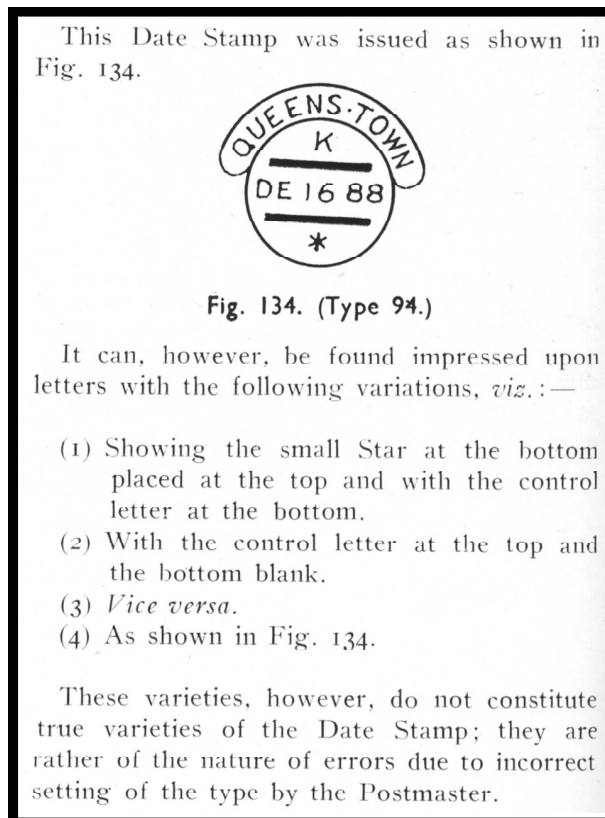# GRAHAMS ·TOWN (Dot)

Grahams Town is made difficult because Kelly has identified three different text sizes that vary from 2.5 mm to 3 mm to 3.5 mm. I have not investigated text size yet as I do not have the means to measure and confirm three text size differences within a1mm spread. I wonder if this is not a distraction.

Worse comes in the form of the dead hand of A. A. Jurgens RDPSA FRPSL. It weighs heavily on our understanding of the GRAHAMS TOWN HCD. Citing a drawing of an HCD from QUEENS TOWN, (below), Jurgens was bold enough to tell us in his 'authoritive' 'The Handstruck Letter Stamps'(1943) that the HCD was "issued as shown". Recent finds indicate it was not. Sadly, however, Frescura, who seldom has an uncritical word to say about Jurgens, uses the same QUEENS TOWN example as his model of the HCD with Dot. He provides an illustration of it in his book 'Post Offices and Postal Markings of the CoGH' (2021), below right. Based on it, Frescura makes an assumption that is also wrong.

This Date Stamp was issued as shown in Fig. 134.

Fig. 134. (Type 94.)

It can, however, be found impressed upon letters with the following variations, *viz.*:—

(1) Showing the small Star at the bottom placed at the top and with the control letter at the bottom.
(2) With the control letter at the top and the bottom blank.
(3) *Vice versa.*
(4) As shown in Fig. 134.

These varieties, however, do not constitute true varieties of the Date Stamp; they are rather of the nature of errors due to incorrect setting of the type by the Postmaster.

Jurgens   **Frescura**

On the basis of the above, Frescura lists two different GRAHAMS TOWN HCDs, one with a dot, the other without.

	ER	LR
HC GRAHAMS.TOWN with a * for time code	16 AU 1888	28 OC 1891

This makes no sense whatsover - unless he believes Jurgens / his example is correct!

	ER	LR
HC GRAHAMS TOWN blank or letter time code	19 SP 1892	7 JA 1899

Our following examples show that the earliest GRAHAMS TOWN (Dot) HCDs has the Asterisk top and a Time Code letter below. These contradict Frescura's and Jurgens' upside-down examples shown above.

In reality - the GRAHAMS TOWN (Dot) ER HCD - the Asterisk and Time Code letter are not seen in the position of Jurgens Fig. 134 or Frescura's example. In attempting to accomodate the reality with Jurgens' misidentification, Frescura has had to turn his description inside-out to make them fit. His description of the 'GRAHAMS TOWN HC' and others is influenced by Jurgens' false assumption, not by the evidence found in an accumulation of early HCD postmarks that should have been available to both of them.

Frescura more accurately describes the GRAHAMS TOWN (No Dot) with 'blank or letter time code'.

6 AU 88
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Day, Month, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter E
USED: On dispatch.
SOURCE: R. Hill

* **Raised Dot**
* **Small Text: 2.5mm**
* **'H' narrow**
* **Diameter Circle: 18mm**
* **Height Circle & Hood: 24mm**
* **Width Hood: 28mm**
* **Used 1888 - 1891**
* **ER: xx MY 88 (Hannath)**
* **LR: 28 OC 1891 (Frescura)**

HOOD LETTER SIZE: 2.5mm tall is the smallest of the three text sizes Kelly has identified.
RAISED DOT betwen 'S' and 'T'. A dot or a hyphen between two word town names was the issue standard.

****

xx MY 88
TOP: Asterisk - Horizontal
BETWEEN BARS: Day, Month, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter D
USED: On dispatch.
SOURCE: S. Hannath

This is the ER.

Note. The postmark left above has been copied and floated over ones known from Grahams Town. It matches. This above cannot be King Williams Town, Queens Town or Simons Town. It can only be Grahams Town. It is the ER by two months. This has been confirmed by Visser.

****

17 SP 88
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Day, Month, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter D
USED: On dispatch.
SOURCE: R. Hill

****

8 OC 88
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Day, Month, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter D
USED: On dispatch.
SOURCE: S. Hannath

****

x0 SP 89
TOP: Asterisk vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Day, Month, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter E
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: S. Kelly

****

8 OC 88
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Day, Month, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter D
USED: On dispatch.
SOURCE: S. Hannath

****

GRAHAMS   TOWN (Dot) / 3

x0 SP 89
TOP: Asterisk vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Day, Month, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter E
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: S. Kelly

****

8 OC 88
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Day, Month, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter D
USED: On dispatch.
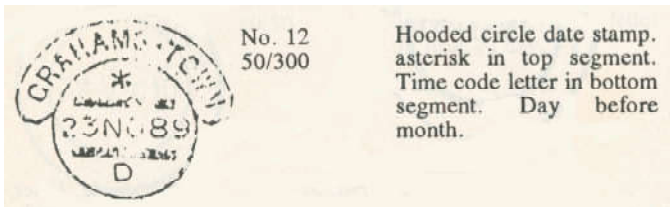**SOURCE:** S. Hannath   Note the small size of the Town Name text.

****

1889. Cover. GRAHAMS TOWN '7 NO 89' to ENGLAND.
Standard GRAHAMS TOWN (Dot) format - Asterisk Vertical top; Date as Day, Month, Year;
Time Code letter ('C') below.

7 NO 89
TOP: Asterisk vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Day, Month, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter C
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: Y. Larides.

****

No. 12
50/300

Hooded circle date stamp.
asterisk in top segment.
Time code letter in bottom
segment. Day before
month.

23 NO 89
TOP: Asterisk vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Day, Month, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter D
USED: As listed illustration
SOURCE: R. Putzel. (Postmarks of SA Vol 3/261.)

1889. Cover. GRAHAMS TOWN '25 NO 89' to SCOTLAND.
Standard GRAHAMS TOWN (Dot) format - Asterisk Vertical top; Date as Day, Month, Year;
Time Code letter ('E') below.

25 NO 89
TOP: Asterisk vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Day, Month, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter E
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: Y. Larides.

****

3 OC 90
TOP: Asterisk vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Day, Month, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter D
USED: On dispatch.
SOURCE: S. Hannath

****

Based on these examples, the original GRAHAMS TOWN (Dot) HCD was like those shown here ie. not as shown in the reference books of A. A. Jurgens RDPSA FRPSL and Franco Frescura RDPSA. Their example is a variety of the type, not the definitive original design. Based on it, both have made a false assumption. I can understand the 'high and mighty' Jurgens slyly prescribing this error but not Frescura for falling for it.

The Jurgens / Frescura GRAHAMS TOWN (Dot) HCD of 'DE 16 88' is not even the ER. Frescura lists a previous ER from '18 AU 88'. It would be very interesting to see it. I would go so far as to state that the majority of original HCDs shared the format seen here in the GRAHAMS TOWN (Dot) HCD - Asterisk top, Time Code letter below. Personally, I doubt if any at all will be found to support Jurgens' claim. However, subject to some hard evidence ie. more examples, I will gladly change my not so humble opinion.

Note; These HCD examples have not been selected to build an argument. They are ALL the supplied images I have. I have not discarded any examples, except the indistinct. Please send your examples!