

◀ 21 Receipt of Specimen Stamps by Members of the UPU

Receiving Authority Specimens

◀ 24 Bechuanaland

Replace entire text:

In October 1976 Robson Lowe International Ltd sold a world-wide collection of stamps at auction in Basle. The auction catalogues are reproduced in Appendix F.

Only those lots identified in the auction catalogues by a dagger (†) after the lot number originated from UPU distributions received by the Bechuanaland Protectorate Post Office.

1890–1912	SPECIMEN	22.5×2.75	BEC2
1912 or 1937	CANCELLED	42×6.5	[1]
1913–1937	SPECIMEN	22.5×2.75	BEC2a

Until about August 1912 single examples of stamps received were hinged to album pages and nearly all of those that had been distributed in mint condition were handstamped ‘SPECIMEN’ type BEC2.

However, the following were inadvertently not handstamped ‘SPECIMEN’ and instead a ‘CANCELLED’ handstamp was applied, probably by the Bechuanaland Post Office in 1912 but possibly by the General Post Office in 1937 when the collection was returned to London.

	lot	
Bahamas	1111	1884–98 1d to £1, 1901 1d ²¹
British East Africa	1119	1895 ‘2½’ on 1½a, ²² 1895 ½a to 5r, 1895 ‘2½’ on 1½a, 1897 ½a to 7½a, ‘2½’ on 1a, ‘2½’ on 3a
Chile	1395	1898 postage due set of 5
Great Britain	1154	1892 4½d, 1900 ½d, 1902 ½d to 1s
Nyasaland	1201	1891–95 1d to 5s, 1892–93 ‘THREE/SHILLINGS’ on 4s, ‘FOUR/SHILLINGS’ on 5s, 1895 ‘ONE PENNY.’ on 2d ²³
Sudan	1242	1897 1m to 10p, 1898 1m and 2m

From September 1912 for about a year all stamps were preserved in strips of three as received, and whether previously protected or not, were punched with a 4.5 mm diameter hole before being affixed to album pages. For examples see Gold Coast (page 186) and Turkey (page 432) in the Catalogue.

²¹ This is the only stamp in the collection already overprinted ‘SPECIMEN’ additionally handstamped ‘CANCELLED’.

²² Described in the auction catalogue as ‘1891 2½a’.

²³ The ‘Blanic Collection’, Spink, 13 April 2021, London, lots 2, 20.