

1896

Cape of Good Hope Stamps overprinted

Overprinted by the Argus Printing Co. Cape Town
Watermark : Cabled Anchor - Perf 14

Due to the Matabele Rebellion & due to stocks of the First Provisional stamps being exhausted & as there were no stocks of BSAC stamps available for overprinting, supplies of Cape of Good Hope stamps were ordered from Cape Town. They were overprinted by the Argus Printing Compny & arrived in Bulawayo on 22nd May 1896. They were immediately placed in circulation. The number of stamps overprinted was just over 150,000 with the overprinting seemingly carried out on two separate occasions. There was no report of the arrival of the second supply.

There was only one major variety, the 4d duty with the word "COMPANY" omitted. It seems as this should be regarded as a genuine variety. Some copies are also known with the word "COMPANY" partially omitted. There are some 26 copies known with "COMPANY" either wholly or partially omitted of which 16 are totally omitted.

Examples of the partially omitted are shown. In addition (Hoffman) there is only one copy of the "COMPANY" omitted on a used stamp. A second copy is shown with a PFSA Certificate.

"COMPANY"
omitted



E : PFSA : 11487



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The overprinting resulted in six types of overprint. The six types enjoy constant identifying characteristics which are illustrated. These characteristics generally provide identification of the position of the stamps. However some stamps defy plating, not showing the characteristics of any of the six types of overprint. It is also noted that these overprints were also forged.

Row 1



Minute thinning of the first vertical stroke of "H" of "SOUTH" immediately above cross bar.

Minute break or thinning of the first vertical stroke of "N" of "Company"

Row 2



Break in cross piece of "T" of "SOUTH" and break or thinning of "I" of "AFRICA"

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Constant overprint varieties

Row 3



No discernible constant overprint plate flaws.

Row 4



Break in left leg of "R" of "BRITISH" & Short right limb of "Y" of "COMPANY"

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Constant overprint varieties

Row 5



Short right leg of second "A" of "AFRICA"
Broken right limb of "M" of "COMPANY"

Row 6



Break or thinning of right limb of "H" of "BRITISH"

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Normal



Overprint double



Thin overprint



Thick overprint



Broken "T" in "SOUTH"
Broken "I" in "AFRICA"



Broken "R"
in "BRITISH"



Broken "R" & malformed
"I" in "BRITISH"



Overprint shifted
right



Overprint shifted
right



Black line - Pos 1/1
Black smudge - Pos 1/2



Broken "I" in "AFRICA" - Pos 1/1 & 1/2
Long right leg of 2nd "A" in "AFRICA"
Pos 1/2 & 2/2



Overprint shifted right



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Right pane - Overprint raised

Broken "M" - Pos 1/5, 2/5 & 3/5. Short right leg of 2nd "A" in "Africa" - Pos 1/5, 2/5 ::& 3/5.

Long right leg of 2nd "A" of "Africa" - Pos 1/6, 2/6 & 3/6.



Right pane - overprint shifted right. Short right leg of "H" in "British" - Pos 1/6 & 2/6. Short right leg of 2nd "A" in "Africa" - Pos 1/5 & 2/5. Long right leg of "A" in "Africa" - Pos 1/6 & 2/6.



Left pane - overprint slants diagonally up to the left

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Double bar in "B"
of "BRITISH" - Pos 1

"I" & "C" of "AFRICA"
merged - Pos 19

Broken "B" in "BRITISH"
& short "I" in "AFRICA" -
Pos 2

Doubling of "I" in
"BRITISH" - Pos 58

Short right leg of 2nd
"A" in "AFRICA" - whole
column 5 - Pos 5,11,17,
23,29,35,41,47,53,59

Broken right leg of "H"
in "BRITISH" - whole
column 6 - Pos 6,12,18,
24,30,36,42,58,54 60.



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Right pane - Plate Number 1.

Short first leg of "H" in "British" - Pos 3,4,9 & 10. Short 2nd leg of "A" in "Africa" = Pos 5 & 11.



Short "I" in "Africa" - Pos 2. Short 2nd leg of "A" in "Africa" - Pos 5



Broken "I" in "Africa" - Pos 1/1.
Misformed "H" in "British" -
Pos 2/2.



Broken "I" in "Africa" - Pos 1/2.
Serif to "C" in "Company" -
Pos 2/1.

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Vertical line in
 "B" of "BRITISH"



Short right leg in
 2nd "A" of "AFRICA"



Overprint
 normal



Raised
 overprint



Double cross bar
 last "A" in "AFRICA"



Short right leg in
 2nd "A" of "AFRICA"



Long 2nd leg of "R" in "BRITISH"
 - Pos 1/2
 Broken "I" in "AFRICA" - Pos 1/1



Short 1st leg in "H" of "British"
 All positions in block



Broken "M" - Pos 2/1
 Short 2nd leg of "A" of "AFRICA"
 - Pos 1/1 & 2/1



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Thick "B" in "BRITISH"
- Pos 1, 7,13,25,37,43,
49,55

Broken "A" of "AFRICA"
- Pos 26

Broken "M" - Pos 11,17,
47,53

Doubling of "I" in
"BRITISH" - Pos 2

Broken "I" in "BRITISH"
- Pos 20

Short right leg of 2nd
"A" in "AFRICA" - whole
column 5 - Pos 5,11,17,
23,29,35,41,47,53,59

Broken right leg of "H"
in "BRITISH" - whole
column 6 - Pos 6,12,18,
24,30,36,42,58,54 60.



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Dots & smudges
in "BRITISH"



Dots & smudges
in "BRITISH"



Thick "BRI"
in "BRITISH"



Overprint
shift to right



Broken "R"
in "BRITISH"



Broken cross
bar in "BRITISH"



Short right leg in
2nd "A" of "AFRICA"



FORGERY
Inverted overprint



Black horizontal
line - Pos 2/2



Short right leg in
2nd "A" of "AFRICA"
- Pos 1/1 & 2/1



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Left pane - Plate Number 2. Printer's setting out marks top margin. Short right leg in "A" of "Africa" - Pos5 and 1. Broken "H" in "British" - Pos 12. Dot below "H" in "South" - Pos 7.

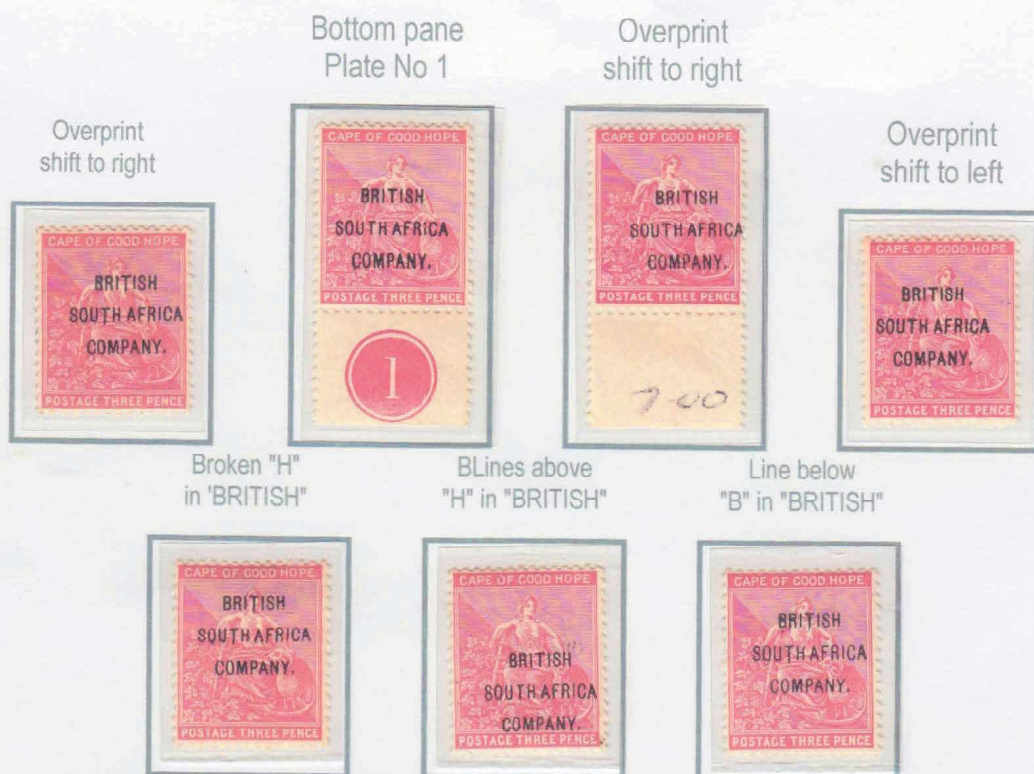


Misformed "H" in "British" and last "A" in Africa - Pos 1/3; 2/3 and 3/3. Broken "R" in "British" - Pos 2/1 and 3/1. Broken "M" - Pos 2/2 and 3/2. Short right leg of 2nd "A" in "Africa" - Pos 1/2, 2/2 and 3/2.

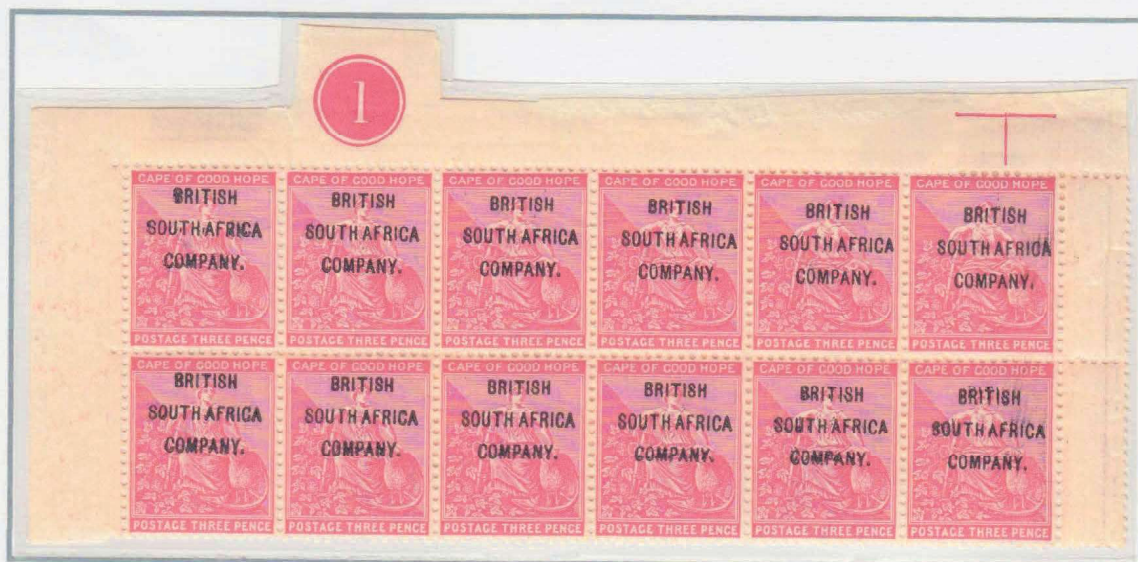
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Watermark : Crown CA - Perf 14



Double "kiss" printing at Pos 1,8,9,10,11 & 12. Short right leg of "A" in "AFRICA" - Pos 5 & 11



Short "A" of "AFRICA"
- Pos 1/1 & 2/1

Broken "R" in "BRITISH" - Pos 1/2.
Short right leg in "A" of "AFRICA" - Pos 1/3 & 2/3



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Overprint
shift to left



Overprint
shift to left



Overprint
shifted up



Overprint
shift to right



Bottom half of
"COMPANY" missing

Overprint shifted
across two stamps



Interrupted
overprint



Part of "I", "C" & "A" of
"AFRICA" & "N" & "Y"
of "COMPANY" missing

Short right leg of "A" of second "A" in "AFRICA" - Pos 5 & 11



Broken "I" in
"BRITISH" & in "AFRIC A"



Overprint
shift to left



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Overprint
shift to right



Normal
overprint



Overprint
shifted up



Overprint shifted down



Overprint
dropped



Broken right leg
of "H" in "BRITISH".



Overprint
shift to left



Thick "A" of "AFRICA" & short right leg
of 2nd "A" in "AFRICA" - Pos 3

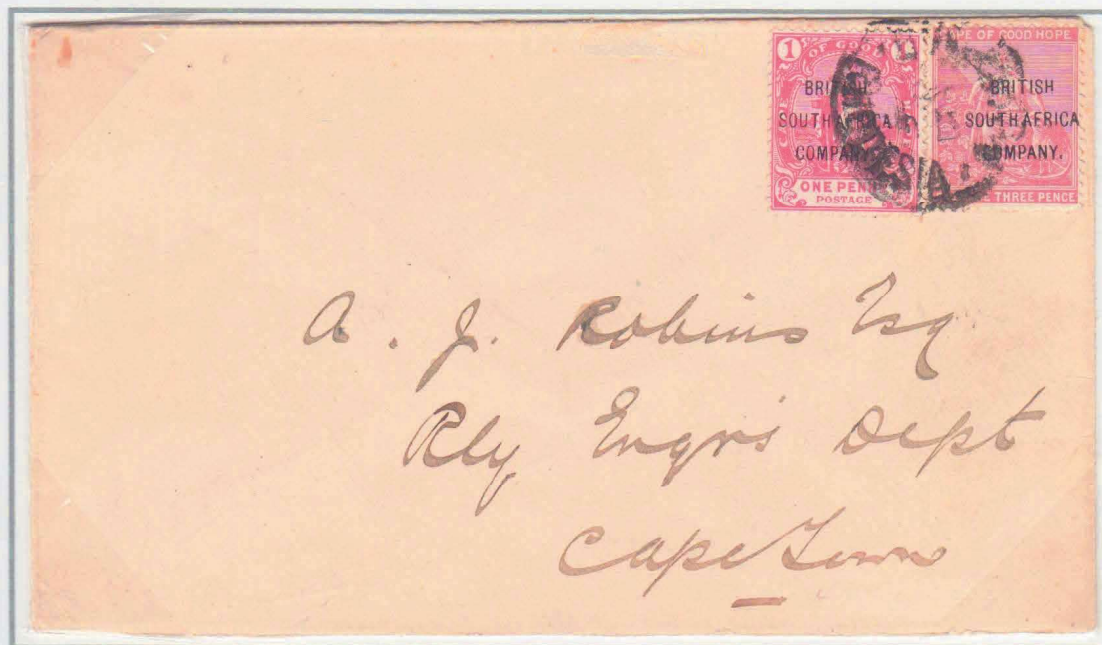


MATABELE REBELLION

THE 4 D PER HALF OZ LETTER RATE TO THE CAPE

1896 Bulawayo to Cape Town

Due to the rebellion there was a shortage of Postage stamps which saw an emergency supply being generated by the use of Cape Rectangular stamps, overprinted "BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY" by the Argus Printing Co of Cape Town. These were used between May and August 1896

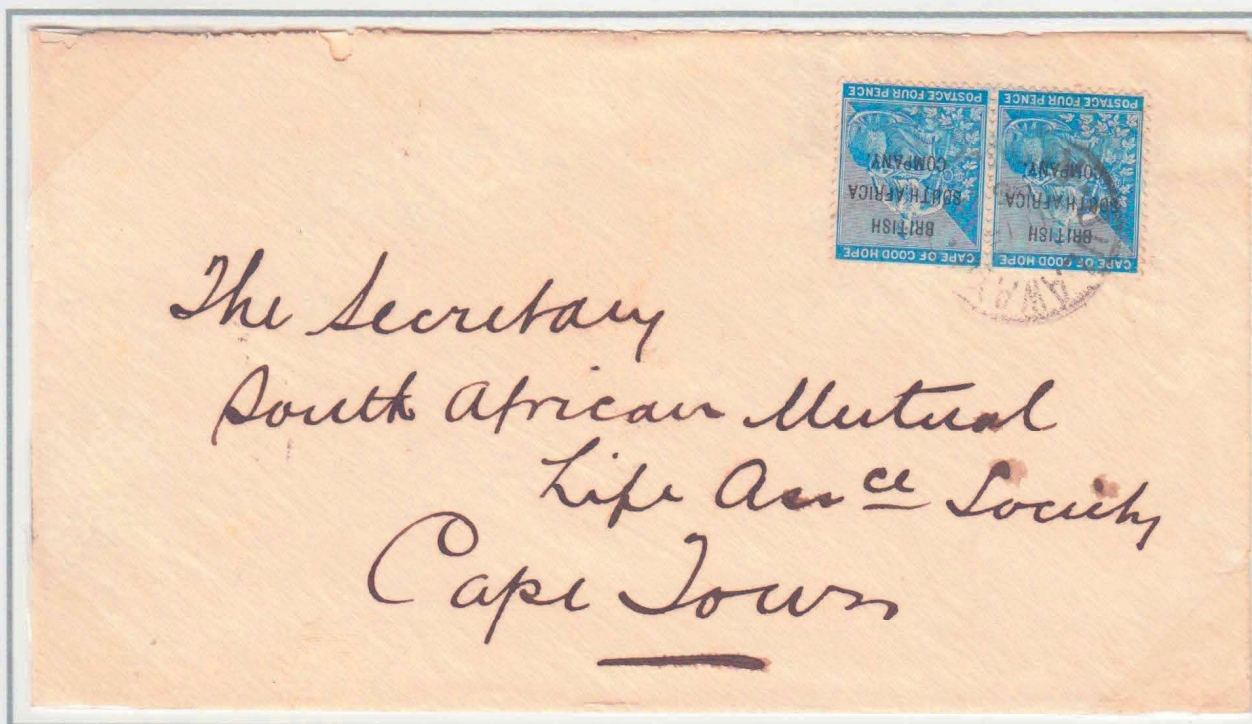


Rate:
The 4d letter
rate to the Cape
in use 1 AU 92
to 14 July 1900

Route:
Bulawayo to Beira
by coach and by
steamer via Durban
to the Cape

Markings:
Bulawayo c d s
(Indistinct)

1896 Bulawayo to Cape Town



Rate:
The double 4d
per 1/2 oz letter rate

Route:
Bulawayo to Umtali & Beira by coach
Beira to Cape Town by steamer

Markings:
Bulawayo (Indistinct)
Cape Town arrival JU 26 96