

THE BICKERDIKE ROLLER MACHINE CANCELLERS

The first cancelling machine was a Bickerdike taken into use in March 1899. The machine was supplied by the Canadian Postal Supply Company of Montreal, Canada. In the UK trials with these machines which run on electricity took place in 1897. After an interruption the machine came into use again for one year in 1903. In December of the same year there were experimental cancellers (possibly a Boston machine) without the "c-crown-c mark." The Bickerdike was replaced with a Columbia machine (wavy lines) in January 1904 (not February as mentioned in the literature) and the latest use is reported on 23 November 1909.¹



MRD-01



MRD-02



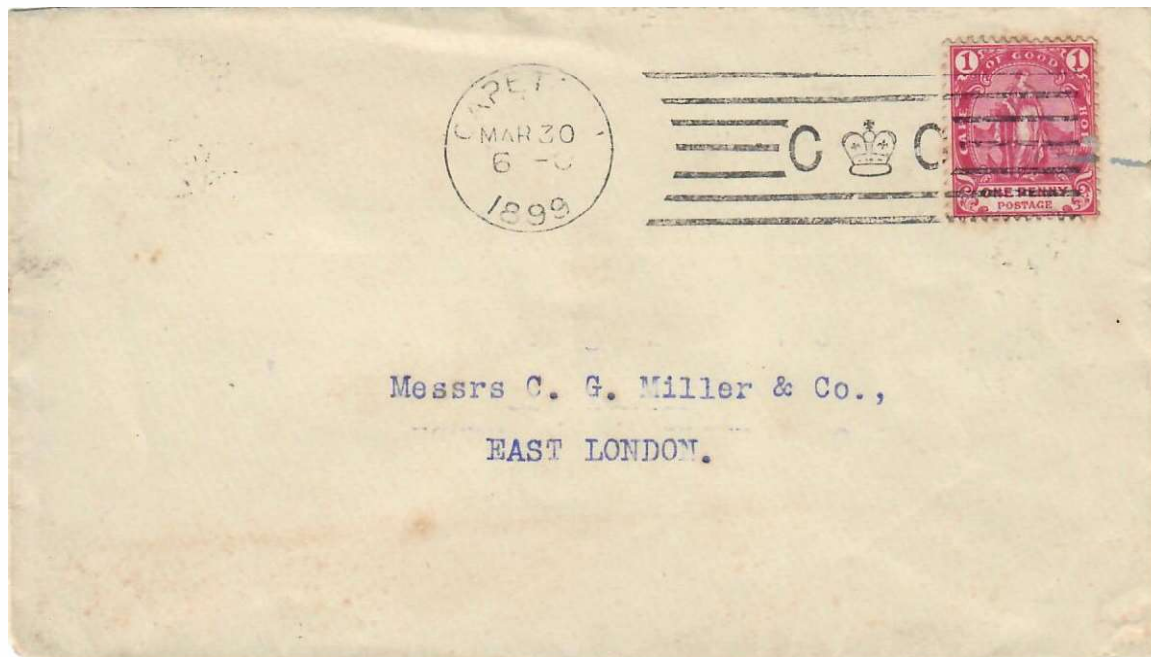
MRD-03



MRD-01



MRD-02



← Usage within first month of use.

Envelope addressed to East London and cancelled by the first machine roller canceller, dated "MAR 30 1899". For an earlier example on a money advice, see page 327.

¹R. Goldblatt, Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope (1984), pages 109-111.