

Cape of Good Hope

DUTCH PERIOD

VOC HANDSTRUCT STAMP

The undated entire below, which was folded as an envelope, bears a "VOC/6 St" handstamp which in my opinion is a faked mark.¹ The reason being that the addressee Maria Jurgens, the widow of Carel Wilhem Thalman, only became a widow in 1820, which is outside the period of use of the VOC handstamp. The mark also closely resembles Fig I.B, in Jurgens book. It is highly probable that the mark was added on a genuine cover by Jurgens.

FORGED VOC HANDSTAMP

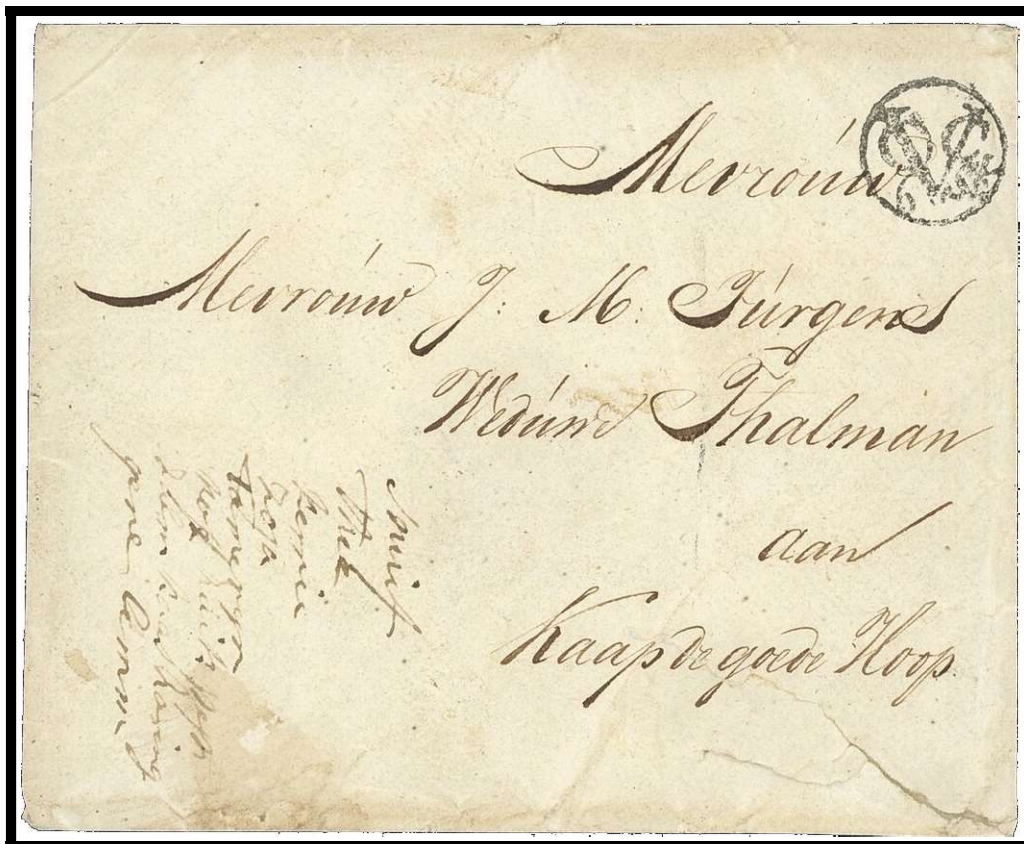


Fig I.B. (Type I.) from Jurgens book. The cover is genuine but the mark was probably faked by him. His *modus operandi* was to use cliches from his book.

Undated entire, folded as as envelope, to "Kaap de goede Hoop", showing a forged strike of the " VOC/6 St" handstamp. Arms red wax seal on reverse.

Maria Johannes Jurgens, passed away on 27 November 1824 and records of her estate can be found in the Cape Archives (MOOC8/40.24). She was married twice. First married to Mr. Carel Jacob Brugman and then to Mr. Carel Wilhem Thalman. Her mother was of humble origins as can be ascertained from the records and died on 21 Dec 1795.

Carel Jacob Brugman was a captain at sea in the service of the East India Company (MOOC8/21.17), but he was lost at sea. Her second husband Thalman was a financier. At his death he was owed money from as far as Batavia and he appears to have died in Batavia in 1820. He was the president van den Raad van Financeer van Nederlandsch Indien. The widow passed away on 24 November 1824. See page 93 for a cover addressed to her in 1821.

¹The cover appeared in a Spinks auction 20040, Stamps and Covers of Southern Africa, but was withdrawn as a forgery, based on the details presented here.