QUEENS · TOWN (Dot)

During our research we have determined that the first HCD to be issued used a dot to separate town names made up of two words, like East London, Grahams Town, Port Elizabeth, etc. We have also found that when a second HCD was issued, it did not include a dot. In his definition of his HC, Frescura describes a 'dot separator' but he does not describe nor list the second HCD issued without a dot.

Goldblatt shows two hand-drawn QUEENS TOWN (No Dot) examples. To date, we have not seen any such examples among our research material. Is this because the QUEENS TOWN HCD (No Dot) is scarce and hard to find? Or did it not exist? Could Goldblatt's examples be proof of the unreliability of hand-drawn images, just like Kelly's (overleaf) where the cover's postmark shows a dot which has been omitted in his accompanying illustration? Please, we need to see more of your examples.

Our understanding of the HCD is influenced by the advice of A. A. Jurgens RDPSA FRPSL. Without showing any proof, Jurgens pronounced the uncommon QUEENS TOWN HCD as the definitive example of what all HCDs looked like on the day of issue. (See below.) There is no proof for his claim. In fact, all the evidence we have gathered here suggests that on the day the HCD took several forms in different post offices. I hope that this small exploration into the subject will reveal Jurgens' 'authority' as shallow.

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.

Frescura records Jurgens' example above as his 'HC' type with 'dot separator'. His ER / LR lists:

HC QUEENS.TOWN .... 13 MY1888   9 JA 1892

Examples of the QUEENS TOWN (Dot) HCD are very hard to find. We have not seen a 'No Dot' variety.

****

DE 16 88
TOP: Time Code Letter K
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Asterisk - Vertical
USED: As illustration
SOURCE: A. A. Jurgens / F. Frescura

Note: This date is seven months later than Frescura's recorded ER of '13 MY 1888'. Does his early example use the same format as that shown here?

No. 8
20/100

Hooded circular date stamp. Time code letter at top, month before day, asterisk at base.

This is Jurgens' example again. Unusually, Putzel makes no reference to a dot or any varieties. Visser's Addendum adds nothing new.

DE 16 88
TOP: Time Code letter K
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Asterisk - Vertical
USED: As illustration
SOURCE: R. Putzel. (Postmarks of SA.)

****

DE 17 88
TOP: Nothing
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Asterisk - Vertical
USED: As illustration ex. cover
SOURCE: S. Kelly

Note: The artist has failed to enter the dot which is clearly seen on the cover. Acceptance of this error would have made our research conclusions worthless.

1888. Cover. QUEENS TOWN 'DE 17 88' to GB. (S. Kelly.)
This postmark clearly shows the Dot on the RHS stamp close to the inner perforations.
Note: This is one day after the Jurgens example. Does this Blank Time Code imply 'early'?

****

JY 20 89
TOP: Time Code letter B
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Asterisk - Vertical
USED: As illustration
SOURCE: R. Goldblatt. (Postmarks of the CoGH.)

Are these two examples of the Queens Town (No Dot) HDC? I doubt it very much. It is likely that in 1889 the Queens Town HCD (Dot) was still in use, like its contemporaries elsewhere. See the following example showing a dot in 1889.

****

OC 20 89
TOP: Blank
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Asterisk - Vertical
USED: As illustration
SOURCE: R. Goldblatt. (Postmarks of the CoGH.)

Due to the absence of a dot, the value of these two postmarks is of questionable worth. It highlights the potential unreliability of hand-drawn postmarks.

QUEENS · TOWN (Dot) / 2

xx 17 89
TOP: Time Code Letter K
BETWEEN BARS: Month, Day, Year
BOTTOM: Partial strike - No details visible.
USED: On dispatch
SOURCE: S. Hannath

Note: The postmark is incomplete. We cannot see the Month or the Asterisk. However, we can see the Dot. This suggests the dot remained in place during part, perhaps all, of 1889 and later.

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QUEENS TOWN (No Dot)

Without any examples on stamp or cover, the question is "Did a QUEENS TOWN' HCD (No Dot) exist?" Goldblatt shows two drawn examples. Are these not just a casual artist's error with the HCD (Dot)?

On the basis of what we have recorded in other post offices issued with the HDC, it is certainly possible that a QUEENS TOWN (No Dot) HDC may have existed. However, until we see it, we cannot confirm its existence.

We need more examples, please.