



# 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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EXPERIMENTAL\_HANDSTA



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### *Square Octagon.*



Figure 1: 13 DEC 1888 Cover from Cape Town to Worcester, bearing two seated Hope 1d red and handstamped Square Octagon handstamp (Goldblatt SO 1) datestamp dated 13 Dec 88, Control letter N backstamped Worcester cds DEC14 88.

The Square octagon datestamp (Goldblatt SO 1 ) was another experimental postmark aimed in finding a canceller that could be used for the simultaneous defacing and dating of letters. It followed the issue of the square circle postmarks. The Square Octagon canceller was issued to the Cape Town General Post Office exclusively in 1887. The datestamp resembles those used in the Orange Free State and the South African Republic (Transvaal) at the time.

It appears that the earliest date of use was 1st May 1887 on a cover from Cape Town to Worcester. An example with dark blue ink has also been recorded.

This postmark had a very short lifetime and was later replaced by the Hooded Circular Datestamp of 1888. It must be noted that about the same time the British Post Office was carrying out similar experiments.