



# 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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DR. YIANNIS LAZARIDES

# FORWARDING\_AGENTS



# *Contents*

<i>Forwarding Agents</i>	7
<i>Forwarding Agents Guilty of an Offense?</i>	7
<i>List of Forwarding Agents</i>	8



## Forwarding Agents

Forwarding agents were commercial firms who undertook the onward transmission of letters. These forwarded agents in many instances made use of their own private caches. These were generally struck on the front of covers.



Figure 1:

Most of the forwarding agents were located in Cape Town, although there is a single example from Port Elizabeth. Most of the handstamps have the wording *Forwarded by* preceding the name of the firm. Passengers on ships calling to the Cape of Good Hope carried letters whose addresses were unknown to them and entrusted the delivery to a forwarding agent.

In other cases the agent received letters from passengers for onward transmission to overseas destinations.

### *Forwarding Agents Guilty of an Offense?*

It appears from most of the covers on record that the agents did not make use of the Postal facilities. As from 1806 the transmission of letters was the prerogative of the Post Office and hence the agents strictly speaking were guilty of an offense. However, as Goldblatt remarks these agents provided a valuable service to the community in that in many cases no direct postal service was available and in others they were able to negotiate the delivery of letters to shipmasters with vessels that were not contracted to the Post Office..



Figure 2:

### List of Forwarding Agents

#### III 1 List of Forwarding Agents

##### 2 Thomson and Watson Cape of Good Hope

<p style="text-align: center;"><strong>List of Forwarding Agents</strong></p>		
1	Thomson Watson Co.	Cape of Good hope

2	W.Dickson Co.	Cape of Good Hope
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3	J.SearightCo.	Cape of Good Hope
4		

	Hamilton Ross Co.	
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