

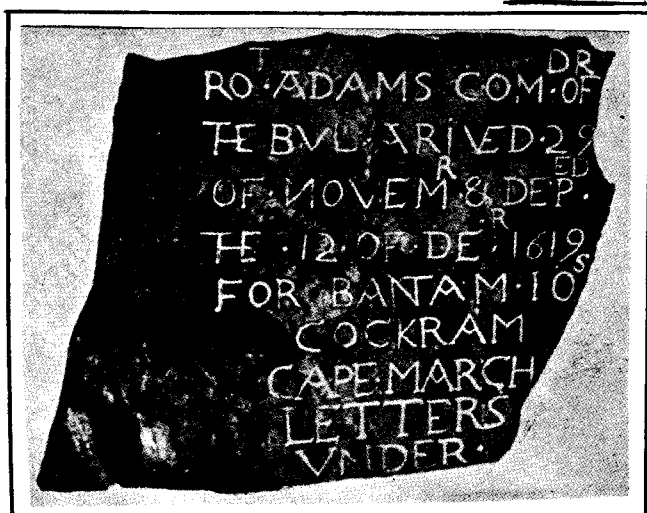


THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

THE POSTAL STONES

1486 - 1652 The Cape was first discovered in 1486, but no settlement was established until 1652, when van Riebeeck landed. It was however a port of call for ships bound for India and the East. This led to the Masters of Ships adopting the plan of depositing letters under large stones to be collected by ships going in the opposite direction. Stones were also used at S: Helena.

ONE OF THE EARLIEST ENGLISH STONES The Inscription Reads —



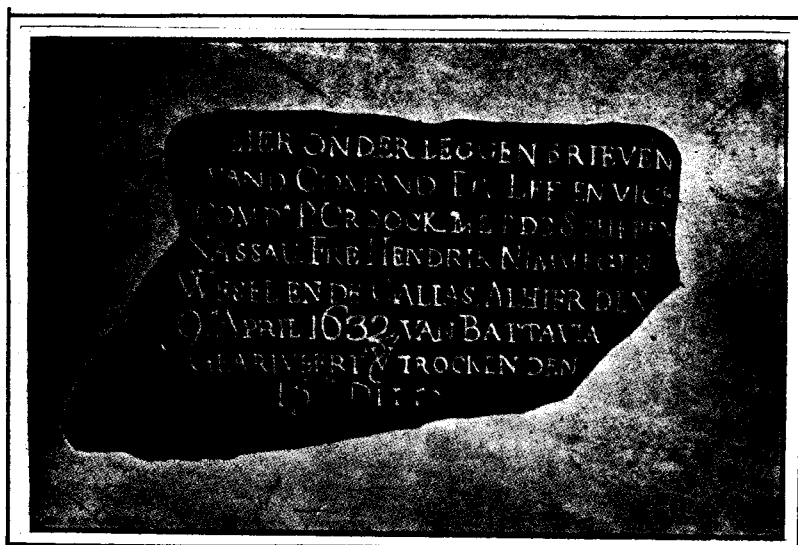
"RO(BERT). ADAMS COM(MAN)DIER.. OF
THE BUL(L)... AR(R)IVED.. 29
OF.. NOVEM(BE)R... 9 DEPI(ART) ED
THE 12.. OF.. DE(CEMBER)R 1619
FOR BANTAM... JOs (EPH)
COCKRAM
CAPE... MARCH (ANT)....
LETTERS.... UNDER....."

THE EARLIEST STONE WAS 1606 the ship HECTOR

THE POSTAL STONES (Cont.)

Many of the stones with inscriptions were merely records of the visits of ships, and do not fall under the category of "Post Office Stones" unless they were inscribed with words such as - "look for letters", "letters under", "Soekt Brief", "Hieronder leggen Brieven", or merely "letters" or "Brieven". One early ^{STONE} was actually built into the Castle.

THE EARLIEST DUTCH STONE

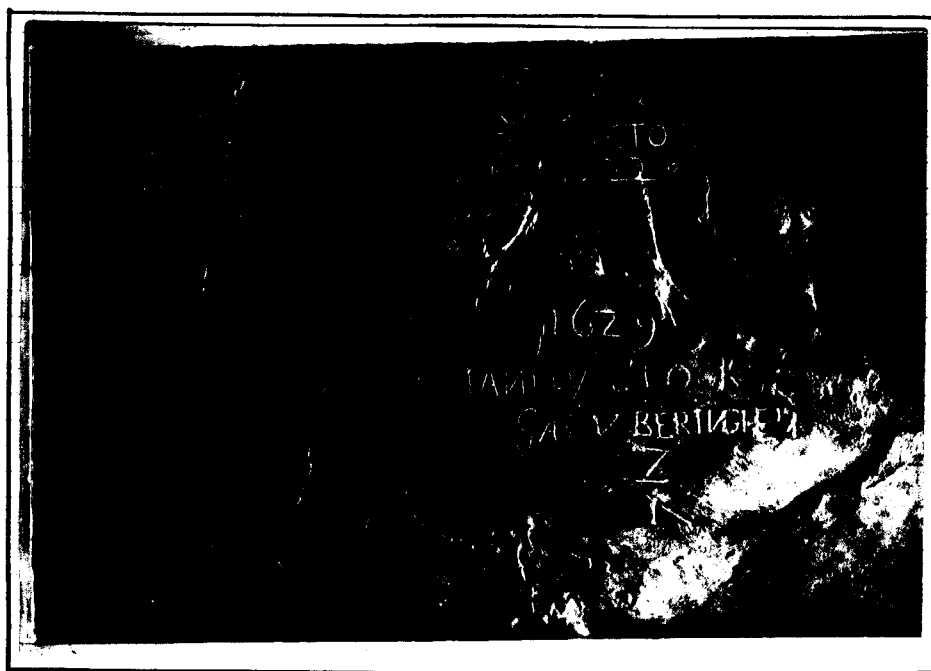


The Inscription Reads—

"HIERONDER LEGGEN
BRIEVEN VAN D(ER) COMMAND(EUR)
D. V. LEE EN VICE COMMAND(EUR)
P. CROOK MET DE SCHEPEN
NASSAU FRE(DERIK) HENDRIK
NIMMEGEN WESSEL EN DE
CALLIAS ALHIER DEN 9
APRIL 1632 VAN BATTAYIA
GEARIVEERT 9 Y(ER) TROELEN
DEN 15th DITTO

EARLY BOULDER IN THE S.A MUSEUM

dated 20.12.1622



Inscription Reads—

"THE LONDON ARRIVED
THE 10 OF M HERE FROM
SURAT BOUND FOR
ENGLAND and DEPAR
20 DICTO 1622.

RICHARD BLYTH:
CAPTAIN. HEREUNDER
LOOK FOR LETTERS
IAN. REV. CLOCK 1629
CAS^o V BERINGHER"

From records filed in
Britain it would appear the
"London" sailed from Surat
on 18.12.1622. Arrived at the

Cape on 10.3.1622. Sailed from the Cape 23.3.1622 (not 20.3.1622). Arriv^o London 18.7.1622

1652 THE FIRST SETTLEMENT AT THE CAPE



On the 6th April 1652
JAN VAN RIEBEECK landed at
the Cape to establish a
settlement for the Dutch
East India Company

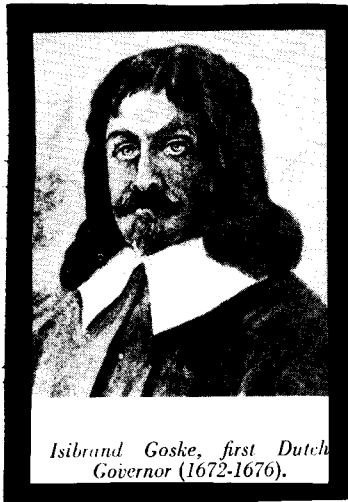
Post Offices and postal
services were unknown
at that time. Letters were
conveyed as a favour by
Captains of vessels calling
at the Cape

Declaratie van
voorsienige Zee-
Zijde.
D'E Johan van Riebeeck
Commandeur onder de
Vlaggen des Konincs der
gode Hoop alhier
Cabo d'Espérance
Jhr. Philips Vordrecht, dat
Godt Bewaard

A Letter written to Tan van Riebeeck who was
Commander at the Cape from 1652-1662, showing
the seal of the Delft Chamber of Holland

THE FIRST GOVERNOR

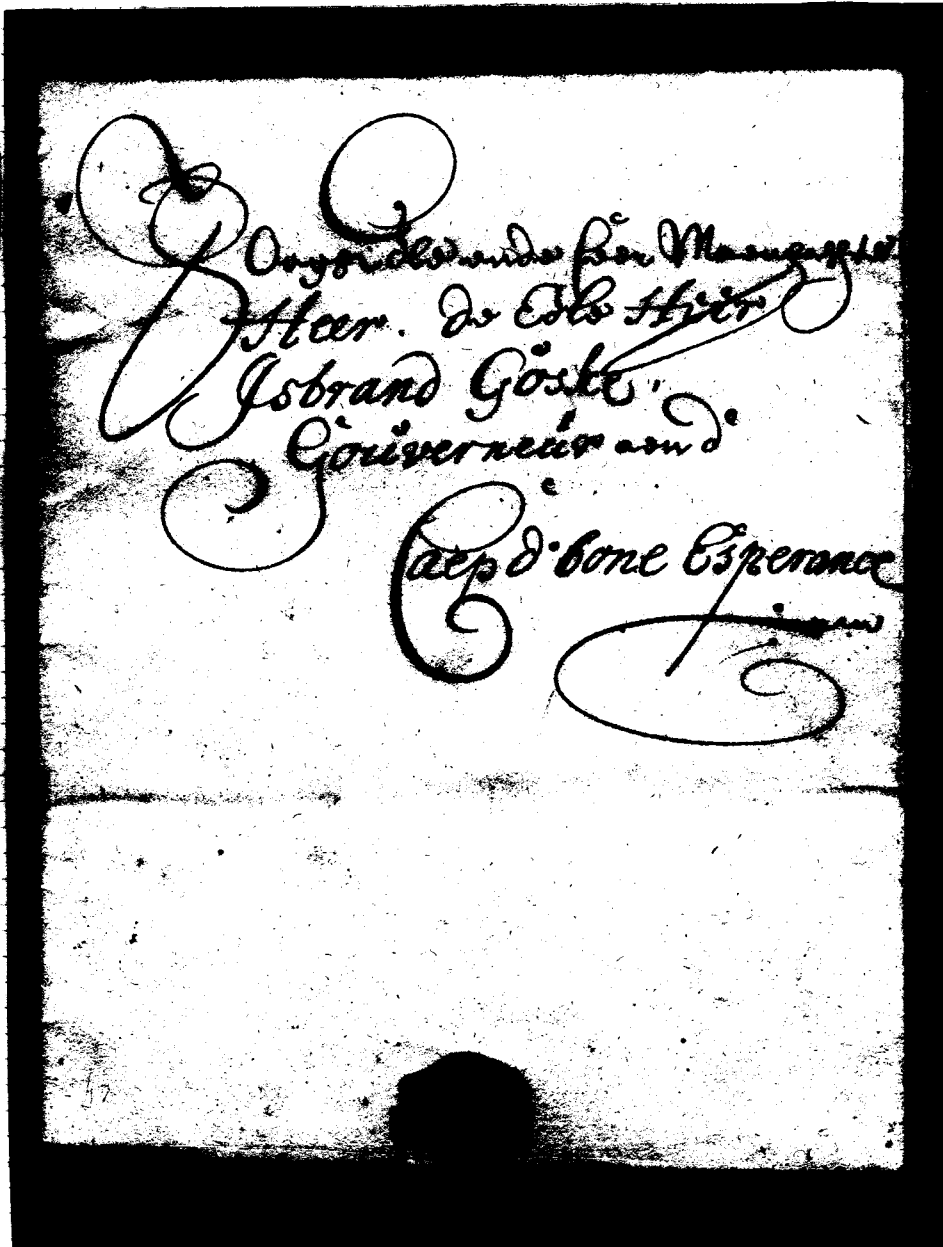
ISBRAND GOSKE 1672-1676



Isbrand Goske, first Dutch
Governor (1672-1676).

Prior to 1672 the Cape was governed by Commanders, including van Riebeeck and four others who succeeded him.

In 1672 GOSKE was appointed Governor of the Cape. He was an engineer and after his return to Holland he was recalled to build The Castle. Soldiers toiled night and day and the Castle was finally finished in 1679 when Van der Stel was governor.



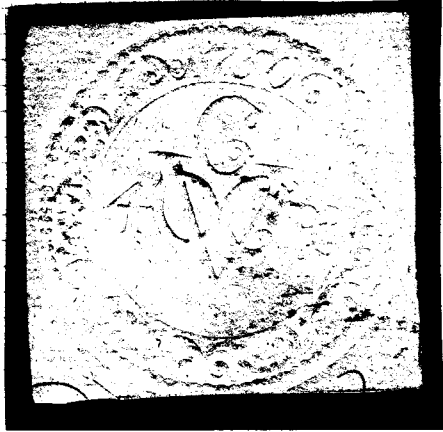
Cover of
letter written
to Governor
I. Goske

This is
a valuable
item as
there are
only three
known
covers of
letters to
I Goske

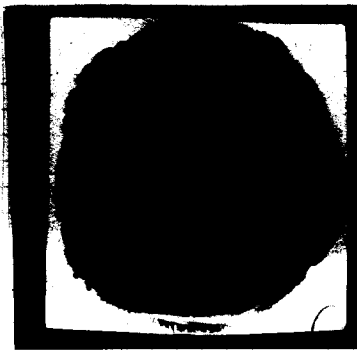
POSTAL SERVICES.

PERIOD 1652-1790

For 140 years after the arrival of van Riebeeck the Cape had no post offices or postal services. Those



wishing to communicate with friends or relatives overseas were dependent on passengers and sailors on passing ships. It is not known whether payment was made for this favour. Envelopes were unknown but letters were wrapped in an outside cover which was frequently closed by means of a seal. The name of the ship conveying the letter was sometimes written on covers, and letters D. G. G (De Gods Geleyd) (see letter ~~next~~ page) were also added.



Internally the only way in which letters were conveyed was by Hottentot or Native runners who usually used a cleft stick to hold the letter. (See next page)

Seals used by the Dutch East India Co. on letters and documents

A Guarantee by the late Mr A.A. Jurgens, an authority on Cape Stamps

GUARANTEE.

I, the undersigned do hereby guarantee that the two old letter covers addressed to Johan van Riebeeck and Simon van der Stel, and now in the possession of Mr. A. H. Gie, of Cape Town, are covers of letters which were originally kept in the Castle at Cape Town and later transferred to the office of the Colonial Secretary and are now in the possession of the Cape Town Archives. The covers were removed from the letters before being handed over to the said Archives.

Dated at Cape Town this 23rd day of November 1942,

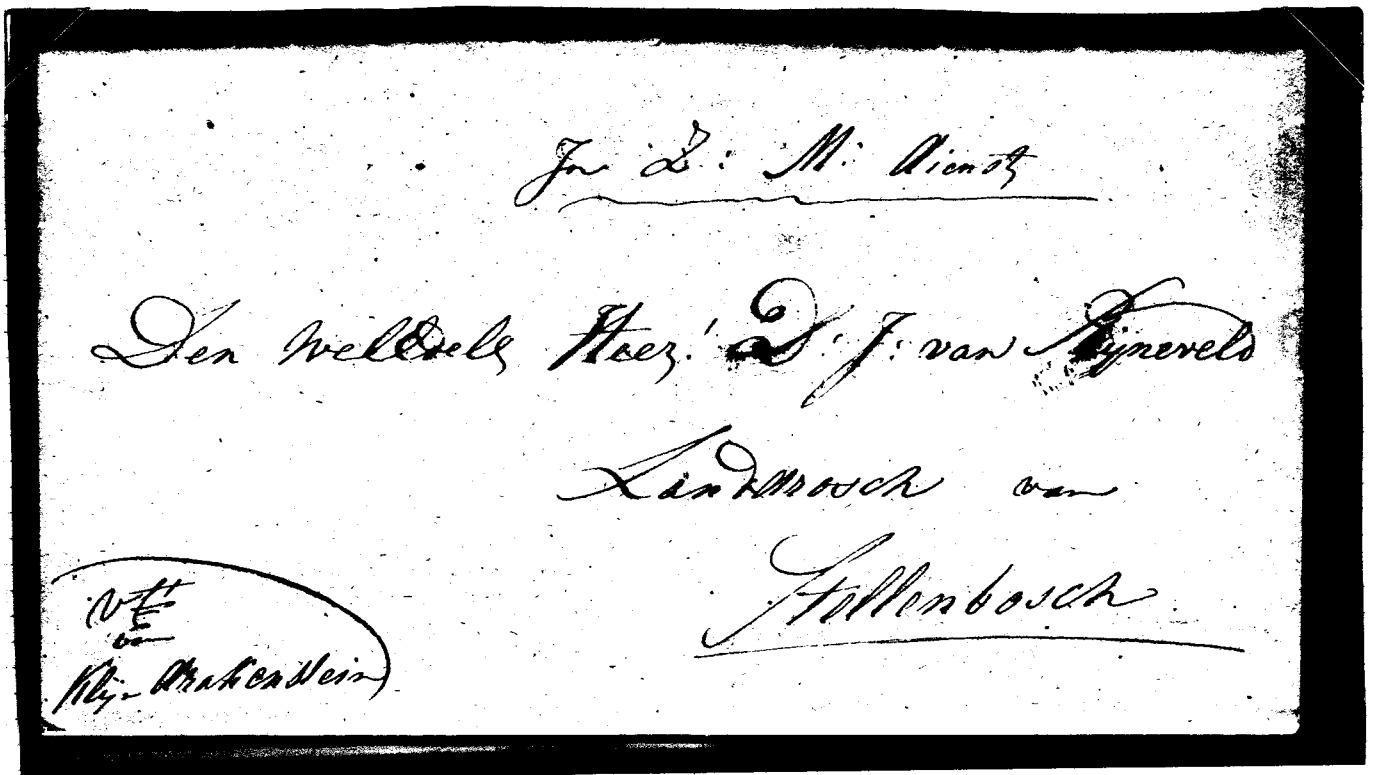
..... A. Jurgens

1652-1790 INTERNAL POSTAL SERVICES.

POST OFFICES were only established in 1791. Prior to that Native Servants were employed as carriers. Letters were carried in a "Cleft Stick" or "Brief Stok". The top was split down and bound below the cleft with a niempie. Four or five letters were placed in the cleft and bound down. The Cleft stick was also used in Switzerland in the early days



KAFFIR POSTMAN. MR. GILBERT'S FARM NEAR FORT BEAUFORT.



About 1816 Cover from Field Cornet of Klyn Drakenstein "In Zyn M. Dienst" - free of charge to D. J. van Ryneveld, Landdrost, Stellenbosch. As there existed no postal services between these centres at that time, this letter was almost certainly carried by "Brief Stok." See marks on Envelope.

PERIOD 1676 - 1700.

This was a period of rapid development in the settlement particularly under Governor

SIMON VAN DER STEL 1679 - 1699

During this period the Huguenots first arrived.
A letter to Simon van der Stel

Wel Edele Groot
Achtbare Manhafte wel wijse
Gestränge Leex Generouse Heer
Mijn Leex Simon van der Stel
Gouverneur Wegens de E. generalle Comp.
A Cabo de Goede Hoop

A letter written in 1680

W. A. van der Stel
A. van der Stel
D. G. G.
1680
Cabo de Goede Hoop

This letter shows how letters were endorsed in left hand corner with name of Captain (Joh. A von Schikob) and ship (Schip de Hoop) and the letters D.G.G. (De Gods Geleyd)

PERIOD 1751-1791

The most outstanding Governor during this period was RYK TULBAGH (1751-1771)

During his term of office there were great developments at the Cape. The population which was 2000 in 1708 increased to 5000.

Signature of Ryk Tulbagh
Commandant & Gouverneur
Gg. "Tulbagh".
A.
Cap. de Bonne Espérance

Letter to Governor Ryk Tulbagh

Mijn Heer
Den Heere C. L. Neethling
Coopsman Mitsgades Lidt in den E. Agtbe
Raad van Justitie - en Secretaris der E. E.
Wees-Kamer

Tot

Cabo de Goede Hoop

Letter to C. L. Neethling date 1787

PERIOD 1700-1750

Handwritten inscription:
 Me Juffrouw
 Catharina Cruse.
 Wed. van den E. Wm Corsenaar.
 aan
 Cabo de Goede Hoop.

Small text on the left:
 p: skip Kieftkook van goede vriend
 den skrijver Conn: Gouswaar: die god
 in Zalvogelyden, nevens den Vriecant in
 Wasdook benayd. backije, Ven Zeeg: v...

Letter dated 1713: Inscription Reads

"p: skip Kieftkook van goede vriend"	"Me Juffrouw Mw. Catharina"
"den skrijver Conn: Gouswaar: die god"	"Cruse. Wed. van den E. Wm"
"in Zalvogelyden, nevens den Vriecant in"	"Corsenaar aan"
"Wasdook benayd. backije, Ven Zeeg: v..."	"Cabo de goede Hoop"

Handwritten inscription:
 Mijn Heer
 Joachim Nicolaas van Dessyn
 Assistent in dienst der E.E. Oostindies
 de Comp: Resideerende
 an
 Cabo de Goede Hoop
 1735

Small text on the left:
 Met Vriendt
 die Godt gelydt
 over Zee

Letter dated 1735. Inscription Reads

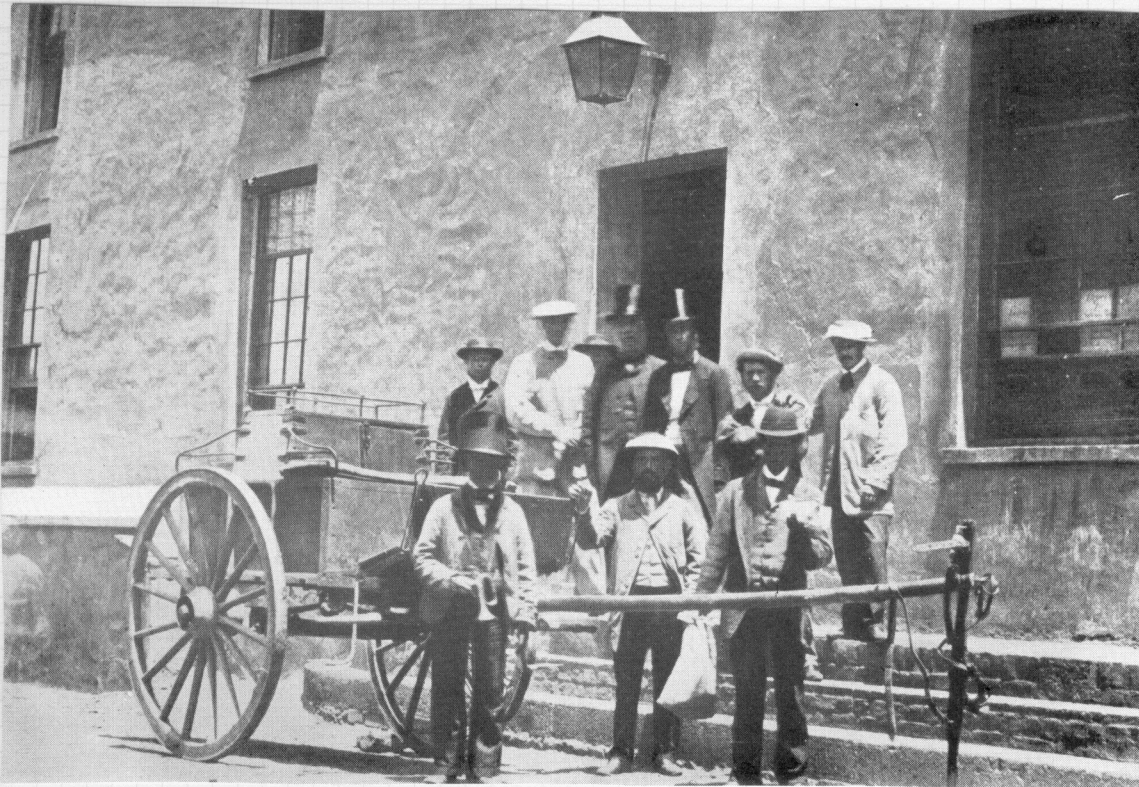
"Met Vriendt"	"Mijn Heer de Heer Joachim Nicolaas van Dessyn."
"die Godt gelydt"	"Assistent in dienst der E.E. Oostindies, de Comp."
"over Zee"	"Resideerende an Cabo de Goede hoep."

THE EARLY POST OFFICES.

The Postmaster received
3/4 of fees collected.
The Postman (Zier-vogel)
the remaining 1/4.

In 1791 the First Post Office was established in the Castle under a Commissioner, M^r VAN RHEEDE VAN OUDTSHOORN
On 2nd Oct. 1809 the Post Office was moved to Grave (now Parliament) Street.

In 1816 Lord Charles Somerset moved the Post Office to the old Supreme Court where it remained until 1872.



Photograph
taken in 1852
of old Post
Office in
the Old
Supreme Court,
Bureau St.
and the
postal staff.
On right
Sir John
Montagu

In 1852 the P.O was moved to corner of S^t Georges St and Church St. until 1896 when it ^{was} moved to Adderley St.

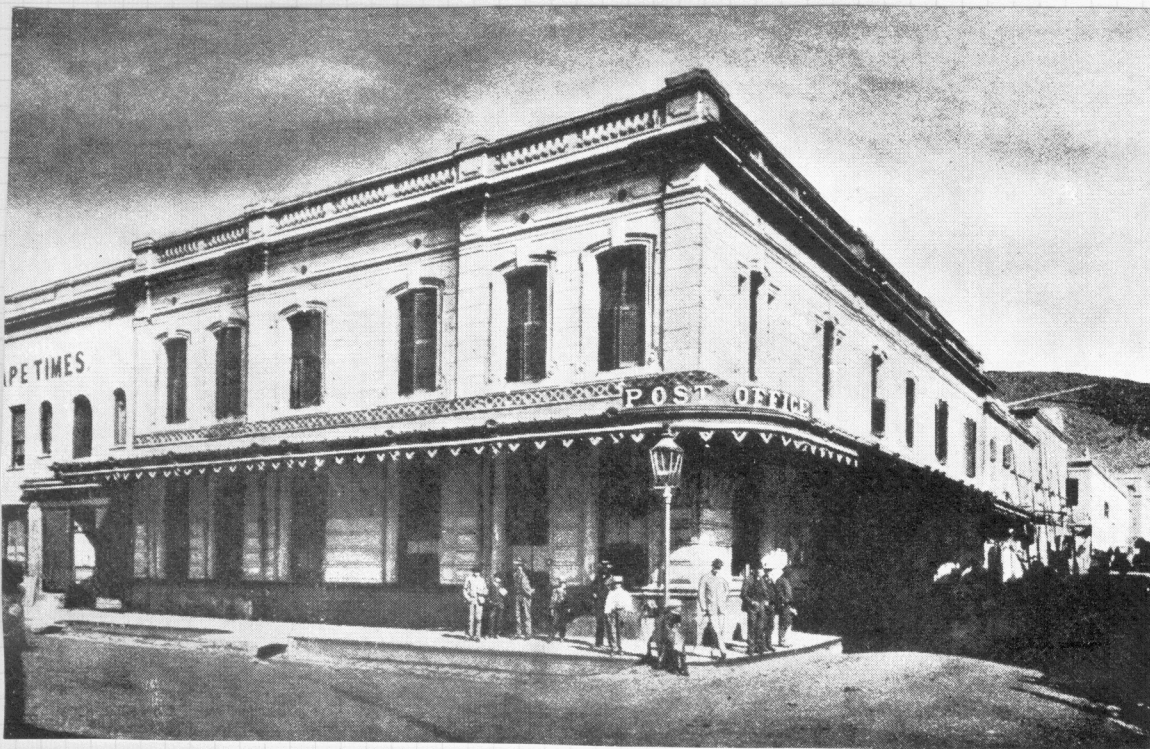
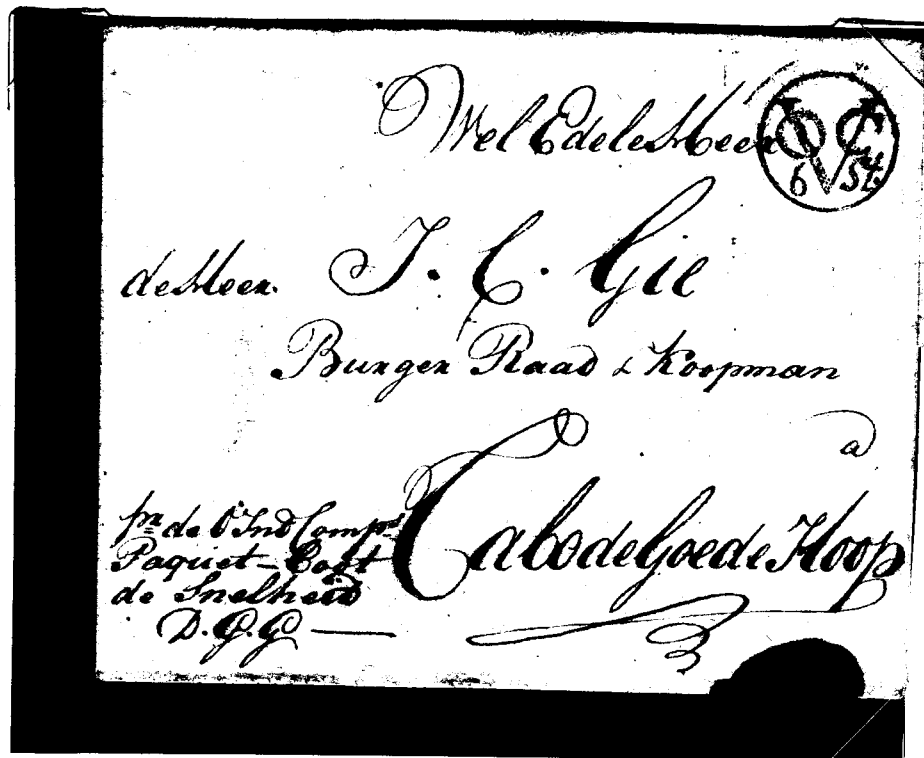


Photo of
the Post
Office in
S^t Georges
Street.
Site of
present
C. Times
building

JOHAN COENRAAD GIE (1727 - 1797)



The "voc"
sign is
hyphenated
forged.

Letter (dated) (1752) written to the first GIE SETTLER in S. Africa.
(my great, great, great grandfather). Born on 23.3.1727. Died 17.1797.
He arrived at the Cape on 23rd January 1751 on the Rosenburg.

He was the grandson of the French Huguenot, André Guy, a
refugee from NIMES, France. The original name was probably
Guizelle de la Haye. He emigrated to Zurich in 1703.

That this letter was written by the First Settler is
confirmed by Dr J.A. Heese, the genealogist who states: -

" ~~The~~ There is no doubt that this letter was written to the
" First Settler. He was the only Gie who was a Burgerraad.

" During the First British Occupation (1795 - 1802)

" the title Burgerraad was replaced by the title

" Burger Senaat. At that time all the Gies with

" initials "J.C", other than the first settler were

" minors. The letter was sent on the East

" India Ship "De Snelheid". The East India Company

" ceased to exist at the turn of the 18th Century.

" The Paquet Boot "De Snelheid" was in use at the Cape

" during the period 1779-1782 (Kaapse Acheefstukken 1792.11.293)

" In 1782 "De Snelheid" was demolished (Kaapse

" Acheefstukken 1782.1.107)

" The letters D.G.G stood for the Dutch words

" "De Gode Gelied" - By Gods Providence.

THE FIRST HAND STAMP

Section 5 which translated reads as follows :-

The stamp used was the well known V.O.C (Die Vereenigde Oost Indische Compagnie) which can be seen on the gateway of the Castle, on the small cannons on the steep of Groot Constantia and on the China and Glass of the Company.



1792

 Wel Edele Heer
D. Wtloos. Heer J. L. Van der Sprenk
Onderschoorpmann en
Negotie ootendragger
W. D. Huis. B. H. H. H. H.
Commandeur en
S. Escrip. Schep.
Meerenberg
v. g. g. Labo. de goede Hoop

THE DOUBLE V.O.C

If there were two sheets in a letter it was sometimes stamped with a double V.O.C. stamp, and the postage double.

Genuine examples of the double V.O.C are very rare and only a few examples are known to exist.



De Heer *Mijn Heer*
Abraham Fick

De Schip Hooftweg
Capt. Simon Vaartjes
D. G. G.

Cabo de Goede Hoop

The cover and stamps have been examined by E Blum
and certified as being genuine

Van
Den Edele Heer President, en
De Vorde Heeren leden in
Commande Collegie van Westmeesteren
Cabo de Goede Hoop



cover is genuine but the V.O.C stamps are forgeries

him for forgeries. The red endorsement indicates that the letter was
paid. A letter "To Pay" was usually but not always endorsed in
The letter is written in German and below is
English Translation - N.B. The N.O.C. stamps was abolished 1795. As letter is dated 1804 it must
be a forgery. The date 1827 must be an error.

To the Mr. Johannis Ludwig
von Schermann zu Schallenburg

Written through

F 8.

Cape of the Good Hope
The 12th February 1804

Rec. 26th August 1827
per the Ship Security
as an enclosure.

Highly esteemed dear Brother-in-law!

Your letter of the 6th June 1802, welcome and dear to me, has
been received by me with the enclosed certificates and attesta-
tions, it convinced me of the well-being of all of you, which is
in accordance with my wishes, myself and my family are still in
good health and content - happy.

Dear Brother-in law, do not count it as a neglect that
it takes so long to hand over the inheritance of our outlived
father-in-law. I went to endless trouble in order to hand it
over in one or other way, but always without success, until at
last our government allowed us inhabitants to draw on us by
advice of the Asiatic possessions and establishments of the
Batavian Republic a bill of exchange for a certain amount. I made
use of that as fast as I could and gave the whole amount to as
much as the inheritance amounts to namely 2072. Gdr. and 48
and again 686 Gdr. and and in order to be able to transfer
to you by this way thereupon. But as the multitude of the people
who had to pay money to Europe, the certain amount was divided, of
which I only could receive no more than 690. Guilders Dutch four:
or 1000 the amount of the sum lies ^{here} enclosed in a triplicate
bill to Mr. Michael Hertzog, and he can ^{do} with it at his discretion.
To exchange the capital into hard cash as you would like it, is a
thing of impossibility as of that is a big scarcity here. If one
should indeed raise with big effort so much more than one third
would not and agio would go. We have here a sort
of paper money, which is in lawful use in no other country but in
ours. I shall make efforts to send you the remaining money as
soon as possible when only somewhat better opportunities present
themselves, which can appear to be useful for that.

Farewell in the meantime, God's blessing on all things.
My wife and I send you our kindest regards. I assure you that
I am at all times

Your

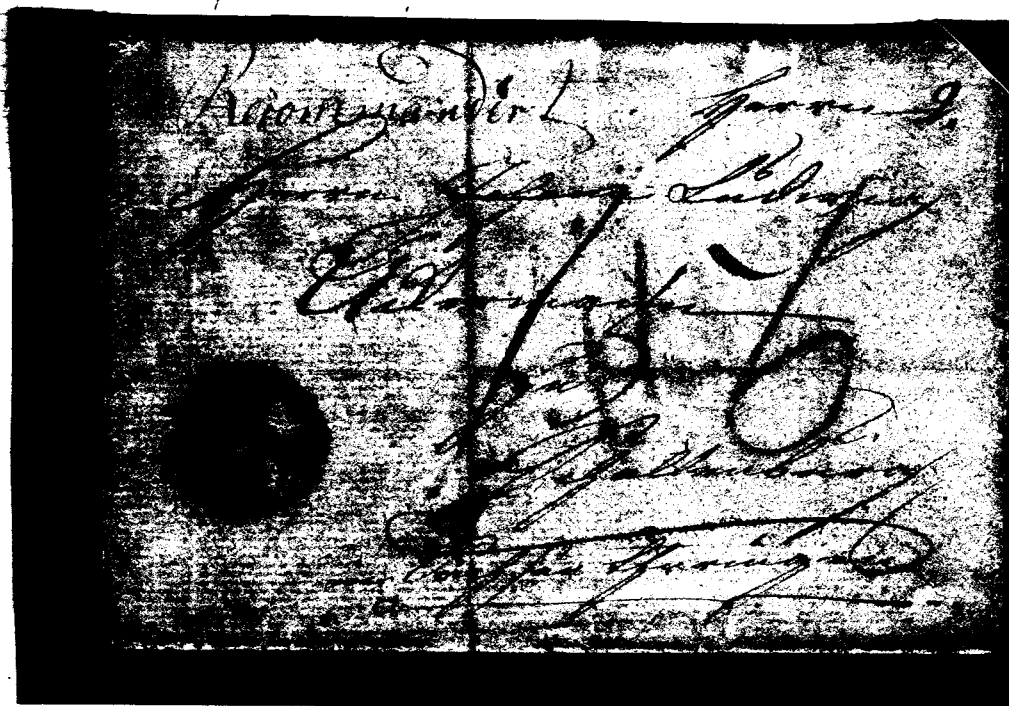
sincere brother-in-law

1792 THE FIRST REGISTERED LETTERS.

A System was introduced in 1792 whereby, for the first time, letters could be registered.

Provision was made for this in a Proclamation signed by Johan Isaac Rhenius on 2nd March 1792 Section 7 of which reads as follows:-

"That for the greater security of the inhabitants who desire to send letters or packets to Europe or India, the Postmaster shall on payment of four stuivers, for each letter or packet, be obliged to keep a note thereof in a book always to be kept in the Post Office, which note he will also inscribe under his signature, above or below the seals & stamps of each letter."



The cover has been certified as being genuine by E. Blum, but the V.D.C. stamp is not forged (see opposite)

These letters were known as "Money letters" at first

1793-1795 THE LAST DUTCH GOVERNOR.

When the Commissioners Nederburgh and Freykenius who had been sent from Holland to investigate the affairs of the Company, which were in a bad financial state, were about to leave, they persuaded Abraham Josias Sluysken to act as Commissioner General. He acted from 1793 to 1795

Weltdel Groot Achtbare Heer!

Den Weltdel Groot Achtbare Heer Abraham Josias Sluysken
Raad ordinaar van Nederlandsch Indien metzgender
Commissaris over 't gouvernement van also be gadering
ende bespoken verduen. & & &

tot
Cadeau goedkoop

England was again at War with France and fearing that the Cape would fall into the hands of the French, and recognising its importance as a station on the way to India, the British Government decided to occupy the Cape. An expedition was despatched under General Craig who arrived in Simons Bay in June 1795. He brought with him a letter from the Prince of Orange requesting the Dutch Officers at the Cape to collaborate. Dutch opinion was divided and General Sluysken refused to recognise the mandate from the Prince. This led to the Battle of Muizenberg. After a short engagement the Dutch capitulated, and so ended the rule of the Dutch East India Company.