



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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Contents

<i>The Seated Hope Stamps</i>	7
<i>The Second Definitive Issue 'Retouched Die' the Outer Line Removed</i>	7
<i>The Five Shillings Stamp</i>	7
<i>Printings</i>	8
<i>Deepening of the 4d shade to a darker blue.</i>	8

The Seated Hope Stamps

The Second Definitive Issue 'Retouched Die' the Outer Line Removed

(1871-1876)

As the old dies started to wear out the printers Messrs De La Rue & Co. requested to have the original dies altered by removing the outer line frame. In addition they had the shading upon the figure of Hope and the vine leaves redrawn.

With the exception of the Six Pence and One Shilling stamps which retained the outer frame line.

It appears that De La Rue wrote to the Crown Agents on July 12, 1870 reasoning that the firm was against the stamps having thin frame lines as these could be damaged and wear easily¹. The letter has not survived but the Crown Agent's reply of July 13th did and we quote:

Referring to your letter of the 12th instant respecting the renewal of the Cape of Good Hope postage plate, duty 1d., I have to acquaint you that the Crown Agents consent to the preparation of a new forme at a cost of £85, as well as you altering the die in the manner proposed.

The new plate of 240 multiples was invoiced on October 26, 1870, and the next supply of One Penny stamps was invoiced on June 8, 1871, when 687,120 were charged.

The Five Shillings Stamp

(Issued prior to 25th August 1871)

In February 1871 the Postmaster General reported the need for a higher duty stamp. His reason for his recommendation was that owing to the fact that several One Shilling stamps were necessary to frank a single letter inconvenience has been experienced through the covering up of the front of the envelopes and the concealment of the addresses. In addition difficulty arose by the stamps being detached in the post. This was accepted and the die and stamps were prepared by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. The order for the die and the plate for the Five Shillings came on March 27, 1871 as part of a routine order for reprints of the One Penny, Foupence and One Shilling. The choice of colour was left to De La Rue. The die and a plate of 240 multiples was invoiced on June 5th. (Easton, p290).



Figure 1: Retouched Die Showing the Outer Frame Line Removed



Figure 2: Original Die Showing the Outer Frame Line (You can see the frame easier if you look at the bottom of the stamp)

The first consignment amounted to 100 sheets of 240 stamps each. These were despatched from England by the s.s. Roman on the 9th June 1871. They reached Cape Town about the 17th July. They were issued to the public towards the end of August 1871.

Printings

Several subsequent printings of the Five Shillings stamps upon the paper watermarked with the Crown CC were made. Noticeable shades of the orange-yellow are obtainable.

Deepening of the 4d shade to a darker blue.

Easton writes (p 295) that deepening of the shade of blue of the Cape of Good Hope Fourpence with frame line was intentional. When sending their requisition for a further supply on January 9, 1872 the Crown Agents wrote:

The local Postmaster suggests that, if practicable, the four penny stamps should be tinted a shade deeper than heretofore, as by gaslight the colour of the stamp assumes a greenish hue, and is therefore liable to be mistaken for the 1/- label which is light green.

The firm in their acknowledgement of January 10th then suggested 'that if a little black were mixed with blue ink, as shown on the enclosed specimen' there would be sufficient contrast. The specimen was approved January 13th.

1. Easton, p287.