



GRIQUALAND-WEST STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY

Yiannis Lazarides

Published by Camel Press NF



Cover image: This 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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DR. YIANNIS LAZARIDES

1879_BLACK_OVERPRINT

Contents

<i>1879 Black Overprints</i>	7
------------------------------	---

1879 Black Overprints

The last overprinting before Griqualand West was absorbed by Cape Colony took place in 1879, a date given by Holmes with some reserve, as no stamp of this issue has been seen with an earlier date than that year. As before, the setting was one of 120, and this time the type consisted of ordinary 8-point roman capital G's. The overprinting was in black.

As can be observed from the large block shown below, the position of the "G" varied, as well as many stamps show it positioned at an angle.



Figure 1: 5 Sh, block of nine, three stamps as well in the landscape format, postmark "227" KIMBERLEY. Rare large unit (street), certificate with photograph Knopke. (Catalog value: 1 530) EURO 600

Six values were overprinted:

- $\frac{1}{2}$. grey black
- 1d. carmine red.
- 4d. blue (without frame line).
- 6d. mauve.
- 1s. green.
- 5s. orange-yellow.

As before all are watermarked Crown over CC and perforated 14. Holmes reports that a complete setting of this issue has not been seen, the largest blocks available being an entire left pane of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and a block of seventeen 1d. from the right pane. Some of the G's in the setting are of a different font, being similar to the antique G's of the previous setting. Two are to be found in the left pane, Nos. 20 and 58. Blocks of all values of this issue, it should be emphasized, are exceedingly rare.

All six values are known with double overprint, and the 1d. and 5/- with tremble overprint. These multiple overprints are different from the usual run of such things in that they were applied purposely to make the overprint more distinctive.



Figure 2: AC624 1879 5/- yellow-orange with interpanneau margin at left, overprinted 'G' (Type 17). Showing the variety OVERPRINT DOUBLE. Few light hinge remnants, otherwise very fine mint. Stanley Gibbons handstamp on reverse. Rare. SG 29a, McGregor stock.

Inverted overprints occur on the 1d. and 6d. The 4d. is also said to exist inverted, but no specimen has been seen.