

BASUTOLAND  
KING GEORGE V – DEFINITIVE ISSUE

The aim of the exhibit is to show the definitive stamps of KGV and their uses. The stamps were issued for the Crown Colony on December 1, 1933. The stamps feature the left facing image of the King and a Nile crocodile – a totem of the Bakuenta people. They were in use until a similar set was issued for King George VI on April 1, 1938.



MASERU / -1 DECA33 First Day of Issue. A commercial cover with two cents old South African and now four cents new Basutoland stamps. 4d paid registration and 2d paid the Local rate

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e) Airmail Letters to Europe  
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Philatelic information is in font Times New Roman  
Non philatelic information is in font HP Simplified

More significant items have   near them. These include Basutoland stamps perforated SPECIMEN from Spanish Morocco, Madame Joseph forgeries, Overprinted Official stamps with use on cover and cover to the U.K. airmailed and registered.

# BASUTOLAND - KING GEORGE V – DEFINITIVE ISSUE

## Chapter 1a Preproduction

### Perforated SPECIMEN



The decision to perforate the word SPECIMEN was sent to the colonies by the Colonial Office on August 24, 1928. This was likely to provide a higher degree of security over the stamped SPECIMEN. No exact numbers were given by the Crown Agents – between 395 and 423 sets were produced during the period 1928-1944. These are perforated with 70 holes.

The stamps were most likely engraved by W. G. Fairweather. They were issued in panes of 60 stamps – five rows of 12. There were no plate numbers and the imprints 'Waterlow & Sons Limited London Wall, London, E.C. are below columns six and seven.

The Nile crocodile is an important totem to the Bakuena tribe, and was a prominent feature of the definitive issues of 1933 and 1937. The Bakuena are descendants of the Barolong. Moshoeshe I, the man who formed the Basuto Nation was a member of the Bakuena. 2

# KING GEORGE V

## Chapter 1b Preproduction

Perforated SPECIMEN with additional backstamp from Spanish Morocco



Framed “COLECCION / OFICIAL / MARRUECOS / ZONA / ESPANOLA” receiving authority mark lightly applied to the back by Spanish Morocco.

This was most likely a security measure to ensure they stayed in Spanish Morocco.

This is an unrecorded new discovery. Existence of this unique set was anticipated in UPU SPECIMEN STAMP 1878 - 1961 Pg.32

In lower left corner –



# BASUTOLAND – KING GEORGE V – 1933 DEFINITIVE ISSUE

## Chapter 2a The Stamps



King George V, Nile crocodile and Maluti Mountains.

Issued on December 1, 1933

The King died on January 20, 1936. They were in use until a similar definitive set for his son King George VI was issued on April 1, 1937.

Recess printed by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. Wmk Multiple Crown Script CA. Perf. 12½

Chapter 2 b, c MADAME JOSEPH FORGERIES & IMPRINT BLOCKS



Madame Joseph was a stamp dealer active in London in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century who was later revealed to be a major supplier of stamps with forged cancels. In the early 1990's stamp dealer Derek Worboys purchased the Joseph cancellers (400+). They are now in the possession of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. Basutoland cancels all show 'Maseru'. They only appear as partial cancels on a stamp. All are stamped 'Madam Joseph FORGED CANCELS' on the back.

There are also Werner forgeries, readily available on E-bay.  
**IMPRINT BLOCKS**



## BASUTOLAND – 1933 Issue Overprinted OFFICIAL

### Chapter 2d Officials

Government departments had used overprinted officials of South Africa since June 3, 1889. With the issuance of their own postage, it seemed logical to the Secretariat, that Basutoland have its own officials. They were ordered through the Post Office in Maseru in December 1933.



One of 10 mint copies



One of two pairs  
of 18 mint copies



The only pair of 14 mint  
copies



One of 10 mint copies  
The 6d is the only copy of all values with  
selvage imprint



One of 14 used copies



One of 17 used copies



One of 24 used copies

Overprinted by the government printer in Pretoria three hundred of each value was received by the post office at Maseru on January 24, 1934. They were released for use by government departments on May 4 and were not to be sold to the public.

Since the High Commissioner had not been consulted, when he found out he ordered their withdrawal effective June 25. They were returned to the printer and all remaining copies were destroyed. 6

Upper left blocks of four were sent to the King for his collection. They were not included in the number sent to the colony.

BASUTOLAND - 1934 Overprinted OFFICIAL on Cover

Chapter 2d Officials

This is one of **seven** known covers with an officially overprinted stamp.

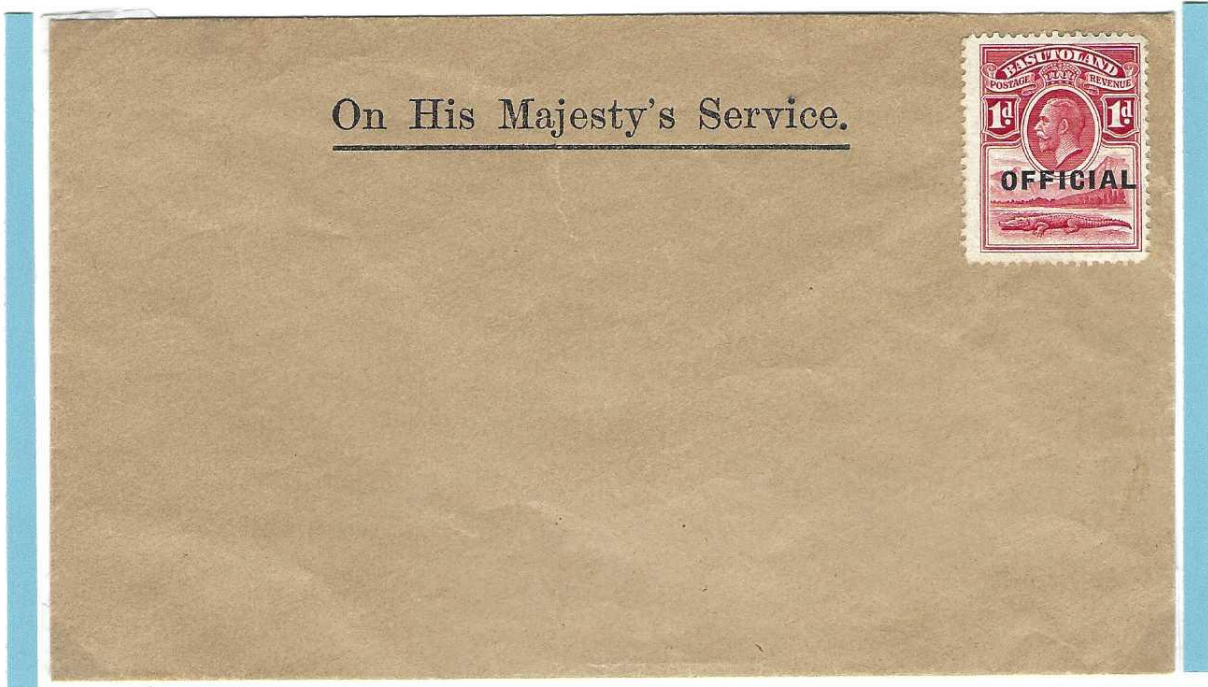
The red handstamp indicates it was sent from the RESIDENT COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE on May 1, 1934 from MASERU BASUTOLAND Overpaid 1d



The cover is not philatelic otherwise the cancellation would be neat and clearly readable.

# KING GEORGE V

Chapters 2b Officials, 2e Errors

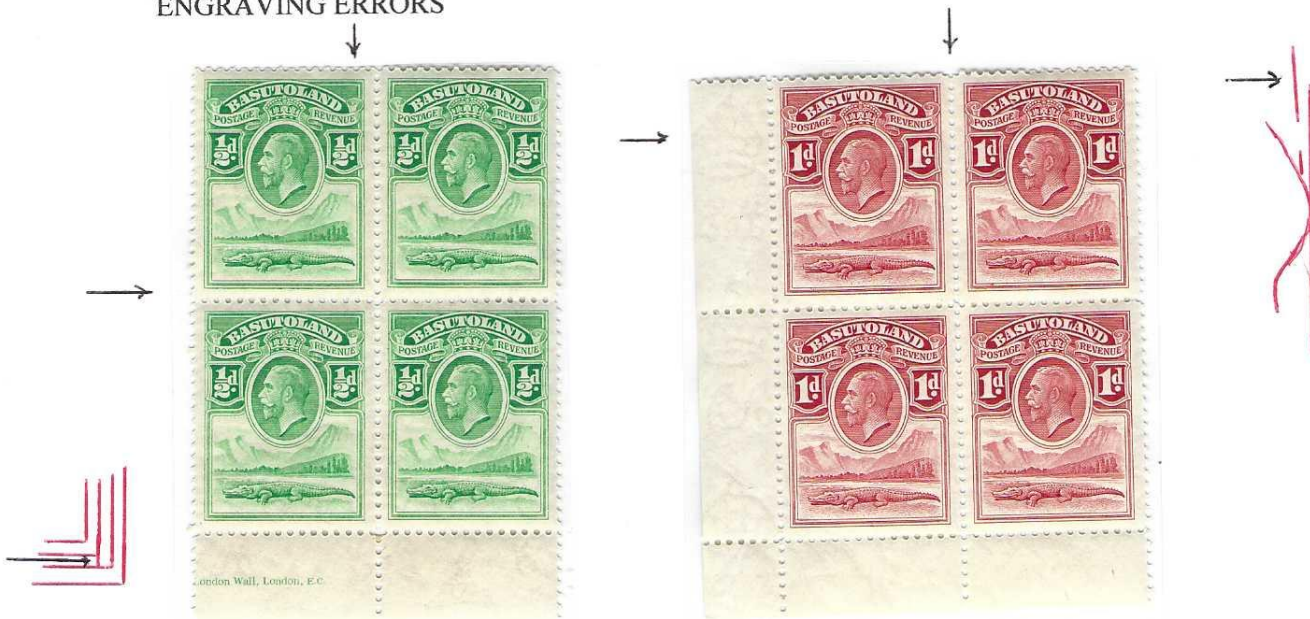


This prepared but not used 1d 'On His Majesty's Service' cover is not listed in Barry P. Fletcher's authoritative monograph 'The Rare Basutoland Officials'. However he was unable to locate two of the 1d copies. This is likely one of them.

It is possible to form 10 mint sets but only six used sets as a number of them exist on cover.

All of the overprinted officials in this exhibit have been expertised.

## ENGRAVING ERRORS



Extended frame line  
R4/7

Diagonal frame line above value tablet  
R5/1

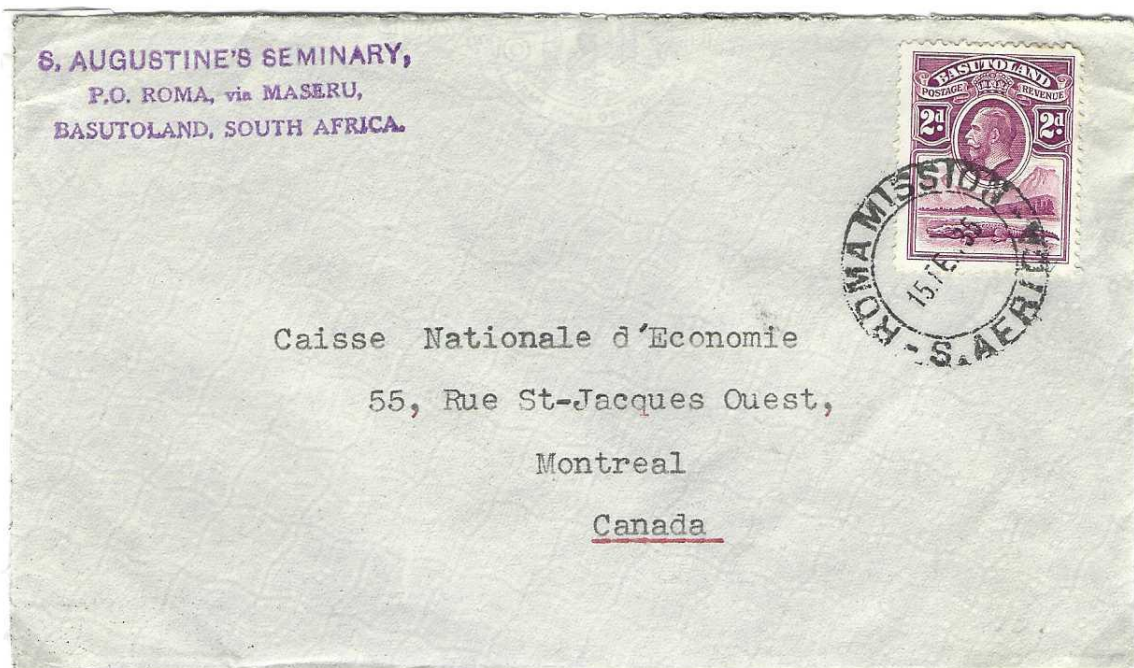
1933 DEFINITIVE ISSUE -USES

RATES WILL BE SHOWN BEGINNING FROM 2 PENCE TO 1 SHILLING 2 PENCE.

Chapters Covers 3a Local, 3b Imperial



SEBAPALA / 18 ? d34 2d paid the Local Rate on this commercial cover.  
Sebapala is a small village named after a river.



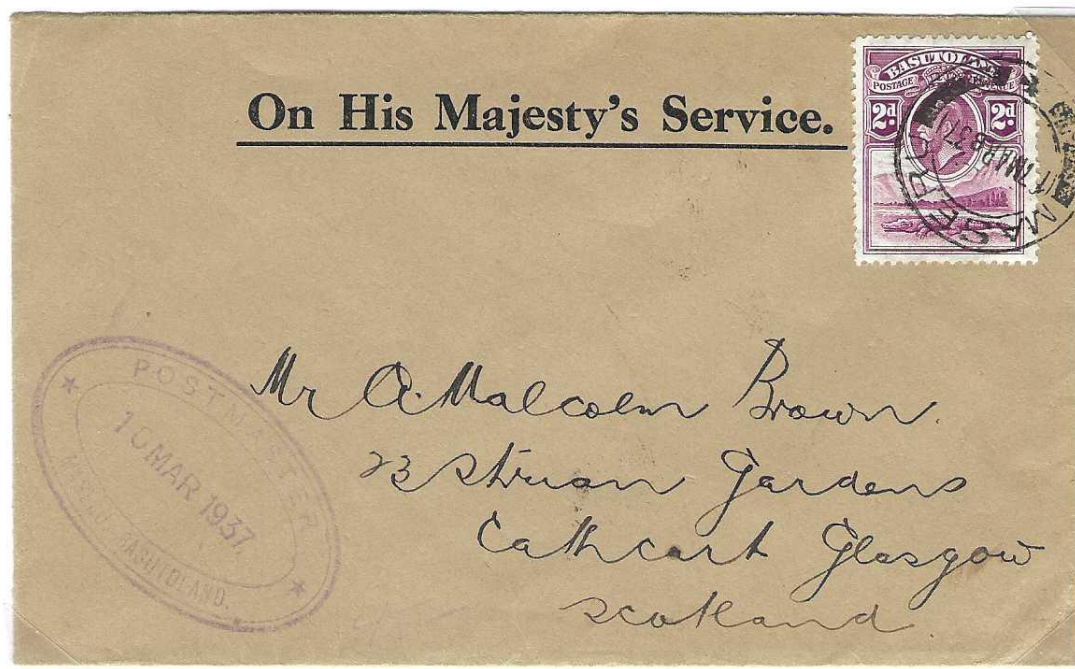
ROMA MISSION / 15 FE. 35 / S. AFRICA 2d paid the Imperial Rate from April 1, 1931 to October 30, 1939 except for the period April 11, 1934 to May 31, 1935 when the rate was 1d so overpaid by 1d.

1933 DEFINITIVE ISSUE

Chapters Covers 3b Imperial



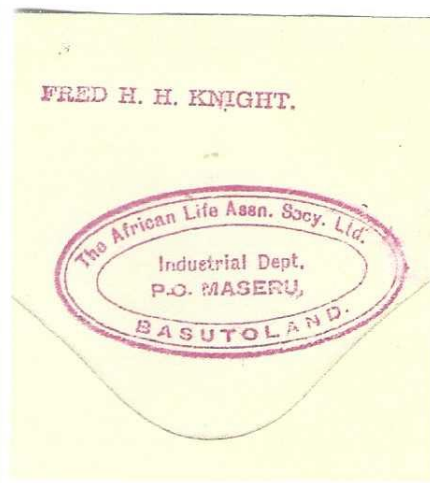
MASERU /SOUTH/ 1-DECc33 / AFRICA. 2d paid the Imperial Rate on a Commercial cover to Salisbury, Rhodesia on first day of issue of the King George V Definitive Issue.



MASERU / 17 MARb37 2d paid the Imperial Rate. Has oval POSTMASTER / 10 MAR 1937 / MASERU BASUTOLAND on cover to Glasgow, Scotland.

1933 DEFINITIVE ISSUE

Chapter Covers 3c UPU



Over

MASERU SOUTH AFRICA / 18 FEB A 35 Corner card for THE AFRICAN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY LTD. to Brooklyn NY. 3d paid the U.P.U. Rate



QUTHING / 21 SEP A 36 / BASUTOLAND Rate as above.  
To Rev. Mother General Mary Theresa in Switzerland.

1933 DEFINITIVE ISSUE

Chapter Covers 3c UPU Rate 3b Imperial Rate



Over

MORIJA / 18 FEB A36 3d paid the UPU Rate. To Paris via England.  
PARIS - XIV / 10 . 111 / 1936 / AV.D'ORLEANS.  
Reverend Dieterlen was with the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society.

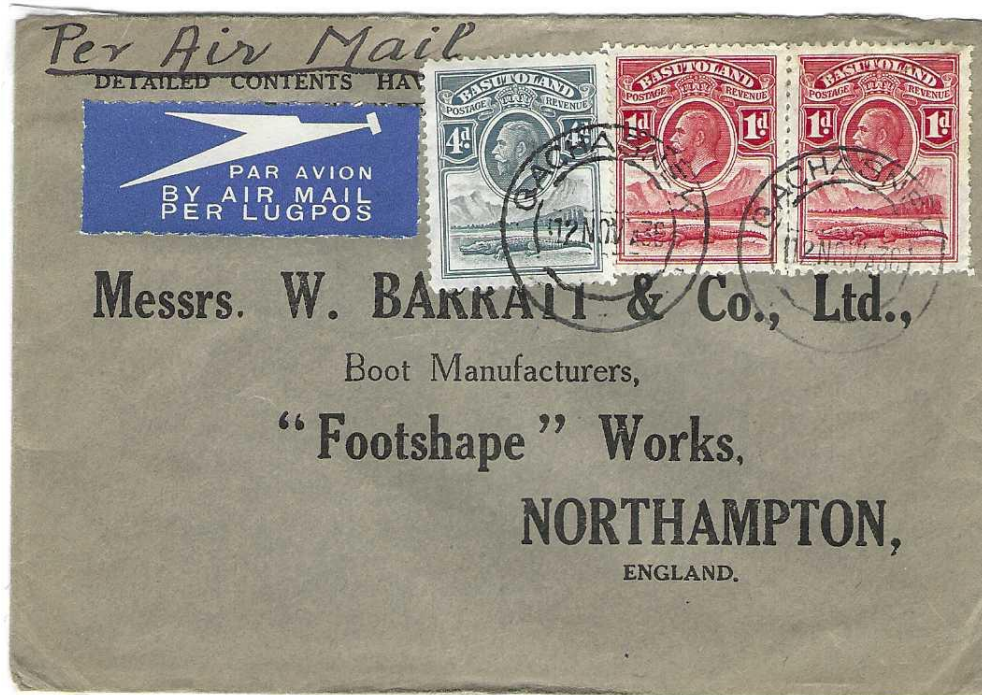
Paris receiver



MASERU / -3 JAN A34 4d paid the registration and 2d paid the Imperial Rate. Official mail to Sutton, Coldfield, England.

1933 DEFINITIVE ISSUE

Chapter Covers 3d Airmail Letter Rate 3e Airmail Postcard Rate



QACHASNEK / 12 NOV A 36 6d paid the Airmail Rate on this commercial cover to 'Boot Manufacturers' in Northampton, England.



MORIJA / 15 APR A 35 1d KGV postal card updated to 6d to pay the Postcard Airmail rate to Europe. Message in French.

1933 DEFINITIVE ISSUE

Chapter Covers 3c UPU Rate 3d Airmail Rate



MASERU / 24 MAR A 36 3d paid the U.P.U. Rate to the United States. 4d paid the Registration Rate. Overpaid 1d. Mourning Cover to Veteran's Administration Facility in California.



MAFETENG / 11 JUN A 34 10d paid the Airmail Rate to Berkshire England. Has an Airmail Etiquette in English, Afrikaans and French.

1933 DEFINITIVES

Chapter Covers 3f Airmail rate to Europe



MORIJA / 30 DEC A 36 1/- paid the Airmail Rate to Paris, France in 1936. Airmail Etiquette in French, English and Afrikaans order this time.



MASERU / 16 OCT A 36 12d paid 1/- Airmail Rate to Uddevalla, Sweden, Europe

1933 DEFINITIVE ISSUES

Chapter Covers 3d Airmail Rate to U.K. and KGVI 1d Local Rate



MASERU / SOUTH / 4 - DECc33 / AFRICA 10d paid the Airmail Rate to England and 4d paid the Registration.



MASERU / 20 NOV<sub>B</sub>39 / SOUTH AFRICA / paid the local rate from October 1, 1937 to September 30, 1940. To Transvaal with corner card for Basutoland Mercantile agencies. King George V died on January 20, 1936. King George VI stamps were issued on April 1, 1938.