British Protectorate
and
High Commission Territory
of

BECHUANALAND



1885 - 1966

Bechuanaland Protectorate

Album Design

All measurements are in millimetres;
Pages - U S Letter size (215.9mm x 279.4mm);
Page Margins - left margin is set at 18 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 the actual 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 25 and 32.

Page 25 has 3 different size stamp boxes:
1. 28 mm x 45 mm (SG 136),
2. 36 mm x 45 mm (SG 137), and
3. 45 mm x 35 mm (SG 138/141).

Page 32 has 3 different size stamp boxes:
4. 40 mm x 29 mm (SG 179),
5. 29 mm x 39 mm (SG 180/1), and
6. 42 mm x 29 mm (SG 182).

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. Additional (blank) Page

Should it be required, an additional (blank) page has also been included at the end of the album page set.

7. Bibliography

H.R. Holmes: The Postage Stamps, Postal Stationery, and Postmarks of the Bechuanalands. Published in 1971 by The Royal Philatelic Society, London. "

NB This page will not be numbered in the album page numbers and can be excluded when printing..

Bechuanaland Protectorate

Stamp Album

This album covers the issue of stamps by the Protectorate of Bechuanaland for the period 1885 to 1966, when the Protectorate attained independance from Great Britain as the Republic of Botswana.
The album is ordered in accordance with the Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue, Southern & Central Africa, 1st Edition and the South African Colour Catalogue 2023-2025. The format is a straightforward and uncomplicated collection of the issues, covering postage stamps and postage dues and only includes varieties of stamps if not of a high catalogue value.

Images of virtually all stamps have been inserted in the stamp boxes to assist collection, or for information.

Countries of Southern Africa - Historical Timelines

		ESTABLISHED	DISSOLVED / DEVOLVED	TRANSITION
BRITISH CROWN COLONIES				
	BRITISH BECHUANALAND	30.9.1885	16.11.1895	Annexed to **C.O.G.H.**
	CAPE OF GOOD HOPE (C.O.G.H.) - self governing colony.	8.1.1806	31.5.1910	Incorporated into **Union of South Africa.**
	GRIQUALAND WEST	27.10.1871	18.10.1880	Annexed to **C.O.G.H.**
	NATAL - self governing colony.	4.5.1843	31.5.1910	Incorporated into **Union of South Africa.**
	ORANGE RIVER COLONY ORANGE RIVER COLONY - self governing colony.	6.10.1900 27.11.1907	26.11.1907 31.5.1910	Granted self-governance. Incorporated into **Union of South Africa.**
	TRANSVAAL-*1st British Occupation.*	12.4.1877	27.2.1884	Independance regained. Name reverted to **Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek**
	TRANSVAAL-*2nd British Occupation.* **TRANSVAAL** - self governing colony.	1.9.1900 6.12.1906	5.12.1906 31.5.1910	Granted self-governance. Incorporated into **Union of South Africa.**
	ZULULAND	22.5.1887	31.12.1897	Annexed to **Natal.**
BOER REPUBLICS				
	STATE of GOSHEN *(Het Land Goosen)*	24.10.1882	6.8.1883	Unified with Republic of Stellaland as **United States of Stellaland**.
	REPUBLIC of STELLALAND *(Republiek Stellaland)*	26.7.1882	6.8.1883	Unified with State of Goshen as **United States of Stellaland.**
	UNITED STATES of STELLALAND *(Verenigde Staten van Stellaland)*	6.8.1883	30.9.1885	Annexed to **British Bechuanaland.**
	NEW REPUBLIC *(Nieuwe Republiek)*	5.8.1884	20.7.1888	Annexed to **Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek.**
	ORANGE FREE STATE *(Oranje Vrijstaat)*	23.2.1854	31.5.1902	On 6.10.1900 annexed to Britain as **Orange River Colony,** but *de jure still* independant until 31.5.1902
	1st ZUID AFRIKAANSCHE REPUBLIEK *(South African Republic)*	17.1.1852	12.4.1877	Annexed to Britain. Name changed to **Transvaal Colony.**
	2nd ZUID AFRIKAANSCHE REPUBLIEK	27.2.1884	31.5.1902	On 1.9.1900 annexed to Britain as **Transvaal Colony,** but *de jure* still independant until 31.5.1902
	UNION of SOUTH AFRICA **REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**	31.5.1910 31.5.1961	30.5.1961 Present	Status changed to a Republic.
T.B.V.C. STATES				
	TRANSKEI	26.10.1976	27.4.1994	Reincorporated into **South Africa**
	BOPHUTHATSWANA	6.12.1977	27.4.1994	Reincorporated into **South Africa**
	VENDA	13.9.1979	27.4.1994	Reincorporated into **South Africa**
	CISKEI	4.12.1981	27.4.1994	Reincorporated into **South Africa**
HIGH COMMISSION TERRITORIES				
	BASUTOLAND	3.11.1871	4.10.1966	Independance - Name change to **Lesotho.**
	BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE	31.3.1885	30.9.1966	Independance - Name change to **Botswana.**
	SWAZILAND	1903 June	6.9.1968	Independance. Now **Eswatini**
NAMIBIA	**GERMAN SOUTH WEST AFRICA**	7.8.1884	9.7.1915	South Africa Military Occupation.
	South Africa Military Occupation	9.7.1915	31.1.1923	**South Africa** mandated by **League of Nations** to administer country. Name change to **South West Africa.**
	SOUTH WEST AFRICA	1.2.1923	21.3.1990	Independance. Name change to **NAMIBIA.**
RHODESIAS				
	BRITISH SOUTH AFICA COMPANY. Royal Charter granted 20.12.1889 with powers to administer a wide area of Central Africa.	20.12.1889	1.4.1924	12.9.1923 **Southern Rhodesia** annexed to U.K. as a self-governing **Colony.** 1.4.1924 **Northern Rhodesia** annexed to UK as a **Protectorate.**
SELF - GOVERNING BRITISH COLONY	**SOUTHERN RHODESIA**	12.9.1923	31.7.1953	Incorporated into **Federation of Rhodesia & Nyasaland.**
BRITISH PROTECTORATE	**NORTHERN RHODESIA**	1.4.1924	31.7.1953	Incorporated into **Federation of Rhodesia & Nyasaland.**
BRITISH PROTECTORATE	**BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE**	14.5.1891	6.7.1907	Name change to **Nyasaland.**
BRITISH PROTECTORATE	**NYASALAND**	6.7.1907	31.7.1953	Incorporated into **Federation of Rhodesia & Nyasaland.**
	FEDERATION of RHODESIA & NYASALAND	1.8.1953	31.12.1963	**Constituent Territories** reverted to their former name and status.
	NYASALAND - Post Federation	1.1.1964	5.7.1964	Independance - Name change to **Malawi.**
	NORTHERN RHODESIA - Post Federation	1.1.1964	24.10.1964	Independance - Name change to **Zambia.**
	SOUTHERN RHODESIA - Post Federation	1.1.1964	9.12.1964	Name change to **Rhodesia.**
	RHODESIA	9.12.1964	11.11.1965	**Unilateral Declaration of Independance.**
	RHODESIA	11.11.1965	3.3.1970	Declared a **Republic.**
	RHODESIA	3.3.1970	31.5.1979	Return to British rule. Name change to **Zimbabwe-Rhodesia.**
	ZIMBABWE-RHODESIA	1.6.1979	18.4.1980	Independance - Name change to **Zimbabwe.**

The State of Goshen was the only country which issued no stamps during its existance.

Bechuanaland

Contents and Catalogue Index

PAGE	CONTENTS	INDEX
5	Maps/Early Colonial History.	
6	General Information/Postal History.	
8	Mafeking - Gubulawayo Runner Post Service.	
9	Watermarks of Bechuanaland issues.	
10	Stamp Issues of Bechuanaland.	
11	1888 7th June 4d. issue.	SG 40 - 50
11	1888 10th December issue.	SG 51
12	1888 27th December issue.	SG 52
12	1889 August issue.	SG 53
13	1890 Trial Prints issue.	SG 54 - 55
13	1897 April Halfpenny issue.	SG 56 - 58
14	1897 - 1902, Great Britain (Queen Victoria) issue.	SG 59 - 65
14	1904 November - 1913, Great Britain (King Edward VII) issue.	SG 66 - 71
15	1912 - 1914, Great Britain (King George V) issue .	SG 72
15	1913 July – 1924, Great Britain (King George V) issue.	SG 73 - 82
16	1914 – 1923, Great Britain (King George V) - Sea Horse issue.	SG 83 - 89
17	1925 July - 1927, Great Britain (King George V) issue.	SG 91 - 98
18	1932 December, King George V First Definitive issue.	SG 99 - 110
19	1935 May, King George V Silver Jubilee issue.	SG 111 - 114
20	1937 May, Coronation of King George VI issue.	SG 115 - 117
21	1938 April - 1952, King George VI Second Definitive issue.	SG 118 - 128
23	1945 December, Victory issue.	SG 129 - 131
24	1947 February, Royal Visit issue.	SG 132 - 135
25	1948 December, Royal Silver Wedding issue.	SG 136 - 137
25	1949 October, 75th Anniversary of Universal Postal Union issue.	SG 138 - 141
26	1953 June, Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II issue.	SG 142
27	1955 January - 1958, Queen Elizabeth II Third Definitive issue.	SG 143 - 153
28	1960 January, 75th Anniversary of Bechuanaland Protectorate issue.	SG 154 - 156
29	1961 14th February, Surcharged Fourth Definitive issue - New Currency.	SG 157 - 167
31	1961 October, New Currency Fifth Definitive issue.	SG 168 - 181
32	1963 June, Freedom from Hunger Issue.	SG 182
33	1963 September, Red Cross Centenary issue.	SG 183 - 184
33	1964 April, 400th Birth Centenary of William Shakespeare issue.	SG 185
34	1965 March, Internal Self-Government - New Constitution issue.	SG 186 - 189
35	1965 May, 100th Anniversary of I.T. U. issue.	SG 190 - 191
35	1965 October, International Co-operation Year issue.	SG 192 - 193
36	1966 January, Sir Winston Churchill Commemoration issue.	SG 194 - 197
37	1966 June, Bechuanaland Royal Pioneer Corps issue.	SG 198 - 201
38	1926 January, Postage Due issue.	SG D1 - D3
38	1932 December, Postage Due issue.	SG D4 - D6c
39	1961 February, Postage Due issue.	SG D7 - D9
39	1961 November, Postage Due issue.	SG D10 - D12

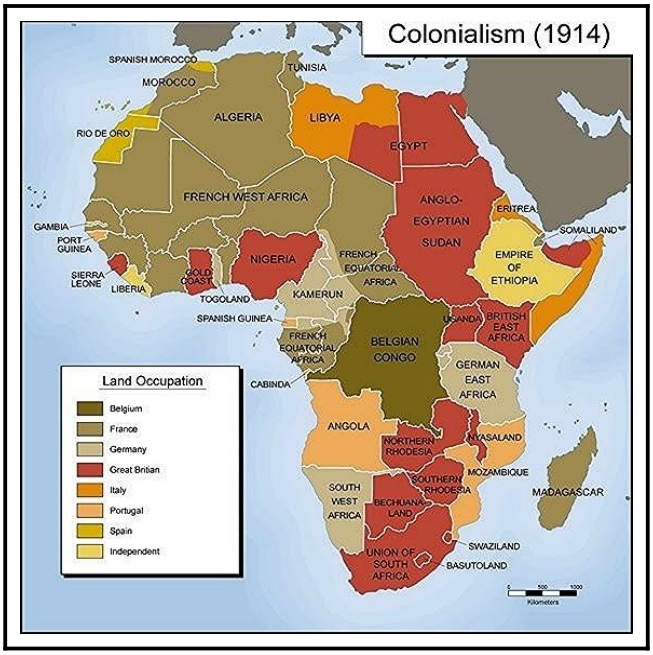
Bechuanaland

Maps

Map of Bechuanaland Protectorate



Colonial Map of Africa



Early Colonial History

The Bechuanaland Protectorate was established by proclamation on 31st March 1885 and consisted of the lands north of the Molopo River. The proclamation was the result of a campaign conducted by Scottish missionaries of the London Missionary Society, led by John Mackenzie who "believed that the Ngwato and other African peoples with whom he worked, were threatened by Boer freebooters encroaching on their territory from the south". The campaign and an appeal by local Tswana chiefs, led to a decision by the British Government in 1884, to dispatch a military expedition to the territory to assert British Sovereignty over what was becoming a contested territory. The expedition was commanded by Sir Charles Warren and his meetings with the Tswana chiefs resulted in treaties being entered into and the announcement by Warren of the establishment of the Bechuanaland Protectorate. When proclaimed, the northern boundary of the territory was latitude 22 degrees south, but on 30th June 1890 this was extended north to include Ngamiland. This action was formally recognised by Germany on the following day by Article III of the Heligoland-Zanzibar Treaty, which also confirmed the territory's western boundary and created the Caprivi Strip. Unusually, the administration of the protectorate, which was one of the "High Commission Territories", was conducted from outside the country; initially from Vryburg until 1895, and then from Mafeking. Following the proclamation, the Tswana chiefs continued to exercise internal sovereignty, with British administration being confined to providing a police force to protect the country's borders against other European Powers colonial ventures. This system was in place until 9th May 1891 when the administration of the protectorate was transferred to the High Commissioner of South Africa and effectively ended the de facto independence of the protectorate. Originally the British Government anticipated handing over the administration of the protectorate to either South Africa or Rhodesia, but strong opposition from the Tswanas meant that British rule continued until full independence on 30th September 1966, when the country became the Republic of Botswana.Wikipedia.

Official Notice of the Establishment of Bechuanaland Protectorate and its territorial borders.

High Commissioner's Notice

IT is hereby notified for public information, that Her Majesty's Government have established a British Protectorate over Bechuanaland and the Kalahari. The Protectorate extends over the parts of South Africa situate west of the boundary of the South African Republic, as defined by the Convention made at London on the 27th day of February, 1884, between Her Majesty and the said Republic; north of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope; east of the 20th Meridian of east longitude; and south of the 22nd parallel of south latitude; and not within the jurisdiction of any civilized power.
By command of H.E. the High Commissioner,

Graham Bower,
Imperial Secretary.

Government House, Cape Town,
23rd March, 1885.

Bechuanaland

General Information

Geographical Location:

A landlocked territory, bordered by South West Africa to the west and north; Southern Rhodesia to the north east and South Africa to the south east and south. Located inland from the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, in the cental half of Southern Africa.

Total Area:

1924 712247 km².

Topography:

Bechuanaland is predominantly flat, tending towards gently rolling tableland and is dominated by the Kalahari Desert, which covers up to 70% of its land surface. The Okavango Delta, one of the world's largest inland river deltas, is in the north-west. The Makgadikgadi Pan, a large salt pan, lies in the north.

Climate:

Bechuanaland is semi-arid, due to the short rain season. However, the relatively high altitude of the country and its continental situation gives it a subtropical climate. The country is remote from moisture-laden air flows for most of the year. The dry season lasts from April to October in the south and to November in the north where, however, rainfall totals are higher. The south of the country is most exposed to cold winds during the winter period (early May to late August) when average temperatures are around 14 °C (57.2 °F). The whole country has hot summers with average high temperatures around 32 °C.

Monarchy:

Unlike Swaziland and Basutoland, Bechuanaland had no overarching ruler of the territory. The main tribes inhabiting the territory were the Bamangwato, the Bakwena and the Bangwaketse, together with a number of minor tribes like the Bamalete and the Bakhatla, each with its own Chief.

Capital and Seat of Government:

Mafikeng (1885 - 1965), Gaberone (1965 - 1966).

Government:

The Bechuanaland Protectorate was one of the "High Commission Territories" and the High Commissioner had some of the functions of a governor, but the major tribes were self-governing, and the protectorate was not a British possession. The office of High Commissioner was first held by the Governor of the Cape Colony, then by the Governor-General of South Africa, then by the High Commissioner for Southern Africa until independence.

Population:

152,980 - 1924. Bechuanaland is one of the most sparsely populated countries in the world.

Languages:

English (official), Setswana, Kalanga and Northern Ndebele .

Currency:

The Sterling monetary system of a Pound divided into 20 shillings, each of 12 pence, was in use until 1961, followed by the South African Rand (1Rand = 100cents) until 1966. Wikipedia.

Postal History

The earliest postal activity in the region was a loose arrangement with runners and other passing travelers, by the missionaries of the London Missionary Society, who from 1816, had established a number of mission stations in the region. The first organised postal service in the territory was inaugurated by the Republic of Stellaland in February 1884 and this service was continued by the British when they annexed the territory in February 1885. The stamps of Stellaland remained in use until December 2nd, 1885 when they were withdrawn from sale and superseded by overprinted Cape stamps.

In 1887, the Assistant-Commissioner of the Protectorate, John S. Moffat was sent to Bulawayo to attempt the resolution of a land dispute between Khama III, chief of Bamangwato and Lobengula, chief of the Matabele, regarding the ownership of a tract of land. Moffat communicated regularly from Bulawayo with Sir Sidney Shippard, the British Administrator of British Bechuanaland in Vryburg, by relays of native runners who carried his letters and reports over 500 miles to Mafeking, where they were handed to the official post office for onward transmission to Vryburg. The success of this unofficial runner service led Moffat in 1888 to suggest to Sir Sidney Shippard that a regular mail system be introduced between Mafeking and Bulawayo. The proposal was referred to Sir Hercules Robinson, the British High Commissioner in Cape Town, who approved the scheme and in June 1888 John Moffat was instructed to make the necessary arrangement for implementation of the project: engaging native runners, opening postal agencies and appointing postmasters. In setting up the service Moffat was informed that the total cost of the mail service between Mafeking and Bulawayo was under no circumstances to exceed the cost of £300 per annum. As the Bechuanaland Protectorate and British Bechuanaland came under a joint fiscal system, it was necessary for the stamps issued for each entity to be distinguishable for annual costing purposes.

An official notice advising that a Protectorate postal service was to be introduced, was gazetted on 28th July 1888 and this was followed by a further notice on 7th August 1888 announcing the commencement of the service. The introduction of the service was also announced on 8 August 1888 by a short article in The Bechuanaland News, which stated that 'The arrangements which Mr. J. S. Moffat, Assistant Commissioner, has during the past month or two been making are now completed and the "Protectorate Post" comes into operation forthwith. The former route to the Interior, via Zeerust in the Transvaal, has been summarily abandoned, and the post will be conveyed by native runners through Mafeking to Kanya (Gasitsiwe's), Molepolole (Secheli's) and Shoshong (Khama's) weekly, and from Shoshong to Gubulawayo (Lobengula's) fortnightly'.

Bechuanaland

The next chapter in the development of the postal service of the Protectorate was shaped to a large degree by the extension of the railway line, which linked to Mafeking in 1894, and then traversed the Protectorate to reach Bulawayo in 1897. The railway became the primary artery for the mail service, with towns and villages located off the rail route being serviced by other means of transport. An intermittent airmail service to Johannesburg was available from 1932, but only became permanent in 1966. In 1963, the Bechuanaland Protectorate took over full control of its postal service which, from 1 April 1893, had been administered by the Cape Colony up to 1910 and thereafter the Union of South Africa postal authorities.
The issue of stamps by the Protectorate up to 1932 had initially consisted of stamps of British Bechuanaland (1888-1890) as well as stamps of the Cape of Good Hope and Great Britain, all overprinted with the word "Protectorate" or "Bechuanaland Protectorate" in various layouts. Bechuanaland Protectorate holds the record (44 years) for the territory with the longest use of Great Britain overprints. In 1932 the first definitive twelve stamp set was issued with "Bechuanaland Protectorate" inscribed and thereafter all subsequent stamps issues, up until final independence in 1966, were inscribed.

Official Notices Establishing the Bechuanaland Protectorate Postal Service

PROTECTORATE POST.

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

Correspondence posted within the Protectorate and Trans-Protectorate to be prepaid in British Bechuanaland Stamps overprinted with the word "Protectorate."	LETTERS: Not exceeding ½ oz.	LETTERS: Every additional ½ oz.	For each Newspaper not exceeding 4 oz. and for every additional 4 oz.
1.—WHEN POSTED WITHIN THE PRESENT LIMITS OF THE PROTECTORATE—			
(*a*) Addressed to places within the present limits of the Protectorate	2d	2d	2d
(*b*) Addressed to Offices in Matabeleland, British Bechuanaland, the Cape Colony, and other parts of South Africa ...	4d	4d	2½d
(*c*) Addressed to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries.—*The Rates specified in the existing convention between the Cape Colony and British Bechuanaland and an additional charge of*	2d	2d	2d
2.—WHEN POSTED BEYOND THE PRESENT LIMITS OF THE PROTECTORATE—			
(*a*) Addressed to Places within the Trans-Protectorate	2d	2d	2d
(*b*) Addressed to Offices within the present limits of the Protectorate	4d	4d	2½d
(*c*) Addressed to British Bechuanaland, the Cape Colony, and other parts of South Africa	6d	6d	4½d
(*d*) Addressed to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries,—*The Rates specified in the existing convention between the Cape Colony and British Bechuanaland and an additional charge of*	4d	4d	4d
3.—CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO THE PROTECTORATE OR TRANS-PROTECTORATE FROM OTHER PARTS OF SOUTH AFRICA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES SHOULD BE PREPAID AT THE RATES PROVIDED IN THE EXISTING CONVENTION BETWEEN THE CAPE COLONY AND BRITISH BECHUANALAND, *and the following additional charges will be payable upon delivery*—			
(*a*) When delivered within the present limits of the Protectorate	2d	2d	2d
(*b*) When delivered beyond the present limits of the Protectorate	4d	4d	4d

Postal Agencies are being opened at the undermentioned places :—

Within the present limits of the Protectorate at Kanye, Molepolole (Secheli's), and Shoshong (Khame's).

Beyond the present limits of the Protectorate at Tati and Gubulawayo (Lobengule's).

No Articles will be transmitted at Book or Parcels Rates beyond Mafeking in British Bechuanaland so long as the Mails are conveyed by Native Runners.

ERNEST C. BAXTER,
Acting Postmaster-General.

Vryburg, British Bechuanaland,
July 26th, 1888.

Printed by Townshend & Son, "Government Gazette" Office, Vryburg.

Notice in "Bechuanaland News"

The "Bechuanaland News" of the 8th August 1888 carried the following paragraph: "The arrangements which Mr J.S. Moffat, Assistant Commissioner has during the past month or two been making are now complete, and the "Protectorate Post" comes into operation forthwith. The former route to the Interior, via Zeerust in the Transvaal, has been summarily abandoned, and the post will be conveyed by native runners through Mafeking to Kanye (Gaseitsiwe's), Molepolole (Sechele's) and Shoshong (Khama's) weekly, and from Shoshong to Gubulawayo (Lobengula's) fortnightly. The first post under the new arrangement arrived at Mafeking on Monday. Probably Mochudi will be made the postal station after a while instead of Molepolole, the latter not being quite so direct as the former."

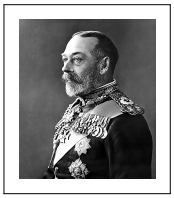
PROTECTORATE MAILS

With reference to my announcement dated 28th ult., Notice is hereby given that the Native Runner Service has now commenced, and that correspondence for the Protectorate should be forwarded to Mafeking Post Office.

(signed) Ernest C. Baxter,
Acting Postmaster-General.

Vryburg, 7th August, 1888.

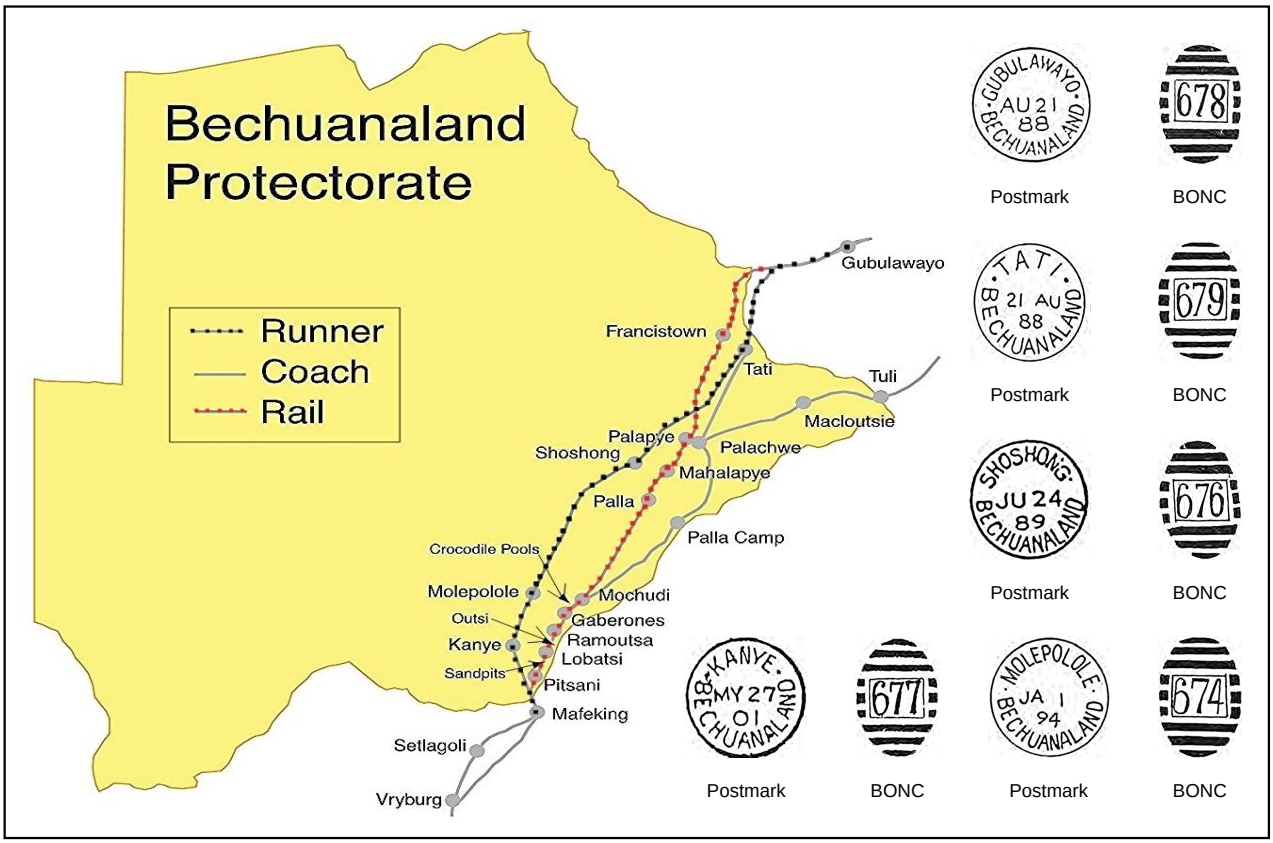
British Monarchs whose portraits appeared on the stamps issued in the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

Queen Victoria	*King Edward VII*	*King George V*	*King George VI*	*Queen Elizabeth II*
				
24.5.1819-22.1.1901	9.11.1841-6.5.1910	3.6.1865-20.1.1936	14.12.1895-6.2.1952	21.4.1926-8.9.2022

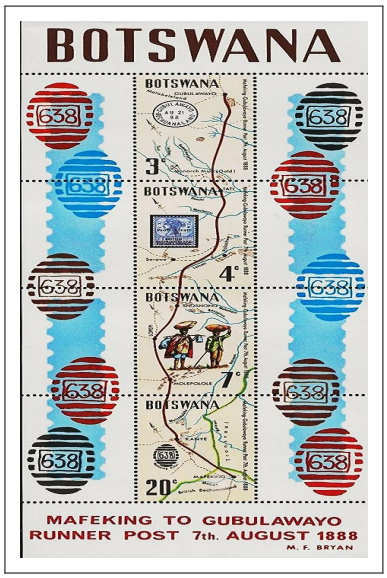
Bechuanaland

Mafeking - Gubulawayo Runner Post Service inaugurated on 7th August 1888.

Shown are Runner Post, Coach, and Rail Mail routes.



Miniture Sheet



MS 298

Commentary:

1. The system of employing runners restricted the post service to the carriage of letters and newspapers and it ran weekly between Mafeking and Shoshong and fortnightly between Shoshong and Gubulawayo. However, as a result of the gradual improvement in roads and increase in weight in the mail, the runner post was replaced a year later by a oxen/mule drawn cart service between the rail head at Vryburg and Shoshong.

2. The gradual improvement of roads also saw the introduction of coaches drawn by mules or horses and as the rail line followed - from Vrybury (1890), to Mafeking (1894), and Bulawayo (1897), these were replaced by rail transport as soon as it became available.

3. This Miniture Sheet (MS 298) with SG 294/7 stamps vertically se-tenant, forms a composite map of the entire historical route and includes images of the Mafeking 638 Barred Oval Numeral Canceller (BONC). The "638" in a barred oval numeral canceller (BONC) is described in this instance as the "MAFEKING KILLER". Cancellers of this type were designed to obliterate the postage stamps to prevent their being used more than once, and the instruction issued with them required the circular date stamps showing office and date of origin to be applied alongside.

Reference: Forerunners Journal #58 (Vol. XX, No. 3, March-June 2007 P96 Early Bechuanaland Protectorate Postmarks by Peter Thy

Bechuanaland

Watermarks used in the Stamp Issues of the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

Orb



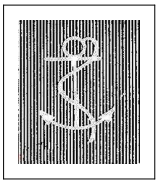
Script 'V R'



Imperial Crown



Cabled Anchor



Simple Cypher



Single Cypher



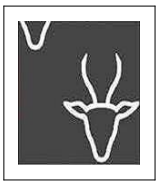
Block Cypher



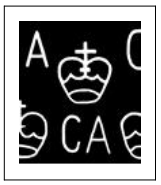
Multiple Script C A



Multiple Springbok Head



Multiple St Edward's Crown Block C A



C A - Crown Agents

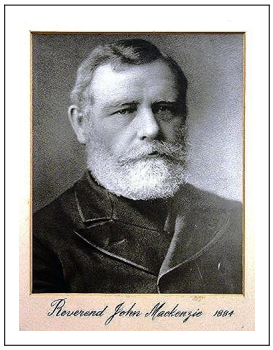
The narrative behind the inclusion of "C A" in watermarks of many of the early stamps of British Crown Colonies, has its origin in the establishment of “Crown Agents” in 1833 , when the United Kingdom Treasury consolidated previously private agencies, who had acted on behalf of colonial governments, into one establishment under two "Joint Agents General for Crown Colonies". The agencies thereafter continued to operate as a private businesses, but under Treasury supervision and control. In 1861 the organization was renamed "Crown Agents for the Colonies"
Among many functions that Crown Agents handled on behalf of the Colonies: the procurement of goods and services, infrastructure construction (they were involved in nearly every major public works and railway project within the Empire), capital raising on the financial markets, managing loans and investments and many other complex and varied duties. One of their responsibilities was the supervision and supply of postage and revenue stamps for many of the colonies – hence the inclusion of "C A" in the watermark of paper used for stamp issues of the colonies.

British Empire Omnibus Issues

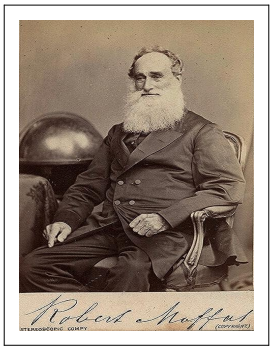
The set of stamps commemorating the 1935 Silver Jubilee of King George V, is the first of what became known as the "British Empire Omnibus Issues" - an omnibus issue is a commemorative issue of stamps by several countries with a common subject and which may share a uniform design. For this commemoration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

Two of the notables whose endeavours contributed to the developement of the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

Rev John Mackenzie 30 August 1835 - 23 March 1899
Scottish Congregationalist Missionary
Deputy Commissioner of British Bechuanaland.



Rev Robert Moffat 21 December 1795 - 9 August 1883
Scottish Congregationalist Missionary.
Writer & Translator of the Bible into Setswana.



Bechuanaland

Stamp Issues of Bechuanaland Protectorate

Provisionals

Stamp Issues with “Protectorate” overprinted:

•1888 - British Bechuanaland (11);
•1888 - British Bechuanaland (1);
•1888 - Cape of Good Hope (1);
•1889 - British Bechuanaland (1);
•1890 - British Bechuanaland (2);
•1897 - Cape of Good Hope (1);

A total of 17 overprinted stamps were issued.

Stamp Issues with “Bechuanaland Protectorate” overprinted:

•1897 - Great Britain 1881-1887 (7);
•1904 - 1912 - Great Britain (6);
•1912 - Great Britain (1);
•1913 - 1924 - Great Britain 1912-13 series (10);
•1914 - 1915 - Great Britain (2);
•1916 - 1920 - Great Britain (3);
•1920 - 1923 - Great Britain (2);
•1925 - 1927 - Great Britain (8);

Postage Due Labels
•1926 - Great Britain (3).

A total of 42 overprinted stamps were issued.

Inscriptive

Stamp Issues with "Bechuanaland Protectorate"inscribed.

•1932 – First Definitive (King George V) issue, (12 stamps);
•1935 – Silver Jubilee of King George V issue, (4 stamps);
•1937 – Coronation of King George VI issue, (3 stamps);
•1938 – Second Definitive (King George VI) issue, (11 stamps);
•1945 – Victory issue, (6 stamps);
•1947 – Royal Visit issue, (4 stamps);
•1948 – Royal Silver Wedding issue,(2 stamps);
•1949 – 75th Anniversary of U.P.I. issue, (4 stamps);
•1953 – Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II issue, (1 stamp);
•1955 – Third Definitive (Queen Elizabeth II) issue, (13 stamps);
•1960 – 75th Anniversary of Bechuanaland Protectorate issue, (3 stamps);
•1961 – Surcharged Fourth Definitive issue - New Currency,(11 stamps);
•1961 – Fifth Definitive issue - New Currency, (14 stamps);
•1963 – Freedom from Hunger issue, (1 stamp);
•1963 – Red Cross Centenary issue, (2 stamps);
•1964 – 400th Anniversary of birth of William Shakespeare issue, (1 stamp);
•1965 – New Constitution – Internal Self-Government issue, (4 stamps);
•1965 – I.T.U. Centenary issue, (2 stamps);
•1965 – International Co-operation Year issue, (2 stamps);
•1966 – Churchill Commemoration issue, (4 stamps);
•1966 – Bechuanaland Royal Pioneer Corp issue, (4 stamps).

Postage Due Labels
•1932 – Issue of three stamps;
•1961 – Previous issue Surcharged with New Currency, (5 stamps);
•1961 – Previous issue in New Currency, (3 stamps).

A total of 119 inscribed stamps were issued.

A total of 39 issues, comprising 178 stamps, were issued in the territory whilst a protectorate of Great Britain.

Bechuanaland

The Inaugural Bechuanaland Protectorate issue.
7 August 1888.

The first set issued in the Protectorate were current British Bechuanaland stamps (SG 9/19), which included a ½d. stamp of Great Britain overprinted "British Bechuanaland". This was due to the use of the unappropriated die designs, for which no ½d. value existed. After trial printings, the initial "Protectorate" overprint size for the issue was set at 15½mm - the 1d. to 6d. stamps were also surcharged with their denominations to be more easily distinguished.

Watermark: Imperial Crown.

Imperial Crown





Sg 40 Sacc 38

Orb



Watermark: Orb. Perf: 14.



Sg 41 Sacc 39



Sg 42 Sacc 40



Sg 43 Sacc 41



Sg 44 Sacc 42



Sg 45 Sacc 43

Watermark: "VR" (sideways, reading up). Perf: 13½.



Sg 46 Sacc 44



Sg 47 Sacc 45



Sg 48 Sacc 46



Sg 49 Sacc 47

Script 'V R'





Sg 50 Sacc 48

Print: Typographic by De La Rue & Co., Ltd. Overprinting of "Protectorate" and Surcharge by P. Townsend & Co, Vryburg.

Bechuanaland

Unappropriated Dies

"Unappropriated dies" refers to a specific type of stamp die developed by De La Rue in 1872 for the United Kingdom. These dies were designed with a uniform basic design, which included the denominations, that could be overprinted with the name of the issueing territory as well as "postage" and/or "revenue", making them cost-effective for multiple uses. Essentially, they were blank canvases for different postage/revenue stamps.

The 1888-1889 Provisionals

4d. Issue - 10 December 1888.

Watermark: Orb. Perf: 14.

In December 1888, a shortage of 4d. stamps was solved by overprinting "Protectorate" (15½mm) on a surchaged 4d. stamp of British Bechuanaland (SG 25).



Sg 51 Sacc 49

Print: Typographic by De La Rue & Co., Ltd. Overprint of "Protectorate" by P. Townsend & Co, Vryburg.

½d. Issue - 27 December 1888.

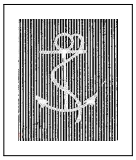
Watermark: Cabled Anchor. Perf: 14.

A further shortage of ½d. stamps was solved by overprinting 1886 Cape of Good Hope ½d. stamps (SG 48a) with "Bechuanaland Protectorate".



Sg 52 Sacc 50

Cabled Anchor

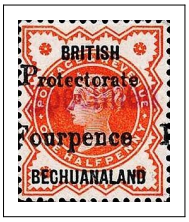


Print: Typographic by De La Rue & Co., Ltd. Overprinting by P. Townsend & Co, Vryburg.

4d. issue - August 1889

Watermark: Imperial Crown. Perf: 14.

In August 1889, a further shortage of 4d. stamps was again solved by overprinting and surcharging an 1887 issue of British Bechuanaland (SG 9) with "Protectorate/Fourpence".



Sg 53 Sacc 51

Print: overprint by P.Townsend & Co, Vryburg.

The Bechuanalands Postal Administration.

The stamp issues of 1888-1889 overprinted "Protectorate", were part of a costing exercise the object of which was to ensure that the operational costs of the Protectorate's postal service did not exceed the budget of £300 per annum. With the cost assessment spanning nearly two years having been finalised, it was decided that it was no longer necessary to have separate stamps for the Protectorate and stamps of the Colony would be valid in the Protectorate. In June 1890 the Bechuanaland Protectorate and the Colony of British Bechuanaland were placed under one postal administration and once stocks of Protectorate stamps were exhausted, the only postage stamps on sale at Protectorate post offices until October 1897, were those of "British Bechuanaland".

Bechuanaland

Issue of Trial Prints. 1890.

Watermark: Imperial Crown. Perf: 14.

When there were further shortages of ½d. stamps, the two sets of the June 1888 trial printings were issued - (½d. stamps of Great Britain (SG 197), overprinted in November 1887 with "British Bechuanaland" (SG 9) and thereafter overprinted with two sizes of "Protectorate").

"Protectorate" overprinted - 15mm



Sg 54 Sacc 52

Imperial Crown



"Protectorate" overprinted - 19mm



Sg 55 Sacc 53

The Halfpenny Stamps issue. April 1897.

Watermark: Cabled Anchor. Perf: 14.

Towards the end of 1896, when a further shortage of ½d. stamps occured, ½d. 1896 Cape of Good Hope stamps (SG 61) were overprinted "British Bechuanaland" even though the territory had been annexed to the Cape of Good Hope on 16th December 1895 and no longer existed - presumably due to the former territory's stamps still being on sale at post offices in the Protectorate.



Sg 56 7.1897 Sacc54



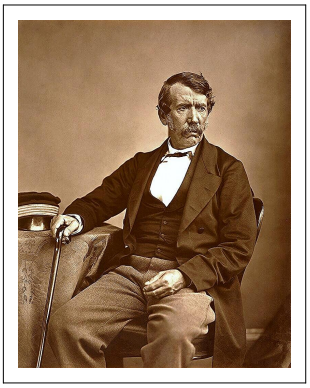
Sg 57 4.1897 Sacc55



Sg 58 7.1897 Sacc56

Overprinting: The stamps were overprinted by three different printers:-
No 1. SG 56 - by Taylor & Marshall, Cape Town. The lines are 13 mm apart, with the top line 8mm long and bottom line 16 mm long;
No 2. SG 57 - by P. Townshend & Co, Vryburg. The lines are 13½ mm apart with the top line 7¾ mm long and bottom line 15¼ mm long;
No 3. SG 58 - by W.A. Richards & Son, Cape Government Printer. The two lines are 10½ mm apart, with the top line 7¾ mm long and bottom line 15 mm long.

Dr. David Livingstone, whose pioneering expeditions were pivotal to the colonization of Southern and Central Africa.



Dr David Livingstone FRGS FRS
(19 March 1813 – 1 May 1873)
Scottish Physician, Congregationalist,
Pioneer Christian Missionary
of the London Missionary Society,
an Explorer in Africa.

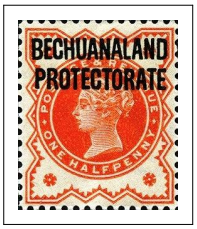
Bechuanaland



Queen Victoria

The Queen Victoria Stamps of October 1897 - 1902

Watermark: Imperial Crown. Perf: 14.
Composite Overprint of Great Britain issues of 1881 and 1887: SG 172, 197, 200, 202, 205 and 208.



Sg 59 Sacc 57



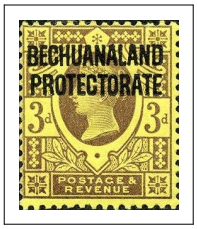
Sg 60 25.2.1902 Sacc 58



Sg 61 Sacc 59



Sg 62 Sacc 60



Sg 63 12.1897 Sacc 61
yellow paper



Sg 64 Sacc 62



Sg 65 Sacc 63
rose-red paper

The postal authorities had difficulty with this issue in positioning the new composite overprint in order not to obscure the face value. They also had to compromise on their usual policy of not covering the monarch's face.



King Edward VII

The Stamps of King Edward VII issue 29th November 1904 - 1913.

Watermark: Imperial Crown. Perf: 14.
Vertical overprinted Great Britain Stamps: SG 216, 218/19, 230 and 313/14.



Sg 66 3.1906 Sacc 64



Sg 67 11.1908 Sacc 65



Sg 68 4.1905 Sacc 66



Sg 69 Sacc 67



Sg 70 10.1912 Sacc 68



Sg 71 1913 Sacc 69

Print: by Somerset House, overprinted by De La Rue & Co., Ltd. A new type of overprint had to be used as it was found the the previous type would obliterate the King's head. During the currency of the Edwardian stamps, there were still considerable stocks of the earlier issues of British Bechuanaland and the Protectorate - these stocks were still being sold at post offices and continued to be used until about 1920.

Bechuanaland



King George V

Stamp of Great Britain (King George V) issue.
September 1912 - 1914

Watermark: Imperial Crown. Perf: 15 x 14.
Vertical overprinted Stamp: SG 342.



Sg 72 Sacc 70

Print: by Somerset House, overprinted by De La Rue & Co., Ltd.

Stamps of Great Britain (King George V) issue. 1st July 1913 - 1924.

(a) Vertical overprints of "BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE".

Watermark: Simple Cypher. Perf: 15 x 14.
Stamps: SG 351, 357, 367,370/1, 376,379, 385 and 395.

Die 1



Sg 73 Sacc 71
shade varieties



Sg 74 4.1915 Sacc 72
shade varieties



Sg 75 12.1920 Sacc 73



Sg 76 Sacc 74

Die 11



Sg 77 1924 Sacc 74b



Sg 78 Sacc 75



Sg 79 Sacc 76



Sg 80 Sacc 77

Chalk-surfaced



Sg 81 Sacc 78

Simple Cypher





Sg 82 Sacc 79

Design: B. Mackennal (heads) and G. W. Eve (frames). Dies engraved by J.A.C.Harrison. Print: Typograghic by Harrison & Sons, Ltd, overprinted by De La Rue & Co, Ltd.

Bechuanaland

Stamps of Great Britain (King George V) - Sea Horse Issue.

(b) Overprint of "BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE".

(i)Waterloo printing (1914 - 1915).

Watermark: Single Royal Cypher. Perf: 11 x 12.
Stamps: SG 399 and 401.

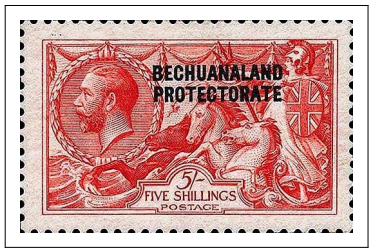


Sg 83 1.1915 Sacc 80

Overprints are exactly 22 mm wide.

Single Cypher





Sg 84 1914 Sacc 81

Design: B. Mackennal, Dies engraved by J.A.C. Harrison.

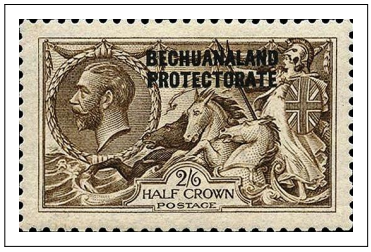
(ii) De La Rue printing (1916 - 1919).

Watermark: Single Royal Cypher. Perf: 11 x 12.
Stamps: SG 407/8 and 409.

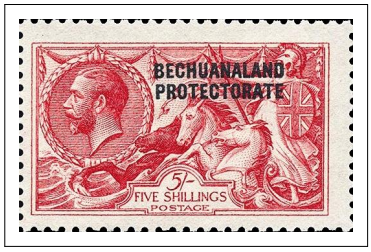


Sg 85 7.1916 Sacc 82

Overprints exactly 22 mm wide.



Sg 86 1917 Sacc 82a



Sg 87 8.1919 Sacc 83

(iii) Bradbury Wilkinson printing (1920 - 1923).

Watermark: Single Royal Cypher. Perf: 11 x 12.
Stamps: SG 414 and 416.



Sg 88 7.1923 Sac 84

Overprints 22¾ - 23 mm wide.



Sg 89 7.1920 Sacc 85

Bechuanaland

OFFICIAL GAZETTE
OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR BASUTOLAND, THE BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, AND SWAZILAND
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE No. 42 OF 1920.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE—POSTAL TARIFF.

It is hereby notified for general information that, under the provisions of Act No. 10 of 1911 of the Union of South Africa as of force in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, His Excellency the High Commissioner has been pleased to approve of the undermentioned amendments in the tariff in respect of the Postal Service in the Bechuanaland Protectorate; with effect from the 17th May, 1920, inclusive.

By Command of His Excellency the
High Commissioner.
H. J. STANLEY,
Imperial Secretary.

High Commissioner's Office,
Capetown, 11th May, 1920.

POSTAL TARIFF.

Letters—
To any place in respect of which the charge has hitherto been one penny per half-ounce, the charge shall be one and a half pence per ounce.

Post Cards (Inland)—
To any place within the Union of South Africa, Basutoland, Swaziland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate, Southern and Northern Rhodesia, the Province of Mozambique, or the South-West Africa Protectorate, the charges shall be as follows:—
Post cards (single), 1d. each.
Post cards (reply paid), 2d. each.

OFFICIAL GAZETTE
OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR BASUTOLAND, THE BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, AND SWAZILAND
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE No. 44 OF 1921.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE POSTAL TARIFF.

It is hereby notified for general information that, under the provisions of Act No. 10 of 1911 of the Union of South Africa, as of force in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, His Royal Highness the High Commissioner has been pleased to approve of the undermentioned alterations in the postage rates, as amended by Notice No. 42 of 1920, with effect from the 1st June, 1921.

By Command of His Royal Highness the
High Commissioner.
H. J. STANLEY,
Imperial Secretary.

High Commissioner's Office,
Capetown, 23rd May, 1921.

Letters from 1½d. per oz. to 2d. per oz.
Newspapers, not exceeding 2 lb. in weight, ½d. per 4 oz.
Newspapers, exceeding 2 lb. but not exceeding 7 lb. in weight, ½d. per 2 oz.

Stamps of Great Britain (King George V) issue. July 1925 - 1927.

Watermark: Block Cypher & Multiple Crowns. Perf: 15 x 14.
Vertical overprints of Stamps: SG 418/19, 421, 423/4, 426a and 429.

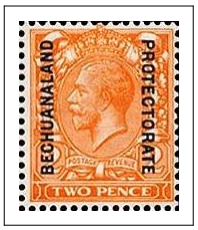
Die II.



Sg 91 Sacc 86
1927



Sg 92 Sacc 87
8.1925



Sg 93 Sacc 88

Chalk-surfaced paper.



Sg 94 Sacc 89
10.1926



Sg 95 Sacc 90
10.1926



Sg 96 Sacc 91
12.1925

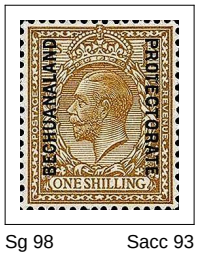
Ordinary paper.



Sg 97 Sacc 92
1926

Block Cypher





Sg 98 Sacc 93
10.1926

Bechuanaland

King George V First Definitive Postage/Revenue issue.
12th December 1932.

Watermark: Multiple Script C A. Perf: line, 12½.

Protectorate's first non-provisional stamp issue 44 years after the inauguration of its postal service.



Sg 99 Sacc 94



Sg 100 Sacc 95



Sg 101 Sacc 96



Sg 102 Sacc 97



Sg 103 Sacc 98



Sg 104 Sacc 99



Sg 105 Sacc 100



Sg 106 Sacc 101



Sg 107 Sacc 102



Sg 108 Sacc 103



Sg 109 Sacc 104

Multiple Script and C A.





Sg 110 Sacc 105

Design from photographs: Resident Commissioner, Ngamiland (background) and W. & D. Downey (portrait). Print: Recess by Waterlow & Sons, Ltd.

Bechuanaland

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

Watermark: Multiple Script C A. Perf: comb, 11 x 12.
Ist British Empire Omnibus Issue used by 43 other Colonies and Territories (250 stamps).
The issue was on sale until 31st December when it was withdrawn and the remainder destroyed.



Queen Mary



King George V



Sg 111 Sacc 106



Sg 112 Sacc 107



Silver Jubilee Medallion



Sg 113 Sacc 108



Sg 114 Sacc 109

King George V Silver Jubilee

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.

Crown Agents Bulletin - description of issue:
The design of the casement consists of a profile portrait of His Majesty wearing the Imperial Crown. The portrait is framed by the Collar of the Order of the Garter superimposed on the Royal Sceptre, the Dove Sceptre and the State Sword. Above the portrait is a ribbon bearing the dates 1910-1935. In the top left-hand corner is the Orb. The left lower corner has a duty tablet with the words 'Postage & Revenue' in the base. The name of the Colony is set across the sky of the vignette.
The design of the vignette consists of a view of Windsor Castle from the opposite side of the river.

Listed Varieties
1. **Extra flagstaff;**
2. **Short extra flagstaff;**
3. **Lightening conductor;**
4. **Flagstaff on right-hand turret;**
5. **Double flagstaff.**

Design: H. Fleury.
Print: Recess by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co, Ltd.
Printings: 1d. x 2, 2d. x 1, 3d. and 6d. x 4.

Bechuanaland

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

Watermark: Multiple Script C A. Perf: 14.
British Empire Omnibus Issue (45 territories and 202 stamps).



Queen Elizabeth



King George VI



Sg 115 Sacc 110



Coronation Medallion



Sg 116 Sacc 111



Sg 117 Sacc 112

Coronation

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.

Design and two Recess prints by De La Rue & Co,Ltd.

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE No. 23 OF 1938.

In view of the issue of a new series of combined postage and revenue stamps for the Bechuanaland Protectorate on the 12th December, 1932, His Excellency the High Commissioner has been pleased, in terms of section *one* of Proclamation No. 55 of 1933, to make the following regulations providing for the demonetisation of all denominations of the old series of overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate" British *postage* stamps:—

(*a*) All overprinted postage stamps of each denomination of the *old* series shall be demonetised with effect from the date of publication of this notice;

(*b*) for a period of three months from the date of demonetisation stamps of the old series will be valid for postal purposes, but after that period postal matter bearing such stamps will be subject to surcharge.

By Command of His Excellency
the High Commissioner.

H. E. PRIESTMAN,
Administrative Secretary.

High Commissioner's Office,
Capetown, 8th February, 1938.

Airmail Service
On 1st November 1938 the first airmail service to serve the Protectorate was inaugurated by South African Airways flying a Junkers 86 aircraft from Johannesburg to Windhoek, with stops at Palapye and Maun in the Protectorate, to pick up mail. The return route from Windhoek was via Keetmanshoop, Upington, and Kimberly to Johannesburg.
There was no extra charge for the mail carried on this flight and letters were franked with a 1d. stamp of the various territories from which the mail was collected, that being the normal rate at that time.

Bechuanaland

King George VI Second Definitive Postage/Revenue issue.
1st April 1938 - 1952.

Watermark: Multiple Script C A. Perf: line, 12½.



Sg 118 Sacc 113



Sg 119 Sacc 114



Sg 120 Sacc 115



Sg 121 Sacc 116



Sg 122 Sacc 117



Sg 123 Sacc 118



Sg 124 Sacc 119



Sg 125 Sacc 120



Sg 126 Sacc 121



Sg 127 Sacc 122



Sg 128 Sacc 123

Bechuanaland

King George VI Definitive Issue - Shade Varieties.

light yellowish-green



Sg 118a Sacc 113a
1941

yellowish-green



Sg 118b Sacc 113b
4.1943

deep green



Sg 118c Sacc 113c
4.1949

light blue



Sg 120a Sacc 115a
4.1943

purple



Sg 124a Sacc 119a
1944

Commentary:
The extended lifespan of this second definitive set of stamps (the next definitive issue was only released on 3.1.1955), necessitated numerous printings of the issue and inevitably this resulted in variations, some of which are not listed in catalogues.
The number of printings of each value are as follows:
½d. x 7, 1d. x 7, 1½d. x 6, 2d. x 10, 3d. x 5, 4d. x 4, 6d. x 8, 1/-. x 5, 2/6. x 4, 5/-. x 5 and 10/-. x 3.

Design from photographs: by Resident Commissioner, Ngamiland (background) and Bertram Park (portrait). Print: Recess by Waterlow & Sons, Ltd.

Bechuanaland

Victory Issue. 3rd December 1945.

Watermark: Multiple Springbok Head. Perf: comb, 14.

Stamps of South Africa (SG 108/10), overprinted with "Bechuanaland".
British Empire Omnibus Issue (164 stamps).

Victory



Sg 129 Sacc 124

Multiple Springbok Head



Peace



Sg 130 Sacc 125

Hope



Sg 131 Sacc 126

Barbed Wire Variety



Barbed Wire Variety



Sg 129a Sacc 124a

Victory

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.

Print and overprint: Photogravure by Government Printer, Pretoria.

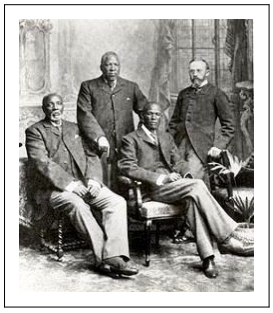
Deputation of Chiefs to London

In 1895, three Chiefs from Bechuanaland traveled to London to plead with the British government to protect their land from being absorbed into Cecil Rhodes' British South Africa Company and Southern Rhodesia. Their visit was prompted by concerns that the British government was planning to hand over the Bechuanaland Protectorate to Rhodes. The chiefs, supported by the London Missionary Society and the Temperance Movement, aimed to persuade Queen Victoria and Joseph Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to intervene.
The Chiefs : Khama III: Chief of the Bamangwato. Bathoen: Chief of the Bangwaketse. Sebele I: Chief of the Bakwena.
The chiefs' visit and their impassioned pleas, combined with the negative publicity surrounding the Jameson Raid (a failed British raid into the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek) helped sway British public opinion and led to the protection of Bechuanaland as a British Protectorate.

Kgosi-Tona Khama III



Khama III of the Bamangwato, Sebele I of the Bakwena, Bathoen I of the Bangwaketse - London.



Bechuanaland

Royal Visit issue. 17th February 1947.

Watermark: Multiple Script C A. Perf: line, 12½.
Withdrawn 24th April 1947.



Sg 132 Sacc 127



Sg 133 Sacc 128



Sg 134 Sacc 129



Royal Visit Medallion

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE
No. 87 of 1947.

It is hereby notified for general information that, under and by virtue of the powers conferred upon him by section *one* of the Postage and Revenue Stamps (Bechuanaland Protectorate) Proclamation, 1932 (No. 56 of 1932), His Excellency the High Commissioner has been pleased to authorise the issue of Bechuanaland Protectorate Royal Visit Stamps for postage and revenue purposes as from the 17th February, 1947.

By Command of His Excellency
the High Commissioner.

A. G. T. CHAPLIN,
Acting Administrative Secretary.

High Commissioner's Office,
Cape Town, 11th April, 1947.



First Day Cover - special datestamp used at Lobatsi
ROYAL VISIT LOBATSI, BECH. PROT.



Sg 135 Sacc 130

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: single Recess printing by Waterlow & Sons, Ltd.

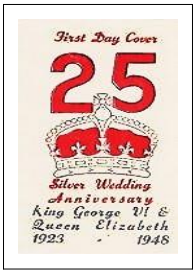
Bechuanaland

Royal Silver Wedding issue.
1st December 1948.

Watermark: Multiple Script C A.
British Empire Omnibus Issue (138 stamps).



Sg136 Sacc 131
Perf: comb, 14x15.





Sg 137 Sacc 132
Perf: comb, 11½x11.

Design & single Photogravure print by Waterlow & Sons, Ltd (1½d.).
Stamp design & single Recess print by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co, Ltd. (10s).
Country name: added by Typographic print by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co, Ltd (10s.).

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

Watermark: Multiple Script C A.
British Empire Omnibus Issue (310 stamps).

Hermes, Globe and Forms of Transport



Sg 138 Perf: comb, 13 x 14. Sacc 133

Hemispheres, Jet-powered Vickers Viking Airliner and Paddle Steamer



Sg 139 Perf: comb, 11 x 11½.Sacc 134

Hermes distributing letters all over the Globe



Sg 140 Perf: comb 11 x 11½. Sacc 135

U.P.U. Monument at Berne, Switzerland

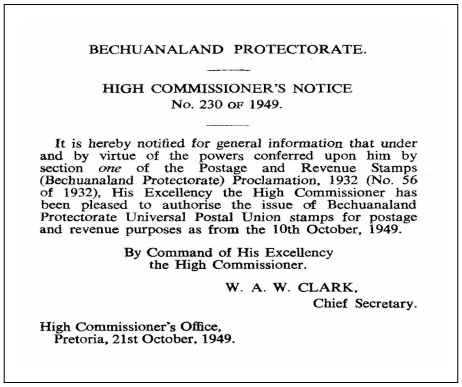


Sg 141 Perf: comb 13½ x 14. Sacc 136

Bechuanaland

Universal Postal Union

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 Union's activities embrace many fields, and one that may be quoted as an example of its value, is the negotiation of rates payable by Postal Administrations to Air Lines for the conveyance of air mails. These rates are agreed with the organization representing Air Lines, and are applied throughout the world, ensuring that all Postal Administrations have access to all Air Lines at standard charges. This is but one example of the application of one of the basic tenets of the Union - that postal services of one country should be available to other countries at charges similar to those paid by the country in which the service operates, or is based.
There can be few better examples of true international co-operation than that provided by the UPU. The UPU 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.



BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

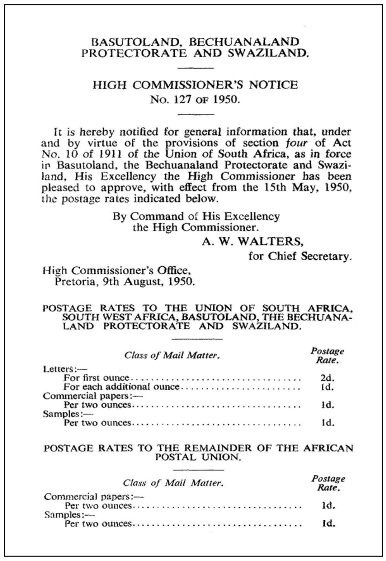
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE
No. 230 OF 1949.

It is hereby notified for general information that under and by virtue of the powers conferred upon him by section *one* of the Postage and Revenue Stamps (Bechuanaland Protectorate) Proclamation, 1932 (No. 56 of 1932), His Excellency the High Commissioner has been pleased to authorise the issue of Bechuanaland Protectorate Universal Postal Union stamps for postage and revenue purposes as from the 10th October, 1949.

By Command of His Excellency
the High Commissioner.

W. A. W. CLARK,
Chief Secretary.

High Commissioner's Office,
Pretoria, 21st October, 1949.



BASUTOLAND, BECHUANALAND
PROTECTORATE AND SWAZILAND.

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE
No. 127 OF 1950.

It is hereby notified for general information that, under and by virtue of the provisions of section *four* of Act No. 10 of 1911 of the Union of South Africa, as in force in Basutoland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland, His Excellency the High Commissioner has been pleased to approve, with effect from the 15th May, 1950, the postage rates indicated below.

By Command of His Excellency
the High Commissioner.
A. W. WALTERS,
for Chief Secretary.

High Commissioner's Office,
Pretoria, 9th August, 1950.

POSTAGE RATES TO THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH WEST AFRICA, BASUTOLAND, THE BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE AND SWAZILAND.

Class of Mail Matter.	*Postage Rate.*
Letters:—	
For first ounce	2d.
For each additional ounce	1d.
Commercial papers:—	
Per two ounces	1d.
Samples:—	
Per two ounces	1d.

POSTAGE RATES TO THE REMAINDER OF THE AFRICAN POSTAL UNION.

Class of Mail Matter.	*Postage Rate.*
Commercial papers:—	
Per two ounces	1d.
Samples:—	
Per two ounces	1d.

Print: single Recess print of stamps by Waterlow & Sons, Ltd. (1½d. & 1s.).
Print: single Recess print of stamps by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co, Ltd. (3d. & 6d.).
Country name - added by Typographic print by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co, Ltd. (3d. & 6d.).



Special Datestamp

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

Watermark: Multiple Script C A. Perf: comb, 13½ x 13.
British Empire Omnibus Issue - 63 territories (106 stamps).
Withdrawn: 12th December 1953. 955144 copies sold.



Queen Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth II



Coronation Medallion



Sg 142 Sacc 137



Royal Cypher

Print: Recess by De La Rue & Co., Ltd.
Country name - added by Typographic print by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co, Ltd.

Bechuanaland

Queen Elizabeth II Third Definitive issue.
3rd January 1955 - 1958.

Watermark: Multiple Script C A. Perf: comb, 13½ x 14.



Sg 143 Sacc 138



Sg 144 Sacc 139



Sg 145 Sacc 140



Sg 146 Sacc 141



Sg146a 16.1.57 Sacc 141a



Sg146b 11.12.58 Sacc 142



Sg 147 Sacc 143



Sg 148 Sacc 144



Sg 149 Sacc 145



Sg 150 Sacc 146



Sg 151 Sacc 147



Sg 152 Sacc 148



Sg 153 Sacc 149

Commentary:
There was only one change in design of the stamps for the new monarch - the Queen's portrait was substituted for that of her father, otherwise the stamps remained the same as the those of the previous two reigns. The number of printings of each value are as follows:-
½d. x 2, 1d. x 4, 2d. x 3, 3d. x 3, 4d. x 1, 4½d. x 1, 6d. x 2, 1/- x 2, 1s 3d. x 1, 2/6 x 2, 5/- x 2 and 10/- x 2.

Design: from photo by Resident Commissioner, Ngamiland. Print: Recess by Waterlow & Sons, Ltd.

Bechuanaland

75th Anniversary of Bechuanaland Protectorate issue.
21st January 1960.

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown Block C A. Perf: comb, 14½ x 14.
Withdrawn 31.5.1960.



Sg 154 Sacc 150

Multiple St Edward's Crown Block C A





Sg 155 Sacc 151



Sg 156 Sacc 152

Commentary:
this was the first commemorative issue with the design specific to Bechuanaland only - the designs of the previous seven commemorative issues were common with other Commonwealth countries.
Queen Victoria's portrait is from a photograph taken in 1883.

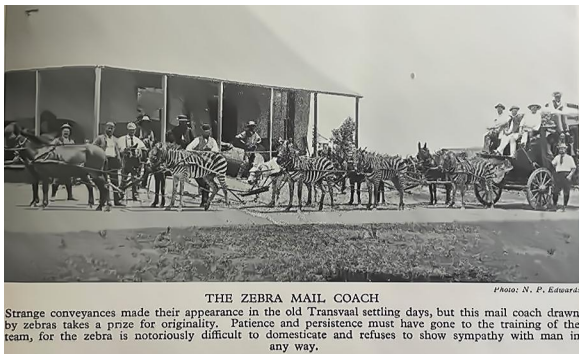
Print: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons, Ltd.

Zeederberg Mail Coach Service
Mafeking to Bulawayo,
via Gaberones, Palapye and Mangwe.



Departure from Bulawayo of the Zeederberg Coach - circa 1896. (National Archives)

Zebra Mail Coach.


Photo: N. P. Edwards

THE ZEBRA MAIL COACH

Strange conveyances made their appearance in the old Transvaal settling days, but this mail coach drawn by zebras takes a prize for originality. Patience and persistence must have gone to the training of the team, for the zebra is notoriously difficult to domesticate and refuses to show sympathy with man in any way.

Bechuanaland

Provisional Fourth Definitive issue - New Currency.
14th February 1961.
One Rand (R1) = 100 Cents.

Watermark: Multiple Script C A. Perf: comb, 13½ x 14.
Stamps from 1955-58 issue (SG 144/46a and 148/53)

Type I Surcharge



Sg 157 Sacc 153



Sg 158 Sacc 154

Type I Surcharge



Sg 159 Sacc 155



Sg 160 Sacc 156

Type I Surcharge



Sg 161 Sacc 157

Type I Surcharge



Sg 162 Sacc 158



Sg 163 Sacc 159



Sg 164 Sacc 160

Type I Surcharge



Sg 165 Sacc 161



Sg 166 Sacc 162

Type I Surcharge



Sg 167 Sacc 163

Bechuanaland

Provisional Fourth Definitive issue - New Currency.

Type Varieties.

Type II Surcharge



Sg 157a 6.6.61Sacc153a

Type II Surcharge



Sg159a 26.7.61Sacc155a

Type II Surcharge



Sg 161a Sacc 157a

Type II Surcharge



Sg 161b Sacc 157b

Type III Surcharge



Sg 161d 6.6.61Sacc157d

Type II Surcharge



Sg 162a 12.5.61Sacc158a

Type II Surcharge



Sg 167b 4.61 Sacc163b

Commentary: 1961 Provisional Decimal Surcharges
As the currency used in the Protectorate was that of the Union of South Africa, when South Africa decided to change from a sterling to a decimal currency on 14th February 1961, it became necessary for the Protectorate to follow suit. However, in common with the other two High Commission territories, the Protectorate elected to surcharge the current 1955 definitive issue with decimal values and all stocks of the 1955 issue held in Mafeking and by the Crown Agents in London, were forwarded to the South African Government Printer in Pretoria for decimal surcharging.
Whilst the first issue went on sale on February 14, 1961, an additional two printings were required due to shortages of some of the denominations. These printings utilized new settings, which inevitably produced surcharges with different types of figures and letters.

Overprint Types Table

Type I	1c	2½c	3½c	5c	R1
Type II	1c	2½c	3½c	5c	R1
Type III			3½c		
Spaced "c"		2½c			

Print: Recess by Waterlow & Sons, Ltd.
Surcharge overprinted by South African Government Printer, Pretoria.

Bechuanaland

Fifth Definitive issue - New Currency. 2nd October 1961.

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown Block C A. Perf: comb 14½ x 14(25c & 50c), 14 x 14½ (others).

African Golden Oriole



Sg 168 Sacc 164

Hoopoe



Sg 169 Sacc 165

Scarlet-chested Sunbird



Sg 170 Sacc 166

Yellow-rumped Bishop



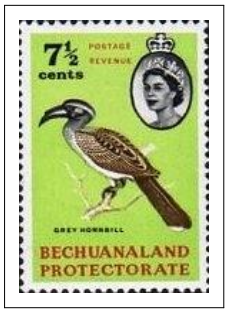
Sg 171 Sacc 167

Swallow-tailed Bee Eater



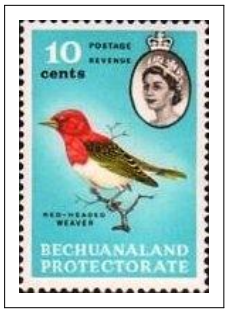
Sg 172 Sacc 168

African Grey Hornbill



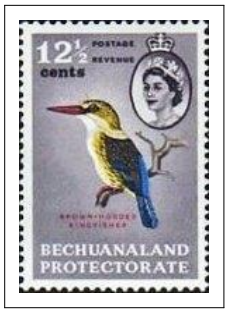
Sg 173 Sacc 169

Red-headed Weaver



Sg 174 Sacc 170

Brown-hooded Kingfisher



Sg 175 Sacc 171

Women Musician



Sg 176 Sacc 172

Boabab Tree



Sg 177 Sacc 173

Women Grinding Maize



Sg 178 Sacc 174

Bechuanaland

Fifth Definitive issue - New Currency ... continued.

Bechuana Ox



Sg 179 Sacc 175

Lion



Sg 180 Sacc 176

Police Camel Patrol



Sg 181 Sacc 177

Design: P.B.D. Jones (1c.- 12½c.), Messrs A. Larkin, R. Turrel & M.Thoma (20c.- R2.).
Print: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons, Ltd.

Freedom from Hunger issue.
4th June 1963.

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown Block C A. Perf: comb, 14 x 14½.
British Empire Omnibus Issue (77 stamps). Withdrawn: 2.9.1963.

Protein Foods



Sg 182 Sacc 178

Freedom from Hunger

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.

Design: M. Goaman. Print: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons, Ltd.

Bechuanaland

Red Cross Centenary issue. 2nd September 1963.

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown Block C A. Perf: comb, 13½.
British Empire Omnibus Issue (108 stamps & 2 miniture sheets). Withdrawn: 12.12.1963.



Sg 183 Sacc 179



Sg 184 Sacc 180

Red Cross Centenary

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".

Design: V. Whiteley. Print: Lithographic by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co, Ltd.

400th Birth Anniversary of William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616) issue. 23rd April 1964.

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown Block C A. Perf: comb, 14 x 14½.
British Empire Omnibus Issue (25 stamps). Withdrawn: 22.6.1964.



Sg 185 Sacc 181

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare (23 April 1564 – 23 April 1616) was an English playwright, poet and actor. He is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon" or simply "the Bard". His extant works, including collaborations, consist of some 39 plays, 154 sonnets, three long narrative poems and a few other verses, some of uncertain authorship. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright. Shakespeare remains arguably the most influential writer in the English language, and his works continue to be studied and reinterpreted.
Shakespeare was born and raised in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway, with whom he had three children: Susanna, and twins Hamnet and Judith. Sometime between 1585 and 1592, he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer, and part-owner ("sharer") of a playing company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later known as the King's Men after the ascension of King James VI of Scotland to the English throne. At age 49 (around 1613), he appears to have retired to Stratford, where he died three years later. Wikipedia.

Design: R. Granger Barrett. Print: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons, Ltd.

Bechuanaland

New Constitution - Internal Self-Government issue.
1st March 1965.

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown Block C A. Perf: 14 x 14½.

Map and Gaberones Dam



Sg 186 Sacc 182



Sg 187 Sacc 183



Sg 188 Sacc 184



Sg 189 Sacc 185

New Constitution - Internal Self-Government

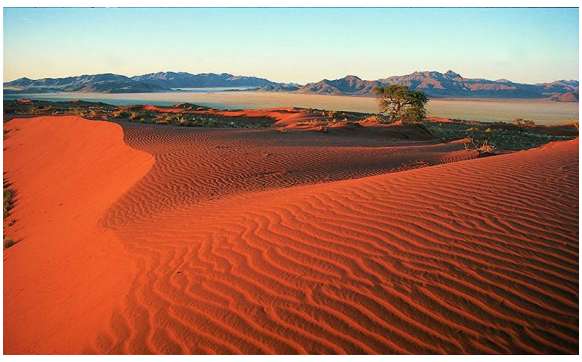
Prior to 1960 the Bechuanaland Protectorate did not have a single written constitution and was governed by a combination of British laws, tribal traditions and customary laws, and Orders in Council. In 1959, a Constitutional Committee of the Joint Advisory Council drew up the Protectorate's first formal constitution, which came into operation in terms of the ”Bechuanaland Protectorate (Constitution) Order in Council, 1960”. The Bechuanaland Protectorate (Constitution) Order in Council, 1960 outlined the structure of the government, including the Legislative Council and Executive Council.
In 1963, consultations began for a second constitution, which would confer self-government on the territory and on 1st March 1965 a general election was held under this constitution, which was modelled on the Westminster system of parliamentary democracy: The constitution made provision for a unicameral legislature; a prime minister and cabinet of five ministers responsible to the legislature; and a "Ntlo ya Dikgosi" (Tswana for "House of Chiefs"), an advisory body to the country's parliament.

Design: Mrs M. Townsend, adapted by V. Whiteley. Print: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons, Ltd.

Okavango Delta.



Kalahari Desert.



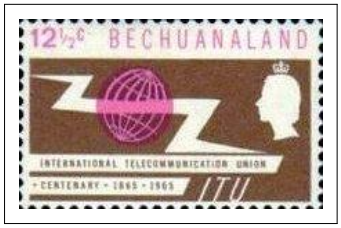
Bechuanaland

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

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown Block C A. Perf: 11 x 11½.
As stamps of Antigua (SG 166/7).
British Empire Omnibus Issue (112 stamps & 1 miniture sheet).



Sg 190 Sacc 186



Sg 191 Sacc 187

International Telecommunication Union

The International Telecommunication Union 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.

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

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

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown Block C A. Perf: 14½.
As stamps of Antigua (SG 168/69).
British Empire Omnibus Issue (107 stamps & 2 miniture sheets).



Sg 192 Sacc 188



Sg 193 Sacc 189

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.

Design: V. Whiteley. Print: Lithographic by Harrison & Sons, Ltd.

Bechuanaland

Winston S. Churchill Commemoration issue.
24th January 1966.

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown Block C A. Perf: 14.
As stamps of Antigua (SG 170/73).
British Empire Omnibus Issue (182 stamps).

Winston Churchill and
St Paul's Cathedral in wartime.



Sg 194 Sacc 190



Sg 195 Sacc 191



Sg 196 Sacc 192



Sg 197 Sacc 193

Sir Winston Churchill

Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill[a] (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. Wikipedia.

Design: Jennifer Toombs. Print: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons, Ltd.

Bechuanaland

Bechuanaland Royal Pioneer Corps issue.
1st June 1966.

Watermark: Multiple St Edward's Crown Block C A. Perf: 14½.

Haslar Smoke Generator



Sg 198 Sacc 194

Bugler



Sg 199 Sacc 195

Gun-site



Sg 200 Sacc 196

Regimental Cap Badge



Sg 201 Sacc 197

Design: V. Whiteley. Print: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons, Ltd.

Bechuanaland Royal Pioneer Corps

In 1941 the Imperial Government decided that there was a role for an African contingent in the Middle East and in June a recruiting drive was started in the three High Commission Territories. In order to avoid confusion recruits were allotted prefix letters to their army numbers; AS for Basutos, EC for Bechuanas and SW for Swazis. The Bechuanaland Depot was a large disused cold store (where else) at Lobatsi and a large camp was built around it by the early recruits . There was a subsidiary camp at Serowe, where up to 1000 were in training when Lobatsi overflowed with recruits.
The Corps was formed of companies of around three hundred African OR's commanded by British Army officers and WO's and African WO's. Bechuanaland's companies were numbers 1966 to 1990 and each company was usually composed of men from the same tribe. After a minimum amount of training at the Depot, companies were sent to Egypt and given further training and rifles at the main Pioneer Corps Depot at Qasassin. Before the end of 1941 seven companies No. 1971 to 1977 were in Egypt. From then until the end of the war they saw service with the British Army in the Mediterranean area from Syria to Libya and Malta to N. Italy. The original intention was to use them for purposes usually associated with the Pioneers; pick and shovel, guarding, moving supplies and so forth. By 1943 however manpower resources were becoming tight and several AAPC companies were retrained and regrouped to replace RA gunners in AA gun crews. These were termed 'Dilution Companies'. They were in most of the major operations in Italy and at crucial times used their guns with depressed barrels as field artillery. After the war in Europe ended, the men of the APC (Auxiliary was dropped in August 1944) came back to their demob at IFTC (Imperial Forces Transshipment Camp) at Clairwood (south of Durban), where their Pay and Record Offices were housed by then, and were sent home as quickly as trains could be found for them.
The British Army soon realised that there was a black hole in their resources and in May 1946 recruiting opened for a new force, the High Commission Territories Corps (HCTC), Many ex-pioneers re-enlisted and the Corps helped to man our base in the Canal Zone for several years. Reference: THE AFRICAN (AUXILIARY) PIONEER CORPS by Philip Cattell. THE RUNNER POST Issue 15 June 1989.

On 30th September 1966, Bechuanaland Protectorate attained independence from the United Kingdom as the Republic of Botswana.

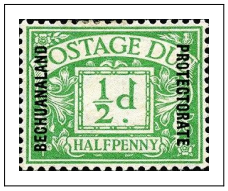
Bechuanaland

Postage Due Stamps

Postage Due issue - 1st January 1926.

Nos. SG D9/D10 and D13 of Great Britain overprinted.
Watermark: Simple Cypher (sideways) on 1d., Multiple Block Cypher (sideways) on ½d. and 2d. stamps.
Perf: 14 x 15.

Thick chalk-surfaced paper



Sg D1 Sacc 1

Thin unsurfaced paper



Sg D2 Sacc 2

Thin unsurfaced paper



Sg D3 Sacc 3

Simple Cypher



Multiple Block Cypher



Postage Due issue - 12th December 1932.

Watermark: Multiple Script C A. Perf: comb,14.

Ordinary Paper.



Sg D4 Sacc 4



Sg D5 Sacc 5



Sg D6 Sacc 6

Varieties on Chalk-surfaced Paper.

27/11/1958



Sg D5a Sacc 5a

Multiple Script C A



27/11/1958



Sg D6c Sacc 6a

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

Bechuanaland

Surcharged Postage Due issue - New Currency
14th February 1961.

Watermark: Multiple Script C A. Perf: comb, 14.

1932 issue surcharged with new currency.

Chalk-surfaced Paper

Small - Type I



Sg D7 Sacc 7

Large - Type II



Sg D7a Sacc 8

Small - Type 1



Sg D8 Sacc 9

Large - Type II



Sg D8c Sacc 10

Small - Type I



Sg D9 Sacc 11

Postage Due issue - 15th November 1961.

Watermark: Multiple Script C A. Perf: 14.

Chalk-surfaced Paper



Sg D10 Sacc 12



Sg D11 Sacc 13



Sg D12 Sacc 14

The iconic "Big Five" African game animals.



Lion



White Rhinocerous



Leopard



African Elephant

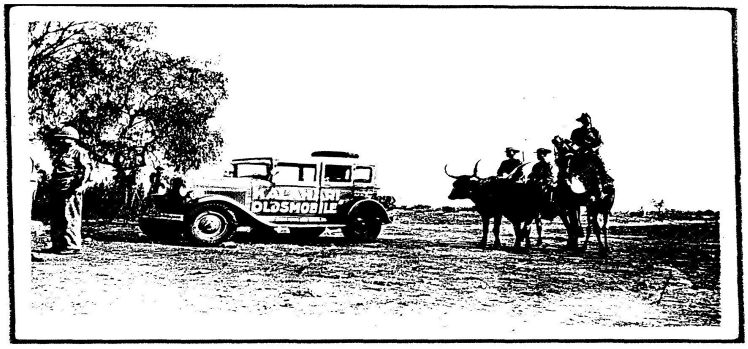


African Buffalo

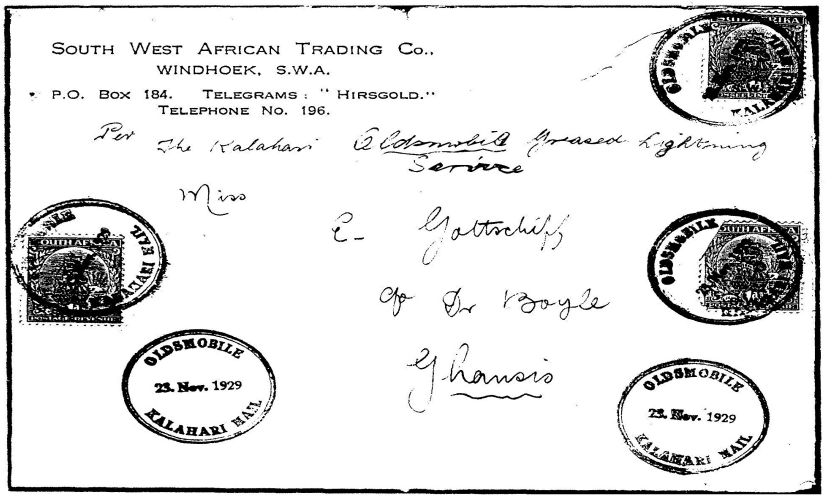
Bechuanaland

Even in 1929, civilization was absent in some parts of Southern Africa!

In 1929, two agents of General Motors, South Africa, Donald Bain and Wilfred Cassere decided to attempt the crossing of the Kalahari Desert by car using an Oldsmobile, an American production of the General Motors group. Loaded with food and drink, tools and gasoline, they set off with the ambition of being the first to complete the crossing of the desert by car. In six days and 1,126 kilometers they reached their destination, not without difficulty.
When it was known the Oldsmobile expedition would pass through Gobabis to Ghanzi, thence straight across the Kalahari to Molepolole, many requests were made by residents on the western side for letters to be carried across the desert. It was therefore decided to carry a special Oldsmobile Kalahari mail. When the expedition arrived at Gobabis, the last rail head on that side of the Kalahari, the mail train had just arrived and the mail bag was handed over officially for delivery to the postmaster at Ghanzi. "This particular mail will be nearly a month ahead of its time," remarked Mr. Scott, the postmaster at Gobabis, as he put the official seal on the bag. Mr. Scott had prepared a special round postmark and all the covers bore impressions of the private cachet used on the expedition. It was a double rimmed 30.5 mm circle and read 'OLDSMOBILE I 23 Nov. 1929. I KALAHARI MAIL'. He explained that the usual procedure was for a native postman, preceded by a donkey carrying the mail and supplies for the road, to cross from Gobabis to Ghanzi and back each month. The trip each way took two weeks and the population of Ghanzi were agreeably surprised when the Oldsmobile delivered the mail in 24 hours. Supplies for Ghanzi were conveyed by ox-wagon which took about six weeks to cross approximately 210 miles of desert. This is largely due to the absence of water, the oxen having to be unyoked several times during the journey and sent back for water, leaving the load in the desert until they return.
In Ghanzi, with hundreds of miles of thirst on every side, lived three of the pioneers of the desert - Mr. W.E. Ellam, Magistrate; Mr. Boyle, who acted as doctor, chemist and postmaster; with Sergeant Campbell in charge of the Camel and Ox Mounted Police. These three hardy men controlled approximately 70,000 square miles of territory, maintaining order among the bushmen, ministering to the sick, carrying out a hundred and one necessary duties under the most trying conditions imaginable. They insisted upon delaying the Oldsmobile mail for several hours, and their hospitality was unbounded. Mr. Boyle, the postmaster, made up a mail bag for the Eastern side of the Kalahari and the 'Olds' plunged into the desert. The next delivery of the mail was at Molepolole, 460 miles across the desert, followed by Gaberones and Johannesburg.



Photograph of the 'Kalahari Oldsmobile' at an unknown location. Note the mounted police - one on a camel.



A cover addressed to 'Ghansis' (sic) bearing three South African 1d 'Ship' stamps overprinted 'S.W.A.' All stamps are 'cancelled' with the special expedition cachet. There are no postal cancellations. It would appear from the imprint that the cover originated in Windhoek. Various manuscript endorsements include 'Per The Kalahari Oldsmobile Greased Lightning Service'.





Bechuanaland

Bechuanaland

Stamp Purchases Account

This simple log will facilitate maintaining an accurate record of stamp purchases as well as tracking the total amount outlayed to date.

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

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

Bechuanaland

Stamp Purchases Account - continued

COLUMN FOUR			COLUMN FIVE			COLUMN SIX		
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 _____

Bechuanaland

Stamp Album Inventory

This inventory provides a means of accurately recording each acquisition, as well as easily identifying stamps still to be acquired.

	MINT	UNUSED	USED	USED			MINT	UNUSED	USED	USED	
SG No	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	VALUE	SG No	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	VALUE
SG No 40						SG No 60					
SG No 41						SG No 61					
SG No 42						SG No 62					
SG No 43						SG No 63					
SG No 44						SG No 64					
SG No 45						SG No 65					
SG No 46						SG No 66					
SG No 47						SG No 67					
SG No 48						SG No 68					
SG No 49						SG No 69					
SG No 50						SG No 70					
SG No 51						SG No 71					
SG No 52						SG No 72					
SG No 53						SG No 73					
SG No 54						SG No 74					
SG No 55						SG No 75					
SG No 56						SG No 76					
SG No 57						SG No 77					
SG No 58						SG No 78					
SG No 59						SG No 79					

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.

Bechuanaland

Stamp Album Inventory - continued.

	MINT	UNUSED	USED	USED			MINT	UNUSED	USED	USED	
SG No	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	VALUE	SG No	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	VALUE
SG No 80						SG No 111					
SG No 81						SG No 112					
SG No 82						SG No 113					
SG No 83						SG No 114					
SG No 84						SG No 115					
SG No 85						SG No 116					
SG No 86						SG No 117					
SG No 87						SG No 118					
SG No 88						SG No 119					
SG No 89						SG No 120					
SG No						SG No 121					
SG No 91						SG No 122					
SG No 92						SG No 123					
SG No 93						SG No 124					
SG No 94						SG No 125					
SG No 95						SG No 126					
SG No 96						SG No 127					
SG No 97						SG No 128					
SG No 98						SG No 118a					
SG No 99						SG No 118b					
SG No 100						SG No 118c					
SG No 101						SG No 120a					
SG No 102						SG No 124a					
SG No 103						SG No 125a					
SG No 104						SG No 129					
SG No 105						SG No 130					
SG No 106						SG No 131					
SG No 107						SG No 132					
SG No 108						SG No 133					
SG No 109						SG No 134					
SG No 110						SG No 135					

Bechuanaland

Stamp Album Inventory - continued.

	MINT	UNUSED	USED	USED			MINT	UNUSED	USED	USED	
SG No	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	VALUE	SG No	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	FINE,V/FINE SUPERB.	AVERAGE POOR.	VALUE
SG No 136						SG No 165					
SG No 137						SG No 166					
SG No 138						SG No 167					
SG No 139						SG No 157a					
SG No 140						SG No 159a					
SG No 141						SG No 161a					
SG No 142						SG No 161b					
SG No 143						SG No 161d					
SG No 144						SG No 162a					
SG No 145						SG No 167b					
SG No 146						SG No 168					
SG No 146a						SG No 169					
SG No 146b						SG No 170					
SG No 147						SG No 171					
SG No 148						SG No 172					
SG No 149						SG No 173					
SG No 150						SG No 174					
SG No 151						SG No 175					
SG No 152						SG No 176					
SG No 153						SG No 177					
SG No 154						SG No 178					
SG No 155						SG No 179					
SG No 156						SG No 180					
SG No 157						SG No 181					
SG No 158						SG No 182					
SG No 159						SG No 183					
SG No 160						SG No 184					
SG No 161						SG No 185					
SG No 162						SG No 186					
SG No 163						SG No 187					
SG No 164						SG No 188					

Bechuanaland

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 189					
SG No 190					
SG No 191					
SG No 192					
SG No 193					
SG No 194					
SG No 195					
SG No 196					
SG No 197					
SG No 198					
SG No 199					
SG No 200					
SG No 201					
SG No					
SG No D1					
SG No D2					
SG No D3					
SG No D4					
SG No D5					
SG No D6					
SG No D5a					
SG No D6c					
SG No D7					
SG No D7a					
SG No D8					
SG No D8c					
SG No D9					
SG No D10					
SG No D11					
SG No D12					