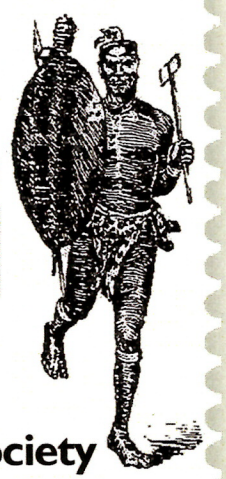
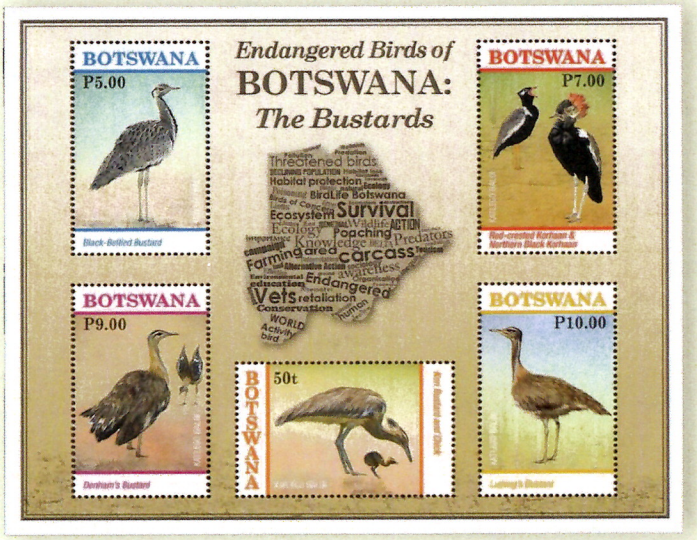
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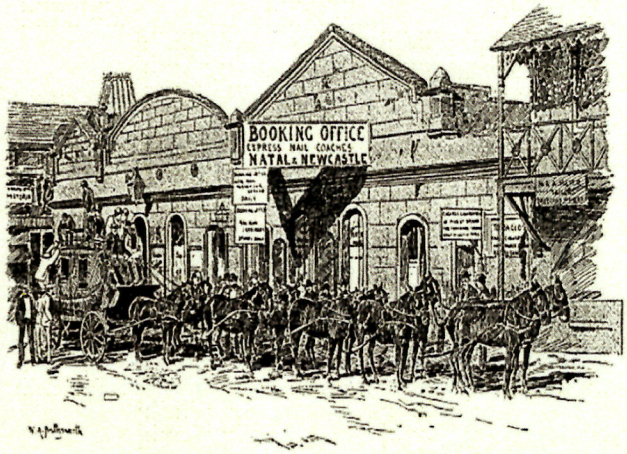
THE RUNNER POST



The Bechuanalands & Botswana Society







- Philatelic Forum
- Mahalapye Musings
- Awards and Medals
- Southern Africa Conference
- Recent Botswana
- 2017 Accounts
- Legacy of Inglefield-Watson
- British Bechuanaland Annual Reports 1890 - 1893







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THE RUNNER POST
The Bechuanalands & Botswana Society

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The Society thanks Graham Edwards (Graphic Designer) for the front cover design

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Editorial

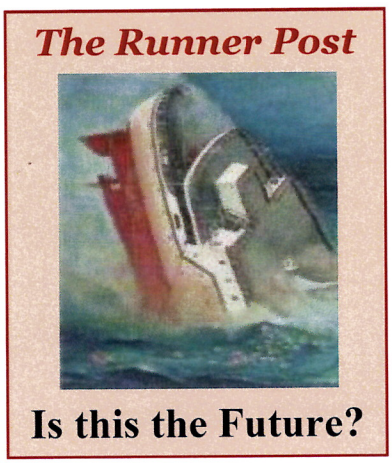
Working ahead is essential in maintaining a publication schedule and I started this journal, in conjunction with three other projects, in July last year and within six weeks I had 12 pages 'in the can'. The October 2017 edition was posted in early September.

The Society minutes and correspondence files are not only a source of information, but also provide 'material' for this, and future editions of our journal.

After a long chat with our former Treasurer Joe Taylor, he contributed two items to this journal and also consigned the balance of his collection.

Thus, by the time you receive this journal, a Postal Auction will be imminent.

Input and interest in the Society's journal remains close to zero.



Unless I make an effort, there will be no journal, as I said in my previous editorial I will review the situation during 2018.

Perhaps there is some light on the Horizon

Bill Latzko in the United States informed me recently that he was recovering from a broken hip which is the reason he did not renew last year's subscription, he wrote...*I certainly wish to continue my association with the Bechuanaland and Botswana Society...The excellent article by Hennie Taljaard on 'Stellaland Stamp Cancellation' The Runner Post No 87 page 2150 did not include my nine used stamps, some on piece. I would like write a brief article based on the findings of my collection. In addition, I have been researching C.D. Dennison and have reason to believe that his role in Stellaland stamps was other than postmaster (another article)...*

Thus if one person can make an effort how about helping to keep our journal afloat?
This year *The Runner Post* allegedly reaches No 99.
I say 'allegedly' as I remind the reader that on two occasions there were supposed to be two journals rolled into one e.g. No's 49/50 (December 1997) and 64/65 (March 2006)...thus will the society have enough reserve fuel to at least make it to No 100?

2018 Subscriptions

Given that a form accompanied the last journal of the year, the response has been slower than the previous year. Two losses in Botswana include Sheila Case who moved to the USA and Steen Jelgren said he has stopped collecting. Thus we are down to four members in Botswana. I sent an email reminder in early January that has had some response.

1) *The Runner Post* No 96 Page 2382 - A correction
Amendment to the title '**British Bechuanaland 1889 - 1890 Fourth Annual Report**' should read '***Fifth Annual Report***' the editor offers his apology, did anyone notice the error?

2) *Mail in British Bechuanaland* by Douglas Roth
This interesting 'piece' was published in the October 1976 edition of *The South African Philatelist*.

The following telegrams and minutes relating to the mails in British Bechuanaland in 1889 may be of some interest and amusement to readers. They have surfaced after three quarters of a century.

Military Telegraphs
From - Postmaster TAUNGS to - PMG VRYBURG 17 May 1889...*I shall require an extra runner on Monday for Kuruman mail may I employ one and at what rate please instruct.*

Military Telegraphs
From - PMG VRYBURG to - PMG TAUNGS 17 May 1889... *What is extra runner required for can you get reliable man and at what rate for the trip.*

Military Telegraphs
From - Postmaster TAUNGS to - PMG VRYBURG 18 May 1889...*The extra runner is required to take six parcels lying here and any extra mail matter which may arrive Monday - I propose sending him with the regular runner who will see the mail delivered safely - I have succeeded in getting mounted trustworthy man for twenty shillings - please instruct.*

The Postmaster General then addressed a Minute to the Secretary to the Bechuanaland Administration as follows... The Secretary. *The enclosed telegrams are submitted for His Honour's perusal. As there is likely to be a heavy mail for Kuruman today I consider the services of an extra runner necessary and will be glad to receive the necessary authority to expend the sum of 20/- for that purpose. Vryburg J. Middleton. P.M.G. 20th May 1889.*

Minute No 384 The P.M.G. *Under the circumstances His Honour authorises the expenditure of 20/- for an extra postal runner to Kuruman.*
H.N. Ashburnham Secretary *Vryburg 20.5.89*

3) Mahalapye Musings By Joe Taylor

Mahalapye is a large village in the Central District of Botswana on the edge of the Kalahari desert midway between Gaborone and Francistown. Sitting precisely on the 23rd parallel under the Tropic of Capricorn, the sun shines directly overhead in Mahalapye at approximately 13.11 hours on 21st December each year. On the line of rail from Capetown to Bulawayo, Mahalapye Station is the terminus for South African railways from the south and Zimbabwe railways from the north. As a result it is a busy station with a large marshalling yard and plenty of shunting of engines and wagons both day and night.

On the station platform used to stand the Mahalapye hotel. During the 1930's it had been purchased by the wife of Frank Sharp, the son of a trading family in the Kalahari and, at the time, the driver of the Government veterinary truck. Hilda (known as Ma Sharp) had borrowed money from the legendary pioneer trader, Jack Dennison, of Shoshong for its purchase. The hotel became very popular with the railway staff and Ma Sharp's tearoom was particularly popular with the general public.

When the trains came in Ma Sharp had arranged for a band to play on the station platform. Originally known as Blackie's band it comprised five men with guitars and an accordion player who foregathered shortly before each passenger train's scheduled arrival. This continued for many years even after Ma Sharp had died when it was taken over by Joe Nswako who ran a fleet of buses between Mahalapye and Gaberones (as it was known in Bechuanaland days)

During their Royal tour of Africa in 1947 the train carrying the British Royal family stopped at Mahalapye.
The two princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret, alighted from the train and walked up and down the station platform. Dicky Dixon, the Bechuanaland policeman in charge, was heard to remark that he would love to get off with one of them!

So, when next rummaging amongst the Postal History at your local stamp fair, look out for a printed envelope with the name F.C. Sharp, Mahalapye Hotel in the top left corner. It tells quite a story, particularly if it has a Bechuanaland Royal Visit stamp affixed!

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Early Years of the Society

A Blast from the Past - I came across this item in the September 1986 edition of ***The South African Philatelist*** under 'More Members Wanted'...*A young specialised society based in England is looking for more members, and believes it will find them in Southern Africa.*

*It is the **Bechuanalands and Botswana Society**, whose members obviously have as their chief interest the postage stamps and postal history of those two areas. It was established about two years ago, now has 50 members, and further particulars can be obtained from the Hon Secretary, Roy Setterfield, 18 Goldsmid Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 1QA.*

The BBS also publishes its own newsletter, and one of the joint editors is Alan MacGregor, a well known philatelic dealer who was based in Cape Town for some time before recently establishing himself in London.

The above was published around the time when *The Runner Post* No 4 was in circulation.

Southern Africa Philatelic Societies **- Then and Now**

Keeping any society on a steady course is nothing new and that is not a recent problem as I found out whilst going through the minutes book of this society. As I pointed out in *The Runner Post* No 95 this society went through a six year 'black spot' from 1998 to 2003. The foregoing was of much concern to the late Sir John Inglefield-Watson who wished to operate the society as per the generally accepted protocol with a 'proper' committee and all the necessary 'names on badges'.

10 August 2000 a letter from David Wall (Secretary) headed ***Options for the future of the BBS*** the crux of the matter was that the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer wished to stand down and there were no volunteers to fill said positions. David drew up four options noting the *Advantage* and *Disadvantage* of his suggestions.

1. Close the Society - No more agonising over how to run a society with so few volunteers.
Disadvantage - Most members would miss *The Runner Post* and how to dispose of the Society funds?

2. Scale down the Society's activities by only having one meeting per year, reducing the frequency of the journal and people doubling up on functions of the committee.

Scale down activities continued
Advantage - Keeping the Society 'alive' with the hope that 'others' may offer their services in time to come.

3. Downgrade the Society to a 'Study Group'
Informal meetings and David debates whether a 'Study Group' could function without a formal committee or membership. Should that be the case how does one fund *The Runner Post*?

4. Seek merger with (for instance) the Rhodesian Study Circle - Here David believed that the BBS would belong to 'a much healthier outfit'.
Disadvantage - The Society would lose its Independence.

5 September 2000 another two page letter from David Wall to the BBS Committee members entitled '**Revised Options**'. This includes a suggestion to only produce two journals plus two Newsletters per year provided 'there are sufficient articles and news items'! (Take note of the foregoing please)

Comment - The above scenario was played out 17 years ago and the society somehow continued to wobble through the years...History has shown that meetings suffer poor attendance and those present are usually the same 'faces'. In my opinion merging with another society is not a long term option. On the other hand many members of any ***Southern Africa Philatelic Society*** often have diverse interests that may not entirely focus on Bechuanaland and/or Botswana.

Membership for 2018 'Who is Who'

As it stands at this point in time it appears that we will retain 74 members UK (35) Europe (7) Botswana (4) South Africa (15) USA & Canada (12) Australia (1). Out of 74 members 18 are involved in the stamp trade UK (10) and Overseas (8).

In general certain members tend to come to the Annual *Southern Africa Philatelic Conference* (see page 2388) but are not likely to frequent a BBS meeting. The other worthwhile weekend 'get together' is the *South African Collectors' Society* June meeting that welcomes anyone who would like to attend. In fact Peter Jukes (Botswana) came to such an event. Thus if any of you wish to enjoy some 'philatelic fun' put 9 - 10 June and 2 - 4 November 2018 into your diary and come to the Strawberry Hotel in Meriden...to book into the hotel... send an email to the Editor.

The Runner Post in 2018 - See my editorial on page 2384. We are not the only Society that is struggling to survive!

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COLLECTOR SEEKS TO BUY

I am seeking to buy a collection or items of Postal History, including the History of the Post Office, relating to the Bechuanaland Protectorate / Botswana

My contact details are:

Andrew Briscoe

c/o Briscoe Attorneys
P.O. Box 402492, Gaborone, Botswana

My email address is
andrew@briscoe.co.bw

ALL REPLIES WILL BE REGARDED AS CONFIDENTIAL

The Bechuanaland Society - Awards and Medals

Society Awards, Medals etc.

Introduction I am in the process of studying the past minutes of meetings plus the Society Correspondence file. Lurking amongst these pages are long forgotten Awards...read on...

1) *The Runner Post* Award (Benoni 1994)
Committee Meeting Minutes 2 March 1994 under 'Any other Business'...*It was agreed to enter 'Runner Post' in the Literature class in the Benoni National Exhibition (South Africa) in 1994*... Said proposal does not feature in the minutes of the 'Ordinary Meeting' held on the same day.

The South African Philatelist (December 1994)
Under 'All about Benoni 94' - *Class 12 Literature*
Silver with Felicitations for Editorial Control
The Bechuanalands & Botswana Society *The Runner Post*

By coincidence the next entry notes
Silver - O.J. Peetoom *The Rhodesian Philatelist* [1]

Committee Meeting Minutes 1 March 1995
Under 'Chairman's Remarks' *John* (Inglefield- Watson) *offered the Society's congratulations for the silver medal*...
The minutes of the 'Ordinary Meeting' under 'Announcements' noted...*Congratulations were offered to ALAN MACGREGOR for being awarded a silver medal*... The foregoing intimates that Alan became 'the keeper of the medal'?

Annual General Meeting 19 September 1996 minutes
Under 'Queries to the Archivist'...*Aubrey* (Glassborow) *asked what publications are held by the Archivist. Other queries related to the location of the Society's copy of the Holmes book and who has the medal for 'Runner Post'.*

To my surprise the above matter simply evaporated into thin air as the minutes of the following AGM (18 September 1997) under 'Minutes of the last AGM' notes...*There were no matters arising*...



2017 Some Twenty Years Later I made enquiries as to its possible whereabouts staring with Alan MacGregor...and yes he has it...Thank you Alan!

2) Postmark Typology by Brian Trotter
Committee Meeting Minutes 19 September 1996
...The Society has received a Silver-Bronze award at Stampex for the Postmark Typology. John (Inglefield- Watson) *proposed giving the medal to Brian Trotter and retaining the certificate in the Society Archives. It was proposed that the Typology be entered in South African Exhibitions next year...* [2]

The same day (19.9.96) AGM minutes record that printing and distribution of the 'Typology' amounted to £123.
Comment - It was sent out with *The Runner Post* No 40.



Brian Trotter's Award

Ordinary Meeting 7 March 1997 minutes reflect that, with the presence of Brian Trotter, he was presented with said medal. An Editorial Note in Issue No 44 announced Brian's award and presentation noted in Issue No 47.

3) 2003 'Stampex'
Johannesburg, South Africa
December 2003 SAP *J.H. Harvey Pirie award for Literature* to Brian Trotter and Neville Midwood for *Revenues of Southern Africa Part I* (Published May 2002)
My enquiry regarding this award drew another blank, Brian Trotter advised...*I don't even remember getting the award!*



4) 2004
'The Year of the Stationery Book'
by Peter Thy & Inglefield-Watson
Three awards in total.
Gold (USA) Illustrated at right.
Large Vermeil x 2 (Stampex and New Zealand) For further detail see page 2393.[3]

5) *The Runner Post* - Large Silver (Stampex 2005)
Minutes of the 'Members Meeting' 29 October 2005
...'The Runner Post' had received a Large Silver Award...The meeting wished to congratulate Neville Midwood on his achievement... Another medal that went 'AWOL'...I wrote to Neville on 26 July 2017 enquiring whether he has it...his reply on 3 September did not solve the possible fate of this award.

In Conclusion It appears that it is a case of Awards won are often Awards forgotten and certainly not remembered!

Notes
[1] Received Large Vermeil for same at ILSAPEX 1998.
[2] Not entered into a S.A. Exhibition and the 'retained certificate' is not to be found.
[3] Not entered into a South African Exhibition (See page 2393)

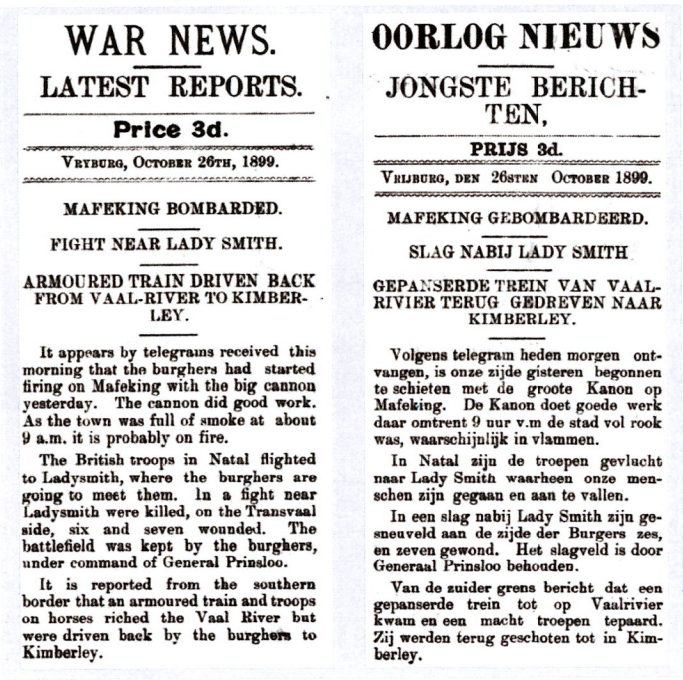
3 to 5 November 2017 Strawberry Bank hotel in Meriden
There was a good attendance of over forty people and seven members of the Society included - Colin Hoffman, Don Jeffreys, Alan MacGregor (South Africa), Otto Peetoom, Richard Stroud, Peter Thy (USA) and Brian Trotter. Another familiar face was ex-member Brian Hurst.

In the past displays and/or presentations of Bechuanaland at the annual conferences have been somewhat thin on the ground.

Saturday Morning
Peter Thy told the story of the South African pioneers in WWII and notably the part played by the so called 'volunteers' from Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland, with the volunteers actually being chosen by the tribal chiefs. There were 35,000 soldiers, sappers engaged mainly in road construction in Italy and heavy artillery gunners. 700 Basuto and Bechuana soldiers died when the SS *Erinpura* sank in 1943 in the English Channel and, in all, 1425 of these soldiers died in WWII. Very few covers have survived from this group and Peter showed some really rare and exotic items including the rare EAPO 81 postmark and a registered cover from Francistown franked, quite legally, with New Zealand stamps.

In 1946-47 repatriation of the soldiers started but many of the 'volunteers' did not want to return so repatriation was stopped and 3,700 soldiers transferred to Palestine after the British Mandate ended there. The Basutos also contributed towards purchase of Spitfire fighters for No 72 RAF Squadron so this relatively small contingent played a significant part in the war effort. Peter graced his display with some wonderful items such as airgraphs and MAL airletters FROM the protectorates, all very difficult to obtain.

Saturday Afternoon Joint Display
After lunch the members of the *Bechuanalands and Botswana* society laid on a joint display starting with **Richard Stroud** who showed the only known examples of the *Vryburg War News* sheets (costing 3d) during the Boer War on 26 October and 1 November 1899. They were obtained by Lady Sarah Wilson when she was surreptitiously in Vryburg during the Boer occupation of the town.



WAR NEWS.

LATEST REPORTS.

Price 3d.

VRYBURG, OCTOBER 26TH, 1899.

MAFEKING BOMBARDED.

FIGHT NEAR LADY SMITH.

ARMOURED TRAIN DRIVEN BACK FROM VAAL-RIVER TO KIMBERLEY.

It appears by telegrams received this morning that the burghers had started firing on Mafeking with the big cannon yesterday. The cannon did good work. As the town was full of smoke at about 9 a.m. it is probably on fire.

The British troops in Natal flighted to Ladysmith, where the burghers are going to meet them. In a fight near Ladysmith were killed, on the Transvaal side, six and seven wounded. The battlefield was kept by the burghers, under command of General Prinsloo.

It is reported from the southern border that an armoured train and troops on horses riched the Vaal River but were driven back by the burghers to Kimberley.

OORLOG NIEUWS

JONGSTE BERICHTEN,

PRIJS 3d.

VRIJBURG, DEN 26STEN OCTOBER 1899.

MAFEKING GEBOMBARDEERD.

SLAG NABIJ LADY SMITH

GEPANSERDE TREIN VAN VAAL-RIVIER TERUG GEDREVEN NAAR KIMBERLEY.

Volgens telegram heden morgen ontvangen, is onze zijde gisteren begonnen te schieten met de groote Kanon op Mafeking. De Kanon doet goede werk daar omtrent 9 uur v.m de stad vol rook was, waarschijnlijk in vlammen.

In Natal zijn de troepen gevlucht naar Lady Smith waarheen onze menschen zijn gegaan en aan te vallen.

In een slag nabij Lady Smith zijn gesneuveld aan de zijde der Burgers zes, en zeven gewond. Het slagveld is door Generaal Prinsloo behouden.

Van de zuider grens bericht dat een gepanserde trein tot op Vaalrivier kwam en een macht troepen tepaard. Zij werden terug geschoten tot in Kimberley.

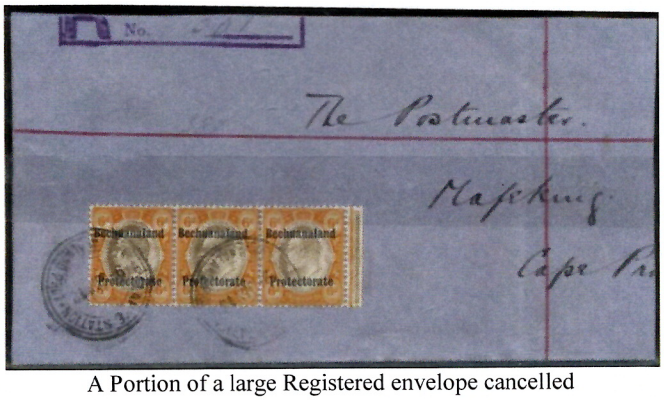
Richard advised...*The earlier edition was found by the late Peter Prime and myself some years ago and is now in South Africa, the only copy believed to be in existence there. The later edition I located recently and is the only copy outside South Africa.*

War News Sheets were reproductions of the circular war telegrams which were sent out by the ZAR Government every day, and even more than one a day, to all landdrosts and a variety of others, to pre-empt word-of-mouth stories. It was quite a propaganda exercise…

Brian Hurst displayed a sheet of the 1961 QEII 3½c/4d overprint and explaining how all the printings of this surcharge were from the same forme. This was followed by the 1888 GB ½d overprints plus those additionally surcharged 'Fourpence'.

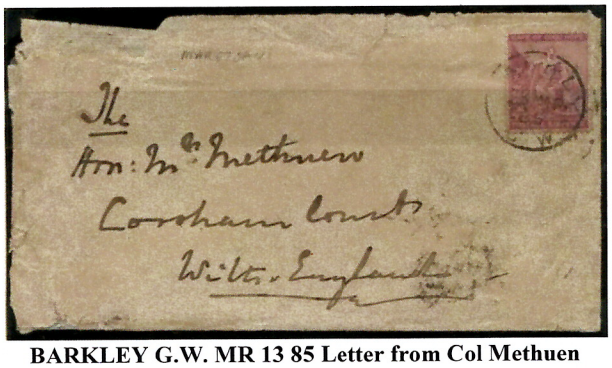
Don Jeffreys showed specimens, including archival material, Great Britain specimen types and included the rare 2/- value, some UPU complete strips, some with additional 'Ultramar' overprints (from Portuguese archives), some scarce ex-National Postal Museum archive material - the sales were stopped short due to the arrest of the NPM curator - and the 1935 Silver Jubilees with specimen perfins plus a set with the BEC2 type overprints.

Brian Trotter explained the difference between Bechuanaland Protectorate and British Bechuanaland and postal history relating to Cecil Rhodes dream of a Cape to Cairo transport service, detailing the trek through Stellaland, the Warren and Methuen expeditions, graced with some lovely markings such as '*cannot be forwarded*' and a *Mafeking besieged* 1/- on British Bechuanaland cover, explaining these were carried by native runners who risked their lives to deliver mail during this part of the Anglo Boer War.



A Portion of a large Registered envelope cancelled
PALAPYE STATION 9 JA 13

Alan MacGregor showed Bechuanaland postal history with overprinted stamps, postmarks and a wonderful GB/British Bechuanaland combination cover.



BARKLEY G.W. MR 13 85 Letter from Col Methuen

Otto Peetoom concluded this section, starting with Stellaland (stamps and revenues) plus a good selection of early Bechuanaland postmarks all ex Joe Taylor.



A Receipt for a title deed with £1.12.00 revenues VRYBURG Stellaland 20 October 1885



Crocodile Pools



Kuruman



Macloutsie



Mafeking



Taungs Station

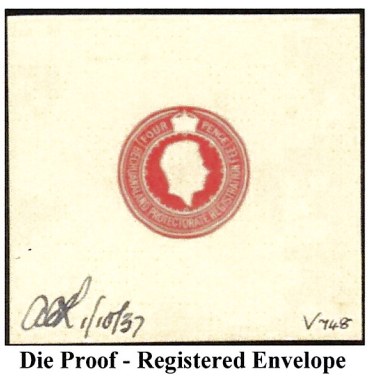


Vryburg

There was a rare multiple of a KGV 1/- block of four with inverted watermark plus die proofs for Postal Stationery and Postage dues.



KGV SG98w



Die Proof - Registered Envelope

Postal history included the KEVII 6d postal fiscal on cover and exotic postmarks such as *Crocodile Pools*. Otto concluded this section with 'Fifty years of Botswana stamp issues' that appeared in four articles in GSM and reprinted in *The Runner Post*. He pointed out the modern exploitation of collectors by issuing miniature sheets in the shapes of a rhino, a leopard, a butterfly and a diamond.

Friday and Saturday dinner was served in our Conference room and John Shaw delivered his traditional 'After Dinner Joke'. As always there is never enough time to do all the things one planned beforehand. The best Saturday display (by popular vote) was **Lars Jorgensen** who covered the Transvaal 2nd re-issue of just four stamps.



Simon Peetoom presenting the cup to Lars Jorgensen

Sunday 5 November

This followed the usual routine whereby anyone may show something of their choice, a selection of them include.

Bas Payne gave the story of Wolmaranstad and its founder, Thomas Leask; apart from founder, he was also Justice of the Peace, Postal Agent and doctor! He lived from 1853 - 1946. In 1888 the town was known as Makwassie Spruit and inhabited by 3100 whites and 3200 blacks; there were nine different stamps issued and these are well documented by Harry Birkhead and Joh Groenwald in their booklet '*The Wherewithall of Wolmaranstad*'.

Dave Morrison showed a wonderful collection of South African cigarette tax which is said to be the best ever formed.

Chris Rainey showed what he described as 'proper censorship' in Tristan da Cunha during WWII stating that for a while the weather station was called HMS Atlantic Island and the name Tristan da Cunha temporarily disappeared.

Tony Stanford explained the Netleg Hospital situation during WWI, when the railway was diverted in order for the ambulance trains to access the hospital direct.

Alan Harley explained the differences in money orders from Transvaal and the Orange Free State also showing a cover from Derby (Transvaal) to UK and some very scarce pre-Boer War postcards printed in Germany.

Richard Stroud's 'lost in Africa' is a moving story told of a Canadian soldier whose mother tried to trace him from 1902-13 and illustrated by letters from the mother.

Richard Barnett showed examples of the rare Birchenough Bridge postmark, the bridge having a post office which was eventually closed due to minimal use.

Robert Johnson displayed rare Rhodesian postal history items followed by a discourse on the reason for the Cape cork cancels (used on soft parcels) and different usages of the KEVII 2½d.

Recent Botswana Issues

1 August 2017 - Bustards of Botswana
Five values plus a miniature sheet SG 1292 to 1996 & MS 1297

The Bustards are regarded as an Endangered species in the country. They are large terrestrial birds associated with dry open country and omnivorous (feeding on both animal and vegetable substances)
The birds walk steadily on strong legs and big toes, pecking for food as they go. They have long broad wings and make striking patterns in flight. Bustards nest on the ground and have interesting mating displays.

The Artist is Katlego Ellias Baloi, resides in Rasesa and this is his first effort at designing stamps.

Graphic designs and printing by *Southern Colour Print*, Dunedin in New Zealand.



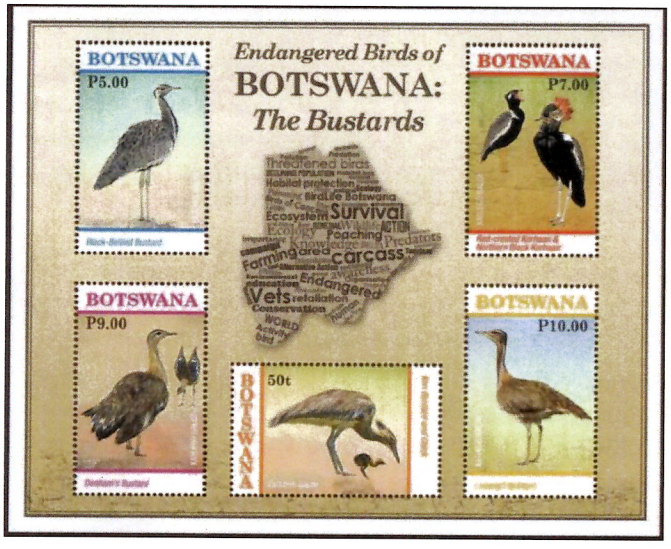
The Issue
50t Kori Bustard
Botswana's National bird and the largest and heaviest of the world's flying birds. Found throughout Botswana.

P5.00 Black-bellied Koorhan - Only found in Northern Botswana. The female is white underneath and the male has a black breast and belly giving this distinctive bird its name.





P7.00 Red-Crested Koorhan - A common bird in Botswana. Often heard, but not seen as an evening sound. Males have red crests, raised for display during the breeding season.

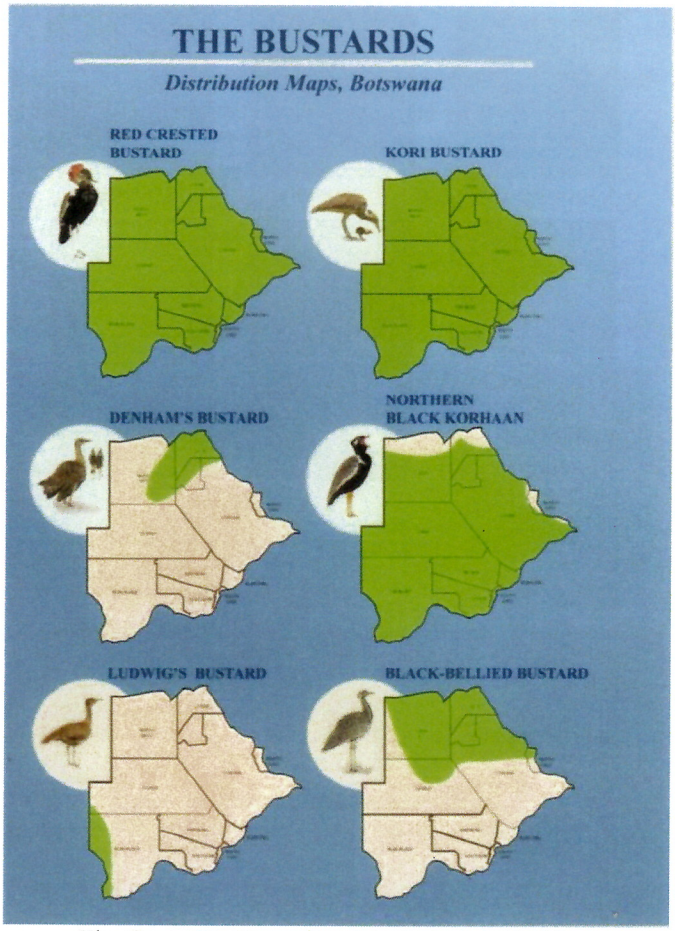


P9.00 Denham's Bustard
Found in the northeast region of the country, notably in the Linyanti concession. A rare species suffering rapid decline due to hunting and loss of habitat for agriculture.





P10.00 Ludwig's Bustard
A scarce specie found in the southwest Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Nomadic and a partial migrant in response to rain. One of its threats is colliding with powerlines.



The Green Portions pinpoints their usual habitat

Botswana Post 2016 Advertising Account
See Issue No 94 page 2339...On 3 February they wrote... *We will resend the funds using your IBAN*... It seems that the accounts person took an extended lunch break.

The invoice was finally paid on 31 July 2017; it took them twelve days short of one year to settle their debt...I suppose we ought to accept...It is Africa!

Bechuanalands & Botswana Society - 2017 Financial Reconciliation

By Otto Peetoom

Date	Details			Balance	
31.12.2016	End of year bank balance			**4901**	**56**
	Cash in hand			[1] 441	50
1.01.17	Funds at start of year			**5343**	**06**
	Subscriptions in advance - Received 2016			(452	00)
	Actual opening balance			**4891**	**06**
2017	**2017 Subscriptions**	**Income**			
	Subscriptions in advance	452	00		
	Into Nation Wide Building Society cheque or DD	132	00		
	Into Halifax bank £221 (McGregor) + £532 (Cash) Paid in via DD + £9 (Late)	762	00		
	Journal Advertising McGregor £180 + Etkin £60 + Bodily £60 + Loffstadt £10	310	00		
	Advertising Botswana Post owed since August 2016	80	00		
	Book sales	60	00		
	Bank Interest Nation Wide	2	32		
	Bank Interest Halifax	1	32		
				1799	**64**
			Total	**6690**	**70**

2017	**Direct Debit**		**Expenses**			
	Website	DD	300	00		
	Runner Post No 94 x 90 plus flyer insert (Drysdall Obituary)	DD	147	30		
	Runner Post 95 x 85	DD	157	80		
	Runner Post 96 x 85 plus flyer insert (Subscription form)	DD	114	45		
	Postage [2] £100 x 3	DD	300	00		
	Southern Africa Philately Cash £441.50 + DD 574.50	=	1016	00		
	Page sponsor for above	DD	20	00		
	Administration	DD	100	00		
	Total		**2155**	**55**	**4535**	**15**
	2018 Subscriptions in advance - Received 2017				22	00
	Actual end of year bank balance on 31.12.2017				**4513**	**15**
31.12.2017	Subscription received for 2018 (September - December 2017) are not included in the above figures					

Comments

In May 2017 I transferred the Society Funds into a separate Halifax account that has internet access. Thus in future when payments are made by credit card, cash or other methods I transfer said amounts directly into the account and payments are withdrawn via Direct debit. The foregoing has at last simplified a small society account that was previously rather complicated to keep track of. In addition, I no longer require a cheque book and I do not have to visit a bank as it is all done from the computer.

Notes

[1] 2016 Cash balance offset against *Southern Africa Philately*

[2] Actual cost of P+P per journal is around £150 and discounted down to £100 per sending.

A Snapshot of Society Funds 2000 - 2017 Members attending an AGM are always pleased to learn that the annual accounts show a 'surplus' and not a 'loss'. In my view the accumulated funds of a society represent the profit made from its members. Thus it ought to be appropriate that at some point in time some of that 'profit' is given back to the members.

Year end was previously 30 June and in 2000 there was a balance of £2460, in 2005 £2737, in 2010 £5109 and in 2012 £5700 showing that cash assets had more than doubled. The 2012 - 15 'No accounts wobble' made a loss of £1500+ and 6 months of subscriptions were written off, thus by the end of 2014 the balance reduced to £4778. In 2015 the society's year end became 31 December.

My 2015 'arrears campaign' recovered £1253, thus by end 2015 it reflected a balance of £5185.

In 2016 and 2017 there is no 'surplus' and that trend is intentional as I feel that part of the profits ought to go back to the members. Taking the 2014 balance into account, it is ironic, that a three year 'intentional deficit' only amounts to £243 being £81 per annum.

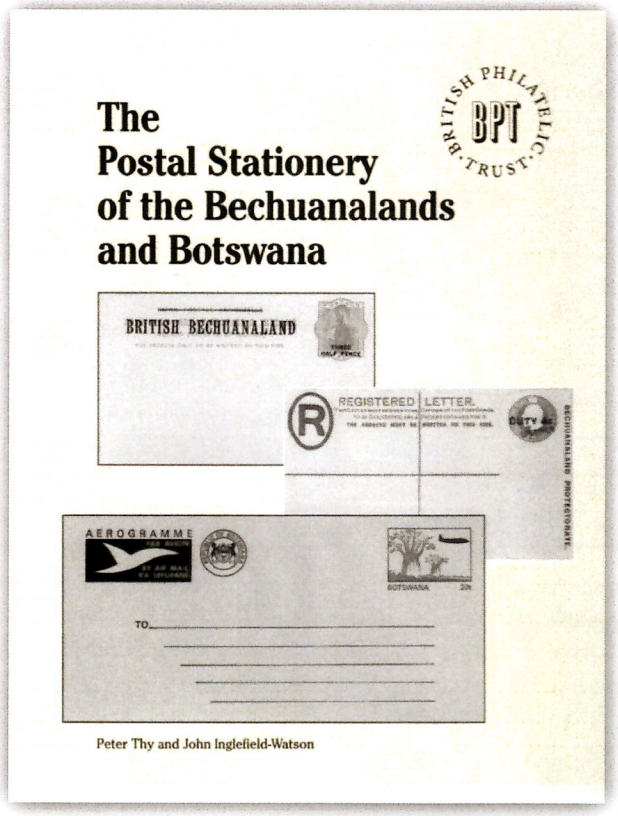
As stated in the October 2017 Editorial 2018 subscriptions have been reduced by £2 for each region and another sustainable deficit is predicted.

O. J. Peetoom

A Legacy of Sir John Inglefield-Watson

Most of our members should be familiar with a book entitled *The Postal Stationery of the Bechuanalands and Botswana* by Peter Thy and John Inglefield-Watson. I anticipate that a copy of it ought to reside on the book shelf of every self respecting collector of Bechuanaland, but does it?
Now is your chance to buy one 'while stocks last' - originally available at £30 and then £50, it is now a mere £10 plus P+P. UK postage is £3, Overseas is another matter. The good news is that Peter Thy still has a holding of 'around twenty' copies and will be happy to service the North American market.

Its history, as to how it came about, who printed and financed it and why it almost became the Society's 'White Elephant' is a tale I pieced together from the 'minutes' of the Committee and Society. Peter Thy/Watson presented their version in *The Runner Post* No 60 (June 2004)...other references in the text.



How it began from Committee Meeting Minutes
18 September 1997 under 'Projects'...*John reported on the Postal Stationery project...John queried who is to apply for grants towards the cost of publication...*

6 March 1998 - Postal Stationery Project...*John stated work had restarted in January...David Wall had received guidelines on applying for grants for publication from the 'British Philatelic Trust'* (BPT)...

1 October 1998 - Projects...*The Postal Stationery book is progressing slowly...*

22 September 1999 - Postal Stationery Catalogue...*A draft agreement had been produced between the 'Postal Stationery Society' (the publishers) and our own Society...Also Peter Thy had been in contact with the United States Postal Stationery Society, who had received quotations from two printers and would be prepared to pay the full cost...* Spirited discussion followed and it was decided...*that we delay any decision until full particulars of the American proposals are received...which we can compare with the British proposals...*

2 March 2000 - Postal Stationery Publication...*The British Philatelic Trust may publish and a decision whether they will do so was imminent. Does the Society wish to contribute towards the cost?...* Proposed and voted for £1000 of the Member's funds (then at £2500) was allocated to the project.

Comment - I find it difficult to condone spending 40% of the society's money on one project. The sum involved was sufficient to print and publish a book without the BPT. All the foregoing is recorded under 'Committee Meetings' and nothing about this decision is noted in the minutes of the AGM held on 20 September 2000. No report on these proceedings appeared in *The Runner Post*...was it a 'secret society'?

21 September 2001 - Postal Stationery Publication...*the text proof checking had been completed at the end of May. BPT problems were causing delay in publication...*

The foregoing is the last mention at Committee level and further mention of 'the book' appears in the AGM reports.

AGM Minutes 2000 - 2001
20 September 2000 under the Vice Chairman's report...*John* (Inglefield-Watson) *was unable to forecast the publication date of the Postal Stationery book. The Committee had agreed to commit £1000 from Society funds towards publication costs and members will receive a price concession for one copy...*

Comment 'Big deal! The society spends 40% of their cash for a book and that converts to a modest discount, provided it is paid pre publication date (see the BPT contract).

18 September 2001 AGM under 'Any other Business'...*John reported on the progress (and lack of) of the Postal Stationery Handbook. He had no details of publication date or final text proof...*

December 2000 *British Philatelic Trust* (BPT) Contract
A three page document was sent to the Secretary, David Wall and had to be signed by Sir John, who also acted on behalf of Peter Thy plus the Secretary and Treasurer. The foregoing and other letters are in the 'Correspondence' file. The BPT contract makes interesting reading and I quote a few relevant points.

Copyright in the book shall remain with the authors, but the authors agree not to undertake a reprint edition, or publish a revised edition, until all of the first printing is sold. This condition may be waived on application to the Trust in writing.

Editorial decision by the Technical Editor in connection with text, captions and selection of illustrations shall be final.

Every effort will be made to meet the authors' requirements.

The print run for the book is to be 350 copies, of which 300 are scheduled to be sold. The residual 50 books are to be used for copyright copies, review copies, authors' copies, complimentary copies and a certain number for entering into Stamp Exhibitions in order to promote sales. These will be despatched by the Trust on publication, with advice from the authors as required. Ten of these books will have a special imprint page printed so that they can be presented by the authors as 'specials'. These 'specials' shall constitute the five copies of the book to be given to each author free of charge.

The Bechuanaland and Botswana Society have agreed to contribute £1000 to the cost of publishing the book. The Society will be reimbursed by the Trust on a pro rata basis as sales progress. Numbers sold, and reimbursement from net sales shall be provided by the Trust to the Society every six months.

Comment on the above - The relevant Society accounts do not reflect payments received from the BPT. The first amount appeared in 2007 being £164 (See summary on next page)

Pricing of the book is to be determined by the Trust based on a structure of retail cover price. The basis of this structure shall be trade sales at cover price less 40% for Vera Trinder Ltd; less 33.3% for orders of 10 or greater from a trade source; less 20% for trade orders from 3 to 9 copies. The authors will be considered as trade purchasers.

A Legacy of Sir John Inglefield-Watson

The Trust will be seeking a break even costing structure. (Currently the budget cost of publishing is £4600, which would suggest a cover price of £30).

The Bechuanaland and Botswana Society will be entitled to the cover price discounted by 20% (post and packing paid) for pre-publication orders. The publication date is to be fixed by the Trust, but the Society shall be given enough time to enable its membership to place orders. This discount shall be limited to one copy per member, with the Society processing all orders using special order forms provided by the Trust, each accompanied by the individual member's payment in sterling, made payable to 'The British Philatelic Trust'.
After publication date, members of the Society can purchase copies at retail selling price, but inclusive of postage and packing charges.

A discounted price will be made available to the two national postal stationery societies, the UPSS (of USA) and the Postal Stationery Society (of GB); this to be cover price less 20% exclusive of postage and packing.

In the event of books remaining unsold after say four years, the authors will be given first option to purchase remaining copies if the Trust decides to 'remainder' left over books.

***Timing:** It is anticipated that the book will be the next one published by the Trust, hopefully early in 2001.*

The BPT Contract was signed and is dated 17 December 2000.

Society Correspondence
A letter dated 9 December 2000 from David Wall (Secretary) to Malcolm Batty (Treasurer) explaining the setup and Wall wrote...*If all 300 copies are sold, the Society gets its investment back...It is hoped that it will be published before Easter...*

Another (long winded) letter, dated 9.12.00 from Inglefield-Watson to David Wall goes over the points in the contract and he recommends that both Wall and Batty sign and accept the BPT terms.

31 January 2001 in a letter from Wall to Batty he informs the latter that Sir john is agitated that the signed copies of the contract have as yet not turned up.

Delays with the Publishing of the Book
Peter Thy and Sir John collaborated in putting the manuscript together...I am informed that Sir John delayed its publication due to constant updates and corrections...but, as is the case with all Philatelic Publications, one needs to reach a point when a 'green light' needs to be observed.

A classic case concerning Bechuanaland Philately is Karl Seligmann's Book [1] which was not published and all his time and effort was destined to evaporate.

1 November 2003 AGM Treasurer's Report ...*Now that the Inglefield-Watson/Thy Postal Stationery book is about to go to press. I would remind members that the commitment of £1000 towards the publication, the balance at the end of year's accounts will not look so good...* **Under 'Any other Business'**...*John stated that the final proof had been handed over and he was hopeful of progress soon...*

June 2004 *The Runner* Post No 60
On pages 1449 - 1451 under Postal Stationery News and Views #6 the authors of the book wrote...*When this is being read, the Postal Stationery book will finally have been published and made available to all members at a significant discount. The grace period has now expired... The price to members is £50 inclusive of post and packing...*

It goes on with a resume of how the book came about and progressed and wrote ...*the books were delivered to the trust in late March...however, the cover price was now a staggering £50 (nearly $100)...*

30 October 2004 under the Treasurer's Report it states that the year's deficit is due to a payment of £1000 to the BPT plus the purchase of a colour laser printer.

Under 'Any other Business'...*It was reported that the Stationery Catalogue had received a Gold award at the American Philatelic Society Stamp Show, Sacramento and a Large Vermeil at Autumn Stampex...*[2]

29 October 2005 AGM - The book to be entered into a South African National Exhibition. This would be the 2005 Cape Town National. I am not sure if it made it to the show as there is no record of an award.

24 February 2007 Ordinary Meeting...
Brian Hurst stated that with the move of the British Philatelic Trust to the Business Design Centre, the 140 unsold copies of the Postal Stationery book had been moved to Brian's garage and the Society had become responsible for marketing the books. It was agreed that copies would be sold at £20 to non-members and £10 to members of our Society...

March 2007 *The Runner* Post No 68
On pages 1624/1625 a joint article by Peter Thy and Sir John, published after John passed away on 7 February 2007. Peter wrote...*Little did we realize when we started on the project that the main obstacle would not be to write and print the book, the real obstacle would be to sell it...* Peter noted the sales figures after three years as UK 35, South Africa 16, Europe 1 and North America 4 = 56.

3 November 2007 AGM - The minutes note *Membership now stands at 110 worldwide, although the increase is due to free membership being offered with purchase of the book 'The Postal Stationery of the Bechuanalands and Botswana'.*

Comment
In 2007 - 2008 twenty new people joined the society [3], thus we may speculate that at least that number found a home. Two books were given away at the 2016 New York show.

Peter Thy took 30 books to the USA and informed me he has 'about 20' left.
In February 2017, after a visit to Brian Hurst, I established that he still had 31 books; I went away with ten and sold six by July.
Given its quality production, it is a bargain at £10 and a suspect that the lack of sales is largely due to not enough effort.

Books do not sell themselves, one has to stick the item under the nose of a prospective buyer and give a sales pitch that its price is for nothing. Cautious ought to be excised to avoid sending it overseas by post. This was seen when Tony Stanford offered a free book to a party in the USA and did not appreciate that said book cost £13.50 to post!

The £1000 'Investment'
This is what David Wall called it in his December 2000 letter. Yet no one has ever followed the matter up whether it was a 'wise' decision or the Society's 'White Elephant'. I am informed by a very reliable party that, although Sir John was adamant on a printing figure of 300, common sense prevailed and only 200 + 50 were produced. I am also told that 50 'review' copies are not correct and that 15 were nearer to the mark.

There is no correspondence in the Society file that (as per the contract) that the BPT reported sales every six months or whether they ever sent the required proceeds to the society within the required time scale.

From the Annual Accounts the following is relative - Note the accuracy of these figures is 'taken as read'.

Year	Income		Postage	
2007	164	00	4	27
2008	737	38	32	66
2009	57	00	11	11
2010	40	00	5	14
2011	12	00		
2012	273	00	10	00
2016	30	00	13	50
2017	60	00		
Sub Total	**1373**	**38**	**76**	**68**
P+P	76	68		
Nett Total	**£1296**	**70**		

To sum up, after 13 years there are 45 books left and 155 found a home, an unknown number were simply given away. It suggests that the society ended up nearly £300 better off, but that is not the case. At the October 2006 AGM the society 'in its infinitive wisdom' donated £1000 of the member's cash to London 2010.
At the time it represented 28% of its funds.

Some may say it was a noble gesture, but in my experience people on Committees are very good at giving 'Other People's money' away...but have great difficulty in parting with their own!

Notes
[1] See *The Runner Post* No 95/2367
[2] Reported in *The Runner Post* No 62/1508
The book also received a Large Silver Gold in New Zealand in June 2005 (TRP No 68/1625)
[3] See *The Runner Post* No 95/2363

British Bechuanaland 1890 - 1892 Sixth Annual Report

Collated by Otto Peetoom

No 47 British Bechuanaland Reports for 1890 - 92
From Henry B. Loch, Governor and High Commissioner to The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford. In his summing up he expresses concern upon the wholesale destruction of Forests.

Sir Sidney Shippard, the Administrator to the Governor in his report had the following to say on the subject of forests...
The Crown Prosecutor calls attention to the wholesale destruction of forests in Bechuanaland. It is not easy to suggest a remedy. In view of the conditions of the Customs Union an export duty on wood could not be imposed in this territory without the express consent of the Cape Colony and of the Orange Free State.

A preventive might at one time have been found in Mr A.H.F. Duncan's suggestion as to establishing a forest department under the Surveyor-General; but since some of the finest forests in the western portion of the Crown Colony have been included in the grants of land made in consideration of railway construction this Government no longer has the same interest in the question...

Shippard continues his report...*Mr Moorrees, who recently made an official tour in the newly-annexed district of Mier, points out that two-thirds of the land are available for sale and that there are upwards of 100 applications for farms in that district.*

Since the construction of the railway there has been, especially in the district of Vryburg, a rise in the value of land in consequence of the influx of farmers from the Cape colony, the South African Republic and the Orange Free State.

The report of the Postmaster-General and Superintendent of Telegraphs exhibits a steady increase in the revenue of this department, which is being reorganised with the view to greater efficiency...

The Civil Commissioner of Gordonia calls attention to the need for a bridge across the Orange River at Upington, where the stream is of great width. The advantage would be incontestable; but the cost of such a bridge would be prohibitive as far as this Government is concerned...

Report by the Receiver-General by F.G. Newton on Post Office matters.

Post Office Revenue	1889-90	1890-91	1891-92
Colony	£1366	£2204	£3090
Protectorate	£635	£1412	£3014
Expenditure			
Posts and Telegraphs	£7121	£9658	£15,410

Comment by the Receiver-General Posts and Telegraphs
Revenue - *The receipts under this head are disappointing when compared with the very large sum appropriated to the service. It is however satisfactory to note that the income of the Postal Department, both for the Colony and the Protectorate shows a marked increase on that for the preceding year.*

Expenditure
An increase of nearly £6000 in the cost of this department calls for remark. The growth of postal communication, as evidenced by the receipts, will explain the additions which have been found necessary in the establishments at Vryburg, Mafeking and Macloutsie.

While the extension of the system through the Protectorate can only be kept up by the payment of a very heavy subsidy for the conveyance of mails from Mafeking to Macloutsie. It will, no doubt, be a long time before the Government can recoup itself for such a payment by a corresponding increase of postal revenue, while the political importance of this line of communication and the heavy charge it entails on Imperial Funds, should form strong reasons for an active support being given to any scheme of railway extension northward from Mafeking...

Postmaster-General and Superintendent of Telegraphs
Report by J. Middleton...*From the statements submitted, it will be observed that there has been a considerable increase in the work dealt with, and the Revenue collected under all heads; This is chiefly due to the operations of the British South Africa Company in Mashonaland, as all mail matter, and telegraph work passed through this territory and a transit rate has been levied by this Government on letters, telegrams, &c. passing between the Company's territories and other South African Colonies and States.*

Post Offices - *Since my last report, the postal agency at Macloutsi has been created a Post-office and a Postmaster appointed there. This office is now the office of exchange between this territory and Mashonaland. As a considerable amount of postal work has to be dealt with at Macloutsi additional accommodation has been provided. The postal agencies in the Protectorate, viz., Kanya and Molepolole, are now served by native runners from the main coach route. The agencies at Tati and Buluwayo are also served by runners from Palachwe. A postal agency has also been established at Keimoes in the division of Gordonia; this agency is served by Native runners from Upington via the Agency at Bloemfontein.*

Conveyance of Mails - *There is now a daily service between Vryburg and Kimberley by train, and a bi-weekly service by coach between Vryburg, and Mafeking and a weekly service by cart between Mafeking and Macloutsie. Kuruman is now served once a week from Vryburg by cart and a contract has been entered into for a bi-weekly service to commence on the 1st May next.*

Telegraphs - *The general working of the Telegraph Department has been most satisfactory, during the last eighteen months; there have been but few line interruptions, and practically no delay to traffic; the new instruments mentioned in my last report as necessary to meet the increasing work have been provided. The extension of the wire beyond Mafeking by the British South Africa Chartered Company has been completed to Fort Salisbury, the head-quarters of the Company in Mashonaland.*

General - *The work done by the Postal and Telegraph Departments, during the last eighteen months, as already pointed out, has been very considerable, and it gives me great pleasure to be able to testify to the careful manner in which the work has been dealt with by every member of the staff.*
As already mentioned, the great increase of work and revenue as been due to the British South Africa Company's operations in Mashonaland; as the Company, however, are making use of other routes for mail matter to and from their territories, viz:

British Bechuanaland 1890 - 1892 Sixth Annual Report

General - continued
Via Pietersburg through the Transvaal and via Beira and the Pungwe River, I fear there must necessarily be a considerable falling off in our Postal revenue during the next twelve months.

Civil Commissioner of Vryburg, report by R. Tillard...*The opening of the railway has not of so much benefit to the town as was expected, owed, no doubt, in a great measure to the distance of the station from the business part of the town. An almost separate township has sprung up in the vicinity of the station, but the buildings are not of a permanent character and will probably be removed when the railway goes further...*

Resident Magistrate, Kuruman, a report by C.B. Scholtz
Roads...*On account of the late heavy rains the roads everywhere in a very bad state, especially the drifts at some of the native locations. As the mails are at present conveyed by cart from Vryburg, it is highly desirable that something should be done to get the roads in proper repair, at all events fit to travel on...*

Sixth Annual Report Concluded

Resident Magistrate, Gordonia, a report by C. Bam
Postal Matters.
During the past year another post office agency at Kumoso, was established and others will soon become necessary, as trade extends northwards into Namaqualand and the newly annexed district along the 20th meridian...

Assistant Commissioner for the Bechuanaland Protectorate W.H. Surmon arrived from Basutoland and came to office in August 1890. A four page report includes...*The British South Africa Company's telegraph wire now runs right through the Protectorate from Ramathlabama to Tuli*...at first Chief Lenchwe objected to a telegraph office being built in his village but later relented and the office was open in March 1891...

When it became necessary to change the postal route the Chief objected to carts running through his village, this was overcome by agreement that a cart would not exceed walking pace.

British Bechuanaland 1892 - 1893 7th Annual Report

Sir Sidney Shippard, the Administrator to the Governor in his summing up wrote...*The receipts under posts and Telegraphs, which were considerably over-estimated by the then Postmaster General in November 1891, show a falling off, partly in consequence of the opening of direct railway communication between Cape Town and Johannesburg via Colesburg and Bloemfontein...*

Under **'General'** Shippard wrote...*The Postmaster-General reports a slight falling off in the postal revenue during the past year, viz. About £350 less than the previous year. The net cost of the conveyance of mails from Mafeking to Macloutsie is £4000. From 1 April 1893 the management of the postal and telegraph system has been handed over to the Postmaster-General of the Cape Colony...*

Report from the Receiver General, F.J. Newton
Posts and Telegraphs...*It is satisfactory to be able to record that the Acting Postmaster General, Mr Tillard, who was entrusted with the care of this department on the retirement of the Postmaster General in May, has effected a saving both on the estimates and on the actual expenditure of the previous year. But it is evident that the strictest economy is necessary in the administration of a Postal department that spends £15,000 and only receives £7500...*

The new Cape Colony PMG...*will be aided in his task by this Government having secured for the current year a more advantageous contract for the expensive mail coach service to Macloutsie and by the extension of the railway to Mafeking...*

Annual Post Office Report by R. Tillard ...*During the past year the Postmaster at Macloutsie has been removed and a Post Office agent appointed, by which a saving of £200 a year has been effected. The making up of the Mashonaland mails, which was formerly done at Macloutsie, was removed to the Vryburg Post Office, but since this was done new arrangements were entered into and now Mashonaland mail matter, emanating from Cape Colony and other South African States, is made up at Kimberley or other Colonial Offices...*



The Macloutsie Post Office - Illustrations courtesy Peter Thy

...The principal item of expenditure is for the conveyance of mails from Mafeking to Macloutsie...



The Mashonaland Mail coach at Macloutsie

...The large increase in the farming population, especially in the district of Vryburg, necessitates better internal postal communication and it is hoped that a system of field cornets' posts will shortly be established...

Tati Concessions Limited

By Joe Taylor

The Tati Goldfields are located in North Eastern Bechuanaland in an area between and ahead of the confluence of the Ramaquabane and Shashi rivers, the one and then the other river delineating the country's border with neighbouring Rhodesia until the latter flows into the Limpopo. The area had been mined extensively by local people several hundred years ago and the remains of these mining activities were observed by early European explorers and hunters. In 1866 a South African geologist by the name of Carl Mauch accompanied a group of hunters into the area and, upon his return to the Transvaal in 1867; he announced the discovery of a gold bearing reef along the Tati river.

The reef fell roughly between Territory controlled by Lobengula, Chief of the Matabele Tribe to the North and Khama, Chief of the Bamangwato to the South and West.
It was unclear initially as to who would be responsible for granting mining rights to the prospectors and diggers who now began to flock to the area. Whilst they were thus prevaricating, diamonds were discovered in Kimberley and this more attractive prospect tempted most of the diggers away with the result that the development of the Tati gold fields as a commercial enterprise was set back for the next twenty eight years.

Eventually Lobengula had granted a mining concession to the *London & Limpopo Gold Mining Company* in 1870 and another one to the *Northern Light Gold Mining Company* in 1880. Neither of them made much progress and in 1888 the latter Company ceded its rights (now expanded to include control over land, timber and grazing) to a new Company entitled the *Tati Concession Mining & Exploration Company*.

The area ceded, covering about 5200 square kilometres, came under the jurisdiction of the newly established Bechuanaland Protectorate in 1894 whereupon, because of a politically unacceptable connection to Cecil Rhodes' *British South Africa Company* (through Alfred Beit, one of its directors), the mining rights were taken over in 1895 by a newly floated British Company *The Tati Concessions Limited*.
This company set out to develop the area, initially with some success. The Matabele rebellion of 1896 prompted the *British South Africa Company* to press ahead with extending the Cape Colony railway line through Bechuanaland into Rhodesia and Tati Concessions.

Taking advantage of the railway running through its territory, they laid out streets, a central square plus housing plots to create a modem town along the line of rail.
It was named Francistown after Daniel Francis one of the original 1870 prospectors. When the railway reached the new town on 1 September 1897 it already had a hotel, three banks and a post office - which had been transferred from the original Tati Settlement. (See *The Runner Post* No 90 pages 2267/2270)

In anticipation of a flood of applications from diggers and prospectors for 'claims' the company commissioned *Thomas de la Rue* and Company to design and supply revenue stamps bearing its name. The elephant centred design is thought to reflect deference to the memory of Chief Lobengula (who had died in 1894) and whose official seal bore the symbol of an Elephant. Stamps were prepared in six denominations, 1/- (red), 2/6d (blue), 5/- (violet), 10/- (green), £1 (blue) and £5 (orange). Five thousand of each duty was printed. On the Company's instructions *Thomas de la Rue* despatched 1000 of each of the 1/-. 2/6d and 5/- denominations and 500 of each of the other three direct to Tati in May 1896. The remainder were held at the Company's offices in London until such time as they might be required. It would seem that they were rarely required which is probably why so many have eventually become available to collectors. [1]

Unfortunately political events as well as economic and social considerations conspired against the Company. The Matabele Rebellion followed by food shortages through the effects of drought and locust plague on local crops, rinderpest disease in cattle and a scarcity of native labour all combined to retard progress. Additionally the mineral deposits proved smaller than the Geological surveys had indicated.
The onset of the Boer war in 1899 further hindered development. In 1911 it was re-affirmed that the Tati Company had 'full, free and undisturbed possession as owners of all the land within the Tati District', this in response to a challenge from the Protectorate authorities. This prompted a further drive to attract Settlers but met with only limited response.
The Company went through a number of restructuring exercises but production gradually dwindled and ceased entirely in 1964. The mining rights in the area are believed now to vest in the *Anglo-American* group of companies.

Note [1] It appears full sheets may be ex archives and broken up



The 70th Anniversary of the South African Collectors' Society

www.southafricacollector.com

The Society was formed circa October 1947 by Eric Sherwood from Sale in Manchester. Eric was a specialist dealer of South Africa and a well known figure in the stamp trade. He passed away at a ripe old age in January 1987. At first the members circulated a 'News folder' but that became impractical as the membership progressed to three figures.

In January 1953 the first society journal was published called *The Springbok* and is still going strong after 60+ years. For almost 40 years it was a bi-monthly publication and from 1993 it became a quarterly journal. Issue No 339 was published in August 2017.

Eric Sherwood promoted and advertised the Society in *The South African Philatelist* starting in October 1949 and this 'PR' exercise continued to the end of December 1972. In January 2014 a Society website came 'online' and has been developed into a valuable source of information, especially a section entitled '*Collect Southern Africa*'.

The website includes an Index to all its journals *The Springbok* and there is an extensive list of the Society's comprehensive Library. Regular meetings are held in the North and the South plus a Philatelic weekend in May/June in the Midlands. Each year in November it hosts an *Annual Southern Africa Philatelic Conference* and is already in its 16th year. This important annual event is open to all the Societies with an interest in *Southern Africa Philately*.

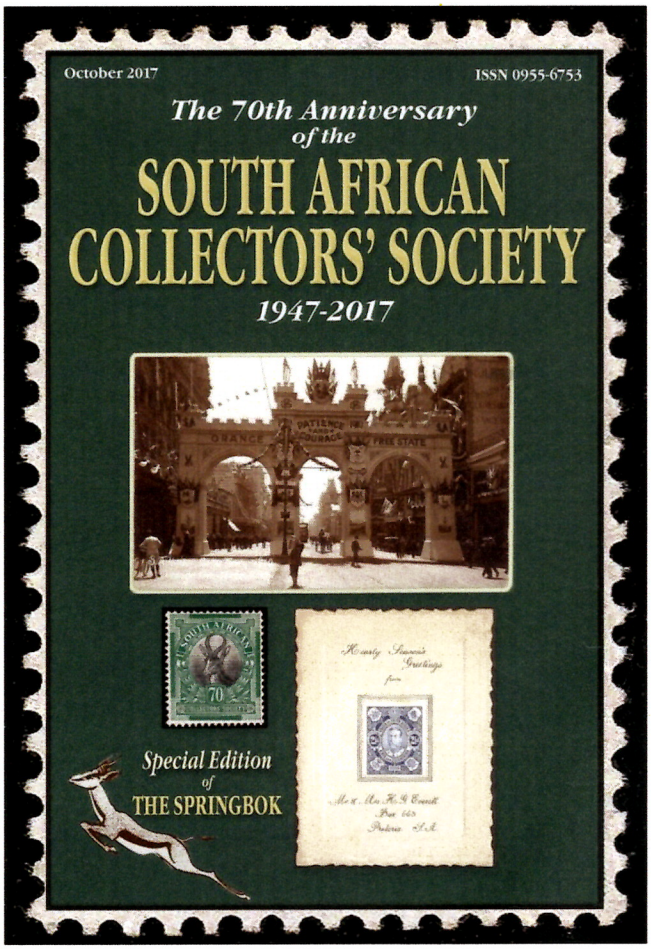


On the Saturday there are invited displays and on Sunday morning it is open to anyone wishing to present a short display. The Conference is concluded on Sunday afternoon with a 'live' auction.

The 70th Anniversary is being celebrated by a customised webpage that may be accessed from our Home Page, also a sixteen page Special (Souvenir) Edition of *The Springbok* has been published and may be downloaded free in PDF format from our website.

By 1954 the Society boasted 232 members and nowadays it is in the region of 130. There is no pomp and ceremony and the society is run in a casual and friendly manner...thus if anyone has an interest in this area of collecting they ought to consider joining. The current annual subscription is UK £18, Europe £22 and Overseas £25. There is a PDF option for a mere £10 per year. Enquiries may be directed to info@southafricacollector.com or write to our Secretary - Chris Oliver, 46 Woodville Road, Ham, Richmond TW10 7QN olivers.of_ham@virgin.net

Thank you for your interest,
Regards
Otto Peetoom
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