

The Runner Post

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and accompanied by the supplement

Revenues of Southern Africa



Part 1: The Bechuanalands

May 2002

DAVID CROCKER

PROFESSIONAL PHILATELISTS

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Forthcoming UK Show Dates

Autumn Stampex: 18th - 22nd September. Business Design Centre, Islington. (Angel tube)
Autumn Philatex: 31st Oct. - 2nd Nov. Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street. (Victoria)

Membership News

New Members

David Loffstadt PO Box 107, Bromley, Kent, BR2 8ZA, UK
David is a well known UK dealer specialising in British Empire
Phoebe A MacGillvary Victoria Stamp Co, PO Box 745, Ridgewood, NJ 07451, USA
Phoebe's Victoria Stamp Co will be well known to members for its auctions of
Bechuanaland and Rhodesian items in 2001.
Adrian Parsons Bromsgrove, Worcs B60 2NF, UK
Brian Preston Poole, Dorset, BH13 6AY, UK
Brian is interested in Bechuanalands Protectorate/Botswana(QV-1986), Zambia,
Lesotho, Swaziland and George VI in general
David Springbett Taplow, Berks, SL6 0PQ, UK
David is chairman of the Revenue Society of Great Britain.
K H Thornton Avondale, Harare, Zimbabwe

News

- Howard Cook has stepped down as the Society's Representative in South Africa due to family commitments.
- At a subsequent Committee meeting it was decided that the South African finances including membership applications should be merged with those in the UK from 1st July 2002.
- The Annual Subscription Rate for 2002/2003 for South Africa has been set at £8.
- The 2002 AGM will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 18th September (first day of the Autumn Stampex) upstairs at the Camden Head Public House, Islington. All members are welcome.

Gold to Bechuanaland Exhibits

At the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2002 (ROMPEX), May 17-19, three exhibits featured Bechuanaland. Davis Wessely received Gold for 'The Bechuanalands 1884-1912' and Vermeil for 'Bechuanaland Revenues'. Peter Thy received Gold for 'Bechuanaland Postal Stationery'.

Chairman's Notes

With this issue of the Runner Post you will find a number of inserts:-

First is a (short) auction list for which I must thank those of you who have supplied material, and apologise for the length of time since we last had a sale. Bids should be with me by 12th July.

Not an insert, but a supplement to this Runner Post, a black and white version of Brian and Neville's monograph on the revenue stamps of the Bechuanalands. This is a magnificent piece of work and presents a definitive listing of these sometimes complicated and elusive stamps. Our secretary and editor, and their contributors, are to be congratulated and thanked for bringing this study to fruition.

Also enclosed is a discussion paper on the future of societies such as ours which specialise in the philately of southern Africa. THIS PAPER IS PURELY INTENDED TO FLOAT A FEW IDEAS. There is no intention whatsoever that the BBS should be forced to amalgamate with any other societies; indeed my main objective when I was elected chairman was to ensure that an effective management team is in place to take this Society forward after several years in the doldrums. I believe that we now have such a team but we must still look to the longer-term future. Our fellow collectors in the other southern Africa study circles have been asked to join in the discussion. Please let me or the secretary have your comments and thoughts.

Finally, U.K. members will also find their 2002 ABPS Membership Card, and all members will find a statement of account and a request for payment of subscriptions from the Treasurer.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our meeting in Swindon on Saturday 8th June. This is a joint meeting with the other southern Africa societies held at St. Joseph's School, Queen's Drive (the A4259). It's an informal gathering, with displays, from 2 p.m.. Contact our secretary for further details.

Tony Chilton

Editor's Corner

After printing and collating the 6500 odd pages I have decided to keep my corner small.

Taking off my BBS Editor hat and putting on my Revenue Supplement Editor one I would ask members to note the areas listed inside the front cover of the supplement. But don't restrict yourself to just those areas. If you have anything interesting send me the information/scans. If it doesn't further the booklet it may still be useful as an 'Item of Interest' for a Runner Post.

The next society publication will be a Runner News (around Aug/Sep time) and then Runner Post #56 will be near the end of the year. Plenty of time to write that article and send it in.

Neville Midwood

Erratum/Acknowledgment

The map in Runner Post #54 (p.1331) showing Post Offices of Botswana was based on one by Peter Lodoen from his forthcoming 'Philatelic Atlas of the Bechuanalands and Botswana'. Apologies to Peter for our failure to acknowledge him as the original source of the map.

Items of Interest

An unusual British Bechuanaland Cover

by Brian Hurst

I have illustrated a rather unusual cover which came my way recently. Whilst obviously philatelic, it can only be described as quite spectacular.



The cover, addressed to the Secretary of the Vryburg Philatelic Society, and postmarked 'Vryburg B.B 17 Oc 94', carries no less than 34 copies of SG38 arranged as follows:-

One Block of 14 (2x7); One Block of 4; Three horizontal strips of 3 (one partly severed); One horizontal pair; Five singles

There are three questions which I would like to pose.

1. Has anyone ever come across this cover before, or anything like it?
2. Was anyone aware that there was a Philatelic Society in Vryburg during the 1890's? If so, what do you know about it?
3. Why was the cover produced?

Of the above questions, I'm going to take an educated guess at answering question three.

I think the mystery revolves around SG38d, the 'missing dot to i' variety which occurs on the fourth stamp of the top row of the right-hand pane of the setting.

Having observed the overprint position on the cover stamps, I conclude that they all come from just two panes, the overprint being placed either just right of centre, or just left of centre. I have sufficient material at my disposal to be able to plate all the stamps. I find as a result that they all come from right-hand panes. Furthermore the two vertical stamps at the extreme right of the cover both plate to row 1, position 3 (i.e. adjoining the SG38d variety).

I think it is possible, therefore, that the local Philatelic Society, having spotted the 'missing dots' variety, wished to lay their hands on copies. It is hardly likely that the post office at Vryburg would agree to sell a particular individual stamp. Indeed it is very possible that, had the Postmaster been aware of the existence of this stamp, he might have withdrawn it from sale. So I put forward the theory that they bought two panes or part panes, removed the variety, sold off or kept some of the 'ordinary' stamps, then came up with the idea of using the remnants on one 'glorious' cover.

I would obviously be extremely grateful to receive any information or opinions from members.

Brian Hurst, 11 Ivy Grove, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3HN, UK

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At the Auction House

There has been a large amount of Bechuanalands related activity in the last few months. The largest auction of Bechuanalands items for many years was on the first day of Spink (21st March). Argyll Etkin (29th April) included items 9, 10, 11 and 13 from Alan Drysdall's 'Postal History of Stellaland' article. Full sheets of Stellaland SG2 and SG4, and a number of interesting Warren Expedition, Rhodesia, First and Second Boer War covers were also included.

Two members sent me reviews of the Spink sale which I have combined:-

Spink 'British Empire Stamps and Postal History Auction'

by Steve Wallace and Mike Hall

The Auction of 21st March 2002 offered 322 lots of Bechuanaland and Stellaland items from a Gold Medal South African collection. It was the largest and most important Bechuanalands auction since the Holmes sale in October 1981.

It commenced with three lots of Missionary Mail, the earliest 1840, followed by Stellaland plate proofs, stamps and covers. Military Telegraph stamps and Warren Expedition covers gave way to Cape overprints, unappropriated dies, 1888 Provisionals, Cape provisional overprints and through to "Later Issues".

Two Stellaland covers were offered. The first was the only Registered cover known from there and has a combination of Stellaland and Transvaal stamps. A footnote refers the reader to 'the erudite article "A Postal History of Stellaland" by Dr. Alan Drysdall in "The Philatelist"' (see also RP#22 p.402 & RP#23 p.419 which illustrates both Lots 31 & 32).



Military Telegraph stamps from the Warren Expedition 1884/5

Excellent Military Telegraph stamps from the Warren Expedition 1884-5 were included with correctly used telegraph cancels, some with manuscript surcharges.

No less than 15 'Rarer Stamps' were included. Lots 64 & 65 were pairs of the half-penny and penny Cape overprints (SG4/4a and 5/5a) with the "ritish" error. The hammer price



65

plus premium for Lot 65 was £1840 against a catalogue of £1900 for SG5a on its own. Lot 66 the 2d sold comparatively cheaply at £602, bidders no doubt influenced by the Certificate comment "...appears doubly printed, probably due to a slip". A used copy of SG8a (Lot 70), the 1/- "ritish" error, sold below estimate.



66

70

The unappropriated dies issue commenced with a hand painted essay for the four pence value initialled and marked "An engine turned background of different pattern to any of the other duties", a unique showpiece. Proofs, Specimen and Cancelled overprints and issued stamps were offered and for the most part sold well. Lot 85 was a pane of sixty half-penny (SG9) with the "large second 'I' error at No.49" which has also been noted in the Runner Post.



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The 1888 Provisionals provided interest in the shape of the 2d on 2d with surcharge in green (SG23c). This sold for £2760 against a catalogue of £2750 - and the V.A.T. still to pay. Lot 103 offered the 6d on 6d with surcharge in blue (SG26a) on piece, at an estimate of £4-5000 it went for £8050 -the highest price in the Bechuanaland items.

An unused vertical pair of the Cape halfpenny overprint, one without overprint (SG30ca - Lot 111) failed to sell, but a set of five stamps of a trial essay for the "Protectorate" overprint by Townsend & Co. sold well. Lot 136, 3d on 3d Protectorate overprint with the value omitted (SG43 var.) brought attention, as did a pair of 1/- values one with the first "o" of "Protectorate" missing. Single stamps of SG47a (Lot 140



164

- a noteworthy example previously unrecorded in the Rarer Stamps study; a Protectorate 2/- variety with the first 'o' of 'Protectorate' omitted) and SG48a (Lot 142) failed to sell. The fourpence on half-penny (SG53) was offered with albino impressions, with "rpence" omitted (SG53a - Lot 153) and with surcharge inverted (SG53c - Lot 154), both of the latter were rejected. The halfpenny overprint inverted (SG54a) was offered as a block of nine stamps, the centre example being the "Portectorate" error, SG54d (Lot 164) This sold at almost double estimate.



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A used copy of the Edward VII 2½d blue with stop after "P" failed to sell despite the "Artesia" cds. The same variety on the KGV 1½d red-brown sold at £230 (RP#24 p.447 and RP#25 p.465).

Two blocks of four of the Edward VII Transvaal 6d postal fiscal were on offer one with plate "1" the second with one stamp having "analand" raised. A single stamp of SG F1 on cover with a tidy Lobatsi cds sold below estimate. A registered envelope from Serowe carrying twelve 1d red (SG F3) sold well above catalogue, but a vertical strip of three £5 on 1/- used at Kanye failed to reach the estimate.

Discerning buyers of covers rejected almost 50% of later lots including mixed frankings, bisects and bullion labels. Two "News Parcels" to the "Daily Graphic" in London franked in excess of the rate caused interest, as did a Rhodesia/BB cover from the brief period in 1892 when this was required by the regulations (see "Mashonaland, A Postal History 1890-96" by Drysdall & Collis). Three bisects on cover and one on piece were available, but only the piece found a buyer. The caution shown by buyers may have been fuelled by "The Controversial Palapye Bisects" (RP#11 p.191), which quotes both Holmes and Jurgens. The cover from Kanye appears to be that illustrated in RP#21 p.378.



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The Auction Catalogue is to be recommended to any Bechuanalands enthusiast as a work of reference to be used in conjunction with Holmes and issues of the Runner Post. It contains a wealth of both illustrations (many in colour) and further details of items barely mentioned above, and of the hundreds of other unmentioned items; the Methuen and Anstruther covers, postage dues on cover and many more which might normally command at least a short article in the Runner Post - if they weren't with so many other items.



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A summary of the 'Rarer stamps' involved were SG4a(Lot 64), 5a(Lot 65), 6b(Lot 66), 8a (Lot 70), 23c(Lot 100), 26a(Lot 103), 30ca(Lot 111), 44a(Lot 137), 46a(Lot 138), 47a(Lot 140), 48a(Lot 142), 53a(Lot 153), 53c(Lot 154), 54d(Lot 164) and 69a(used) (Lot 177).

Since this review Steve reports that a further item SG39a(mint) (Lot 122) has also been added to the list of stamps covered by the Rarer Stamps Project.

Questions and Answers

I recently picked up this on an EBay auction as I didn't recognise the 'R' cancellation, which I assume was applied to a Registered item? Brian Hurst thought he had seen a similar mark applied to a cover. Can anyone help with more information? - Editor



South African Active Service Letter Cards Used in Bechuanaland

by Peter Thy

The South African Active Service Letter Cards were authorized in November 1941, or shortly before, for use in Bechuanaland to Allied Forces in East and North Africa. The cards were not overprinted 'Bechuanaland' as was the case for the S.A. Airmail Letter Cards issued in November 1944. Despite being in use for a whole three years, these cards are rarely seen used in the Protectorate.

The Active Service Letter Card shown here was mailed in February 1942 from Francistown, Bechuanaland Protectorate. The letter is addressed to a Sgt. V. Clapham, C.R.O.C. (?), S.A.E.C. (South African Engineer Corps), U.D.F. (Union Defense Forces, Middle Eastern Forces), c/o A.P.O. Durban. The sender is given as J. Robertson, Johannesburg (well known stamp dealer), by rubber stamps on the reverse and also inside. A short inside message reads "Sending a few of these from Bechuanaland. Please keep 1 or 2 and return balance under cover ..." An additional note on the reverse reads "Received under cover .."

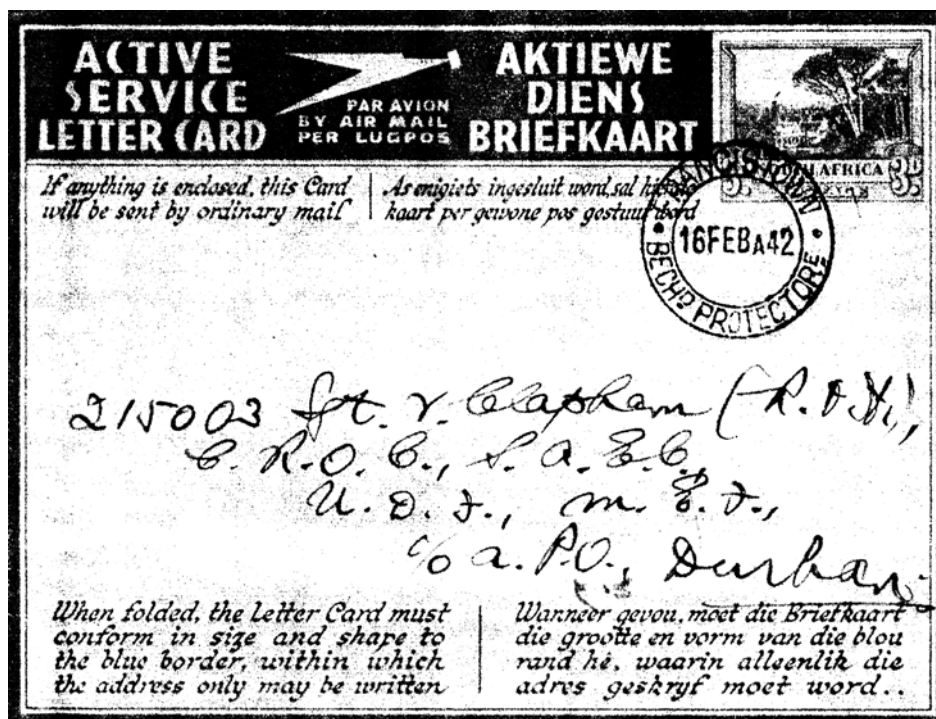


Figure 1: South African Active Service Letter Card used 1942 from Francistown in the Bechuanaland Protectorate to the Middle East Forces.

The letter card was clearly philatelic used. J. Robertson probably obtained the cards from the local Johannesburg Post Office and addressed them to a correspondent serving with the Union Defence Forces in the Middle East. Robertson then mailed the addressed cards under cover to the Postmaster of Francistown with a request for them to be forwarded by mail. Robertson could not address the cards to himself since they could only be used to 'Allied Forces.' The cards were accepted in Francistown (16 FEB 42) and entered the mails to the Army Base Post Office at Durban where the sorting of private military mails were done and where the card was forwarded to the Middle East (or where the sergeant's unit at that time was stationed). When the good sergeant received the cards (perhaps 5-8 copies) in the Middle East, he would simply keep a copy and forwarded the remaining under cover to Robertson in Johannesburg.

There is an additional problem because the shown letter card was not purchased in the Protectorate. Were the Letter Cards actually made available in the Protectorate? And if so, which of the existing printings of the Union Active Service Letter Cards were released in the Protectorate? There were five printings of the basic Active Service Letter Cards in the Union. Our card used from Francistown is from the first printing from July 1941 (Kessler #101), just before the cards were officially released in the Protectorate. Thus, it is plausible that the first printing was made available in the Protectorate (but cannot be proven). Two other examples also mailed by Robertson to the same address are known. The first of these aerogrammes is also Kessler #101 and is postmarked in Lobatsi (also 16 FEB 42). This aerogramme was censored by the S.A. censor. The other aerogramme is Kessler #104 (second printing issued late 1941) and is postmarked in Francistown (also 16 FEB 42). The third printing from March 1942 has also been reported used from the Protectorate. However, it cannot be assumed that all, if any, of these printing reached the Protectorate through official Post Office channels. All known copies of the Active Service Letter Cards used in Bechuanaland may simply have reached the Protectorate in an envelope addressed c/o Postmaster.

Despite that the unoverprinted cards presumably were in use for three years and that an estimated 10,000 Bechuana soldiers served in the Allied Forces in North Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, it is surprising that so few used cards are known. Further, we can still not prove with any certainty that the cards actually were issued in the Protectorate. Let us know if we have or know about other examples used from (or to) the Protectorate. Many of the above general comments are likely also to apply to Basutoland and Swaziland.

Thanks to John Inglefield-Watson and Richard P. Heffner for help.

The British Bechuanaland Provisional Halfpenny of January 1889

by Brian Hurst

The interesting short article in Runner Post #54 by Sir John Inglefield-Watson on the overprint settings for the Protectorate provisional, SG 52, persuades me to write in perhaps a little more detail on its sister issue which was intended for use in the Crown Colony.

Since this represents my first venture into print, I hope the membership will forgive me should it appear at any time that enthusiasm overtakes scholarship.

The need for this halfpenny provisional is clearly explained in a letter dated 11th August 1925 written by Mr E C Baxter. Before quoting the relevant part of the letter, I should perhaps explain that Ernest Baxter was Acting PMG and Chief Distributor of Stamps at Vryburg during the time this stamp was issued. He writes

"...I remember reporting to the Administrator that the supply of ½d. was nearly exhausted - owing to large orders from dealers for SG No.10 [*in reality* SG9] and obtaining his authority to get the Cape PMG to send us some of No.30 to go on with until the further supply of No.10 should come from England. A little later the Postmaster asked what he should do as he had practically sold out of his ½d. stamps and the proprietor of the newspaper wanted stamps for postage on his papers. Thereupon the Administrator authorised the overprinting of (I think) ten sheets (each 120) of the 3d with the surcharge 'One Half-Penny' to meet necessities until arrival of the stamps ordered from Cape Town. These are the SG29..." [*a transcript of the complete letter can be found in 'Jurgens' p.77*]

The basic stamp employed for the overprinting which resulted in SG 30 is the halfpenny Cape of Good Hope current at the time, ('Hope seated' design, grey-black shade, 'cabled anchor' watermark). It was printed by de la Rue in London in sheets of 240 stamps. More precisely, a sheet of four panes of sixty stamps, each pane consisting of ten rows of six stamps each. There is an additional watermark 'CAPE OF GOOD HOPE' running the length of the horizontal inter-panneau gutter. This is the form in which they arrived at the Cape.

For ease of handling, the sheets were then guillotined horizontally through the central gutter into half-sheets prior to dispatch to the various post-offices. I can confirm this by examination of the several appropriate marginal blocks in my possession, all of which demonstrate edges which are far too straight to have been produced by anything other than a guillotine. The half-sheets employed for the overprinting all carried the plate number '1' and current number '43' in the relevant margin. I must confess I had no idea as to what a 'current number' represented (described as a 'reference number' by Holmes). I am therefore indebted to John Inglefield-Watson for providing me with the following definition. "Current Numbers. These numbers were inserted in the margins of the plates of some British and early Colonial stamps to indicate the order in which the plates were made by the printers. They bear no relation



Figure 1: Strip from bottom of the sheet

to the face values of the stamps or to the territories concerned. Not to be confused with Control Numbers or Plate Numbers."

Holmes, on p.55 of his book, states "Messrs Townsend & Co., of Vryburg, were instructed to overprint a quantity of the current Cape ½d grey-black for use in British Bechuanaland". Now I'm sure Holmes had very good evidence for making this statement, but, regrettably his admirable book is very light on references. The first impression I gained from Baxter's letter, as quoted above, was that production was done at the Cape. [Can any member tell me where I can find the corroborating evidence for Holmes' statement].

As far as the overprinting itself is concerned, this was done in green ink from a setting of 30 (five rows of six stamps) at a time. The fact that the half sheets were not split into individual panes prior to overprinting is clearly demonstrated by the full strip of 12 stamps from the bottom of the sheet which I have illustrated (**Figure 1**), and is further confirmed in the case of SG 52 by the similar strip that J I-W used to illustrate his article in Runner Post #54. That the right-hand pane was overprinted independently of the left-hand one becomes obvious on a careful examination, which reveals that the overprint to the left slopes UP from left to right, whilst that on the right slopes DOWN from left to right. The position of the overprint on the right-hand pane is more to the left of the stamps; the ink of the right-hand overprint is paler than the left, etc.

The overprint setting of 30 can be confirmed by examination of the block of 48 stamps from a left-hand pane (**Figure 2**). The first five rows provide the complete setting. This then changes to an entirely different position from row 6 downwards. The difficulty which this presented to the printer who had to overprint each half sheet in four independent operations is clearly demonstrated by the marked slope in the



Figure 2: Block of 48 illustrating the overprint setting of 30.



Figure 3: Emil Tamsen cover from 1932 showing the change in overprint setting

overprint of the lower part of the pane. I have also provided an illustration of an 'Emil Tamsen' cover that I own (**Figure 3**). It is, of course, philatelic, having been posted on 19th March 1932, almost 40 years after the stamps on the cover were issued. The block of 4 of SG 30 in the centre does, however, nicely illustrate the mid-pane positional change of the overprint, and clearly comes from rows 5 and 6 of the setting.

Despite these difficulties, the misplaced overprints which result in the catalogued varieties are, in my opinion, surprisingly few in number. In fact I'm going to put my head on the block here and state that, in my considered view, they all arise from just two half sheets. I think that the 'overprint double, one inverted' variety is from one half sheet, or maybe even just one pane, and that both the 'overprint double, one vertical' and 'overprint double, one vertical, se-tenant with stamp without overprint' come from the other half-sheet. If you examine the illustration (**Figure 4**) of the 'overprint double, one vertical' variety from my collection you will notice that the basic stamp design is very off-centre. At the top it intrudes on the perforations, and is also shifted to the right. I have examined illustrations of five further copies of this stamp, together with two illustrations of the 'se-tenant with un-overprinted stamp' variety.



Figure 4: Basic design off-centre for overprint double examples.

In all examples, the design is similarly offset. In the case of the 'overprint double, one inverted' variety, every copy I have examined is overprinted on a stamp where the design is shifted high and left. It is most probable that these errors were spotted during or shortly after overprinting, and that they were never issued for use. This is borne out by the fact that almost all known copies are unused. How they actually got on to the market is open to conjecture.

In order to prove my theory, I need more evidence, so here's where I again appeal to members. Do you have a copy of one of the major varieties of SG 30 as described (not SG 52 please at this stage)? If you have can I please ask you to send me a photocopy or better still e-mail me a scan.

Brian Hurst, 11 Ivy Grove, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3HN, UK
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Watermark Orientations and Printing of Bechuanaland and Botswana Aerogrammes

by Peter Thy, Jerome Kasper, and John Inglefield-Watson

The Queen Elizabeth II definitive aerogrammes of Bechuanaland, as well as later formula aerogrammes issued by both Bechuanaland and Botswana, were printed on 'Gateway' watermarked paper. The watermark is a central stylized gateway with 'IMPERIAL' above and 'AIR MAIL' below (**Figure 1**). The Gateway was the logo of Wiggins Teape Ltd. The paper had been part of their stock line since 1919 and was widely used for the production of aerogrammes of Great Britain and British Colonies up to around 1975, when Wiggins Teape discontinued their watermarked stock line.

The watermark also contains a single code letter. The known code letters on the issued Bechuanaland and Botswana aerogrammes are 'K' (1957), 'L' (1958), 'Y' (1965), 'Z' (1966), 'A' (1967), and 'B' (1968). The code letter 'I' (1956) has also been reported. The letter codes 'K' to 'Z' are placed directly below the gateway, while the codes 'A' and 'B' are placed below 'M' of 'AIR MAIL'. The early codes (K and L) are on stamped aerogrammes, while the later codes are on unstamped formula aerogrammes. The watermark occurs only once on each aerogramme and is rarely positioned centrally. This can result in an incomplete watermark and the cut-off of the letter code.

The aerogrammes were printed by Bradbury Wilkinson (stamped) and probably McCorquodale (unstamped) on Wiggins Teape paper between 1958 and about 1969. Summaries of these aerogrammes have been presented by van der Molen (1992), Thy (2000, 2001), and are also included in a book on the postal stationery of the Bechuanalands and Botswana that is in press (Thy and Inglefield-Watson, 2002).

We here report new finds, discuss watermark orientations, and propose a consistent terminology for watermark orientations in the aerogrammes.

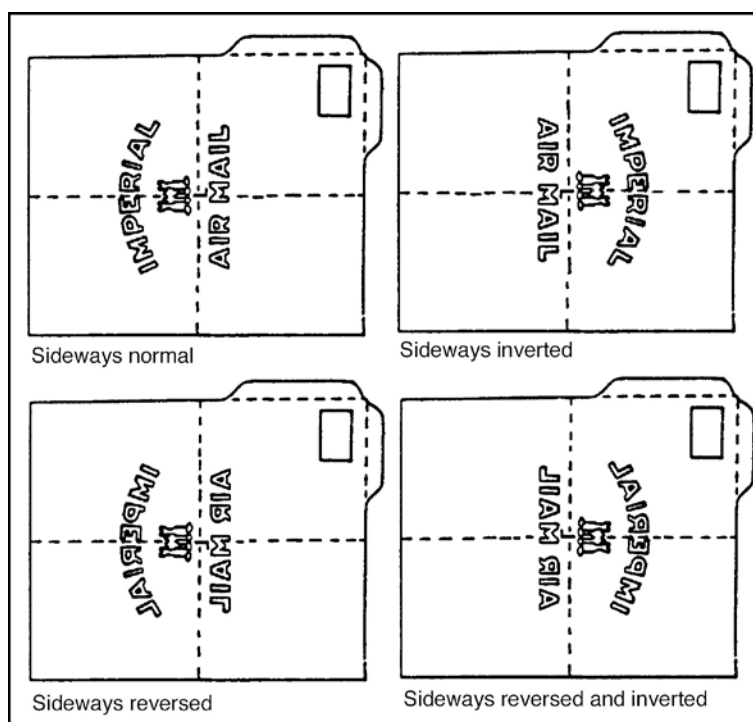


Figure 1: The four watermark orientations found on Bechuanaland and Botswana aerogrammes printed on Wiggins Teape paper.

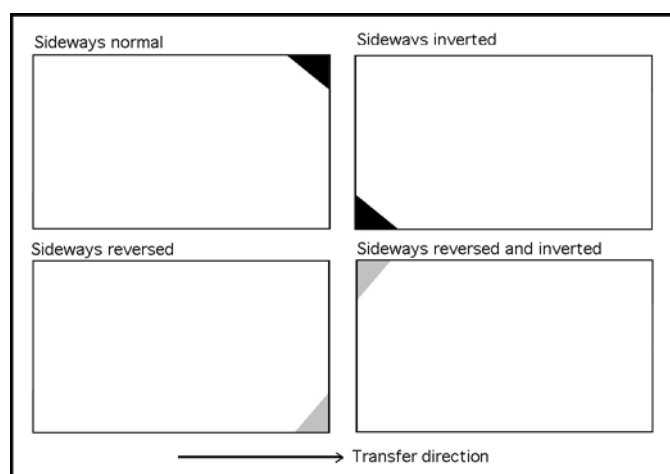


Figure 2: Schematic illustration of transfer direction and sheet orientations. The triangle denotes the top, upper right corner of the sheet (black normal; grey reversed).

Four different orientations of the watermark occur as viewed relatively to the imprinted stamp or stampbox of the aerogrammes (i.e., watermark is read from the printed surface). These orientations are schematically illustrated in Figure 1. We propose to identify these orientations according to the nomenclature used in Stanley Gibbons' British Commonwealth Catalogue. All known watermarks on the Bechuanaland and Botswana aerogrammes are sideways oriented. Upright oriented watermarks do not exist. The sideways normal orientation (reading up) is the most commonly found. The sideways orientation can either be normal, inverted, reversed, or both reversed and inverted. The text is reading up on the sideways normal and sideways reversed and inverted

Bechuanaland	
1958 QE 6d Aerogramme (Dec. 1, 1958)	
K	sideways normal (30)
L	sideways normal (42)
–	sideways normal with letter cut off (3)*
1961 QE 5c Surcharged Aerogramme (Feb, 14, 1961)	
K	sideways normal (36)
	sideways inverted (1)
L	sideways normal (89)
	sideways inverted (1)
–	sideways normal with letter cut off (3)
1963 Formula Aerogramme	
–	without watermark (9)
Y	sideways reversed and inverted (5)
Z	sideways reversed (2)
	sideways reversed and inverted (12)
Botswana	
1966 Formula Aerogramme	
Z	sideways inverted (1)
	sideways reversed (1)
	sideways reversed and inverted (3)
A	sideways reversed (1)
	sideways reversed and inverted (7)
B	sideways reversed and inverted (1)

The numbers in the parentheses are the total amounts recorded in this study.

* The essay illustrated by van der Molen (1992) has the letter code cut off

Table 1 - Summary of watermark orientations on Bechuanaland and Botswana aerogrammes

three different have been recorded, despite that relatively few aerogrammes have been recorded by our study. Strangely enough, the only orientation so far not recorded is sideways normal. The use of an unwatermarked paper (Table 1) of an unknown maker as part of the printings is also an indication of low security measures. Likewise, poor registration of the two printing colours for the 1966 Botswana aerogrammes as well as missing red printing are known to exist.

The dimensions of the Gateway paper sheets are not known for certain. Peter van der Molen's (1992) study of the Crown Agents' register of dies and plates tells us that six dies were used for the production. A hypothetical example with six dies is shown in **Figure 3**, but other configurations of the six dies would have been possible. The solution shown is not the closest packing possible. Closer packing would have required adjacent aerogrammes to be rotated. Such a close packing would have resulted in two equally common watermark orientations. Because this is not the case, we can infer that the packing was less than ideal and that waste of paper was not a major issue. It is not know how the aerogrammes were cut; however, it is fair to assume, considering that

orientations, while the text is reading down on the two other orientations (Figure 1).

These watermark orientations are a direct function of the orientation of the watermarked sheet of paper as it was fed into the press (**Figure 2**). Since only four different orientations are known, and not eight, the paper must have been of a rectangular shape. Perhaps the most interesting observation is that the watermark orientations are not random distributed between the various issues (**Table 1**). All the stamped aerogrammes, with only few exceptions, have the watermark sideways normal oriented. These sheets were printed by a security printer (Bradbury Wilkinson) and were fed into the printing press in the same orientation with printing done on the 'top surface' of the paper (the watermark was indented on the bottom side of the paper sheet). The final product shows few irregularities and orientation errors. Only in a few cases were the paper sheets inverted (1%; Table 1).

The probable change of printer for the stampless aerogrammes to McCorquodale and also the fact that the stampless aerogrammes were not a security job resulted in several orientations (Table 1) and irregular feeding of the sheets to the press. Of the four possible orientations, so far

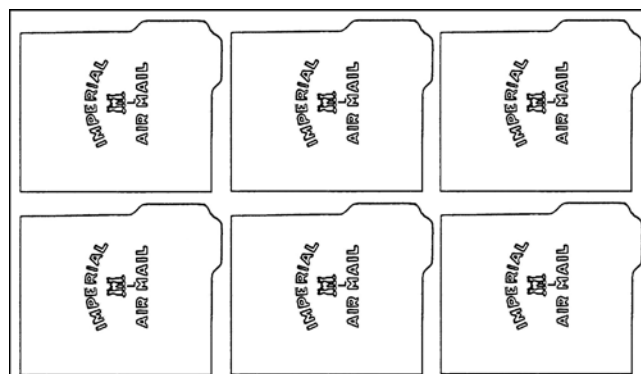


Figure 3: Hypothetical illustration of printed aerogrammes on watermarked paper sheet.

a sheet was only composed of six individual aerogrammes, that a shaped single unit cutting die was used. A pile of say 100 sheets was marginally clamped down and cut with the single unit knife manually positioned for each of the six aerogrammes making up the printed sheet.

The letter code census of the aerogrammes that is summarized in Table 1 suggests that the relative numbers of the 'L' coded watermarks are higher for the 1961 surcharged aerogrammes (71%) than for the 1958 aerogrammes as first issued (58%). There was only one order placed by the Crown Agents for the 1958 issue (van der Molen, 1992). It is not clear why there appears to be this difference in the census between the original unsurcharged and the surcharged aerogrammes. It is possible that the 'K' coded paper (1957) was used first during the printing and was replaced by the 'L' coded paper (1958) later during the printing done during late 1958 (issued in December). However, other possibilities may be just as likely, such as storage, distribution, and return of unsold material from the postal offices for surcharging.

The existence of an 'I' coded watermark has been reported. The 'I' watermark exists on, for example, the 1956 Gold Coast aerogramme (Kessler 6; H&G F6). Close inspection of this Gateway watermark, clearly reveals that the Wiggins Teape 'I' letter code is serified (**Figure 4**). In addition, the distance between the bottom of the gateway and the top of 'AIR MAIL' is 6.5 mm for the 'I' coded watermark (Figure 4). This is clearly in contrast to the similar distance of 9.5 mm for the 'K' and 'L' coded watermarks (Figure 4). All examples of alleged 'I' codes that we have been able to inspect lack serifs and show the larger 9.5 mm spacing between the gateway and 'AIR MAIL.' This observation proves that the alleged 'I' code does not exist for the Bechuanaland aerogrammes and in fact is a damaged 'L' letter code (Figure 4).

Several minor damages to the 'L' letter code exist. These include, short 'L', central extra horizontal bar, tail up to right of horizontal bar, filled in letter, two vertical bars, and bending of upper vertical to left. The missing vertical bar of the 'L' code is the only one of these varieties that may have some philatelic significance.

Thanks to Peter van der Molen for valuable help and information.

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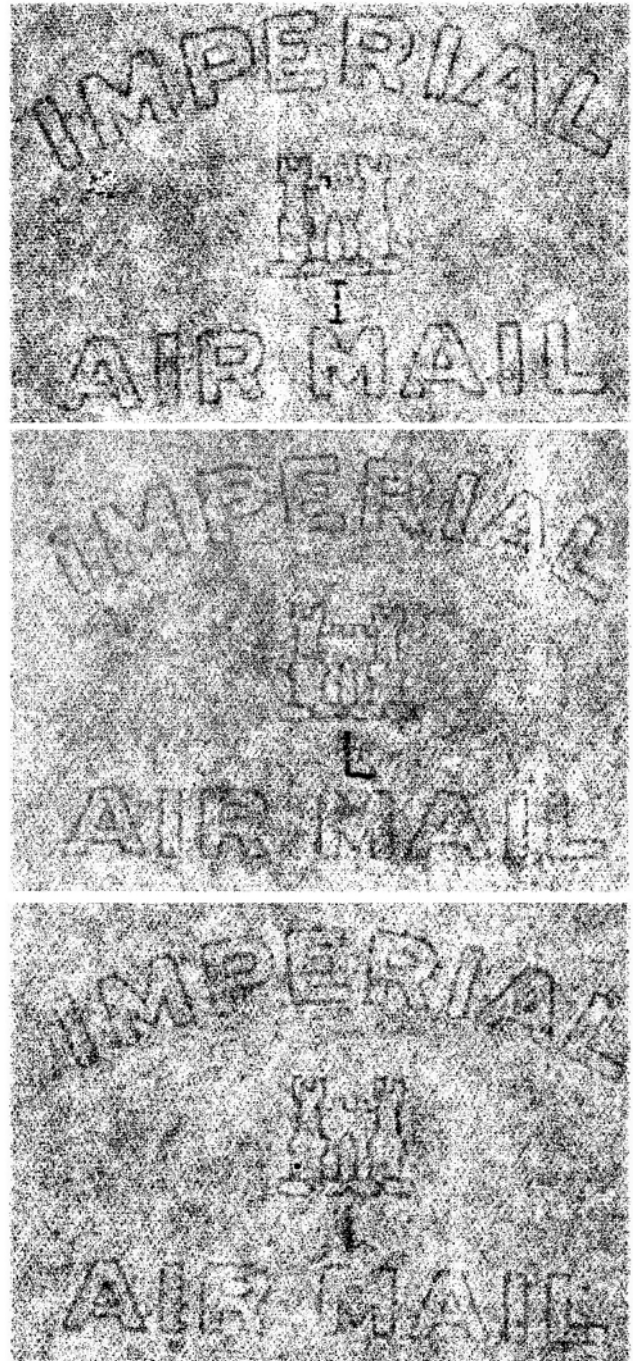


Figure 4: Illustration of the Gateway watermark with the 'I' letter code of the 1956 Gold Coast aerogramme (Kessler 6; H&G F6). This is compared to the Bechuanaland watermark with 'L' letter code and the damaged 'L' letter code appearing like an 'I' without serifs.

PROCLAMATION

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR
HERCULES GEORGE ROBERT ROBINSON,

A Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Colony of the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa, and of the Territories and Dependencies thereof, and Her Majesty's High Commissioner for South Africa, &c., &c., &c.,

WHEREAS Her Majesty the Queen has established a British Protectorate over the Territory known as Bechuanaland and the Kalahari extending over the parts of South Africa situate West of the boundary of the South African Republic, North of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, East of the 20th Meridian of East Longitude, and South of the 22nd parallel of South Latitude, and not within the jurisdiction of any civilised power; and whereas in the interests of peace, order and good government it has been found necessary that Her Majesty's Sovereignty should be proclaimed over such portion of the said Protectorate as is hereinafter defined; and whereas Her Majesty has been pleased to authorize me to take the necessary steps for giving effect to Her pleasure in the matter:—

Now, therefore, I do hereby proclaim, declare and make known, that from and after the publication hereof that portion of the aforesaid Protectorate which is bounded on the East by the South African Republic, on the South by the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, on the West by the Molopo River, and on the North by the said Molopo River to its junction with the Ramathlabama Spruit, and thence by the said Spruit to the frontier of the South African Republic, shall be and shall be taken to be British Territory under the name of British Bechuanaland.

And I do further make known that the remainder of the aforesaid Territory not included within the Boundaries of British Bechuanaland, shall continue to be as at present under Her Majesty's Protection.

And I hereby require all Her Majesty's subjects in South Africa to take notice of this my Proclamation, and to guide themselves accordingly.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

Given under my Hand and Seal this 30th day of September, 1885.

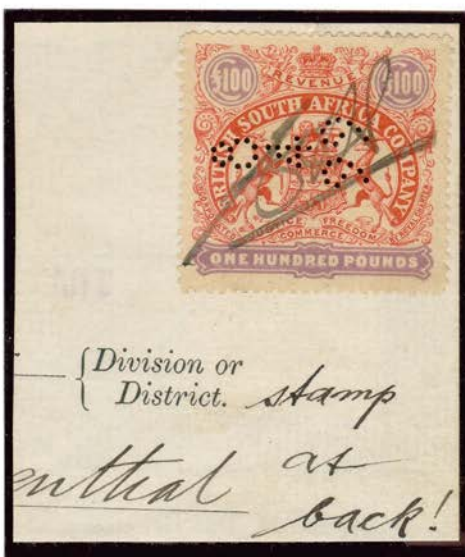
HERCULES ROBINSON,
Governor and High Commissioner.

By command of His Excellency the High Commissioner,

GRAHAM BOWER,
Imperial Secretary.

No. 1 B.B.. 1885.

BRITISH AFRICA REVENUES



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