British Crown Colony
of
Basutoland



1884 - 1966

Basutoland

Stamp Album

This album documents the issue of stamps by the British Crown Colony of Basutoland for the period from 1884 until 1966, when the colony attained independance from Britain as the Kingdom of Lesotho.
The album is organized chronologically in accordance with the Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue, Southern and Central Africa, and the South African Stamp Colour Catalogue 2023-2025 Edition. The format is a straightforward an uncomplicated collection of the issues covering definitive and commemorative stamps and Postage Due labels, and only includes variations of stamps that do not have a high catalogue value.

Images of all stamps and labels have been placed in mount spaces to aid collection and/or provide information.

Basutoland

Contents and Index

Table of Contents

PAGE	CONTENTS
4	Maps/Coat of Arms/Flag.
5	General Information/History.
6	Postal History/Stamp Issues
7	Watermarks.
	POSTAGE STAMPS
8	1933 (1 December) King George V Definitive issue
9	1935 (4 May) King George V Silver Jubilee issue.
10	1937 (12 May) Coronation of King George VI issue.
11	1938 (1 April) King George VI Definitive issue.
12	1945 (3 December) Victory issue.
13	1947 (17 February) Royal Family Visit issue.
14	1948 (1 December) Royal Silver Wedding issue.
14	1949 (10 October) 75th Anniversary of U.P.U. issue.
15	1953 (3 June) Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II issue.
17	1954 (18 October)- 1958 Queen Elizabeth II Definitive issue.
17	1959 (1 August) Additional surcharged issue.
17	1959 (15 December) Basutoland National Council issue.
18	1961 (14 February) Queen Elizabeth II Definitive issue (SG 43-53)
	surcharged with new decimal currency.
19	1961 Surcharged Queen Elizabeth II Definitive issue-Additional printings
20	1961 - 1963 Queen Elizabeth II Definitive decimal issue (new currency).
21	1963 (4 June) Freedom from Hunger issue.
21	1963 (2 September) Red Cross Centenary issue.
22	1964 Queen Elizabeth II Definitive issue. Change of Watermark.
22	1965 (10 May) New Constitution issue. Self Goverment.
23	1965 (17 May) 100th Anniversary of I.T.U. issue.
23	1965 (25 October) International Co-operation Year issue.
24	1966 (24 January) Winston Churchill Commemoration issue.
	POSTAGE DUE LABELS
25	1933 - 1952 Postage Due issue.
25	1956 (1 December) Postage Due issue.
26	1961 (14 February) Postage Due issue - surcharged with new currency.
26	1964 Postage Due issue.
27	Additional (blank) Page
28	Stamp Purchases Account
27	Stamp Album Inventory

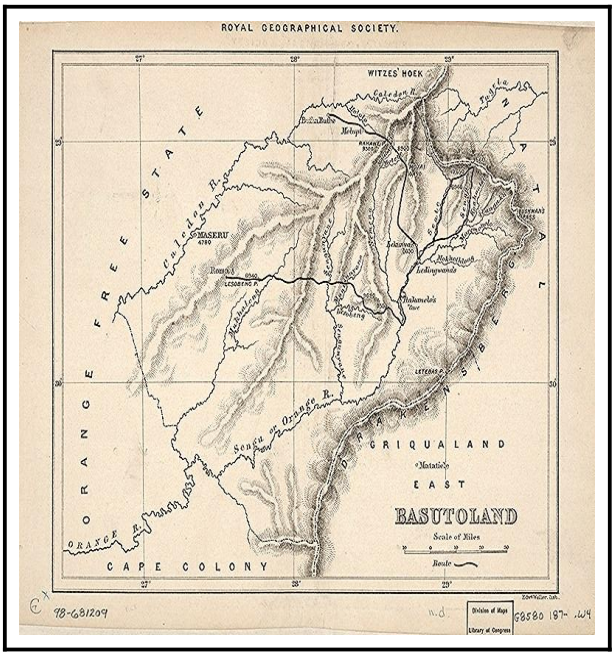
Catalogue Numbers Index

INDEX
SG 1 - 10
SG 11 - 14
SG 15 - 17
SG 18 - 28
SG 29 - 31
SG 32 - 35
SG 36 - 37
SG 38 - 41
SG 42
SG 43 - 53
SG 54
SG 55 - 57
SG 58 - 68
SG 61a - 68b
SG 69 - 79
SG 80
SG 81 - 82
SG 84 - 92
SG 94 - 97
SG 98 - 99
SG 100 - 101
SG 102 -105
SG D1 - 2
SG D3 - D4
SG D5 - D8
SG D9 - D10

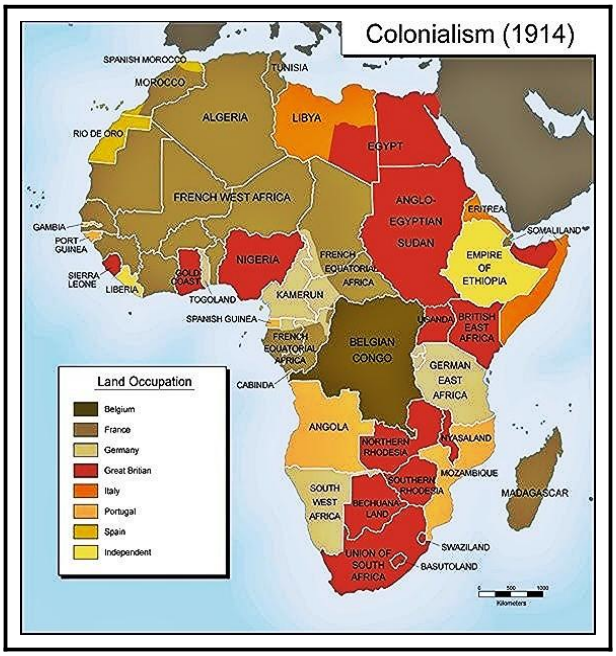
Basutoland

Maps

Map of Basutoland



Colonial Map of Africa



Total Area - 30,355 square kilometres

Coat of Arms

Although in existence since 1868, the Crown Colony of Basutoland was only granted a Coat of Arms by a Royal Warrant dated 20 March 1951.
It consisted of a green shield incorporating a crocodile (the emblem of the northern Bakwena tribe of Chief Moshoeshoe) and above it a sheep flanked by two bushels of grain. The fact that crocodiles are not found in Basutoland is indicative of the king's tribal affiliation as the Bakwena/Bakoena Tribe are "those who venerate the crocodile".
The shield above is a winged Basotho walking shield which incorporates the Crown of St Edward, with an Assegai (short stabbing spear) and Knobkerrie (wooden club) behind the shield.
The Scroll underneath encapsulates the motto of the colony – KHOTSO KE NALA (Peace is Prosperity).

The heraldic description of the Coat of Arms is:
Arms: Vert, a crocodile proper and in chief a fleece between two garbs Or.
Crest: On a wreath of the colours, an arrow, a spear and a club in saltir charged with a Basuto shield charged with the Crown of St Edward.
Motto: KHOTSO KE NALA (Peace is Properity).

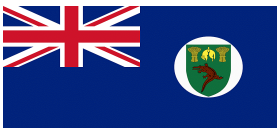
Flag of Basutoland

The Crown Colony of Basutoland did not have its own official flag and used the British Union Jack until attaining independence in 1966. However, after the granting by Royal Warrant of an official Coat of Arms for the colony in 1951, an unofficial national ensign appears to have been adopted, displaying the arms of the territory in the fly of a dark blue British Ensign.

Official Flag - British Union Jack



Unofficial Ensign of Basutoland



Basutoland

General Information

Geographical Location:

Basutoland is a mountain kingdom in the southern quarter of the Africa Continent. It lies between 29 and 30 degrees south latitude and between 28 and 30 degrees east longitude. The country is one of the smaller countries in Africa (42nd out of 54) and, with 30,355 km² and is completely surrounded by South Africa with a border of about 1106 km.

Total Area:

30,355 square kilometers.

Topography:

The western part of Basutoland lies on a high plateau about 1400 to 1700 meters above sea level and is characterized by table mountains and river valleys. The eastern plateaus and mountains (Highlands) are partly over 2000 meters high and are characterized by deep river valleys and numerous mountains and mountain ranges. The highest mountain in the country and in all of southern Africa is at 3482 meters, with the lowest point at about 1390 meters above sea level. Basutoland's altitude is a unique geographical feature as the only independent country in the world with the entire national territory above 1000 meters, with about 80% of the area above 1800 meters.

Climate:

The climate is moderately warm due to the high altitude of the entire country. In winter, between June and August, it is often very cold, and snow can fall in the higher elevations in the east. In the summer months between November and March, Basutoland is predominantly hot.

In the high mountain areas, snowfall is possible all year round. About 85% of the annual rainfall – the national average is about 600 to 800 mm – falls during the summer, which is why the landscape is usually arid during the dry winter months.

Monarchy:

A self-governing member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, the territory had Queen Elizabeth II as its monarch.

Capital and Seat of Government:

Maseru.

Government:

A Constitutional Monarchy with both an Executive and Legislative Council. The Constitution vested a number of functions in the Paramount Chief.

Population:

The vast majority of the population were Black with 895 Whites. In the 1904 Census there were 348,848 inhabitants in the territory.

Languages:

Official languages: English and Sesotho.

Currency:

South Pound African pound (1910–1961) - £1 = 20 shilling = 12 pence,
South African rand (1961) - 1 Rand = 100cents.

History

Basutoland, the predecessor of present-day Lesotho, was a small British Crown colony that existed from 1884 to 1966. It had come into being in 1818 when Chief Moshoeshoe I started consolidating the remnants of various Sotho tribes which had been scattered in the "Mfecane", which was a series of inter-tribal wars dominated by the Zulu and Matabele. In 1824 he occupied the mountains of Lesotho as a defensive fortress where he established the Basuto Kingdom. The mountains of Lesotho are completely land-locked and are surrounded by South Africa from which much of territories' early history is derived, encompassing sporadic conflicts with both with British and Boer settlers over land. The culminating series of conflicts with the Boers (1856-1868), were incited by the Boers settling on traditional Basotho lands. By 1867, with much of the kingdom's land and fortresses taken in the ongoing conflict, the king, fearing defeat, once more appealed to the British High Commissioner for assistance. In January 1868, the Commissioner received authorisation to annexe Basutoland and on 12th March 1868 a proclamation declared the Basotho to be British subjects, Basutoland to be British territory and the Boers were ordered to leave. However, in February 1869, by the Convention of Aliwal North which defined the boundaries of the territory, the arable land west of the Caledon River (known as the "Lost Territory") was left in Boer hands, effectively reducing the kingdom to half its previous size.

After a period under the direct authority of the High Commissioner for South Africa, the territory was in November 1871, annexed to the Cape Colony. Rule by the Cape Colony proved unpopular and in 1879 a southern chief rose in revolt. When this was crushed and the chief killed in the fighting, the Basotho then started fighting amongst themselves over the division of his land. An attempt was made by the administration to disarm the Basotho, but this only resulted in the territory rising in revolt in the Gun War (1880-1881). Although a peace treaty was signed in 1881, sporadic fighting still continued.

In 1884, with the Cape Colony's unpopular rule and its inability to control the territory, Basutoland became a Crown Colony with legislative and executive powers vested in the High Commissioner, but under control of a British Resident Commissioner. Initially the colony was governed by the Commissioner in conjunction with an Executive Council, but in pursuance of a policy encouraging self-governance, a National Council was established and held its first sitting in 1903. Resulting from a request in 1955 by the National Council to legislate its internal affairs, a new constitution was instituted in 1959 which gave Basutoland its first elected legislative assembly. This was followed in 1965 with general legislative elections under universal adult suffrage and the territory became self-governing. On the 4th October 1966 the Crown Colony of Basutoland attained independence from Great Britain as the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Basutoland

Postal History

Prior to the proclamation of Basutoland as Crown Colony, no postal service existed in the territory and the nearest Post Office was Graaff Reinet in the Cape Colony (300 miles away) from where mail was forwarded to Cape Town. Thereafter, at some stage during the 1840's, a Post Office was opened in Colesberg and this was followed in 1858, by a Post Office at Aliwal North, which meant a gradually shortening of the distance that post had to be first carried by hand.
When Basutoland was proclaimed a Crown Colony in 1868, it became necessary for an official postal service to be set up to serve the new government departments that were established with Maseru as their base. Initially the service was provided and administered by the Cape Colony, but following the repeal of the Act annexing the territory to the Cape Colony, it became the responsibility of the British High Commissioner to administer the postal service. During the period from 1868 to 1910, the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope were used for postage in the colony, but the stamps of the other states of Natal, Orange Free State and Transvaal were also valid for postage in Basutoland. With the formation of the Union of South Africa in 1910, all provincial stamps were withdrawn and replaced by South African stamps issues, which were in use up to 1933 when the colony issued its first set of ten stamps inscribed with "Basutoland".

Stamp Issues of Basutoland

1933 - King George V Definitive issue.
1935 - King George V Silver Jubilee issue.
1937 - Coronation of King George VI issue.
1938 - King George VI Definitive issue.
1945 - Victory issue.
1947 - Royal Family Visit issue.
1948 - Royal Silver Wedding issue.
1949 - 75th Anniversary of Universal Postage Union issue.
1953 - Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II issue.
1954 - Queen Elizabeth II Definitive issue.
1959 - Additional surcharged issue.
1959 - Basutoland National Council issue.
1961 - Queen Elizabeth II Definitive decimal issue (SG 43-53) - surcharged with new decimal currency.
1961 - Queen Elizabeth II Definitive decimal issue - Additional printings (Type II and Type III).
1961 - 1963 Queen Elizabeth II Definitive decimal issue (new currency).
1963 - Freedom from Hunger issue.
1963 - Red Cross Centenary issue.
1964 - Queen Elizabeth II Definitive issue. Change of Watermark.
1965 - New Constitution issue. Self Government.
1965 - 100th Anniversary of International Telecommunication Union issue.
1965 - International Co-operation Year issue.
1966 - Winston Churchill Commemoration issue.

1933 - 1952 Postage Due labels.
1956 - Postage Due labels.
1961 - Postage Due issue surcharged with new currency.
1961 - Postage Due issue surcharged with new currency.
1964 - Postage Due issue.

A total of 27 sets, comprising 113 stamps, were issued by Basutoland.

British Empire Omnibus Issues

The set of stamps commemorating the 1935 Silver Jubilee of King George V, is the first of what became known as the "British Empire Omnibus Issues" - an omnibus issue is a commemorative issue of stamps by several countries with a common subject and which may share a uniform design. For this commemoration a total of 250 stamps were issued by 62 Commonwealth & British Empire territories, commemorating with differing stamp designs, the Silver Jubilee of King George V.

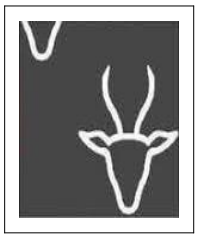
Basutoland

Watermarks used in the Stamp Issues of Basutoland.

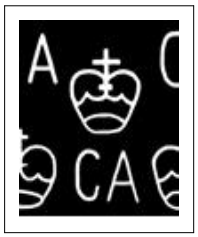
Multiple Crown & Script CA



Multiple Springbok Head



St Edward's Crown & Block CA



OFFICIAL GAZETTE of the High Commissioner.

No. 54 of 1933.]

PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency the High Commissioner.

EMPOWERING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF STAMPS FOR POSTAGE AND REVENUE PURPOSES FOR USE IN BASUTOLAND.

Whereas it is desirable that the High Commissioner be empowered to authorize the issue of stamps for postage and revenue purposes for use in Basutoland (hereinafter referred to as "the said Territory") and for that purpose to amend any Act of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope in so far as it is in force in the said Territory;

Now therefore under and by virtue of the powers in me vested I do hereby declare, proclaim and make known as follows:—

1. The High Commissioner is hereby empowered to authorize the issue of such stamps for use in the said Territory for postage and revenue purposes as he may consider necessary.
2. The High Commissioner is hereby empowered to authorize and make regulations for the demonetization or withdrawal of any die or any particular issue of stamps in the said Territory.
3. Act No. 1 of 1868 of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope is hereby declared to be no longer in operation in the said Territory.
4. This Proclamation may be cited for all purposes as the Basutoland Postage and Revenue Stamps Proclamation 1933, and shall have force and take effect from the date of its publication in the *Gazette*.

God Save the King.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Capetown, this Eighth day of November One thousand Nine hundred and Thirty-three.

E. R. G. R. EVANS,
High Commissioner.

By Command of His Excellency the
High Commissioner.

SHIRLEY EALES,
Administrative Secretary.

(Printed by the Government Printer, Pretoria.)

OFFICIAL GAZETTE of the High Commissioner.

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE No. 170 of 1933.

It is hereby notified for general information that, in terms of section *four* of the Post Office Administration and Shipping Combinations Discouragement Act, No. 10 of 1911 of the Union of South Africa, as in force *mutatis mutandis* in Basutoland and the Basutoland Postage and Revenue Stamps Proclamation, 1933, His Excellency the High Commissioner has been pleased to approve the issue of a new design of postage and revenue stamps for use in Basutoland.

The new stamps will be on sale at all post offices and postal agencies in the territory on the 1st December, 1933, and thereafter the present issue will cease to be sold. For a period of one month ending on the 31st December, 1933, stamps of the present issue will be valid for postal purposes, but after that date postal matter bearing such stamps will be subject to surcharge.

The new stamps are of the following denominations and are valid for revenue as well as postal purposes:—

½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s.;
and for revenue purposes only, £1.

A new issue of postage due stamps of 1d. and 2d., post cards and registered letter envelopes will also be on sale from the above date.

By Command of His Excellency the
High Commissioner.

SHIRLEY EALES,
Administrative Secretary.

High Commissioner's Office,
Capetown, 17th November, 1933.

Basutoland



King George V

King George V Definitive issue.
1st December 1933.

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. Perf: 12½.

King George V, Nile Crocodile and Mountains.



Sg 1 Sacc 1



Sg 2 Sacc 2



Sg 3 Sacc 3



Sg 4 Sacc 4



Sg 5 Sacc 5



Sg 6 Sacc 6



Sg 7 Sacc 7



Sg 8 Sacc 8

Multiple Crown & Script CA



Sg 9 Sacc 9





Sg 10 Sacc 10

Print: Recess by Waterlow and Sons, Ltd.

Basutoland



Queen Mary

King George V Silver Jubilee issue.
4th May 1935.

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. Perf: 13½ x 14.
As SG 111/114 of Botswana. Ist British Empire Omnibus Issue (250 stamps).



King George V



Sg 11 Sacc 11



Sg 12 Sacc 12



Silver Jubilee Medal.



Sg 13 Sacc 13



Sg 14 Sacc 14

Commentary:
The Silver Jubilee of George V on 6 May 1935 marked 25 years of George V as the King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, and Emperor of India. The Jubilee was marked with large-scale and popular events throughout London and the rest of the United Kingdom in May 1935. It was the first ever Silver Jubilee celebration of a British monarch in history. The King died less than a year later.

Print: Recess by De La Rue & Co, Ltd.

Basutoland



Queen Elizabeth

Coronation of King George VI issue.
12th May 1937.

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. Perf: 14.
As SG 115/117 of Botswana.
British Empire Omnibus Issue (202 stamps).



King George VI



Sg 15 Sacc 15



Coronation Medal



Sg 16 Sacc 16



Sg 17 Sacc 17

Commentary:
A Coronation is the act of placement or bestowal of a crown upon a monarch's head. The term also generally refers to the ceremony which marks the formal investiture of a monarch with regal power. "Coronation" may also, in a broader sense, refer to any formal ceremony in relation to the accession of a monarch, whether or not an actual crown is bestowed. Such ceremonies may otherwise be referred to as investitures, inaugurations, or enthronements. The monarch's accession usually precedes the coronation ceremony. Wikipedia.

Print: Recess by De La Rue & Co, Ltd.

Basutoland

King George VI Definitive issue.
1st April 1938.

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. Perf: 12½.



Sg 18 Sacc 18



Sg 19 Sacc 19



Sg 20 Sacc 20



Sg 21 Sacc 21



Sg 22 Sacc 22



Sg 23 Sacc 23



Sg 24 Sacc 24



Sg 25 Sacc 25



Sg 26 Sacc 26



Sg 27 Sacc 27



Sg 28 Sacc 28

Print: Recess by Waterlow and Sons, Ltd.

Basutoland

Victory issue.
3rd December 1945.

Watermark: Multiple Springbok Head. Perf: 14.
British Empire Omnibus Issue (164 stamps).

Stamps of South Africa (SG 108/110), bilingual pairs inscribed alternately in English and Afrikaans, overprinted with "Basutoland".

"Victory"



Sg 29 Sacc 29

"Peace"



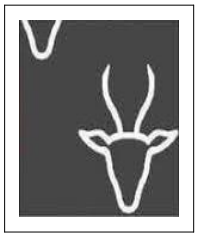
Sg 30 Sacc 30

"Hope"



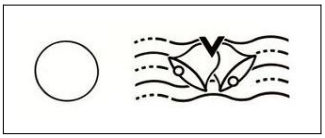
Sg 31 Sacc 31

Multiple Springbok Head



Commentary:
Following the end of the Second World War in 1945, British Empire postal authorities around the world issued the Victory Omnibus Series from the end of 1945 through most of 1946. The majority of countries followed the design which featured the Houses of Parliament and the River Thames, with a portrait of King George VI. Other decided to produce their own designs, some celebrating the victory and others choosing to celebrate the peace. The end of the war was also marked by special 'Victory Bells' postmarks, in use for a month after both VE (Victory in Europe) and VJ (Victory in Japan) days - from 8 May to 9 June for VE DAY, and again from 15 August to 15 September, 1945 for VJ DAY.

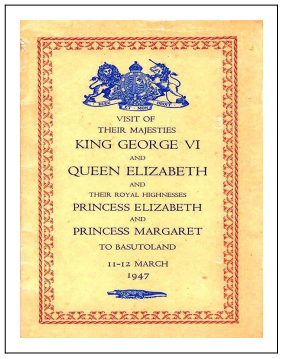
Victory Bells Postmark



Basutoland

Royal Family Visit issue.
17th February 1947.

Watermark: Multiple Crown & Script CA. Perf: 12½.



King George VI.



Sg 32 Sacc 32

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.



Sg 33 Sacc 33

Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret.



Sg 34 Sacc 34

The Royal Family.



Sg 35 Sacc 35

Commentary:
ROYAL VISIT. The King and Queen and their two daughters, the princesses Elizabeth and Margaret toured their Southern Africa dominions for three month from February to April 1947. The purpose of the visit was to show Royal appreciation and gratitude for the sacrifices that South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and other Commonwealth countries had made during the Second World War. It was the first overseas state visit since the outbreak of war in 1939 and was celebrated with much pomp and fanfare. The young Princess Elizabeth also celebrated her 21st birthday during the tour. The tour included visits to the Union of South Africa, both Southern and Northern Rhodesia, and the High Commission territories of Basutoland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland.

Print: Recess by Waterlow & Sons, Ltd.

Basutoland

Royal Silver Wedding issue.
1st December 1948.

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A.
As SG 136/137 of Botswana.
British Empire Omnibus Issue (138 stamps).



Sg 36 Perf 14x15 Sacc 36



Sg 37 Perf 11½ Sacc 37

Designs: G.T. Knipe (1½d.) and Joan Hassall (10s.). Print: 1½d - Photogravure by Waterlow and Sons, Ltd., 10s. Bradbury Wilkinson & Co, Ltd - stamp, Recess print and country name, Typographical print.

75th Anniversary of Universal Postal Union issue.
10th October 1949.

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A.
As SG 138/141 of Botswana. British Empire Omnibus Issue (310 stamps).

Hermes, Globe and Forms of Transport.



Sg 38 Perf: 13x14 Sacc 38

Hemispheres, Jet-powered Vickers Viking Airliner and Steamer.



Sg 39 Perf: 11 x 11½ Sacc 39

Hermes and Globe.



Sg 40 Perf: 11 x 11½ Sacc 40

U.P.U. Monument.



Sg 41 Perf: 13½ x 14 Sacc 41

Basutoland

Commentary:
The foundation of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) can be traced back to the Paris Postal Conference of May 1863, where representatives of 15 nations gathered at the suggestion of Montgomery Blair, Postmaster General of the United States. The groundwork was laid for a second conference held by 22 nations in Berne, Switzerland, beginning on 15 September 1874; with the guidance of the Director General of the German postal administration, Heinrich von Stephan, the Treaty of Berne, agreeing universal transmission of mail and uniform postal rates, was signed on 9 October. This came into effect on 1 July 1875. The Universal Postal Union is now a specialized agency of the United Nations that coordinates postal policies among member nations and facilitates a uniform worldwide postal system. It has 192 member states and is headquartered in Bern, Switzerland.

Print: (1½d., 1s.) Recess by Waterlow & Sons.
Designs & Print: (3d., 6d.) Bradbury Wilkinson & Co, Ltd - stamps, Recess print, country name, Typographical print.

Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II issue.
3rd June 1953.

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. Perf: 13½ x 13.
As SG 120 of Botswana.
British Empire Omnibus Issue (106 stamps).



Coronation Medal



Sg 42 Sacc 42



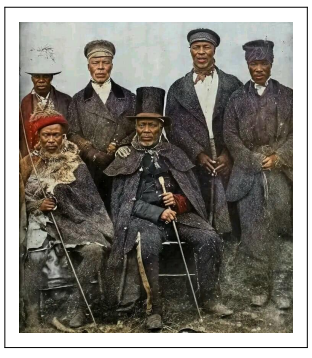
Royal Cypher

Print: stamp, Recess by De La Rue & Co, Ltd - Country name, Typographical by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co, Ltd.

King Moshoeshoe I.


(1786 - 1870)

King Moshoeshoe I and his Ministers .



Basutoland

Queen Elizabeth II Definitive issue.
18th October 1954 - 1958.

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. Perf: 11½ (10s), 13½ (others).



Queen Elizabeth II

Qiloane.



Sg 43 Sacc 43

Orange River.



Sg 44 Sacc 44

Mosuto Horseman.



Sg 45 Sacc 45

Basuto Household.



Sg 46 Sacc 46

Maletsunyane Falls.



Sg 47 Sacc 47

Herd-boy playing Lesiba.



Sg 48 Sacc 48

Pastoral scene.



Sg 49 Sacc 49

Aeroplane over Lancers Gap.



Sg 50 Sacc 50

Old Fort, Leribe.



Sg 51 Sacc 51

Mohair (Shearing Angora Goats).



Sg 53 Sacc 53

Mission Cave House.



Sg 52 Sacc 52

Varieties (shades).

yellow-green and rose.



Sg 46a 27.11.1958 Sacc 46a

bright ultramarine and crimson-lake.



Sg 51a 27.11.1958 Sacc 51a

Recess printing by De La Rue & Co, Ltd.

Basutoland

Additional surcharged issue (SG 45).
1st August 1959.



Sg 54 Sacc 54

Basutoland National Council issue
15th December 1959.

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown and C.A. Perf: 13 x 13½.

Chief Moshoeshoe I.



Sg 55 Sacc 55

Council House.



Sg 56 Sacc 56

Multiple St Edward's Crown & CA



Mosuto Horseman.



Sg 57 Sacc 57

Commentary:
On November 18, 1958, discussions commenced between the British Government and a delegation from Basutoland, on the proposals for constitutional reform contained in a comprehensive Report which had been unanimously approved by the Basutoland Council in July, 1958. Agreement was reached on all the essential features of a new Constitution with the object of placing more power and greater responsibility in the hands of the Basuto nation. The Constitution made provision for establishment of a Legislative Council for Basutoland to be called the Basutoland National Council. The Council would be given power to legislate for all persons in Basutoland and would have the right in addition to discuss those matters which remain in the High Commissioner's legislative sphere.
In 1959 the Basutoland National Council consisting of eighty members was established. The members consisted of a non-voting President appointed by the Resident Commissioner, four official members (ex officio), twenty-two Chiefs, forty elected members elected by District Councils, and fourteen nominated members appointed by the Resident Commissioner on the nomination of the Paramount Chief.
This issue of three stamps marks the establishment of the Council, as provided for in the new Constitution. Wikipedia

Designs: from drawings by James Walton. Print: Recess by Waterlow & Sons, Ltd.

Basutoland

Queen Elizabeth II 1954 Definitive decimal issue (SG 43-53), surcharged with new decimal currency (100 cents = 1 Rand). 14th February 1961.

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. Perf: 11½ (R1.), 13½ (others).

Qiloane.



Sg 58 Type I Sacc 58

Orange River.



Sg 59 Type I Sacc 59

Mosuto Horseman.



Sg 60 Type I Sacc 60

Basuto Houshold.



Sg 61 Type 1 Sacc 61

Maletsunyane Falls.



Sg 62 Type 1 Sacc 62

Herd-boy playing Lesiba.



Sg 63 Type 1 Sacc 63

Pastoral scene.



Sg 64 Type 1 Sacc 64

Aeroplane over Lancers Gap.



Sg 65 Type 1 Sacc 65

Old Fort, Leribe.



Sg 66 Type 1 Sacc 66

Mohair
Shearing Angora Goats.



Sg 68 Type 1 Sacc 68

Mission Cave House.



Sg 67 Type 1 Sacc 67

1961 Definitive Overprints

Commentary:
On February 14, 1961, the countries of Southern Africa converted their monetary system from the Sterling system of Pounds, Shillings, and Pence to the decimal system of Rands and Cents. Basutoland was one of these countries. Due to the late commencement of preparations by Basutoland, the new definitive Rands and Cents stamps were not completed in time for February 14, 1961. The result was that the Government Printer in Pretoria overprinted certain existing stocks of Basutoland stamps with Rand and Cent values. The surcharge overprints included the complete 1954 definitive set of eleven stamps (SG 43-53). Following the release of the initial overprinted set (Type I), unanticipated high demand from philatelists prompted a second printing (Type II , featuring a different font), and subsequently, an additional print (Type III, also with a different font). The Type II overprints comprised of eight values from 2½c. to R1. (½c., 1c. 2c. were omitted) and Type III, of two values – 25c., and R1.

Print: surcharge by Government Printer, Pretoria.

Basutoland

Surcharged Queen Elizabeth II 1954 Definitive decimal issue Additional printings (Types II & III).

***There were two printings of the 2½c Type II, with different positions of the overprint on the stamps.**

Basuto Houshold.



Sg 61a *Type II Sacc 61a

Basuto Houshold.



Sg 61ab *Type II Sacc 61ab

Maletsunyane Falls.



Sg 62a Type II Sacc 62a

Herd-boy playing Lesiba.



Sg 63a Type II Sacc 63a

Aeroplane over Lancers Gap.



Sg 65a Type II Sacc 65a

Old Fort, Leribe.



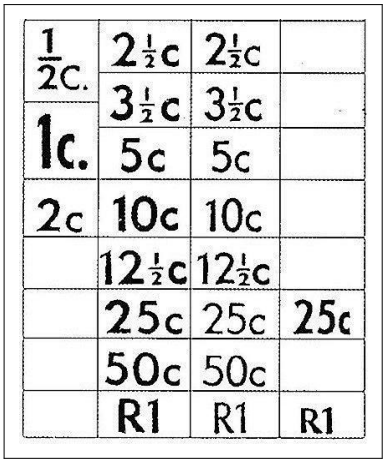
Sg 66b Type III Sacc 66b

Mission Cave House.



Sg 67a Type II Sacc 67a

Currency Overprint Types.
Type I Type I Type II Type III



Mohair Shearing Angora Goats.



Sg 68a Type II Sacc 68a

Mohair Shearing Angora Goats.



Sg 68b Type III Sacc 68b

Print: Recess by De La Rue & Co, Ltd. Overprint by South African Government Printer, Pretoria.

Basutoland

Queen Elizabeth II Definitive decimal issue (new currency). 1961 - 1963.

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. Perf: 11½ (R1), 13½ (others).

Qiloane.



Sg 69 25.9.1962 Sacc 69

Orange River.



Sg 70 25.9.1962 Sacc 70

Mosuto Horseman.



Sg 71 25.9.1962 Sacc 71

Basuto Houshold.



Sg 72 14.2.1961 Sacc 72

Basuto Houshold.



Sg 72a 22.5.1962 Sacc 72a
pale yellow-green & rose-red.

Maletsunyane Falls.



Sg 73 25.9.1962 Sacc 73

Herd-boy playing Lesiba.



Sg 74 10.8.1962 Sacc 74

Pastoral scene.



Sg 75 22.10.1962 Sacc 75

Aeroplane over Lancers Gap.



Sg 76 17.12.1962 Sacc 76

Old Fort, Leribe.



Sg 77 25.9.1962 Sacc 77

Mohair Shearing Angora Goats.



Sg 79 4.2.1963 Sacc 79

Mohair Shearing Angora Goats.



Sg 79a 4.2.1963 Sacc 79a
black & light maroon

Mission Cave House.



Sg 78 22.10.1962 Sacc 78

Print: Recess by De La Rue & Co, Ltd.

Basutoland

Freedom from Hunger issue.
4th June 1963.

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown & CA. Perf: 14 x 14½.
As SG 182 of Botswana.
British Empire Omnibus Issue (77 stamps).



Sg 80 Sacc 80

Commentary:
The Freedom from Hunger Campaign was launched in 1960 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Its main objectives were twofold: first, to create a world-wide awareness of the problems of hunger and malnutrition which afflict more than a half of the world's population and which, apart from the human suffering and human degradation that they involve, pose a serious threat to peace and orderly progress, and second, to promote a climate of opinion in which solutions to these problems can be organized both on a national and on an international basis.

Print: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons, Ltd.

Red Cross Centenary issue.
2nd September 1963.

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown & CA. Perf: 13½.
As SG 183/184 of Botswana.
British Empire Omnibus Issue (108 stamps).



Sg 81 Sacc 81



Sg 82 Sacc 82

Commentary:
Address by Mr. Charles Duchemin, President of the Geneva State Council on the Commemorative Day, which was celebrated on September 1, 1963,"In the name of the authorities of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, in the name of the authorities of the city of Geneva and of all our population, it is an honour for me to wish you welcome to this city where, one hundred years ago, was born the most important humanitarian work in the entire world. One of our fellow-citizens had been distressed by the horrors of war. His profound emotion inspired him to write a moving book. A private group studied how best to put his suggestions into practice for the care of the wounded. A commission of five members, private individuals without any mandate, took upon itself to convene an international conference and it obtained the participation of sixteen governments. It is with enthusiasm that we celebrate the Centenary of that meeting in 1863, the first international assembly held in our town. The resolutions which were adopted consecrated the principles of help to the wounded, the training of voluntary nurses, the adoption of a distinctive and uniform sign - the red cross".

Print: Recess by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co, Ltd.

Basutoland

Queen Elizabeth II Definitive Issue.
Change of Watermark - 1964.

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown & CA. Perf: 13½.

Orange River.



Sg 84 11/8/1964 Sacc 83

Basuto Household.



Sg 85 10/3/1964 Sacc 84

Herd-boy playing Lesiba.



Sg 88 10/11/1964 Sacc 85

Plane over Lancers Gap.



Sg 90 10/11/1964 Sacc 86

Mission Cave House.



Sg 92 29/9/1964 Sacc 87

New Constitution issue - Self Government.
10th May 1965.

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown Block CA. Perf: 14½ x 13½.

Mosotho Women and Child.



Sg 94 1/8/1964 Sacc 88

Maseru Border post.



Sg 95 Sacc 89

Mountain Scene.



Sg 96 Sacc 90

Legislative Buildings.



Sg 97 Sacc 91

Commentary: The issue of these four stamps marks the attainment of Self Government with a new constitution by the Kingdom of Basutoland, prior to gaining full independence from the United Kingdom as the Independent Kingdom of Lesotho on 4 November 1966.

Print: Recess by Harrison & Sons, Ltd.

Basutoland

100th Anniversary of International Telecommunications Union issue.
17th May 1965.

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown Block CA. Perf: 11 x 11½.
As SG 190/191 of Botswana.
British Empire Omnibus Issue (112 stamps).



Sg 98 Sacc 92



Sg 99 Sacc 93

Commentary:
The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for many matters related to information and communication technologies. It was established on 17 May 1865 as the International Telegraph Union. The ITU was initially aimed at helping connect telegraphic networks between countries, with its mandate consistently broadening with the advent of new communications technologies. The ITU promotes the shared global use of the radio spectrum, facilitates international cooperation in assigning satellite orbits, assists in developing and coordinating worldwide technical standards, and works to improve telecommunication infrastructure in the developing world. It is also active in the areas of broadband Internet, optical communications (including optical fiber technologies), wireless technologies, aeronautical and maritime navigation, radio astronomy, satellite-based meteorology, TV broadcasting, amateur radio, and next-generation networks. Wikipedia.
All countries which participated in this omnibus issue, contributed 2000 of each stamp to the I.T.U., who incorporated them into albums. Copies of the albums were then distributed as follows:-
(a) to the Head of State of each country,
(b) to the Secretary-General of the United Nations,
(c) to the Director-General of the Universal Postal Union,
(d) to each participating postal union,
(e) and two copies to each member/associate member of the I.T.U.,
The remaining albums were sold for 90 francs to various nominees under special conditions.

Print: Lithographic by Joh. Enschede en Zonen, Haarlem, Netherlands.

International Co-operation Year issue.
25th October 1965.

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown Block CA. Perf: 14½.
As SG 183/184 of Botswana.
British Empire Omnibus Issue (108 stamps).

Symbol of Co-operation



Sg 100 Sacc 94

Symbol of Co-operation



Sg 101 Sacc 95

Commentary:
INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION. In November 1963, by unanimous decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations, it was decided to designate 1965 as the Year of International Co-operation, based on the theme of peace and progress through co-operation, symbolized by two joined hands surrounded by an olive branch.

Print: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons, Ltd.

Basutoland

Winston Churchill Commemoration issue.
24th January 1966.

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown Block CA. Perf: 14.
As SG 194/197 of Botswana.
British Empire Omnibus Issue (182 stamps).

Sir Winston Churchill and St Paul's Cathedral in Wartime.



Sg 102 Sacc 96



Sg 103 Sacc 97



Sg 104 Sacc 98



Sg 105 Sacc 99

Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill

Commentary:
Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill (30 November 1874 – 24 January 1965) was a British statesman, military officer, and writer, who was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945 (during the Second World War) and again from 1951 to 1955. For some 62 of the years between 1900 and 1964, he was a member of the British parliament (MP) and represented a total of five constituencies over that time. Ideologically an adherent to economic liberalism and imperialism, he was for most of his career a member of the Conservative Party, which he led from 1940 to 1955. He was a member of the Liberal Party from 1904 to 1924.
Churchill was born in Oxfordshire into the wealthy, aristocratic Spencer family. He joined the British Army in 1895 and saw action in British India, the Mahdist War and the Second Boer War, gaining fame as a war correspondent and writing books about his campaigns. One of the 20th century's most significant figures, he is generally viewed as a victorious wartime leader who played an integral role in defending liberal democracy against the spread of fascism and historians rank Churchill as one of the greatest British prime ministers.

Print: Photogravure printing by Harrison & Sons, Ltd.

On 4th October 1966, Basutoland attained independence from Great Britain as the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Basutoland

Postage Due Labels

Postage Due issue. 1st December 1933 - 1952.

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. Perf: 14. Paper: ordinary.



Sg D1 Sacc 1

Chalk-surfaced Paper



Sg D1b Sacc 1b
24/4/1951 deep carmine

Chalk-surfaced Paper



Sg D2 Sacc 2



Sg D2a Sacc 2a
6/11/1952



Sg D2ad Sacc 2ad
larger "d"

Print: Typographic by De La Rue & Co, Ltd.

Postage Due issue. 1st December 1956.

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. Perf: 14.



Sg D3 Sacc 3



Sg D4 Sacc 4

Print: Typographic by De La Rue & Co, Ltd.

Basutoland

Postage Due issue - Surcharged with new currency.
14th February 1961.

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. Perf: 14.



Sg D5 Sacc 5



Sg D6 Sacc 6



Sg D7 Type I Sacc 7



Sg D7a Type II Sacc 7a



Sg D8 1/6/1961 Sacc 8

Print: Typographic by De La Rue & Co, Ltd.

Postage Due issue.
1964.

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. Perf: 14.



Sg D9 Sacc 9



Sg D10 Sacc 10

Print: Typographic by De La Rue & Co, Ltd.

In 1897 Queen Victoria visited Basutoland during her Jubilee year and gave King Lerotholi Letsie a blanket as a gift. He draped the blanket, poncho-style, over his shoulders and this was the beginning of the blanket wearing tradition of Basutoland. The blanket was named Victoria England..

Heritage Blanket
Victoria England - Crown





Heritage Blanket
Victoria England - Badges of the Brave





Basutoland



Basutoland

Stamp Purchases Account

If a computer spreadsheet/package is not available, this simple log will facilitate maintaining an accurate record of stamp purchases and keep track of the total amount outlaid to date.

COLUMN ONE **COLUMN TWO** **COLUMN THREE**

STAMP No	DATE	PRICE	STAMP No	DATE	PRICE	STAMP No	DATE	PRICE

Basutoland

Stamp Purchases Account - continued

COLUMN ONE			COLUMN TWO			COLUMN THREE		
STAMP No	DATE	PRICE	STAMP No	DATE	PRICE	STAMP No	DATE	PRICE

Column 4 Total _____ **Column 5 Total** _____ **Column 6 Total** _____

Summary

COLUMN No	TOTAL

Grand Total _____

If this album is insured, it is advisable that a copy of this inventory be kept separately for insurance purposes.

Basutoland

Stamp Album Inventory

	MINT	UNUSED	USED	USED	
SG No	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	VALUE
SG No 1					
SG No 2					
SG No 3					
SG No 4					
SG No 5					
SG No 6					
SG No 7					
SG No 8					
SG No 9					
SG No 10					
SG No 11					
SG No 12					
SG No 13					
SG No 14					
SG No 15					
SG No 16					
SG No 17					
SG No 18					
SG No 19					
SG No 20					
SG No 21					
SG No 22					
SG No 23					
SG No 24					
SG No 25					
SG No 26					
SG No 27					
SG No 28					

	MINT	UNUSED	USED	USED	
SG No	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	VALUE
SG No 29					
SG No 30					
SG No 31					
SG No 32					
SG No 33					
SG No 34					
SG No 35					
SG No 36					
SG No 37					
SG No 38					
SG No 39					
SG No 40					
SG No 42					
SG No 43					
SG No 44					
SG No 45					
SG No 46					
SG No 47					
SG No 48					
SG No 49					
SG No 50					
SG No 51					
SG No 52					
SG No 53					
SG No 46a					
SG No 51a					
SG No 54					
SG No 55					

Grading/Condition of Stamps

The following is a list of some of the basic factors that need to be taken into account in assessing the condition of stamps.

1. Mint – Fine/ Very fine/ Superb:
(a) the time frame in which the stamp was issued;
(b) mint condition - original state of issue by Post Office;
(c) without folds, tears, pin holes or creases;
(d) perforation teeth intact;
(e) centring - eveness of margins on all sides;
(f) full gum (unmounted);
(g) appearance-clean, fresh;
(h) without any blemish or flaw.

2. Unused – Average/Poor:
(a) the time frame in which the stamp was issued;
(b) mint condition - state of issue by Post Office;
(c folds, tears, pin holes or creases;
(d) perforation teeth are missing or damaged;
(e) centring- margins;
(f) gum - lightness of mounting;
(g) appearance-clean, fresh;
(h) any blemish or flaw.

3. Used - Fine/ Very fine/ Superb:
(a) the time frame in which the stamp was issued;
(b) without folds, tears, pin holes or creases;
(c) perforation teeth intact;
(d) centring - eveness of margins on all sides;
(e) appearance-clean, fresh;
(f) without any blemish or flaw.
(g) cancellation-lightly applied/clear/unobtrusive

4. Used – Average/ Poor:
(a) the time frame in which the stamp was issued;
(b) folds, tears, pin holes or creases;
(c) perforation teeth missing or damaged;
(d) centring - margins;
(e) appearance-clean, fresh;
(f) any blemish or flaw;
(g) cancellation-degree that the Postmark is intrusive.

Basutoland

Stamp Album Inventory...continued.

	MINT	UNUSED	USED	USED	
SG No	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	VALUE
SG No 56					
SG No 57					
SG No 58					
SG No 59					
SG No 60					
SG No 61					
SG No 62					
SG No 63					
SG No 64					
SG No 65					
SG No 66					
SG No 67					
SG No 68					
SG No 61a					
SG No 61ab					
SG No 62a					
SG No 63a					
SG No 65a					
SG No 66b					
SG No 67a					
SG No 68a					
SG No 68b					
SG No 69					
SG No 70					
SG No 71					
SG No 72					
SG No 72a					
SG No 73					
SG No 74					
SG No 75					
SG No 76					
SG No 77					
SG No 78					

	MINT	UNUSED	USED	USED	
SG No	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	VALUE
SG No 79					
SG No 79a					
SG No 80					
SG No 81					
SG No 82					
SG No 84					
SG No 85					
SG No 88					
SG No 90					
SG No 92					
SG No 94					
SG No 95					
SG No 96					
SG No 97					
SG No 98					
SG No 99					
SG No 100					
SG No 101					
SG No 102					
SG No 103					
SG No 104					
SG No 105					
SG No D1					
SG No D1b					
SG No D2					
SG No D2a					
SG No D2ad					
SG No D3					
SG No D4					
SG No D5					
SG No D6					
SG No D7					
SG No D7a					

Basutoland

Stamp Album Inventory...continued.

	MINT	UNUSED	USED	USED	
SG No	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	VALUE
SG No D8					
SG No D9					
SG No 10					
SG No					
SG No					
SG No

Basutoland

Album Design

All measurements are in millimetres;
Pages - standard A4 size (210mm x 297mm);
Page Margins - left margin is set at 23 mm to cater for the punching of binder holes, and the other three margins are set at 10 mm;
Border Colour - "Teal";
Stamp Boxes and Borders - stamp boxes allow for a border of 2mm around all sides of stamps.

Notes:

1. Album Catalogue Numbers

The "SG"catalogue numbers are from the "Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue - Southern and Central Africa", 1st Edition and the "Sacc" numbers are from "the South African Colour Catalogue 2023-2025".

2. Album Pages

Stamp collecting involves purchasing stamps for a collection and the preservation or protection of the stamps purchased is something that needs to be considered from the outset. The risk to the stamps is linked to the quality of the paper used for the album pages, as ordinary paper is not usually acid-free and will undoubtedly affect the stamps over time. It is therefore recommended that archival art paper, which is acid-free, lignin-free and pH balanced, is used for printing the album thereby ensuring that the paper resists yellowing, fading, and deterioration over time and does not in any manner react with the stamps. Archival paper is composed of natural fibres such as cotton or alpha-cellulose, which provide strength and stability, while allowing the paper to maintain its texture and appearance. The paper should comply with ISO 9706:1994 – a standard for permanent paper.

3. Album Printing

In order to ascertain whether the printer to be used to print the album is accurate, it is recommended that at least two test pages are first printed - the suggested pages are No 14 and 20.
Page 14 has 3 different size stamp boxes - 29 mm x 45 mm, 35 mm x 44 mm and 45 mm x 36 mm, and page 19 has boxes sized at 36 mm x 30 mm and 31 mm x 36 mm.

4. Stamp Purchases

In the absence of a computer spreadsheet, or a programme to record stamp purchases, a suggested template has been included at the end of the album page set, which should aid record maintenance as well as keep track of funds outlayed to date.

5. Stamp Inventory

Again, in the absence of a spreadsheet or programme to maintain a record of stamps acquired and their condition, a template has been included at the end of the album page set which suggests the format of an inventory as well as some basic factors to be taken into account in assessing the condition of stamps acquired.

6. Bibliography

Exhibit – Basutoland 1961 Decimal overprints by Dr Avi Barit. SAVPEX 2021 Exhibits of Philatelic Federation of South Africa."

Stamp Mounts

If you are planning to use stamp mounts with this album, it should be noted that the sizes of the mount boxes listed in the following schedules allow for the actual size of each stamp, plus a 2mm border around the stamp.

Stamp mounts sizes & quantities.

PAGE					
8	29 x 36 x 10				
9	48 x 31 x 4				
10	45 x 29 x 3				
11	30 x 36 x 11				
12	65 x 29 x 3				
13	30 x 46 x 1	46 x 30 x 3			
14	29 x 45 x 1	35 x 44 x 1	45 x 36 x 4		
15	31 x 40 x 1				
16	36 x 30 x 12	31 x 36 x 1			
17	36 x 30 x 1	31 x 37 x 3			
18	36 x 30 x 10	31 x 36 x 1			
19	36 x 30 x 7	31 x 36 x 2			
20	36 x 30 x 11	31 x 36 x 2			
21	43 x 30 x 1	47 x 32 x 2			
22	36 x 30 x 5	42 x 30 x 4			
23	45 x 29 x 2	49 x 33 x 2			
24	47 x 33 x 4				
25	25 x 29 x 5	29 x 25 x 2			
26	29 x 25 x 7				