



CAPE-OF-GOOD-HOPE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY

Yiannis Lazarides

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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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DR. YIANNIS LAZARIDES

MISSENT_LETTERS

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Missent Letters



Figure 1: Cover with SP 5, the explanatory mark 'Missent to Robben Island'; in November 1901. Note the Johannesburg press censor's marking in use during the Anglo-Boer War. The cover was sorted into the wrong mailbag.

Often due to errors made by mail sorters, letters were forwarded to incorrect destinations. Special handstamps (Goldblatt SP 1 to 5) were used to identify this missent mail. Missent mail was also marked in manuscript. Two were in use in Cape Town G.P.O (SP 1 and SP 2). Port Elizabeth, Paarl, Robben Island, Grahamstown and Kimberley had their own official handstamp for this purpose. The country postmasters were not provided with handstamps but made a manuscript note on the letter which they initialed, e.g. 'Missent to Paarl'.

The Postmaster of Willomore used an improvised combination of marking the word 'missent' in manuscript and a locally made stamp with the name 'Willomore' to mark 'missent mail'. See an example here. See also examples of manuscript markings as used at Sea-Point here.

An interesting cover was described in the London Philatelist by Alan Drysdall¹ and shown in the figure below. It bears the Cape of Good Hope, Cape Town Missent marking.

1. Drysdall A, *Missent to Cape Town*, London Philatelist, December 2008, 117-400. (LP1361.pdf)



Figure 2: Cover from France to Marisielle via Libreville and Cape Town. The cover was described by Alan Drysdall in the London Philatelist and the Illustration was credited to John and Mark Taylor.