



1861

THE FAMOUS WOODBLOCKS



Saul Solomon.



On 15th June 1860 a supply of stamps arrived by the mail steamer "Norman".

As the Bill of Lading did not come to hand the case of stamps was placed in the Queens Warehouse where they remained for nearly a year. Meanwhile stocks became low. The authorities forgot about the case of stamps in the Queens Warehouse.

In February 1861 the position became acute and it was decided to print locally. An order was placed with Messrs Saul Solomon & Co., the Government Printers. The engraving was done on steel plates by Mr. C. J. Roberts.

The first woodblocks were issued on 28th Feb. 1861.

The London Postal Authorities were not advised of this printing. As a result a letter was received from the Post Master General, London reading as follows:-

"Letters are arriving from the Cape of Good Hope which in the opinion of certain officials, are probably forgeries."
and examples were enclosed in the letter.

ONE PENNY



13. Vermilion



13a Carmine



13b. Brick Red

repaired

WOODBLOCKS (cont)

FOUR PENCE



1a PALE POLICY BLUE



1aA PALE GREY BLUE



1a.b. PALE BRIGHT BLUE



1a. "Q" VARIETY

The "Q" in
POSTAGE
is a "Q"



1a
PALE
POLICY
BLUE

17 THE RETOUCHE CORNER



Owing to defective printing, one corner of certain stamps was not printed and the printer touched this up with lines made with a pen and using the same ink. These stamps are extremely scarce and very rare.
The above specimen ^{was omitted} by an expert who stated:-

- The stamp is genuine : The retouch is fake (According to the expert).
- The stamp has a small tear near the corner which has been repaired.
- There is a small portion cut out in one of the top sides, but this has been repaired by joining a tiny strip to the stamp.

1863 De La Rue Printing

In 1863 the Crown Agents transferred their business from Perkins Bacon & Co to De la Rue & Co who thereafter printed all triangulars. The reason for this is not known but it is thought that the charges were lower.

18 ONE PENNY : DEEP CARMINÉ RED



This item is from Dr Goldschmidt's collection and was purchased in Nov. 1956 for £4.

186 ONE PENNY : BROWNISH RED



186 ONE PENNY : DEEP BROWN RED



Forged Cancellation

Stamps Cleaned

DE LA RUE PRINTING.

18. ONE PENNY : DEEP CARMINE RED

LETTER RECEIVED 25th JULY 1855.

Note: After
examining this
shown in March
1875, it both
stated it was
not G.C. 18
but G.C. 5(6)



Collected Genuine by E. Adams

18. b ONE PENNY : BROWNISH RED



Letter from Cradock to Cape Town dated 15th April 1867
to C. J. GHIE (C. J. Gie) Secy of Board of Executors

The cover is genuine. The stamp is a brownish red and was added later and is not original.

1864 - DE LA RUE PRINTING (Continued)

19. FOUR PENCE : DARK BLUE



19.a. FOUR PENCE : PALE BLUE : VARIOUS SHADES.



Two and Gold



← on Piece →



19.b. SLATE BLUE



19.c. STEEL BLUE



*left corner
damaged.*

1863 - 1864

DE LA RUE PRINTING (Cont.)

20 SIX PENCE BRIGHT MAUVE



*Cancelled
from 23rd
1864 at 1/2*

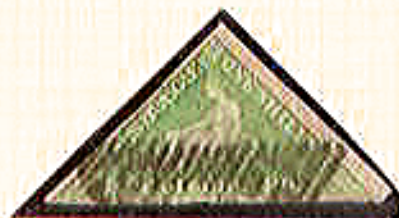


Cancelled



Cancelled in 1864 from 8 pence for 60.

21 ONE SHILLING BRIGHT EMERALD GREEN



*Cancelled in
1866 for 1/6 from
collected 1/2 of 1/6 Gold to 1/6*

PEN AND INK CANCELLATIONS

*Sometimes stamps were cancelled by pen and ink to
prevent theft or where small postal agencies had no defacing
stamps*



W.C.



23

H. C. Collier
Beaufort West

Port Elizabeth
4 Nov. 1864.

Dear Sir

Your favour of the 23rd is duly to hand enclosing draft on Standard Bank for £6-17-8 in settlement of the balance due on your Pr. Note and for which we thank you.

The order for Gin shall have our usual attention and will be forwarded by the first opportunity.

We remain, Dear Sir

Yours very Truly

pp J. H. Salmon & Co

(sqw) Henry Heau.



19. Fine Specimen of FOUR Pence DARK BLUE from
WORTH PLATE
Letter Complete - from Read from H.E. to Beaufort West.
See Opposite Page for Contents of Letter

DEFACING STAMPS

When Adhesive Stamps were introduced each P. Office was issued with a triangular defacing stamp and a year later with an oval stamp, with instructions to deface the adhesive stamp in black and to stamp all letters received with the oval stamp in red. Sometimes the postal officials became confused and used black ink for both stamps or vice versa.



EXAMPLES OF DEFACING STAMPS (continued)

Letter dated Jan 16th 1859 with the triangular defacing stamp (in black) and the oval dated stamp (in red)

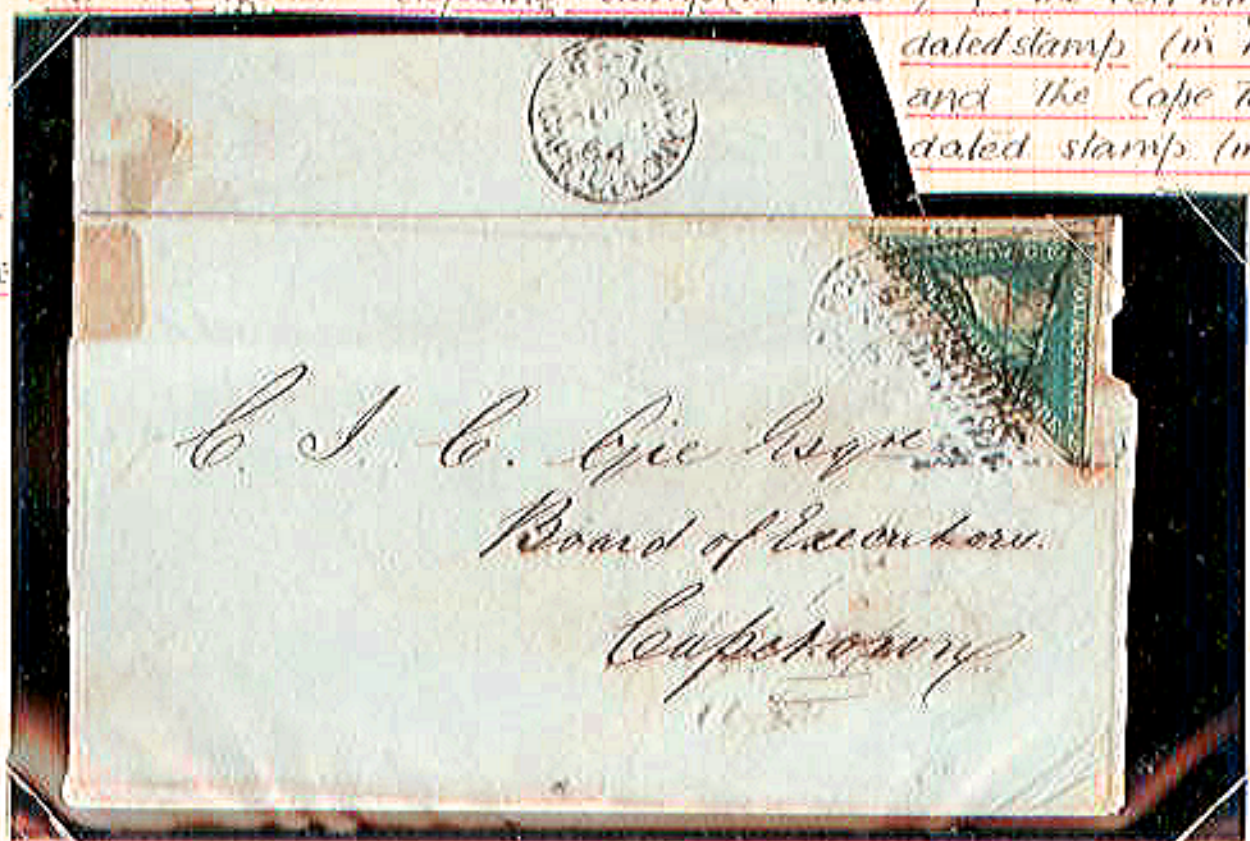
7c
Over
Rose
Lilac



C. J. C. Gie
(b. 12. 11. 1805. d. 1880) youngest son of M.C. Gie who was our great great grandfather, and brother of J.C. Gie (b. 12. 12. 1791. d. 8. 9. 1862) who was our great grand-father. M.C. Gie was a son of the first settler J.C. Gie who arrived in 23. 1. 1751

Letter dated Aug. 1864 from Port Elizabeth to Cape Town with the triangular defacing stamp (in black), the Port Elizabeth dated stamp (in black) and the Cape Town dated stamp (in black)

19c
Pale
Blue



The triangular stamps were put on the covers of a later date and the cancellant.