

1897

SPECIMEN
Type 7



Constant var.
Broken 'M'
(M)



Overprint 'SPECIMEN' in sans-serif capitals $1\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ mm. Printed by De La Rue with distribution of 750 sets.



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Printed in sheets of 240 comprising two panes of 120 (10 horizontal rows of 12). The 1d was printed in sheets of 90 with two panes of 40 stamps. The 3d value was not distributed until December 1897. In 1900 the colour of the 1d was changed to blue-green and this was distributed on 25th February 1902 in Bechuanaland.



FORGERIES



Forgery



Forgery



Forgery



Fournier "key plate"

The 1885-87 issue of British Bechuanaland was a popular issue for forgers and several types of forgery are recognised. The majority are clearly distinguished from genuine examples through the length of the overprint, spacing between words and the font. The 1888 (December) issue, with 'One Half-Pence' applied to the 1887 unappropriated Die 3d pale Lilac (SG.29), also attracted the 'artists'. Errors of spelling occur both upright and inverted. The 1885 and 1888 issues were not forged for monetary gain as the overprint, in the latter case, reduced the original value of the stamp.

The Protectorate issue of 1889 (August - SG.54) with the overprint 'PROTECTORATE FOURPENCE' was also forged and examples are known with 'FOURPENCE' double. The base stamp is mainly the 1/-d Vermillion overprinted 'Protectorate' (SG.54). It is possible that other, more 'dangerous', forgeries of this issue exist.

The 1918 postal fiscal with £5 overprint applied to the 1887 unappropriated Die 1/- green and black, is also known forged but the type differs from the original.

Forgeries of later issues are quite scarce although Speciat prepared a 'key-plate to overprint the 1891 (NoV: SG.31+32), 1893 (SG.38+39), 1887 (Nov: SG.9) together with the Queen Victoria issues 1891-1904 (British Bechuanaland) and 1897-1902 overprint 'Bechuanaland Protectorate'.