



# 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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TRIANGULAR\_POSTMARK



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## Revenue Stamps Used Postally

In the *The Philatelic Record* p.68 1884, it states:

Cape Of Good Hope.— We have seen the following fiscals, head of Queen in inscribed circle, used postally : 2s. 6d. green, 4s. lilac, 8s. ultramine.

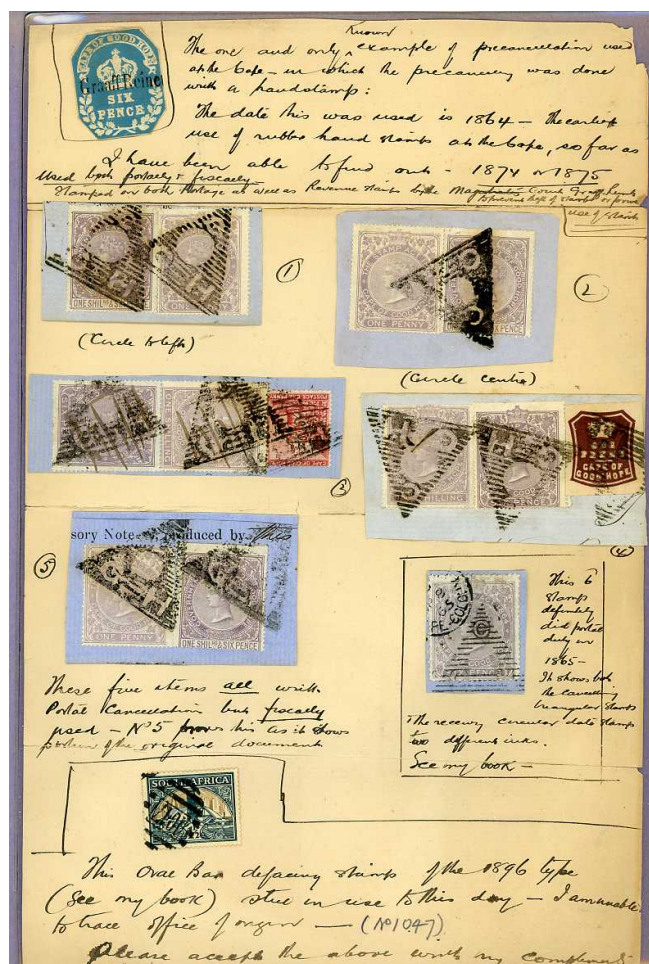


Figure 1:

Occasionally Revenue stamps of the Cape of Good Hope are found on covers or pieces 'postally used'. Both Allisfootnote:1 as well as Jurgensfootnote:2 alluded to this fact. Robson Lowe in his *Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps*, Volume II, *The Empire in Africa*, page 34, First Edition March 1st, 1949, writes:

... Between 1874 and 1875 Revenue stamps were used postally and are to be found on covers. They are the embossed 1 d. brown and 6d. blue

and the de la Rue 1d. watermark CC. *All are rare.* (The emphasis is my own).

He also has an illustration shown. It is the considered opinion of most Cape of Good Hope philatelists that all these covers were as a matter of fact forged by Jurgens, who wrote about them extensively in his book, quoted above. It also appears that Robson Lowe's primary source for this information was Jurgen as he writes:

... Special acknowledgement is made to Mr. A.A. Jurgens, whose standard work on the "Handstruck Letter stamps of the Cape of Good Hope has been the source of most of the information given above.

The illustration shown here, is I believe in Jurgen's own hand and I presume that he has sent it to Robson Lowe himself.

The way the forged handstamps were exposed was described in an unrelated article by Robson Lowe<sup>3</sup>.

...Dr J. Harvey Pirie was a doctor on an Antarctic Expedition in 1900. He became the President of the South African Federation and was a notable philatelist. Pre-war, I had an adventure with him at a Johannesburg Exhibition. The postal history exhibits had aroused my interest and I studied them close noticing a handstamp in shocking pink from the Cape of Good Hope, and another in the same colour from the Orange Free State. In the mid-19th century, this colour was not known, and I drew Harvey Pirie's notice to this peculiarity. In consequence the forged handstamps made by A.A. Jurgens were exposed by my old friend, Douglas Roth...

Adrian Albert Jurgens (1886-1953) was a South African philatelist and signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (RDP) in 1952.

In 1944 Jurgens won the Crawford Medal from the Royal Philatelic Society London for his work *The Handstruck Letter Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope from 1792 to 1853 and the Postmarks from 1853 to 1910*.

It appears that later on Robson Lowe discovered the fact <http://www.robsonlowe.co.uk/> and he famously declined to sign the RDP due to the organisers failure to delete Jurgens name. Lowe regarded Jurgens as a forger.

Jurgen's main area of interest was the philately of Southern Africa, in particular the Bechuanalands and Cape of Good Hope, and the A.A. Jurgens - Cape of Good Hope, Barbara Jurgens Memorial Collection of twenty volumes is in the Iziko Museums of Cape Town.[3] Barbara was Adrian's daughter.

This piece of postal history has many angles pointing to an outright fake. If Adrian did it to prove a point or to profit is unknown. Since his collection was eventually donated to a museum I tend to lean on the 'vanity' theory. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

He is still listed on the Roll of Distinguished philatelists on the <http://www.philatelsa.co.za/RDPSAS.html>

The item below was auctioned on ebay on 14 July 2012, I am not sure if it was a Jurgen's fake but it has all the signs of it.



[http://www.ebay.com/itm/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=380452270869&ssPageName=ADME:B:WNA:US:1123#ht\\_500wt\\_823](http://www.ebay.com/itm/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=380452270869&ssPageName=ADME:B:WNA:US:1123#ht_500wt_823)

It fetched a price of AAA£AAAA;800 ++ I stopped looking when it hit 730 pounds.



Figure 2:



Figure 3: Jurgens faked cover with triangular obliterator and faked DTO Swellendam. Note both covers have the same date, MAR 27, 1867. The cover is from an ebay auction, which unfortunately I did not keep the details. The seller was from the Cape.

1. Robson Lowe, *Philatelic Personalities, A Glance At the Philatelic Past*, London Philatelist, December 1993 102:353. (LP1211.pdf)