

DR. YIANNIS LAZARIDES

AN EXAMPLE DOCUMENT

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Natal

The Embossed Stamps

The first postage stamps of Natal were issued on 1st June, 1857. Unfortunately, while Natal was quite early in the field amongst the world's stamp-issuing countries, its first stamps have never enjoyed the esteem and popularity enjoyed by the stamps just mentioned and by most other 'classic' issues of the world.

There was no properly organised postal service in Natal until the year 1850. In terms of a proclamation dated February of that year, Post Offices were established at Pietermaritzburg, D'Urban, Bushman's River (later Estcourt) and Klip River (later Ladysmith). Previously, such limited postal facilities as were called for had been provided by the various missionaries (mostly American), while between Pietermaritzburg and Durban the proprietors of the Natal Witness had provided what they referred to as a 'Private Post established for the satisfaction of our subscribers. and at the same time to afford facilities for communication to the public'.

This private post commenced in March, 1846, and was soon being conducted on a regular weekly basis, the tariff being 6d. per sheet. By the time the Government postal service commenced in February, 1850, the tariff had been reduced to 3d. per sheet. With the establishment of the Government service. the private post terminated.

After the opening of the initial four Government post offices, further post offices were opened from time to time. Pinetown and Richmond were opened later in 1850, Verulam in 1851, Howick, Mooi River, Colenso, Weenen and York in 1852, Sterkspruit (later Caversham) in 1853, Grey town in 1854, Umhlali in 1856, Umzinto in 1858, Isipingo in 1859 and many more in the 1860s. By 1870 the number of post offices in the Colony had passed 40 and by 1880 the number was up to 73.

The first stamps of Natal were embossed in relief on plain coloured paper. They were executed at the Natal Treasury by May and DDavis, Pietermaritzburg from dies made by William Wyon in London.

More than one reprint was made. They can be distinguished by the brighter colours and clearer embossing than that of the original and



Figure 1: Cover franked 1d, addressed to "Prince Dinuzulu", the Zulu Paramount Chief at Nongoma, cancelled by Es- howe/Province of Zululand c.d.s. of 31 December 1899, backstamped double ring "Nongoma/Natal" c.d.s. of 5 Jan 1900, replacing the fine violet single ring "Nongoma/Zululand" c.d.s. Estimate EU 150. (Part of a larger lot 2012 Feldman).

slightly glazed paper.

1867 Overprints

These overprints were made to stop the public, using the postage stamps indiscriminately for revenue purposes and vice-versa. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed nibh justo, dictum sed cursus ac, lobortis et lacus. Vestibulum vitae justo enim. Quisque laoreet elementum felis, ut sodales arcu viverra a. Sed molestie odio vulputate sem rutrum a sagittis est rutrum. Morbi dapibus hendrerit magna, sit amet commodo massa posuere sit amet. Duis pharetra quam scelerisque est lobortis fringilla. Maecenas venenatis feugiat lectus, vel facilisis odio pharetra quis. Etiam at nisl eros, sit amet suscipit lorem. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed augue nunc, ornare eget congue sit amet, laoreet vel augue. Morbi vel justo quis ipsum adipiscing egestas vitae non est. Vivamus ac quam quam. Nullam pharetra interdum mauris, rutrum pulvinar ligula condimentum id. Donec et blandit lorem.

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Figure 2: S.G. 31, 1869 1/- Green, with "POSTAGE" overprint, a desirable mint example of a stamp that is missing from even the most advanced collections of the British Empire, sumptuously rich color and a well defined impression, part o.g. with a small paper adherence on the back, fresh and fine; this is the first mint example of this stamp we have ever offered in our auctions and we doubt more than a handful exist; 1997 Holcombe certificate (Scott 37; US\$9,250.00). (Image) £7,500 SOLD for USD20,000.00

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Figure 3: S.G. #37, 1869 1/- Green, with 12 3/4mm "Postage." overprint, uncharacteristically fresh, with deep intense color and a sharp impression on fresh paper, o.g., h.r., small thin spot at top, otherwise a fine example of this exceedingly rare mint stamp; signed Calves and accompanied by a clear 1997 Holcombe certificate (Scott #21; \$6,750.00). (Image) £5,500 SOLD for \$13,000.00