



# CAPE-OF-GOOD-HOPE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY

Yiannis Lazarides

Published by Camel Press NF



*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.

Copyright ©2012 Dr Yiannis Lazarides

Permission is granted to copy, distribute and/or modify this document under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License, version 1.2, with no invariant sections, no front-cover texts, and no back-cover texts.

A copy of the license is included in the appendix.

This document is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but without any warranty; without even the implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

DR. YIANNIS LAZARIDES

TPO\_WESTERN



## *Contents*



## Cape of Good Hope - Postal History

### Travelling Post offices of The Cape of Good Hope

#### Western T.P.O.

card Down.jpg



Figure 1:

cards posted on the train.jpg

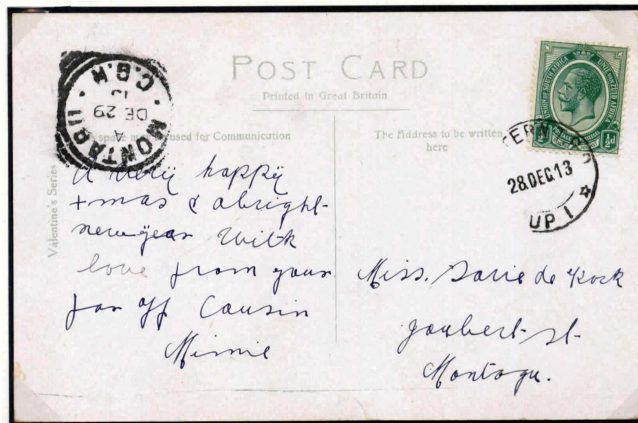


Figure 2: 28 Dec 1913 Postcard Posted on the train whilst travelling towards Cape Town.

registered.jpg



Figure 3:

The Travelling Post Office service of the Cape of Good Hope commenced late 1882. Special vans were fitted to carry mail. In 1883 the line reached Victoria West but as the railway lines were extended so did the T.P.O.

In 1885 the service reached De Aar and the section from Cape Town to De Aar was named the Western T.P.O.

The vans were coupled to trains which departed from Cape Town at 5.30 p.m. every day of the week except Fridays and Saturdays. An express or "fast" train left Cape Town on Fridays at 1.15 p.m. Four

of the vans proceeded as far as Beaufort west and the other two continued to De Aar.

The Western T.P.O. continued to use the no-name postmarks until about 1891, the "No Name" T.P.O. was renamed the "WESTERN T.P.O." as it operated over the Western route of the Cape Government railways between Cape Town and De Aar. It carried on well into the twentieth century (until 1950) when T.P.O. were stopped because of expense. The Western T.P.O. operated North of De Aar at times and also on the route De Aar to Naauwpoort and possibly into the Orange Free State on occasion. "UP" in the marks indicated towards Cape Town and "DOWN" away from Cape Town. In the course of the train's northbound journey from Cape Town, letters, newspapers and parcels were dispatched to all offices in the colony, as well as the Orange Free State and Transvaal. On the return journey, the main duty of the official in charge was to open every mailbag addressed to forward post offices and to sort the correspondence to facilitate speedy delivery on arrival at the terminus.

Mailbags were made up and handed out at stations en route and mail for Cape Town was sub-sorted into various categories such as government departments, private boxes, poste restante and street deliveries. Foreign mail was sub-sorted for transmission to London, Manchester, Plymouth, Liverpool, Scotland, Ireland and provinces and countries to be served in London. This facilitated the dispatch of overseas mail on Wednesdays, which was accomplished within three hours of the train's arrival at Cape Town.

Western T.P.O. cards posted on the train 28 Dec 1913 Postcard  
Posted on the train whilst travelling towards Cape Town. Posting of  
Letters on the Train

The T.P.O vans carried a supply of postage stamps which the public could purchase and mail could be posted on the T.P.O. up to the time of the train's departure, or at any intermediate station. This was, subject to the payment of 6d. as a late fee over and above the normal rate if the mail bags had already been closed. This was denoted by a Late Fee handstamp (TPO 25).

Letters posted on the train are rare although a number of them exist and quite possibly more are waiting to be found in postcard collections.

### *Registration Service*

#### Western T.P.O. Registered Letter

A registered service was available on the Western T.P.O vans. this registration service was identical to those offered in other post offices of the Cape of Good Hope.