



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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ADVERTIZED_AND_UNCLA

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Unclaimed Letters at the Cape of Good Hope Post Offices



Figure 1: Postcard addressed to Durban South Africa and re-directed to 'Post-Restante' Cape Town, bearing 'Post-Restante' single circle postmark, Return Letter Office dated Apr 06 when it was also stamped 'ADVERTIZED and UNCLAIMED'. (After some four months or so lying by the 'POST RESTANTE' section.

In the early days of the Cape of Good Hope letters were often addressed to private individuals marked 'to be called for'.

After a certain time has lapsed these 'UNCLAIMED' letters were postmarked with one of the the Return Letter postmarks (Goldblatt RLO 16 to RL 18).

As these undelivered letters accumulated the postoffice periodically published lists in the 'Cape Government Gazette'. If after a certain period they were still not claimed they were stamped with one of the postmarks illustrated (Goldblatt RLo 19 to RLO 23) and then kept for a few more months.

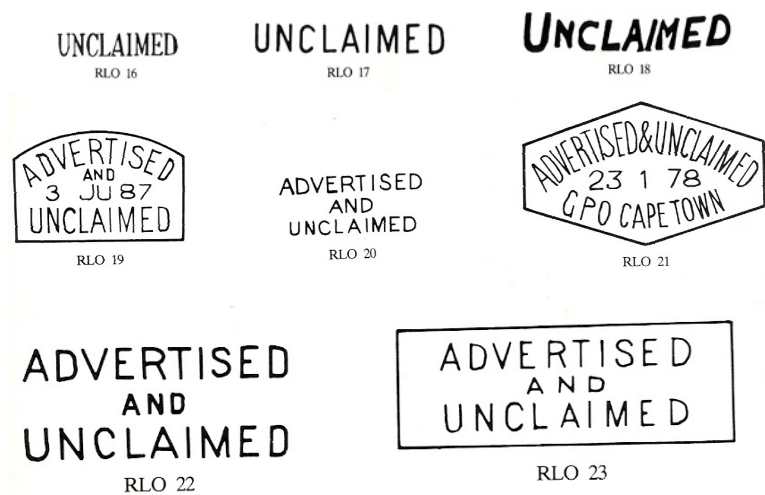


Figure 2: Advertized and unclaimed marks of the Cape of Good Hope (from Goldblatt).

Eventually these letters were opened their content examined and if they contained valuables such as coins or notes their content was recorded before they were destroyed by the Cape Postal authorities.

Some of these letters survived and one of them is illustrated above. Advertized and Unclaimed Cape Postmarks. How, they survived? It is not known but possibly some were eventually collected

before they were destroyed and others might have found their way into the philatelic market the same way proofs and essays do.