

# The PhilateliKid

**The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)**

**Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)**

[www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org](http://www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org)

July 1, 2020 **Stay Safe Indoors! Collect Stamps!**

## Bechuanaland

Stamp collectors are invited into the world of strange sounding countries like Bechuanaland Protectorate.



Sometimes the country name has been long gone, but stamps still exist, and the country is now still there, but using a different name.

Great Britain established the Bechuanaland Protectorate in March 1885. In September that year the Tswana country south of the Molopo River was proclaimed the Crown colony of British Bechuanaland.

Bechuanaland meant the country of the Tswana and for administrative purposes was divided into two political entities. The northern part was administered as the Bechuanaland Protectorate and the southern part was administered as the crown colony of British Bechuanaland. British Bechuanaland was incorporated into the Cape Colony in 1895 and now forms part of South Africa.<sup>[4]</sup>

The northern part, the Bechuanaland Protectorate, had an area of 225,000 square miles (580,000 km<sup>2</sup>), and a population of 120,776. It is located in Africa in the southern hemisphere, and was 222,000 square miles, which is about 83% of the size of the State of Texas.

The British government originally expected to turn over administration of the protectorate to Rhodesia or South Africa, but Tswana opposition left the protectorate under British rule until its independence in 1966.

When independence was granted, the country changed its name to Republic of Botswana. A person from Botswana is called a Motswana. The main language spoken in Botswana is Setswana (a Bantu language), but the official language is English. The population of Botswana is 2.3 million, with about one tenth of the population living in the capitol, Gaborone, the largest city. The currency in Botswana is the pula. One pula is worth about 8¢. US dollars, Euros, and British pounds are also widely accepted in Botswana.

In the world of stamp collectors, a country that no longer issued stamps is called a “dead” country. The people are still there, the country is still there, but the name is different, so Bechuanaland Protectorate is a



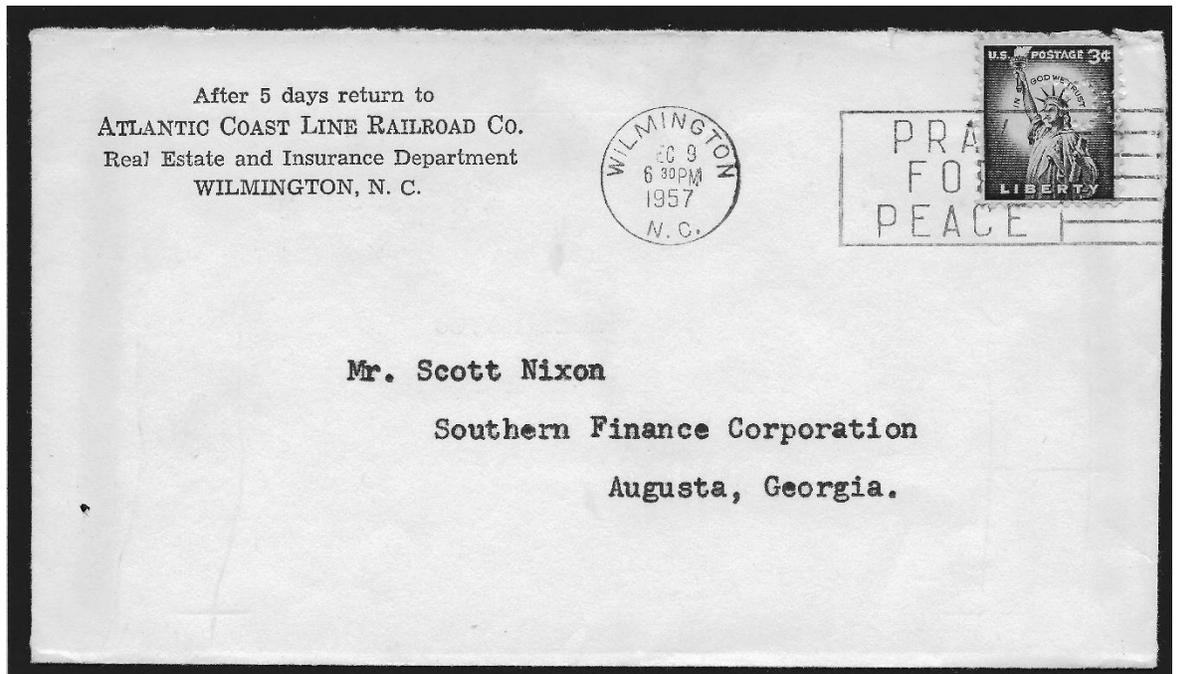
“dead” country. Once a country is a dead country, it is possible to create a complete collection of stamps ever issued. According to Scott Standard Postage Stamp Album, Bechuanaland Protectorate issued 162 different stamps, beginning with Scott #51. (The first 50 stamps are British Bechuanaland, not Bechuanaland Protectorate.) Of the 162 stamps issued, all but 15 are moderately priced under \$100.00, and, of the non-overprinted stamps, only 2 have a catalog value over \$100.00.

## USPS

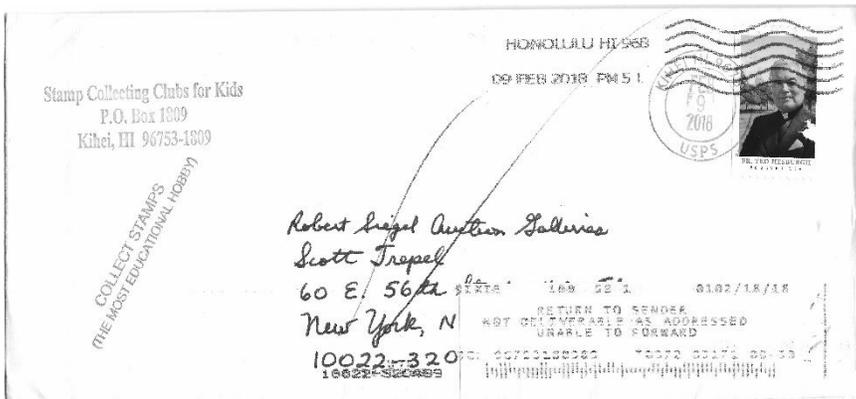
The United States Postal Service (USPS) was having serious financial problems prior to the COVID 19 outbreak, because the USPS is allowed to increase rates only with the approval of Congress, and Congress has not given approval. Recently the USPS cancelled its contract to purchase a new fleet of trucks. The current fleet is over 30 years old. However, during COVID 19 people are ordering merchandise to be delivered much more frequently than before, so the package business for the USPS is way up. I heard (not verified) that the last monthly package delivery by the USPS was up 80% from the previous month! That is a huge increase in business! So, if you have to wait in line a little longer at your local post office, now you know why.

## What is wrong with this?

Note the position of the stamp. It was placed right against the upper edge of the envelope. That means that when opened, the stamp had a great chance to be damaged, but even worse, while being handled by the post office, there was a good chance that the stamp would be bent.



The best way to place a stamp on an envelope is to allow at least 3/4 inch from any edge.



This envelope was mailed in Hawaii, went to NYC, then returned to Hawaii, with no damage to the stamp because the stamp was well away from the edge of the envelope. The stamp would have been damaged because the cancelling machine bent the right-hand edge of the envelope about 1/4 inch (not visible here, but believe me, it was badly folded over!)

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are greatly appreciated and if \$10 or more you will be sent a written receipt. You also can donate via PayPal on our website - [www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org](http://www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org) or [www.yummystampcollecting.org](http://www.yummystampcollecting.org) which will redirect you to the same site.

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