



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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Triangulars - Forgeries

Spiro Brothers Forgeries

The Spiro brothers made large numbers of forgeries, including a large number of Cape Triangulars from 1864 to about 1880. They had their own lithographic printing firm in Hamburg (Germany).

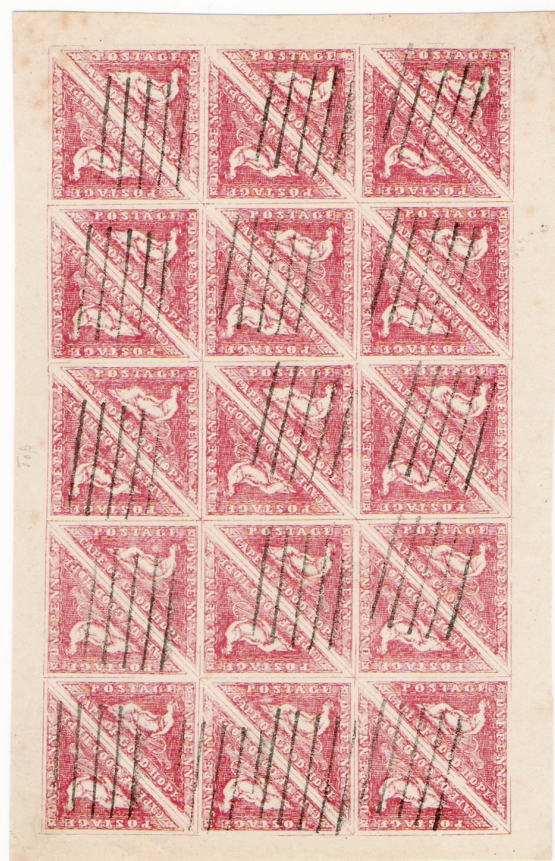


Figure 1: Spiro Cape Triangular Forgery of the One Penny Red Stamps.

Strictly speaking the Spiro forgeries are fascimiles and were sold as such. A legitimate activity in those days. Over the years about 500 different forgeries were made. These forgeries must be the most numerous of all stamp forgeries and can be found in almost every old collection.

The Cape Triangular forgeries were normally printed in sheets of 30 as in the example shown here. In sheets they are difficult to find. As they look very attractive grub one if you can find it.

The stamps were never gummed, but can be found mostly can-

celled. The typical 'Spiro cancels' are often the easiest way to recognize these forgeries.

Facsimiles were openly collected and from 1864 to 1875 the Spiro Brothers firm made its living by meeting the need fully and openly.

Other early dealers also offered facsimiles as well as outright fakes or reprints. From George Hussey and Ferdinand Elb, to S. Allen Taylor and J. Walter Scott, livings were made by providing facsimiles and forgeries in addition to legitimate and bogus issues