



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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3_ON_THREE_OVERPRINT

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The '3' on THREE Overprint

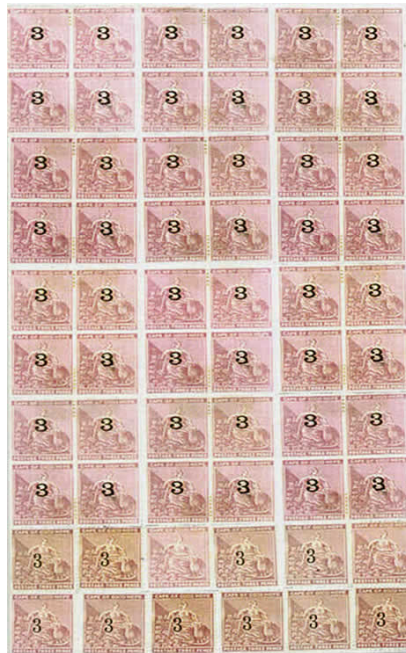


Figure 1: '3' on three sheet reconstruction Reconstruction of sheet based on information from surviving blocks and strips.

THE "3" ON THREE PENCE PALE DULL ROSE OVERPRINT (Issued August 1880)

The new Three pence stamps received from England had been in issue for two or three days when the Postmaster General reported that his previously expressed fears, as to the confusion with the One Penny stamps had been found to be true and that inconvenience and difficulties were already being experienced.

He requested that immediate steps be taken to instruct the Government printers to surcharge all the Three Pence stamps in stock with a distinctive mark which he suggested should be a large "3".

Arrangements were made with Messrs. Saul Solomon & Co. and the surcharging is officially recorded as having commenced on the 26th July 1880.

It is believed that the surcharge was applied to 60 stamps (one pane) at each operation. Owing to the insufficiency of figures of the same font the work was carried out using a broad "3" and a narrow "3". Block of four proving that the stamps were printed at least on two rows. '3' on three error

Strip of three with middle stamp missing the '3'

There is nothing in the records to indicate the arrangement of the



Figure 2: Block of four proving that the stamps were printed at least on two rows.



Figure 3:

types. But based on surviving blocks it is probable that the first eight rows consisted of the broad and the last two rows of the narrow 3. Based on the block of four illustrated here at least two rows consisted of the narrow '3'. The strip of three illustrated also here shows the middle stamp missing the overprint confirming that the missing '3' must have existed on the 9th row., these stamps must have existed on the ninth row, although their position is conjectural. footnote: 1, 2,3,4.

The fact that there were two narrow rows printed can be deduced from blocks of three that exist (see adjacent photograph). (Allis states that there were nine rows of the broad "3" and one of the narrow "3". This is incorrect as can be deduced from the block of four shown here).

Many other varieties exist.

References

1 Allis states that there were nine rows of the broad "3" and one of the narrow "3". This is incorrect as can be deduced from the block of four shown on the next page of this exhibit.

2 Robson Lowe states that the "forme" for printing the surcharge was probably made of 48 of Type I and 10 of Type II, two having the surcharge omitted. The sixth stamp of the ninth row was definitely without a surcharge. Either the second, third, fourth or fifth were without a surcharge.

3 Jurgens reports having seen the two types se-tenant horizontally. This was probably a replacement when the printers became aware of the problem.

4 Lowe states that stamps surcharge "3" in manuscript are known. They may be attempts to correct the stamps with overprint omitted.



