.

The following seven 'imperforate between' items have either been seen by me or have been recorded from reliable sources:



Item 1



Item 6



Item 2



Item 4



Item 7

1. 10s (without 'JPM'). Imperf. vertically between horizontal pair. The pair is also imperf. vertically at left and right sides (Ref.1 & 5).
2. 6d 'JPM' (upright?). Imperf. vertically between horizontal pair, with right sheet margin. The pair is also imperf. between stamp and right margin and at left side. Cancelled R.M. Vryburg oval and initials 'ECB/22 XII 86'. (Ref.2)
3. 1s6d 'JPM' (upright). Imperf. vertically between horizontal strip of 3 (Ref.5).
4. 2s 'JPM' (upright). Imperf. vertically between horizontal marginal pair from the bottom of sheet, also imperf. at left & right vertical sides (Ref.1).
5. 2s 'JPM' (upright ?). Imperf. horizontally between vertical pair (Ref.3).
6. 2s 'JPM' (upright). Imperf. horizontally between stamp and bottom margin (Ref.1).
7. 10s 'JPM' (inverted). Imperf. horizontally between vertical pair (Ref 4).

Note: Items 1 - 4 were presumably from sheets which had at least three adjacent vertical rows imperforate.

Ref.1: In the collection of Cedric Roché.

Ref.2: Ex lot 1014, Robson Lowe Auction 15/6/83.

Ref.3: Holmes, in his book *The Postage Stamps, Postal Stationery, and Postmarks of the Bechuanalands*, records (p31) that vertical pairs of the 2s and 10s values with 'JPM', exist with the variety 'imperforate between'. He does not state if the overprints are upright or inverted.

Ref.4: Ex A MacGregor.

Ref.5: The August, 1938, issue of *The South African Philatelist* carried the advertisement illustrated alongside by: 'A Lichtenstein' of Bloemfontein, OFS, offering Stellaland revenues.

Amongst the interesting items on offer was the 'imperf between horizontal strip of 3' (without 'JPM', similar to item 1) and an 'imperf between pair' of the 1s6d (with 'JPM' - item 3).

Of equal interest in the above advertisement is the offer (at fractions of face value!) of: "complete mint sheets, of 42 stamps each...":

2s6d, 5s and 10s (all without 'JPM')

1s6d, 2s and 5s (all with 'JPM' upright)

1s6d (with 'JPM' inverted).

Holmes (p31) states "Complete sheets of all values have not been seen, but the 2s6d was printed in sheets of 42 (6 horizontal rows of 7)." It would appear that at least four other values shared this format.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to the following for their help in compiling this article:

Christie's Robson Lowe for use of the illustration of item 2.

Ron Carlson, John Coates, Brian Fenemore, Dennis Firth, Mike George, Capt A.H.G. Hampshire, Roger Howard, Cedric Roché, Rita 'T Sas, Vic Visser and Bill Wallace.

STELLALAND

Special offer of a chance purchase of the scarce large-sized Fiscal stamps of this territory. All guaranteed genuine in every respect—and mint.

Set of 10 varieties, 1/6 to £5—some with overprint Monogram — others without overprint — some with the o/pt inverted, price for the set, 5/6.

Ditto, in mint blocks of 4, price 21/-

The very rare error: imperf. between, 10/-, no o/pt, horizontal strip of 3, price 15/6.

Ditto, 1/6 value with o/pt, uncatalogued, horizontal strip of 3, price 17/6.

Also: Complete mint sheets, of 42 stamps each, of: No o/pt 2/6 at 10/6, 5/- at 25/-, 10/- at 15/6, with o/pt 1/6 at 10/6, 2/- at 10/6, 5/- at 15/6, o/pt inverted 1/6d at 21/-; price per sheet.

POST FREE.

A. LICHTENSTEIN,

B.P.A.



P.O. Box 576,
BLOEMFONTEIN, O.F.S.

EARLY BECHUANALAND AND MASHONALAND MAIL - THE PARKER CORRESPONDENCE

Alan R. Drysdall and Jim Catterall

Gerald Longley Parker, who was born in 1871, left for Africa in 1889 to take up a position which had been obtained for him by the Hon. Maurice Gifford, a friend of the family, with the Bechuanaland Exploration Company¹. Initially he was employed in the Company's store at Palachwe, but on the 19th August, 1890, he set out for Mashonaland in an ox-wagon - a mode of transport he described as 'cow-trekking' - in the wake of Cecil Rhodes' Pioneer Column. He was to represent his employers, and establish a source of supplies for the Pioneers. He arrived in Salisbury in December 1890. For the next few years he was to undertake a number of trading expeditions before settling in Bulawayo to manage the Company's mining interests in Matabeleland. He left Africa in 1901, and died in 1947 (1).

Many, if not all, of the letters Gerald Parker wrote to his parents while he was in Africa are lodged with the National Archives in Harare, Zimbabwe. The contents of a selection are summarised by Baxter and Burke (2), and the National Archives has kindly supplied photocopies of others which were sent in the covers described below. These covers were evidently sold by the family, but it is doubtful if they were recognised for what they were. Several, for example, despite being franked with Bechuanaland stamps and bearing strikes of Bechuanaland datestamps, originated in Mashonaland. One has been recently described (3), and it was as a result of that article that others have been found.

Five of the covers sent by Gerald Parker were in the Holmes Collection, and are described in the catalogue for the sale (4). Two others in private collections are known, and further examples from which the stamps have been removed are among the papers lodged with the National Archives. Others may well exist. All are addressed to the Hon. C.T. Parker or his wife at The Paddocks, Eccleston, Chester, and are annotated on the face, presumably by the Parkers to remind them of the dates on which the enclosed letters from their son, which were evidently kept in the envelopes in which they were received, were written.

Extracts from the letters are reproduced below verbatim. Spelling was not one of Gerald's strong points, but his mistakes add a flavour of authenticity and have not been corrected. The punctuation, as is usually the case in private letters, is minimal, and such commas and full stops as are essential have been added.

The Mashonaland - Bechuanaland mail route

Mail despatches to and from the Pioneer Column were the responsibility of British South Africa Company (B.S.A. Co.) Police despatch riders. Letters from the Pioneers were carried southwards along the Selous Road to Fort Tuli. From there the mail was transported via Macloutsie to Palachwe (also known as Palapye or Palapswi) by ox-carts operated by the B.S.A. Co. A surprising number of these letters have survived, some in private collections and others in the National Archives of Zimbabwe, and we know from them the dates on which mail was despatched from the Column - and some of the dates on which incoming mail was received - and from datestamps on the covers we know the dates on which the letters entered the mails in Bechuanaland Protectorate and passed through Cape Town, etc.(5).

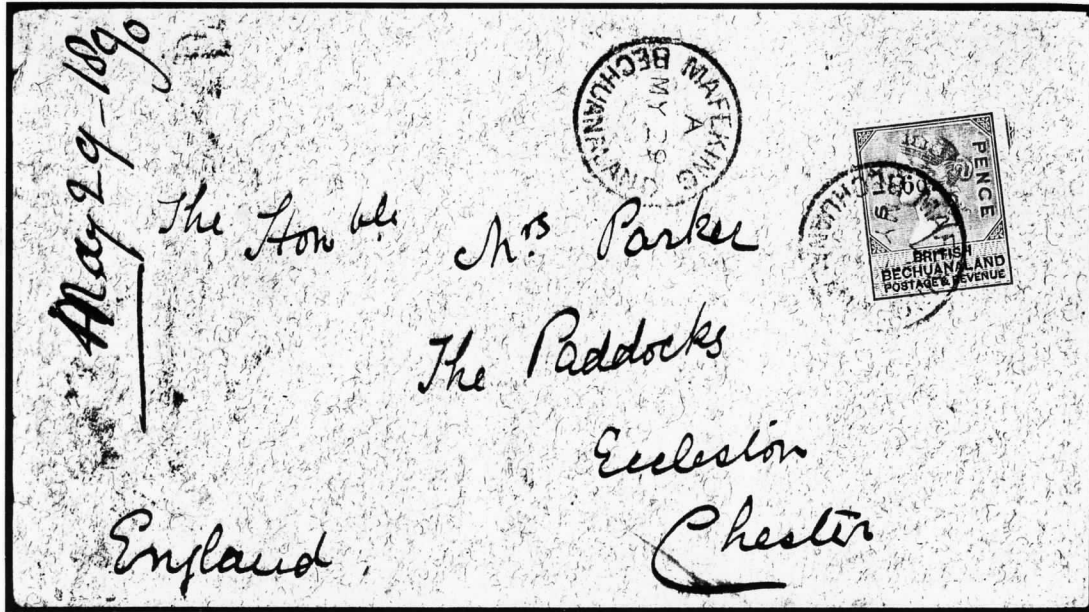
Because the B.S.A. Co. was delivering the mail from Mashonaland to Palachwe (and later Macloutsie), as far as the Bechuanaland authorities were concerned it had to be franked in accordance with the rates applicable to mail originating in Bechuanaland Protectorate. This was the rate applicable to mail originating in British Bechuanaland plus 2d per half ounce. The British Bechuanaland rate for a

¹ The Bechuanaland Exploration Co. was originally formed to operate a concession obtained by Frank Johnson and his associates (Harry Borrow, Maurice Heany, Ted Burnett and Jack Spreckley) from the Matabele King, Lobengula. The financial backing was provided by Lord Gifford and George Cawston. Gifford and Cawston subsequently sold out to Rhodes and became Directors of the B.S.A. Co. The Bechuanaland Exploration Co. became another of Cecil Rhodes companies.

half-ounce letter addressed to the UK was 6d; the equivalent Bechuanaland Protectorate rate was therefore 8d.

Cover 1

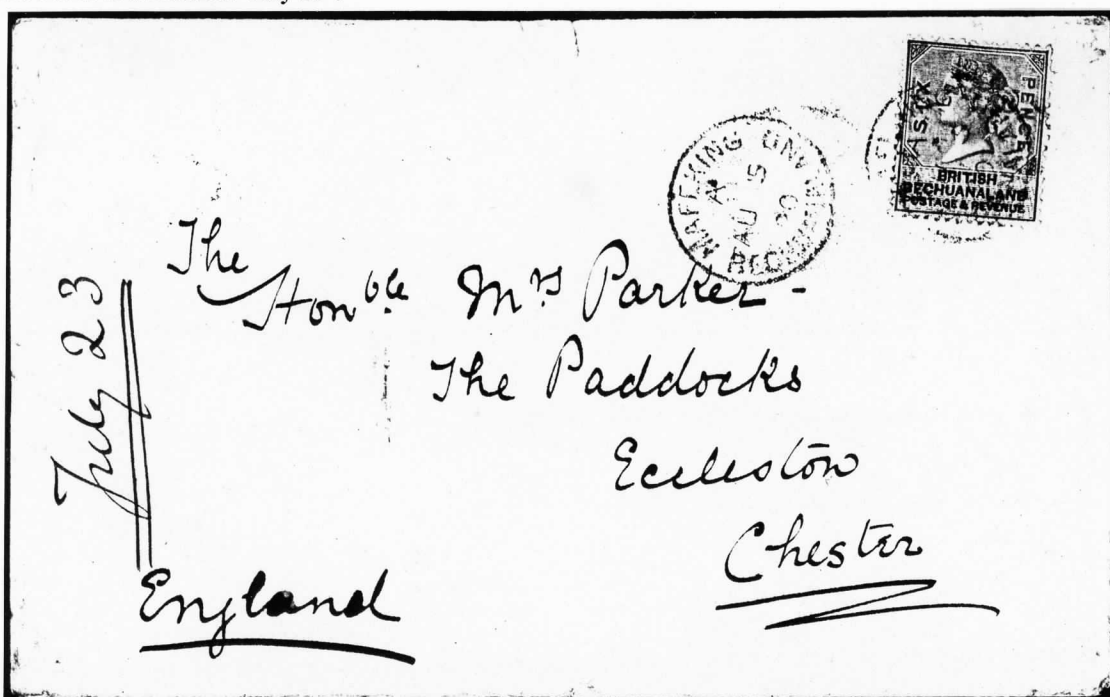
The earliest of the known Parker covers in private hands is franked with a single copy of an overprinted British Bechuanaland 6d stamp (SG 26), which was cancelled at Mafeking on 'MY 29 / (90)'. The cover is annotated 'May 29 1890'.



The letter is headed "Mafeking / May 29th". Parker had stopped overnight in Mafeking en route to Palapye, and most of the letter is concerned with complaints regarding the state of the road, and the problem of obtaining accomodation.

Cover 2

The second of the known covers in a private collection is franked with a single copy of an unoverprinted British Bechuanaland 6d stamp (SG 14), which was cancelled at Mafeking on 'AU 9 / 90'. The cover is annotated 'July 23'.



In the letter, which is headed "Palapye / July 23^d / 1890", Parker starts by mentioning plans to travel to Mashonaland, and continues:

"Latest reports from them [the Pioneers] tell us that they have gone about 35 miles in from their camp on the Sashi River, near the junction of the Tuli R. and the Sashi R., making a road as they go along. Hartley Hill is several hundred miles up. I advise you to get a map entitled 'A map of the Matabeli, Mashona and Bamangwato countries, etc.' by George Cawston published by Edward Stanford . . . so that you will be able at least to follow the movements of the Chartered Co. . . I should very much like to have some papers sent out as one does not get very much home news from the Colonial papers.

"Things are I think a bit better here, but still the Police are short of provisions, but one can't tell very well how badly off they are as they grumble so dreadfully. . . A young Morier pass[ed] through here the other day to join the B.S.A. Police, the son of the Ambassador at St. Petersburg, probably the one who shot himself. (I didn't like to ask him though.) An enormous person I don't know how he will be able to get a horse big enough to carry him. There is a Capt Molyneux here; he came down from the camp last week intending to go on down to Kimberley, but was so ill from fever that he had to stay here. . .

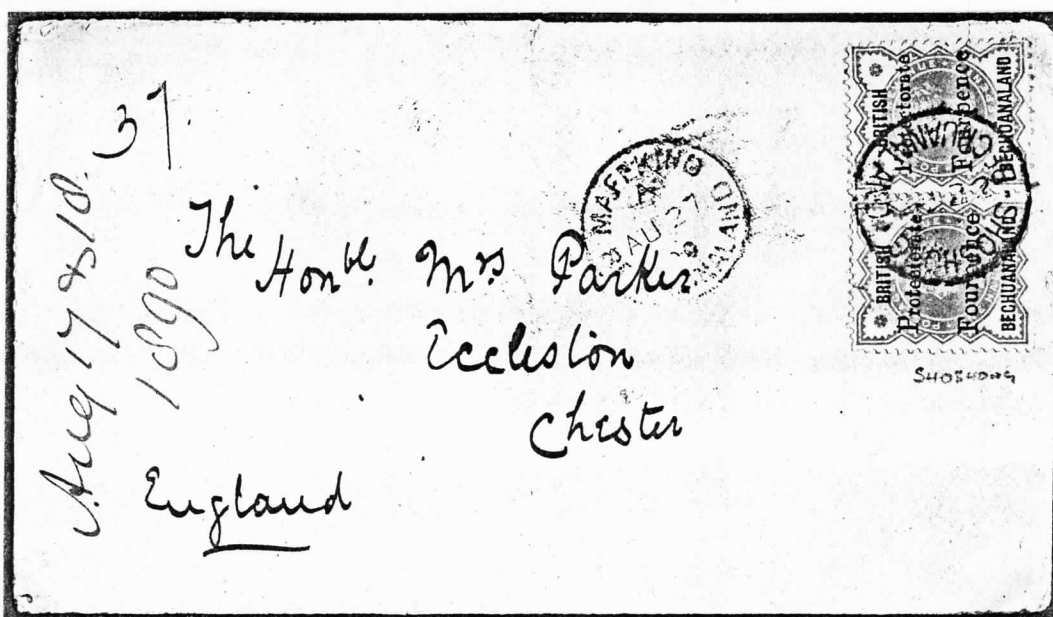
"I enclose a letter to Mrs Hughs. I only got it last night and she wrote it on April 29th. It was addressed, British South Africa Co., Macloutsi Camp. So it went there and was returned, so I receive[d] it 3 months after it was written. Somebody must have addressed it like that in Kimberley as it has a Cape Colony stamp on it with Kimberley postmark and dated 31 May."

It is evident from this letter that Parker was at this time at Palachwe. There is also little doubt that the letter entered the mails at Mafeking, so it would seem that he must have asked someone who was travelling south to post his letter for him.

Cover 3

The franking of cover 3 comprises a horizontal pair of the Bechuanaland Protectorate 'Fourpence' on halfpenny provisionals (SG 53) cancelled with strikes of the 'SHOSHONG' datestamp dated 'AU 22 / 90'. (Shoshong closed in 1889 when Khama moved his capital to the new township of Palachwe, but the Shoshong datestamp was used at Palachwe until late August 1890 - see Table 1.) The letter passed through Mafeking on 'AU 27 / 90' and Cape Town on 'SP 2 / 90', and was received in Chester on 'SP 22 / 90'.

This is another of the covers which was in the Holmes Collection (6). It is annotated to record that the enclosed letter was written on the 17th and 18th August, 1890, that is immediately before Parker set out for Mashonaland. The letter itself is headed "Palapye / or Palatswe / Aug. 18th 1890".



"The mail has come in and brought me two lots as you sent the last direct. . . I don't think we shall get off now till tomorrow (early?). You have no idea what a bother it is to get a wagon off." . . . [A crude drawing of a wagon is included here.] This is our wagon and we sleep in the covered part. All the rest is loaded up with boxes and provisions for Mr Harman. We shall travel at the rate of about 20 miles per day (at least I hope so). I ought to tell you that the Co.'s prospect as far as the trading association is concerned is doing well, and the only thing that saved it was Gifford's going down to Kimberley when he did. One of the Rosenthalls is up here now, or rather has gone onto the camp 120 miles from here."

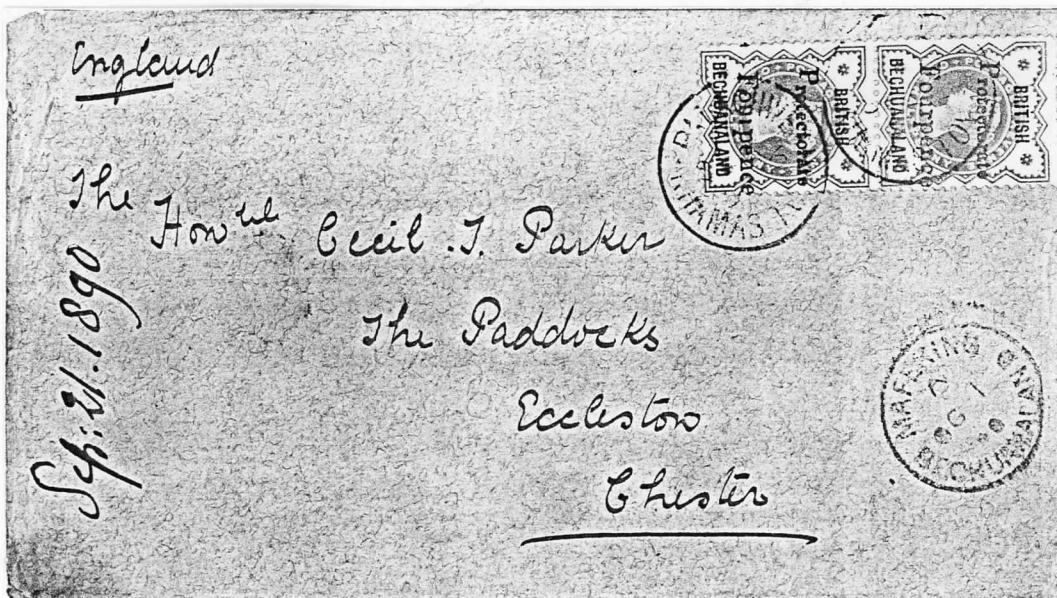
Cover 4

The franking of cover 4 comprises a vertical pair of the British Bechuanaland 'Fourpence' on halfpenny provisionals (SG 53) cancelled with strikes of the 'PALACHWE / KHAMAS TOWN' datestamp dated 'SP 26 / 90'. The letter was routed via Mafeking ('OC 1 / 90') and Cape Town ('OC 7 / 90'), and was sorted at Birmingham and again at Chester on 'OC 29 / 90'.

The first mail despatched by the Pioneers from Salisbury was sent only days after the camp had been established. These letters passed through Palachwe on the 3rd October, 1890, and Mafeking six days later. The previous despatch, from the Umfuli River crossing, reached Palachwe on the 18th September, and Mafeking on the 23rd September. We know that it was the intention to despatch mail once a week, but it was not always possible to do so. For example it is evident that there should have been a despatch which reached Palachwe on or about the 26th September, but either there was no despatch or the despatch riders failed to reach Tuli in time for the despatch from there which would have been timed to reach Palachwe before the southbound mails from that office were closed.

There evidently was, however, a mail despatch from Tuli on or about the 21st September as this cover is annotated 'Sep. 21. 1890', and we know that Parker was at Tuli at this time (7). Baxter and Burke (8) summarise the contents of the letter as follows:

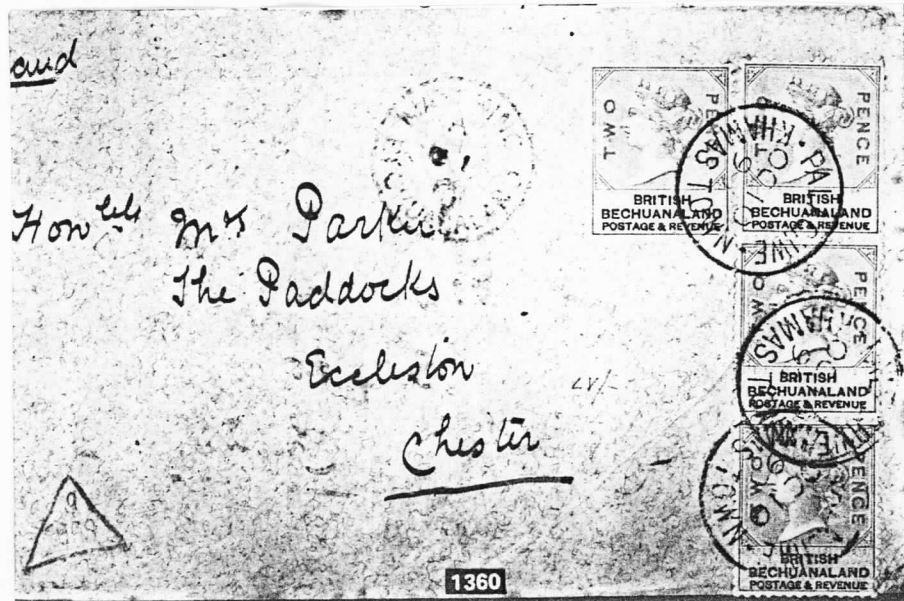
"Describes Fort Tuli; is anxious to anticipate B.S.A. Co. in supplying troops in Mashonaland with provisions; discredits newspaper reports about misadventures of Pioneer Column; disadvantages of appointing a regular clergyman to Khama's country [Bechuanaland Protectorate]."



Cover 5

The franking of cover 5 comprises four 1887 British Bechuanaland 2d stamps (SG 11) - a vertical strip of three and a single - which are cancelled with strikes of the 'PALACHWE / KHAMAS TOWN' datestamp dated 'OC 10 / 90'. The Mafeking datestamp struck on the face of the cover is dated 'OC 16 / 90'. The auction catalogue of the Holmes Collection (9) records that Cape Town and Chester

datestamps are struck on the reverse, but gives no further details. The accompanying illustration is reproduced below. It is, however, incomplete, and it is not known therefore whether or not this cover bears a date in manuscript to record when the enclosed letter was written.



We know from other Pioneer mail, for example Puzey cover ArP.15 (10), that mail from Mashonaland which passed through Palachwe on the 10th October and Mafeking six days later was despatched from Salisbury on or about the 23rd September. We also know that Parker wrote letters when he was at Tuli, two of which are dated the 21st September (11) and the 15th October (12). This particular cover must therefore have been posted in Tuli. However, the first part of the letter it contained is headed, "101 miles N E / of Fort Tuli / October 4th / 1890."

"The last post past [sic] us for Tuli on the 30th. We have been going steadily on since on that day one of the wagons, whilst crossing a river, got a wheel into a rut and came over. . . The country is improving as we go on; the grass is much greener and there is reported to be lots of game. On the night of the 30 we encamped at one of the post stations were [sic] the riders change horses. Some of the policemen had been out the night before and they had seen 6 lions. . ."

"Our driver has taken to starting at most unearthly hours in the morning. These last two days we have started at 1.30 a.m., and one of us has to turn out to drive the horses. Yesterday it was my turn, and we trekked for 2 hours and came to the water in an open place surrounded with kopjies (hills) composed of huge blocks of rock. There were a lot of natives here, and we wondered were [sic] their huts were, and at last we discovered them right high up perched on the boulders. They looked most inaccessible [sic], but these natives with their bare feet easily find a foot hold were [sic] we would not. It looked most dangerous for the children as the huts were built anywhere, on the edge of a precipice or on the top of a round rock, etc. All the tribes here on this side of the Sashi are subject to Lobengula. . ."

The second part of the letter is headed, "Oct 11th 1890 Fort Tuli".

"Back again, will misfortunes ever cease. Last Saturday was most fatal for us. We started at 1.30 a.m. We went for an hour and broke a disselboom, went for a mile and broke another, went 15 yards and ran the wagon onto a stump . . . nearly 8 hours going about 5 miles. But greater misfortune was in store, which also brings me back here. We went a mile and a half, the spokes of the damaged wheel all came out. What were we to do 100 miles from any wheelwright on either side? All we could do was to come back. So I took a wheel off the other wagon, and started down last Monday in an open wagon. I got to a post station next day, and found the post had just come in, but no letters for me. They had been put into the Fort Victoria bag . . . and also this last mail, as it left just before I arrived here, so there are three weeks letters waiting for me somewhere [sic]. I shan't be able to get them for nearly a month. . ."

"It got very dark . . . I heard a horse coming up from behind at full gallop, and I was presently challenged 'who's that?'. I luckily shouted out, or else as I afterwards discovered, I might have been shot. It was a policeman with a despatch and who, having heard I was in front, was riding hard to catch me up,

but as I was leading the horse he saw only a dark mass in the road; he thought I was a lion. He had, as he says, been attacked by two lions a few days before, but nobody believes him. . . I went up to breakfast with the police and while I was there a niger [sic] brought in the ear of a donkey. . . There must have been about 4 or more lions about. . .

"Friday the post passed, but as I said before my letters were locked up. . . Shall we ever get to Mt Hampden? We have tomorrow been two months on the way and have only gone 380 miles."

Cover 6

The franking of cover 6 comprises two copies of the 'Fourpence' on halfpenny provisional (SG 53) cancelled with strikes of the 'PALACHWE / KHAMAS TOWN' datestamp dated '21 NO / 90'. The cover was backstamped at Mafeking ('NO 26 / 90') and Cape Town ('DE 2 / 90').

The cover is annotated 'Nov. 7 1890'. The letter it contained is headed "Fort Victoria / Moshonoland / November 7th 1890". (It is peppered with spelling mistakes.)

"I actually got a packet of letters when I got here, which was yesterday morning, dated Sept. 11th . . .

"Nov 8th. . . We have treked about 6 miles from Victoria to a river and did some prospecting for aluvial gold, and we did not find any. . .

"This is totaly a diferent country now. . . we are 1000 ft higher. . . This land is accessible by a pass ten miles long through 2 ranges of hills, and called Providential Pass. . . We have left the bush behind now, and have come into a table land with hardly a tree and a few hills scattered here and there. There is any amount of quartz, but no reef gold has been found as yet, though alluvial gold has been found in the rivers.

"I sold off some of my goods at the Fort, but only realised £100.

"The post has just come, but no letters as usual. I don't expect any now till I get to Mt Hampden.

"We have been on our journey 3 mos and 3 days. . . we never caught up Harman."

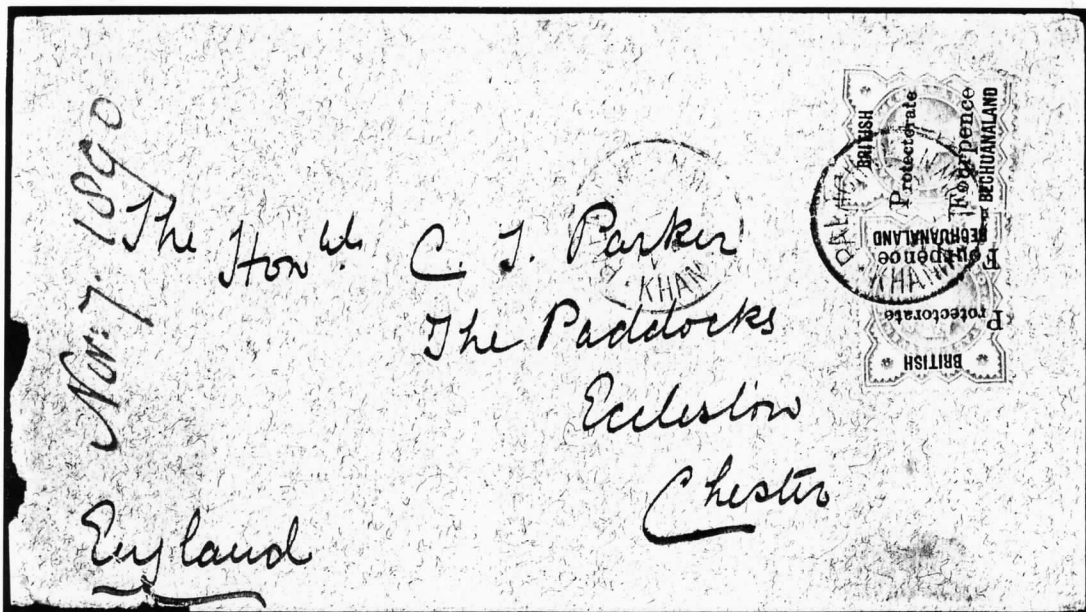


Table 1 The letters sent by Gerald Parker when he was in British Bechuanaland and Bechuanaland Protectorate, and while he was *en route* to Fort Salisbury

DATE OF LETTER	PARKER'S LOCATION	NATIONAL ARCHIVES FOLIO Nos. (PA 4/1/1)	MUTILATED COVER IN NATIONAL ARCHIVES	COVER IN A PRIVATE COLLECTION	EARLIEST DATESTAMP - PALACHWE(1) MAFEKING(2) KIMBERLEY(3)
23. 5.1890	Kimberley	9-12	x		24. 5.1890(3)
29. 5.1890	Mafeking	13-16		x	29. 5.1890(2)
5. 6.1890	Palapye	17-25	x		12. 6.1890(2)
15. 6.1890	Palapye	26-31	x		25. 6.1890(2)
22. 6.1890	Palapye	32-35	x		2. 7.1890(2)
4. 7.1890	Palapye	36-39		?	
10. 7.1890	Palapye	40-44	x		16. 7.1890(2)
17. 7.1890	Palapye	45-47	x		22.7.1890(2)†
23. 7.1890	Palapye*	48-53		x	9. 8.1890(2)
31. 7.1890	Palapye	54-57	x		6. 8.1890(2)
1. 8.1890					
6. 8.1890	Palapye	58-61	x		13. 8.1890(2)
10/14. 8.1890	Palapye	62-65	x		20. 8.1890(2)
17/18. 8.1890	Palapye	66-71		x	22. 8.90(1¶)
23. 8.1890	nr Elabe(?)	72-77	x		§
28. 8.1890	Pakwe, 20 miles from Macloutsie	78-81		?	
7. 9.1890‡	Macloutsie	82-87	x		11. 9.1890(2)
14. 9.1890	between Macloutsie and Fort Tuli	88-90		?	
21. 9.1890	Fort Tuli	91-94		x	26. 9.1890(1)
24. 9.1890	17 miles from Fort Tuli	95-100		?	
4/11. 10.1890	101 miles NE of Fort Tuli/ Fort Tuli	101-108		x	10.10.1890(1)
15.10.1890	Fort Tuli	109-113	x		
22.10.1890	Omsinguelese River#	114-117	x		6.11.1890 (2)
25.10.1890	90 miles from Fort Tuli	118-122	x		? .11.1890(1) 20.11.1890(2)
31.10.90	nr Lundi River	123-128	x		13.11.1890(2)
7.11.1890	Fort Victoria	129-133		x	21.11.1890(1)
12.11.1890	Beyond Fort Victoria	134-137		x	28.11.1890(1)
17.11.1890	Near Mount Wedza	138-143	x		9.12.1890(2)
25.11.1890	Fort Charter	144-149	x		12.12.1890(1)
2.12.1890	Hartley Hills	150	x		17.12.1890(1)
7.12.1890	Hartley Hills	151-158¥	x		31.12.1890(2)
12.12.1890	Fort Salisbury	159-161	x		9. 1.1891(1)

Umzingwese (Umzingwane?) River

* posted in Mafeking

† the franking was cancelled with the Shoshong datestamp, but the date in this strike was removed with the stamp

¥ two letters, one addressed to his mother and the other to his brother, apparently sent in the same envelope

§ strike of datestamp completely removed with franking ‡ the cover is annotated 2 September in manuscript

¶ Shoshong datestamp

Cover 7

The franking of cover 7 comprises two copies of the 'Fourpence' on halfpenny provisional (SG 53) cancelled with strikes of the 'PALACHWE / KHAMAS TOWN' datestamp dated '28 NO / 90'. The auction catalogue of the Holmes Collection (13) records that the cover was backstamped at Mafeking, Cape Town and Chester, but gives no further details.

The cover is annotated 'Nov. 12'. Baxter and Burke (14) record that Parker was then "beyond Fort Victoria", and summarise the letter he wrote as follows:

"I don't think I could get one [a farm] by applying as I am not in the B.S.A. Company. I could buy one after 2 years or if he [his father] means gold claims - I have been told that the mere fact of my going into the country entitles me to 10 which I doubt and if so my Co. would take them from me and give me a percentage, again our Co. gives any prospector £250 if he finds a payable reef; rumours that B.S.A. Company cannot bestow farms."

Other letters provide a fascinating account of what life in the earliest days of the colonisation of Mashonaland was like. They record the prevalent rumours of fabulous discoveries of gold and diamonds, and convey the optimism which had motivated Rhodes and his Pioneers to colonise Mashonaland, and which was to lead to the invasion of Matabeleland and the eventual establishment of Rhodesia. They also contain information of postal history interest. For example, in his letter dated the 20th November, 1890, Parker records the setting up of a bullock-cart postal service linking Fort Charter and Salisbury.

There must be a possibility that at least some of the covers in which these further letters were sent have survived. There are no Parker covers in the collections of the Botswana Museum, but the collections of the National Archives of Zimbabwe include a number of mutilated covers from which the stamps have been removed. If others exist, and the listing presented as Table 1 suggests that they do, they must be in private hands or dealers' stocks. (These covers are identified in Table 1 with a '?' in the column headed 'cover in a private collection'.)

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to the Director, National Archives of Zimbabwe, and to Ian Johnstone who completed the table for us. Dave Collis, Brian Fenemore and John Taylor have also assisted in compiling this account and/or have provided illustrations.

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- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Baxter and Burke, 1970, p.361-2 | 8 Baxter and Burke, 1970, p.361 |
| 2 National Archives PA 4/1/1
Baxter and Burke, 1970, p.361-2 | 9 Harmers of London, 29.10.81, lot 1360 |
| 3 Drysdall, 1992 | 10 Drysdall and Collis, 1990, p.161 |
| 4 Harmers of London, 29.10.81, lots 1306, 1307,
1360, 1380 and 1383 | 11 National Archives PA 4/1/1/91-4 |
| 5 Drysdall and Collis, 1990 | 12 National Archives PA 4/1/1/109-13 |
| 6 Harmers of London, 29.10.81, lot 1380 | 13 Harmers of London, 29.10.81, lot 1383 |
| 7 National Archives PA 4/1/1/91-4 | 14 Baxter and Burke, 1970, p.362
National Archives PA 4/1/134-7 |

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- Baxter, T.W., and Burke, E.E., 1970, *Guide to the historical manuscripts in the National Archives of Rhodesia*: National Archives of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), Salisbury (Harare), p.361-2

Addendum

By a remarkable coincidence a cover sent by the 'young Morier' mentioned by Parker in his letter dated the 23rd July posted at Palachwe has recently come onto the market. It is illustrated below courtesy of John Taylor.



The cover is addressed to Sir Robert Morier GCB GCMG, Ambassador to Russia, at the British Embassy, St Petersburg, and is franked with three 4d Bechuanaland Protectorate stamps (SG 53) and a horizontal pair of the 1d duty (SG 41). (The rate paid, 1s 2d, would of course have been the Protectorate rate for a half-ounce letter addressed to Russia.) The value of the cover is considerably enhanced by the fact that the right-hand stamp of the pair of 1d stamps shows the variety 'small figure 1'. Each of the five stamps comprising the franking is individually cancelled with a strike of the Palachwe datestamp dated 'SP 26 / 90'. A further datestamp on the face of the cover records that it passed through Mafeking on 'OC 1 / 90'. The backstamps are a poorly struck Cape Town mark, which is dated 'OC 7' (see Parker cover no. 4), a London transit mark clearly dated 'OC 28 / 90' and a St. Petersburg mark in blue dated '19 / OKT. / 1890'. (This last date is according to the Julian Calendar; Russia did not adopt the Gregorian Calendar until 1918.)



Parker's letter of the 23rd July, 1890, provides evidence that 'young' Morier passed through Palachwe on or about the 20th July *en route* to Mashonaland. The Pioneer Column had by that time already left Fort Tuli, so Victor Morier was evidently another who was travelling in its wake rather than with it. Capt. Leonard, who was in command of the small police garrison left at Fort Tuli records that Morier's first posting was as a member of that garrison. Leonard continues, "An up-country mail has just come in, but with no news as usual. . . I have had an order, however, to send Morier and five prospectors up front". Leonard wrote this on (or at most a day or two before) the 13th September.

No mail from the Column passed through Palachwe on 'SP 26 / 90', but a letter from Parker posted at Fort Tuli on the 21st September did, which suggests that the Fort Tuli - Palachwe service operated regardless of whether or not the mail from the main column had been received. It is therefore

likely that Morier was still at Fort Tuli when he sent this letter to his father, as if he had already set out for Salisbury, there is no obvious way he could have sent it back.

Confirmation that this was almost certainly the case is unexpectedly provided by a reference to Morier in Katherine Sayce's account of the history of Fort Victoria.

"The territory's first recorded death was that of a despatch rider, Trooper W. Bigg. He contracted the fever while riding from the post station at Nuanetsi to Fort Victoria and was found dying by the wayside by a contingent of 'E' Troop passing along that way. Despite their care, Trooper Bigg died on 29th September, 1890, and one of the contingent, Trooper Morier, saw to the funeral arrangements. 'I have carved a cross on a tree over the grave and put up a little fence. It looks very decent and the spot is very pretty.'"

There are other references to Morier in Leonard's book. For example:

"The best man out-and-away that I have among the home-born is young Morier, a son of our ambassador in Russia, and himself in the Diplomatic Service, but impelled by a spirit of adventure to join us; and the way he rolls up his sleeves, and grooms his horse, or performs any work that he is called upon to do, is an example in itself, and proof that a gentleman can make a good soldier. He is enormously big - over six feet four inches in height, and weighing close on twenty stone - and there is no horse in the troop that can carry him; but he makes himself generally useful, and I have already promoted him to corporal, because he has lots of influence with the men, yet is a great favourite, as he has such an excellent way with them."

Morier was in Manicaland at the time of the confrontation with the Portuguese, but Leonard records that he left Mashonaland on the 8th July, 1891, aboard the 9.30 am coach from Fort Tuli to Pietersburg *en route* to the Cape.

References

- Leonard, A.G., 1896, *How we made Rhodesia*: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., London (reprinted in 1973 by Books of Rhodesia, Bulawayo)
Sayce, K., 1978, *A town called Victoria*: Books of Rhodesia, Bulawayo

BECHUANALANDS & BOTSWANA SOCIETY

RESULTS OF THE MARCH 1993 POSTAL BID SALE.

<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
1	1.5	39	19	77	9
2	1.5	40	u/s	78	4
3	3.5	41	15	79	15
4	7	42	u/s	80	13
5	16	43	u/s	81	7
6	1.5	44	5	82	8
7	2.5	45	6	83	3.5
8	u/s	46	12	84	1
9	4	47	11	85	5
10	6	48	9	86	4.5
11	9	49	8	87	3
12	61	50	31	88	6
13	23	51	u/s	89	4
14	u/s	52	u/s	90	.5
15	4.5	53	6	91	25
16	u/s	54	u/s	92	7
17	u/s	55	12	93	4.5
18	u/s	56	u/s	94	4.5
19	4.5	57	3	95	4.5
20	10	58	11	96	4.5
21	4	59	9	97	4.5
22	30	60	3	98	4.5
23	75	61	3	99	4.5
24	u/s	62	u/s	100	4.5
25	200	63	u/s	101	15
26	u/s	64	u/s	102	7
27	3.5	65	4.5	103	3.5
28	3.5	66	20	104	10
29	3.5	67	u/s	105	u/s
30	3.5	68	u/s	106	1.5
31	u/s	69	4	107	2.5
32	2	70	19	108	1.5
33	6	71	u/s	109	u/s
34	21	72	u/s	110	u/s
35	14	73	4	111	2.5
36	6	74	1	112	u/s
37	13	75	1	113	.5
38	4.5	76	u/s	114	12

Total sales = £963

THE RUNNER POST – VOLUME VII

Index to Issues 26 to 29 Inclusive

Aerogrammes, stampless, Bech. and Botswana	26.502-8	Postal rates, Botswana	26.495-501
Aerogrammes, BP. Q.E.11	29.581-4	" " B.P. Airmail	29.585-93
Baker, Kenneth, obituary	26.487	" " Cape, correspond.	26.488-9
Bechuanaland, used in Basutoland	28.542-3	Postal Fiscal, SG F1	27.530-1
BONC 679, Tati/Francistown	27.522	Postal Stationery. News and Views – 5	27.524-6
Bisects, Palapye	29.571	Postcard, B.B. 1894	27.523
Botswana, news from	27.519-20 29.573-6	Postcard.1961 QE11, 2c	28.549-50 29.571
Cattell, Philip, Obituary	26.486-7	Postmarks, all letters not previously covered	28.551-63
Decimal Def. varieties, 1961	26.491	Postmarks, Lobatsi (Part 2)	26.509-15
Envelopes Reg. stampless, Botswana	26.502	Protectorate 1897 ½d	27.533-4
Francistown, BONC 679	27.522	Registration Labels, typology Addendum no.2	29.577-80
Kimberley and Bechuanaland Railway	29.572	Revenues, Bechuanaland definitives	27.532
Lobatsi, Postmarks (Part 2)	26.509-15	Seahorse shades, SG 89,90	26.490
Moeng, Reg. mark with "g" omitted	27.521	"Specimen" perfs. 1938 definitives	27.529-30
Obituary: Baker, Kenneth Cattell, Philip	26.487 26.486-7	Tati, "Maund" cover Bech. excised datestamp	28.545-8 29.569-70
Postage Due stamps B.P.	27.526-8	Unappropriated dies, dieproofs	28.544
Postage Dues, workshop	26.492-4		
Postal Orders, Bechuanaland and Botswana	26.490		
Postal Rates, Protectorate 1935-66	27.535-9		

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