



CAPE-OF-GOOD-HOPE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY

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Cover image: The cover image shows Jo Bodeon, a back-roper in the mule room at Chace Cotton Mill. Burlington, Vermont. This and other similar images in this book were taken by Lewis W. Hine, in the period between 1908-1912. These images as well as social campaigns by many including Hine, helped to formulate America's anti-child labour laws.

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EXPERIMENTAL_HANDSTA

Contents

<i>Experimental Postmarks</i>	7
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Experimental Postmarks

Between the years 1882 and 1900 six handstamp designs were issued on what appears a highly selective basis. Their main characteristic being their unusual design. The purpose of them being issued was to find a datetamp that could be used for simultaneous defacing and dating of letters. The majority of them were only used at the General Post Office in Cape Town. Others had limited distribution. The Squared Circle was the exception having been issued to some 55 different post offices.

These handstamps can be classified as follows:

1. The Squared Circle Datestamp of 1882
2. The Squared Octagon Datestamp of 1887
3. The Hooded Circular Datestamp of 1888
4. The Truncated Circle Datestamp of 1890
5. The Compass Wheel Datestamp of 1891
6. The Divided Inner Circle Datestamp of 1898

I found the inclusion of the Divided Inner Circle Datestamp necessary - although authors such as Goldblatt and Jurgens do not classify it as an experimental datestamp as it has all the characteristics of an unusual design, limited distribution and relatively short life. The exhibit attempts to classify, hereto all the types and varieties as well as to present a chronological map of their usage and distribution and to record earliest and latest used example.

Their use was mostly deducted as a result of this exhibit and is summarised as follows:

1. The Squared Circle Datestamp of July 1882-Union Period
2. The Squared Octagon Datestamp of May 1888-1890
3. The Hooded Circular Datestamp of 1888-1890
4. The Truncated Circle Datestamp of 1890-1892
5. The Compass Wheel Datestamp of March 1892-1893
6. The G.P.O. Squared Circle datestamp 1894-1898
7. The Divided Inner Circle Datestamp of Jun 1898-1901

SQUARED CIRCLE



SQUARED OCTAGON



HOODED CIRCULAR



TRUNCATED CIRCLE



COMPASS WHEEL



DIVIDED INNER CIRCLE



Figure 1: Experimental postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope.

The exhibit is mostly based mostly on the James Perkins correspondence where material was adequate in my collection to form a coherent study with very little gaps. Now and then I have used colour prints of back of postcards and letters. This was intended to give the reader a flavour of the times when these postmarks were used.