



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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PARCEL_POST_KIMBERLE

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Griqualand - Kimberley

What appears to be a new discovery in Germany (they seem to have collected the best stamps) is the Griqualand block shown below. BONC 227 is extremely scarce with only a few copies recorded. There are also some known fakes.



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) euro600

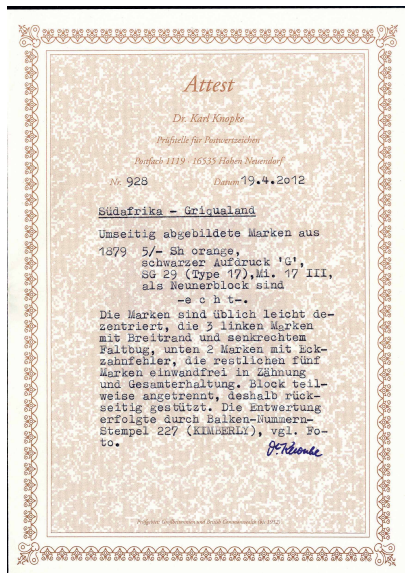


Figure 2: Certificate from Dr. Knopke for the block.

One can see clearly that the handstamp was deteriorating and perhaps this is the reason why it is so scarce as they probably threw it out. Guessing from the value of the stamps this was probably some heavy parcel, and probably heavily insured. There are totally nine stamps of 5 /- each, which was a lot of money in those days. One would like to think that it contained diamonds destined for overseas.

As we don't know the year it was posted, one can assume the cheapest rate possible at the time which was 9d per lb. This was then around a 60lb parcel (27 kg). Kimberley at the time was renowned for its diamond mining and one can only guess that it contained uncut diamonds.

I bid the maximum I could afford hoping that nobody in the room would be interested in the lot. The auction is in September and I am hoping to win it at around euro350. Anything less than this would be a great bargain. the stamps alone are worth five times that.