



CAPE-OF-GOOD-HOPE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY

Yiannis Lazarides

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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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DR. YIANNIS LAZARIDES

CHEAP_RATE_POSTMARK

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Cheap Rate Mail

Although the application of an adhesive postage stamp provides a convenient means of prepaying for postage on a small number of letters, special handstamps were supplied to facilitate the handling of large batches of letters.



Figure 1:

Provenance: Y Lazarides

This is termed the 'Cheap Rate Mail'. These handstamps indicated the prepayment of postage in respect of the item on which they were impressed and dispensed with the need to affix a postage stamp.

The first of the Paid Stamps (PS 1) to denote prepayment of postage during the adhesive period, was brought into use about 1870. It was circular, with a diameter of 24 mm. It contains the words "Cape Town" and "Paid" within the circle with $\frac{1}{2}$ d denomination at the centre. Golblatt records that this was the only value used, the strike always being impressed in red, however, a 1d 'Paid' stamp of a similar design exists. This is illustrated below and referred to as (PS 1 a). The $\frac{1}{2}$ d being used for postcards and the 1 d for newspapers.

In 1888 a new design (PS 2) came into use in the Cape of Good Hope. It was also of a circular design and had a diameter of 30 mm. It had the wording G.P.O. Cape Town on top and in the middle, in large type the word 'Paid'.

In my collection I have a wrapper shown in 4, of a Cape Times (weekly edition) with two unusual and unreported marks. The circular paid mark is similar to PS1, as classified by Goldblatt, however Goldblatt reports that only the $\frac{1}{2}$ d denomination was used. The wrapper bears a rectangular shape mark with the wording DEFFI-



Figure 2: Cheap Rate Handstamp Cape Town half penny.



Figure 3: Cheap Rate Handstamps with no value markings.



Figure 4: Wrapper with two unrecorded marks. Deficiency Noted and a 1d PAID cds.

CIENCY NOTED, which is also not reported by Goldblatt. The mark is unlikely to be a tax mark, but rather indicates that the contents were probably partially missing or were damaged.

In 1907 a similar design to Paid Stamps PS 2 and PS 3 this was issued (PS 3) with slightly smaller lettering and this had the date, month and year at the bottom. These types are found struck both in black as well as red ink. Most of these continued to be used after the Union Of South Africa.

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