

The Barkly West T.O Datestamp used as a Receiver



1888. OFS Brief Kaart (Postcard) ZAND RIVIER 'JAN 27 88' to BARKLY WEST 'JA 30 88'.

The above postcard was received in Barkly West's post office with its BARKLY WEST T.O datestamp. Despite being intended for use only on telegrams, many small post offices used their T.O datestamp for postal purposes. Among some of the many post offices doing so were Barkly East and West, Bredasdorp, Breede River, Calitzdorp, Gardens, Hanover, Sea Point and Stutterheim. We know that the BARKLY WEST T.O datestamp was postally used for some 12 years between 1883 - 1895. The example above was applied some 7 months after the Barkly West 1883 Reprint cover was cancelled and shows that the BARKLY WEST T.O datestamp was in use at roughly the same time, 1887 - 1888. This points to the fact the Reprint cover was likely cancelled with the same BARKLY WEST T.O datestamp seen above. If that is true, then the remaining reprints on the cover are scarce examples of genuine postal use. As such, they are worthy items of great interest to collectors of Cape of Good Hope Woodblocks!