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South Africa: Stellaland and British Bechuanaland

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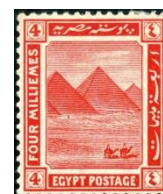
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African Studies Centre Leiden

African Postal Heritage

APH Paper Nr 11

Ton Dietz

STELLALAND and BRITISH BECHUANALAND

Version January 2017

Introduction

Postage stamps and related objects are miniature communication tools, and they tell a story about cultural and political identities and about artistic forms of identity expressions. They are part of the world's material heritage, and part of history. Ever more of this postal heritage becomes available online, published by stamp collectors' organizations, auction houses, commercial stamp shops, online catalogues, and individual collectors. Virtually collecting postage stamps and postal history has recently become a possibility. These working papers about Africa are examples of what can be done. But they are work-in-progress! Everyone who would like to contribute, by sending corrections, additions, and new area studies can do so by sending an email message to the APH editor: Ton Dietz (dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl). You are welcome!

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Illustrations cover page:

ASC Leiden postage stamp Nederland (2011): ©African Studies Centre Leiden

Cape of Good Hope postage stamp 1853:

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/7c/Cape_Triangular_Postage_Stamp.jpg/400px-Cape_Triangular_Postage_Stamp.jpg

Egypt postage stamp 1914:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4b/Post_Stamp_Egypt.jpg

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SOUTH AFRICA

Postal history and postage stamps of Stellaland

Introduction



http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/34/Stellaland_COA.png

<http://www.stampworldhistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Stellaland-150x100.png>

“Stellaland used to be an independent Boer Republic, until it was annexed by Great Britain (27 February 1884) and made part of the British Colony Bechuanaland on 30 September 1885. According to Michel Katalog Süd- und Zentralafrika (2007, p. 929) five postage stamps were issued on 1 February 1884 (printed by Van der Sandt, De Villiers & Co, in Cape Town, followed by a stamp with an overprinted value). Officially they could be used until 2 December 1885. Stamps that had not been sold officially were sold to a private firm, Whitfield, King & Co.

Wikipedia EN: “The Republic of Stellaland (Dutch: Republiek Stellaland) was from 1882 to 1883 a Boer republic located in an area of Bechuanaland (now Botswana [sic, this is untrue; it was part of the British Colony of Bechuanaland, that is now part of South Africa]), west of the Transvaal. After unification with the neighbouring State of Goshen, it was the United States of Stellaland (Dutch: Verenigde Staten van Stellaland) from 1883 to 1885. During its short history, the small state became a focal point for conflict between the British Empire and the South African Republic, the two major players vying for control of the territory. After a series of claims and annexations, British fears of Boer expansionism led to its demise and, among other factors, set the stage for the Second Boer War.... Because van Niekerk's government had announced its intention to levy taxes on all trade going through its territory, Cecil Rhodes, founder of the De Beers diamond company, and the British administration feared a setback for their endeavours in the mining business, because Stellaland lay on

one of the main trade routes. It was also presumed that the small country could eventually be incorporated into the neighbouring South African Republic in an effort to circumvent the Pretoria Convention of 1881 which called for an end to Boer expansionism. Rhodes even asserted that the area was of such a crucial nature to the Crown that if the territory held by Stellaland remained under Afrikaner control, British presence "should fall from the position of a paramount state in South Africa to that of a minor state". These fears were fuelled when, on 10 September 1884, President Paul Kruger of Transvaal declared the area to be under the protection of the South African Republic and annexed it six days later. In December 1884 the British sent in a force under Sir Charles Warren, who invaded the country and abolished the republic in August of the following year before it was incorporated into British Bechuanaland".



“Stellaland with its capital Vryburg on a contemporary map prior to unification with Goshen to the northeast”.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stellaland>

“Stellaland was a short-lived Boer republic from 1882 until 1885, located in southern Bechuanaland, west of the then South African Republic. With Vryburg as its capital it was incorporated in British Bechuanaland in 1885. British Bechuanaland was subsequently incorporated into the Cape of Good Hope in 1895”.

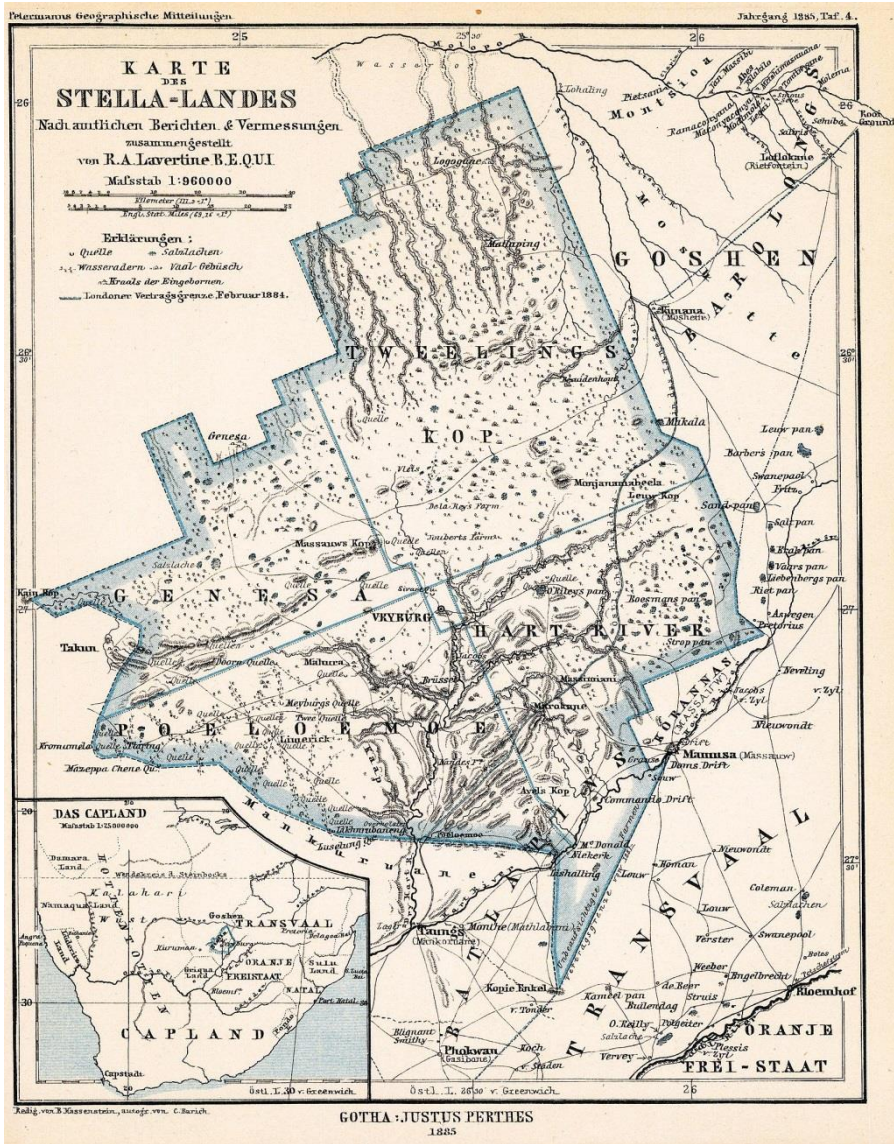
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_Stellaland_Republic



Gerrit Jacobus van Niekerk (1849-1896), President of the Republic of Stellaland 1884-1885.

<https://www.geni.com/people/President-Gerrit-Jacobus-Van-Niekerk/6000000009338974770>

https://thumbnail.myheritageimages.com/284/231/60284231/000/000004_8305895e67deb4r4tin420_W_327x259.jpg



https://stadsbeplanner.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/stellaland-map_sharpnd1.jpg



<http://www.stampworldhistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Stellaland-small.png>

“Stellaland is a Boer republic located in southern Africa. Its history was short but eventful. In 1882 Boers from the South African Republic support one of the Tswana rulers in his fight against competing Tswana rulers, and in return for their support are given part of his land. Since the 1881 Convention of Pretoria, signed by the Boer and the British, forbade the South African Republic to extend its territory further into Tswana land, two new republics were formed by the Boer: the State of Goshen and the republic of Stellaland. Goshen and Stellaland, subsequently, joined to form the United States of Stellaland in 1883. In 1884, in the aftermath of the First Boer War, the Convention of London is signed thus redefining the relations between the Boer and the British. As per this convention, part of the territory of Stellaland is ceded to the South African Republic. Both the British and the South African Republic have an interest in the remainder of Stellaland – both declaring Stellaland to be a protectorate. The British interest is that Stellaland is located on a trading route that is of importance to the British. In late 1884 the British invade and occupy Stellaland to protect their interests. In 1885 Stellaland is annexed to the British colony of Bechuanaland formed the same year”.

<http://www.stampworldhistory.com/country-profiles-2/africa/stellaland/> .

Postage stamps:

1884



http://www.rhodesia.co.za/Images/featured/AB2309_f.jpg



https://stadsbeplanner.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/cropped-22-20125110341_original_resize.jpg

Michel 1: 1 P red



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f0/Stamp_Stellaland_1p.jpg

http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Stellaland/SG1_used.jpg

http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Stellaland/SG1_manuscript_x_in_ink.jpg



http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Stellaland/SG1_Barkley_West_7_9_85.jpg “1d cancelled with Barkley West SP 7 85.. A relation is thus found between the means of cancellation and the postmaster of the day. It becomes clear that Hartzenberg, Dekker and Eaton each had a distinctly different way of cancelling their stamps. The first stamps were cancelled with the date only (probably by Dekker),

Hartzenberg applied the date and his initials and Eaton either did not cancel the stamp or applied a pen or blue pencil stroke. This coupled with the transit or arrival postmarks of outside offices gives us an interesting array of stamps. With the British takeover the postal route also changed with all mail now passing through Barkly West and Kimberley. Hence stamps are found cancelled at these two towns in transit with the dates corresponding with the period of British involvement”.



http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Stellaland/SG1_BONC_27.jpg “1d with

BONC 27.. Other postmarks found on stamps also cancelled in transit or by receiving offices are Zeerust ZAR (target 8), Rustenberg ZAR (target 3), Hoopstad OFS (numeral 27) and Barkly West CC (BONC 232). Stellaland was incorporated into the crown colony of the British Bechuanaland on 30 September 1885 with the stamps being replaced on 2 December 1885. The first date stamp to be received by Vryburg arrived on 30 December 1885”.

http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Stellaland/SG1_Target_8_cancel.jpg

Michel 2: 3 P yellow



<http://media.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Stellaland/Postage-stamps/A1-s.jpg>

http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Stellaland/SG2_Earliest_recorded_date.jpg

<https://stadsbeplanner.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/1958.jpg?w=137&h=150> “Cancelled stamps: Stellaland never had a device for cancelling their stamps. According to Jurgens there were instructions to the postmaster “to cancel all stamps on letters with pen and ink”. Vryburg is found first listed on 8 August 1883 as the post office of the Stellaland Republic (Putzel). Stamps were delivered to Stellaland during February 1884 and during the first few months stamps are found manuscript cancelled with the date only. The earliest date recorded is 29 February 1884. The postal route during the period of the Stellaland rule was by way of Christiana and hence the ZAR target canceller with numeral 6 seen on stamps (applied in transit). From August 1884 onwards stamps are seen for most

part with both the date and initials (of the postmaster). Initials seen are: "F.H.", "C.G.D" and "F.C.L". With the aid of old Stellaland documents lodged at the Cape Archives it is possible to positively identify "F.H." as belonging to Ferdinand Hartzenberg and "F.C.L" as that of Frans Coenraad Dekker. The initials "C.G.D" belonged to a Dennison but only one stamp is attributed to him. The bulk of the stamps are found with Hartzenberg's initials and only three stamps are seen with those of his predecessor, namely that of Dekker, who was the first postmaster. Dekker was already postmaster during the pre-stamp period and the earliest stamps cancelled with the date only would probably have been his work. Sir Charles Warren's expedition reached Vryburg on 7 February 1885 with the aim to place the area under British control. According to Putzel the Vryburg post office was listed under British Bechuanaland from 23 March 1885. The practice of the postmaster to cancel the stamp with his initials is not seen later than May 1885. During these last months that the Stellaland stamps were in use it was cancelled only with the stroke of a pen or not cancelled at all. This practice coincides more or less with the takeover by the British and was probably employed by Francis Alexander Eaton whom replaced Ferdinand Hartzenberg as postmaster of Vryburg on 11 June 1885. The fact that stamps were not cancelled could suggest that they were not officially recognized by the British occupiers. The only example of Eaton actually cancelling stamps with his name is a cover dated 26 June 1885, from the early part of his officiate. A relation is thus found between the means of cancellation and the postmaster of the day. It becomes clear that Hartzenberg, Dekker and Eaton each had a distinctly different way of cancelling their stamps. The first stamps were cancelled with the date only (probably by Dekker), Hartzenberg applied the date and his initials and Eaton either did not cancel the stamp or applied a pen or blue pencil stroke. This coupled with the transit or arrival postmarks of outside offices gives us an interesting array of stamps. With the British takeover the postal route also changed with all mail now passing through Barkly West and Kimberley. Hence stamps are found cancelled at these two towns in transit with the dates corresponding with the period of British involvement. Other postmarks found on stamps also cancelled in transit or by receiving offices are Zeerust ZAR (target 8), Rustenberg ZAR (target 3), Hoopstad OFS (numeral 27) and Barkly West CC (BONC 232). Stellaland was incorporated into the crown colony of the British Bechuanaland on 30 September 1885 with the stamps being replaced on 2 December 1885. The first date stamp to be received by Vryburg arrived on 30 December 1885".



http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Originals/Hennie/Big/SG2_latest_Hartzenberg_date%20-%20Copy.jpg

http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Stellaland/SG2_manuscript_FCL_17_8_84.jpg

http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Stellaland/SG2_manuscript_CGD_pm.jpg



http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Stellaland/SG2_manuscript_blue_crayon_stroke.jpg



http://www.harmerschau.com/lotphotos_large/102/152926.jpg

Michel 3: 4 P greyish blue



<http://media.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Stellaland/Postage-stamps/A2-s.jpg>

http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Stellaland/SG3_mint.jpg

http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Stellaland/SG3a_mint.jpg “

The Republic of Stellaland was formally created on 26 July 1882, under the leadership of its elected president Gerrit Jacobus van Niekerk, a farmer from Transvaal and was given the name Stellaland (Star Land) in reference to a comet that was visible in the skies at the time. The town of Vryburg was founded and declared its capital. At its founding, the new country covered an area of 5,985 square miles and was home to an estimated population of 20,500 individuals, 3,000 of whom were of European ancestry. The State of Goshen, named after the biblical Land of Goshen, was founded by Nicolaas Claudius Gey van Pittius in October 1882 in the neighbouring area called Rooigrond with the approval of chief Moshette. Goshen had an estimated population of 17,000, of whom approximately 2,000 were of European origin, and covered an area of 4,015 square miles. On 6 August 1883, Stellaland and Goshen united to form the United States of Stellaland”.

http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Collect_Stellaland.htm



http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Stellaland/SG3_manuscript_FH_12_2_85.jpg

<http://www.philasearch.com/bilder/A09081/S34/9119.jpg>

http://www.philaseiten.de/up/4399011/0/3/af47aaa0_1.png

https://encrypted-tbn1.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcRu9sWI3LJk0q21a_gIXUc0lGqvUIZg5j-WCJlaVX_4XbfcT1sgww "OFS 27 Hoopstad".

Michel 4: 6 P violet



<http://www.stampworldhistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Stellaland2.jpgv>

<http://media.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Stellaland/Postage-stamps/A3-s.jpg>

http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Stellaland/SG4_manuscript_FH_1_2_85.jpg

http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Stellaland/SG4_manuscript_KA_14_12_84.jpg

[http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/MTAwMlgxMDI0/z/g5YAAOSwWktUxsmv/\\$_57.JPG](http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/MTAwMlgxMDI0/z/g5YAAOSwWktUxsmv/$_57.JPG)

Michel 5: 1 Sh green



<http://media.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Stellaland/Postage-stamps/A4-s.jpg>

http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Stellaland/SG5_mint.jpg

http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Stellaland/SG5_used.jpg



<http://www.michael-hamilton.com/images/STEL46821.jpg> “232 used Barkly West, Griqualand West on Stellaland stamp. (rounded top "3") fine full on 1884 1/- green (SG.5, Cat.£700), stamp with 7mm tear at base and some scissor-cut top perfs.”.



<http://www.sammler.com/bm/images/britische-kolonien-stellaland.jpg>

1885

Michel 6: “Twee” on 4 P greyish blue



<http://media.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Stellaland/Postage-stamps/B-s.jpg>

<https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09415/S125/1057.jpg> “1885 2d on 4d olive-grey Arms of the Republic with local provisional handstamp sideways in violet-lake, quite rare, OG, LH, SUPERB, with RPSL certificate”.

http://www.stampsoftheworld.co.uk/w/images/thumb/4/42/Stellaland_1885_Arms_surch_Twee_a.jpg/180px-Stellaland_1885_Arms_surch_Twee_a.jpg



<http://thumbs.ebaystatic.com/images/g/yJAAOSwQYZWuiLR/s-l225.jpg>

<http://thumbs.ebaystatic.com/images/g/7scAAOSwsN9XCS2B/s-l225.jpg>

Information on: <https://stadsbeplanner.wordpress.com/>

Timeline

Posted on **March 25, 2013** • Posted in **Uncategorized** • [Leave a comment](#)

January 1883 (approx.) – Post office opens at Vryburg & postal service commenced to Christiana (Putzel)

7 August 1883 – Stellaland proclaimed an independent republic by G J van Niekerk (Theal)

8 August 1883 – Vryburg listed as the post office of Stellaland Republic (Putzel)

February 1884 – Stamps delivered.

23 September 1884 – Postal contract concluded between Stellaland Government and WM Geeringh, the Vryburg-Christiana postal contractor.

7 February 1885 – Sir Charles Warren’s expedition reaches Vryburg.

23 March 1885 – Vryburg post office listed under British Bechuanaland (Putzel)

11 June 1885 – Francis Eaton replaces Ferdinand Hartzenberg as postmaster of Vryburg.

30 September 1885 – Stellaland incorporated into the crown colony of the British Bechuanaland.

2 December 1885 – Stellaland stamps replaced.

Postmasters:

F Dekker: appointed approx. 1882

Ferdinand Hartzenberg: 1884 – 11 June 1885 (Initials: “FH”)

Francis Alexander Eaton: 1 July 1885? – early 1886 (Probably did not initial stamps but rather pen-stroke cancelled)

CG Dennison: date?

Covers:

Covers are very rare. Drysdall¹ described 13 in his 1992 article. Groenewald (2002: 110) added a 14th cover. Examples are shown below.



<https://stadsbeplanner.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/scan0014.jpg>

¹ Drysdall, A.R. 1992. A postal History of Stellaland. London Philatelist, 101:54 – 66, March.

Drysdall, A.R. 1992. A postal History of Stellaland (continued). London Philatelist, 101:95 – 99, April.



<https://stadsbeplanner.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/scan0015.jpg>

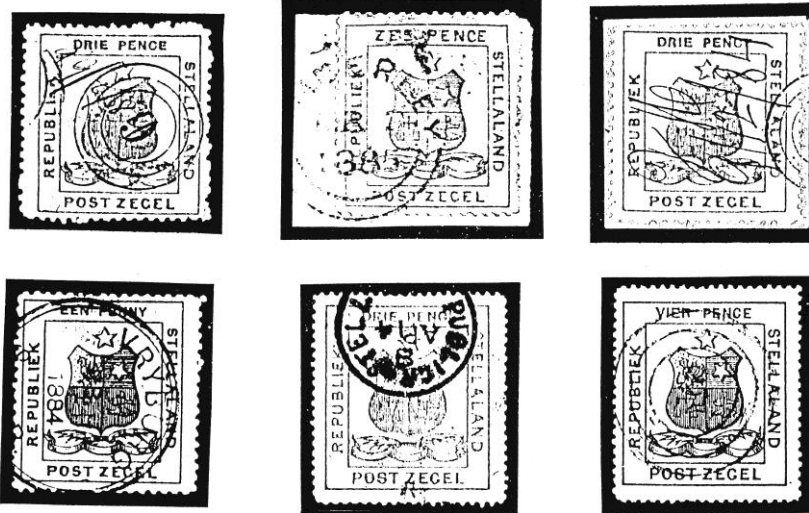


<https://stadsbeplanner.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/ab1573.jpg>

Also see: http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/Collect_Stellaland.htm

Postal markings on Stellaland stamps

Alan Drysdall



A significant proportion of the mail that originated in Stellaland – and there was very little – was addressed to the Transvaal, often Pretoria, and crossed the border at Christiana. The franking on such a letter should have comprised a Stellaland stamp – usually a 3d duty – plus a ZAR 3d stamp to receipt payment of the inland half-ounce letter rates of both territories. (Stellaland stamps had no validity outside the Republic.) The Stellaland stamp was normally cancelled in manuscript with initials and the date of posting in Vryburg, and the ZAR stamp at Christiana, usually with the target-type canceller coded '6'. However, it would seem that occasionally the Christiana office cancelled the Stellaland stamp, and an example is illustrated above (at top-left). Uncancelled Stellaland stamps were not infrequently cancelled at the receiving office, hence the existence of Stellaland stamps cancelled at various offices in the ZAR and OFS.

Mail addressed into or *via* Cape Province was forwarded *via* Kimberley rather than Christiana, and there must be a possibility that the Stellaland stamps were on occasions cancelled there. An example of a 6d stamp apparently so cancelled on 'MR 2 / 1885'

is illustrated above (top-centre) courtesy of John Taylor. Holmes (1971, p.27), however, records that:

The datestamps of some Cape post offices are occasionally to be found cancelling genuine Stellaland stamps, but the dates always show that they were applied after the stamps had become obsolete on December 2nd, 1885.

The Vryburg datestamp set at 'FEB. 12 / 1884' struck in black on the 1d stamp – above, bottom-left, courtesy of John Taylor – is described by Holmes (1971, p.27) as follows:

Genuine stamps are to be found cancelled with a double-lined circular datestamp, with the name VRYBURG around the top and S. R. at the base, with the date in two lines in the centre. The dates are FEB. 12 1884 and FEB. 18 1884. This datestamp is bogus.

The other two stamps illustrated – again courtesy of John Taylor – differ in that they are forgeries of the basic stamps. The single-circle datestamp struck on the 3d duty and inscribed 'PUBLICR STELL' is particularly obvious, but the 4d stamp printed in red(!) and cancelled with an oversize target-type mark coded '5' is in a different class, and rivals the 1d stamp printed in blue reported by Holmes.

Reference

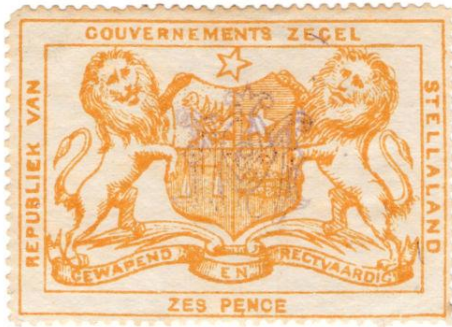
Holmes, H.R., 1971, *The postage stamps, postal stationery, and postmarks of the Bechuanalands*: The Royal Philatelic Society, London

https://stadsbeplanner.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/img_0001.jpg

Reven ue stamps 1884-1885



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bc/1885_stamp_of_Stelland.jpg “Stellaland's first revenues were issued in 1884 with the republic's coat of arms. Two years later a number of them were issued handstamped with a monogram **JPM** since a number of the original stamps had been stolen”. And : “British Bechuanaland's first revenues were stamps of Stellaland with the country's name obliterated and British Bechuanaland added by hand in 1886. A year later Stellaland revenues were issued with a small blue handstamp with the name of the new colony. Both of these issues are extremely rare and hard to find. Later in 1887 Cape of Good Hope revenues were issued overprinted for British Bechuanaland. These were replaced by dual-purpose postage and revenue stamps later in 1887, but these were still mainly intended for fiscal rather than postal use.”.



[http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/NTcwWdc3Mg==/z/THCAAOSwZQxW5bE1/\\$_12.JPG](http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/NTcwWdc3Mg==/z/THCAAOSwZQxW5bE1/$_12.JPG)



[http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/NTY5Wdc4Mg==/z/iw0AAOSw~OVWyf6m/\\$_12.JPG](http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/NTY5Wdc4Mg==/z/iw0AAOSw~OVWyf6m/$_12.JPG)



<http://i1017.photobucket.com/albums/af296/adam78-pix/Nov%202010%20sale/Stellaland1.jpg>



[http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/NTYzWdc5Ng==/z/qnwAAOSwQYZWYf6o/\\$_12.JPG](http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/NTYzWdc5Ng==/z/qnwAAOSwQYZWYf6o/$_12.JPG)



[http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/NDQ5WDYzOQ==/z/II8AAOSwoydWm9qi/\\$_12.JPG](http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/NDQ5WDYzOQ==/z/II8AAOSwoydWm9qi/$_12.JPG)



<https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09415/S125/v1058.jpg>



[https://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/NDcyWDYyOQ==/z/TpkAAOSwsN9XAU~1/\\$_35.JPG](https://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/NDcyWDYyOQ==/z/TpkAAOSwsN9XAU~1/$_35.JPG)

https://encrypted-tbn3.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcSm4cmFMWC_rs9EsTeAR9_6oXQoeZxJuLgMXNjBarSXBFEupKKV

<http://thumbs.ebaystatic.com/images/g/aT4AAOSwoBtW5bQO/s-1140.jpg>



<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/images/philatelic/stellaland1886.jpg>



<https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcRmPndxjhMiFfv4q8fozUTMqBfQKfMsdX5Hp2e6bZuSJUmCLcRGoQ>

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<http://thumbs.ebaystatic.com/images/g/GSMAAOSwDuJWyf6T/s-1140.jpg>



<http://thumbs.ebaystatic.com/images/g/r1EAAOSwWTRWuiOJ/s-1225.jpg>

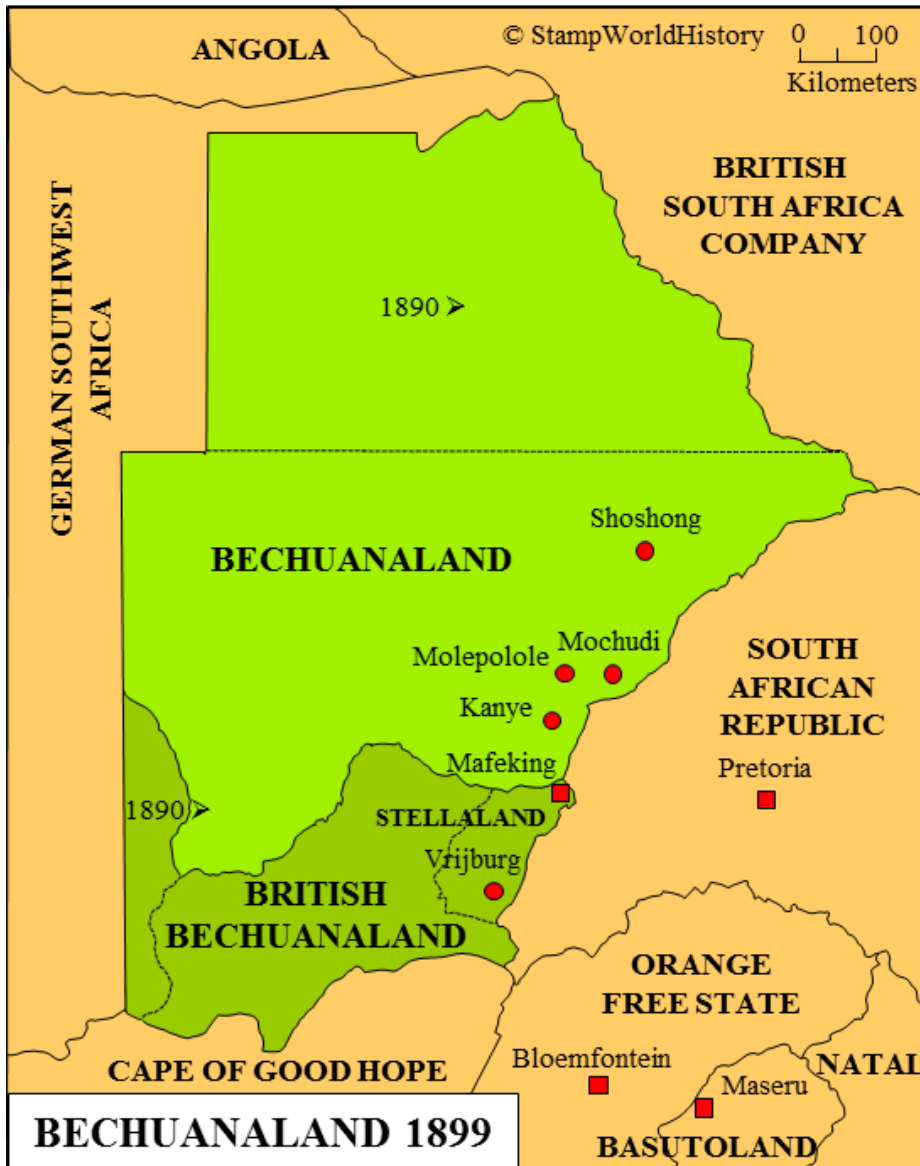


<http://i1017.photobucket.com/albums/af296/adam78-pix/Nov%202010%20sale/Stellaland2.jpg>

British Bechuanaland: Introduction

When British forces in Cape of Good Hope annexed the former Boer Republic Stellaland in 1885, on 30 September 1885 a new Crown Colony 'British Bechuanaland' was created, and other areas added south of the Molopo River. The area North of that river was declared a British Protectorate on the same day, Bechuanaland Protectorate, which would become the independent Republic of Botswana from September 1966 onwards. Between 1885 and 1890 there was a separate postal administration, between June 1890 and 1895 a joint postal administration. In 1895 the Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland became part of the Crown Colony Cape of Good Hope.

Reference is made to the Michel Katalog für Süd- und Zentralafrika, 2007, Betschuanaland, pp 179-181.



<http://www.stampworldhistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Bechuanaland.png>

Postage stamps of British Bechuanaland 1885-1890

1885 (2 December) – March 1887: “British Bechuanaland” on postage stamps of Cape of Good Hope

1/2p, blackish grey



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/A-i.jpg>

Michel 1

1/2p, grey (1887)



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/A1-i.jpg>

Michel 2

Misprint:



<http://www.stamptdomain.com/country/botswana/SG1b.jpg>

1p red



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/A2-i.jpg>

Michel 3

2p, olive brown



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/A3-i.jpg>

<http://thumbs.ebaystatic.com/images/g/5JgAAOSwQaJXR6Ov/s-l225.jpg>; postmark Mafeking.

Michel 4

3p, brownish rosa



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/A4-i.jpg>

Michel 5

4p, blue (December 1886)



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/A5-s.jpg>

Michel 6

6p, lilac



Michel 7

1 Shilling, yellow green (November 1886)

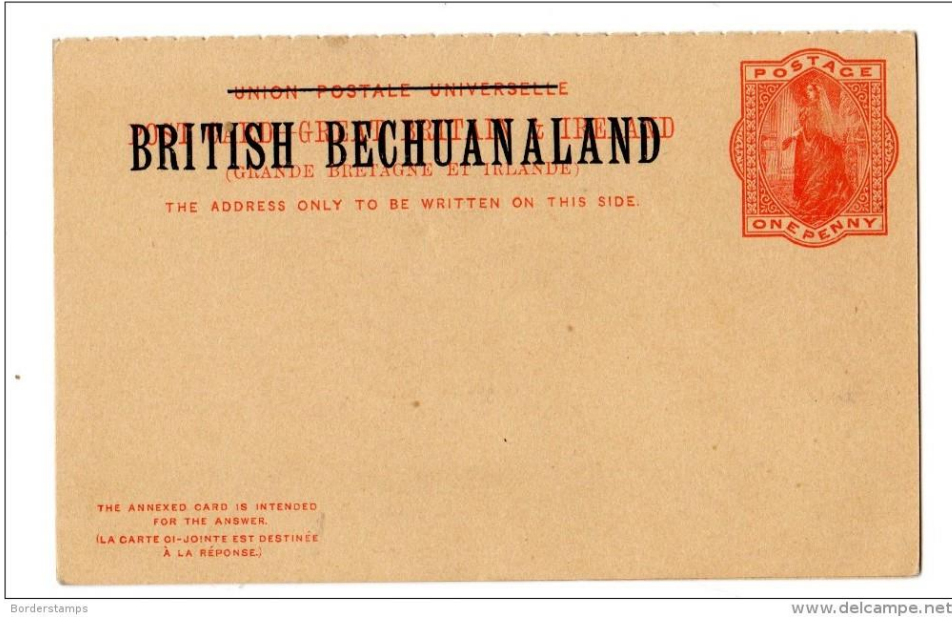


<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/A7-i.jpg>

Michel 8

All: "1885 -1887 Cape of Good Hope Postage Stamps Overprinted "BRITISH - BECHUANALAND" in Black.WM: 1 Design: Charles Bell Perforation: 14".

Postcards 1885/1886



http://images.delcampe.com/img_large/auction/000/332/577/554_001.jpg?v=1



http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/356/147/016_001.jpg?v=1

Postcards 1886



Cele17

www.delcampe.net

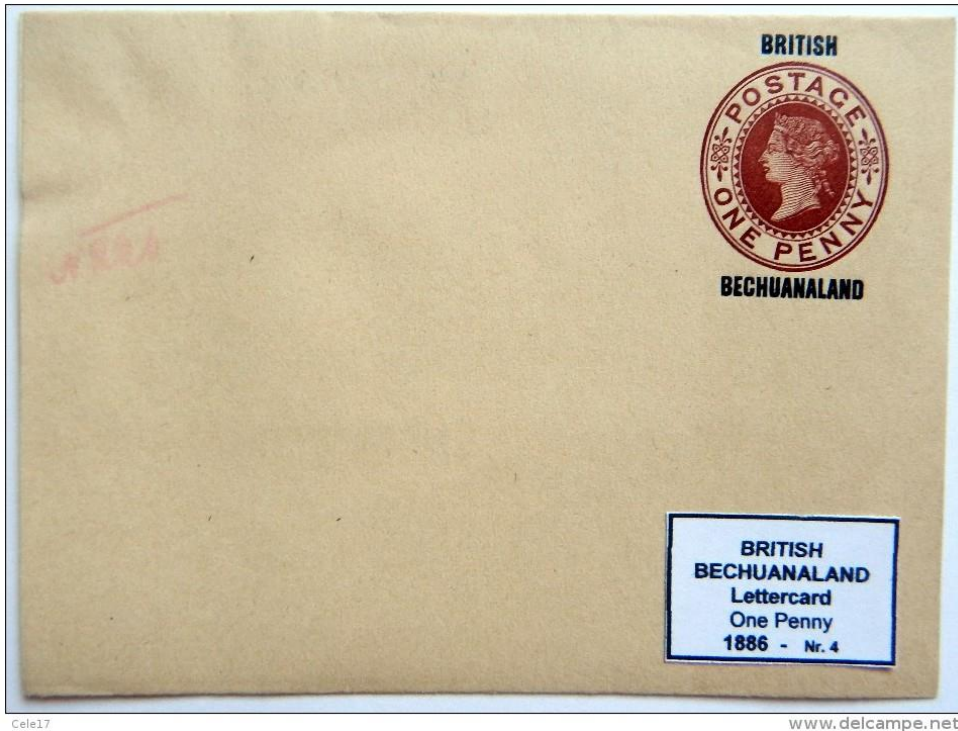
http://images-00.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/356/146/034_001.jpg?v=1



Ephrim

www.delcampe.net

http://images.delcampe.com/img_large/auction/000/230/195/545_001.jpg?v=2



http://images.delcampe.com/img_large/auction/000/356/146/619_001.jpg?v=1



<http://s3.bench.li/images/original/3731.jpg>: “Rare Registration Envelope, British Bechuanaland, 1886”

1887 (1 November) : “British Bechuanaland” on postage stamp of Great Britain

1/2p orange red



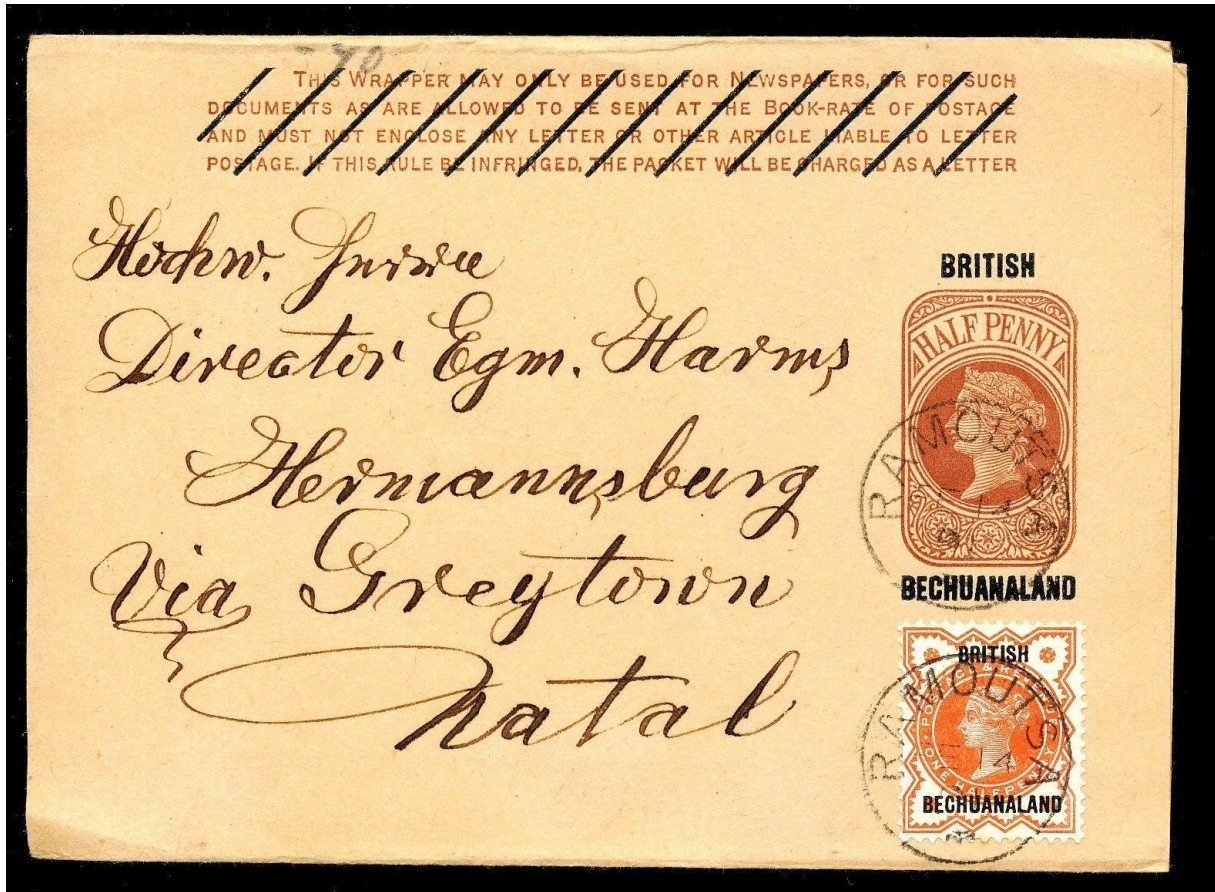
<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/B-s.jpg>:
“1887 Great Britain No.86 Overprinted "BRITISH - BECHUANALAND" 1. November
WM: 3 Sheetsize: 240 Perforation: 14”.

<http://thumbs.ebaystatic.com/images/g/5ZwAAOSwrkIVRIIb/s-l225.jpg>

Michel 9



<http://www.chrisrainey.com/images/6320.jpg>



<https://1887jubileeissue.files.wordpress.com/2015/12/30-50.jpg> : “Uprated newspaper wrappers and postcards with the Bechuanaland 1/2d are reasonably common, but nevertheless this attractive example sent from Ramoutsa....”

1887 (1 November) “British Bechuanaland” on revenue stamp of Great Britain

1p



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/C-i.jpg>

Michel 10

2p



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/C1-i.jpg>

Michel 11

3p



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/C2-i.jpg>

Michel 12

4p



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/C3-i.jpg>

Michel 13

6p



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/C4-i.jpg>

Michel 14

1 Shilling



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/D-i.jpg>

<http://thumbs1.ebaystatic.com/images/g/GzgAAOSwLF1YB3GI/s-l225.jpg>; postmark

Vryburg

Michel 15

2 Shilling

Not yet included

Michel 16

2sh6p



http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com/British_Bechuanaland/SG17_mint.jpg

Michel 17

5 Shilling



<http://thumbs.ebaystatic.com/images/g/N0oAAOSwT6pVrk20/s-l225.jpg> (together with 2sh6d).

Michel 18

10 Shilling



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/D4-i.jpg>

<http://thumbs1.ebaystatic.com/images/g/NCwAAOSwa81XR6WK/s-l225.jpg>

http://i1226.photobucket.com/albums/ee419/Billys_40/PS%20Specimen/Bechuanaland-20.jpg

Michel 19

1 pound



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/E-i.jpg>

http://www.southafricanstamps.net/Bechuanaland/Queen_Victoria/SG20_used.jpg

Michel 20

5 Pound



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/E1-i.jpg>

http://www.southafricanstamps.net/Bechuanaland/Queen_Victoria/SG21_used.jpg

<http://thumbs1.ebaystatic.com/images/g/o~sAAOSwzvIW9Ctf/s-l225.jpg>

Michel 21

All: “1887 Not Issued Great Britain Stamps. 1. November WM: 5 Perforation: 14” (penny values), “1887 Not Issues{d} Great Britain Stamps. 1. November WM: 6 Perforation: 13½” (shilling values) and “1887 Not Issued Great Britain Stamps. 1. November WM: 5 Perforation: 14 x 13½ “ (pound values).



<https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/236x/a6/ec/2a/a6ec2af71c71db17d60c3890d93f839e.jpg>

Not mentioned in Michel Katalog.

Postcard 1888



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/6/64/Bechuanaland_1888_wrapper.jpg/220px-Bechuanaland_1888_wrapper.jpg

1888 (7 August) Idem

1p on 1p



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/F-i.jpg>

Michel 22

2p on 2p, with red and with green overprint



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/F1-i.jpg>

Michel 23a and b (23b not yet included)

4p on 4p



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/F3-i.jpg>

Michel 24

6p on 6p



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/F4-i.jpg>

Michel 25

1 S. on 1 Shilling



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/F5-i.jpg>

Michel 26

“1888 No.10-11 & 13-15 Overprinted Value. 7. August. WM: 5 Perforation: 13½ & 14”.

1888 (December)

1/2p on 3p



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/K-i.jpg>

: "1888 No.12 Surcharged. December. WM: 5 Perforation: 14"

Michel 27

1889 (January) "British Bechuanaland" on postage stamp of Cape of Good Hope

1/2 p



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/M-i.jpg>

: "1889 Cape of Good Hope No.31 Overprinted "BRITISH - BECHUANALAND" in Green January. WM: 2 Design: Charles Bell".

Michel 28

Postage stamps of British Bechuanaland and Bechuanaland Protectorate combined, 1891-1895 (1897)

1891 "British Bechuanaland" on postage stamps of Cape of Good Hope

1p red, with upward and downward overprint

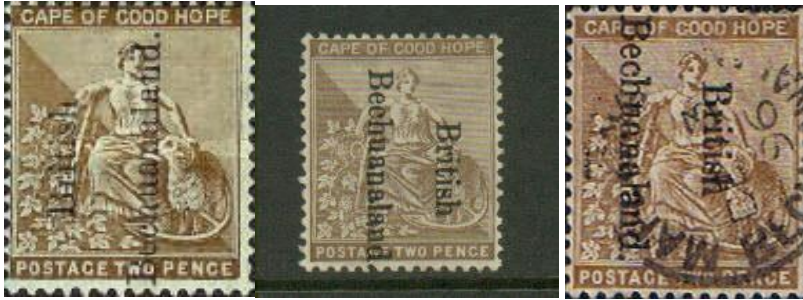


<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/P-i.jpg>

<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/P1-i.jpg>

Michel 38 I (November 1891) and II (December 1893)

2p olive brown with upward and downward overprint



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/P2-i.jpg>

http://catalogue.klaseboer.com/vol1/html/s_afr/bech51.jpg

<https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/236x/ac/60/99/ac6099a498ffab8e243e831c8a12b0ed.jpg>

Michel 39 I (November 1891) and II (15 March 1895) (II not yet included)

All: "1891 Cape of Good Hope Postage Stamps Overprinted - Dot after "Bechuanaland".
November. WM: 2 Design: Charles Bell Perforation: 14".

1891 (1 December) – July 1894 "British Bechuanaland" on postage stamps of Great Britain

1p



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/Q-i.jpg>

<http://thumbs.ebaystatic.com/images/g/K3UAAOSwdzVXvNQp/s-l225.jpg>; postmark
Vryburg.



<http://www.michael-hamilton.com/images/BECH55703.jpg>; postmark Vryburg

Michel 40

2p



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/R-i.jpg>

Michel 41

4p



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/S-i.jpg>

Michel 42

6p



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/T-i.jpg>

Michel 43

1 Shilling (July 1894)



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/U-i.jpg>

Michel 44

All: "1891 Great Britain Postage Stamps Overprinted. 1. December WM: 3 Sheetsize: 80 (4d) or 240 (others) Perforation: 14".

These stamps could be used in the Bechuanaland Protectorate after 1895. In the former Crown Colony (added to Cape of Good Hope in 1895) stamps of Cape of Good Hope had to be used.

However, in 1897 an additional stamp with "British Bechuanaland" was issued, to be used in the Protectorate, but accepted in the former Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland.

1897 (April-July) "British Bechuanaland" on postage stamps of Cape of Good Hope

1/2p



<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/V1-i.jpg>: “Description: 10½mm between print”.

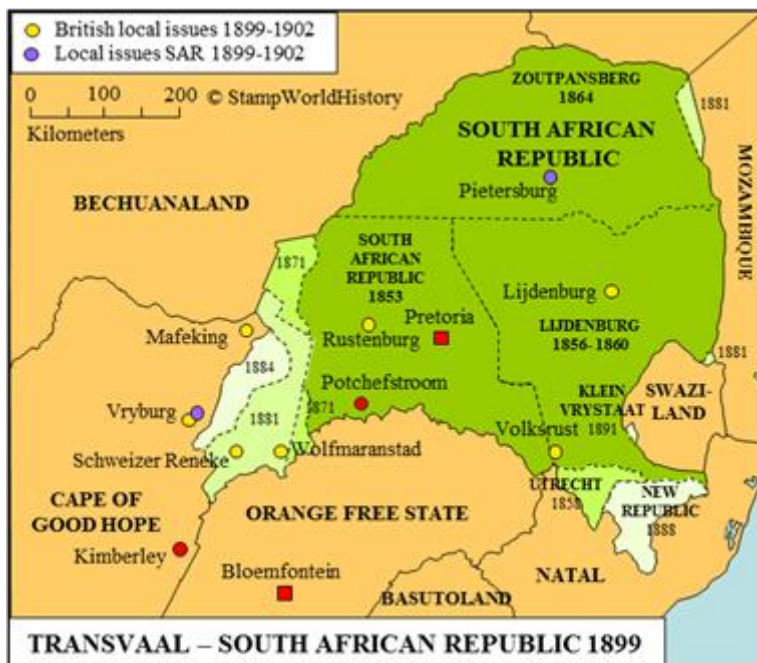
<https://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/British-Bechuanaland/Postage-stamps/V2-i.jpg>: “Description: 13½mm between print”.

The version with 13 mm between print: not yet included

Michel 45, in three types

All: “1897 Cape of Good Hope No.43 Overprinted - No Dot after "BECHUANALAND".
April WM: 2 Design: Charles Bell Perforation: 14”.

Vrijburg during the Anglo-Boer War



<http://www.stampworldhistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Transvaal-small.png>

see: <https://www.spink.com/files/catalogue/14018.pdf> pp. 300-314 about Vrijburg during the Anglo-Boer War.



V.R.Special Post, Vrijburg. 1900, during Anglo-Boer War.

[http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/MTE1Mlg4NjQ=/z/nE0AAOSwEeFVQ457/\\$_1.JPG](http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/MTE1Mlg4NjQ=/z/nE0AAOSwEeFVQ457/$_1.JPG)

<http://stampauctionnetwork.com/f/101/155.jpg>



http://images.bidorbuy.co.za/user_images/014/2247014/2247014_131105180502_vrf2.jpg

“INVERTED VRI +VR SPECIAL POST VRYBURG REOCCUPATION”.



http://img.bidorbuy.co.za/image/upload/user_images/014/2247014/2247014_131105175937_vrf.jpg : “VR SPECIAL POST 1d VRYBURG REOCCUPATION SPACE FILLER”.

<http://stampauctionnetwork.com/f/101/156.jpg>



http://img.bidorbuy.co.za/image/upload/user_images/014/2247014/2247014_131105180246_vrf1.jpg

Copied from <https://www.spink.com/files/catalogue/14018.pdf>

BOER INVASION OF VRYBURG, BRITISH BECHUANALAND

The town was occupied by the Boers from 18 October 1899 to 9 May 1900.

Cape stamps found in the town were overprinted with the value and “Z.A.R.”

x22 1899-1900 envelopes (3), 1/2d. green card and pieces (7) bearing a variety of values to 1/-, all cancelled by c.d.s. with “C.G.H.” excised, the envelopes (one with O.F.S. 1d. and Transvaal 1d.) routed through Schweizer-Reneke, the card from Dr. Leask to his daughter at Wolmaransstad used on 21 October (the first day of occupation) with three arrival c.d.s. on face. An attractive group

x23 1899 (14 Oct.) envelope to Mossel Bay sent out on the last post before the Boers occupied the town, bearing Cape 1d. with neat “VRyBuRG/C.G.H.” c.d.s. and taken to Kimberley by rail when Vryburg was evacuated, Kimberley c.d.s. (18.10) on reverse and held there until the town was relieved on 15 February 1900, arrival c.d.s. (25.2) alongside.

x24 1899 (21 Oct.) envelopes (7) and 1/2d. green card ex the Leask find, bearing a variety of Cape or Transvaal values to 10/- cancelled by c.d.s. with "C.G.H." excised, all with arrival c.d.s., two on face. A clean and colourful lot

x25 1900 (30 Jan.) Standard Bank envelope to Lourenco Marques, bearing 1d. pair with c.d.s. and manuscript censor mark at top, the reverse with censor label, Johannesburg and arrival c.d.s.; also 1899 envelope (faults), complete with letter from A.J. de Wet, Assistant State Attorney, "via Schweizer-Reneke" to Vryburg with a request for the new V.R.I. stamps and "You remember telling me about the Daily Mail correspondent that came out of Mafeking via Vryburg just before we were there. Well he tried the same game again and we have got him safely lodged here. His papers were most interesting to go through, splendid illustration of the mendacious reports the English public is supplied with". A most interesting pair

x26 1900 (30 Jan.) unsealed envelope (vertical crease) "Via Lourcos Marques" to Orkney Scotland, bearing 1/2d. and 1d. (2) tied by c.d.s. with "C.G.H." excised, censored by the assistant postmaster, then sealed and endorsed "Examined by me for P.M. Vburg W.M." (translation), censor label at left and with various transit c.d.s. on reverse, and 1900 (7 Feb.) Standard Bank envelope to Pretoria, bearing 1d. similarly cancelled and with censor label at right, Klerksdorp and arrival c.d.s. on reverse

x27 1900 (2 May) piece bearing Transvaal commemorative 1d. cancelled by Vryburg c.d.s. with "C.G.H." excised and with a superb strike of the "Veld-Post Z.A.R./VRIJBUrg." Oval datestamp in blue, and Transvaal 1/2d. (2), 1d. (2), 2d. and 2 1/2d. pairs each similarly cancelled for 6 May; an attractive group illustrating first and last day usages of this scarce cancellation

x28 1900 (5 May) stampless envelope to a soldier at Verteen Stroom showing a superb strike of the "Veld-Post Z.A.R./VRIJBUrg." oval datestamp in blue, not able to be delivered as Fourteen Streams had already been occupied by the British; partially split vertical crease at centre, otherwise fine and very rare, being one of only three examples of this datestamp recorded on cover.



Spink p. 9; Please ignore Nrs 11-20. Nrs 23 and 28 are relevant for this section.

VRYBURG After the British re-occupation on 8 May 1900 Transvaal stamps were then overprinted "V.R./SPECIAL POST" and were used in the town from 16 May. After the V.R. Special Post issue cancelled by the Vryburg BB datestamp, Intelligence Officer Clifford St. Quintin found the original pre-occupation Vryburg C.G.H. datestamp though the day slugs were missing, so he meticulously signed each stamp in the date position

x300 1900 (2 May) envelope from Lord Methuen to his wife in England, sent en route from Boshof to relieve Vryburg, bearing 1d. lilac cancelled by F.P.O. 4 c.d.s. (3.5), 1900 (16 June) homemade blue envelope to Salisbury and redirected to Southsea, marked "South Africa Field Force" and "Stamps unobtainable" with Vryburg, London Paid (7.7) and Salisbury (8.7) c.d.s. all on face, 1900 (Mar.) envelope to Klerksdorp bearing 1d. with c.d.s. and showing triangular-framed "PASSED By/CENSOR/VRyBuRG" cachet in violet with date applied at centre, and 1901 (Mar.) envelope from Kroonstad to Vryburg, bearing O.F.S. 1d. and with Opened under Martial Law label tied by "PASSED CEB CENSOR" and "MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICE/VRyBuRG" oval datestamp

x301 1900 (12 Oct.) soldiers envelope (faults) to Devon and 1901 (8 Mar.) envelope "no stamps available" to Great Yarmouth, both with fine "CHRISTIANA." double-ring datestamp in violet, and 1902 (13 May) OHMS envelope from Capt. Smith to Col. Landon in Brentwood showing similar datestamp and triangular-framed "PASSED/CENSOR/CENSOR" datestamp, both superb and struck in red. An attractive group of this unique-styled datestamp

V.R. Special Post Overprints

x302

1/2d. green with handstamp reading downwards, tied on piece by 16 May c.d.s. and manuscript mark at top; corner crease at lower left. Rare with only six reading downwards examples recorded. B.P.A. Certificate (1993). S.G. 1,

x303

1/2d. green with handstamp reading upwards, tied on piece by 16 May c.d.s., fine and rare. Signed Bloch. S.G. 1,

x304

1d. rose-red and green with overprint reading downwards, tied by two 16 May c.d.s. on piece; the stamp a trifle soiled, otherwise sound. Rare. S.G. 12, £5,500.

x305

1d. rose-red and green with overprint reading upwards and misplaced to right resulting in "POST" being almost entirely omitted, tied by neat 16 May c.d.s. on piece, Fine and rare. S.G. 12

x306

1d. rose-red and green with overprint reading upwards, neatly tied by 16 May c.d.s. on piece. Fine and rare. P.F.S.A. Certificate (1989). S.G. 12,

The St. Quintin Manuscript Provisionals

x307

1/2d. green Hope seated (2, one with colour changeling to blue-green) and 1d. carmine, all on pieces with the two 1/2d. values partially cut-to-shape.

x308

1/2d. green Hope standing, on small piece. A rare stamp with the St. Quintin initials.

x309 1/2d. green Hope seated, neatly cancelled and tied on envelope to "Mrs. Benson, Vryburg"; rare with few addressed covers recorded.

x310 1/2d. green Hope seated and 1d. carmine, both on unaddressed envelopes; the 1d. envelope with some creasing in lower left corner

x311 1d. carmine on envelope to “J Johnston, Mowbray, Cape”; fine and rare with few addressed envelopes recorded. Brandon Certificate (1989).

x312 1d. carmine with initials inverted tied on unaddressed envelope. A scarce variety.

x313 1d. carmine with initials inverted tied on unaddressed envelope. A scarce variety.

x314 1d. carmine (3) on unaddressed envelopes; creases in places



Copied from Spink p. 93.

Current situation



<http://www.interdesign2005.org.za/images/mapLarge.gif>

About Vryburg (from: <http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Vryburg>):

Vryburg (*Afrikaans* for *free fort*) is a large agricultural [town](#) with a population of 48,200 situated in the [Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality](#) of the [North West Province](#) of [South Africa](#). It is the seat and the industrial and agricultural heartland of the district of the Bophirima region.

Location

It is situated halfway between [Kimberley](#) (the capital of the [Northern Cape Province](#)) and [Mafikeng](#) (the capital of the [North West Province](#)). It is on [Cecil Rhodes](#)'s great northern railroad, which ran from [Cape Town](#) through the Kimberley [diamond fields](#), Vryburg, Mafikeng, and northwards beyond [Victoria Falls](#). It is also on the [N14 National Road](#) which runs from [Gauteng Province](#) in a southwesterly direction through Vryburg, [Kuruman](#) and [Upington](#) to the mining town of [Springbok](#) in the North-western Cape. This road also connects Gauteng Province with [Namibia](#).

The township [Huhudi](#) (*Tswana* for "running water") is situated just south of the town.

The [Tiger Kloof Native Institute](#) was set up south of the town by the [London Missionary Society](#) in 1904. A cornerstone for the building of the institute was laid in 1905 by the [Earl of Selborne](#).¹³ The stone church on the premises is a [national monument](#).

History

Vryburg has a strong sense of history, one which its citizens nurture with pride. The name *Vryburg* comes from the period in the 1882 when Vryburg was established as the capital of [Republic of Stellaland](#). The Republicans called themselves *Vryburgers* ("free citizens"), hence the name of the town.

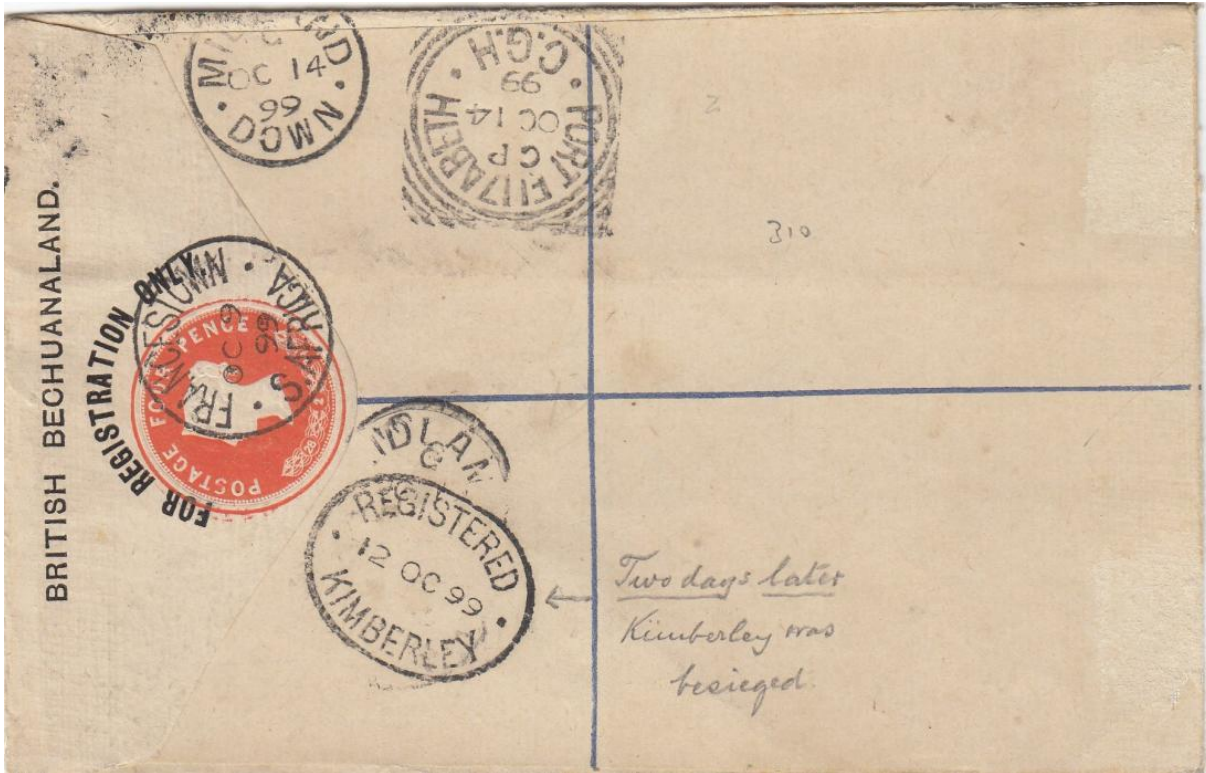
Vryburg was founded on September 20, 1882, when a site for a township was selected and named Endvogelfontein. On November 15 the same year, the name was changed to Vryburg. In December that year, newly laid out plots were apportioned to the volunteers by means of a lottery and by February 1883 some 400 farms had been established.

On August 16, 1883, Administrator Van Niekerk proclaimed the Republic of Stellaland with Vryburg as capital and himself as President. Stellaland split into two rival factions – those who supported annexation into the [Cape Colony](#) as mooted by [Cecil Rhodes](#), and those who preferred independence.

In February 1884, the [London Convention](#) was signed, making Stellaland a British protectorate, with the Reverend John McKensie appointed Commissioner to British Bechuanaland. Vryburg today is the industrial and agricultural capital of the Bophirima (Western) region. When the [Boer Republic](#) of Stellaland was established in 1882, Vryburg ('Fort of Freedom') was established as its capital.¹⁴ The first and only president was G.J. van Niekerk. By 1884 the town consisted of around 20 houses.¹⁵ In 1885, the [British](#) seized the town and incorporated the area into [British Bechuanaland](#), which in turn became part of the [Cape Colony](#) in 1895. During the [Second Boer War](#), the British built a [concentration camp](#) here to house [Boer](#) women and children. In 1910, the Cape Colony became the [Cape Province](#), one of the four provinces of the [Union of South Africa](#) and later the [Republic of South Africa](#). When nine provinces were established in 1994, it became part of the [North West Province](#).

Also see: Cape of Good Hope (APH Nr 9) for later postal history of the area of the former British Bechuanaland, including (again) the postal history of the area of Vrijburg and surrounding villages, and of Mafeking during the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902.

Exception:



<http://www.chrisrainey.com/images/5269-1.jpg>