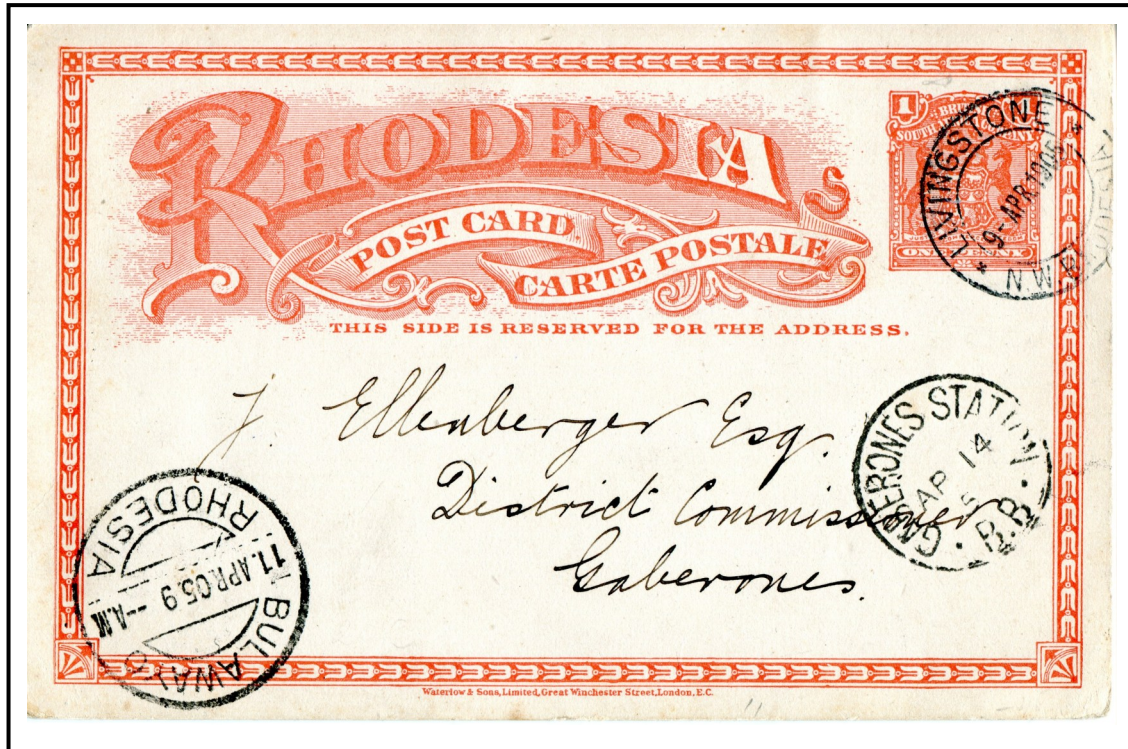


Old Drift (Livingstone) to Bechuanaland Protectorate April, 1905

Paris Missionary Society in Barotseland



HG 11 postal stationery from missionary, S.J. Fort, at Livingstone dated 9 April, 1905 to District Commissioner, J. Ellenberger, at Gaberones. What makes this piece of postal history rather special is its link to the Rhodesian Study Circle. The card has the following cancels: LIVINGSTONE 9 APR 1905, BULAWAYO 11 APR 05 and GABERONES STATION AP 14 / 5. Fort writes:

I am bringing a letter + a small box from Mr V. Ellenberger of Nalolo for you but as I can not spare the time to break my journey at Gaberones, I will leave them at the station as I pass through by train de luxe.

Victor (V) and Jules (J) Ellenberger were the sons of Frédéric Ellenberger (1835-1919), a Swiss French Protestant missionary who left for Basutoland (present-day Lesotho) in 1860 as a member of the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society. Ellenberger spent more than 45 years collecting the oral traditions of the Basotho (also known as Sotho) people. Victor was to serve as a missionary in both Barotseland and Basutoland. He married Evangeline Christol. Jules entered the Colonial Civil Service and held a number of posts in the Protectorate Administration. He married Frances Casalis.



Finally, Jules Ellenberger and Francis Casalis' son, Vivien (1896-1977), was, for a period of time, President of the Rhodesian Study Circle! (They are featured in this early photograph.)