



CAPE-OF-GOOD-HOPE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY

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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.

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DUTCH_INDIA_COMPANY

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The Dutch East India Company

The Dutch East India Company was established on 20 March 1602. Its charter granted by the authorities of the United Netherlands conferred a monopoly to trade east of the Cape of Good Hope and west of the straits of Magellan, effectively granting it the rights to the Pacific and Indian Oceans.



Figure 1:

The Company's board of directors was known as the Council of Seventeen. The chamber of Amsterdam having provided half the capital was represented by eight members; Zeeland by four; Delft, Rotterdam, Hoorn and Enkhuizen by one each and the seventeenth member was nominated by the last five.

The Council of India was headed by a governor-general who controlled the Company's foreign posts, with headquarters on the island of Java. These controlling bodies were separated by a sea journey of seven months, and thus the council in many instances was obliged to make decisions of which its superiors, the 'Seventeen', were informally retrospectively.

Each of the company's outpost was managed by a Council of Policy. This was the highest local authority, which operated under the chairmanship of the local commander or governor. Second to him was the aptly named 'Secunde'. Law was administered by a judicial body called the 'Council of Justice'. In the early days of the Cape of Good Hope, this was the same body as the Council of Policy.

The 'Fiskaal' was the Company's prosecuting official, responsible directly to the 'Council of Seventeen' and not to local officialdom. This position was abused and the 'council of Seventeen' appointed an 'Independendnt Fiskaal', who was entitled to a third of the fines, thus

supplementing his salary. This post was abolished in 1793 and that of fiskaal re-instated, but now the fiskaal was directly responsible to the governor.

On 1647 one of the finest V.O.C. ships the *Nieuw Haarlem* was wrecked on the shores of what is now Table Bay. All aboard managed to survive and most of the cargo was saved. The crew was obliged to grow vegetables and by bartering cattle with the local inhabitants. They were rescued after five months in March 1648 by the home-bound fleet. By coincidence a young merchant Jan Anthoniszoon van Riebeeck was also returning on the *Conick van Polen*. On their return a report was made recommending the Cape of Good Hope as a victualling station. After careful consideration Jan van Riebeeck was appointed as commander of a settlement which he had to establish at the Cape of Good Hope on behalf of the Dutch East India Company. Jan van Riebeeck arrived at Table Bay on 6 April 1652 in his flagship the *Drommedaris*, accompanied by the flute *Reijger* and the 'jacht' *Goede Hoope* and followed by the *Walvis* and the *Oliphant*.

His instructions were to build a fort for the protection of the settlement, establish a farm to grow vegetables and to secure pasturage for cattle. He also had to establish a hospital.

Read further on the Dutch Settlements in the Cape of Good Hope.

In 1794, the Dutch East India Company went bankrupt and in 1795 the English seized the colony, the Dutch surrender in 1795. This is known as the capitulation of Rustenburg.