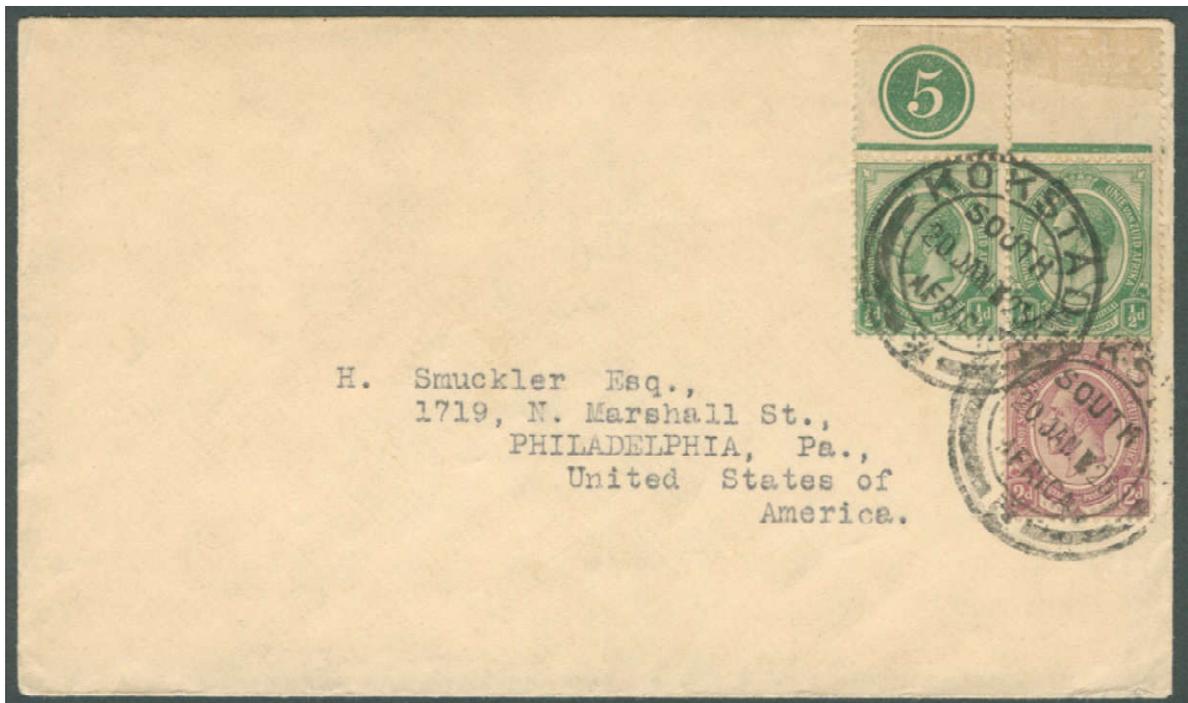


KING'S HEAD POSTAL HISTORY

Postmarks and Cachets used in SOUTH AFRICA & SWA

Steve Hannath
with contributions from
Robert Hill, Tony Howgrave-Graham, Alex Visser,
Hugh Amore, Ian Paterson, Roger Porter and Dave Young.



**1925. Cover. 2 x ½d green pair +2d purple King's Heads.
Cancelled KOKSTAD SOUTH AFRICA '20 JAN 25' to USA.**

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postmaster@southafricanphilatelyclub.com



Welcome to this Updated Club Collective Display!

This display has now had its first full update following contributions and comments from Club members.

When I received Phil Collins' impressive and instructive introductory display, "*A Glimpse into the King's Heads*", I knew little about the Union of South Africa's first definitive stamp issue. As it seemed at that time that the December 2020 'issue' of the SAPC was going to be thin on contributions from Club members, I wondered if I could not put together a quick stop-gap King's Head postal history display from material I had lying around in boxes to beef up the December 2020 'issue'. This is a revised version of that first display.

Previously, I put my King's Head postal history display together in just over three weeks after rummaging through my boxes of 'stuff'. When I had found enough to make a half-decent stab at it, I asked Bob Hill if he had items he could contribute. Like me, Bob is not a King's Head man but the material he volunteered raised the quality of this display several notches above my humble starting point. This display has now been commented on, corrected and improved with the addition of more material from Club members.

As ever, I make no claims for the accuracy of this display! This is a work in progress, a Club Collective Display. I humbly ask you to please submit your suggestions and corrections, as well as better items to me by email as scanned 300 dpi JPG or PDF files. <postmaster@southafricanphilatelyclub.com>

When I started out I had no idea of the postage rates of the time. To a large extent I worked them out from the covers I had as I went along. With no authority on rates to advise me, I hoped that the King's Head experts among you would chip in with some advice. I was advised by members and as a result this display is the better for it. My thanks to Phil Collins for generously submitting his King's Head display in the first instance. It made me enthusiastic enough about King's Head stamps to inflict this on you.

My thanks also to the ever reliable Bob Hill who through rain, shine and the Covid virus has provided me with items from his collection whenever I needed something better or special, also to Jamie Smith who has manfully soldiered on alone while being terribly neglected by me during this time. Thanks also to Tony Howgrave-Graham for his Interprovincial covers and advice; Ian Paterson, Alex Visser and Hugh Amooore for correcting my errors; Roger Porter for his suggestions for improvement and for submitting new material to plug those gaps; also to Dave Young for his contribution. It's all good stuff! Thank you!

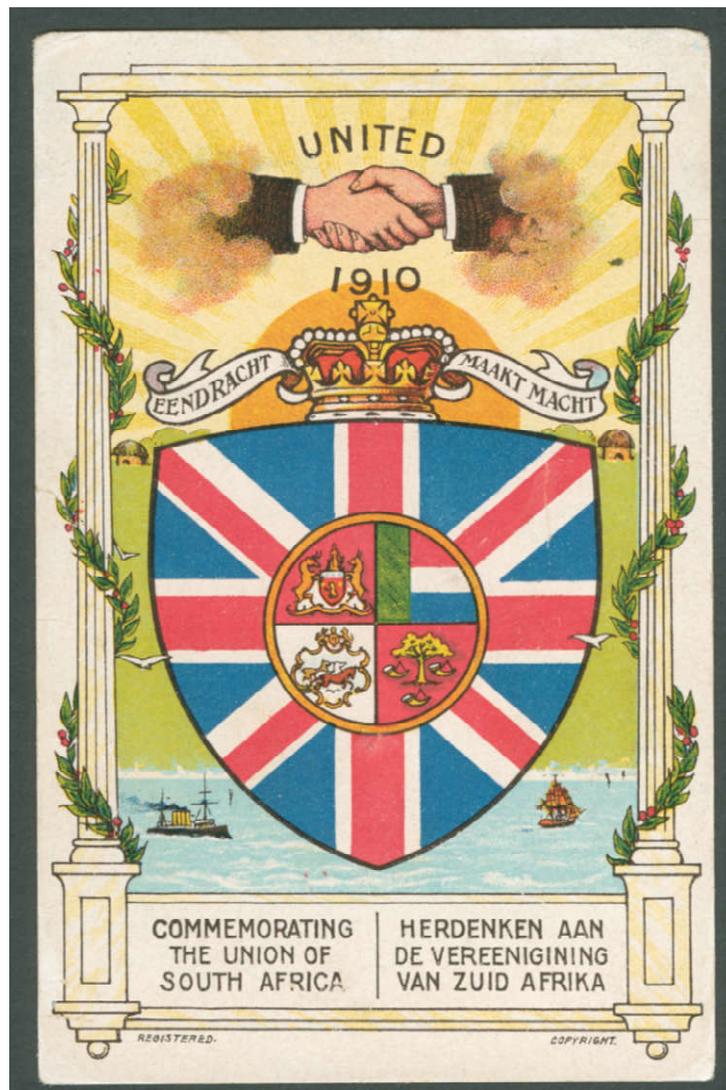
As ever, none of this is written in stone. Too much of it was written in a hurry to meet deadlines, something I consistently fail to do. If you see something you disagree with, it can be changed subject to me having the time and you providing the knowledge. Your suggestions are always welcomed!

Steve Hannath,
Editor.



1920. A tragic mint 1s 3d violet block x 4 still awaiting cancellation 100 years later!

The Union Of South Africa



1910. Post Card. An Imperial Handshake with a Nod and a Wink!
Bilingual (English / Dutch) postcard “Commemorating the Union of South Africa”.

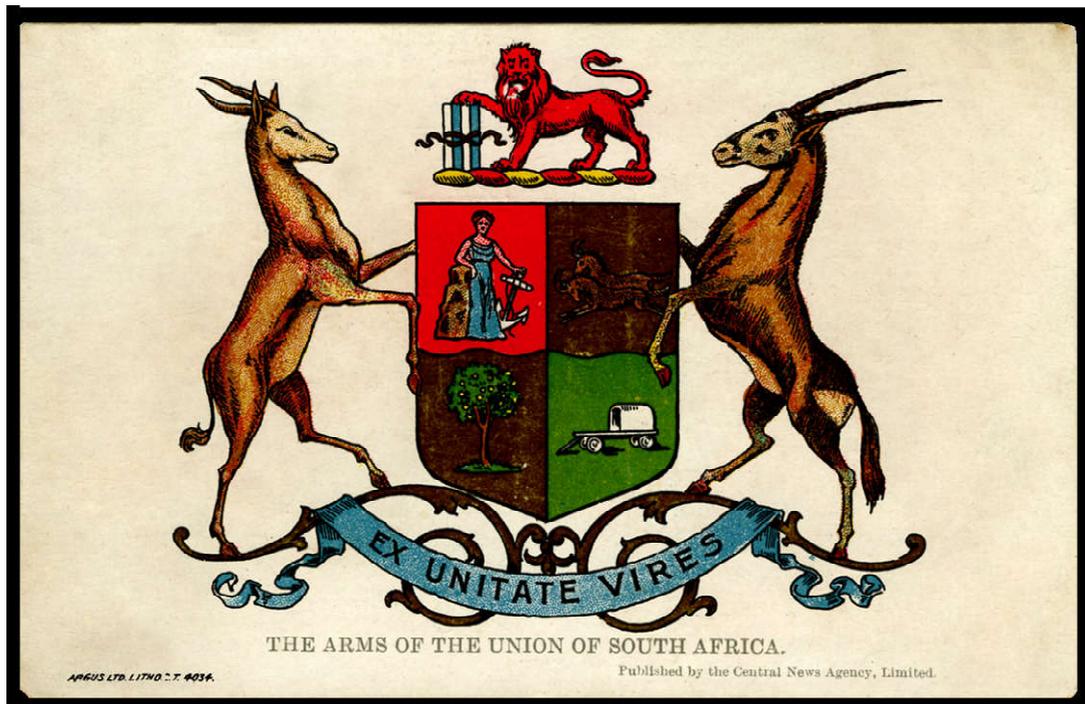
Union Postmarks showing ‘South Africa’

The Union of South Africa (Dutch: Vereeniging van Zuid-Afrika) came into being on 31st May 1910. This united the two British colonies of the Cape and Natal with the two Boer Republics of the Transvaal, and the Orange Free State. This union was the culmination of British Imperial policy as pursued in southern Africa during the late 19th Century. Union was made possible by a costly and ruthless British victory over the two belligerent Boer Republics in the South African War (1899 -1902).

Having achieved its imperial goal, Britain allowed a ‘White South Africa’ based on an expedient political ‘marriage of Boer and Brit’, one loyal to King and Empire, to take root. A segregationist construct from the beginning, the new Union of new South Africa offered Blacks little or no political rights. The Union government of Louis Botha and Jan Smuts, two pro-Empire Boer generals, soon appropriated African farmland and placed restrictions on Black movement and residential areas within ‘White South Africa’.

This display shows, among many others, Union datestamps that include ‘SOUTH AFRICA’ within their design. The reason for promoting ‘SOUTH AFRICA’ was to consign the historic struggle between Boer and Brit to the past while creating a shared vision of the country’s new future as a homeland for the emerging White South African race. As a result, these early ‘SOUTH AFRICA’ postmarks are as much a declaration of racial segregation as they are a celebration of the emergence of a new country.

Arms of the Union of South Africa



1910. Post Card. The Arms of the Union of South Africa.
Unilingual (English only). Published by the Central News Agency, Ltd.
Printed by the Argus Ltd, Cape Town.

The South Africa Act which was passed by the British Parliament in 1909 provided for the four former colonies of the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Orange River Colony and the Transvaal to form the Union of South Africa. Each of the colonies became a self-administering Province of the Union. The provisions of this Act came into force on 31st May 1910.



The Arms of the United Colonies

These vignettes are enlarged photocopies cut-out by **Robert Hill** from the 1910. King George V 2½d blue 'Opening of the Union Parliament' Commemorative, the First Union of South Africa stamp.

The Union of South Africa's First Stamp



**1910. King George V 2½d blue (white surface).
Opening of the Union Parliament Commemorative.**
This is the First Union of South Africa Stamp.



1910. First Day Cover. 2½d blue cancelled BATSTONE, NATAL 'NO 4 10' to Bloemfontein.

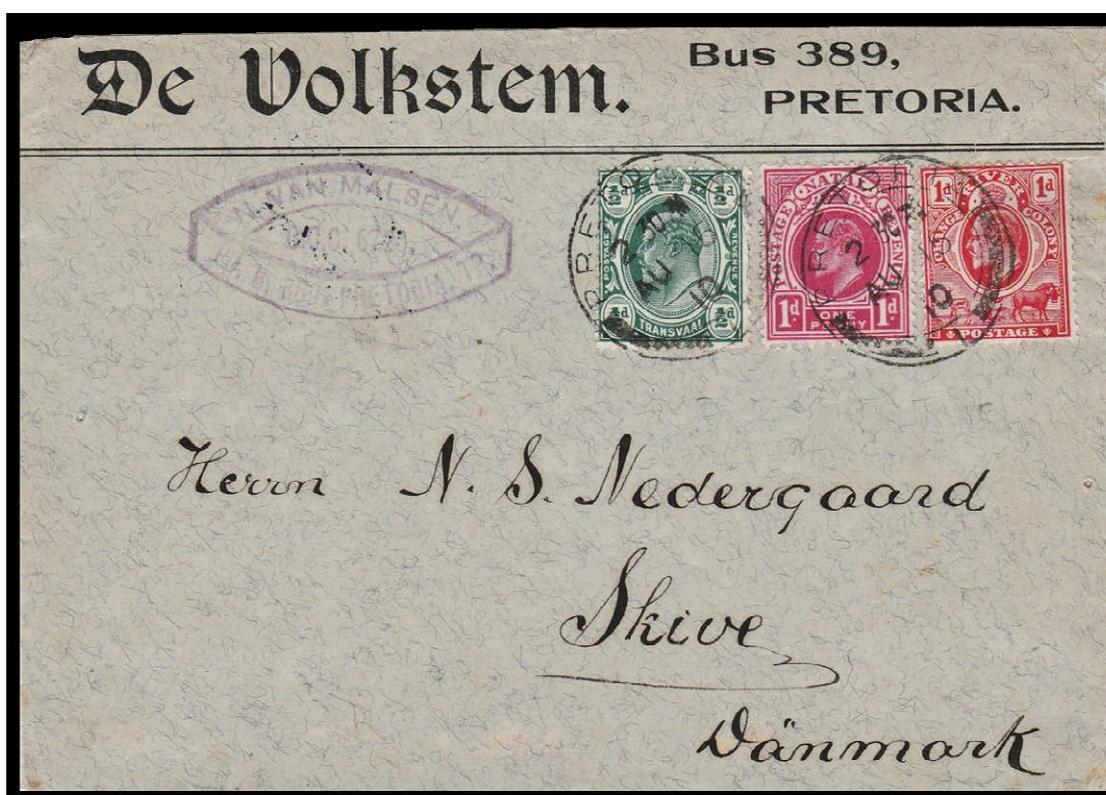
The death of King Edward 7 and the ascent of King George 5 delayed the release of new Union definitives.

As a result, the Union of South Africa's first stamp is the 2½d blue commemorative (shown above), a propagandist celebration of King, Country and British Empire. When it was issued, the SA rate for a letter from Batstone to Bloemfontein was 1d. Awkwardly, this 2½d commemorative was too much for local standard mail (as above) and too much for GB / Empire but enough for mail to Europe and the USA.

The Interprovincial Period

It is helpful to understand what stamps and postmarks were available between the 2½d blue King George V 'Opening of the Union Parliament' commemorative of 4th November 1910 and the King's Head issue of 1st September 1913. At first, the Union Post Office continued using colonial era stamps during this time. To begin with, each province used its own colonial stamps. However, after 19th August 1910, a notice in the Government Gazette removed any restriction to their use anywhere within the Union of South Africa.

Known as the 'Interprovincials', their use overlapped with the King's Heads issue of 1st September 1913. Previously, it was said that this period ran from 19th August 1910 to the 31st August 1913 when the first twelve stamps of the King's Head definitives issue bought the Interprovincials to an end. However, as no covers have been found taxed between 1st June 1910 and 18th August 1912 for using colonial stamps outside of their province of origin, it appears that the Interprovincial period began on 1st June 1910. Further, the stamps of the Orange River Colony, Transvaal, Cape and Natal, (except those that had been demonetized), were valid in the Union from 31st May 1910 to 31st December 1937.



Tony Howgrave-Graham

1910. Interprovincial Letter. Cancelled PRETORIA 1 'AU 15 10' to DENMARK.

The 2½d postage paid is the rate for a letter under ½ oz to Europe.

The Interprovincial postage comprises a Transvaal ½d green, Natal 1d carmine and OFS 1d scarlet. This cover with its colonial era postage is a scarce example of early civilian Interprovincial usage.

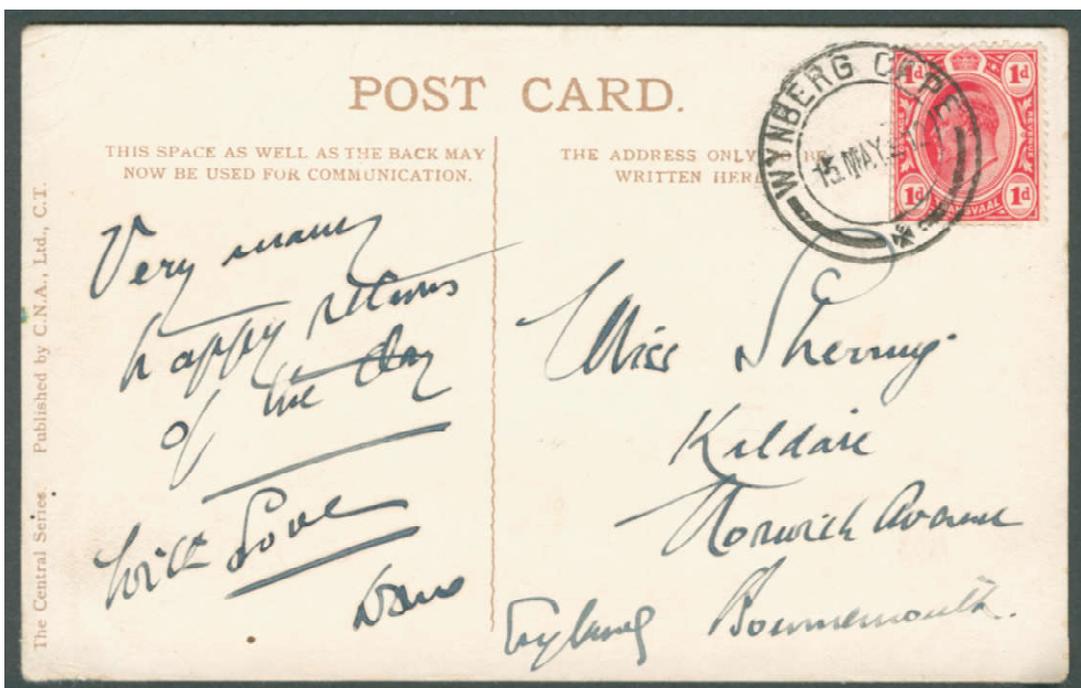
New datestamps were introduced for the use of the new Union Post Office to replace colonial and state issues. The DCBC (Double Circle Barred Cross) datestamp was a common and widely used canceller of the King's Head issue. A British design, it had its South African origins from about 1900 onwards in the Cape where it typically showed Time and Date and Year on two or three lines within the inner circle. See the next sheet for an example of a two line (without Time) Cape Colony MUIZENBERG DCB.

Neither Natal nor the two conquered Boer Republics used the DCBC datestamp. After the defeat of the ZAR in the South African War, the British presumably bought this classic design to Pretoria. The PRETORIA 1 postmark (above) and its companion, PRETORIA 2, follow the Cape layout with the Date, Year and Time details on three lines. This changed when the DCBC was used in the Union, the Date and Time now appearing on one central line. The postmark above is one of two uncommon examples of a Transvaal Colony PRETORIA 1 DCBC datestamp showing the Time and Date on three lines, as per old Cape Colony custom. My thanks to Alex Visser for making me aware of this distinction.

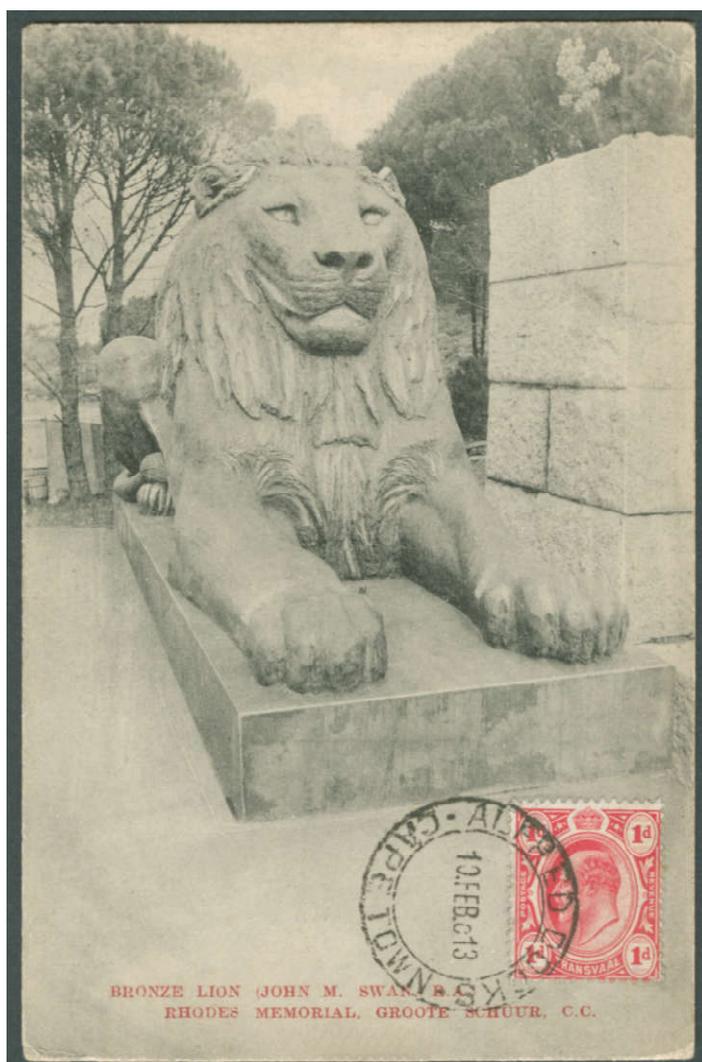


1911. Registered Interprovincial Letter under 1 oz. Cancelled MUIZENBERG 'FE 1 11' to GB.
 The 6d postage paid comprises 4d Registration and 2 x 1d per 1/2 oz or part thereof.
 The Interprovincial postage comprises a 3d mauve OFS used with Cape 1/2d and 2 1/2d stamps.

The DCBC postmark above is an old Cape Colony one with Date and Year on two lines. The postmark below is a new Union-type with Date, Time Code and Year on one central line.



1912. Post Card. Interprovincial WYNBERG CAPE '15 MAY 12' to GB.
 1d red Transvaal stamp cancelled in the Cape. Type 4 datestamp.
 Wynberg was the site of a large British Army Camp and Hospital.
 1d is the correct rate for a postcard to England.



LEFT
A Rhodes Memorial
Lion, a symbol of
British Power and
Rhodes' Imperialism.

The inscription on the reverse reads:
"This is another memorial to Cecil Rhodes. The Cape Colony is full of them, different kinds in all the Public Parks of the Colony".

1913.
Interprovincial Post Card.
1d red Transvaal stamp
used in the Cape cancelled
ALFRED DOCKS,
CAPE TOWN
'10 FEB 13'
to GB.

1d is the correct rate for a postcard to England.
 Note one line Time & Date!

Hugh Amoire advises that "The stamps of the ORC, Transvaal, Cape and Natal, (except those that had been demonetized), were valid in the Union from 31st May 1910 to 31st December 1937. The Gazette Notice of 19th August 1910 was (a) issued by the Treasury, not the Post Office, and (b) validated the interprovincial usage of REVENUE stamps. That it has been misinterpreted for so many years is due to the fact that the Gazette heading ("Treasury - Department of Finance") was omitted in all the handbooks."

Amoire states that it is incorrect to claim that "the Interprovincial period of use runs from 19th August 1910 to 31st August 1913" (whereafter the King's Heads came out). This common misconception has, he says, "been definitively debunked by Chris Board," an RDPSA signatory. Colonial stamps were in use from the 31st May 1910 up until 31st December 1937, thus spanning the King's Head issue and all subsequent issues up to end-1937.

Tony Howgrave-Grahams has a large and superb Interprovincial collection. He says "the first Interprovincials began on 1st June 1910. As the general public were not advised, early examples are mostly governmental (telegraphs and revenues). The public were only informed by a Gazette notice on 19th August 1910. The only civilian example I have of earlier mail is 15th August. (See previous). Traditionally, this period continues until the King's Heads were issued on 1st September 1913 but that's fairly arbitrary as the 1½d, 1/3d and £1 values were issued later. And we don't have issue dates for Postage Dues!"



1913. Interprovincial
Transvaal Block of 6 x 10/-
cancelled in the Cape.
PORT ELIZABETH
SOUTH AFRICA
'14 JUN 13'.

Type 2 datestamp.
 Most probably Telegraphic use.



Tony Howgrave-Graham

1913. Interprovincial Piece. 2½d Union, 5d Natal & Pair 1/- Transvaal stamps used in Natal. Cancelled DURBAN S. AFRICA '15 AUG 13' to NORWAY. Type 2 datestamp.
The 2s 7½d (31½d) postage paid comprises 4d Registration and 11 x 2½d per ½ oz or part thereof.

The above is an interesting example of the first Union stamp of 1910 used in conjunction with colonial issues from Natal and Transvaal to pay a postage rate of 2s 7½d to Norway. It also shows an example of the period's Type 2 Unilingual S.AFRICA datestamp, of which more will be seen in this display. In my opinion, and I hope future research will prove it, this postmark preceded Types 1 and 3.



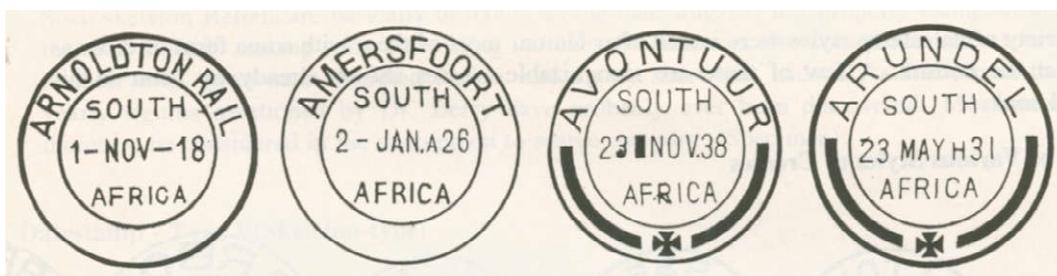
1913. Continuing Colonial Use Cover. PRETORIA 1 '24 FEB 13' to GERMANY. 5 x ½d Transvaal stamps used in Transvaal ie. this is NOT an Interprovincial cover.
The 2½d postage paid comprises the correct 2½d rate to Europe at that time. Type 4 datestamp.

Common Postmark Types of the Early King's Head Era

In Volume 1 of his "The Postmarks of South Africa and Former States and Colonies", Ralph Putzel prefaces his ten volume work with a brief overview of the main types of postmarks at different times. Under the heading "SOUTH AFRICA FROM 1910" he begins by stating that "Many datestamps from the former States and Colonies were carried over into the Union period, and some were used for many years."

Indeed, we see will some examples of State and Colony datestamps in this display.

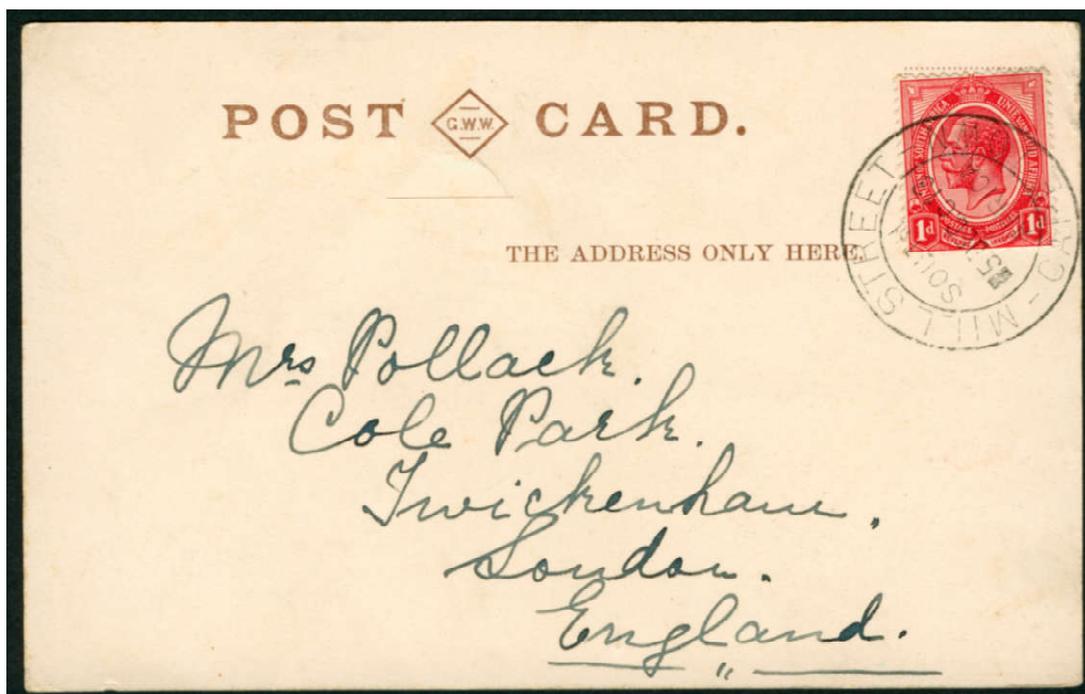
He continues by stating that "While it is impossible to list even a fraction of the many styles of datestamps in the Introduction, a few must be mentioned". Because these "few" are the datestamps most commonly seen on the King's Head issue, they are the ones this display will concentrate on. Putzel's first type - he only obliquely describes them as such - are the Double Circle and Divided Double Circle Unilingual datestamps with 'SOUTH AFRICA' within the the inner circle above and below the centre date line. As with much of Putzel's listed datestamps, the order in which he presents them is chronologically suspect. As seen below, he does not attempt prove that these Type 1 examples were the 'first' Union datestamp. However, for the purposes of this display we will keep faith with Putzel and list them as Type 1.



TYPE 1 UNILINGUAL DATESTAMPS

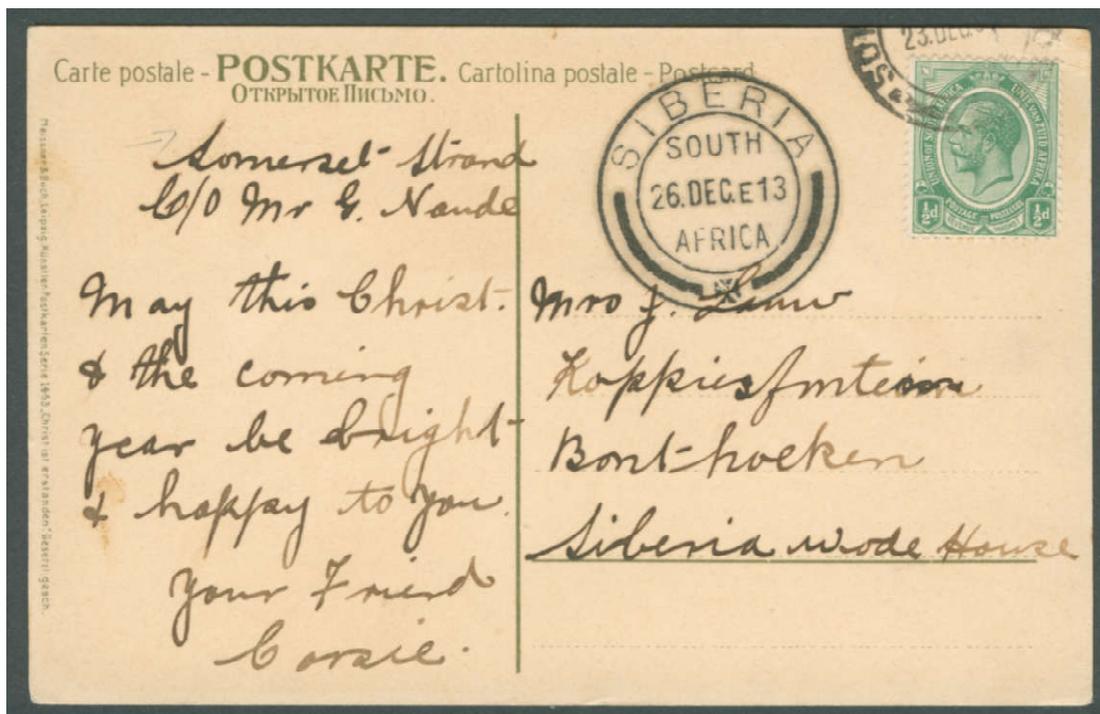
Volume 1, "The Postmarks of South Africa and Former States and Colonies", Ralph Putzel. Putzel shows only Double Circle examples. The Type 1 Divided Double Circle has been omitted.

Putzel says that these Type 1 datestamps "were limited to a few Offices, but being in English only, most did short service only". Putzel Type 1 datestamps, above, all starting with 'A', gives the lie to their distribution being "limited". They are uncommon but not scarce. Some survived into the 1950s. Dr T Berry's 'SA Postmarks, a Synopsis', states first and last use from 'March 1913 to July 1952'.



1913. Post Card with 1d red cancelled MILL STREET - CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA 'DE 5 13' to GB. The rate paid for this post card to England is 1d. Cancelled with Type 1 Double Circle Datestamp.

Type 1: Unilingual Datestamps



1913. Post Card. ½d green affixed & cancelled SOMERSET STRAND '23 DEC 13'.
 Received' SIBERIA SOUTH AFRICA '26 DEC 13'.
 A ½d is the correct rate for postcards posted domestically within South Africa.



1914. Two Pieces with 1d red cancelled CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA 9 '22 MAY 14' and 2 '25 SEP 14'.
 Cancelled with Type 1 Divided Double Circle Datestamps with curved bars and numeral at base.



Robert Hill

1917. Piece. 1d red cancelled LADYSMITH SOUTH AFRICA NATAL '24 AUG 17'.



Roger Porter

1921. Piece. Pair 1d red cancelled RICHMOND SOUTH AFRICA NATAL '24 AUG 17'.

The above NATAL Type 1 Double Circle datestamps “make a special pair”. (Roger Porter). Both have ‘NATAL’ at their base to ensure they are not confused with towns of similar names in the Cape Province.

Type 1: Unilingual Datestamps

This large unilingual (English only) Double Circle datestamp is distinguished by 'SOUTH' above and 'AFRICA' below the date slug. This datestamp comes in variety of different designs. Five different varieties of this datestamps are shown in this display. See some examples below.

The equality of English and Dutch was resisted at first by the British, then conceded. These datestamps reflect the early Imperial belief that South Africa was now 'British' ie 'English'. The Union government of ex-SAW Generals Louis Botha and Jan Smuts would insist the country was home to both Boer and Brit!



Numeral at base.



Bare at base/divided inner circle.



Bare at base/divided inner circle.



Maltese Cross at base.



"Natal" at base



Bare at base/double circle

Type 2: Unilingual 'SOUTH and S. AFRICA'



TYPE 2 'SOUTH AFRICA' or 'S. AFRICA' DATESTAMPS

Volume 1, "The Postmarks of South Africa and Former States and Colonies", Ralph Putzel.

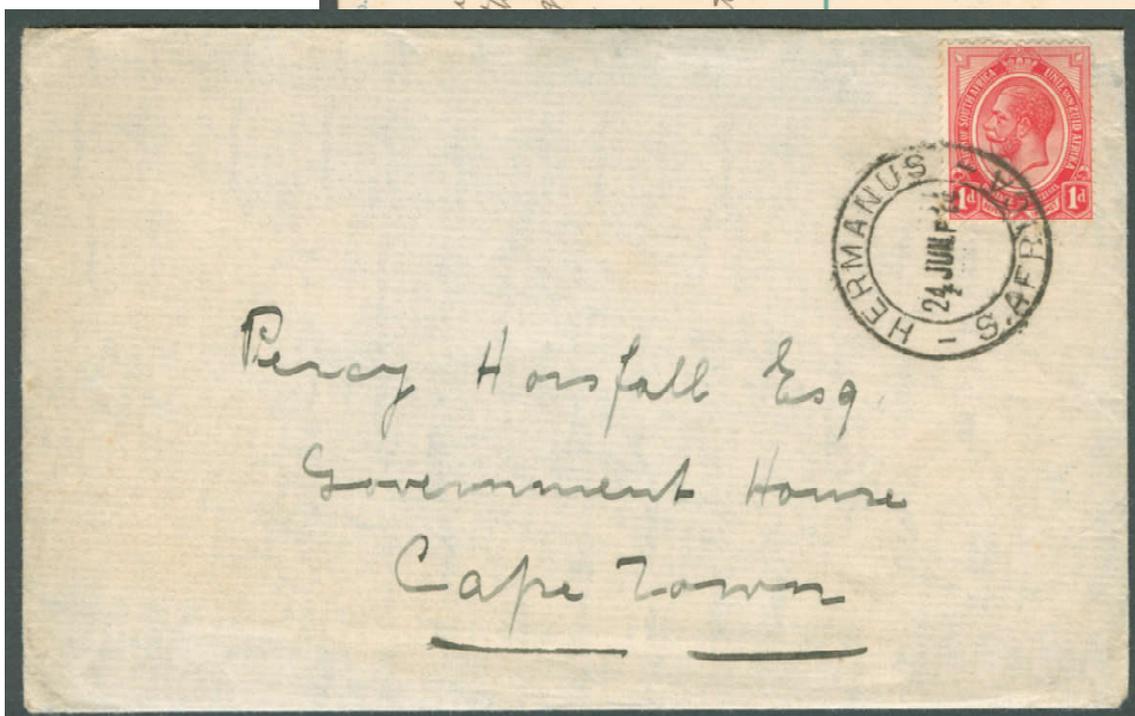
Putzel describes these as "the second type ... with 'S. AFRICA' (occasionally 'SOUTH AFRICA') at bottom of Double Circle. There are quite a range of these (a few are illustrated) and some are very elusive". The point to note here is that the central Type 2 datestamp 'BALFOUR TRANSVAAL S. AFRICA' is dated 'OCT 1913', five years earlier than his earliest Type 1.

This datestamp comes in variety of different designs. Four different varieties of this datestamps are shown in this display. Putzel's 'ALICE SOUTH AFRICA' Type 2 above is uncommon. 'SOUTH AFRICA' is seldom seen spelled in full. Indeed it is the only one shown here. The most common feature of Type 2 is 'S. AFRICA' at base. All three of Putzel's examples above are Double Circle datestamps with Date, Time Code and Year on one line. There are also a great many Divided Double Circle Type 2 datestamps.

Right.
1914. Postcard
to GB.
1d red cancelled
Divided
Double Circle
Datestamp
CAPE TOWN
S. AFRICA
'3 JAN 14'.



Left.
1914. Cover.
1d red cancelled
Double Circle
Datestamp
HERMANUS
S. AFRICA
'24 JUN 14'.



Type 2: Unilingual 'S. AFRICA'



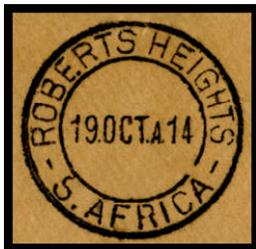
PORT ELIZABETH 1 1914



DURBAN 1914



HERMANUS 1914



ROBERTS HEIGHTS 1914



PORT ELIZABETH 1 1915



CAPE TOWN 1914



GRAHAMSTOWN 1915



JOHANNESBURG 22 1915



ORANGE RIVER 1915

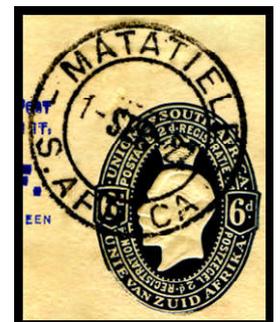


CAPE TOWN 1914

Robert Hill



SALT RIVER 1924

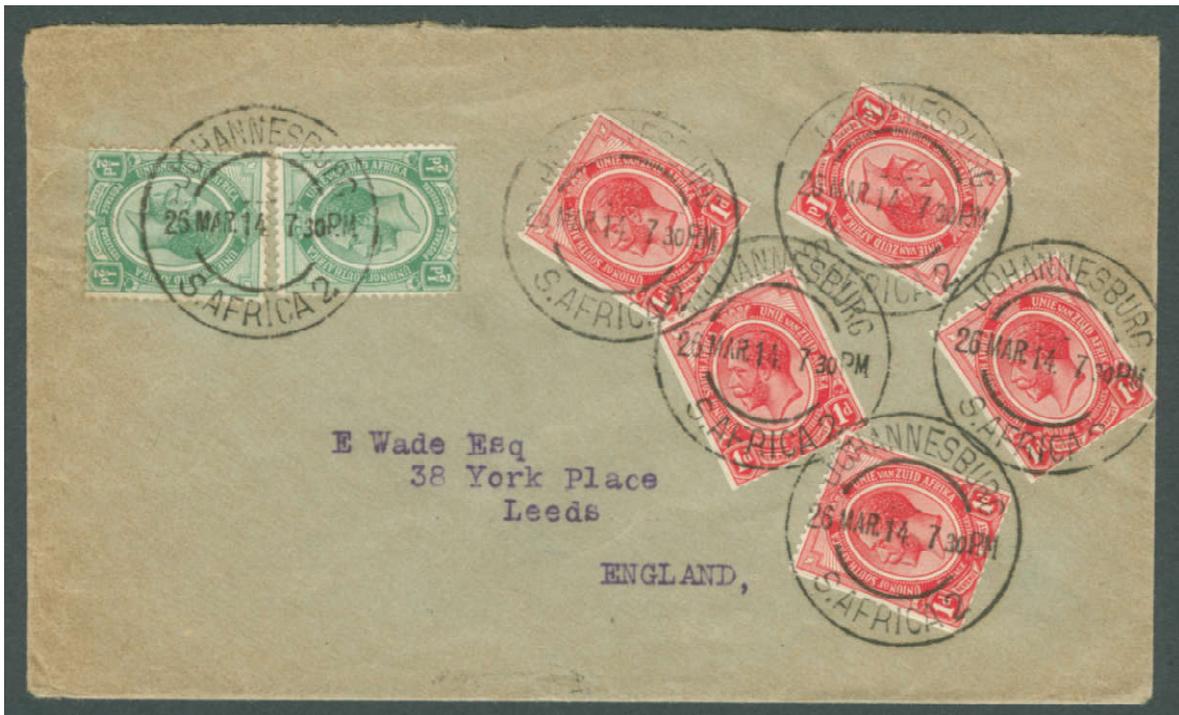


MATATIELE 1922

As South Africa did not exist before 1910, datestamps with 'S. AFRICA' at the base of the inner double circle likely date from Union in 1910 or shortly after. They are seen used from mid-1912. Readers with early examples of datestamps showing "S. AFRICA" are kindly asked to submit them, please.

Tony Howgrave-Graham states "Union cancellers didn't make much of an appearance before June 1912 and weren't in general use until 1913 though a few specially designed ones appeared earlier, such as Cape Town South Africa with black triangle in its centre (for bulk mail) which I've seen in January 1912."

Type 2: Unilingual 'S. AFRICA'



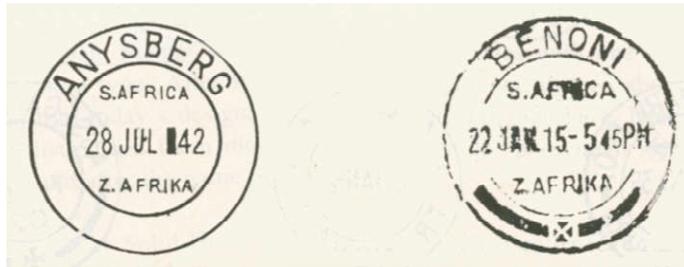
Robert Hill

1914. Cover. 1/2d green pair & 5 x 1d red coils (6d) cancelled JOHANNESBURG S. AFRICA 2 '26 MAR 14'.
Stamps cancelled with Divided Double Circle Datestamp Type 2 with 'S. AFRICA'.
The peculiar layout and the 6d paid on what should be 1d or 2d letter to GB suggests this is philatelic.



1914. Postcard. 1/2d yellow-green cancelled STELLENBOSCH S. AFRICA '17 NOV 14'.
Postcard cancelled with Double Circle Datestamp Type 2 with 'S. AFRICA'.
The peculiar layout and the 6d paid on what should be 1d or 2d letter to GB suggests this is philatelic.

Type 3: Bilingual 'S.AFRICA Z.AFRIKA'



TYPE 3 'S. AFRICA - Z. AFRICA' DATESTAMPS

Volume 1, "The Postmarks of South Africa and Former States and Colonies", Ralph Putzel.

These have 'S.Africa' above and 'Z. Afrika' below the the centre date line. As can be seen from the two examples supplied by Putzel, above, just like the Type 1 datestamps the Type 3 comes in a variety of forms. Three are shown in this display. The two above show a Double Circle datestamp left and a Divided Double Circle Datestamp with curved bars and and a cross, right. Other forms of the datestamp exist.

Putzel says that "a very small range of Offices ... used this type, probably because "Z.AFRIKA" was still in Nederlands ZUID, soon afterwards changed to Afrikaans "SUID", but this style was discontinued." Putzel is correct. These postmarks are uncommon, even scarce. However, his suggestion that they were "soon" made redundant is a stretch of the imagination. His BENONI postmark above is dated January 1915 ie. almost 10 years before Union legislation in 1925 made Afrikaans an official language and bi-lingualism the order of the day. Further, his ANYSBERG is dated '1942', making it quite a survivor!

With 'S. AFRICA' appearing above the date in English and 'Z. AFRIKA' in Dutch below, Putzel says these "may be the Unions's first bi-lingual datestamp". Can anyone confirm or refute this statement.

Putzel continues: "New batches of different styles followed, depending on the successful tenderer, but a few styles must be mentioned." He shows two such styles, above, the main notable difference being in the empty base of the double circle in one and the curved bars and cross in the other. These curved bars with a variety of different crosses appear in both Type 1 and 3 datestamps but not, obviously, in the Type 2 datestamps with 'SOUTH AFRICA' at base. Were these curved bars with crosses a feature a particular datestamp manufacturer, one whose design gained Union Post Office approval?

Robert Hill says that "the earliest and latest dates seen are March 1913 and July 1952. Although the distribution of the datestamp appears to have been spread over a wide area, the issue seems to have been made sparingly. Those seen mainly originate from smaller offices rather than larger ones."



CATHCART 1920



BEAUFORTWEST 1916

The town name is shown in English. In 1925, bi-lingualism would require it to also be shown as 'Beaufort Wes'!



VREDEFORT 1914

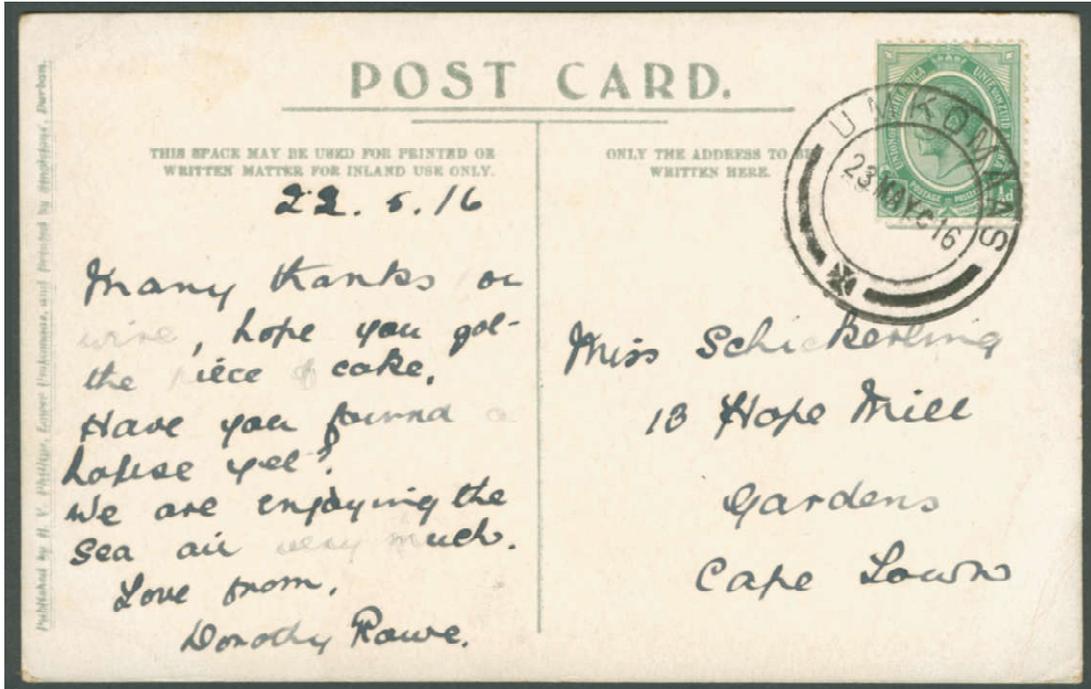


VOLKSRUST 1915

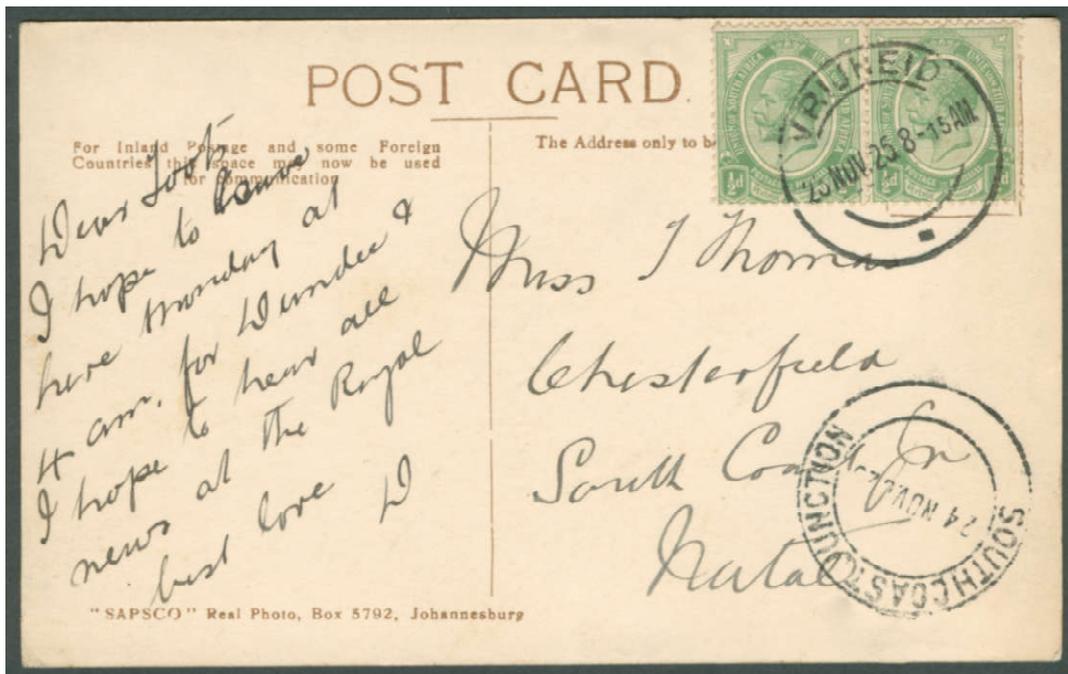
The stamps and pieces above contributed by Robert Hill.

Type 4: Varieties of One Line Double Circle Datestamps

The common Double Circle datestamp and Divided Double Circle datestamp with or without curved bars and cross, numeral, or rectangle at base are widely found cancelling King's Head stamps. I have included them here as 'Type 4' because many were clearly issued at the time of Union or shortly thereafter. The Type 4 datestamp's inner circle is sometimes but not always divided by the Date, Time Code and Year slug which appears on one central line. Many have a cross at base surrounded by curved bars while some have nothing at all. Similar datestamps with the details on two or three lines are typically colonial issue remnants.



1916. Postcard. ½d domestic rate 'UMKOMAAS '23 May 16' to CAPE TOWN.
TYPE 4 Double Circle 'with Curved Bars and Cross at Base.
Varieties of the above datestamp are commonly seen with a Divided Inner Circle.



1925. Postcard. 1d domestic rate VRIJHEID '23 NOV 25' to SOUTH COAST JUNCTION.
Vrijheid - Type 4 Divided Double Circle with Rectangle at Base.
South Coast Junction - Type Double Circle Clear at Base.

Type 4: Double Circle Datestamp with Cross and Curved Bars

Double Circle datestamp with different lengths and thicknesses of curved bars to enclose a variety of crosses are widely found on King's Head stamps. With one exception, the Date (Day, Month, Time Code and Year) is on a single line. Those with the Date on 2 or 3 lines originated as Cape Colony datestamps. See Cala, Cape, below. This practical datestamp was later widely used in the Union of South Africa.



CALA 1914
(Cape - 3 line Date)



DORDRECHT 1914
(Single line Date)



MARAISBURG, TVL 1914



MUIZENBERG 1920

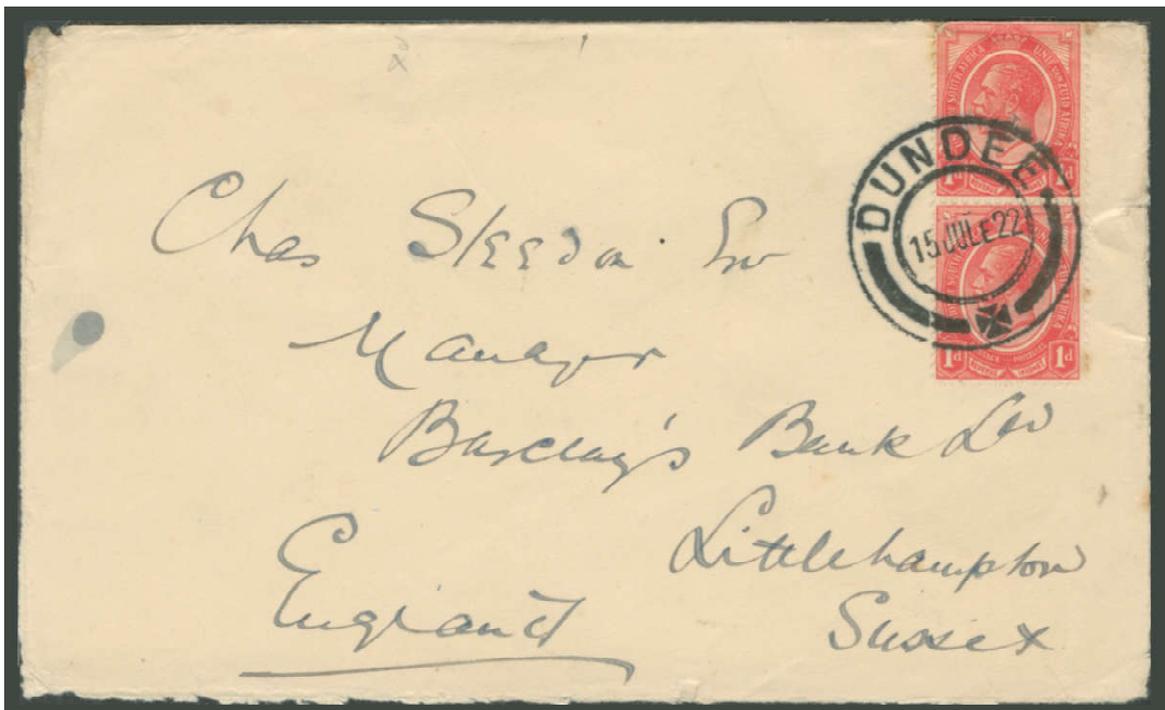


BARKLY WEST 1920

The stamps and pieces are
contributed by Robert Hill.



PARIJS 1922



Robert Hill

1922. Cover. Vertical pair 1d reds cancelled DUNDEE '15 JUL 22' to GB.

The rate paid for this letter to England is 2d.

A letter to England weighing under a ½ oz was 1d. This was presumably over ½ oz but less than 1 oz.

Start of the First World War (WW1): 1914 -1919

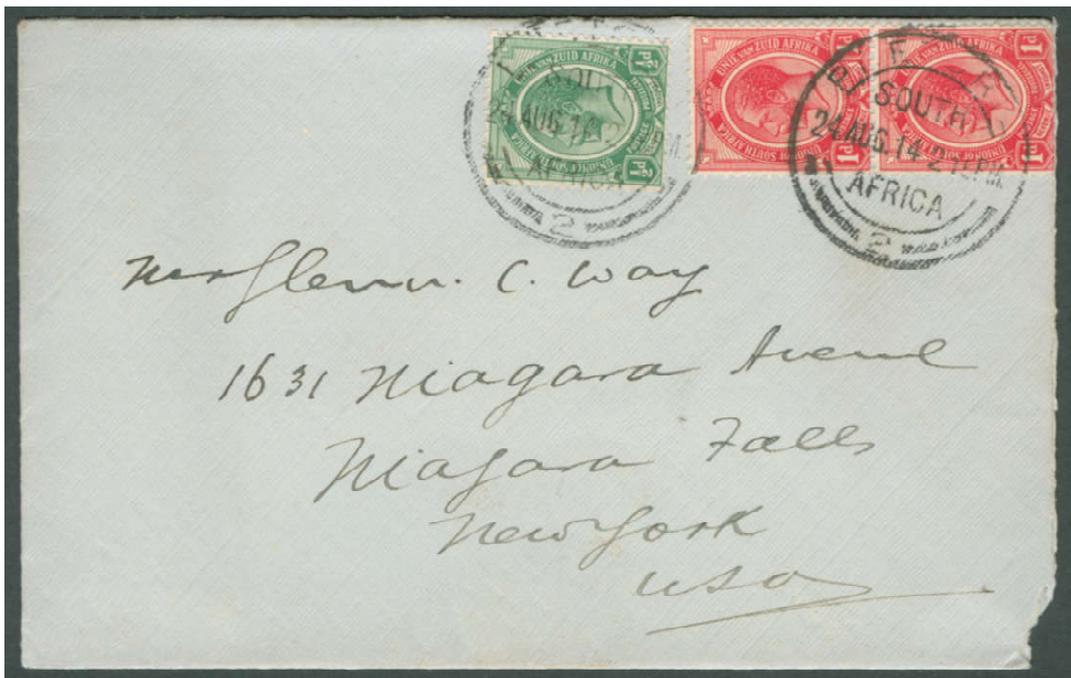


1914. KLOOF STREET CAPE TOWN 'JA 9 14'.

Block 4 x 1/- Orange cancelled with Cape Colony Two-line Double Circle Datestamp.
This PO would close in 1917 before WW1 ended.

As a part of the British Empire, the new Union of South Africa entered WW1 on 4th August 1914 when Great Britain declared war on Germany. The Union declared its support for GB on 14th September 1914. Hostilities ceased on 11th November 1918 when an Armistice (ceasefire) with Germany was agreed. The Treaty of Versailles officially ended the war on 28th June 1919. (This explains the continued use of censorship in South Africa into mid-1919.) The Union ended its belligerent status on 10th August 1920 with the Treaty of Sèvres signed with Ottoman Empire.

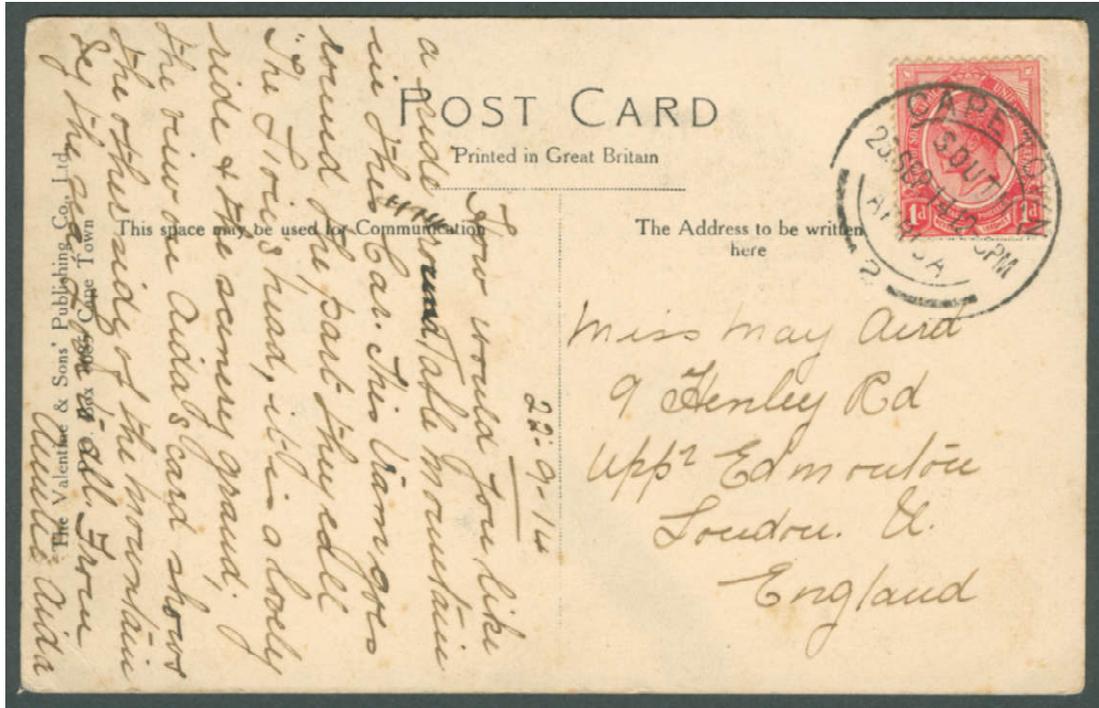
Released just one year before WW1 started, postal historians will forever associate the King's Head issue with South Africa's involvement in it. Suspect German nationals were rounded up and interned and German South West Africa invaded and conquered by South African troops. While military mail marked 'On Active Service' was free for serving troops, the King Head stamps and South African postage rates were soon applied in the captured territory. Censorship was introduced in both South Africa and SWA, resulting in a variety of labels and cachets affixed to overseas mail. All this would add to a wonderful body of South African WW1 postal history, much of which used King's Head stamps.



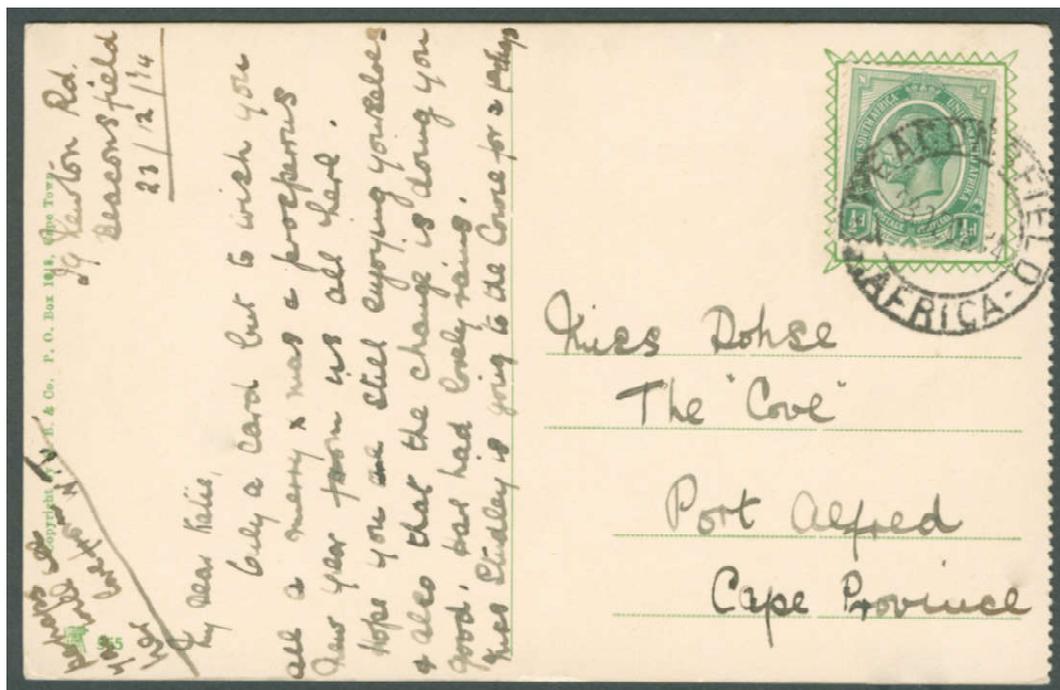
1914. Cover. Pair 1d red with 1/2d green cancelled PRETORIA 2 SOUTH AFRICA '24 AUG 14' to USA.

This rate paid to the USA is 2 1/2d. The war has just started. No Censor marks have been applied.
The datestamp is Pretoria Type1 Divided Double Circle with bars and numeral 2 at base.

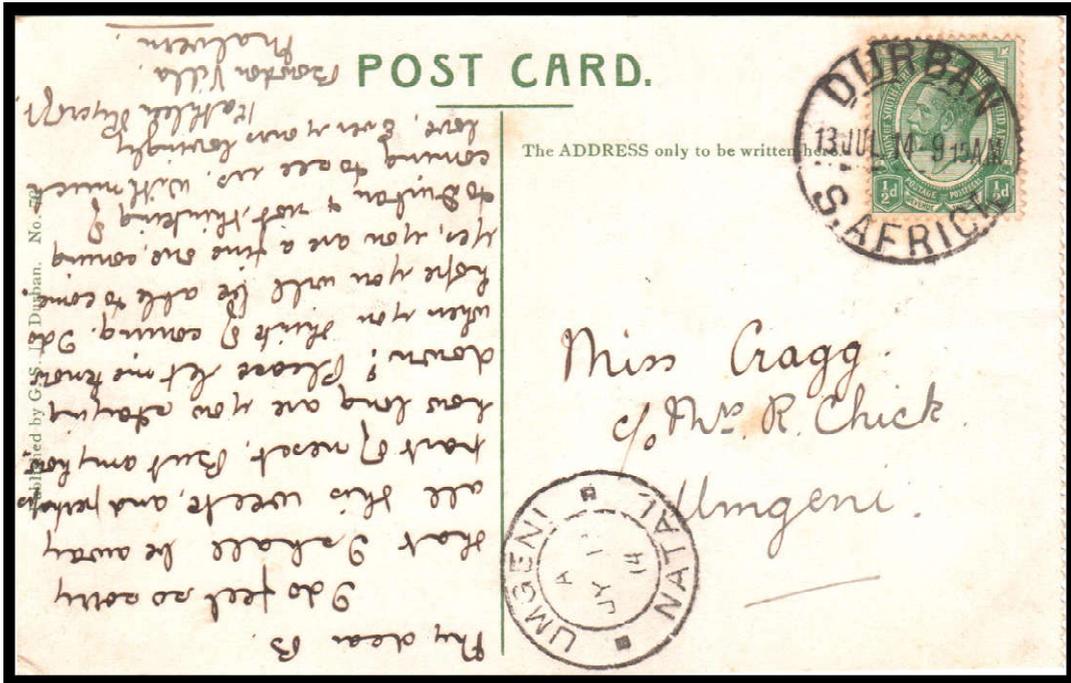
It would take some time for Censorship to be implemented within the Union. It would not apply to domestic mail, except in the case of occupied SWA, only to international mail. From examples seen, English language Empire mail was not subject to censorship.



1914. Post Card. 1d red affixed & cancelled CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA 2 '23 SEP 14' to GB.
 A 1d is the correct rate for postcards posted from South Africa to GB.
 Type 1 Divided Double Circle with Numeral 2 at Base within Curved Bars.



1914. Post Card. 1/2d green affixed & cancelled BEACONSFIELD SOUTH AFRICA '23 DEC 14'.
 Posted to PORTALFRED at the 1/2d post card domestic rate.
 Type 2 Double Circle S.AFRICA Postmark.

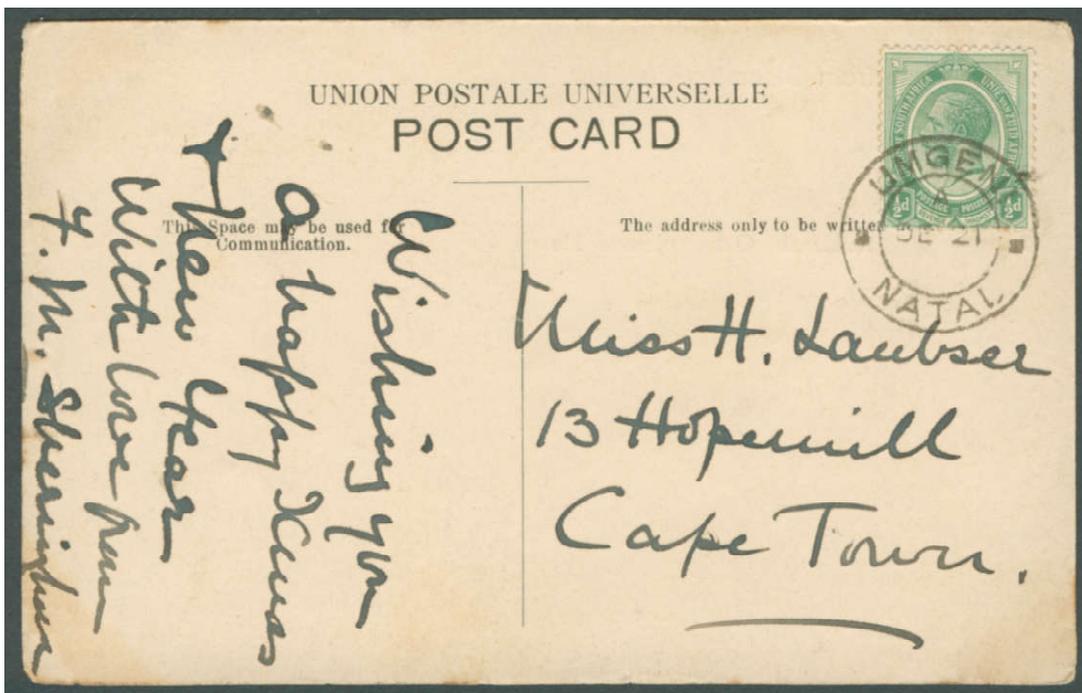


Roger Porter

19xx. Postcard. 1/2d green cancelled DURBAN S.AFRICA '13 JUL 14' to UMGENI 'JY 1x 14'.

The postcard has been received in Umgeni with a Natal colonial datestamp. The 1/2d stamp has been cancelled with a Durban S. AFRICA Type 2 Divided Double Circle datestamp.

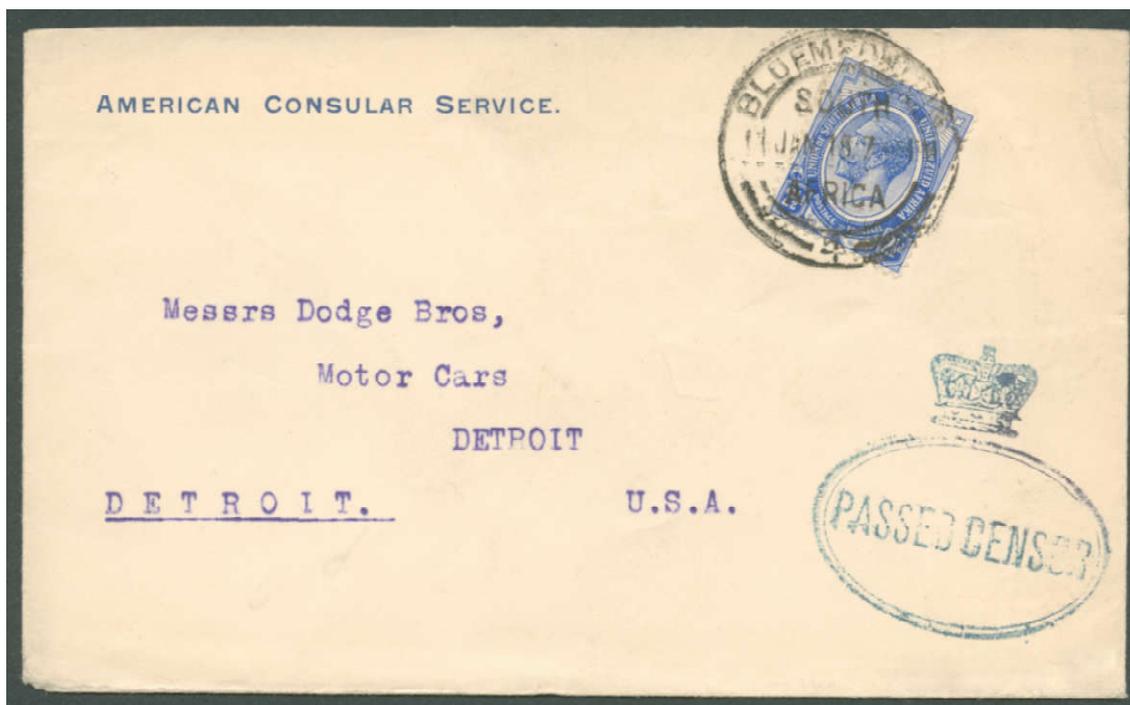
Roger Porter says "if Putzel is correct this PC was cancelled when the PO was transferred to the Umgeni Railway station. The Colonial era 'NATAL' date stamp was not changed and continued to be used there. The above cancellation shows deterioration to the date slugs which may explain why the Year slug was no longer used when cancelling your PC. (Below.) More examples are needed to prove this conclusively".



19xx. Postcard. 1/2d green cancelled UMGENI NATAL 'DE 21' to CAPE TOWN.

Both the above postcards have been posted at the 1/2d domestic postcard rate. This DC datestamp now shows NO Year, unlike the deteriorated example above. This colonial era datestamp is Putzel Type 2. It was not listed without Year by either Putzel or Visser (2020).

The Start of First World War Censorship



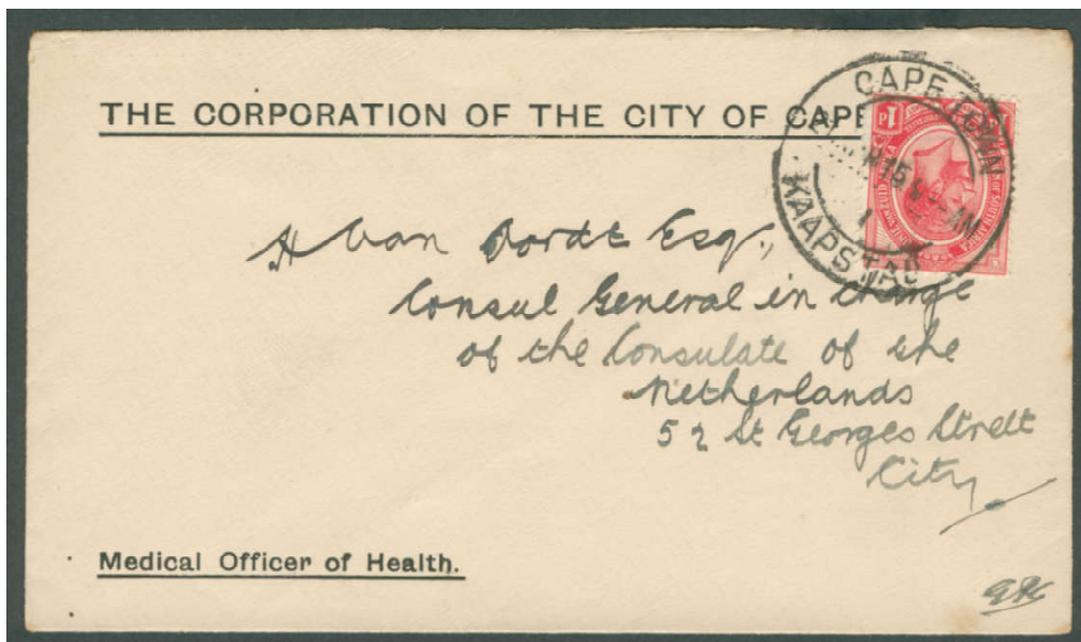
1915. Cover. 2½d blue cancelled BLOEMFONTEIN SOUTH AFRICA 4 '11 JAN 15' to USA.

2½d was the rate paid for a letter under a half ounce to the USA.

Type 1 Divided Double Circle with Numeral 4 at Base within Curved Bars

Struck with a fine Double Oval Crowned 'PASSED CENSOR' cachet in blue ink.

Was this impressive cachet a Special Diplomatic Censor handstamp?



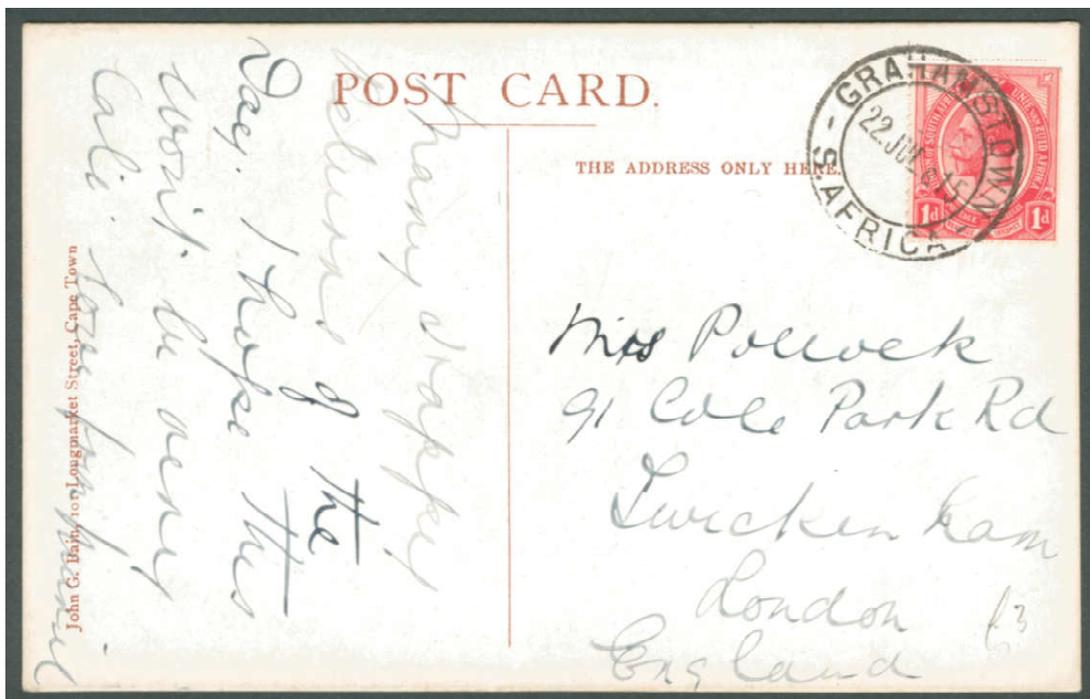
1915. Cover. 1d red cancelled CAPE TOWN 1 KAAPSTAD '21 MAR 15'. Cape Town Local Post.

The 1d red has been cancelled with a bilingual Cape Town / Kaapstad 1 datestamp.

As a very early bilingual datestamp, this is likely Union-era issue. The BIG Question is "did it precede the Type 3 'S.AFRICA Z.AFRIKA'" datestamp? Could it be SA's first bilingual datestamp?



1915. Block x 16 2d purples cancelled PRETORIA 4 '17 JUN 15'.
Type 4 Divided Double Circle with Numeral 4 within a Clear Base.



1915. Post Card. 1d red cancelled GRAHAMSTOWN S. AFRICA '22 JUL 15' ' to ENGLAND.
Posted GRAHAMSTOWN at the 1d rate for a postcard to GB.
Type 2 Double Circle S.AFRICA Postmark.



1915. Post Card. ½d green cancelled KINGWILLIAMSTOWN '10 FEB 16' to CAPE TOWN.
 Posted KINGWILLIAMSTOWN at the ½d domestic rate for a postcard.
 Type 4 Double Circle Clear at Base.



1915. Block x 6 1d red cancelled JOHANNESBURG SOUTH AFRICA 22 '26 AUG 15'.
 Type 2 Divided Double Circle with 'S. AFRICA.22' at Base.



1916. Post Card Piece. 1d red affixed & cancelled EAST LONDON SOUTH AFRICA 2 '18 JUL 16'.
 This was presumably a postcard sent to GB or elsewhere in the Empire at the 1d rate.
 SA Type 1: Divided Double Circle with Numeral 2 at Base within Curved Bars.



See Reduced Horizontal Image on Next Page

1916. Cover. 13 x 1d red (1/- 1d) cancelled CAPE TOWN 8 '12 AU 16' to USA. PC C1.

The datestamp is a Cape Colony one from the issue of 1900 - 1902. You can tell this from the Time and Date on three lines. When this style of datestamp was adopted by the new South African Post Office after Union, it had the significant difference of having the Time and Date on one line. (One exception is known!)

This cover was not registered. It was sent to the USA at the standard rate of 2½d per ½ oz or part thereof.

Given that it has 13 x 1d red stamps, this would mean that the contents were just under 2½oz requiring 12 stamps. So what was the extra penny for?

Roger Porter answers: "The cover was posted on a Saturday (12 AU 16) at 2:45 PM. The overseas mail bags had closed at the official advertised time but a bag was kept open for late mail to catch the mail ship before it sailed from Cape Town to Southampton. The postage 'LATE FEE' charge of 1d indicates that the Postmaster accepted the item and placed it in the overseas bag. Therefore, the postage paid to the USA was 5 x 2½d + 1d Late Fee, a total of 13d. The cover was not endorsed 'Late Fee'. Some correspondents did so to alert the postmaster that the letter was not to be delayed but to be placed in the overseas bag before the mail boat sailed."

There is red manuscript 26c (or 26d) on the bottom left. This may be the US PO calculating the rate after converting it to cents. It appears not to have been taxed.

There is a faint purple cachet stating 'Received Unsealed. Hollywood Station. Los Angeles, Cal., P.O.' To its left is a probable receiving date - 'SEP 19 1916'.

Note that this cover to the USA has been censored in blue in Cape Town prior to dispatch- Passed Censor C1.

**Image Reduced and Rotated
See Previous**



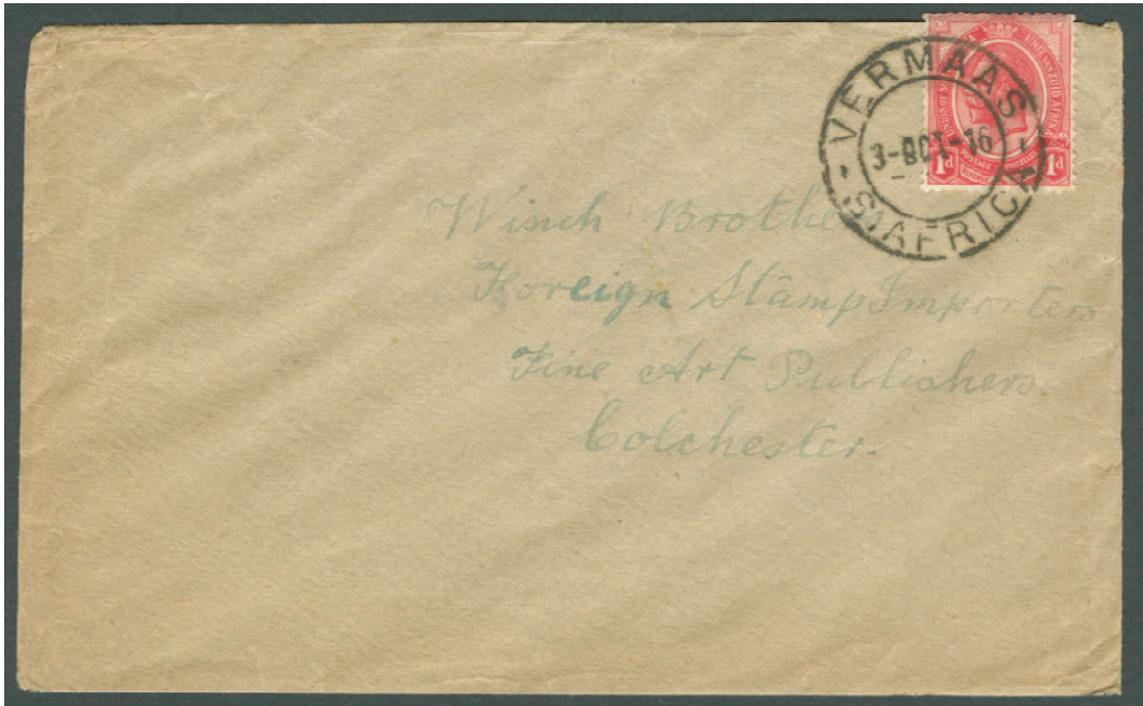
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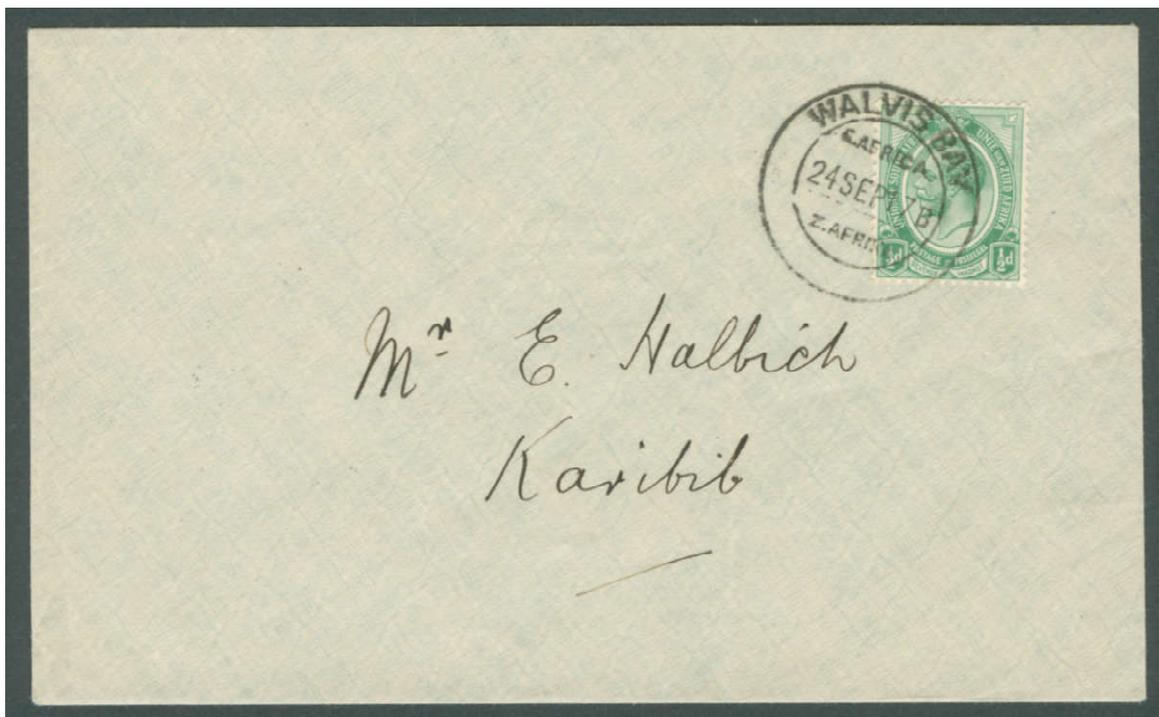
Robert Hill

1916. Letter. 1d red cancelled VERMAAS S. AFRICA '3 OCT 16' to ENGLAND.

Posted VERMAAS (Transvaal) at the 1d rate for a letter to GB.

Type 2 Double Circle S.AFRICA Postmark.

According to Putzel, the Vermaas PO opened on 1st June 1912. This datestamp, his No. 1, was likely issued then, suggesting that the Type 2 datestamp had probably already been in earlier use elsewhere.



Robert Hill

1917. Cover. Single 1/2d green cancelled WALVIS BAY '24 SEP 17' to KARIBIB.

Posted WALVIS BAY (an enclave of the Cape Province) at the 1/2d Open Commercial Letter rate.

Type 3 Double Circle S.AFRICA Z.AFRICA Postmark Clear at Base.

See Horizontal Image
on Next Page



**1917. Cover. 1d red cancelled
CLAREMONT-CAPE '5 OCT 17'
to PRETORIA '8 OCT 17'.**

Pencil manuscript "over ½ oz"
Blue crayon "T2". Large '2d' Postage Due
and Boxed bi-lingual "MORE TO PAY /
OVER ½ OZ" in black ink.

Type 4 Divided Double Circle Cross at
Base within Thin Short Curved Bars.

Tax paid by 2d Black and Violet Postage
Due stamp cancelled

**UNION BUILDINGS UNIE-GEBOUW
PRETORIA '8 OCT 17'.**

Putzel shows two CLAREMONT CAPE
datestamps, Nos. 9 and 10.

The example shown here is No. 10 with
hyphen between CLAREMONT and CAPE.

The Union Buildings were completed in
1913. Presumably, its first datestamp is from
this time. The UNION BUILDINGS UNIE-
GEBOUW PRETORIA datestamp is
probably the first example of a Union of
South Africa bilingual datestamp. It quite
possibly predates the Type B Zuid Afrika
datestamp which Robert Hill believes may
be South Africa's first bilingual datestamp.

**Image Reduced and Rotated
See Previous**



1917. Cover. 1d red cancelled CLAREMONT-CAPE '5 OCT 17' to PRETORIA '8 OCT 17'.

Pencil manuscript "over ½ oz" Blue crayon "T2".

Large '2d' Postage Due and Boxed bi-lingual "MORE TO PAY / OVER ½ OZ" in black ink.

Type 4 Divided Double Circle Cross at Base within Thin Short Curved Bars.

Tax paid by 2d Black and Violet Postage Due stamp cancelled
UNION BUILDINGS UNIE-GEBOUW PRETORIA '8 OCT 17'.

Putzel shows two CLAREMONT CAPE datestamps, Nos. 9 and 10.
The example shown here is No. 10 with hyphen between CLAREMONT and CAPE.

The Union Buildings were completed in 1913. Presumably, its first datestamp is from this time. The UNION BUILDINGS UNIE-GEBOUW PRETORIA datestamp is probably the first example of a Union of South Africa bilingual datestamp. It quite possibly predates the Type B Zuid Afrika datestamp which Robert Hill believes may be South Africa's first bilingual datestamp.



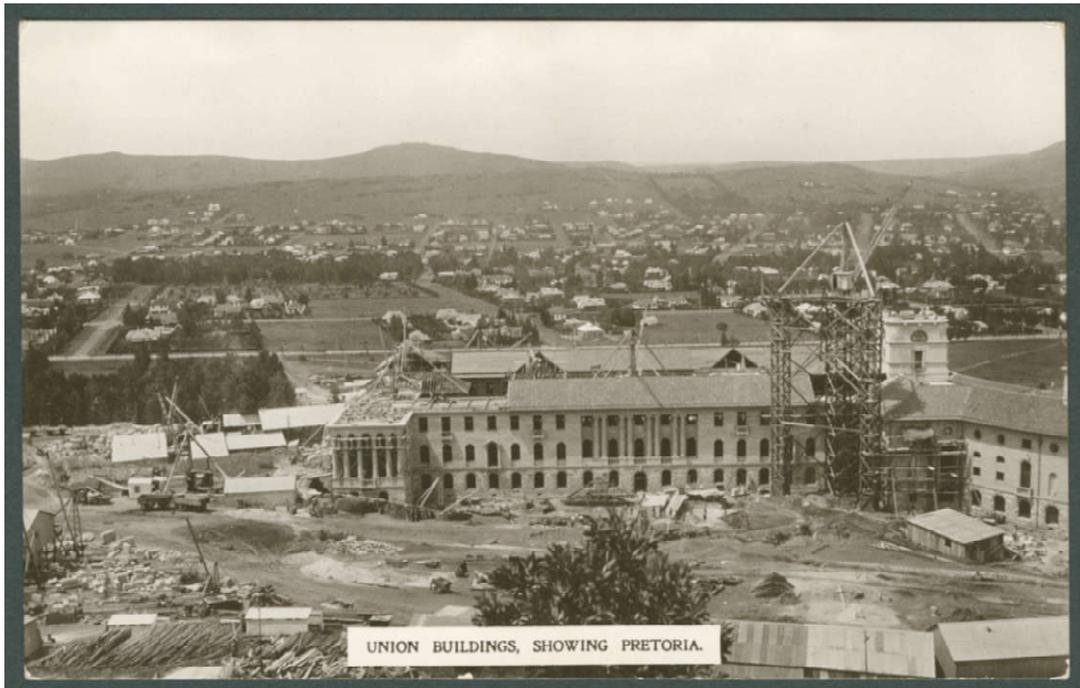
1917. Cover. Pair + 1 x 1d (3d) cancelled LONG HOPE RAIL '31 DEC 17' to USA. PC 18/99.
 2½d was the rate for a letter under a half ounce to the USA. This is overpaid by ½d.
 Type 1 Double Circle 'SOUTH AFRICA' Clear at Base.

Longhope Rail post office had its Head Office at Somerset East and or Cookhouse. As a railway station on the line from East London to Bloemfontein and beyond, this letter was presumably posted by a passenger, a cattle farmer, in transit on the train when it stopped at Longhope Rail. Note that unlike mail to Canada or the UK, mail to the USA was inspected by the Censor, in this case PC 18/99 in blue ink.



1918. Piece. ½d green + 2d purple (2½d) CERES '5 JUL 18' to SWITZERLAND. PC C14.
 The rate to Europe is 2½d. Despite Switzerland being neutral, SA mail to it was censored.
 Censored with Passed Censor C. 14 cachet in blue ink and sealed with OBC label 99.

On page 10, we showed a Ceres three line datestamp issued in the Cape Colony cancelling a King's Head datestamp in 1913. That datestamp could easily be confused with this one. With the Date slug on one central line, this is a Union issue datestamp. It is quite possible that after Union the new South African Post Office adopted this successful and proven old Cape Colony design. Putzel shows over ten different Cape Colony examples of this and similar Type 4 datestamps for CERES. This is No. 9a, a one-line Type 4 "with small time code letter" and longer bars than the colonial datestamp on Page 10.



Circa 1912. Union Building, Pretoria. Construction started in 1910 and was completed in 1913.



1918. Registered Letter cancelled UNION BUILDINGS PRETORIA '9 AUG 18' to ENGLAND.

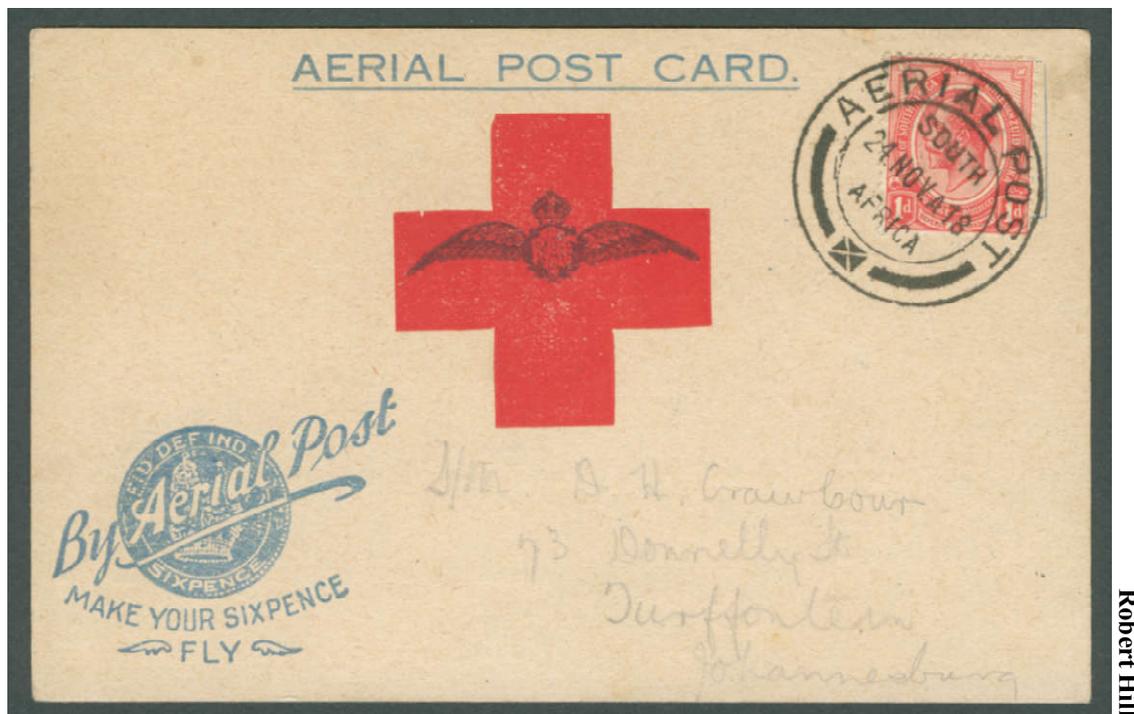
The rate paid is 4d for the Registered letter + 1 for postage, a total of 5d.

The date appears to show the year as '1913' but the receiving datestamp on reverse shows '1918'.

Union in 1910 gave South Africa two official languages, English and Dutch. This datestamp from 1918 shows 'UNION BUILDINGS UNIE GEBOUW PRETORIA'. This and the 'CAPE TOWN KAAPSTAD' datestamps show that there was an early attempt to create bilingual English / Dutch datestamps. When Afrikaans replaced Dutch as official language of South Africa in 1925, the Post Office was required to provide communications in both official languages. This led to a need for bilingual English / Afrikaans datestamps, like 'EAST LONDON OOS LONDEN, SOMERSET EAST / OOS', etc. etc.

ARMISTICE: 1918

Armistice was declared 11th November 1918, effectively ending WW1.



Robert Hill

1918. Post Card. 'By Aerial Post - Make Your Sixpence Fly'. Germiston flight card. 1d red affixed cancelled AERIAL POST SOUTH AFRICA '24 NOV 18' to Turffontein. Type 1 Double Circle 'SOUTH AFRICA' Cross within Curved Bars at Base.

The Post Card is the "Transvaal Small Wing" type.

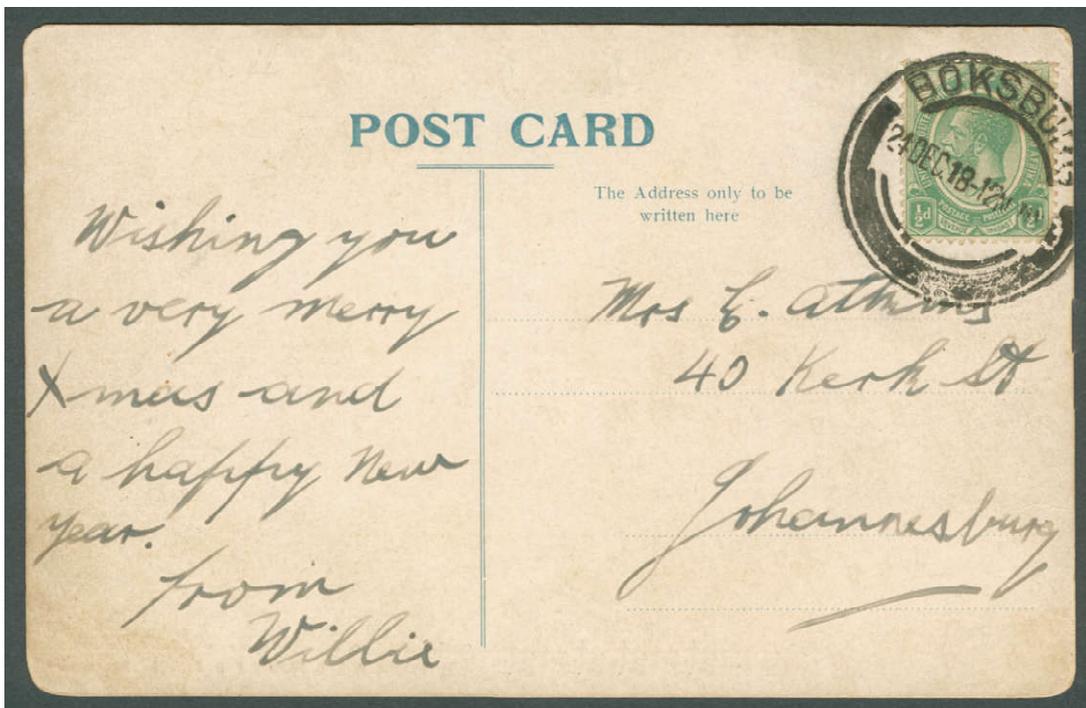
These cleverly titled Post Cards were part of a drive to raise funds for the Red Cross who were deeply involved in the humanitarian side of the vast military tragedy that was the First World War. The war had ended two weeks before this post card was flown but the suffering and the need for funding remained. The novelty and excitement of flight made these postcards a popular way to donate money to a worthy cause.

Costing sixpence to buy, the post card promised the uniqueness of having been flown, something that in 1918 was still a great wonder and mystery to many people in SA. Sixpence, the cost of the post card, went to the organisers and or the Red Cross. A postage stamp at extra cost still had to be applied in order to ensure delivery by the Post Office, either an extra halfpenny adhesive for local post or a penny one to Great Britain. The flight itself was a short hop with its little purpose other than to raise funds for the Red Cross. A more efficient delivery of the mail was not its primary aim. That said, it was part of a then uncoordinated campaign to introduce aircraft and airmail to SA. Having been flown, it was collected by the Post Office and delivered in the normal way. As an item of mail, this Aerial Post likely suffered delays from all the pre-flight faffing around. It was gimmick in aid of a good cause. Because they are highly collectable their prices often appear unrealistic to ordinary collectors today.

Despite its debatable claim to be 'Aerial Post', this is a bona fide postmark used to cancel postage stamps issued by the Post Office on flown post cards that it delivered. This postcard shows a very nice 'SOUTH AFRICA' Type 1 postmark cancelling a 1d red King's Head postage stamp. Clearly created with the help of the Post Office, an arm of the South African Government, this postmark merges the positive and expansive ideals of flight with a growing confidence in the future of a widening White South Africa.



This datestamp is something of a mystery. It is similar to but quite different from others that are included in the broad Type 4 category 'Varieties of One Line Double Circle Datestamps'. This display includes several of this type of datestamp whose most notable feature is its single thick black curved bar that is uniquely cut-away at just below the point where the date slug divides the inner circle.



1918. Post Card. ½d green cancelled BOKSBURG '24 DEC 18' to JOHANNESBURG.
Type 4 Divided Double Circle with Single Thick Curved Bar at Base.

Little is known about this wonderful postmark. It has always intrigued me. In Volume 1 of his *'The Postmarks of South Africa....'* Ralph Putzel begins by showing a broad sampling of historic postmarks up to the modern day. The postmark above is not included in his overview. In my view, this is an omission. However, he does show an example of this Boksburg datestamp, (his No. 12), in the same volume. He also lists the other postmarks like this which are included in this display:

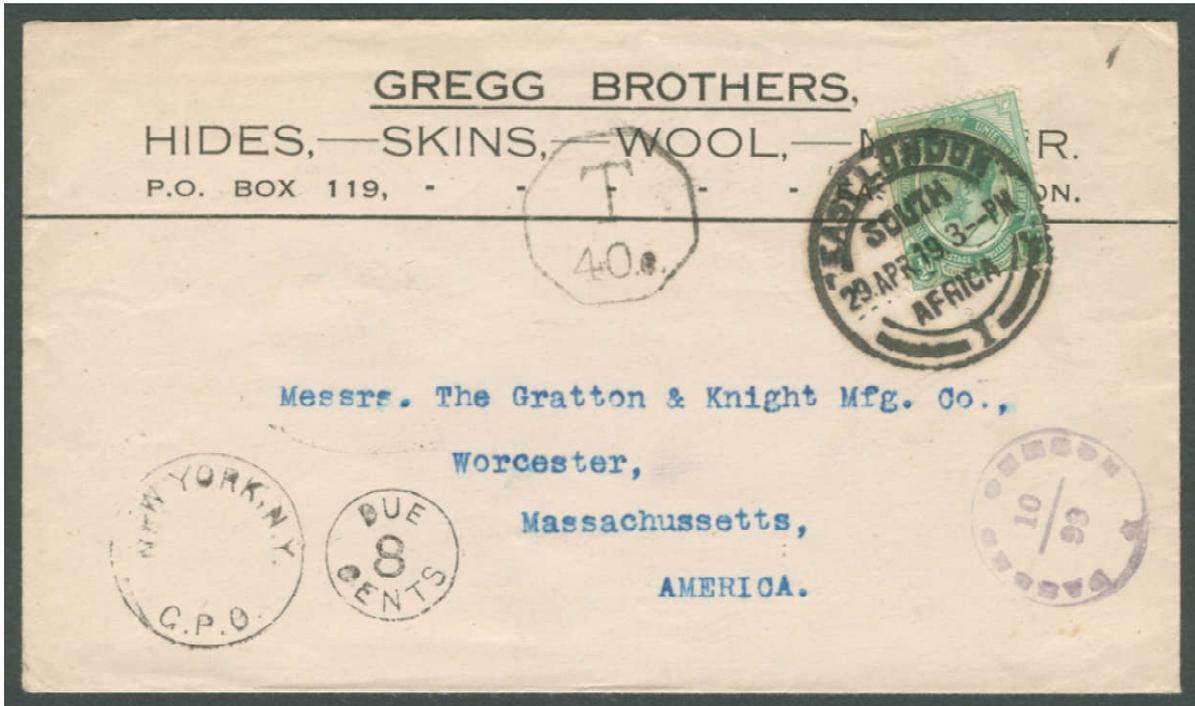
Pietetersburg (No. 17, dated 25 MAR 20) - Page 45
Port Elizabeth (No. 31 dated '9 JUL 25') - Page 35
Queenstown (No. 28, dated '12 NOV 19') - Page 36

These dates suggest that the King's Head era was the heyday of this particular canceller, used 1918 - 1925.

CAN YOU HELP?

Readers are kindly asked to submit any examples they have of this datestamp cancelling a King's Head stamp and covers for inclusion in this or another display, please.

Ongoing Censorship: 1919.



Robert Hill

1919. Cover. ½d green cancelled EAST LONDON 1 SOUTH AFRICA '29 APR 19' to USA.
 Late use of PC 10/99. The letter is 2d short of the correct 2½d rate. Octagonal Tax 'T 40c' stamp.
 This cover shows that censorship did not end with the Armistice but was still in place 5 months later.
 Type 1 Divided Double Circle 'SOUTH AFRICA' with Numeral 1 at Base within Curved bars.



1919. Piece. Registered. 6d black & violet & 3d black & orange (9d) cancelled VRIJHEID '7 JUN 19' to USA.
 Late use of PC 21/14 on OBC 21 label. A rate of 9d gave 4d for Registration and 5d (over 1 oz) for postage.
 This cover shows that censorship did not end with the Armistice but was still in place 7 months later.
 Type 4 Divided Double Circle with Rectangle at Base.

End of Censorship: 1919.

With no Passed Censor cachets seen on mail after mid-1919, it appears that wartime censorship only ended with the signing of the peace Treaty of Versailles on 28th June 1919. Hugh Amooore concurs on the basis of internee mail from Fort Napier seen censored up to June 1919, the formal end of WW1.



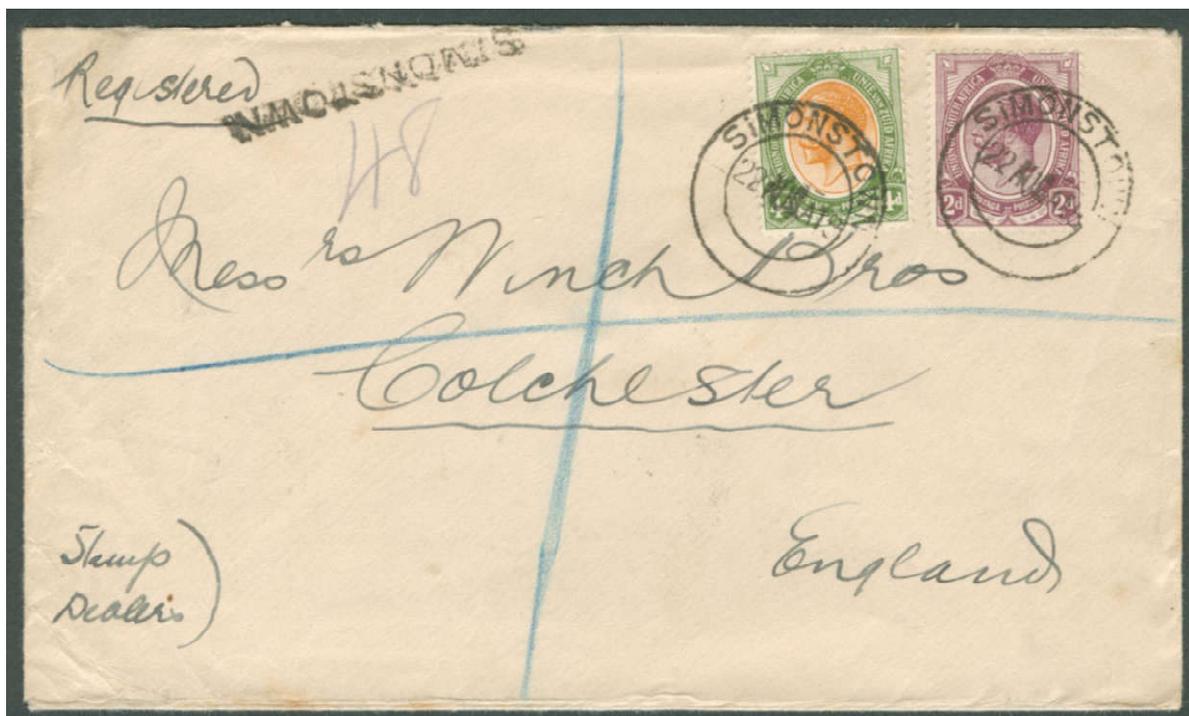
1919. Piece. Registered. 4d orange & sage-green + 3 x 2½d blue (min 9d, possibly 11½d).

Cancelled POST OFFICE JAGERSFONTEIN '8 JULY 19' to USA.

A rate of 9d gave 4d for Registration and 5d (over ½ oz) or 7½d (over one oz) for postage.

This postmark is Putzel No. 7 with 'ORC removed' and 'Full date with time code letter'.

With 'ORC' at base, this postmark was previously Putzel No. 5.



**1919. Registered Letter. 4d orange & sage-green & 2 d purple (6d)
cancelled SIMONSTOWN '22 AUG 19' to ENGLAND.**

The rate paid for this Registered Letter to GB is 6d, 4d for Registration and 2d for mail (over ½ oz).

Of interest is the curious inverted SIMONSTOWN Registered town name in black ink.

This appears to have come from the Telegraph Office where it was used on telegrams.

The Post War Years: 1919 - 1925

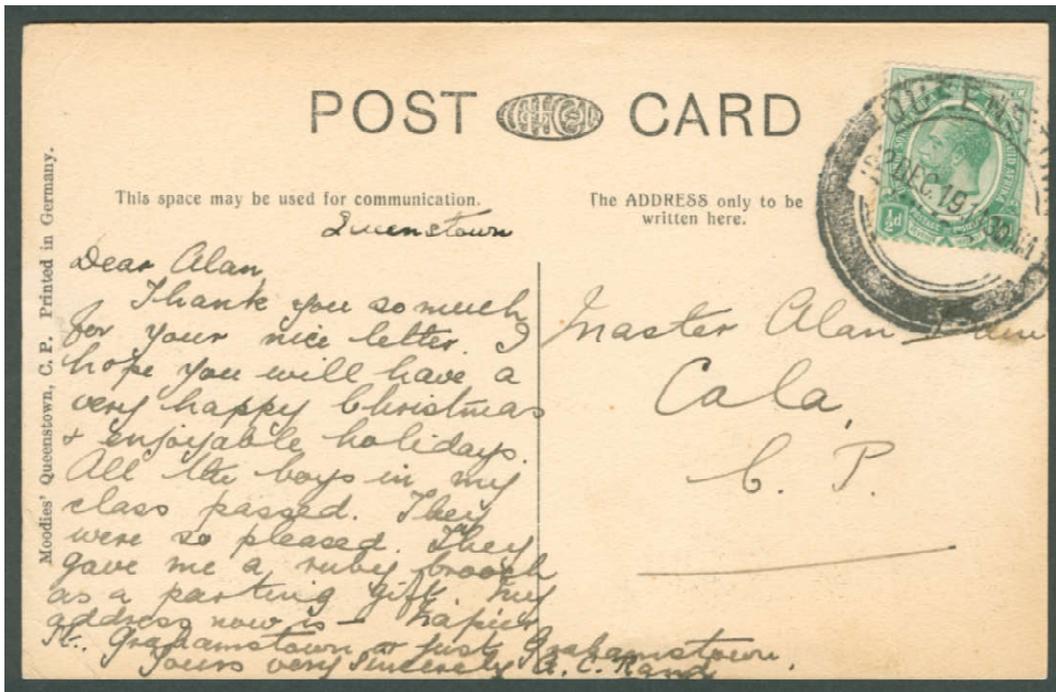


1919. Cover. 3 x 2½d blue cancelled PORT ELIZABETH '21 JUL 19' to USA.
This is the standard rate to the USA for letters under 1½ ounces (3 x 2½d or 7½d).



1919. Cover. ½d green cancelled VICTORIA WEST CGH '17 SP 19'. Local post.
Late use of the Cape Colony VICTORIA WEST CGH Squared Circle datestamp.

The above is not close to the last recorded date of use, believed to be some time in or after 1925. The back of the Victoria West to Houw Hoek cover shown later uses the same VICTORIA WEST CGH Squared Circle datestamp to receive an Attorney's undelivered and returned Registered letter '1 AP 25'.



1919. Post Card. 1/2d green affixed and cancelled QUEENSTOWN '22 DEC 19' to CALA.

A 1/2d is the rate for postcards posted domestically within South Africa

Little is known about this wonderful postmark. This display includes three of the same type.

See the Port Elizabeth datestamp at the foot of the preceding page.



1920. Pre-addressed Cover. Pair 1d red & 1/2d green (2 1/2d) cancelled GREYTON '21 JAN 20' to USA.

The postage rate to the USA for letters is 2 1/2d per half oz or part thereof.

According to Putzel, this postmark, his No. 8, is a Type 1 'with "SOUTHAFRICA" removed'.

Type 4 Double Circle with Cross at Base enclosed within Curved Bars.

Montgomery Ward was a huge and highly successful catalogue-based, American dry-goods retailer.

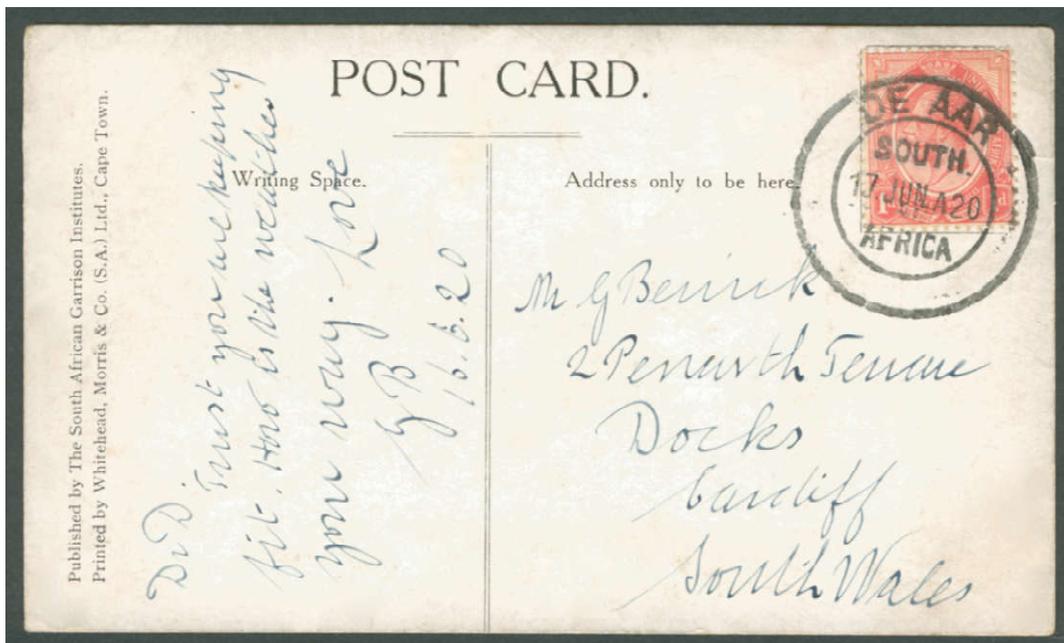


1920. Registered Letter with 2½d blue pair cancelled OBSERVATORY ROAD CGH 'JA 3 20' to USA.
 The rate is calculated as 9d - 4d for the Registered Letter & 2 x 2½d (5d) for a letter under 1 oz to the USA.
 A piece of selvaige from a sheet of probably ½d stamps is affixed to the top left of the letter.
 This has been struck with the faint OBSERVATORY ROAD Registered cachet.
 Late use of the Cape Colony OBSERVATORY ROAD CGH Single Circle datestamp.

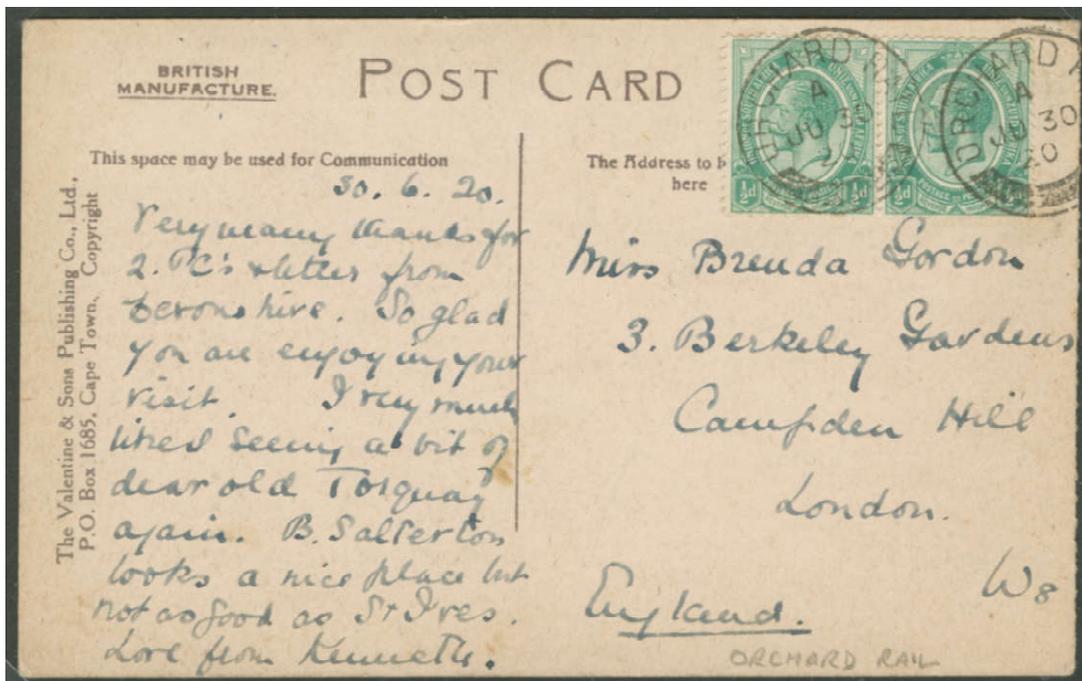
The above Registered Letter measures 6" x 3¾" compared to 5¼" x 3¼".



1920. Registered Letter with 5d postage cancelled VREDE '8 MAY 20' to GB.
 The rate is calculated as 5d - 4d for the Registered Letter and 1d for a letter under ½d oz to GB.
 Type 4 Double Circle with Cross at Base enclosed within Curved Bars.



1920. Post Card. 1d red cancelled DE AAR SOUTH AFRICA '17 JUN 20' to GB.
 The rate is 1d for a postcard to GB.
 Type 1 Double Circle SOUTH AFRICA Clear at Base.



1920. Post Card. 2 x 1/2d green ORCHARD RAIL 'JU 30 20' to GB
 The standard rate for a postcard to England is 1d.
 Cancelled with Cape Colony three line Double Circle datestamp with a Solid Bar (no cross) at Base

Robert Hill

RATE CHANGE - 10th MAY 1920

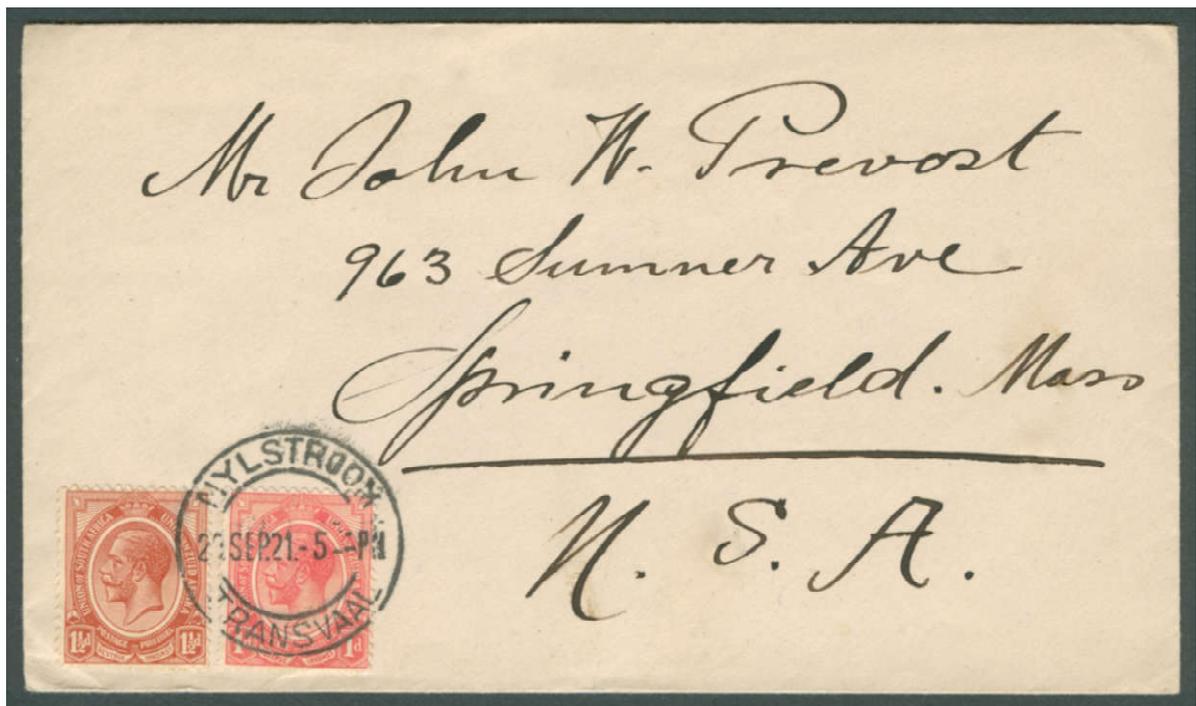
“The 1920 rate change for a domestic letter, (increased from 1d to 1½d), was for the increased first step weight from ½ oz to 1 oz. The GB & Empire rate was increased to 1½d per oz. This 1½d rate lasted just over a year when it was set at 2d oz on 1st June 1921. The foreign (UPU) letter rate was increased from 2½d per ½ oz to 3d for the 1st oz and 1½d per additional oz (or part thereof) on 1 January 1922. This remained in force until 31st March 1950!” (Hugh Amooore.)



1921. Piece. ½d green & 1d red cancelled ESTCOURT SOUTH AFRICA '5 APR 21'.

1½d is the correct rate for postcards posted from South Africa to Europe.

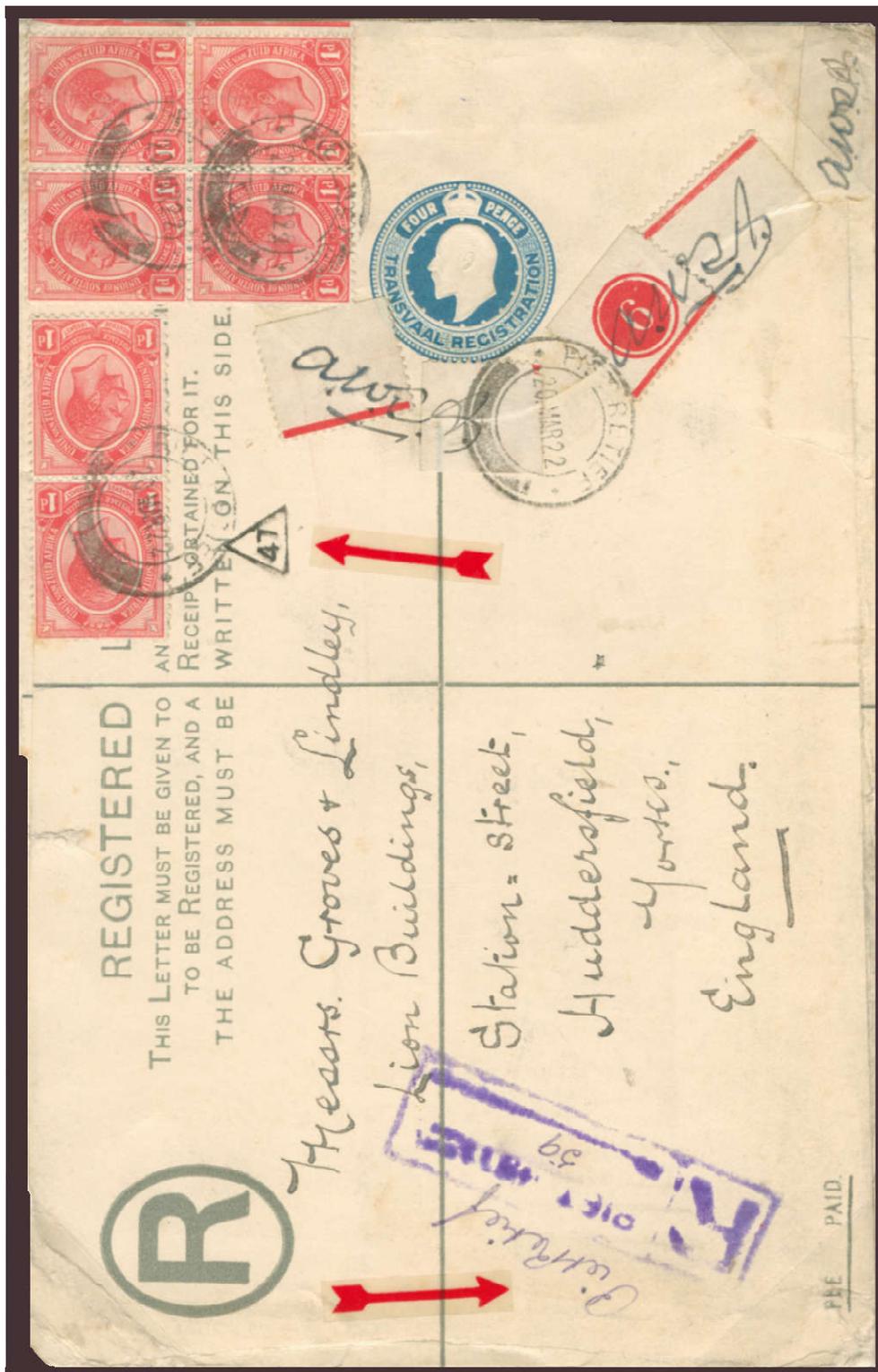
Type 1: SOUTH AFRICA Cross at Base within Curved Bars.



1921. Cover. 1½d plus 1d cancelled NYLSTROOM TRANSVAAL '29 SEP 21' to USA.

2½d was the rate for a letter under a half ounce to the USA.

Type 4 Divided Double Circle with 'TRANSVAAL' at Base.



See
Horizontal
Image
on Next
Page

Robert Hill

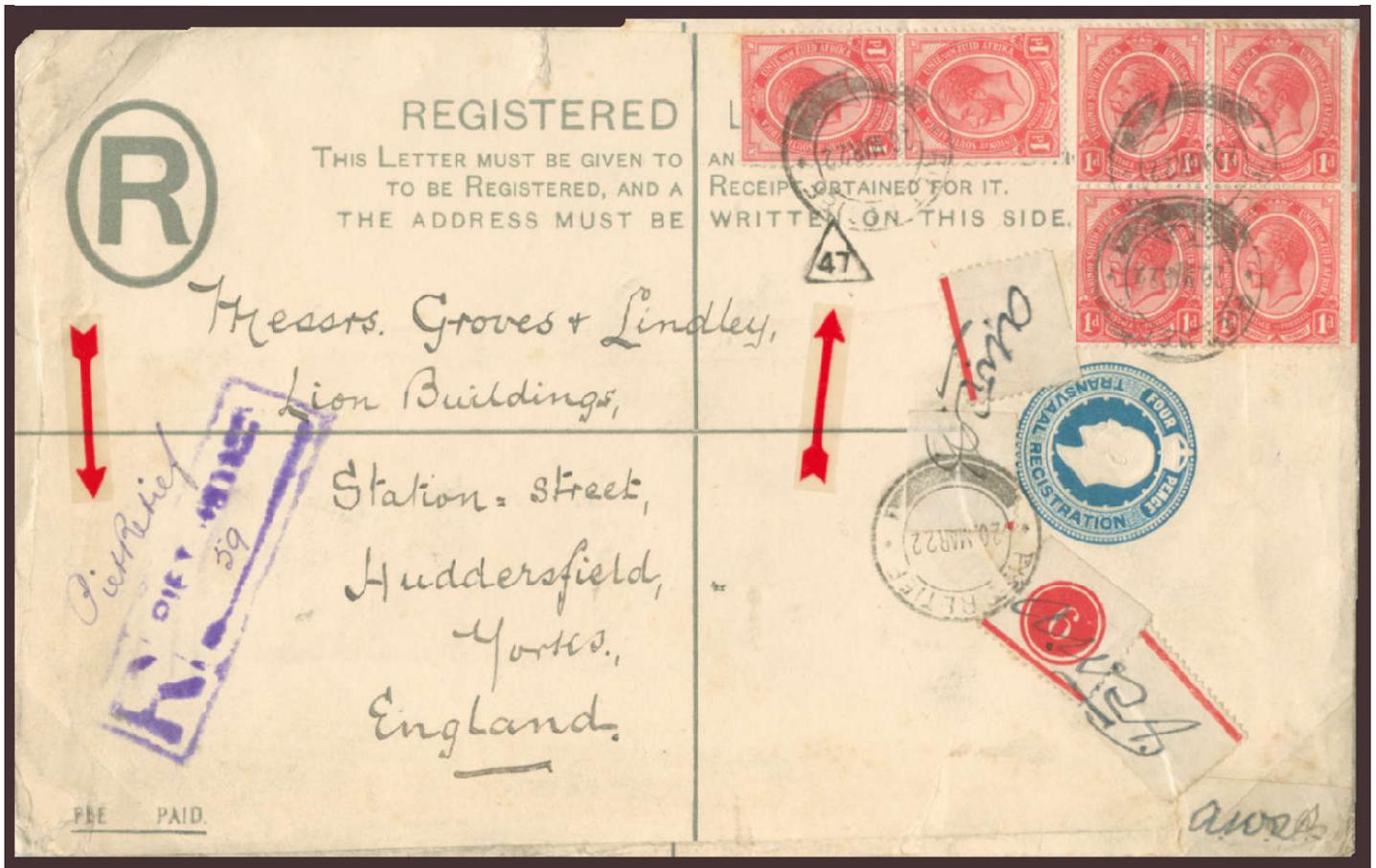
1922. Registered Letter (4d) + 6 x 1d reds cancelled PIET RETIEF '20 MAR 22' to GB.

The rate paid for this Registered Letter to GB is 10d - 4d for Registration and 6d for mail at 1d per ½ oz or part thereof. Given that the Registered Letter cost 4d itself, the 6 x 1d red stamps are to cover the cost of postage, suggesting that the contents were just under 3oz at a rate of 1d per ½ oz at a rate of 1d.

The central red arrow points to a curious small 10mm triangular postmark that includes the numeral '47'. Also, note that bottom red arrow points to the the PIET RETIEF Registration cachet which was in such poor condition the name of the town had to be written in MS alongside it. Finally, the PIET RETIEF datestamp is a Double Circle with a solid bar (no cross) wrapping completely around the base.

For details on the small triangular postmark, see next horizontal image.

**Image Reduced and Rotated
See Previous**



Robert Hill

1922. Registered Letter (4d) + 6 x 1d reds cancelled PIET RETIEF '20 MAR 22' to GB.

The rate paid for this Registered Letter to GB is 10d - 4d for Registration and 6d for mail at 1d per ½ oz or part thereof. Given that the Registered Letter cost 4d itself, the 6 x 1d red stamps are to cover the cost of postage, suggesting that the contents were just under 3oz at a rate of 1d per ½ oz at a rate of 1d.

The central red arrow points to a curious small 10mm triangular postmark that includes the numeral '47'. Also, note that bottom red arrow points to the the PIET RETIEF Registration cachet which was in such poor condition the name of the town had to be written in MS alongside it. Finally, the PIET RETIEF datestamp is a Double Circle with a solid bar (no cross) wrapping completely around the base.

Your advice on the small triangular postmark, please!

Roger Porter advises: *"The triangle enclosing 47 is an Inspector mark. The inspector examined the letter to ascertain whether it conformed to the Regulations governing mail carried at postage rates other than the normal. It was applied in the UK - possibly in London."*



1922. Letter Card. 1d red card cancelled TULBAGH '1 MAY 22' to SOMERSET WEST.
 Indelible Pencil manuscript "To pay".

Large black 2d denoting amount to pay partially obscured by label, bottom tight.

Tax paid by 2 x 1d Red and Black Postage Due stamps cancelled SOMERSET WEST 'MY 22'.

Contrary to its instructions, this letter card possibly contained contents that were lost or stolen. Multiple 'Found open and officially closed in the Post Office' labels were added after payment of tax.

Labels datestamped SOMERSET WEST 'MY 22', same day as postage due.

This one line Tulbagh postmark is unlikely to be a Cape Colony issue, rather a Type 4.



1922. Cover. 2d purple cancelled BENONI '11 OCT 22' to GB.

The rate paid for this letter to England is 2d.

A letter to England weighing under a ½ oz was 1d. This was presumably over ½ oz but less than 1 oz.



1924. Post Card. 1d red card uprated with ½d green.

Cancelled 1½d to BERLIN '19 MAR 24' to BERLIN, GERMANY.

The rate paid for this postcard to Germany is 1½d, the European post card rate.



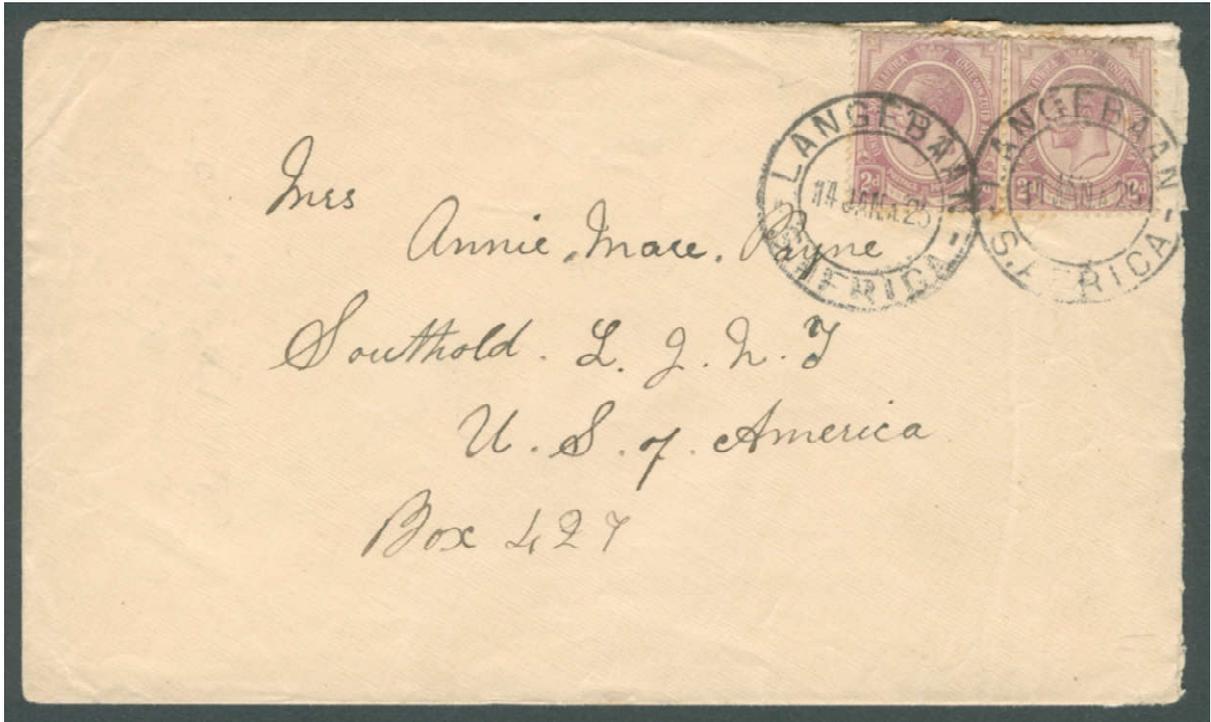
1924. Registered letter cancelled SPRINGS TRANSVAAL '5 SEP 24' to MASERU SOUTH AFRICA '8 SEP 24'.
The rate paid for this Registered Letter is 4d plus 2d for postage, presumably being over ½ oz. SA Type 2.

The Basutos had a long and proud tradition of defending themselves against interlopers, other black tribes, the Boers and the British. They had fought long and hard to maintain their independence and their land, especially in the area bordering the Orange Free State. They would have regarded this Union of South Africa SA Type 2 datestamp showing 'MASERU SOUTH AFRICA' with huge misgivings and trepidation.



1924. Postcard 2 x ½d green pairs cancelled PIETERSBURG '10 NOV 24' to PRETORIA.
A note supplied with this covers states that "4 x ½d stamps pays the going postal rate at that time".
Does that mean that the postal rate has changed from 1d to 2d or did this weigh more than ½ oz?

This postmark is similar to the earlier Port Elizabeth and Queenstown postmark about which more info is sought.

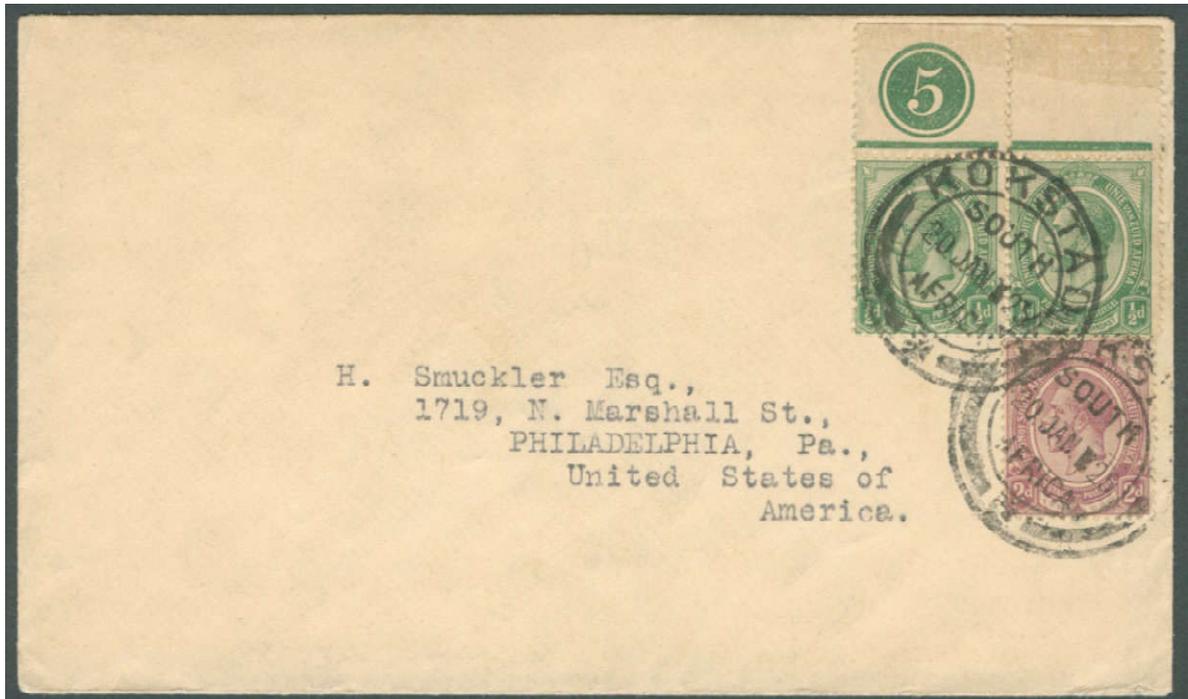


1925. Cover. 2 x 2d purple pair (4d) cancelled LANGEBAAAN SOUTH AFRICA '14 JAN 25' to USA.

The rate paid for this letter to the USA is 4d. SA Type 1.

Has the postage rate to the USA changed and or has the sender paid too much above?

Given that the letter below paid 3d, has the sender above paid too much because he had no other stamps?



1925. Cover. 2 x ½d green pair + 2d purple (3d) cancelled KOKSTAD SOUTH AFRICA '20 JAN 25' to USA.

The rate paid for this letter to the USA is 3d. SA Type 2.

This suggest that the rate to the USA has changed from the previous 2½d to 3d.



1925. Registered Letter: 6 x 1d red (6d) cancelled VICTORIA WEST '24 MAR 25' to HOUW HOEK. Blue REGISTERED Victoria West cachet. NO HOUW HOEK receiving datestamp.

The rate paid for this Domestic Registered Letter is 6d.

The letter could not be delivered and was returned Registered from HOUW HOEK 'MR 30 25'.

Re-Registered 'Houw Hoek' with MS No. 123 in pencil and black ink 'R'.

Victoria West Registered cachet obliterated with blue pencil and re-addressed 'Victoria West' in MS.



1925. Cover: 2d purple plus 3 x 1d red Air Posts cancelled EAST LONDON '26 MAR 25' to CAPE TOWN.

The rate paid for this Experimental Airmail letter from East London to Cape Town is 5d.

The rate for ordinary domestic postage was now 2d per ounce. Airmail fees were 3d per ounce.

Non-Airmail stamps were accepted for Experimental air flights. Air Posts could not be used for normal mail.

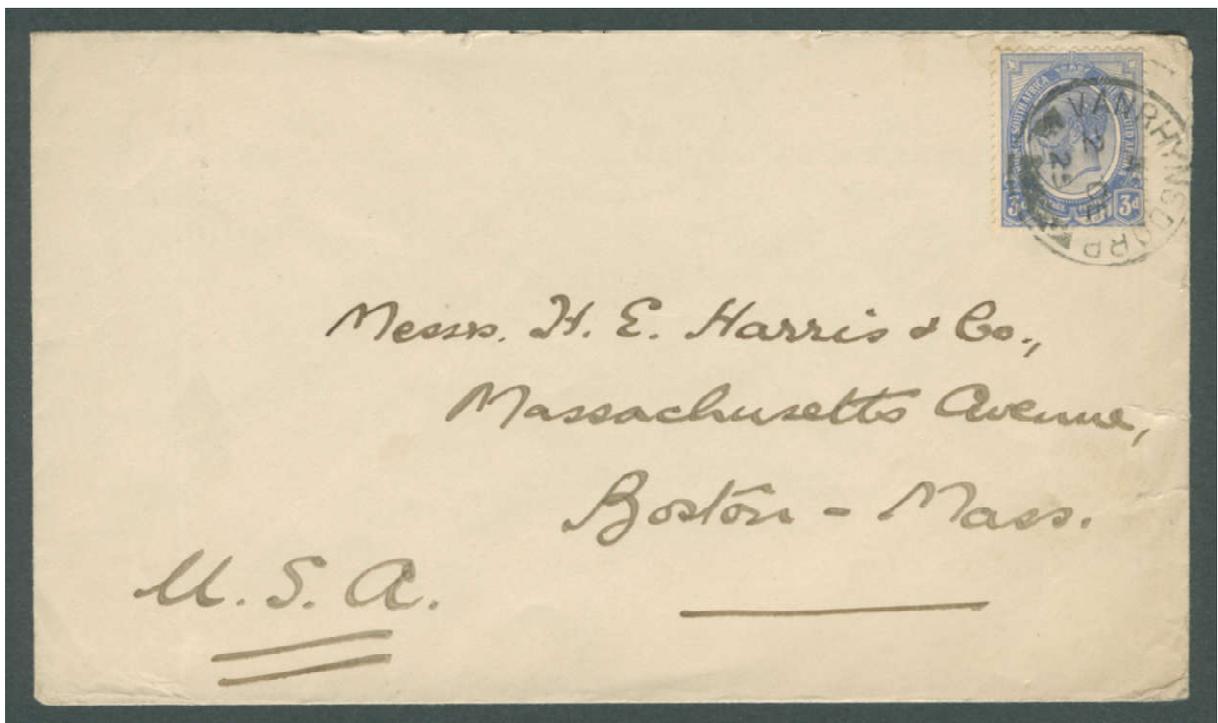
The East London Datestamp is a unilingual (English-only) Divided Double Circle Clear at Base.



1925. Cover. 1d red + 2d purple (3d) cancelled HOWICK SOUTH AFRICA '14 MAY 25' to USA.

The rate paid for this letter to the USA is 3d. SA Type 2.

This seems to confirm that the postage rate to yhe USA has changed from 2½d to 3d.



1925. Cover. Single 3d blue cancelled VANRHYNSDORP '2 DE 25' to USA.

This confirms that the postage rate to the USA has changed from 2½d to 3d.

The postmark is peculiar. At first glance it looks as though it is a long-serving CGH survivor.

However, the solid bar at base without a cross suggests this is an early Union datestamp.

Use of King's Heads in the London Pictorial Era: 1926 - 1927

On 1st January 1926, a new definitive issue of three iconic London Pictorials, a ½d black & green Springbok, a 1d black & carmine Ship and a 6d green & orange Orange Tree were issued. These were followed in 1926 by a 4d greyish-blue triangle. In 1927, seven new London Pictorial definitives were added to the original three stamps of 1925. The London Pictorials would replace the King's Heads.



1926. Cover. 1d red & black London Pictorial & 2d purple cancelled KIMBERLEY '8 NOV 26' to USA.
The rate paid for this letter to the USA is 3d.



1929. Airmail Cover. 1d red plus 4d bluish-grey triangle cancelled CAPE TOWN 9 '26 AUG 29'
Private cachet 'Per South African AIR MAIL'. Use of old (1925) Airmail label.
No Airmail service existed after the end of the Experimental flights of 1925 and before the new service of 1929.



1932. Philatelic Airmail Cover. Pair 1½d chestnut, ½d green and ½d green & black Roto Printing Pretoria. Cancelled VICTORIA WEST '27 JAN 32' to KIMBERLEY.

The rate paid for this letter is 4d, the domestic airmail rate. The standard letter rate has been dropped. The yellow airmail label is from 1925. This was replaced by a blue airmail label in 1929.



1932. Post Card. Single 1½d chestnut cancelled CAPE TOWN KAAPSTAD 13 '20 MAY 32' to GERMANY.
The rate paid for this post card is 1½d, the European postcard rate.

Some Early Machine Cancellers of the King's Head Era

With the huge growth in posted mail during the last quarter of the 19th Century, the Cape Post Office introduced Machine Cancellers (MCs) to speed of the processing of the increased volumes of mail. Ralph Putzel's "Postmarks of South Africa & Former States and Colonies" specifically excludes MCs.

As a mechanised franking processes, MCs lack the romance and aesthetic appeal of the handstruck postmark. Cape Town received its first MRD (Machine Roller Defacer "in 1898 or 1899". (*Postmarks of the COGH*. Robert Goldblatt.) The Transvaal received its first MC producing six wavy parallel lines "in about 1905". (*Transvaal Philately*". Ian Mathews et al.) The Transvaal's "next type consisted of eight parallel horizontal lines, broken by a single Johannesburg circle which appears every 140mm. This appeared in 1909, and could have gone on into the Interprovincial period" (Mathews). An example of a similar but different MC can be seen in this display used on a King's Head stamp in September 1913.

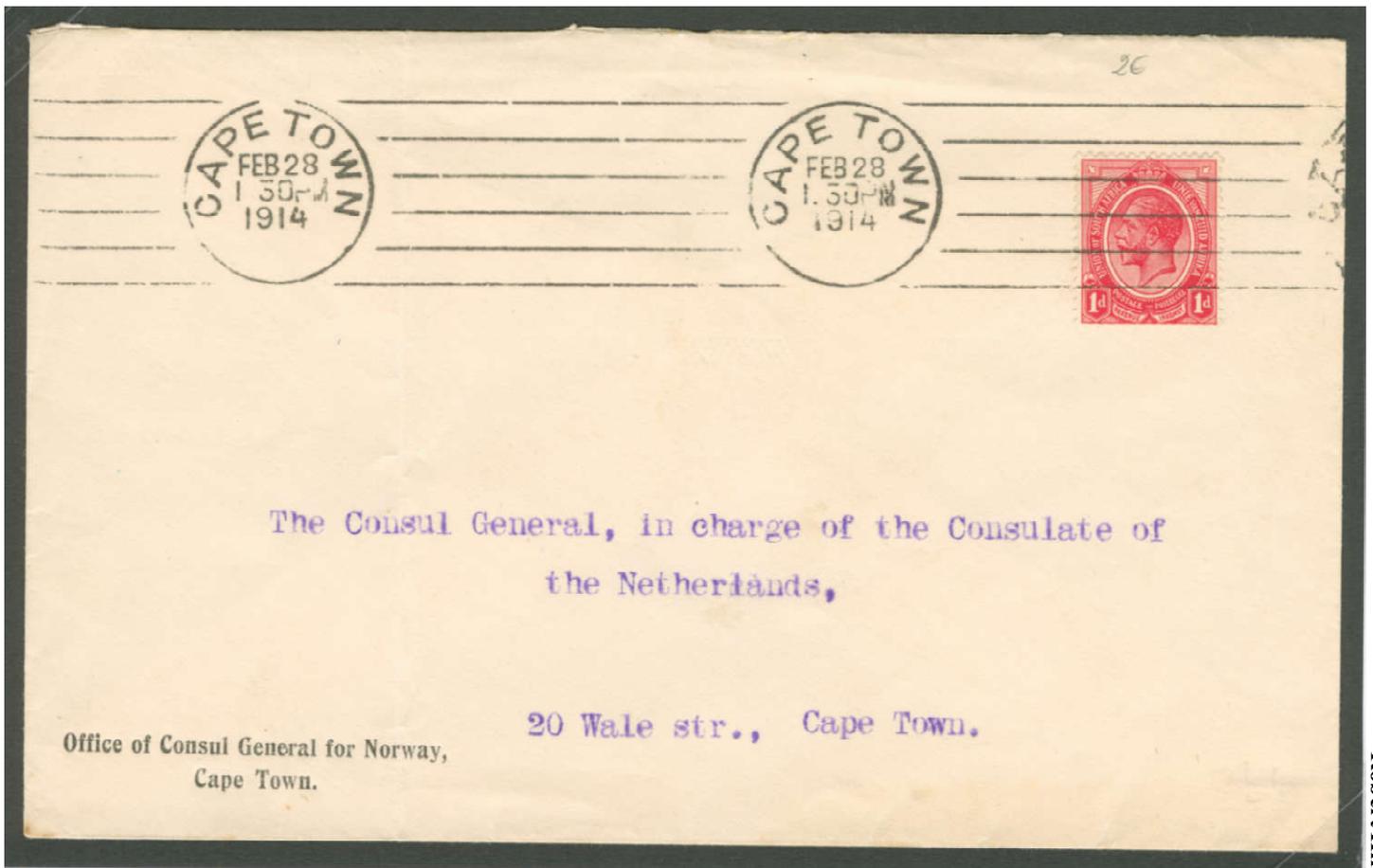


1913. Cover. 1d red MC cancelled JOHANNESBURG 'SEP 18 1913' to GB.
The GB Letter rate of 1d has been defaced with the Johannesburg Squared Narrow 8-Bar MC.

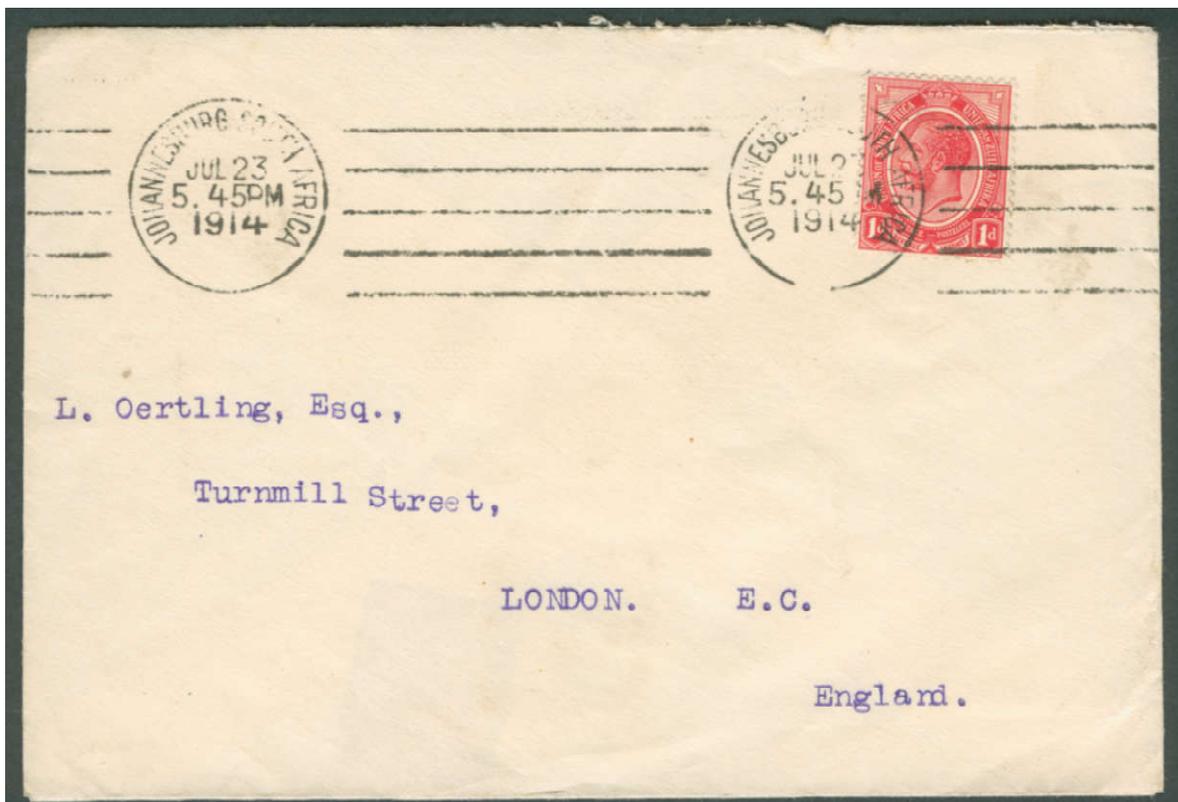
Coil Stamps Cancelled with MCs.



As the reason for purchasing stamps from a Post Office stamp machine was to save time, many covers bearing coil stamps were posted in letter boxes rather than by queueing at counters where letters were more likely to be cancelled with a handstamp. The result is a high number of King's Head coils cancelled by MCs.



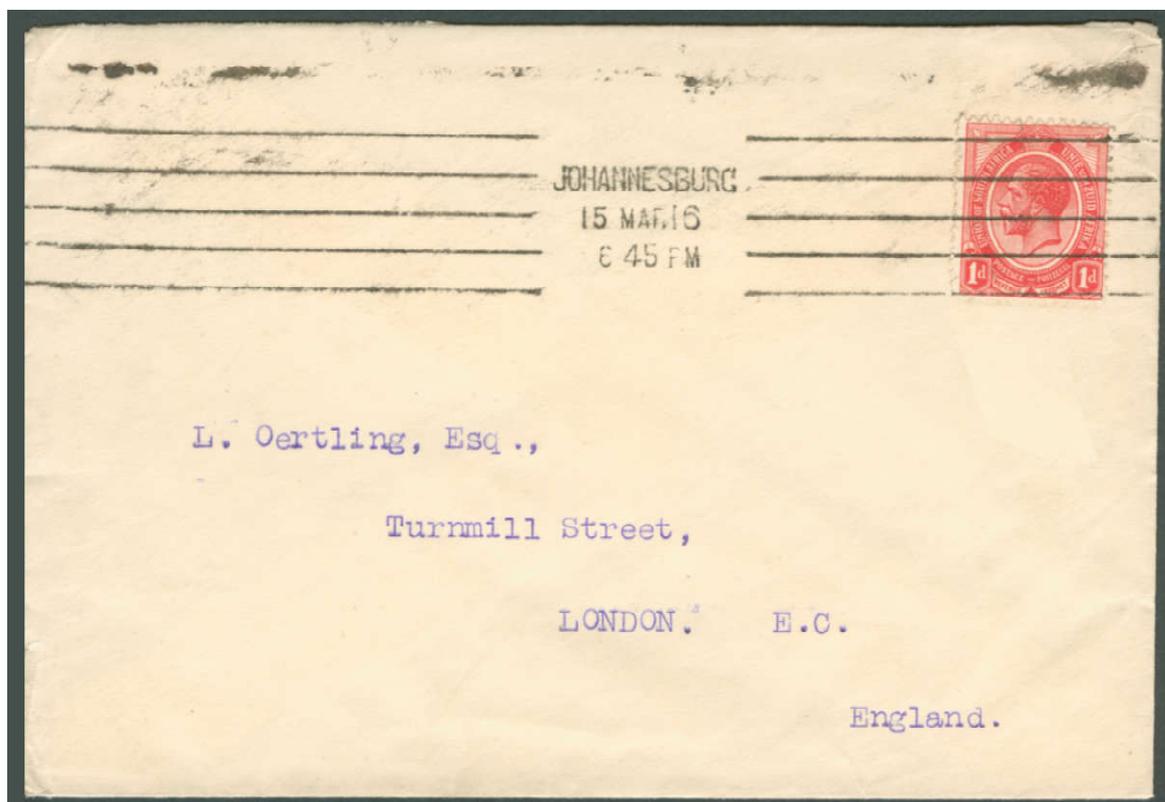
1914. Cover. 1d red cancelled CAPE TOWN 'FEB 28 1914'. Cape Town Local post.
 1d red has been defaced with the Cape Town rounded 6-Bar Unilingual Machine Cancellor (MC).
 This MC was probably introduced after 1909 when similar 8 and 7 but squared bar MCs were in use.



1914. Cover. 1d red MS cancelled JOHANNESBURG SOUTH AFRICA 'JUL 23 1914' to GB.
 The GB Letter rate of 1d has been defaced with the Johannesburg Squared Wide 5-Bar MC.



1915. Registered Cover. MC cancelled JOHANNESBURG SOUTH AFRICA '15 MAR 1916' to CAPE TOWN.
 Pair 2½d blue. The rate paid for postage 4d (Registration) and 1d postage under ½ ounce.
 The Registered Letter rate of 5d has been defaced with the Johannesburg Squared Wide 5-Bar MC.



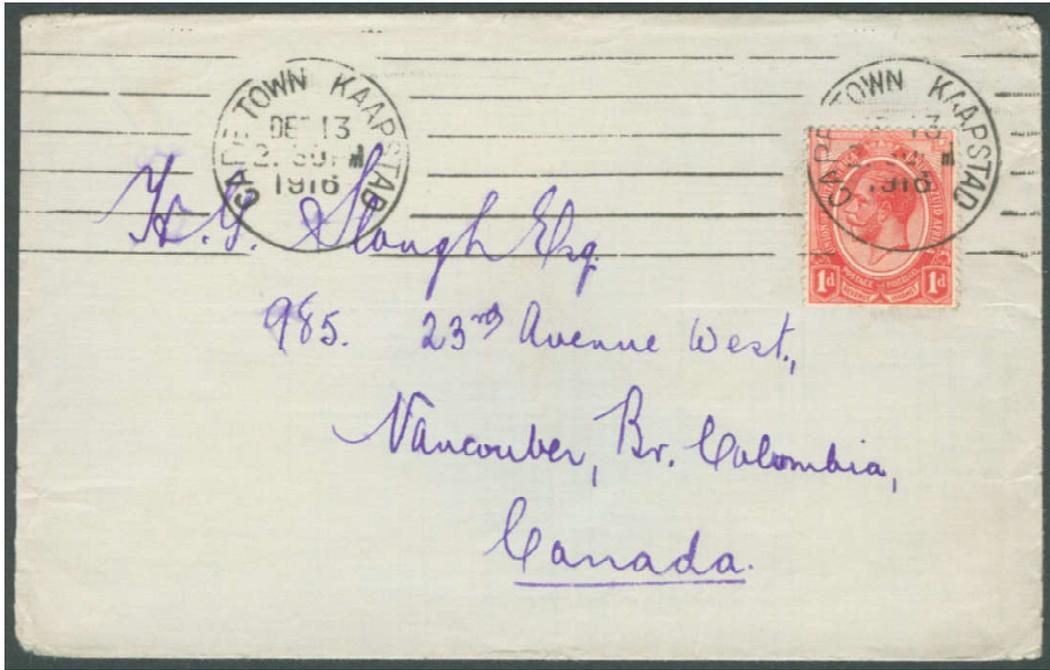
1916. Cover. 1d red MC cancelled JOHANNESBURG '15 MAR 1916' to GB.
 No use of Censorship cachets or labels to England. The rate paid for postage to GB is 1d.
 With no enclosing circle, this Squared Wide 5-Bar MC is quite different to most others shown here.



1916. Cover. 1/2d green + 2 x 1d reds MC cancelled PRETORIA SOUTH AFRICA 'MAR 23 1916' to HOLLAND.
 The rate paid for postage to Holland is 2 1/2d defaced with the Pretoria Squared Wide 5-Bar MC.
 The cover bears a blue PC (Passed Censor) C. 6. cachet.



1916. Registered Cover. 2 1/2d blue MC cancelled PRETORIA 'NOV 1 1916' to HOLLAND.
 The rate paid for postage to Holland is 2 1/2d defaced with the Pretoria Large Letter Squared Wide 5-Bar MC.
 The cover bears a blue PC (Passed Censor) C. 6. cachet, suggesting use in Pretoria.



1916. Cover. 1d red MC cancelled CAPE TOWN KAAPSTAD 'DE 13 1916' to CANADA.
 1d red has been defaced with the Cape Town KAAPSTAD Rounded Wide 6-Bar Bilingual MC.
 This suggests that there were different North American rates - Canada (1d) and the USA (3d),
 The cover to Canada above bears no censor marks or labels.
 Perhapsensorship was not applied to mail going to Commonwealth countries?



1917. Cover. 1d red pair and 1/2d green MC cancelled DURBAN 'JUL 12 1917' to SWEDEN.
 Cancelled with the Durban Squared Wide 5-Bar MC. Sent at the 2 1/2d European rate.
 Blue Passed Censor C. 11 cachet. Royal Swedish Arms (Vice-Consulate Durban) on reverse.



1917. Cover. 2½d blue pair MC cancelled CAPE TOWN 'JUL 21 1917' to SWEDEN.
 Cancelled with the Cape Town Rounded Wide 6-Bar MC. Sent at the 2½d European rate.
 Blue Passed Censor C. 11 cachet. Royal Swedish Arms (Vice-Consulate Kapstaden) on reverse.



1918. Cover. 1d red and 3 x ½d green (2½d) MC cancelled CAPE TOWN 'JAN 15 1918' to SWEDEN.
 This cover has been sent at a 2½d rate cancelled with Cape Town / Kaapstad's Rounded Bilingual Wide 5-Bar MC.
 Censored with Passed Censor C. 11 cachet in blue / black ink and sealed with OBC label 99.



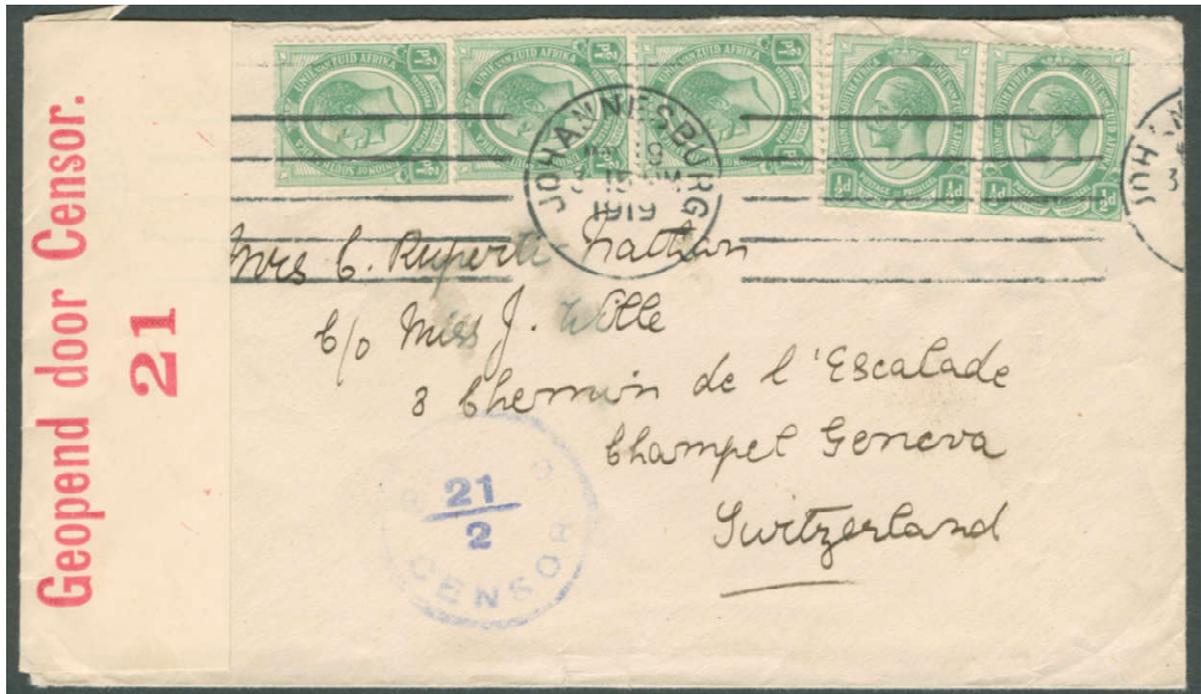
1919. Cover. ½d green & pair 1d reds cancelled JOHANNESBURG 'MAR 8 1919' to SWITZERLAND.

Late use of PC 21/2. The cover has been Opened by Censor and sealed by OBC label 21.

The rate paid for postage to Switzerland is 2½d

This cover shows that censorship did not end with the Armistice but was still in place.

This Letter has been defaced with the Johannesburg Squared Narrow 8-Bar MC, previously seen in 1913.



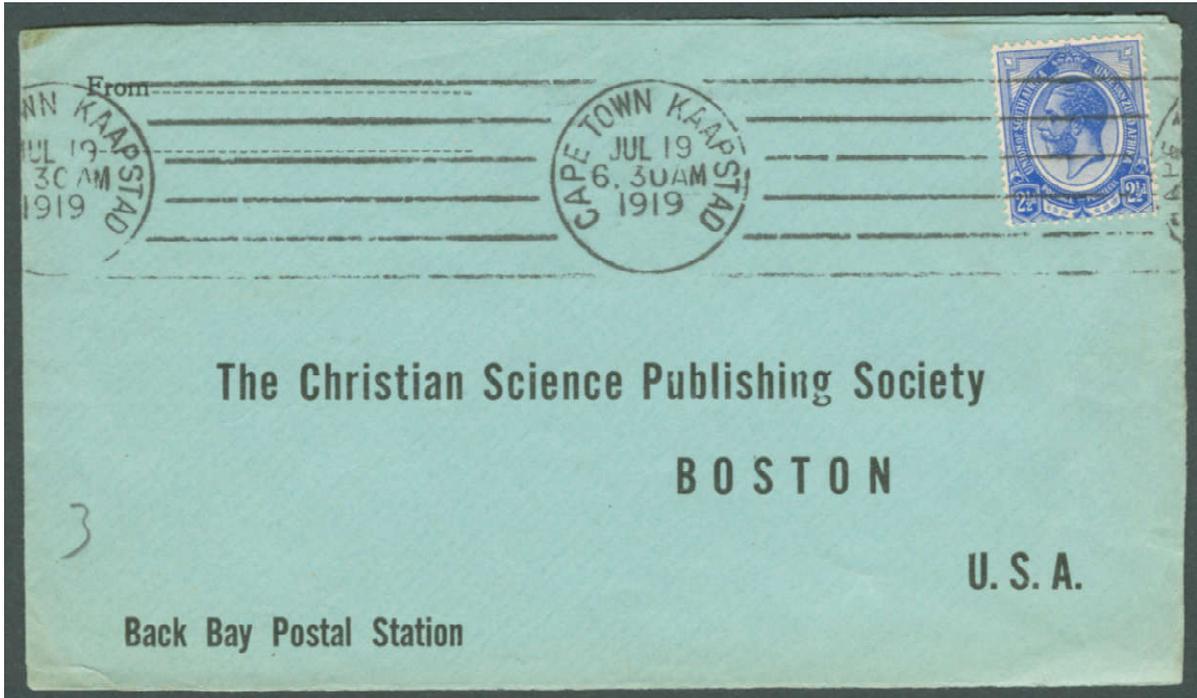
1919. Cover. 5 x ½d green (2½d) MC cancelled JOHANNESBURG 'MAY 9 1919' to SWITZERLAND.

The European rate paid for postage to Switzerland is 2½d

Late use of PC 21/2. The cover has been Opened by Censor and sealed by OBC label 21.

This cover shows that censorship did not end with the Armistice but was still in place 6 months later.

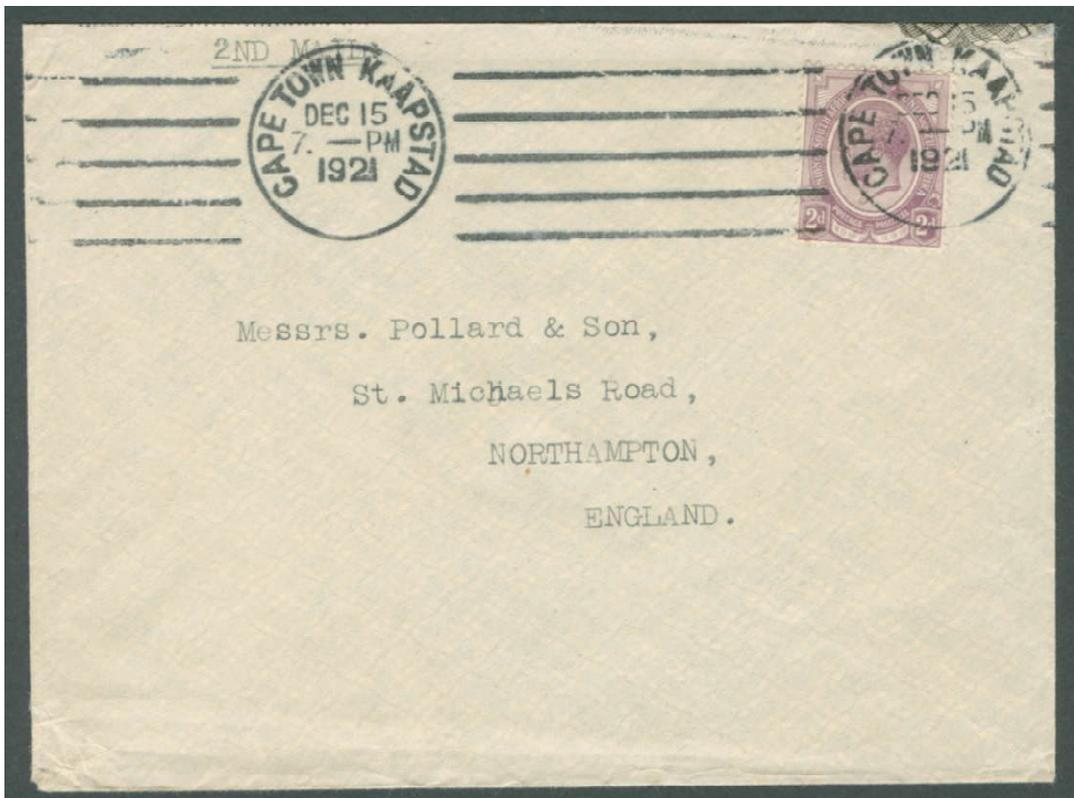
This MC differs from the previously seen Johannesburg Wide Squared 5-Bar example. ('South Africa' omitted).



1919. Reply Cover. 2½d blue MC cancelled CAPE TOWN KAAPSTAD 'JUL 19 1919' to USA.

This is the standard letter rate to the USA for letters under ½ ounces (1 x 2½d).

This cover has been cancelled with Cape Town / Kaapstad's Rounded Wide 6-Bar MC.

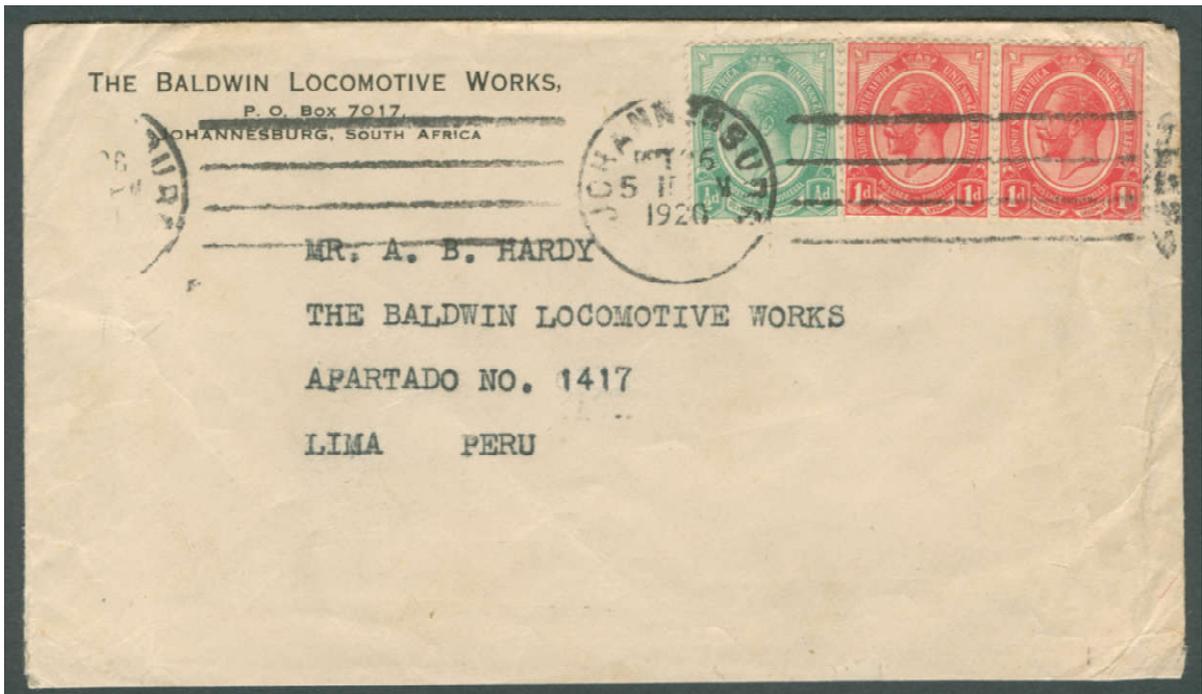


1921. Cover. 2d purple MC cancelled CAPE TOWN KAAPSTAD 'DE 15 1921' to CANADA.

The rate paid for this letter to England is 2d.

The letter rate to England is 1d or the letter weighed more than a ½ oz but less than 1oz.

The letter has been cancelled with the Cape Town Bilingual Squared Wide 5-Bar MC.



1920. Cover. ½d green & pair 1d red MC cancelled JOHANNESBURG 'OCT 26 1920' to PERU.

The rate paid for this letter to Peru is 2½d, the same as to North America.

The stamps have been cancelled with the Johannesburg Squared Wide 4-Bar MC. See below.



Undated Bisect Piece. 1d and ½d red bisect cancelled JOHANNESBURG before 23rd August 1920.

The domestic mail rate for a standard letter under ½ oz changed from 1d to 1½d on 10th May 1920 before a 1½d stamp became available. This resulted in the public unofficially bisecting 1d red stamps to make up the ½d difference when no ½d stamp was to hand. While bisects were accepted in some other countries, this practice was not officially sanctioned in South Africa.

Nevertheless, Union post offices did accept these bisects up until 23rd August 1920 when a 1½d chestnut

King's Head stamp was issued. As can be seen above and below, the 1d red and its bisect have been cancelled by the same MC used in Johannesburg on the topmost cover to Peru. The stamps below were cancelled some time before the 23rd August 1920.



The 1d and ½d red bisect have been cancelled with the Johannesburg Squared Wide 4-Bar MC.

The Introduction of MC Slogans

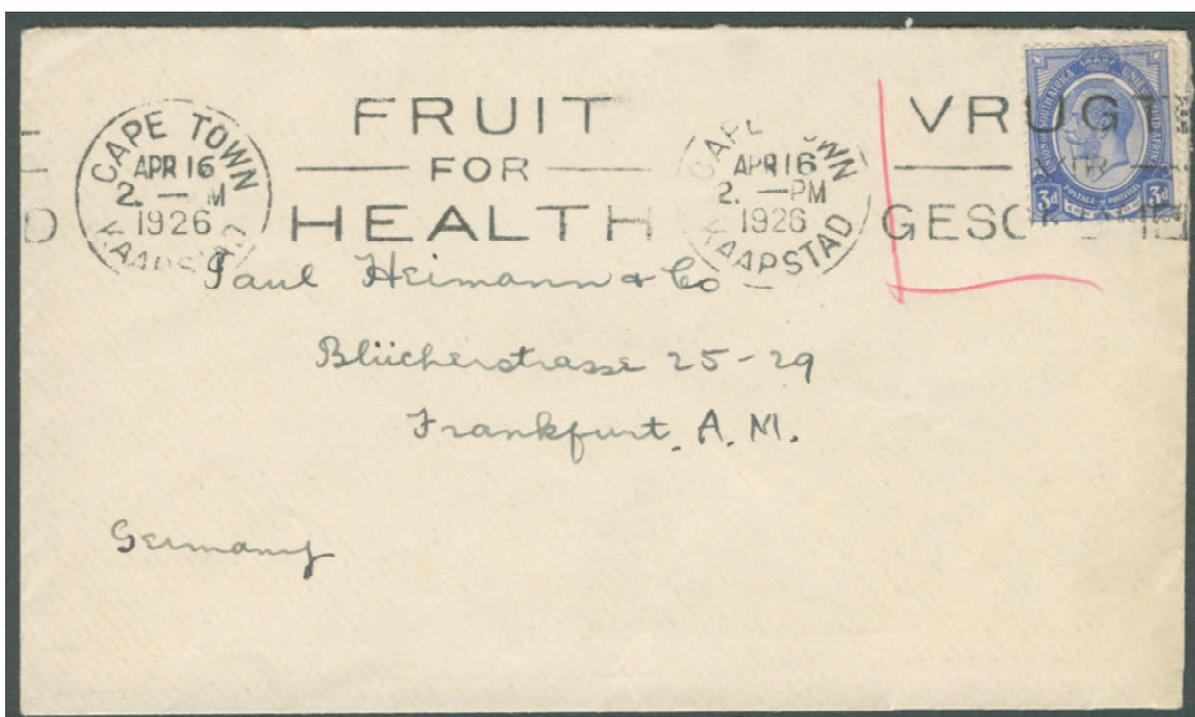


Dave Young

1925. Cover. Single 2d purple cancelled CAPE TOWN KAAPSTAD 'MAY 22 25' to ADELAIDE.
Bears the MC slogan 'AIRMAIL SAVES TIME - LUGPOS BESPAAR TYD'

Previously 1d, the domestic rate for a letter of standard weight is now 1½d, following a rate change.

The above slogan was intended to promote the Experimental Air Service introduced in 1925. The cover itself was sent overland by train to Adelaide in the Eastern Cape.



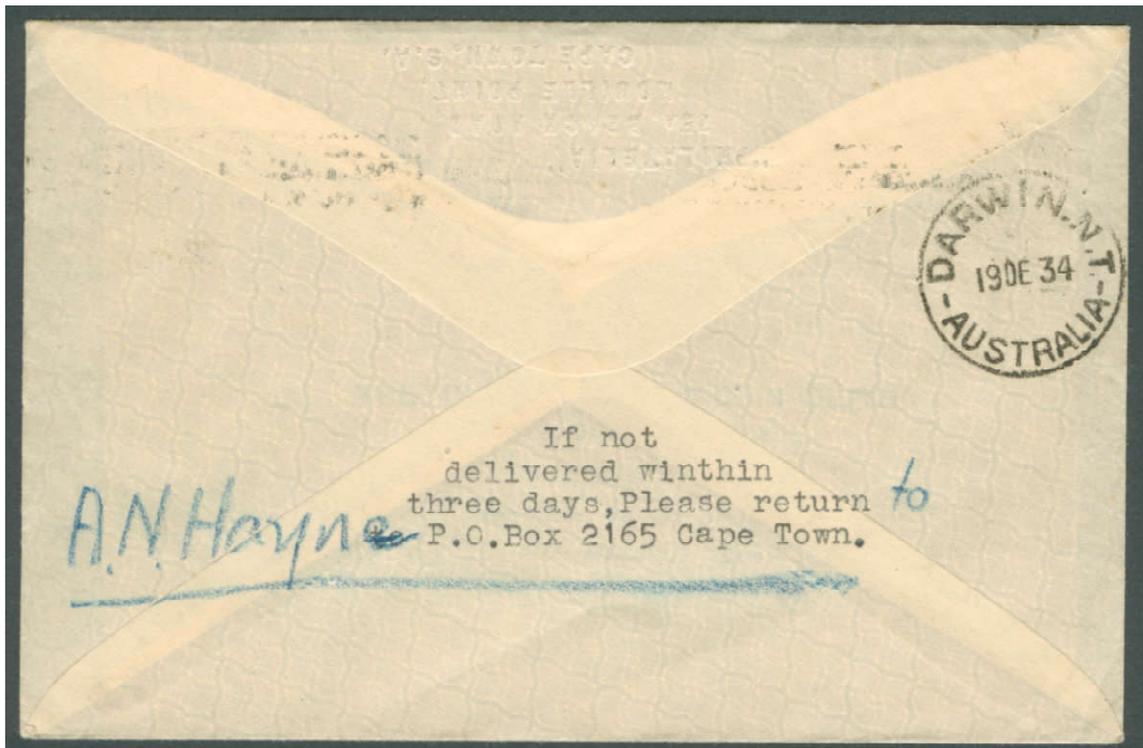
1926. Cover. Single 3d blue cancelled CAPE TOWN KAAPSTAD 'APR 16 26' to GERMANY.
Bears the MC slogan 'FRUIT FOR HEALTH - VRUGTE VIR GESOND'

Previously 2½d, the rate paid for this letter to the Germany is 3d, following a rate change.



1934. Airmail Cover. Pair 2½d blue and 1/3d violet MC cancelled CAPE TOWN 'DEC 3 1924' to AUSTRALIA.
Philatelic Airmail Cover. Per First "Direct Mail. Imperial Airways S. Africa to Australia."
The Airmail rate of 1/8d has been cancelled with the Cape Town's Bilingual Squared 4-Bar MC.

The Blue pencilled Arrow - 'See back' was used in Darwin to refer the PO to the senders address in SA.
This was typewritten, stating: "If not delivered within three days, Please return P.O.Box 2165, Cape Town."
Embossing on the reverse flap states, "Philatelia, 75a Beach Road, Mouille Point, Cape Town, SA".



The Wave of the Future MC



1936. Airmail Cover. 6d black & violet MC cancelled JOHANNESBURG '29 X 36' to GB.
The Airmail rate of 6d has been cancelled with Johannesburg's Wavy 5 Line MC.
This style of MC will eventually replace straight barred MCs.

Relative Late Use of the King's Head: 1950



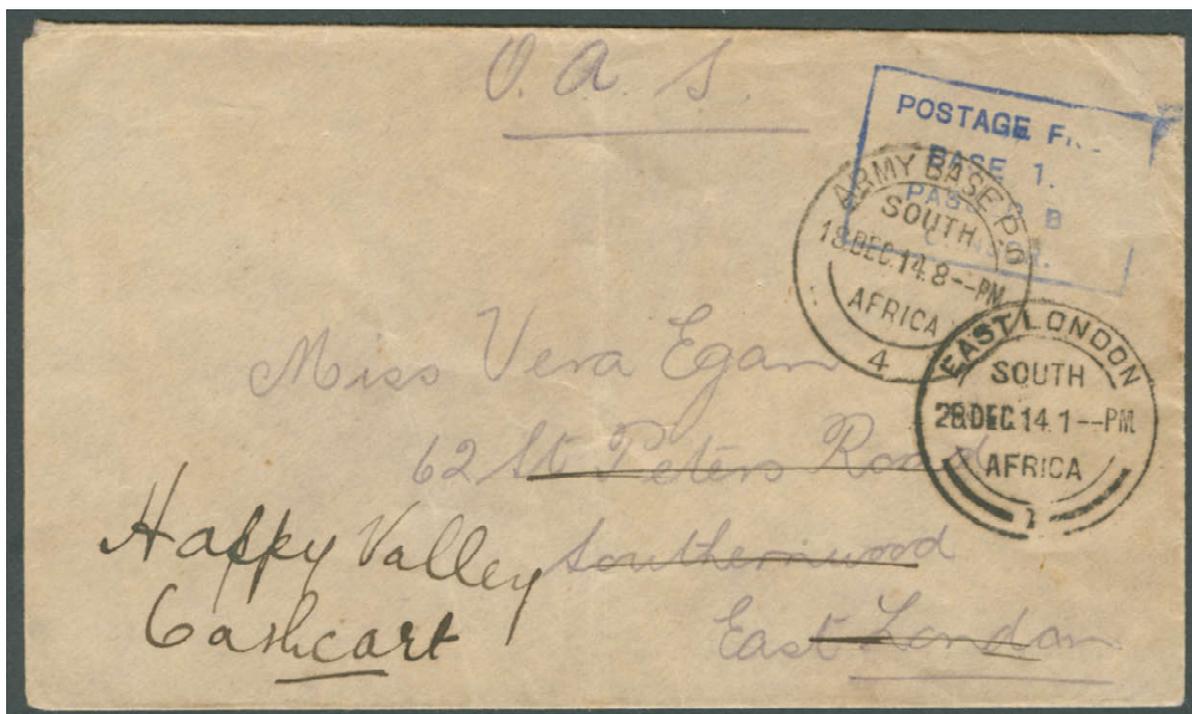
1950. Airmail Cover. RISSIK STR. JOHANNESBURG 'IXII 50' to GB.

Decimal currency in the form of the Rand was introduced on 14 February 1961. The King's Head issue was presumably demonetised then. This cover includes a 6d King's Head in use 10 years earlier.

Postmarks Used in South West Africa: 1914 - 1919

South Africa declared its support for Great Britain and the Empire on 14th September 1914. It immediately set about planning an invasion of neighbouring GSWA (German South West Africa). Kicking the Germans out of SWA was something that many South Africans had long wanted. Indeed, their Prime Minister, Louis Botha, had in private expressed a willingness to do so some years before the war started.

In January 1915, the South African Union Defence Force under the command of the Prime Minister, General Louis Botha, invaded GSWA in a three-pronged attack. The Germans surrendered the territory unconditionally in July 1915. Prior to their surrender, South African stamps had been used in SWA. These were almost entirely the then current issue of 1913 King's Head stamps. In January 1923, the first overprinted King's Head stamps showing 'South West Africa. Zuid West Afrika.' were issued.



Robert Hill

1914. Cover. OAS. Blue Boxed 'POSTAGE FREE. BASE 1. PASSED BY CENSOR'.

Cancelled ARMY BASE PO 4 SOUTH AFRICA '18 DEC 14'. SA Type 1

Received EAST LONDON SOUTH AFRICA 1 '28 DEC 14'. SA Type 1

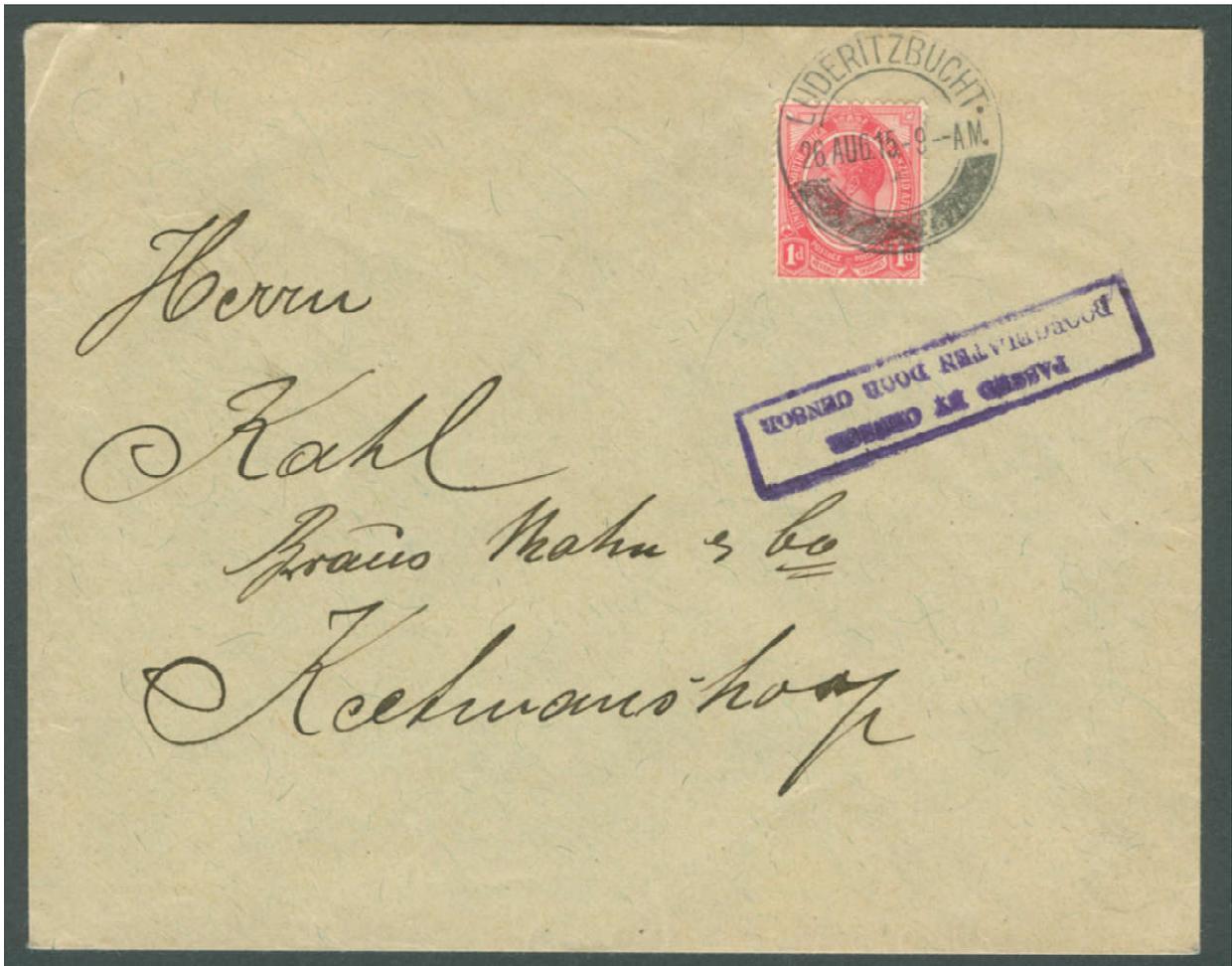
The point about including the cover above which has no King's Head stamps attached having been sent FREE on OAS (On Active Service) is that the South African Army received the SA Type 1 datestamp for use in its bases in occupied South West Africa. This sent a powerful message back home about the vigour and vitality of the new Union of South Africa Defence Force.

Significantly, while many ex-GSWA datestamps were commandeered as the spoils of war and adapted for use alongside new SWA datestamps, thereby delighting SA postal historians, the SA Type 1 datestamp was not issued for use in SWA post offices, probably because such a statement of territorial acquisition by South Africa was sensitive and premature, the ownership of the SWA territory having not yet been agreed.

An Omission

A feature of the earliest King's Head stamps used in SWA is their cancellation by original GSWA datestamps before they were altered by Union postal services. Unfortunately, we are unable to show examples of these items here. Readers wanting to see such are referred to Tony Howgrave-Graham's 'South West Corner' in 'The Springbok', the quarterly journal of the South African Collectors' Society. The issue you want is October 2020, "Use of Unaltered German Cancellers by Union Postal Services".

As SACS do not have an email address, contact: Editor <editor@southafricanphilatelyclub.com>



1915. Cover cancelled LUDERITZBUCHT '26 AUG 15' to KEETMANSHOOP.

The domestic rate paid is for a local letter posted and delivered in SWA is 1d, the same as SA. The European-size cover has a long, thin violet rectangular bilingual 'PASSED BY CENSOR' cachet.



1916. Registered Piece cancelled LUDERITZBUCHT '27 JAN 16' to USA.

The rate paid is for this Registered letter from SWA to the USA is 9d.

The rate comprises 1d red + 2d purple + 6d black & violet.

Assuming the Registered Letter rate is the same as a letter from SA to the USA, it is 4d for Registration and 2½d thereafter for each ½ oz or part thereof. As this letter has been charged at 5d, it weighed over a ½ oz and less than one ounce.



1916. Cover cancelled OKAHANDJA S.W.AFRICA '7 APR 16' to SWITZERLAND.

The rate paid for the letter is 2½d, the standard SA rate for a letter under ½ oz to Europe.

The new military administration's postage rate is the same for SWA as SA.

The cover has a dark blue 'PASSED BY CENSOR CN' cachet. ('N' appears as an inverted 'U'). MS '21.4.16'.

This new datestamp describes the territory as 'S.W.AFRICA' ie. it is not South Africa. Putzel No. 2c.

The despatch date above is unclear and appears to show '7 APR 15' contradicted elsewhere.

The blue attenuated 'CENSOR' cachet clearly shows that it was censored in Cape Town on '22 APR 1916'.

The OBC 99 label on the reverse shows that it went via the Cape Town Censor to Switzerland.

Received in GENEVA, SWITZERLAND '14 V 16'.





1916. Cover cancelled OKAHANDJA S.W.AFRICA '7 FEB 16' to WINDHUK. No Censor mark.
The rate paid for the letter is 1d, the standard SA rate for a domestic letter.



1916. Cover cancelled KEETMANSHOOP S.W.AFRICA '3 APR 16' to WINDHUK. Small Boxed violet PBC.
The rate paid for the letter is 1d, the standard SA rate for a domestic letter.



1916. Cover cancelled AUS S.W.AFRICA (illegible) '4 OCT 16' to LUDERITZBUCHT. Vertical 'PBC' and 'Prisoner of War Free of Charge AUS' cachets, both in violet. The rate paid for the letter is 1d, the standard SA rate for a domestic letter.

Aus was the site of a large Prisoner of War camp, largely built by its German prisoners.



1917. Cover cancelled WALDAU '2 FEB 17' to WINDHOEK. Local Mail. PC B / 100. The rate paid for the letter is ½d, the printed matter or book post rate for items up to 2 oz.

Putzel says of the WALDAU canceller, "This postmark is so rare that it is difficult to study it". This postmark, Putzel's No. B2., shows a seriffed font. It therefore cannot be a corrupted B1. This example is earlier than the two partial examples Putzel shows in his "The Postmarks of GSWA".

A feature of mail from SWA during this time are the many large, European-size letters favoured by Germans.



1916. Cover cancelled TSUMEB S.W.AFRICA '7 OCT 16' to WINDHUK.

The rate paid for the letter is 1d, the standard SA rate for a domestic letter.
The cover has been resealed with a bilingual 'OPENED BY CENSOR 100' label.

This cover was sold as a Registered Letter but the rate paid does not support this claim.

This cover is addressed to a 'Highborn' Internee. German officers received parole but the ranks were confined to POW camps. The highborn addresse is presumably an officer on parole in Windhuk. This is another example of the large European letter size covers used by the German authorities and colonists.



1917. Cover cancelled KLEIN WINDHUK '11 JAN 17' to SWITZERLAND. PC C9.
 The rate paid for the letter is 2½d, the standard SA rate for a letter to Europe. Passed Censor C9.



1917. Post Card cancelled SEEIS '8 FEB 1917' to KEETMANSHOOP. PC B 100.
 The rate paid for the letter is ½d, the standard SA rate for a domestic postcard. Passed Censor B 100.



1917. Registered Letter cancelled WINDHUK '8 OCT 17' to SWAKOPMUND. PC B 100. The rate paid is 5d. This is 4d for a Registered Letter and a 1d for local postage. Passed Censor B 100.



1917. Post Card. Cancelled OTJIWARONGO '30 SEP 17' to SWAKOPMUND. PC B 105. The cover has transited via KARIBIB '1 OCT 17'. The rate paid for the letter is ½d, the standard SA rate for a domestic postcard. Passed Censor B 100.



1918. Cover. Cancelled NAKOB '2 FEB 18' to WINDHUK. PC B 100.

The rate paid is 1d, the standard SA letter rate. Passed Censor B 100.

Addressed to the Officer Commanding Interned Schutztruppe.

South Africa entered WW1 in part because of the invasion of the Union by German Schutztruppe at Nakob.



1919. Post Card. 1/2d lime-green KALKFELD S<W. AFRICA '27 6 19' to SWAKOPMUND.

Both these datestamps have been captured and adapted by SA Forces.

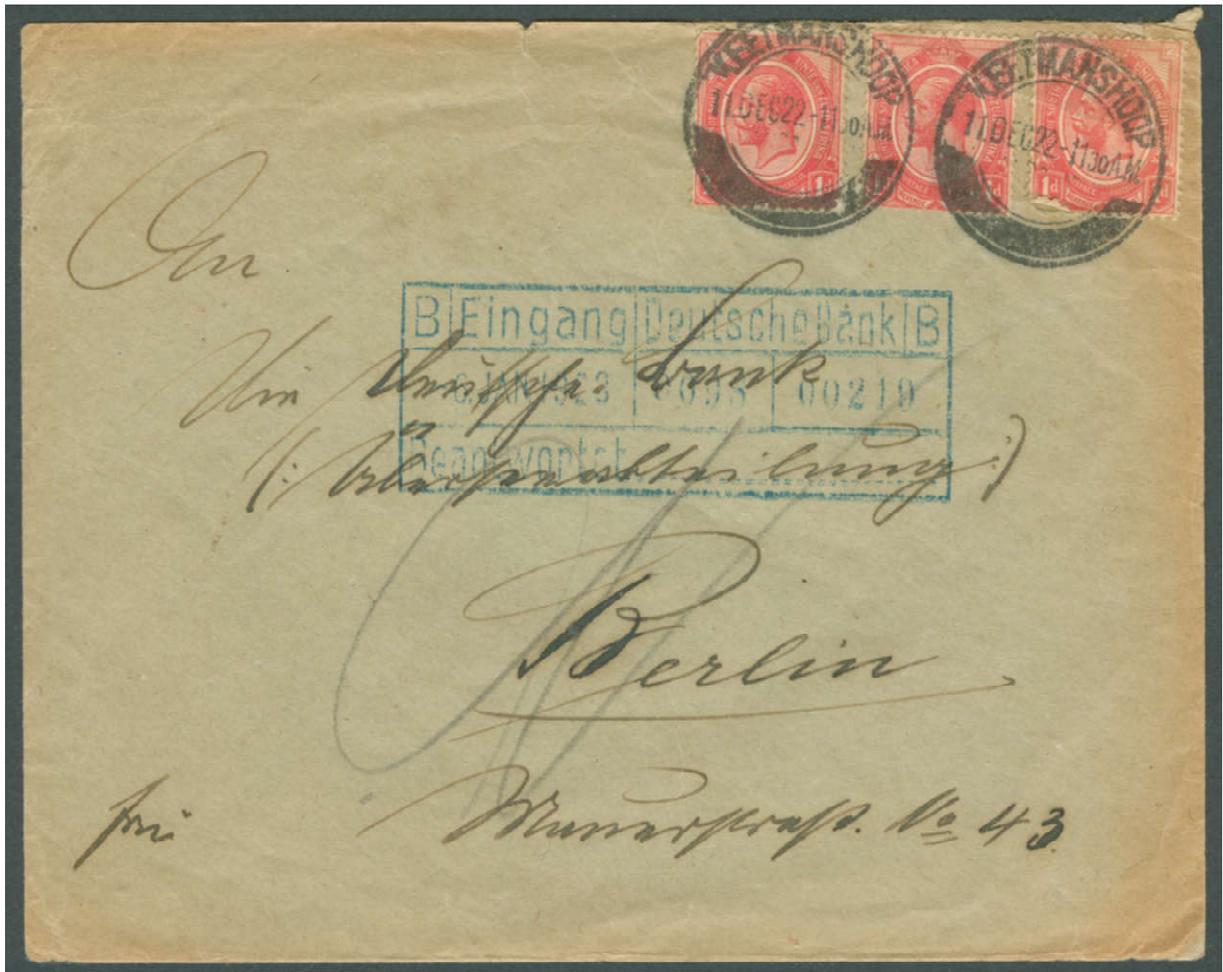
Transit via OMARURU, the only new SA occupational datestamp.



1920. Cover. Strip x 3 1/2d green WINDHUK S.W.A.P. '11 JUN 20' to PRETORIA.
 In 1920 in South Africa the local letter rate was still 1d. So why has 1 1/2d been paid here?
 The recipient of the letter is the renowned South African intellectual Eugene Marais.
 Putzel says of this postmark "First observed '9 6 20' it is scarce". (This is '11 6 20').



1921. Cover. Pair 1d red cancelled SWAKOPMUND '9 6 21' to KARIIBIB.
 If the rate has not changed, this cover weighed over 1/2 oz.



1922. European-size Cover. 3 x single 1d reds cancelled KEETMANSHOOP '11 DEC 22' to GERMANY.

This cover makes little sense unless the previous 2½d European rate has changed to 3d. Alternatively, in the absence of a ½d stamp, the sender chose to use a 1d red, thereby paying ½d too much.



1926. Front. Overprinted pair vertical 1d reds cancelled WINDHOEK SWA '15 JA 26' to ENGLAND.
Presumably, the new letter rate to Great Britain is 2d.



1926. Post Card. Original overprinted 'Zuidwest Afrika' cancelled OTJIWARONGO '12 MAR 26'.
Addressed to Standard Bank Cape Town from Otjiwarongo branch.
Despite the rate for a post card having increased from ½d to a 1d., this has been sent at the old rate.



1927. Stamps on piece. Postmarks illegible.

These are the last King's Heads to be over-printed for use in South West Africa.
The abbreviation 'S.W.A.' is practical and trilingual, working equally well in English, Afrikaans ... and German!

We would appreciate receiving your corrections.

**This Club Collective display will be continued with contributions from Club members.
Please provide examples of King' Head postal history from 1913 - 1927 or later.**

**Please submit your contributions to me by email as scanned 300 dpi JPG files.
Please submit your corrections by email.**

Email Editor <[postmaster@southafrican philately club.com](mailto:postmaster@southafricanphilatelyclub.com)>

Odds and Ends



1914. Piece. 1/4d green coil pair
JOHANNESBURG 3 1914'



REGISTERED
PRETORIA 1914



VOLKSRUST 1915



UITENHAGE 1916



WILLOWVALE 1921



STATE MINES 1923



CAPE TOWN F.S.
Foreign Service 1922



BLOEMFONTEIN 2 1923



VONDELING C.G.H
1923



BRAMLEY
JOHANNESBURG 1923



REGISTERED
BLOEMFONTEIN 1936



TELEGRAPHIC COUNTER NUMBERS
Counter Clerk Cancellers,
The Central Telegraph Office, JHB.

Single Circle Datestamps.



BEDFORD 1923, BETHESDA 1915, CALEDON 1921, QUEENSTOWN 1923



HOLLARD ST. 192?
P.M.BURG 1919
Money Order Offices.



The End

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18/01/2021

If you have questions and want to contact the Club, please contact:

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