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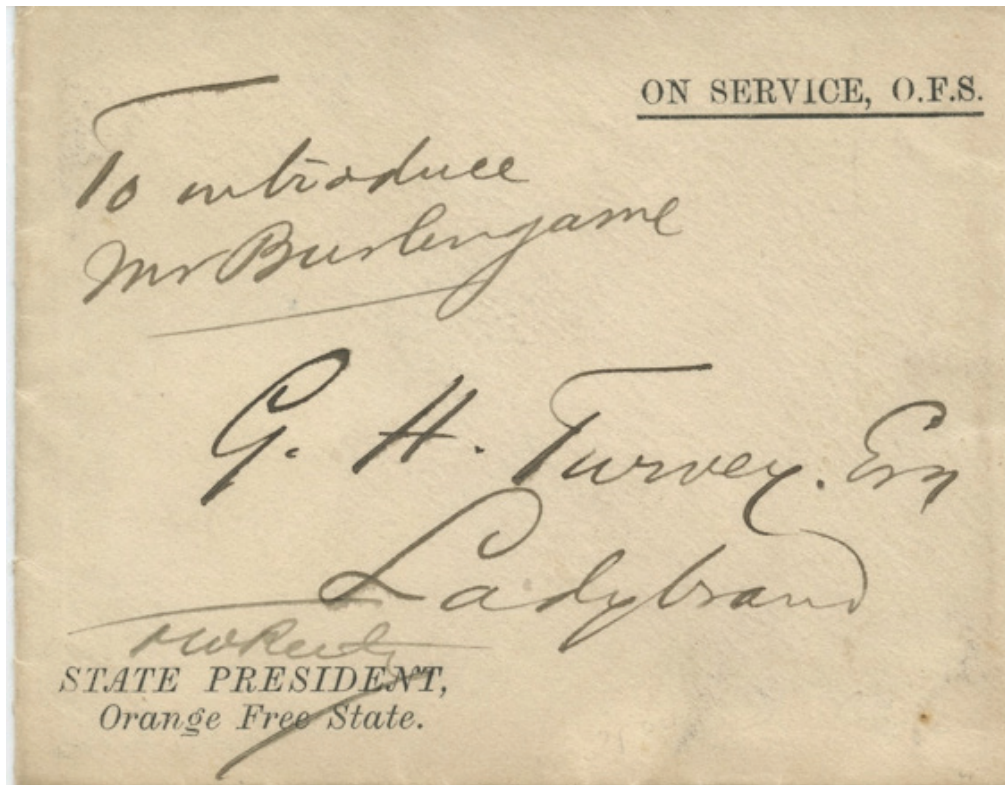
*******FORERUNNERS**

JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA

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

Volume XXXVI, Number 2, Whole Number 106

May-August 2023



Official envelope signed by President Francis William Reitz,
5th President of the Orange Free State, 1889-1895

Highlights

Artificial Intelligence and First Flight

Matabele Rebellion

Bechuanaland's Runner Post

Swimming in Shark Infested Waters

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ACCORDING TO RALPH PUTZEL

Spreadsheet (Excel) compilation of office names

Compiled by R.W. Hisey

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EARLY POSTAL SERVICES OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

by R. Taylor

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Publications payable by US check, cash, or PayPal to piperjohn165@gmail.com.
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Botswana Post issued on October 9, 2019, a set of 4 of Endangered Birds of Botswana with various cranes. Here is the P10 wattle crane. Minature sheets of 20 stamps plus single stamp sheet. Printed by Southern Colour Print, New Zealand.

Front Illustration:

Official envelope signed by President Francis William Reitz, 5th President of the Orange Free State 1889 to 1895. The notation is "to introduce Mr. Burlingame" mailed to G.H. Turvey of Ladybrand. Reitz due to health reasons resigned 11 December, 1895

*****FORERUNNERS**

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Official Journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa

Vermeil at INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION Cape Town 2022; Gold at GREAT AMERICAN STAMPSHOW Sacramento 2022; Large Silver at LONDON 2022; Large Vermeil at CHICAGOPEX 2020; Vermeil at STAMPSHOW Richmond, VA 2017; Large Silver at WORLD STAMP SHOW NEW YORK 2016; Vermeil at CHICAGOPEX 2015; Silver at CHICAGOPEX 2014; Silver-Bronze at CHICAGOPEX 2013; Vermeil at STAMPSHOW 2013, Milwaukee; Large Silvers at the New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibitions 2012 & 2013; Vermeil at JO'BURG, 2010; Vermeil at STAMPSHOW 2010, Richmond; Vermeil at CHICAGOPEX 2009; Silver at STAMPSHOW 2007, Portland; Large Silver at WASHINGTON 2006; Vermeils in 2005 at STAMPSHOW and C7NPLE, Toronto; Silver at CHICAGOPEX 2005; Silver-Bronze at LONDON 2000; Silvers at JOPEX 99, STAMPSHOW 99, and COLOPEX 99; Silver-Bronze at PACIFIC 97; Vermeil/Certificate of Merit at OKPEX 96; Large Silver at New Zealand National Philatelic Exhibition 96; Silvers at ESCAL 95, CAPEX 96, WAPEX 93, and HAFNIA 94; Silver-Bronze at ESPAMER 96, SINGAPORE 95, and PHILAKOREA 94.

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Editorial Notes

It always feels redundant to point out the Editor's surprise when a new issue of Forerunners managed to appear in print or electronic formats. But it is never-the-less the truth. This time the magic was *wanded* by a regular contributor Buchanan who writes about letters and medals associated to the Matabeleland Rebellion. Further Briscoe (from Botswana) entertains us with the early postal history of the *Runnerpost* of Bechuanaland. And finally, Case, a regular contributor living in Oregon, treats us with her experiences about navigating shark infested waters in Botswana and how to survive. But to my point above, there is now only ONE article in reserve for the next issue. So please do not hesitate to contact to Editor about ideas for your article - big or small.

Each issue of Forerunners is formatted to a total of 32 pages. This number has been worked out to restrict the mailing expenses. Thus this restricts the number of feature articles that we are able to accommodate in an issue. Another consequence is that sometimes regular features and columns may have to be delayed to a future issue. This has again happened with this issue, mainly due to several new books and reviews. We will attempt to catch up in the next issues.

The main philatelic event for the past months has no doubt been the *Cash of Empires* on the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War exhibition curated by Alex Haimann and Ian Knight at the Royal Philatelic Society at their Abchurch Lane premise of London. The exhibition ran during July and was supported by two very successful long, public ZOOM meetings where Hainmann used his cell phone to highlight objects on display. Although the exhibit itself now is over, the two videos from the ZOOM meeting are expected to be posted on the internet. Another outcome is two large volumes displaying the items in some details with images and explanations. A second volume contains articles of over 20 contributors placing the exhibition into context and offer further considerations. The two volumes are still available for purchase from the Royal's website for a total of a modest £25 for both volumes, plus shipping and local taxes. It is a highly recommended addition to the library of any collector interesting in the history of southern Africa. Go to <https://clashofempires.org> for links to information, including YouTube presentations.

Enjoy this issue of Forerunners *Peter Thy*

Reduction in Ad Rate Schedule

A substantial reduction in the commercial ad rate schedule has been introduced. It is hoped that it will entice members and dealers more often to consider the Forerunners.

The deadline for the next issue will be December 15, 2023. Please let the Editor have your contributions - small or large - as soon as possible.

Changes of address or email should be reported to the Secretary-Treasurer John McFarlane at piperjohn165@gmail.com.



Collapse of the Postal System as We Know it

The ultimate collapse of the South African postal services has been expected for some time. The past has seen a rampant loss of revenues, services, closing of post offices, loss of domestic and international mail, and no new stamps since 2020. The latest news is that the SA Government has proposed a rescue bailout plan involving a R6.2 billion fund and massive layoffs estimated at 7,000. Thus, the Post office may this time avoid liquidation, but the question is clearly whether these rescue attempts will be sufficient. The view in the government is that the SA Post Office is too big to fail. The SA Post Office is mainly responsible for mail delivery and for distributing social grants to more than 7 million beneficiaries every month. It also provides transit of postal items to countries that are members of the Universal Postal Convention.

The good news this time is that I to my surprise received a letter in June from Firenze, Italy, paying 4.50 Euros and addressed to me as PETER THY, 908 SYDER DR., DAVIS, GA, USA. The address thus lacked postal code, misspelled the street address, and gave the state as GA. It is thus a surprise how and why it reached me in a timely fashion.



Society Affairs

Forerunners is the official journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa and is published three times per year for the periods January-April, May-August, and September-December. Subscription to the Forerunners is included in the membership fees to the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa (PSGSA). The basic membership fee is US\$20 for the electronic version of the journal. The print version can be obtained by adding \$5 for USA mailing addresses, \$10 for Canada addresses, and \$15 for the rest of the world. Those that join before July 1st will receive the complete back issues for that year. Thereafter annual renewals are due by January 1st each year. A sample copy of Forerunners can be downloaded at no cost together with application form from www.psgsa.org. Advertising rates can be found in the Market Place section. Payment options are (1) check drawn on a US bank and made payable to PSGSA, (2) US \$ or £ Sterling bank notes at the current exchange rates and mailed at the sender's own risk, or (3) PayPal plus \$1 fee to the Society Treasurer at piperjohn165@gmail.com. All membership fees and other payments should be mailed directly to the Treasurer. All communications about membership, subscriptions, publications, activities, and services of the Society should be sent to the Secretary.

Instructions for Manuscript Submissions

Manuscripts should be sent directly to the Editor. Electronic versions of submissions are preferred either embedded in an email message, email attachments or on a CD and similar. MS Word files are preferred. Tables in Excel or text format are preferred; avoid complex Word tables. Illustrations should be in color and scanned at least at 150 dpi and submitted in pdf, tiff, gif, or jpg formats. Illustrations should ideally not be embedded in manuscript files. Contact the Editor if you have any questions and your submission requires special attention. Needless to say, good old fashioned typed or hand written manuscripts and photocopies can still be submitted and are still most welcome.

President's Corner

Dear Members

As a recap of the show in Denver, the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show, we had 12 Southern Africa exhibits on display for a total of some 45 frames. The list follows here along with the awards: Melz, Peter: British POW Mail During the Anglo-Boer War 1899-

1902, G 86

Dahle, Christopher: The Philately of Rhodesia and Nyasaland: 1954-1964, G 85

Melz, Peter: Mail Censored at Beaufort West During the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902, G 88

Bartshe, Tim: Orange Free State Forces: Official-mail, Cachets and Free Franking Labels 1892-1900, G 85

Bartshe, Tim: Postal Stationery South African Republic 1869-1900, LG 93

Bartshe, Tim: Registration System of the Orange Free State 1856-1899, LG 90

Thy, Peter: Rhodesian Rail Stamps Used in Botswana, LV 83

Thy, Peter: Postal Stationery of Madagascar and Dependencies, LV 84

Hisey, Robert: Zimbabwe Inflation 1980-2009, G 87

Bartshe, Tim: Uses and Postal History of the Second South African Republic 1882-1900, LG 91

Spivack, David: Military Telegraphs in British Bechuanaland, the Unappropriated Die Era: 1884-1885, G 87

Tidwell, Moody: Par Avion South Africa, LV 82

The medals are LG Large Gold, G Gold, LV Large Vermeil

As you can see our members did well in the awards arena, with Tim (that's me!) garnering the Reserve Grand one-frame for the *Registration System of the Orange Free State 1856-1899*. The APS medal of excellence for pre-1900 went to Tim (again me) for *Postal Stationery South African Republic 1869-1900* as well as the Marcus White best stationery exhibit. The difficult to win post-1980 went to Bob Hisey for *Zimbabwe Inflation 1980-2009*. If you have not seen that exhibit, you should as it gives new meaning to the word hyper when coupled with inflation. Makes Hungary after the Second World War look like child's play. The American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors awards of merit went to Moody and Peter for their respective exhibits *Par Avion South Africa* and *Rhodesian Rail Stamps Used in Botswana*. Our own PSGSA best of show went to Tim (sorry that's me again) for his ZAR stationery to round out the specials.

Thanks to all who attended the show, exhibited, gave seminars, and "zoomed" in on them. It was quite a diverse list as you can see here:

South Africa Queen Elizabeth 2nd by Jamie Smith

Joy of Collecting an Unknown Area: First Day Covers of Zanzibar by Steve Zwillinger

Color, Class, and Caste in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe: My Family and other Indians by Narendhra Morar

Southern Rhodesia King George V Revenues by David Spivack

The Romance of the posts continues - a brief history of the Rhodesian Study Circle 1948-2023 - 75th anniversary by Sean Burke

Africa- Queen Elizabeth 2nd Rarities by Jamie Smith

Nyasaland Field Force in WWI by Regis Hoffman

Indian Diaspora in East Africa Eruch Nowrojee

Methodist Women's Foreign Missionary Society in Southern Rhodesia by Mark Loomis

Essays, Die Proofs and Printers File Proofs of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland by Patrick Flanagan

Rhodesian Railway Stamps used in Botswana by Peter Thy
Nineteenth Century India-South Africa Postal History by Ravi Vora

We hope to do this again in the future at another show down the road, the last one was at Boston in 2017 where we had a whole day of seminars at the Spellman Museum and our turnout from overseas was quite remarkable. Next time we will try NOT to schedule our meetings at the same time FIP is mucking up the schedule and taking foreign visitors/exhibitors away from the show. Many thank also to the dealers that cater to our areas, Kurt Schau, Richard Johnsons and Wilard Allman, all who had some wonderful material as my checking account can attest to.

Tim Bartshe

Secretary-Treasurer Update

In conjunction with the Rhodesia Study Circle, we manned a table at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show this past May, which resulted in nine new members joining the PSGSA ranks. To a person, people were most impressed with the quality of our Forerunners Journal and this proved to be the singular reason for the increased membership interest.

Financially we are in great shape with close to \$10,000 in the bank. We will be dedicating some of those funds to new membership initiatives over the next few months. We have done well with membership renewals and while we still have a few holdouts on 2023 dues, on the whole I have been pleased that so many continue to support the Society through their annual payments.

I want to express my personal thanks to my predecessor David McNamee. When David retired he left PSGSA in outstanding shape. His keen organizational skills made it very easy for me to step in and simply adopt David's processes and procedures. If you get an opportunity to thank David personally, please do so.

One separate but related issue is that we have recently contracted with the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library to be our Forerunners printer. They are already working with about a dozen other philatelic organizations so it was a simple matter for them to put us in the queue. The product is quality and the pricing is excellent so I see this as a beneficial relationship for both organizations.

If you have any questions about the Society, its finances, membership or operations, please feel free to contact me at piperjohn165@gmail.com. If I don't have the answer I will find someone who does. If you have any complaints, feel free to send those to President Bartshe. See you next time.

John McFarlane

Wanted

Union Pictorials 1926-1929. 1/2d, 1d, and 6d Control Blocks. Scott 20-22. SG 30-32. Wanted by specialist collector. Please contact Moody Tidwell at rudolph912@gmail.com.

The Rocky Mountain Show 2023



Photo credit Colin Fraser

The First Airmail by Airplane

by AI*

During the 1800's, balloons and gliders carried the first flown mail. The first official U.S. airmail delivery took place on August 17, 1859. On that day, veteran balloonist John Wise (1808-1879) carried 123 letters and twenty-three circulars from Lafayette to Crawfordsville, Indiana, a distance of thirty miles, in his balloon Jupiter.

On December 17, 1903, Orville (1871-1948) and Wilbur (1867-1912) Wright made the first sustained, powered airplane flight at Kitty Hawk in North Carolina. Orville flew 120 feet for twelve seconds. No mail was carried. During the following decade, pilots around the world barnstormed the countryside, holding aerial demonstration meets, creating postcards and souvenir labels. Many pioneer pilots carried unofficial mail on their short flights. "Unofficial mail" refers to mail carried privately and postmarked before or after the flight, while the post office authorized and serviced "official mail."

On February 18, 1911, French pilot Henri Pequet (1888-1974) carried the first official mail



Cover from first official airmail flight by airplane, India, 1911



flown by airplane. The flight occurred in India. Pequet carried a sack with about 6,000 cards and letters on his Humber biplane. The plane flew a distance of five miles, from an Allahabad polo field, over the Yamuna River, to Naini. All mail received a special cancel depicting an airplane, mountains, and "First Aerial Post, 1911, U. P. Exhibition Allahabad."

Pequet was in India flying demonstration flights for the United Provinces Exhibition in Allahabad. Walter Windham (1868-1942), a British aviation pioneer, organized the aerial demonstrations. The event marked the first time airplanes flew in India. An appeal from Rev. W.E.S. Holland, a chaplain of the

Holy Trinity Church, Allahabad, spurred the event. He had appealed to Windham for help in fundraising for a new youth hostel. Windham conceived the aerial post and obtained approval from the post office for officially sanctioned mail. Postal officials asked Windham to design the cancel. Most mail has a magenta cancellation, but a few examples exist with black ink. The regular postage rate required an additional surcharge as a donation for the Church Hostel Building.

* This story was written by *Artificial Intelligence* (AI) using ChatGPT on Microsoft as an experiment to see if it was as capable as advertised. Nothing was changed or edited. The story even included the photographs. I think it did a pretty good job, but AI definitely has limitations. When I asked for other stories about my South Africa collections and exhibits it failed. It is fun to experiment with, but if AI is going to take over the world, as "experts" claim, it has a long way to go. It's free; try it yourself. Google it at CHATGP and ask a question, or give it an instruction.

Moody Tidwell



Covers from the Anglo-Boer War with Connections to the Matabele Rebellion in Rhodesia

by Campbell Buchanan

I collect stamps and postal history from both Rhodesia and the 1899-1902 Anglo-Boer War. I recently acquired three covers that combined both these philatelic interests; they were mailed by troops active in the Anglo-Boer War, yet the contents were connected to the Matabele Rebellion that occurred a few years earlier in Rhodesia. These “covers” were actually forms to be filled out by the recipients confirming they had received their 1896 British South Africa Company medals for service during the Matabele Rebellion. While researching these covers and re-examining some of my other Boer War covers, I realized there were numerous connections between the Matabele Rebellion and the Boer War.

This was not entirely unexpected because these conflicts were only a few years apart and in close proximity to each other. Also, Cecil John Rhodes was a leading instigator of both the Matabele Rebellion and the Boer War. He was an arch imperialist who had amassed a huge fortune from his De Beers diamond mining company in Kimberley, which gave him considerable political power. He became Prime Minister of the Cape of Good Hope Colony and was granted a Royal Charter to develop the Central African territory between the Limpopo and Zambezi Rivers – a region then controlled by Lobengula, the King of the Matabele (now known as Ndebele). In 1888, Rhodes persuaded Lobengula to sign a treaty for the administration and mining rights in the territory under Lobengula’s control (both Matabeleland and Mashonaland) and in 1890 the Pioneer Column, a group of settlers protected by well-armed British South Africa Company Police (BSAP), moved through Matabeleland into Shona territory to establish Fort Salisbury (now Harare).

Before discussing the covers, here are brief summaries of the Matabele Rebellion and the Anglo-Boer War ...

The Matabele Rebellions

There were actually two separate rebellions, the first occurring between 1893 and 1894 when the Matabele warriors revolted against the authority of the British South Africa Company but gradually succumbed to the B.S.A. Company’s superior firepower. Lobengula died from smallpox in January 1894, and soon after the king’s death, the Matabele submitted to the British South Africa Company.

The second Matabele Rebellion occurred between 1896 and 1897 when the M’limo (the Matabele spiritual leader) convinced the Matabele and the Mashona (now Shona) tribes that the settlers (almost 4,000 strong by then) were responsible for the drought, locust plagues and the rinderpest cattle disease ravaging the country at the time. Their timing was fortuitous because only a few months earlier the Administrator General, Leander Starr Jameson, had led most of the British South Africa Company’s troops and armaments to fight the Transvaal Republic in the ill-fated “Jameson Raid”, leaving the country nearly defenseless. To fill the vacuum, British troops led by General Carrington, his chief-of-staff Colonel Robert Baden Powell, and Colonel Herbert Plumer were sent to Rhodesia in an effort to quell the violence, but at a cost of many lives on both sides.

In order to end the Rebellion, Cecil Rhodes, unarmed, met with Matabele elders for peace talks which eventually brought the conflict to an end. This so-called “Indaba”, which took place on a large ant heap among the Matopos (now Matobo) Hills, was portrayed on a 1940 3d Southern Rhodesia stamp (Scott 40, SG 58) commemorating the Golden Jubilee of the British South Africa Company (Figure 1b). The stamp vignette shows Cecil Rhodes assisted by Capt. Colenbrander (on his right) at the 1896 peace talks with Matabele warriors. The vignette is based on a sketch by Colonel Robert Baden-Powell who was an accomplished artist (see Figure 1a and Note 2).

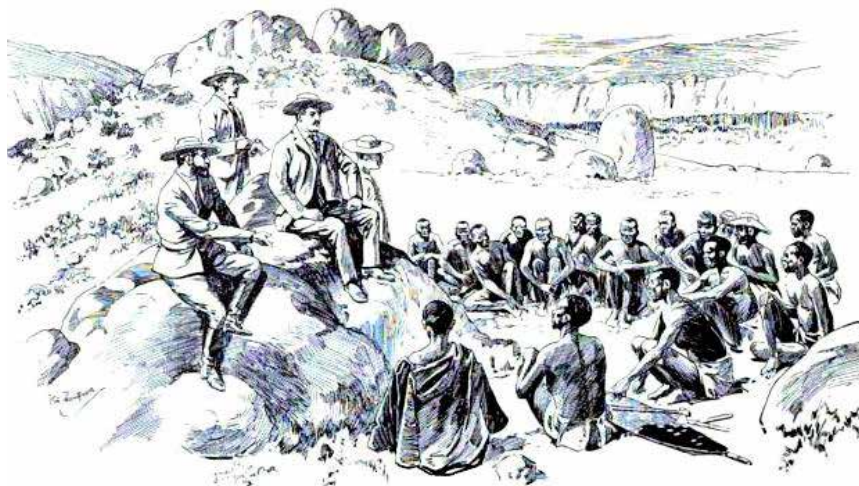


Figure 1. Baden Powell sketch (left), 1940 Southern Rhodesias stamp (above)

In 1896, Queen Victoria sanctioned the issue by the British South Africa Company of a medal to troops who had been engaged in the First Matabele War. In 1897, the award was supplemented to those engaged in the two campaigns of the Second Matabele War, namely Rhodesia (1896) and Mashonaland (1897). The three medals are the same except for the name of the campaign for which the medal was issued is inscribed on the reverse. The majority of awards were to colonial and locally raised troops, rather than members of the regular British Army.

The medal on the left in Figure 2 was awarded to Frederick Russell Burnham DSO (1861-1947) who was an American scout known for his service to the British South Africa Company and to the British Army in colonial Africa. He taught scouting techniques and woodcraft to Robert Baden Powell while in Rhodesia which helped inspire the founding of the international Scouting movement. [Image Source: Wikipedia]



Figure 2. Obverse and Reverse of BSAC Medals

The 1899-1902 Anglo-Boer War

The Dutch first settled the strategically important Cape of Good Hope in 1652, but following the occupation of the Dutch Republic in Europe by the French during the Napoleonic Wars, the British formally took over the Cape territory in 1814. Many of the Cape Dutch settlers (collectively known as “Boers”) resisted British rule and in 1836 migrated northward into the sparsely populated hinterland (this mass emigration is known as “The Great Trek”) forming two autonomous republics: the Orange Free State and the South African Republic (more commonly known as the Transvaal).

The political dynamics emphatically changed in 1884, when gold was discovered in the Witwatersrand area of the Transvaal which resulted in a large influx of *Uitlanders* (foreigners), mainly English-speaking men from Britain in search of a fortune. The *Uitlanders* demanded full voting rights, but the president of the South African Republic, Paul Kruger, realized this would eventually result in the loss of ethnic Boer control of his territory. Cecil Rhodes’ failed Jameson Raid of 1895 into the Transvaal, led by Dr. Leander Starr Jameson, further escalated the tensions between the British and the Boers.

Concessions offered by President Kruger at a conference in Bloemfontein in June 1899 were rejected by the British which resulted in Kruger issuing an ultimatum on 9 October 1899, giving the British government 48 hours to withdraw all their troops from the borders of both the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, failing which the Transvaal, allied to the Orange Free State, would declare war on the British government. Kruger’s ultimatum was met with outrage and laughter in London, and was rejected by the British government.

The Boers had no regular army units, apart from a small *Staatsartillerie*, but were able to muster about 33,000 members of civilian militias and decisively outnumbered the British, who could move only 13,000 troops to the front line. Their new-found wealth from the gold mines had allowed the Boers to purchase advanced armaments, such as modern, smokeless, Mauser rifles and Krupp field guns from Germany as well as Creusot “Long Tom” cannons from France, which were superior to the British weapons. On 11th October 1899, the Boer troops attacked on two fronts, into Natal from the Transvaal and into the northern Cape from the Orange Free State. The Boers defeated the British in a number of major engagements forcing them to retreat to their garrisons at Ladysmith, Mafeking, and Kimberley. Colonel Baden-Powell was in charge of the British troops during the Mafeking siege (Note 2), and Cecil Rhodes moved into Kimberley just prior to that town being besieged. Siege life took its toll on both the defending soldiers and the civilians as food began to grow scarce after a few weeks.

In response to these setbacks, the commanding officer, General Redvers Buller, was replaced by Field Marshal Lord Roberts and his chief of staff Lord Kitchener. A considerable number of soldiers were brought to Southern Africa from throughout the British Empire, including contingents from Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. By the time the war ended the total British military strength in Southern Africa reached nearly 500,000 men, while the Boers numbered about 87,000 men and boys including over 2,000 foreign volunteers.

The British troops eventually relieved Ladysmith (on 28th February 1900), Kimberley (15th February 1900) and Mafeking (17th May 1900). Roberts occupied Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State, on 13th March 1900, and the province was annexed and renamed the Orange River Colony. By 31st May 1900, British troops had entered Johannesburg; on 5th June Pretoria was taken; and by 1st September 1900, the entire Transvaal was annexed. To many it seemed that the war was over. At the end of November 1900, Roberts made a triumphant return to England leaving Kitchener to do the mopping up.

However, the Boers resorted to guerrilla tactics, relying on small, mobile military units to attack British troop columns, and to sabotage telegraph sites, railways, and storage depots. To protect the railways the British built 8,000 blockhouses guarded by 50,000 troops. In response, the British embarked on a scorched earth policy to deny supplies to the fighters, destroying approximately 30,000 farms and sending their families into concentration camps. These measures were largely responsible for bringing the Boers to the negotiation table to end the War on 31st May 1902, but at a terrible cost; around 28,000 most-



Figure 3. BSAP Lobatsi Cover

ly women and children died in the concentration camps, there were 120,000 British and Imperial casualties, including 22,000 dead two thirds of which were caused by disease (mostly enteric fever) and inadequate medical provision, and over 7000 Boer commandoes were killed.

Boer War Covers with Matabele Rebellion Connections

Cover from Lobatsi, Bechuanaland to Bulawayo, Rhodesia

In July 1899, even before the commencement of the Boer War on 11th October, Colonel Baden-Powell had been sent to Rhodesia and the Bechuanaland Protectorate to organize defenses to protect the borders of both regions and to ensure that the railway from Bulawayo to Mafeking remained open in the event of war breaking out. Colonel Plumer, who was recipient of the BSAC medal for his role on the Matabele Rebellion and had been present at Cecil Rhodes' "Indaba" peace talks, was placed in charge of troops from the Rhodesia Regiment as well as members of the British South Africa Police. His force moved to Fort Tuli (now Thuli) near the Transvaal border and was involved in a number of small actions which frustrated any Boer incursions into Rhodesia.

Mafeking was besieged by the Boers on 13th October 1899 so Plumer moved his forces into Bechuanaland towards Mafeking, reaching Lobatsi (now Lobatse) 60 miles from Mafeking, on 6th March. The force was involved in frequent engagements and took heavy casualties near Mafeking before taking part in its successful relief on 17th May 1900.

The "On Active Service" cover shown in Figure 3 was mailed from Lobatsi to Bulawayo, Rhodesia by a corporal, G.P.

Oliver, in Plumer's British South Africa Police contingent just over two weeks after the Relief of Mafeking. The cover was marked "Urgent" and was countersigned by "Major M.H.G. Mundell, Commanding Detachment B.S.A. Police". Major Marmaduke Howell Gwinn Mundell had been a member of Cecil Rhodes' original Pioneer Corps that moved into Rhodesia in 1890 and was a member of the botched Jameson Raid into the Transvaal in 1895 (where he was taken prisoner). Mundell had also taken part in the 1896 Matabele Rebellion for which he was awarded a BSAC Medal.

There is a Bulawayo arrival postmark 4 June 1900 on reverse and a similar 6 June 1900 postmark cancelling the postage due (T =Taxe) indication, probably after the postage due was paid. There is a pencil notation on reverse: "These are the sort of letters we get from the front. Always a 1d to pay as they have no stamps J.E.J.". The violet PASSED PRESS CENSOR cachet was applied in Bulawayo, the only British civilian censor location outside South Africa (the cachet, designated BLW1, has known use 4 April 1900 to 13 August 1900.)

Cover from Kitchener's Fighting Scouts

Figure 4 shows a stampless official cover mailed by a member of Kitchener's Fighting Scouts. Formed in December 1900, Kitchener's Fighting Scouts was an irregular unit, mostly made up of troops recruited from the Cape Colony and Natal to fight in the Transvaal. Their reputation as hard riding and drinking toughs and ferocious opponents made them feared in the Transvaal. The unit was commanded by the legendary frontiersman, Natal-born Johan Wilhelm Colenbrander (1855-1918). After



Figure 4. Kitcheners Fighting Scouts Cover

seeing action in the 1883 Zulu War in Natal, Colenbrander moved to Mashonaland in 1889. He won the trust of Matabele King Lobengula and even accompanied two of Lobengula's envoys to visit Queen Victoria in London, but fought against him in the 1893–1894 First Matabele War as a scout alongside Frederick Russell Burnham (Figure 2 shows Burnham's BSAC medal). Colenbrander also took part in the 1896 Second Matabele War and was one of the men on the ant hill with Cecil Rhodes at the "Indaba" peace talks (the person to the right of Rhodes in Figure 1) where he acted as interpreter. Sadly, he met an untimely death in 1918 when he and two other actors were drowned in a swollen river near Johannesburg while filming a movie about the Zulu War.

The Figure 4 cover was postmarked in Port Elizabeth on 31 May 1901 and mailed to "C.R.O." (possibly Central Recruiting Office), Drill Hall, Durban. There is a Durban arrival postmark dated 4 June 1901 on the reverse. The cover is signed "R. FitzStubbs, Lieut." above a two-line "Recruiting Officer/Kitchener's Fighting Scouts" handstamp. Queen Victoria died on 22 January 1901, replaced by King Edward VII, so technically the cover was sent On His Majesty's Service.

During the 1896 Matabele uprising in Rhodesia, FitzStubbs had been the second in command of Colenbrander's Native Contingent and was a recipient of the 1896 British South Africa Company medal.

BSAC Medal Acknowledgement Forms

I acquired three medal acknowledgement forms, two from 1900 printed on blue paper perforated along one edge with dimensions 9¼x7 5/8 inches (235x194mm), and one from 1902 printed on buff-colored paper with dimensions 10¾x7½ inches (273x190mm). The wording is identical on all three forms, but the return addresses differ - the blue forms were returned to the Military Secretary, Cape Town, whereas the buff form was

mailed to the Military Secretary, Johannesburg (which had been occupied by the British by 1902.)

Form from Trooper E.P. Palmer, British South Africa Police

Figure 5 shows a blue form sent to Trooper E.P. Palmer, BSA [British South Africa] Police to confirm that he had received his BSAC medal. These forms may have been included in the package containing the medal. The form was signed by Trooper Palmer but both his address, "A Troop of M.I. [Mounted Infantry] Natal", and the date, "17 August 1900", were added in pencil after the form arrived in Cape Town.

The form had been folded into a tiny cover, measuring a mere 2¾ x 3¼ inches (71x83mm), then mailed to The Military Secretary, Cape Town (see Figure 6). It was postmarked with a large circle Army Post Office rubber date stamp dated 25 July 1900 inscribed "Army Post Office 3MB [3rd Mounted Brigade.]" A Cape Town postmark dated 14 August 1900 was applied on arrival.

The 3rd Mounted Brigade, commanded by Major General, the Earl of Dundonald, was one of a large numbers of Mounted Infantry (M.I.) units raised by the British to counter the Boers' mobility on horseback over the rugged South African veldt, often with little equitation training. They did not fight on horseback; their mounts were used as means of transport unlike the cavalry who held them in contempt. Many colonial troops, such as Trooper Palmer, along with soldiers from different regiments, were formed into Mounted Infantry units resulting in a loss of regimental affiliation. These lines extracted from Rudyard Kipling's poem, "M.I.", emphasize the disdain faced by the Mounted Infantry troops:

*I used to be in the Yorkshires once,
(Sussex, Lincolns, and Rifles once),
Hampshires, Glosters, and Scottish once!
But now I am M.I.*

No. of Papers 1111/96 E.P. Palmer

Regl. No. _____

Rank Trooper

Regiment Matabele

I hereby acknowledge to have received a Medal granted by
the British South Africa Company for Service in Rhodesia, 1896.

Signature E.P. Palmer

Address A. Young, 101st Street

Date 17.8.1900

Figure 5. Palmer's Form

*That is what we are known as; we are the beggars that got
Three days "to learn equitation," an' six month o' blumin'
well trot!*

E.P. Palmer had served in the British South Africa Police with a rank of Trooper during the 1896 Matabele Rebellion, and was clearly serving in the Mounted Infantry, Natal in July 1900 when he mailed the form. I found a record in the AngloBoerWar.Com website that Trooper Edgar Pearson Palmer joined the Kitchener's Fighting Scouts on 22nd March 1901 but was discharged as medically unfit on 8th August 1901.

Form from Quarter Master Sergeant George G. Finch

Figure 7 shows a blue BSAC Medal acknowledgement form signed by QM Sergeant George G. Finch, Salisbury Field Force on 4 December 1900. He writes his address as simply Bloemfontein. The form was folded and sealed with small piece of selvaige as shown in Figure 8. Addressed to The Military Secretary, Cape Town, it was postmarked Bloemfontein 4 December 1900 and there is a Cape Town arrival postmark on reverse dated 7 December 1900. The violet straight line PASSED CENSOR cachet was applied in Bloemfontein. Designated BFN7, this cachet was used in Bloemfontein from 30 November 1900 to 8 December 1900.



Figure 6. Palmer's Cover

No. of Papers *1146/96*

Regl. No. _____

Rank *Quartermaster*

Regiment *Salisbury Field Force*

I hereby acknowledge to have received a Medal granted by
the British South Africa Company for Service in Rhodesia, 1896.

Signature *Geo. Finch*

Address *Bloemfontein*

Date *Dec 6/00*

Figure 7. George Finch's Form

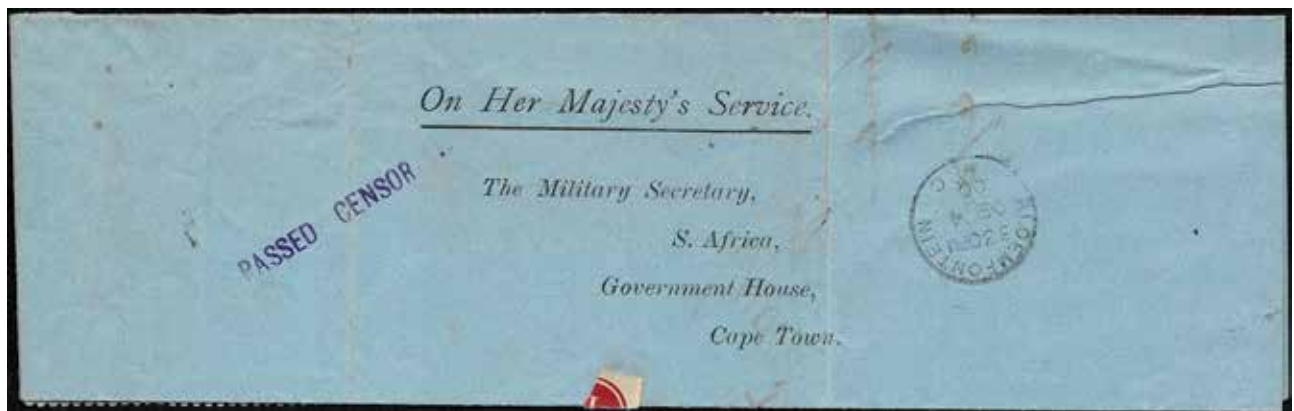


Figure 8. George Finch's Bloemfontein Cover

George G. Finch took part in the Matabele Rebellion as a Quarter Master Sergeant in the Salisbury Field Force but I cannot find evidence of any Boer War military service for a George Finch. The form was mailed from the civilian post office in Bloemfontein so he may have been a civilian living in Bloemfontein which was in British control at this time (the British had occupied Bloemfontein on 13 March 1900.)

Form from Private John Barrie

Unlike the earlier blue forms, the form shown in Figure 9 has the identical wording but is printed on thick, buff-colored paper. It was sent in 1902 to Private John Barrie who wrote his address as Cape Town Highlanders, Touws River, Cape Colony. "3/Supplementary/96" is written at the top of the form; this is possibly a reference to the 1896 medal which was supplemented to include other campaigns in Rhodesia.

The form as folded for mailing is shown in Figure 10. The mailing address, "The Military Secretary Johannesburg", differs from the blue forms which were addressed to Cape Town (the British had occupied Johannesburg on 31 May 1900.) It was postmarked Touws River on 23 April 1902 and arrived in Johannesburg on 26 April 1902. Touws River is a small town in the Western Cape province located on the Cape Town Kimberley railroad about 100 miles (160km) north-east of Cape Town.

There are two censor cachets: a red, double triangle PASSED PRESS CENSOR TOUWS RIVER cachet (type TOU3) and a faint black oval Johannesburg censor cachet (type JHB16). The red Touws River censor cachet is scarce; Peter Prime only shows a single example, dated 19th May 1902, in his book listing all known civil censor cachets (see References). This example extends the known range of use for the TOU3 censor cachet from 23 April 1902 to 19 May 1902.

3
 No. of Papers *Supplementary*
 96

Regl. No. *1738*

Rank *Pte*

Regiment *Cape Town Highlanders*

I hereby acknowledge to have received a Medal granted by
 the British South African Company for Service in Rhodesia, 1890.

Signature *Pte John Barrie*

Address *Cape Town Highlanders.
 Touws River
 Cape Colony*

Date *21/4/02*

Figure 9. Barrie's Form

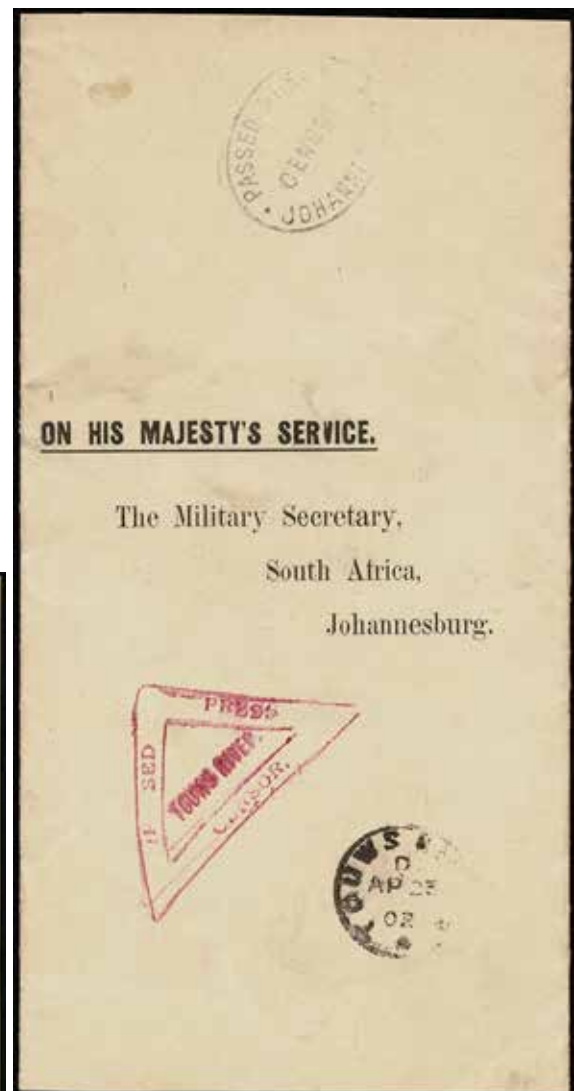


Figure 10. Barrie's Cover

The form from Private John Barrie was enigmatic; it was confirmation that he had received a British South Africa Company medal yet there is no soldier named Barrie on the BSAC Medal rolls in the AngloBoerWar.Com website. Nor were the Cape Town Highlanders involved in the Matabele Rebellion.

A name-search for troops with last name Barrie who participated in the Boer War gave two results:

Barrie J, Cape Town Highlanders

Source: *QSA and KSA medal rolls*

Barrie John, No. 20, Trooper, Rhodesia

Regiment Source: *Nominal roll in WO127*

QSA (Queen's South Africa) and KSA (King's South Africa) refer to British campaign medals awarded to British and Colonial military personnel, and also to civilians employed in an official capacity, who served in the 1899-1902 Boer War in South Africa (the Queen's medal became the King's medal following Queen Victoria's death.)



Figure 11. Barrie's Medals

The “J. Barrie, Cape Town Highlanders” record matches the address on the acknowledgement form but where is the Rhodesia connection? On the other hand, “Trooper John Barrie” served in the Rhodesia Regiment. Could they be one and the same person?

By luck, I discovered two medals, a BSAC medal (yellow & black ribbon) and a Queen’s South Africa medal (black, red & orange stripes), belonging to a Trooper John Barrie being offered for sale by medal dealer, Liverpool Medals Ltd., Altrincham, England (see Figure 11, reproduced with permission by Liverpool Medals Ltd.). The rim engravings show that Barrie served in the Bulawayo Field Force during the Matabele Rebellion and in the Rhodesia Regiment during the Boer War. But what was his connection to the Cape Town Highlanders?

Fortunately, the Liverpool Medals Ltd. webpage also included an extract from a Scottish newspaper which describes John Barrie’s convoluted involvement in the Bulawayo Field Force, the Rhodesia Regiment AND the Cape Town Highlanders, and also how he met an unfortunate death in 1903, a year after the Boer War was over.

Murder of a Hawick Man in Central Africa

Mr. John Barrie was an adventurous Scotsman, from the town of Hawick [see Note 3] in the Scottish Borders, Roxburghshire. The Scottish Borders perhaps not providing much excitement for a young man, he first journeyed to South Africa about 1895. In 1896 he served in the locally raised Bulawayo Field Force under Selous during the 1896 Campaign where he “saw a varied experience in the Matabele War.”

He was still working in Rhodesia afterwards when the “Rhodesia Regiment” recruiting began on 10th August 1899, the exact day that John Barrie signed up for service, being one of the first members recruited when the regiment was raised by

Colonel Baden-Powell, after raising the regiment he passed it off to Colonel Plumer before heading to Mafeking with his Bechuanaland Regiment. (Only to be besieged in the town for Months as soon as the war began).

He served through the early part of the Boer War earning his [Queen’s South Africa] medal and Rhodesia Clasp, with his discharge in 1900 he returned home [to Hawick, Scotland].

After his experiences in Rhodesia it would seem that he did not like to remain at home in quiet Hawick, so he went back there once more without wasting much time, and saw further war services in the Cape Town Highlanders

After peace was declared he found work as a Prison Warder [in Bulawayo, Rhodesia].

Information has been received from Bulawayo giving details of the trial of the native man Gona, who shot Mr. John Barrie in August last [27th August 1903], when he was a warder at Bulawayo Jail.

Some prisoners under the charge of the guard Barrie were employed in collecting stones from the road. Barrie placed his gun behind a rock and took up a pick, and showed them how they had to do the work. The accused picked up the gun and ran away. Barrie then followed him, but the accused stopped, turned round, and fired. Barrie fell back and died immediately. The Prisoner was found guilty and sentenced to death.

Barrie, who went through the recent war with honour, was very much respected, and the Jail Officials have erected a memorial stone over his grave.” – Southern Reporter, 10th December 1903

Conclusion

Very few postal history covers have their original contents so their importance is usually confined to postal rates, postal markings, cachets, and destinations which are the essential

requirements for philatelic exhibits, but have little significant human interest. Sometimes the background stories of the correspondents are a lot more fascinating than scarce postal markings.

Notes

1. Baden Powell was not actually present at Rhodes' Peace Talks because he had come down with dysentery at that time.
2. During the Mafeking Siege, groups of boy cadets were formed into the Mafeking Cadet Corps to support the troops, carry messages, and help in the hospital which freed up men for military duties. They became the inspiration for the international Boy Scout movement.
3. Hawick (pronounced "Hoik") is a small village in south-east Scotland that was once a center for the production of tweed and cashmere.

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 Archives at Yale, Frederick Russell Burnham papers: <https://archives.yale.edu/repositories/12/resources/3802>
 Liverpool Medals Ltd., England website: <https://www.liverpoolmedals.com/product/bsa-qa-pair-rhodesia-murder>

Postscript: The First Matabele War

To complete the story is shown a recipient letter from a Trooper in the First Matabele War of 1893. A former trooper of the Bechuanaland Border Police acknowledges in 1897 he has received a medal from the British South Africa Company for his contribution to the Matabeleland campaign in 1893. The silver medal was sanctioned by Queen Victoria in 1896 and granted to military personnel. Inset at left shows an example of the medal's reverse with the Matabeleland 1893 inscription.



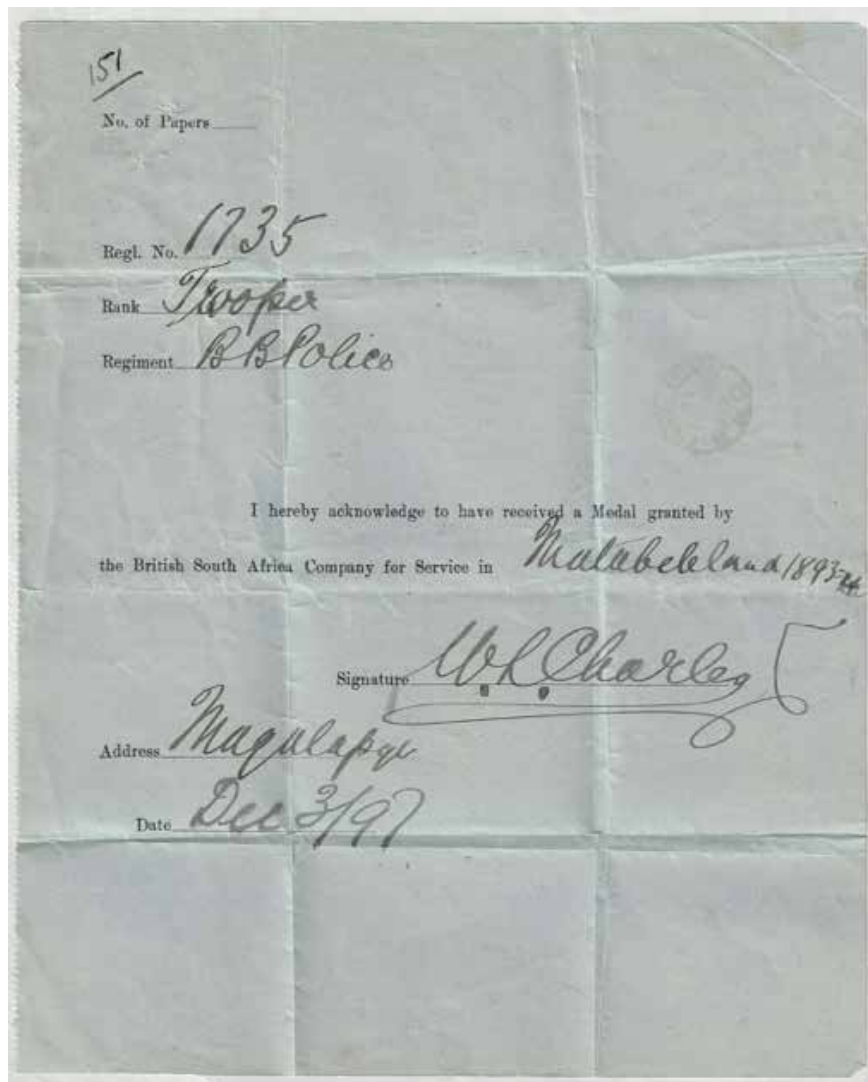
The medal records shows that there were two recipients of the medal with the last name Charles:

Joseph Kirk-Bridge
 Charles, No. 1313
 Trooper, BSACM
 Matabeleland 1893

William Leonard
 Charles, No. 1735
 Trooper, BSACM
 Matabeleland 1893

Source: *BSACM rolls, Bechuanaland Border Police.*

The latter was the person who signed the letter to the right.



151
 No. of Papers _____
 Regl. No. 1735
 Rank Trooper
 Regiment B.B. Police

I hereby acknowledge to have received a Medal granted by
 the British South Africa Company for Service in Matabeleland 1893
 Signature W.L. Charles
 Address Magalapa
 Date Dec 3/97

Botswana's Official Runner Post

by Andrew Briscoe

Molepolole
October 14th 1885

To Colonel Carrington C. S. G.
Sir

I take the liberty of writing on behalf of the European residents in Sechele's country, Subjects of Her Majesty the Queen, to ask you if there is a hope or prospect of any arrangements being made for the conveyance of the post through Mafikeng to this part of the country. At present all postal matter comes via the Transvaal, and is purely a private post between this place and Zeerust. If you could see your way to making arrangements for say a permanent weekly or even a fortnightly post, you would confer a great benefit on all the European residents throughout the country.

Remain
your devoted servant
A. J. Wookey.

Figure 1. Wookey's Petition

On 30th September 1885, the territory north of the Molopo river as far as Latitude 22 degrees South was declared a British Protectorate. Almost immediately following this declaration, on October 14th 1885, the Rev. A. J. Wookey at Molepolole petitioned Colonel Carrington of the Border Police “on behalf of the European residents in Sechele's country to ask you if there is a hope or prospects of any arrangements being made for the conveyance of the post through Mafikeng to this part of the country. At present, all postal matter comes via the Transvaal, and is purely a private post between this place and Zeerust. If you could see your way to making arrangements for say a permanent weekly or even a fortnightly post, you would confer a great benefit on all the European residents throughout the country” (Figure 1).

Moffat's Project

In 1887, John Smith Moffat (Figure 2) was appointed as an emissary to Chief Lobengula in Gubulawayo and in this capacity, he communicated regularly with Sir Sidney Shippard, the British Administrator in Vryburg. Moffat initially utilised

the missionaries' informal postal system: his letters and reports were carried, mainly by runners, some 800 kilometres to Mafeking, where they were passed to the post office for onward transmission to Vryburg.

In early 1888, Moffat suggested to Shippard that a regular official runner mail system be introduced between Mafeking and Gubulawayo. The proposal was approved, and the Postmaster-General at Vryburg was instructed to investigate whether certain residents of the Protectorate would be able to assist in the establishment of this project:

“a) To enquire from Mr Tillard, Postmaster at Mafeking, Mr John Williams of Kanye, Mr Boyne of Molepolole, Messrs Musson Bros of Shoshong, and Mr Samuel Edwards of Tati, the cost of a Postal Service from Mafeking to Shoshong, and from Shoshong to Gubulawayo via the Tati, to be carried out by a system of native runners.

b) Mr Tillard to say whether he could secure the services of trustworthy runners between Mafeking and Kanye to convey a post once a fortnight each way, and if so, what would be the cost.



Dr J. S. Moffat, C.M.G.

Figure 2. John Smith Moffat

c) Mr John Williams to be asked whether he would be willing to act as Postal Agent and to undertake the sale of stamps without remuneration and also to find reliable runners for a post once a fortnight each way, between Kanye and Molepolole.

d) Similar questions to be asked of Mr Boyne as regards a post between Shoshong and Molepolole and to Messrs Musson Bros with regard to a fortnightly post between Shoshong and the Tati, and Mr Samuel Edwards with regard to a fortnightly post between Tati and Gubulawayo, to which there is reason to believe the Chief Lobengula would be willing to contribute a small subsidy."

Although some of the traders were reluctant to undertake the work of Postal Agent, the necessary arrangements were finally made, and in June 1888, Moffat was instructed to implement the project. The total cost of the mail service between Mafeking and Gubulawayo was under no circumstances to exceed the cost of £200 per annum. The mail service was to be limited only to letters and newspapers; books and parcels were not to be accepted for as long as the service was operated by runners.

The introduction of the service was announced on 8 August 1888 by a Notice in The Bechuanaland News (Figure 3): "*The arrangements which Mr. J. S. Moffat, Assistant Commissioner, has during the past month or two been making are now completed and the 'Protectorate Post' comes into operation forthwith. The former route to the Interior, via Zeerust in the Transvaal, has been summarily abandoned, and the post will be conveyed by native runners through Mafeking to Kanye (Gasitsive's), Molepolole (Secheli's) and Shoshong (Khama's) weekly, and from Shoshong to Gubulawayo (Lobengula's) fortnightly*"

The Postal Notice of August 1888

The notice provided that, as in the Cape Colony, postal charg-

PROTECTORATE POST.

It is hereby notified for general information that arrangements will shortly be completed for the establishment of a Postal Service, by Native Runners, between British Bechuanaland and Matabeleland via Hamangwato, when the following Rates of Postage will come into force:—

Correspondence posted within the Protectorate and Trans-Protectorate to be prepaid in British Bechuanaland Stamps overprinted with the word "Protectorate."	LETTERS		For each Newspaper not exceeding 4 oz. and for every additional 4 oz.
	Not exceeding ½ oz.	Every additional ½ oz.	
1.—WHEN POSTED WITHIN THE PRESENT LIMITS OF THE PROTECTORATE—			
(a) Addressed to places within the present limits of the Protectorate	2d	2d	2d
(b) Addressed to Offices in Matabeleland, British Bechuanaland, the Cape Colony, and other parts of South Africa	4d	4d	2½d
(c) Addressed to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries.—The Rates specified in the existing convention between the Cape Colony and British Bechuanaland and an additional charge of	8d	2d	2d
2.—WHEN POSTED BEYOND THE PRESENT LIMITS OF THE PROTECTORATE—			
(a) Addressed to Places within the Trans-Protectorate	2d	2d	2d
(b) Addressed to Offices within the present limits of the Protectorate	4d	4d	2½d
(c) Addressed to British Bechuanaland, the Cape Colony, and other parts of South Africa	6d	6d	4½d
(d) Addressed to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries.—The Rates specified in the existing convention between the Cape Colony and British Bechuanaland and an additional charge of	4d	4d	4d
3.—CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO THE PROTECTORATE OR TRANS-PROTECTORATE FROM OTHER PARTS OF SOUTH AFRICA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES SHOULD BE PREPAID AT THE RATES PROVIDED IN THE EXISTING CONVENTION BETWEEN THE CAPE COLONY AND BRITISH BECHUANALAND, and the following additional stamps will be payable upon delivery:—			
(a) When delivered within the present limits of the Protectorate	2d	2d	2d
(b) When delivered beyond the present limits of the Protectorate	4d	4d	4d
Postal Agencies are being opened at the undermentioned places:— Within the present limits of the Protectorate at Kanye, Molepolole (Secheli's), and Shoshong (Khama's). Beyond the present limits of the Protectorate at Tati and Gubulawayo (Lobengula's). No Articles will be transmitted at Book or Parcel Rates beyond Mafeking in British Bechuanaland so long as the Mails are conveyed by Native Runners.			
ERNEST C. BANTER, Acting Postmaster-General.			
Vryburg, British Bechuanaland, July 29th, 1888.			

Printed by Trenchard & Son, Government Stationers' Office, Vryburg.

Figure 3. The Postal Notice of August 1888

es were to be based on the weight of a letter and its destination. A letter posted in the Protectorate for a destination within the Protectorate cost 2d per half ounce and 4d per half ounce when addressed to offices in Matabeleland, British Bechuanaland, the Cape Colony, and other parts of South Africa. The rate for mail addressed to the United Kingdom (and foreign countries) was the rate that applied to such places from British Bechuanaland plus a surcharge of 2d. The cost of a letter to Great Britain was therefore 8d [6d + 2d]. A letter from the Trans-Protectorate was subject to an additional 2d surcharge.

Moffat had been instructed that the cost of the service was not to exceed £200 per annum. Since British Bechuanaland and the Bechuanaland Protectorate operated a joint fiscal system, and it was necessary - in order to calculate the revenue derived from the postal service of the Protectorate - that the postage stamps used in the two territories should be distinguishable from each other. For this accounting purpose, a quantity of British Bechuanaland stamps were overprinted "Protectorate" for

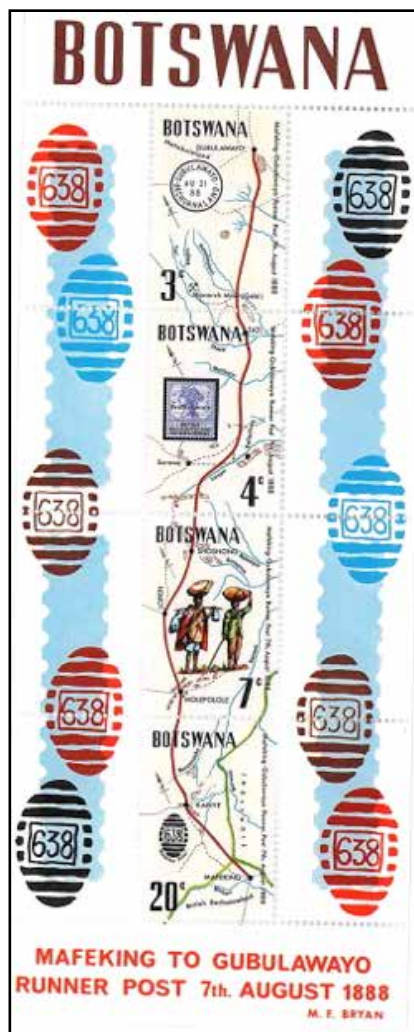


Figure 4. Miniature sheet issued by the Botswana Post Office in 1972 to celebrate the introduction of the Official Runner Post in 1888.

sale only in the Protectorate. These overprinted stamps were issued for sale on 7 August 1888.

By these means, the Protectorate's first official postal service was introduced on 9 August, 1888. The mails from and to Mafeking, Kanye, Molepolole and Shoshong were served by native runners weekly. A fortnightly service operated northwards from Shoshong to Tati and Gubulawayo.

A miniature sheet issued by the Botswana Post Office in 1972 to celebrate the introduction of the Official Runner Post in 1888 is shown in Figure 4.

The Postmaster General's Annual Report for the first year of the Protectorate's postal department indicates that 6,756 paid letters, 419 official letters, 4,776 newspapers and 124 registered letters were received at the offices of the Postal Agents; the number of items despatched from the Protectorate's offices during the same period was 6,109 paid letters, 419 official letters, 126 newspapers and 177 registered letters. Postage stamps to the amount of £242 were sold during the year, whilst £97 was also collected from surcharges and additional postal charges.

The runner 'foot post' system worked satisfactorily for nine

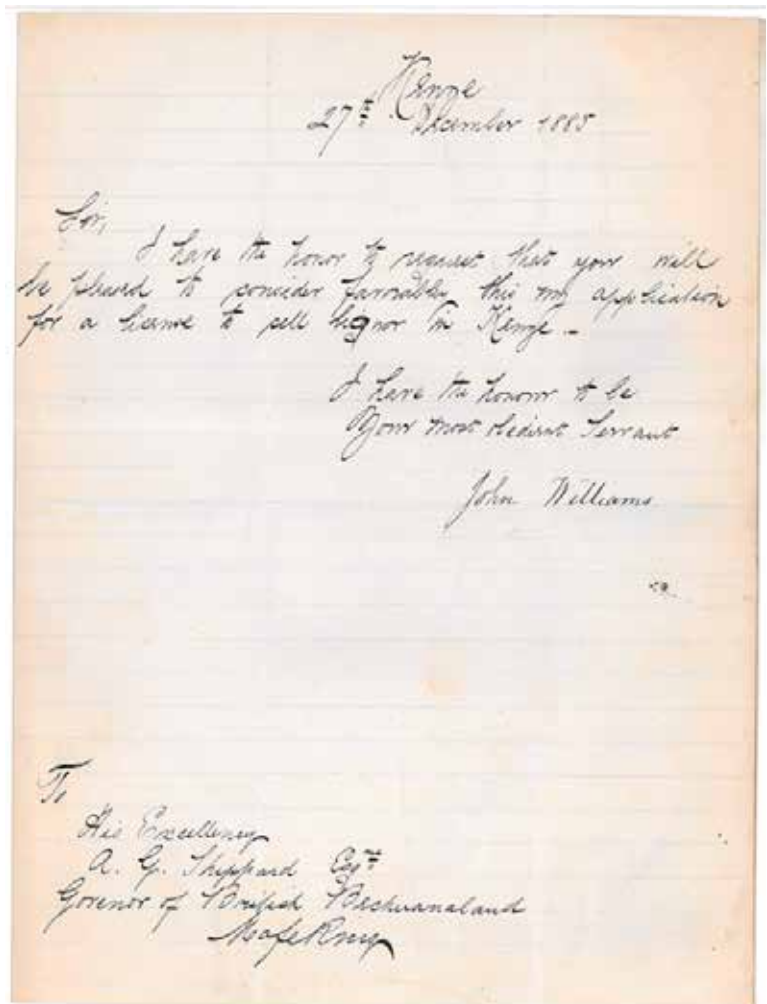


Figure 5. Early Letter from Kanye. A letter dated 27 December 1885 from the trader John Williams who became the Postal Agent at Kanye

months. However, in May 1889, when the main body of the Bechuanaland Border Police was moved up from Mafeking to Macloutsie in the north-east, in anticipation of the invasion of Mashonaland by Rhodes's 'Pioneer Column.' This relocation led to a considerable increase in the weight of the mails to be conveyed through the Protectorate, and although the service was restricted to letters and newspapers only, the native runners were no longer able to cope with the resulting demands.

Postal Agencies

Following the establishment of an official mail service, five Postal Agents were appointed, based at Kanye (Mr John Williams), Molepolole (Rev. S. J. Wookey), Shoshong (Mr C. Austin), Tati (Mr Samuel Edwards) and Gubulawayo (Rev C.D. Helm). Chief Montsioa's son and heir, Kebalepele, also agreed to arrange transportation of the mails between Mafeking and Kanye at a cost of £1 per trip.

A letter dated 27 December 1885 from the trader John Williams who became the Postal Agent at Kanye is shown in Figure 5).

The remuneration for a Postal Agent was a commission of 2½% upon the value of stamps sold, plus 25% of the extra

Len Hutton, Botswana, and the Ten Billion Dollar Marketplace: How to Swim Safely in Shark-Infested Waters

by Sheila Case



Len Hutton

My weekly news magazine presents, in small print, which is becoming increasingly difficult for me to read, fact-checked news from all regions of the world, well-written, full of data and always in context. Two or three minutes on a given topic gives me a balanced view that makes sense of a dozen or more internet offerings which are mostly on the verge of hysterical. Browsing Middle East and Africa, my eye was caught by something totally unexpected: Sharing a page with Israel's election problems and Iran's ongoing COVID crisis was a sparkling photo, a man dressed all in white, against a greener-than-green grass background, in a characteristic pose, looking as if he had just dispatched the ball to the boundary for 4 runs...CRICKET!

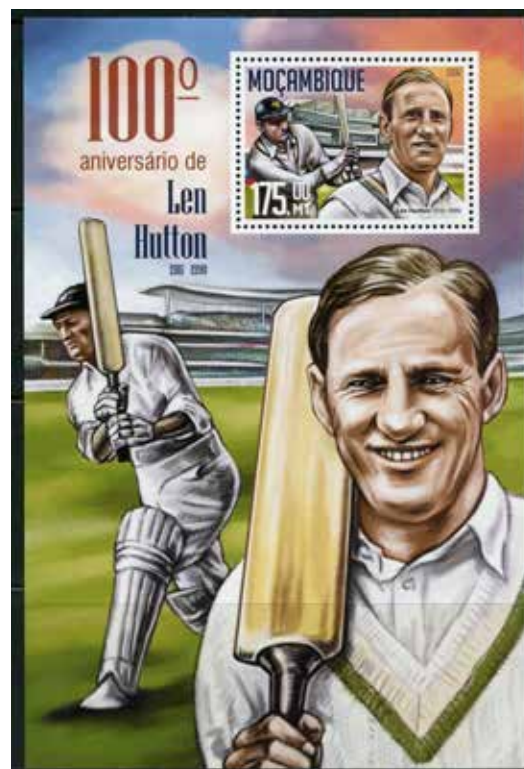
Cricket in the Middle East and Africa! More to the point, the image was of a postage stamp titled 100° Aniversário de Len Hutton, and issued, apparently, by Mozambique. This is where eccentricity or anomaly devolves into craziness...a view shared by the author of the accompanying article which was headed Wait a Minute Mr. Postman, and subtitled *Why African nations issue stamps celebrating dead English cricketers.*

English cricketers, oh, days of my childhood! The immaculate whites, the manicured green cricket field, the local spec-

tators, packed lunch in hand, enjoying a very English day's outing. I knew people like Len Hutton from Saturdays spent at Essex County Cricket, and Len Hutton himself as a regular guest in our living room, courtesy of the BBC. Each summer we would glue ourselves to the radio to follow the Test Matches, a series of 5 matches between the English National team and a visiting national team. Played out, at 5 different venues, each match lasting 5 days (cricket is not a fast game), every minute was faithfully shared with us, the listeners. Australia was the fiercest opponent, but the crowd favourite was the West Indian team. Len Hutton led us against them all. He was the captain and routinely the high scorer.

So, Len Hutton was undoubtedly 'mine', but how did Mozambique lay claim to him? It seems wrong both in time, about 80 years off, and in place, a whole continent away. The plot thickens, it turns out that both Djibouti and Niger, two more impoverished African countries, issued Len Hutton stamps at the same time as the Mozambique issue. How does this happen?

First, note that the topic, cricket in this case, has nothing at all to do with the countries that are 'issuing' them. Second, note that these anomalous issues never actually spend any time in the 'country of issue'; they are produced in Lithuania, by a



company called STAMPERIJA, and marketed directly from Lithuania to the USA, the UK and other countries. These stamps are not produced for postal use, they are for collectors only. Stamperija offers a 'service' to struggling philatelic departments, a carefully worded contract to produce and market their stamps. A small quantity, of suitably selected topics, goes to the postal service for use on letters and packages, the bulk, straight onto the internet. Mozambique in 2010 used 4 sets for mail purposes, and these four sets gained catalogue status. The catalogue then notes, in a small-print appendix, the titles of a further 70 sets. Appendix indicates, not catalogue status, these issues are classified undesirable, or illegal. Googling STAMPERIJA and Mozambique brings up first their own sites, extolling the desirability of their products, then angry pieces from the philatelic world and images over stamped with angry red ILLEGAL.

The Mr. Postman article goes on to talk about 'genuine collectors', meaning people like me, acting 'prissy' regarding these issues. Yes, we re prissy, we collect postage stamps; to us Stamperija products are merely coloured paper, with perforations, they have nothing to do with postage. We do not like these stamps because of their origin (nothing to do with the 'issuing country) and their purpose (to gouge the collectors' pockets). We have our established markets for purchasing the stamps we appreciate, and we view Stamperija and similar entities as predators aiming to attack our wallets... sharks circling in the water.

Botswana

BotswanaPost, the parastatal responsible for all postal services in Botswana, has its headquarters in a fine, modern building on Khama Crescent. At the highest level, on the 11th floor,



an elegant office houses the CEO who, in 2013, invited me in for a chat. At the end of the chat I ended up, to my great surprise, with a job. Already 16 years into retirement, I had not even remotely anticipated this, but I found myself appointed to be National Philately Advisor. Even more startling, as no-one in BotswanaPost knew what philately was about, was my remit, in 8 words "Decide what needs to be done. Do it".

Making decisions on behalf of a whole nation...I had not seen that coming, and I felt unprepared. A quick consultation on the 11th floor confirmed that our target was not just to produce stamps, but to compete at high level in the international scene. The philately programme had stalled for 3 years, so the most urgent need was to get something going, and fast! We took



(Change of Sovereign)



Royal Events



National Event



Gouging, Sharks In Action



Poso House and Managers

some artworks which had already been submitted, and while still in process of formulating a training programme, communicated with printers in New Zealand; by early 2014 we issued Spectacular Birds of Botswana, a 12-stamp set which to my eye was flawed, but which met enthusiastic approval from less picky colleagues. Spectacular Birds launched with a big 'do'; invited guests were cabinet ministers, representatives of conservation societies, all media outlets in Gaborone, including good coverage by TV. We had speeches, then presentations of a major souvenir for the artist, and philatelic products for the dignitaries, all rounded off by a performance from a traditional dance group and a blow-out feast of finger foods in the Philately Museum. The CEO, when asked for his gut reaction, gave it in one word...ecstatic!.

We were not yet ready to formulate a policy on stamp issues but carried on through 2014 following the previous policy which was conservative...yes, even prissy...while investing our efforts in training local artists in stamp design (Botswana had at that time only one citizen artist with training suitable for our needs, and he was just retiring.) These local artists had very little experience, no more than a short course of art in high school, so it was fortunate that we found someone who could guide them adequately. As 2014 ran its course with a variety of attractive issues, culminating in the National Floral Symbols issue. We were proud of this one; the set was designed by a group of 4 artists, an international artist who guided the concept development and three beginners from the workshops. The stamps were produced at the request of the Forestry Department, honoring the selection of national symbols, national tree, national flower and national grass. Each stamp showed a botanical image from our international artist, with a sketch by one of the trainees, indicating the significance to Botswana's citizens. The thatching grass, though artistically not the best of the set, was much liked by the philatelic staff and other citizens who were in a position to comment.

As we entered 2015, we had produced five sets of stamps, all pleasing to the eye and all in accordance with the issuing policy, we had learned a lot about design production steps and issuing and it was time to consider marketing. We needed first to understand the total international market which our product could compete in only one sector. This in turn required some understanding of the customer. We would then answer two questions, 'How should we decide what stamps to produce?' (What quantities of stamps and what topics to present), and the

second question, "Who says that is the right thing to do?" This was more difficult than it seems Traditional lifestyle in Botswana offered no concept of hobbies. "Hobby" was a foreign idea, and collecting was beyond comprehension. Indeed, during my philatelic adventures in Botswana, the commonest question I was asked, was, "But what do they do with the stamps they collect?" I needed to start from scratch, to establish a provisional policy based on a rose-coloured view of the market, and finally to deal with warnings about sharks.

The 10-billion-dollar market.

To understand the customer we considered Mr. Loveday, an enthusiastic collector. The time is 1960's and his home is Newburg, a sizeable town in a western nation. He has been collecting stamps for over 20 years, his main interest being a detailed study of the definitive sets of his home country, and his favourite side-interest, flora and fauna of the world, with emphasis on birds of prey. He purchases his stamps mainly from the Newburg stamp shop...stamp shops are now a thing of the past, but in those days every town and city in the nation had one or more. He is an active member of the Newburg Philatelic Society where like-minded collectors share experiences, trade their duplicate stamps, give talks on their speciality interests at host local philatelic events. In building his collection he references a major catalogue such as Stanley Gibbons, and two other catalogues, smaller but much more specialized. His stamp room is crowded, the desktop scarcely visible under books, boxes of stamps, equipment such as tweezers, perforation gauge, watermark detector and magazines...the shelves are loaded with many more boxes of stamps, albums, books about stamps, and pile upon pile of magazines aimed at the general or specialized collector.

At local level Mr. Loveday is a regular speaker and exhibitor; at State level pages from his 1910 Definitive Series Highlighting Printings, Errors and Varieties are welcome in the expert classes of exhibition, and his Eyes in the Sky...The Larger Birds of Prey just makes the cut, but not every year...sometimes other topical collectors edge him out. At National level, the most specialized pages of his definitive collection are counted worthy of exhibition, but only in one of the minor categories. He attends all these events, but the really big ones, the Internationals, are beyond his scope. As an exhibitor he is edged out by others who have more valuable collections to share, and as a visitor to the exhibitions the costs are a barrier. The Internation-

als are like the Olympics, you need a large measure of talent and a bankroll for active participation... but if you could manage just to attend as a visitor, you would find an amazing range of exhibits, discussion groups and sales booths. Classic stamps are of highest prestige, specialities in modern stamps are also exhibited, equipment, catalogues, magazines are on sale and stamps, stamps, stamps...dealers from a number of nations are present, and several national postal authorities take the opportunity to tout their wares. The big events showcase the best side of philately, but there is little evidence here of the sharks, whose representatives tend to inhabit a different environment.

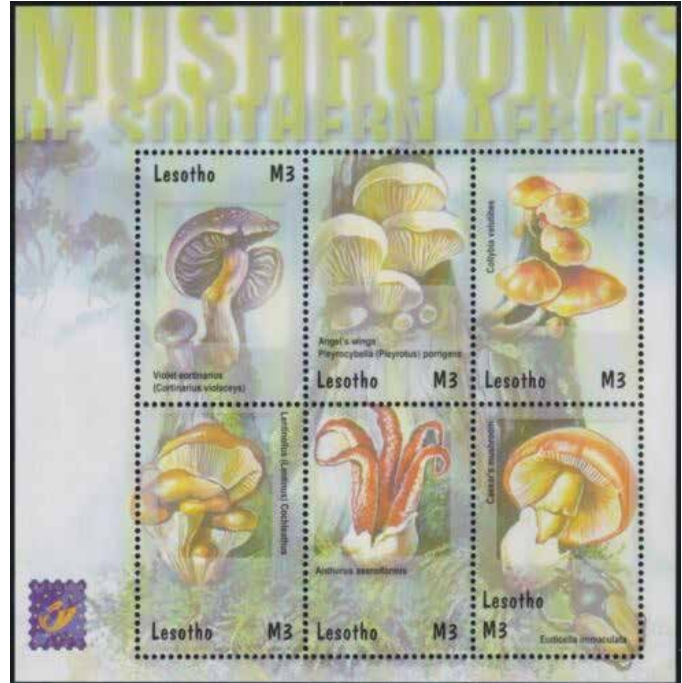
Mr. Loveday's early years of stamp collecting coincided with a change in the international philatelic market; early stamps had been entirely focused on heads of state, with new issues to mark a change, King George V to King George VI to Queen Elizabeth and so on. Before long royal and national events were honored, Royal Wedding, International Exhibitions. These commemorative stamps had been popular, so soon postal administrations were issuing a wider range of topics... architecture, birds, costumes... a whole alphabet of them, and many collectors moved away from the concept of collecting a country to collecting a theme or topic. National Philatelic Bureaus saw an opening for profit, their annual programmes becoming more and more influenced by collector interests, with some, the early sharks, ignoring postal needs and aiming directly to gouge the collectors' pockets.

My involvement with stamps started; like Mr. Loveday's, in the 60's; when many nations had issuing policies which were tailored to balance the concerns of the Postal Administrations with those of the collectors...good range of topics and annual programme affordable...but sharks were already circling in the water. As a newcomer I quickly learned to avoid the early sharks that stamps of Rwanda and Burundi were not valued by the serious collectors; Eastern Europe flooded the market with junk, and the 'sand states'...Qatar, Umm al Quwain and other emirates with tiny populations produced colorful stamps in enormous quantities. A new and bigger shark came on the scene... its representatives toured Africa, capital to capital, seeking out philately departments that had no experienced guiding hand, and offering a service...we will produce your stamps for you, just sign here. Guess who was to profit more from the partnership! In our part of Africa, Tanzania was the first to be gobbled up, followed shortly by Lesotho.

By 1989 Lesotho was producing a dozen or more stamp sets per annum, over 100 stamps in all, on topics ranging from Marine Life (Lesotho is landlocked) to Chinese Art, with a cost to the collector of nearly £85. In contrast, Botswana in the same year issued 4 sets, totalling 16 stamps and two miniature sheets, with a cost to the collector of £6...modest by any standards.

Collectors were angered, catalogue publishers were faced with the impossible task of listing all these products, many of which they hated anyway. The undesirable issues were siphoned off to the Appendix: stamps in the main catalogue are 'real', i.e. suitable for prissy collectors, and Appendix status means 'these stamps' are known to exist.' (The hidden message...avoid at all accosts.) The UPU was drawn into the battle and convened

many long and complicated meetings with their constituents (collectors' organisations, postal administrations, publishers). Having no power to ban undesirable issues, or to punish miscreants, they issued Guidelines. These guidelines were followed to the letter in the policy Botswana's earlier stamp advisors had adopted and which we, in 2014, advised Senior Management to retain.



I took again a quick trip to the 11th Floor...in the CEO's office, 5 minutes was enough to cover ground that had taken hours downstairs, and his opinion was unequivocal, opting for the policy which reflects on Botswana with respect. The handful of readers who have lived in Botswana will immediately appreciate the forces of tradition which guide this decision. In Botswana, respect (nearly the same as good manners) is the foundation of communal and public behavior, the tradition is referred to as botho, and results in very smooth social interactions. BotswanaPost even had an annual award for the employee whose work most demonstrated the concept of botho, a trophy to be held for a year, and in 2014 it was won by the Head of Philately.

Why all this fuss about a stamp-issuing policy? Basically, because of the sharks. Our people had to know what our policy was, why we had selected that option, what to defend it from and how to promote it and present or defend it on various platforms. The policy was to be promoted, featuring prominently in all philatelic publications...pamphlets accompanying new issues, reports in the press, and any internet presentations.

Then, there is the question of SADC meetings. SADC is an organization of 16 nations aiming to promote cooperative development in Southern Africa. Its postal wing is SAPOA, Southern African Postal Administrations Organisation...and most of the delegates from the 16 nations have good understanding of the postal services, but not a notion of what philately is about. Some of them are issuing stamps in collaboration with with sharks

(I have mentioned Mozambique and Lesotho, there are more.) The loudest voice in the union, a bossy representative difficult to oppose, represents a nation whose stamp policy has, without the aid of external sharks, become distinctively predatory... in the year 2000, about 100 stamps, including some suspicious miniature sheets, and an un-necessarily long (i.e. un-necessarily expensive) definitive set, 27 stamps including a high top value with added, 10 repeats having variation from the originals...37 in total. The cost represents a definite gouging of the collectors' pockets.

Did we defend BotswanaPost Philately from the sharks. Yes, at the time, but in light of more recent events, not completely as the subscript reveals.

For the three years I was guiding the programme we hit our targets of 5 sets per annum. These sets were mainly not brilliant, but certainly acceptable, and the one illustrated here we approved as ticking all the boxes...attractive and well-designed, functional (different colours for different postal rates makes life easier for postal sorting), and fully Botswana-based, covering independent government, tourism and conservation, traditional life, pre-history and the economy (diamonds for development is a phrase much-used in Botswana).



Our CEO continued to be ecstatic, and BotswanaPost reported very positively on the project in a SAPOA meeting. The immediate result was that we had guests on a three-day visit...two distinguished gentlemen from Mozambique came to learn from us. Shortly after that I had to relocate to the United States, but, had I stayed on, I feel sure we would have hosted a larger event, inviting members from more of the 16 nations... what was appealing to them, some coming up to 50 years of independence, and some newer to the status, was the sense of national pride.

Five years later the team is still doing sterling work, adhering to the policy and putting out respected stamps. I share here a comment from a blogger who surveys new stamp issues from Commonwealth nations:

Botswana Post issued an excellent new definitive series on 31 August 2018 which is on the subject of Biodiversity at Kgalagadi and is made up of 15 stamps and 3 miniature sheets which each contain 5 different stamps depicting a different subject (birds, mammals and reptiles, fish and amphibians). This beautiful issue was designed by Philip Huebsch and printed in lithography.

It is well worth devoting this particular blog to this single issue which confirms just how well worthwhile it is to collect contemporary stamps from Africa if you ignore the exploitative and cynical products emanating from such entities as Stamp-erija or IGPC.

Postscript

Sharks are still in the water. Although we managed to protect our staff from the 'sign here' sharks, our defense on the internet has not been so through.

Sharks these days are bigger and stronger. I googled *Botswana, illegal stamps*, and found plenty ... nine issues on, God forbid, Marilyn Monroe, and more other non-Botswana topics. These are inscribed Botswana but are produced without permission of any kind. Apparently, no-one has yet been able to get these taken down. A little further research showed that nearly every nation in Africa had been exploited by the same shark ... this is a recent occurrence and maybe someone will, before long, be able to deal with it. Below is part of a diatribe on illegal issues, starting with Djibouti.

You can see the obvious same themes as the prior illegal stamps, Basically the same styles. You cannot buy these in Djibouti. You have to buy them directly from Stamp-erija. Sure they can be used as postage in Djibouti. But do you see a mass of letters coming from Djibouti with them on them? No...

These and a ton of others are plastered all over eBay and Delcampe. The lot for Djibouti on eBay jumps from 3,400+ in 2016 to over 5,000 in a search for Djibouti in 2017! On Delcampe, over 5,000 for 2017! The numbers of 'stamps' being produced by this out-number the population of Djibouti a thousand to one! Massive numbers of "First Day Covers." So much "junk" it is unbelievable. Noting the sellers are indeed in many cases ... illegal stamp sellers. Connected? Asking prices ranging from \$6-\$25 for single souvenir sheets! This company has no verifiable documentation on limitation. We do not even know who the printer is!

The article *Wait a Minute Mr. Postman* appeared in the Economist of August 22, 2020 and can be read in full by googling the title.

Sheila Case is a retired school teacher, who now resides in Oregon. She worked most of her life in Africa - latest in Botswana where she also found time to participate in the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee and acted as advisor to the Philatelic Bureau. She maintains a blog under the pen name *Mma Case* where she writes about her experiences in teaching and Africa. The blog called '*Wind of Change by Mma Case*' can be reached by going to <https://www.patreon.com/windofchange> or just Google it. You may have to pay a small fee to get access. She can be reached by writing to sheilaace23@gmail.com.

Forerunners Forum

RMSS Southern Africa Palmares

Grand Award, Andrew S. Kelley, The Offset Lithographed Washington-Franklin Heads

Reserve Grand Award, Michael J. Ley, Burma. The First Two Issues

One Frame Grand Award, Michael Mahler, California Blues: The Iconic 1857 "Gold Rush Revenues"

One Frame Reserve Grand Award, Tim Bartshe, Registration System of the Orange Free State 1856-1899

Large Gold

Tim Bartshe, Postal Stationery South African Republic 1869-1900

Tim Bartshe, Uses and Postal History of the Second South African Republic 1882-1900

Gold

Christopher Dahle, Philately of Rhodesia and Nyasaland: 1954-1964

Phil Miller, German Afrika Korps

Robert Hisey, Zimbabwe Inflation 1980-2009

Large Vermeil

Peter Thy, Rhodesian Rail Stamps Used in Botswana

Peter Thy, Postal Stationery of Madagascar and Dependencies

Moody Tidwell, Par Avion South Africa

One Frame: Large Gold

Michael Mahler, Philately of Rhodesia and Nyasaland: 1954-1964

Tim Bartshe, Registration System of the Orange Free State 1856-1899

One Frame: Gold

Peter Melz, British POW Mail During Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902

Peter Melz, Mail Censored at Beaufort West During the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902

Tim Bartshe, Orange Free State Forces: Official-mail, Cachets and Free Franking Labels 1892-1900

David Spivack, Military Telegraphs in British Bechuanaland, the Unappropriated Die Era: 1884-1885

New Book from Exhibitors Press

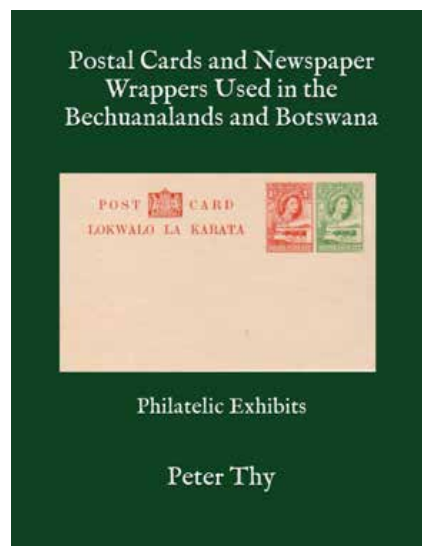
Postal Cards and Newspaper Wrappers Used in the Bechuanalands and Botswana by Peter Thy. Size 8.25 x 11 inches, 184 pages in full color, ISBN-13: 979-8391136019. Available on Amazon.com for \$39.45 as paperback and \$49.93 as hardcover, plus shipping and required taxes.

This is the story of postal stationery cards and newspaper wrappers used in the British frontier territories of Bechuanaland in southern Africa. The story is partially told in two philatelic exhibits covering the postal stationery cards and the newspaper wrappers of the Bechuanalands and Botswana. The book, however, is far more than two stamp exhibits: it is a treatise on the postal history and political history of these entities as reflected in these postal stationery items issued by a succession of governments.

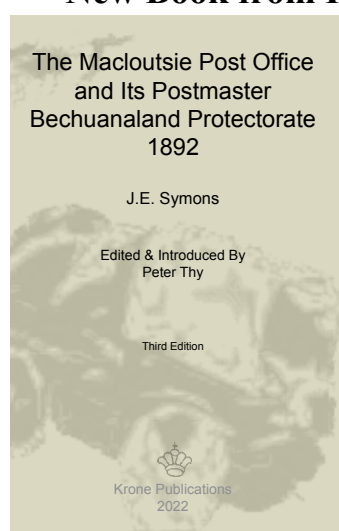
The story covers over 100 years starting in 1886 with the introduction of postal cards in the crown colony of British Bechuanaland, continuing in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, and finally ending in 1997 in present-day Botswana. The postal stationery in British Bechuanaland was issued only a year after the annexation by the British and consisted of postcards, wrappers, and registration envelopes produced by overprinting Cape of Good Hope and British stationery.

The northern part of Bechuanaland was proclaimed a British protectorate in 1885. Three years later a postal service was organized northward from British Bechuanaland through the protectorate to Mashonaland. It took several more years, until 1892, before postal stationery was widely introduced in the protectorate in the form of British Bechuanaland stationery.

In 1893, responsibility for the postal services of both territories was transferred to the Cape Colony. Two years later British Bechuanaland was annexed to the Cape Colony, and therefore, ceased to exist as a stationery issuing entity. The remaining stock of stationery was used in the Protectorate until exhausted. It took about five years before new issues were required and ordered from London. The very small need for stationery in the Protectorate is illustrated by the population census that counted the total white population below 2,200 people, less than 1% of the total population, until well after World War II. This resulted in printings so small that it poses constant challenges to the collector. Bechuanaland Protectorate became independent in 1966 as the Republic of Botswana.



New Book from Krone Publications



J.E. Symons, edited by Peter Thy, 2022. The Macloutsie Post Office and its Postmaster, Bechuanaland Protectorate, 1892. Krone Publications, 77 pages, black and white, paperback, 6x9 inches. ISBN 9798362084295. Available only on Amazon.com at \$8 each, plus tax and shipping.

The Post Office of Macloutsie and its first and only postmaster occupy a special role in the early postal history of southern Africa for a couple of reasons. First, the banks of the Maklutsi River in the north-eastern-most Bechuanaland Protectorate became the focal point for the Mashonaland occupation forces that crossed the river in 1890. Second, as the newly appointed postmaster to the police settlement of

Macloutsie, J.E. Symons, writes in 1892 a couple of detailed accounts for the British Post Office Magazine about his travel to Macloutsie and the daily workings of the post office. Already in late 1892, however, the mail routes changed and the post office downgraded to an agency and the postmaster no longer needed. Symons, after about nine months at Macloutsie, is then re-assigned to the office in Vryburg. Later we lose evidence of his whereabouts. That is until 1900, when he appears in Kimberley at its Telegraph Office. He there takes part in the defense of the town during the Boer siege and also takes up his old spare-time occupation of writing for the British Post Office Magazine. The booklet reprints his writings for the Post Office Magazine and offers a general introduction to the postal history of the area and to the life of Postmaster Symons, as we know it.

This is the third edition of a booklet first printed in 1997.



Clash of Empires from the RPSL

The Royal Philatelic Society of London has released two books detailing the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War detailing the recent exhibit on the same subject. When British and Colonial forces invaded the Zulu Kingdom on 11 January 1879, they ignited one of the most famous conflicts of the Victorian era. In July 2023, the Spear Museum of Philatelic History at the Royal Philatelic Society London hosted a public exhibition displaying more than 500 postal, historical, and cultural objects exploring the context, history, and ongoing legacy of this Clash of Empires. The exhibition's narrative begins in the early years of the 19th century with the emergence of King Shaka kaSenzangakhona and the rise of the Zulu Kingdom and goes all the way through to 2019, 140-years after the start of the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War. The depth and scope of this context philately exhibition was a once-in-



a-generation opportunity to see the intertwined stories of this important history told through hundreds of artefacts.

Included are two softcover books: *Clash of Empires: the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War Exhibition* (214-pages) and *Clash of Empires: Context & Considerations* (160-pages). The first book spans fifteen chapters and depicts every artefact featured in the museum exhibition along with a range of supplementary materials and supporting images. The second book features articles by twenty-one different authors. The books can be ordered for a modest total of £25 plus mailing as long as stock is available.


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New Book from Peninsular Publications

The Frama Labels of South Africa and South West Africa by Volker Janssen. Peninsula Publishers, 2022, 106 pages, full color, A4 format. Available from www.janssenstamps at R636 (Euro 40 - \$45), plus postage and shipping.

Among the most gratifying philatelic works are publications that combine postal and philatelic history with the general history of a region. Volker Janssen's book is one of those publications. It deals with Frama labels that are part of South Africa's and South West Africa's postal history.

The Post Office of South Africa installed in larger post offices from 1911 onward vending machines that dispensed postage stamps from rolls of various length. These so-called coil stamps became obsolete as postal rates rose and it became desirable to find alternative machines that would be able to print stamps with values that could easily be changed when the postal rate changed.



Several machines were considered, and it was decided to do a trial on a machine made by the Swiss company Frama AG who pioneered Framas for Franking machines from 1976 onwards. Labels produced by these machines became known as Frama (plural Framas), a generic word also used for computerized stamps dispensed from other vending machines. "Label" is strictly speaking also not correct. "Frama labels" should be called "Frama stamps". The Universal Postal Union (UPU) defined these labels at the 19th UPU Congress held in Hamburg as: "Postage stamps that are printed by electronic vending machines (Wikipedia)."

Four Frama machines were installed in South West Africa whilst under South African control. The German text on the cachets on South West Africa covers commemorating the varying First Day of the use of these four Frama machines describes them correctly in German as "Automatenmarken". (See Janssen's book – pages 87, 95, and 97).

Although discontinued in South Africa, Framas are still printed nowadays in a number of countries and form part of the contemporary international postal history. They are still collected and researched world-wide by a few specialized study groups and can be used in exhibits in various ways.

As a philatelist, I enjoyed Janssen's book! It has more to look at and to study than to read through. First, I thought that it looked like an exhibit. However, my closer inspection showed that the pages of the book were not laid out for an exhibit. They represent rather a work in progress for organizing a collection on pages with standardized headings as the different issues came to hand. Thus, Janssen book is neither a catalogue nor a handbook, but more of a chronicle.

What makes now Volker Janssen's book useful for collectors of Frama labels? For the collector of this type of philatelic material: the book may add hitherto overlooked information or

refresh one's memory, e.g. on paper changes or on changes of the cliché design.

The full colour illustrations in the book of a few Philatelic Services press releases and leaflets, of mint or cancelled single Framas and covers franked with Framas provide study material for the postal historian to:

1) Show postal rate changes which happened and still happen in RSA and SWA on the 1st of April of each year. Framas were issued in RSA for just over eight years (August 14, 1986 to Nov. 30, 1994) and in SWA for less than two years: March 30, 1988 till its independence from RSA on March 21, 1990. Denominations of the postal value on the clichés printed in red ink are not overpowered by the picture on a stamp and can be used to show rate changes (mainly increases!) during the years when Framas were available in RSA and SWA;

2) Record paper- and cliché changes over the years for security and other reasons.

3) The collector dealing with the postal history of a town or district can find whether one or more of the 34 RSA or one of the 4 SWA Frama machines was located in or near his town or area of interest.

4) The philatelist recording Stamp Exhibitions: Special clichés were made for nine RSA stamp exhibitions held between 1986 and 1994 and for one SWA exhibition held in 1988.

5) Social Philately: RSA Framas cover the time span when RSA changed from the scorned Apartheid state to a democratic, non-racial country and in SWA the period when it gained its independence from RSA and became Namibia. These events can be linked with the social and political history of the two countries using the Framas and other philatelic and non-philatelic material.

In conclusion: Volker Janssen's book might encourage you, the reader of this Review, to consider to have a new look at Framas.

Uli Bantz

This is not a book that answers all questions nor a catalogue but a compendium of a long-time collection with observations of what has been found. It would be invaluable to someone who is trying to make sense of the Frama Labels from the South African sphere which includes SWA and Namibia. The work of Volker Janssen should be commended for showing what obviously was an experiment that was not readily accepted by the public by the look of the 21st century uses displayed, particularly in Namibia.

The continuous repetition of the page headers is distracting and unhelpful in the flow of the book's structure and it would help if a series of headers could replace it to aid the reader find where you are in the story. The frequent display of non-philatelic examples of use are highly appreciated and certainly there must be more out there to display what little frequency these labels saw in the public eye.

A valiant effort to bring to the fore a little-known subject of late 20th Century postal history of Southern Africa and recommended to anyone who is interested in this small corner of philately.

Tim Bartshe

Clash of Empires the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War

A behind the scenes talk with

Alexander Haimann

July 10th and 27th

10AM Eastern Time



The *Clash of Empires* exhibition hosted by the Spear Museum of Philatelic History at the Royal Philatelic Society of London was open throughout July but has now closed. On display was a large collection formed by Alex Haimann of postal, historical, and cultural objects exploring the context, history, and ongoing legacy related to the invasion of British and Colonial forces of the Zulu Kingdom in 1879. Although a large crowd attended the physical exhibit, many of our members may not have been so lucky. Fortunately, the webpage <https://clashofempires.org> gives some detailed background information as well as links to several YouTube displays. Also can be found information on how to order the two books issued on the exhibition.

Exchange Journals Received

South African Philatelist in electronic format only: June 2023 (Volume 99, No. 3).

JVZA Bartolomeu Dias: May 2023 (Volume 35, Whole No. 138); September 2023 (Volume 35 Whole No. 139).

The PSGSA exchanges printed journals with the Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika. We receive the South African Philatelist as an affiliated society of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa in electronic format. Forerunners is exchanged as an electronic document to all southern African specialist societies known to us.

Society Publications

Frescura, Franco, 2022. Poste Restante at the Cape and Other Essays. Phansi Museum Press, Durban, and the PSGSA, 302 pages. Amazon.com.

Frescura, Franco, 2022. Postal Officials of the Cape of Good Hope. Phansi Museum Press, Durban, and the PSGSA, 300 pages. Amazon.com.

Smith, Gordon, 2020. Bechuanaland and Botswana Registration Labels: An Updated Typology and Listing. Can be downloaded from the Society website.

Hisey, Bob and Matheson, Ian, 2017. The "Officials" of South Africa. PDF on Memory Stick, \$30 pp.

Mordant, David, 2017. Barred Oval Numerical Cancellers of Cape of Good Hope 1863-1963. A Third Edition of the listing is available downloaded from the Society website.

Hisey, Bob and Bartshe, Tim, 2003-9. Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 1. The Postage Stamps, 280 pages.

Vol. 2. The Telegraphs, 250 pages.

Vol. 3. Revenues and Postal Stationery, 205 pages.

Available on Amazon.com.

Forerunners on CD, Issues 1 to 99 (Memory Stick). \$30 plus \$5 s/h. Early issues can individually be downloaded from the Society website.

Taylor, Robert. Early Postal Services of the Cape of Good Hope. PSGSA. Can be downloaded from Society webpage.

Lodoen, Peter. Accepted - Rejected: Life of a Botswana Stamp Designer. Can be downloaded from the Society website.

Hisey, Bob (compiler), 2006. Postal Office Names of Southern Africa According to Ralph Putzel. Can be downloaded from the Society webpage as an excel file.

To order contact John McFarlane using the address given on page 1.

The Market Place

South Africa OFFICIALS. Want to purchase/trade for stamps overprinted official/offisieel. Collections, accumulations, units or pairs, for studying purposes. The usual is as interesting as the spectacular. Can offer Union and RSA stamps and covers. Send scans and price to Roald Sand, Bygdoy alle 27B, 0262 Oslo, Norway. roald.sand2@gmail.no

Bophuthatswana used. Wish to trade for used in/off cover, including revenues and postal stationery. Have all Homelands used, some mint and older general worldwide to trade. Write Will Ross, 4120 Schuykill Dr., Calabasas, CA 91302.

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

Mafeking siege "blueprint" covers. Want to purchase or trade for covers with Mafeking siege "blueprint" stamps. Send photocopies or scans, prices, or trade want list to Frederick Lawrence, 658 W. Douglas Ave., Gilbert, AZ 85233-3219; ieconsulting@cox.net

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

Natal Postcards Wanted. Used or unused picture postcards from 1906-1907 depicting scenes and events surrounding the Natal Native Rebellion. Contact David McNamee dmcnamee@aol.com.

Botswana and Bechuanaland Official Free Marks: interested in trade or purchase. Contact Gordon Smith, 11 Elliot St., Dartmouth NS, CANADA B2Y 2X6; gs@postalhistory.ca.

Botswana Meter Marks: interested in all eras. For trade or purchase. Contact Gordon Smith, 11 Elliot St., Dartmouth NS, CANADA B2Y 2X6; gs@postalhistory.ca.

Zimbabwe Covers between 2008 (Jan 1) and 2009 (Apr). Bob Hisey at bobhisey@comcast.net.

Airmails from SA to South America. Wanted airmail covers from SA to South or Central America between 1932 and 1952. Send scan or photocopy with price to Hugh Amoore, (9 Bishoplea Road, Claremont, South Africa, 7708); email to: hugh.amoore@uct.ac.za).

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

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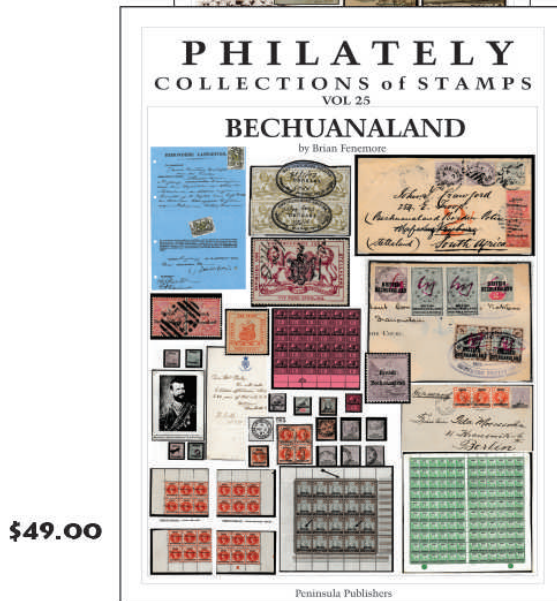
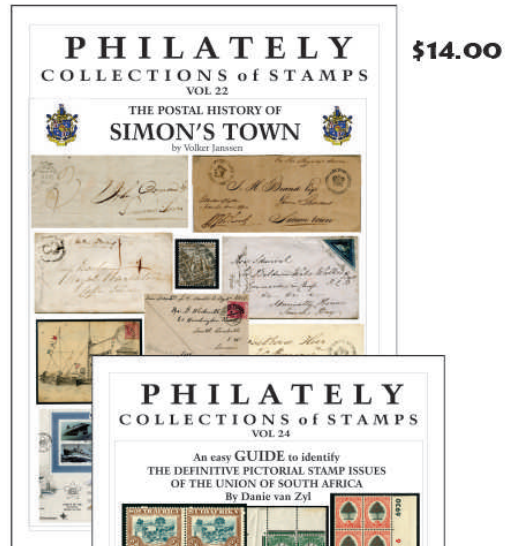
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