



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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MONEY_ORDER_OFFICE

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The Money Order Office

The post office advised the public as early as 1828 that, owing to the great distances the mail was conveyed, it would not accept responsibility for money sent by mail being lost or stolen in transit.

When money was to be transmitted, the postmaster wrote "Money Letter" on the outside of the cover. A separate bag was provided for money letters and the driver of the postcart was told of its contents.

The public was advised that, as a precautionary measure, those who found it absolutely necessary to transmit money by mail should cut the notes in half diagonally, retaining one half until confirmation of the safe arrival of the other had been received. Special arrangements were made between the banks and the post office to recognise notes treated in this manner, subject to satisfactory explanation in the event of a loss.

Money order business was instituted at the post office on 1 March 1846 and initially the G.P.O. at Cape Town made use of the Circular Date Stamp of 1853 (CDS 1) to date the orders. (4) A datestamp for the Money Order Office (MOO 1) was brought into use in about 1869. A circle with a diameter of 24,5 to 25 mm reads "Cape Town" at the top and has the letters M.O.O. for Money Order Office below. The day, month and year are centred in the circle in two lines. (See example on a Money Order Advice from Aliwal North).

Money order facilities were gradually extended to all the main post offices in the colony and some were issued with special circular datestamps (MOO 2). Postmasters who had not been furnished with special stamps used the ordinary office datestamps to date money orders. Money Order datestamps were also used by some postmasters to deface stamps on letters and to stamp telegrams.

The Cape Town Money Order Office used three different handstamps, which were brought into use about 1894. MOO 3 and MOO 4 are similar, both with the letters M.o.o. uppermost and the word Cape Town in the lower part of the circle. The diameter and the size of the lettering differ in the two types, that of MOO 3 being 25 and 3,5 mm, respectively, whereas the diameter of MOO 4 is 26 mm and the lettering 4,5 mm.

The third type (MOO 5) shows "M.O. Branch" at the top of the circle and "G.P.O. Cape Town" below. MOO 6 has the letters M.o.o. preceding the name of the town (in this instance, Beaconsfield). In 1898, Port Elizabeth received a datestamp of 25 mm diameter (MOO 7) which was in use for both the Money Order and Savings Bank



Figure 1: Datestamps used in the Money Order Office.

Aliwal North
Inland.]—Cape of Good Hope No. 988

Stamp of
Issuing Office.
AU 29
1873

£ 8 s. d. —
000000000000

Advice of Money Order drawn by the above Office
for £ *Eight* s. — d. —
upon the Office at *Cape Town*
.....*C. H. G. M. M.*..... Postmaster.

THE PAYEE, viz. the person to whom the Order is payable.
CHRISTIAN NAME. SURNAMES.
Secretary Mutual Life Assurance Society

THE REMITTER, viz. the person who paid in the Money, and obtained the Order.
CHRISTIAN NAME. SURNAMES.
J. Powrie and Brother

This Advice must be signed and stamped by the Postmaster who draws the Order, and be retained by the Postmaster to whom it is drawn until the corresponding Order has been presented and paid, or has become lapsed. An Inland order becomes lapsed if payment is not obtained by the end of the Fourth Calendar Month after that in which it was issued. The Advice relating to Orders paid must be forwarded to the Secretary, General Post Office, Cape Town, with the Accounts rendered at the close of each Month. At the end of each Month the Advice relating to lapsed orders must be forwarded to the Secretary, the word "lapsed" being written across the Advice.
N.B.—A separate Advice must invariably be sent for each Order.

Stamp of
Paying Office on the
date of cashing.
SP 8
1873
CAPE TOWN

Figure 2: 1873 Money Order Advice complete form (106 x 142 mm) printed in orange-brown ex Aliwal North (town oval) AU 29 1873 in amount of eight pounds payable to the Secretary Mutual Life Assurance Society from Powrie and Brother showing receiving date stamp of Cape Town M.O.O. / SP 8 1873 (Goldblatt MOO 1) at base endorsed to be returned.

branches, indicated by the abbreviation M.O. & S.B. The Money Order Office at the General Post Office in Cape Town used a large and distinctive stamp (MOO 8), struck when the order was paid out on presentation. The design consists of double-lined inner and outer circles, with diameters of 30 and 45 mm respectively. The words "General Post Office" appear above, and "Cape Town" below, within the circles, and are separated by a star on either side. The word "Paid" framed by horizontal lines above and below, appears in the centre 3.