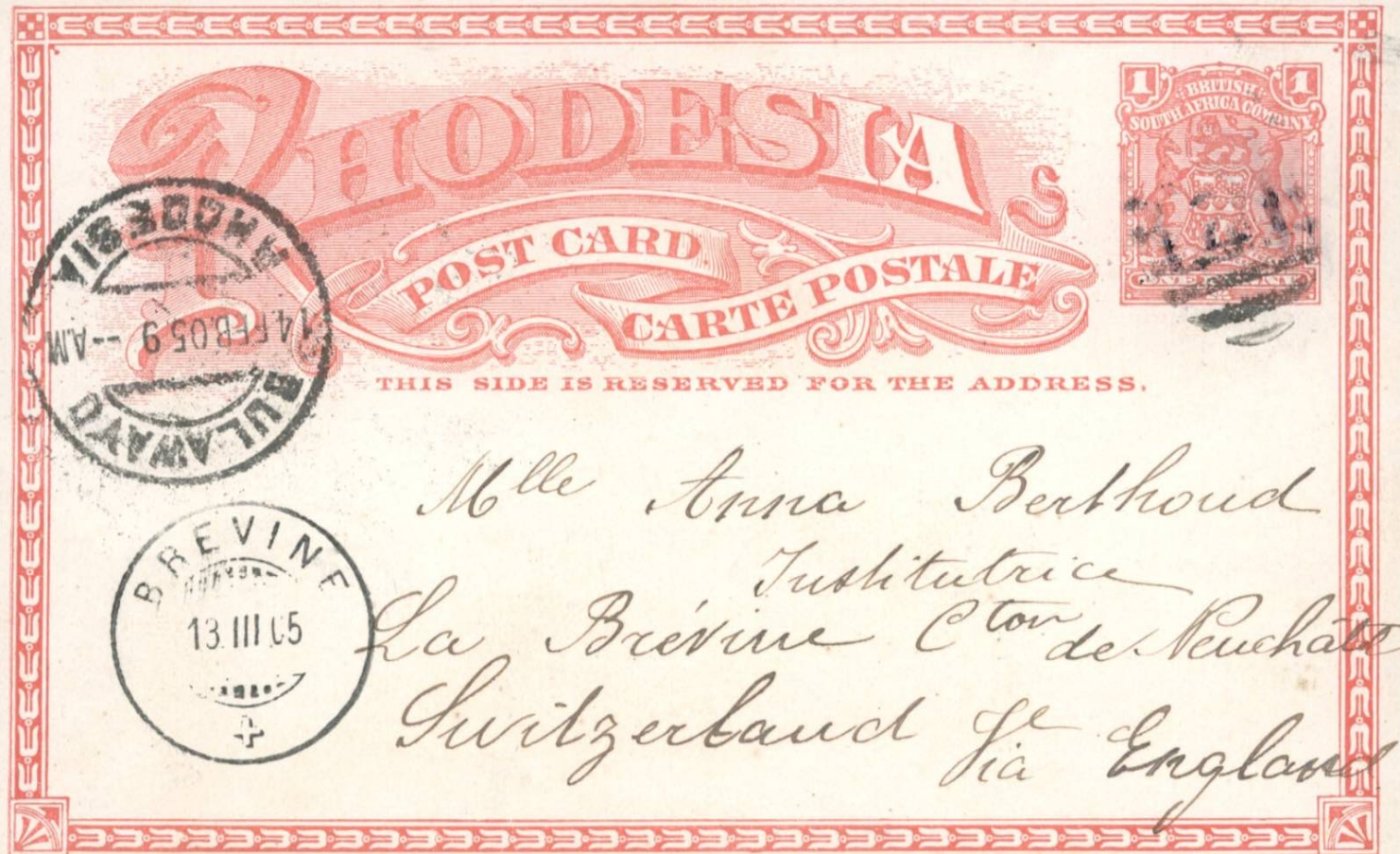


BCA and BSAC BONCs on cover

Barred oval numeral cancels (BONCs), originally designed for use in the Cape of Good Hope, were later employed more widely in Southern Africa. This included use in the early days at some BSAC and BCA offices, along with letters in barred diamonds and circles, to cancel the stamps while the dated cancel would appear elsewhere on the cover. Different numbers were given to different offices, though sometimes the same number was used at more than one location at different times. As a group they are very common on loose stamps, but it is fair to say that all examples of these marks are scarce on cover. They are however often somewhat indistinct, so errors in identification are common. Most offices seemed to abandon their use pre-1900, using the dated marks to cancel the stamps, although a few offices retained their use for longer, the latest seen are **941** and **827** used in the 1920's presumably at Salisbury.



2 on a card and **4** on a cover.
Recent suggestions are that
both of these were applied at
Livingstone in transit, although
other theories exist.



The card was written at Senanga
and the cover has a Bulawayo
backstamp dated 18 Mar 1905
2 was previously used at Port
Elizabeth, and **4** at King Williams
Town.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY.
REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.



R

1909
P. Tubbenthau Esq.
Gainsborough Villa
boulswall Hall Road
Ipswich
Suffolk



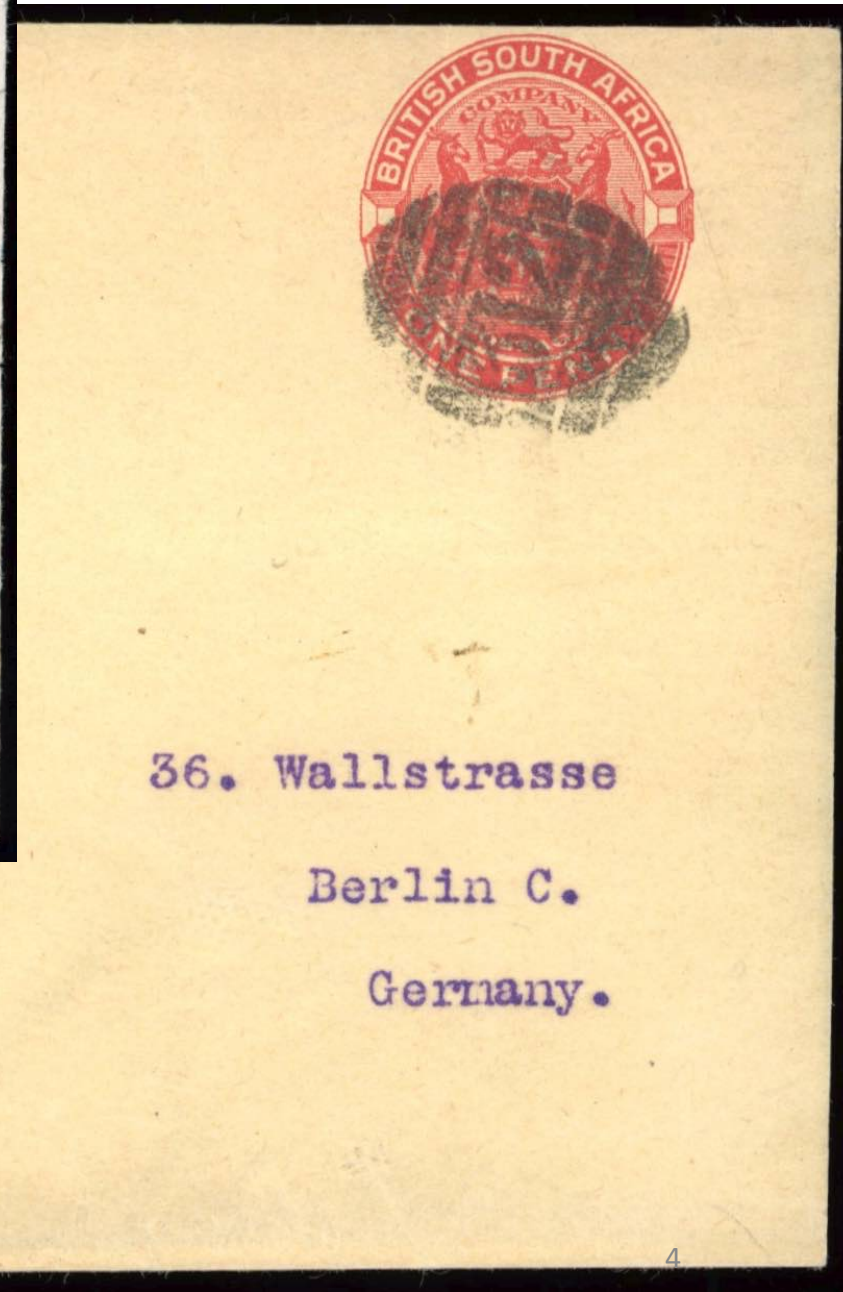
Atkins 65 99

Atkins Esq J.P.
The Hall
Hinckley
Leicestershire
England



W A P lease
Comm 65 99

Examples of **274** used at Charter in 1900. It is known used earlier on Cape stamps.



312 used at Iron Mine Hill in 1896, and on a wrapper, presumed sent from Bulawayo (or Salisbury?), as are the large majority of loose stamps seen with this number on.

679 used at Tati / Francistown,
the earlier card used in 1895
with a Tati CDS, the later 1897
one without any datestamp



826 used at Victoria in 1895

825 used at Tuli in 1894



827 used at Salisbury 1893/4.
This number was in use in the
1920's along with 941



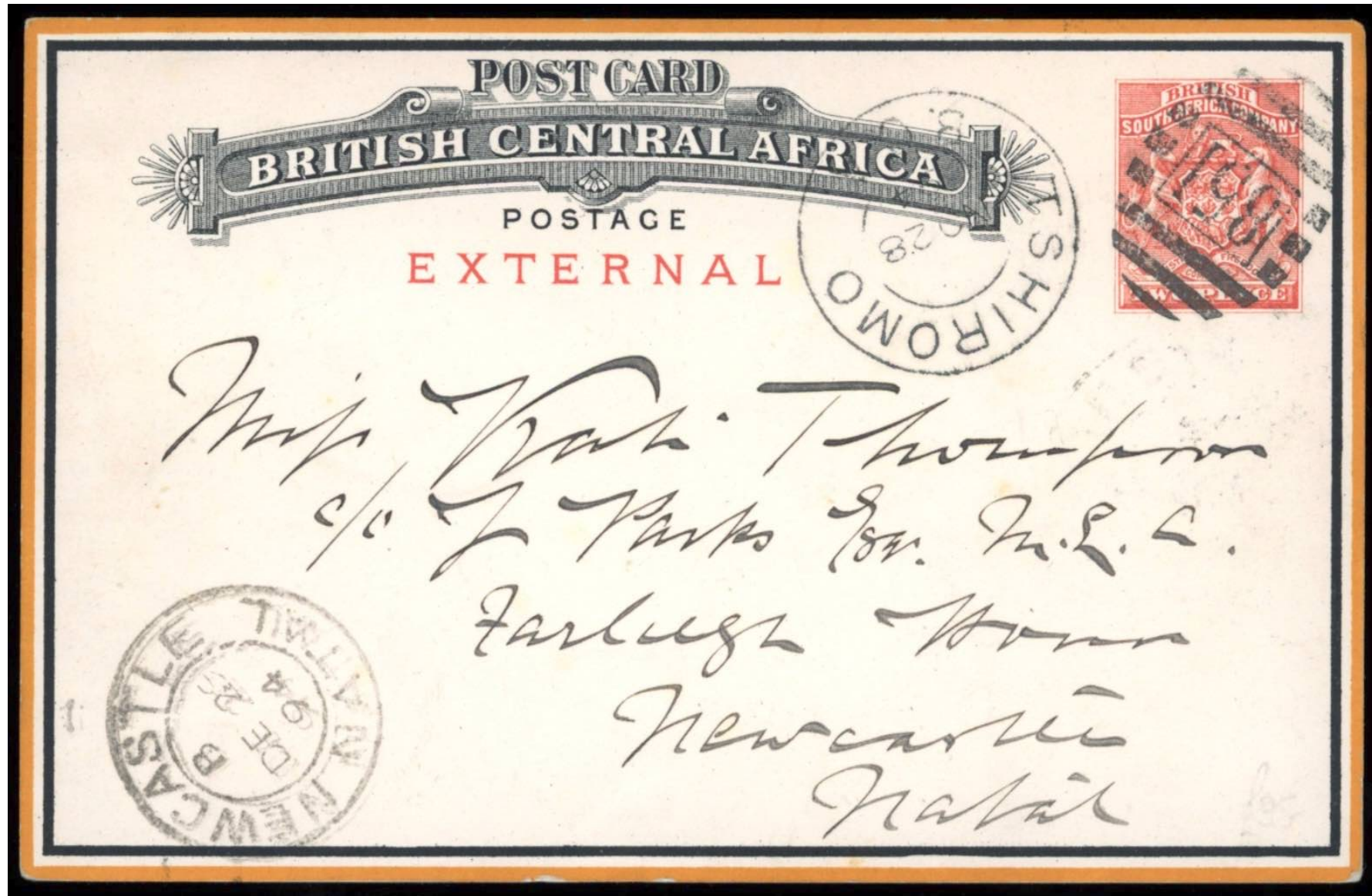
827 used as a receiving mark on a letter sent from Gwelo, DE 12 94. Not sure why it was felt necessary to cancel the stamp again, but this does demonstrate how so-called 'proving' covers may not always tell the whole story, although in this case it is pretty clear the BONC and the datestamp were applied at different times.



828 used at Umtali in 1895



851 used to cancel a stationery card at Tshiromo in 1894. Numbers from **851** to **874** seem to have been specifically allocated to BCA, though not all have been recorded.



Two stationery cards cancelled
852 at Port Herald in 1895



853 was used at Tshikwawa

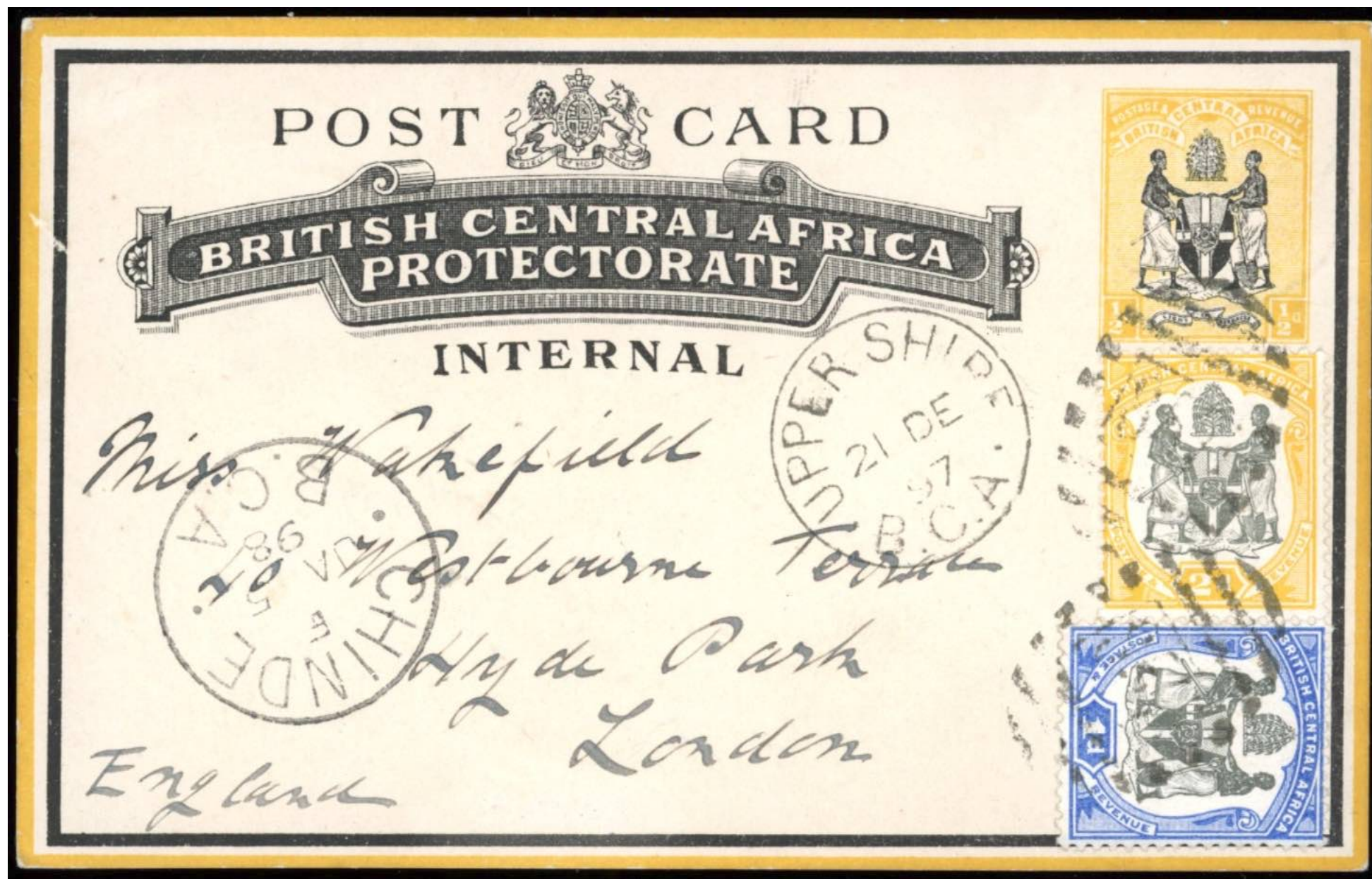
Registered cover sent from Blantyre with the stamps cancelled BONC 854. Presumably a philatelically inspired franking, but the 4/- on 5/- is a rare stamp to see on cover.



855 used on a stationery card sent from Fort Johnson to Dar es Salaam in 1894. Unusually, the stamps have all been cancelled with the CDS as well as the BONC



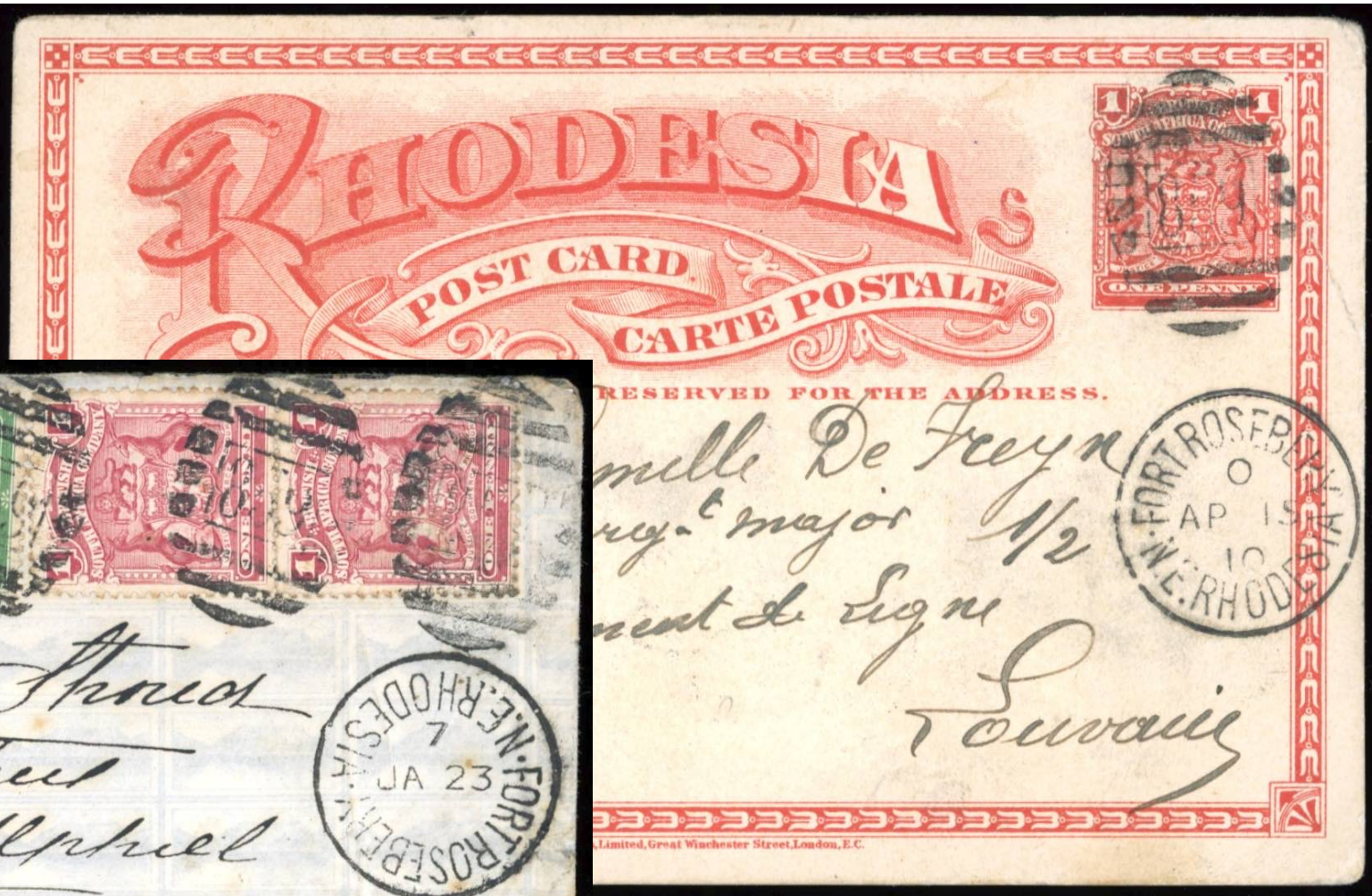
857 on an Internal card sent from Upper Shire to London with three pence in stamps added



The BONC on this card is half missing so the number cannot be made out, but the number **858** has been seen elsewhere used at Karonga, and this fits with what can be seen. This is the only known example of the the 22mm Karonga/BCA CDS. Date DE 26 94 is inverted



Fort Rosebery was still using **859** in 1910 as shown here on the card, and beyond. The cover sent in 1907 shows the whole date inverted on the CDS



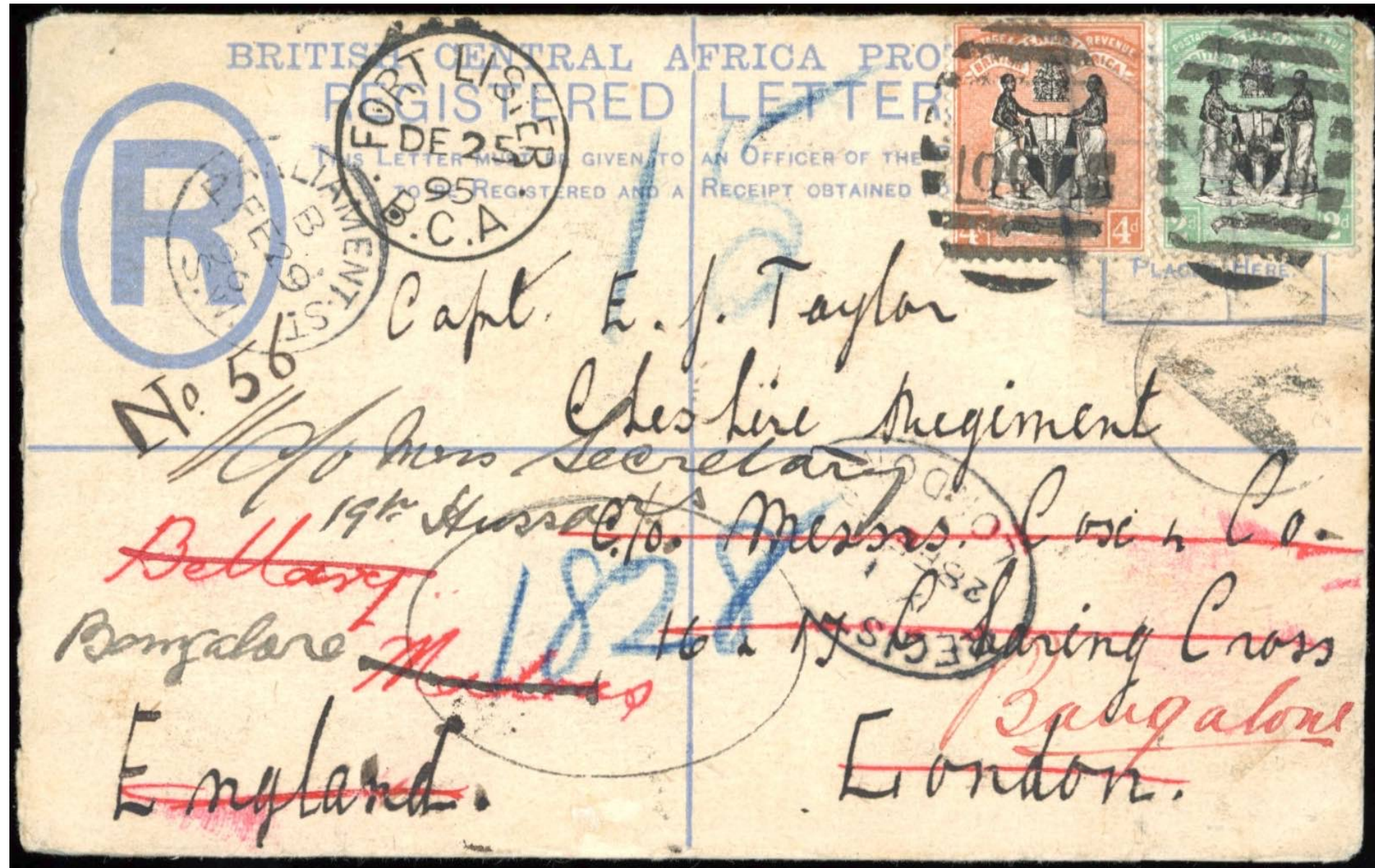
Rare on BCA



860 used at Tanganyika/Abercorn 1894-8
The cover shows all the values in use up
to the 3/- less the 2/6 value in 1897.



861 on a much-travelled cover originally posted at Fort Lister on Christmas day 1895 to London and finally ending up in Bangalore MR 24 96



Two cards sent from Zomba
cancelled **863**, 1894/6. Note
the different sized CDS marks,
the smaller type is scarcer.



Two covers with stamps struck with **864**.
This number is known to have been
used at Chinde, but the card originated
from Tshikwawa in 1894, and the cover
from Fort Johnson (?) in 1907, so the
BONC was probably applied in transit.



871 was used at Abercorn as well as **860** but is less often come across, this card dated MR 26 95



A cover and a card sent from Deep Bay in 1898, stamps cancelled **872**, all marks in violet



Two cards cancelled **874** and with a dumb CDS probably applied at the same time. This number was originally ascribed to Blantyre, but that now seems unlikely. It is thought probable that these cards, both mission related, went via Bandawe, then the headquarters of the Free Church of Scotland where the cancels were then applied.



874 used later on a Nyasaland Field Force cover. This has amongst others a Zomba backstamp dated 8 JA 1917, FPO4 was at Mwaya until the end of 1916, but moved to Old Langenburg Jan 1 1917 (Drysdall & Pennycuick), so the regular canceller may not have been available.



914 used on a cover from Selukwe in 1895



A card struck **951** in 1898 and a registered cover struck **953** in 1898, both from Gwelo



957 used at Sebanga Poort in 1895, arrived in London SP 28 95



Two cards sent from Zomba to Ntondwe. It is thought that **986** was used as a receiving mark, the office not yet having a regular datestamp



Two stamps, one cancelled with a Mangwe CDS and **952** in 1897, the other with a Gubulawayo datestamp and **678** in 1895

A piece from Shangani, the stamps struck with **915** in 1895



An example of accepted use
in Bechuanaland of BSAC
stamps, cancelled with BONC
676 and Palachwe / Khamas
Town in 1896.



Unreadable number
used at Lo Mogondi



Indistinct
number ??4
used at
Mazoe

