



CAPE-OF-GOOD-HOPE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY

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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

DE_LA_RUE_INTRODUCTI

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The De La Rue Printing

It is recorded in official records that at the end of January 1862 the dies, plates, watermark paper moulds, e.t.c. were handed over to the Crown Agents by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co..

These were transferred to the new Contractors-Messrs De La Rue & Co.- in May 1862. This offered an advantage both in cost and in security.

An order was issued to the new Contractor and on the 5th February, 1863, the six Pence and One Shilling stamps were despatched to the Cape of Good Hope authorities. They arrived at Cape Town on the 14th of March while the Four pence was forwarded in May.



Figure 1:

In April 1863 another order was placed for the One-Penny and the Four Pence. And despatched to the Colony in December of the same year.

The last printing of the One-Penny was despatched by the Cambrian on the 5th March and the Four Pence was despatched on the s.s. Athenson the 5th May 1864 The stamps were printed on watermark Anchor paper.

How to Distinguish Between the Perkins Bacon and the De La Rue Issues

The stamps can be distinguished from the Perkins Bacon Issues by a printing that is not so distinct -as the plates started to get worn- as well as different printing shades. The stamps are described as having a wooly or flaky appearance. This implies that the engraving lines are blurred and in extreme cases the background is a uniform mass of colour. The flaky appearance shows the ink lying in tiny solid areas, as if it had not penetrated a well-chalked paper surface.

Unterschied der Drucke der Kap-Dreiecke von De la Rue und

between de la rue and bacon printings.jpg



Figure 2:

Perkins Bacon At left is the Perkins Bacon Issue at Right is the De la Rue issue. the most pronounced difference is on the hand and I normally use that feature to distinguish the stamps.

.../cape-of-good-hope/adhesives/triangulars/four-pence.jpg

Specimens



Figure 3:

shilling specimen file.jpg

You can check this one again below Four Pence pair De la Rue printing A Four Pence pair. Note the distinct trumpet shape separation between the two stamps. The top is Die A and the bottom is Die B



Figure 4: Auction: 14024 - The Philatelic Collector's Series Sale featuring the Award-winning Collection of Province of Otago Postal History formed by Greg Francis, and the Cliff Wheatley Rhodesias Lot: 1684 (x) Cape of Good Hope 1863-64 De La Rue Issue 1/- bright emerald-green block of eight, deckle-edged margin at left, good to large margins elsewhere, large part original gum; very fine and an impressive multiple. Brandon Certificate (2008). S.G. 21, £4,400. Photo Sold for £3,800

SG21

One Shilling Emerald Green

From p8 Philatelic Record 1898 VOL. XX. JANUARY TO DECE 1898.

Cape Emerald Shilling 5s Find By MAJOR EVANS.

From "The Monthly Journal." The One Shilling triangular emerald-green of the Cape of Good Hope has always been a rather scarce stamp, Unused in mint condition, especially in unsevered pairs or blocks, they are decidedly difficult stamps to find; and this will be easily understood, when we remember that the stamps in this colour belong to the comparatively small supply of that value printed by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., and sent out in 1863, not long before the triangular stamps were superseded by the less striking but far more convenient rectangular. To this fact, and also no doubt to the fact that in those days the great majority of collectors were content with a single copy, and preferred that copy obliterated, we owe it that the emerald-green Shilling, in fine unused condition, has not come down to us in such abundance as we could wish.

One hundred and fifty-eight sheets is the total number stated in the London Society's Africa book to have been despatched to the Colony in January, 1863 ; this was the last lot of triangular Shillings that was supplied, and the only lot printed in emerald-green. It was, therefore, rather a shock to me when, a few days ago, a friend who had asked me to meet him, as he had something curious to show me, pulled a modest-looking roll out of his pocket, and carefully unwrapped one of these very 158 sheets, almost entire, lacking only two specimens out of the 240 ! It was a real find, having turned up in a mass of old papers, supposed to be of very little value, but containing a certain number of curiosities, amongst which this will certainly take the highest place.

The sheet is in excellent condition, perfectly clean, with original gum and margins, except where a single pair has been cut out, quite complete; and one can only wonder what led its original owner to stow away nearly AAA£AAAA12 worth of stamps (face value) in this

manner, for there can be little doubt that it has never before been in the hands of a stamp collector, and it would appear to have been accidentally preserved, as no other stamps of so early a date have yet been found in the pile.

The impression is not even in tint throughout, and it seems evident that either one end of the plate was somewhat worn, or that end was not so heavily inked as the other when this impression was printed, one end of the sheet being distinctly paler in shade, and showing a slight want of ink at some of the points where the corners of four stamps meet. The other part of the sheet is of a beautiful deep colour.

It is, of course, on the usual Anchor-watermarked paper, and as sheets of these triangular stamps are not often to be met with nowadays, I thought it of interest to take some notes of the dimensions of this one, and of the arrangement of the watermarks, &c. The arrangement of the stamps is well known; the sheet of each value contained 240 copies, in fifteen rows of eight pairs in each row. The watermarks are so placed that an Anchor should appear upon each stamp, with its stock pointing towards the top corner of the design. Surrounding the portion of the sheet intended to receive the impression of the plate, is a frame of five parallel lines in watermark, interrupted twice along each of the longer, and once in the centre of each of the shorter sides by the Newfoundland Provisional ic. word " POSTAGE " in outline capitals. The letters occupy the width of four of the lines, and the inner line is continuous all round the pane of Anchors.

The size of the pane of stamps, in the case I am describing, is 263 x 500 mm., and of the sheet of paper (the watermarked frame extending quite to the edges) 282 x 536 mm. From these particulars it will be seen that it would be quite impossible to put a sheet into the press sideways, which it is stated in the Society's Africa book is the cause of parts of two Anchors sometimes appearing at the bottom of a stamp, instead of one Anchor in the middle. This misplacement of the watermark is evidently due to the sheet being put into the press with the wrong side of the paper uppermost, which may frequently have taken place ; in this case the diagonal space between the two stamps of each pair would fall along, or parallel to, the stocks of the two Anchors, instead of between the latter, and so a portion of each Anchor would come at the bottom of each stamp. We thus see that this paper, which had the advantage of having neither top nor bottom, but was always the right way up in one sense of the term, possessed the disadvantage of having a right and a wrong side.

Further examination of the sheet seems to show that the roller with which the plate was constructed probably bore two impressions of the original die, carefully placed with the bases of the triangles parallel to one another, as the diagonal spaces are very regular, whilst the horizontal and vertical spaces between the rows of pairs are not so; the former, that is the spaces between the rows of eight, vary from 2mm to 3 mm., and the latter, the spaces between the rows of fifteen, varying also, but not to so great an extent, and hardly in any part exceeding 2 mm.

All these little details may appear to be of minor importance, but it is as well to place information of this kind on record, as it is not always obtainable.

Bibliography