



CAPE-OF-GOOD-HOPE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY

Yiannis Lazarides

Published by Camel Press NF



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.

Copyright ©2012 Dr Yiannis Lazarides

Permission is granted to copy, distribute and/or modify this document under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License, version 1.2, with no invariant sections, no front-cover texts, and no back-cover texts.

A copy of the license is included in the appendix.

This document is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but without any warranty; without even the implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

DR. YIANNIS LAZARIDES

EXPERIMENTAL_HANDSTA

Contents

<i>The Divided Inner Circle Datestamp of 1898</i>	7
---	---

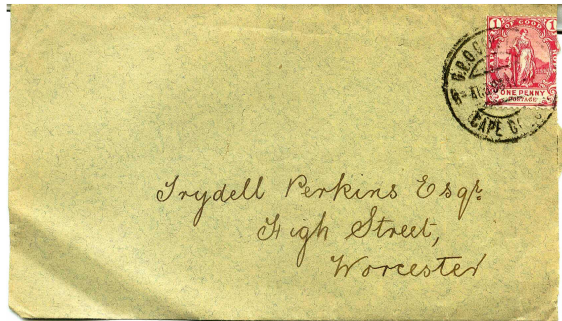
The Divided Inner Circle Datestamp of 1898

Contrary to other Postal History studies (Goldblatt and others do not treat it as an experimental handstamp), I have treated this datestamp as the last of the experimental handstamps due to the fact that this followed directly the use of the Compass Wheel. It was also the first datestamp to use the actual time, instead of a control letter. The experimental handstamps were all superseded later by the double circle datestamps of 1900-1902 that incorporated most if not all the features that the post office required, such as the full time shown as am or pm, a design that was not subject to wear - a circle is obviously the best and a double circle even better.

Goldblatt does not indicate the date of issue for the handstamp. I could not find exact records as to when in 1898 this datestamp was first used but from records in this study it appears to be August 1898.

The design consists of an outer circle with a diameter of 39 mm and two semi-circular lines, separated by the date and time control. The words "G.P.O. Cape Town" appear at the top, and "Cape Colony" at the bottom of the handstamp (DDS 1 to 3).

Two variant types may be distinguished. The first (DDS 2) has the semi-circular lines connected by baselines to form two segments, while the other (DDS 3) shows the baseline only partially extended. When observing these designs Goldblatt notes that "...the immediate reaction is to attribute these baseline deficiencies to wear, but from many examples seen the variants seem to be constant".



The General Post Office in Cape Town began using this new type of datestamp in 1898 for both backstamping of letters as well as defacing of stamps. It appears that The Divided Inner Circle Datestamp was used exclusively at the G.P.O. head office of the Cape of Good Hope.

I am in agreement with Goldblatt that from the examples of all three can be observed. However, I am not certain that all three datestamps were different designs. It can be observed from the examples shown in this page, which were during the first month of operation of this datestamp, the first issue was that of DDS 2, incorporating full lines into the design.

It is possible that as the datestamp worn out - especially given the fact that during the Anglo-Boer war there was an increase in



Figure 1:
Figure 2: Cover dated August 1898

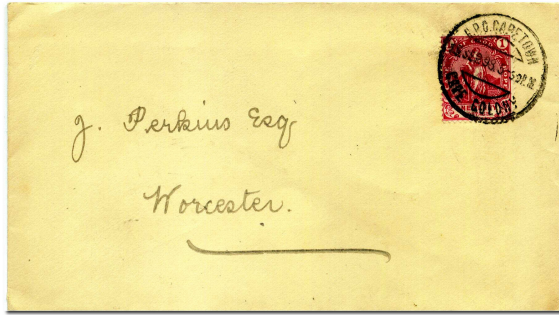


Figure 3: Earliest Known Cover.

correspondence - the datestamp was filed out to make the insertion of the time and date control easier.

The usage of the datestamp was terminated late 1901 or early 1902 superseded by the Double Circle Datestamp. This is not surprising as the impressions made by this datestamp are normally very poor. It is also very difficult to read the date. On a score of 1-10 from all the experimental hand-stamps this one gets a 3.



Figure 4: CAPE COLONY 5/12 98 Ganzsachenkarte 1 p dt to the battleship SMS "Kaiserin Augusta" in Kiautschou. With vs. * A passage mark TSINTAU China 19/2 99, along with zahlr. other stamps to Hong Kong and Manila continues sent. SHANGHAI CUSTOMS including Rs 18/2 99th Automatically generated translation: CAPE COLONY 5/12 98 postal stationery postcard 1 p to the German. Warship SMS "Empress Augusta" in Kiautschou. With one face on a route passing cancellation TSINTAU * China 19/2 99, together with numerous further postmarks to Hong Kong and Manila expanse envoy. At back. Amongst other things CUSTOMS Shanghai 18/2 99th Auction Minimum Bid: 650.00 €WuttenburgspaceSept 2012