

KING - WILLIAMS · TOWN HCD

This HCD is often difficult to categorise because the long town name reduces space between words and letters, making it hard to see the distinguishing features of its hyphen and or dot. Generally, the quality of the examples we have are poor. We need more examples from King Williams Town, please.

Jurgens and Goldblatt show no King Williams Town example. Putzel lists a KING WILLIAMS TOWN HCD without hyphen or dots. None are apparent in his example. Had he seen an example with hyphens or dots we would expect him to have recorded it as a separate example of the type. As of 21/07/23 the original example with hyphen and dot is still missing from Alex Visser's Addendum to Putzel's work.

Frescura provides a useful starting point. His work reveals a belief that there are two KING WILLIAMS TOWN HCDs. The first (earliest) uses a shorter typeface with a hyphen between KING and WILLIAMS and a dot between WILLIAMS and TOWN. (The hyphen is so small and short it has the appearance in some postmarks of being a dot.) Frescura's second (later) HCD is Putzel's example with no hyphen or dots. It uses a taller typeface. Frescura lists his KING WILLIAMS TOWN ERs & LRs as:

	ER	LR
HC KING-WILLIAMS.TOWN shorter typeface	12 JY 1888	10 FE 1891
HC KING WILLIAMS TOWN taller typeface	25 AP 1892	** AU 1895

These dates suggest that the second HCD replaced the first and that they were NOT used concurrently. We can never be sure of that until we see more examples. If it were true, we could simply arrange our examples in date order to determine which HCD they are. Sadly, it is not true. See below. Even so, it suggests that an HCD in the timeframe 1888 - 1891 with hyphen or dot(s) with a shorter typeface is likely to be the earliest issue, not the later one with no hyphen or dot(s) and taller typeface. Curiously, some postmarks appear to have a single dot. Is this the first HCD breaking down or losing a slug? Does this create a third variety? Had he seen it, Putzel in his prime would have listed any missing dot as a new variety. Kelly provides 16 examples of the KING WILLIAMS TOWN HCD including both types with 'raised dots' and without. Without his contribution we would be hard-pressed to study this area. We need to see many more examples if we are ever to get to the bottom of this and find a third variety.

Frescura's first issue with dots LR (Last Recorded) is '10 FE 1891'. The extraordinary postcard of 'OC 17 92' below shows that the original HCD with dot was used for a further 20 months! Importantly, it reveals that both HCDs were used concurrently. As a result, we need to be very cautious when using only Frescura's dates to gain a basic identification of the HCDs.



1892. Postcard. KING-WILLIAMS.TOWN 'OC 17 92' to CAPE TOWN. (S. Kelly.)

OC 17 92

TOP:

Asterisk - Vertical

BETWEEN BARS:

Month, Day, Year

BOTTOM:

Time Code Letter G

USED: On dispatch

SOURCE: S. Kelly.

THIS IS A NEW LR.

Kelly has measured the type at 2.5 mm ie. it is

Frescura's 'shorter typeface'. Importantly, it has a dot between 'G' and 'W' and possibly one between 'S' and 'T'. It is a new first issue LR.

KING WILLIAMS TOWN (Hyphen / Dots & Shorter Typeface)



SP 20 88
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter E or F
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: S. Kelly

- * Two Small Raised Dots in Town Name
- * **Text: 2.5mm**
- * **Diameter Circle: 18mm**
- * **Height Circle & Hood: 24mm**
- * **Width Hood: 28mm**
- * **Used 1888 - 1892**
- * **ER: 12 JY 1888 (Frescura)**
- * **LR: OC 17 1892 (Kelly)**

We list these using Frescura's dates ie. all before 10 FE 1891 with shorter typeface will be assumed to have a hyphen or dots. This is flawed but it provides a useful pointer when working with partial or obscure postmarks.



DE 3 88 ('3' inverted)
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter C or G
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: S. Kelly The inverted '3' would be a variety listed by Putzel



AP 11 89
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter C or G
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: S. Kelly



AU 27 89
TOP: Asterisk Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter F
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: S. Hannath Small type. Dot and 'T' not visible.



NO14 89
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter A
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: S. Hannath Small type. Dot not visible.



DE 1 89
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter G
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: S. Kelly

KING WILLIAMS TOWN (Dots & Shorter Typeface) / 2



S. Kelly

DE 29 89
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter G
USED: As illustration only
SOURCE: S. Kelly

NOTE:

Frescura refers to a 'hyphen' and a 'dot'. Kelly refers to 'dots' but has drawn them here looking more like small hyphens in K-W-T. These sometimes also look like short vertical bars. They seldom look as described!



FE 1 90
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter F
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: S. Kelly



NO 3 90
TOP: Asterisk - Horizontal (Kelly says 'vertical'.)
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter F
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: S. Kelly



MR 9 91
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter G
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: Deverell MacGregor

A possible dot can be seen high on the LHS stamp between the 'G' and 'W'. If this is a dot, it supports the following find.

THIS IS PRESUMABLY A NEW LR.



OC 17 92
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter G
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: S. Kelly.

There is a definite high 'dot' or vertical bar / hyphen between the 'G' and 'W' and what appears to be a dot between 'S' and 'T'. A vertical bar / hyphen would probably qualify this as a new variety. This is older than Frescura's LR by some 20 months.

A POSSIBLE THIRD VARIETY

If there is a third variety of the KING WILLIAMS TOWN HCD with just one dot, it has to be from the shorter typeface issue with dots. The second issue has no dots to lose. Or its a new HDC.

KING WILLIAMS TOWN (No Dots & Taller Typeface) / 1

The second KING WILLIAMS TOWN HCD has no hyphen or dots and uses a 'taller typeface' (Frescura). Kelly has measured this at 3.5 mm tall. Frescura gives the following ER / LR.

HC KING WILLIAMS TOWN taller typeface

25 AP 1892

xx AU 1895



MR 9 91

TOP: Asterisk - Vertical

BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year

BOTTOM: Time Code Letter G

USED: On dispatch

SOURCE: Deverell MacGregor

POSSIBLY A NEW ER.

A possible dot appears high on the LHS stamp.
According to Frescura's dates, this is too early to fit here.
If no dot, this is a new ER for the second 'No Dot' HCD.



DE 24 91

TOP: Asterisk - Vertical

BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year

BOTTOM: Time Code Letter A

USED: On dispatch

SOURCE: Deverell MacGregor



OC 29 91

TOP: Asterisk Vertical

BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year

BOTTOM: Time Code Letter F

USED: On dispatch

SOURCE: S. Kelly



AP 18 92

TOP: Asterisk - Vertical

BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year

BOTTOM: Time Code Letter not visible

USED: On dispatch

SOURCE: S. Hannath



AP 22 9x

TOP: Asterisk Vertical

BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year

BOTTOM: Time Code Letter A

USED: On dispatch

SOURCE: S. Kelly

KING WILLIAMS TOWN (No Dots & Taller Typeface) / 2



AP 25 92
TOP: Asterisk Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter G
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: S. Kelly



S. Kelly



NO 6 93
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter C
USED: On dispatch
HOOD LETTER SIZE: 3.5mm tall (Kelly).
RAISED DOT: None.
SOURCE: S. Kelly



No. 7
30/150

Hooded circular date-stamp. Star in top segment. Time code letter in lower segment.

JA 19 94
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: MONTH DAY YEAR
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter H
USED: On dispatch.
SOURCE: R. Putzel.



MR 27 94
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter I
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: S. Kelly



AU 25 94
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter F (E?)
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: S. Kelly



NO 23 9x
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter H
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: S. Kelly

KING WILLIAMS TOWN (No Dots & Taller Typeface) / 3



MR 25 95
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Time Code Letter F (?)
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: S. Kelly



AP 5 95
TOP: Asterisk - Vertical
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Remnant Time Code / Blank ?
USED: On dispatch.
SOURCE: R. Hill



WHAT WE HAVE TO WORK WITH

This cover would be useful if it allowed us to see if it has both a hyphen and a dot in the town name as described by Frescura. Its date suggests it should. But, while it has a dot (not a hyphen) between the 'G' and and the 'W', it appears to have nothing between 'S' and 'T'.

So, is this is a new variety or, based of Frescura's date advice, an example of the first hyphen/dot shorter typeface HCD having lost its second dot?

If you are reading this with interest and have examples of CoGH HCDs, please share them with us, however insignificant you think them to be. The more we receive, the bigger and better picture we will have of their life and times in the Cape Post Office.