

5 – BARRED OVAL NUMERAL CANCELLERS (BONC) AND TRIANGULARS

The BONCs 628 and 718 are associated with Swaziland. There was some doubt which office used BONC 628 (fig 1) but that is discussed in Chapter 2, Section 7.3, which now links that cancel indirectly to Darkton. BONC 718 was initially used at Embekelweni and later at Bremersdorp. Careful



Fig 1.

Fig 2(a).

Fig 2(b).

Fig 2(c).

Fig 3.

study has noted some variations : fig 2a shows a long downstroke to the '7' and a short serif to the '1', while fig 2b shows a short downstroke to the '7' and a long serif to the '1'. The 718 shown in fig 2c is significantly different to the others and is considered to be a forgery, since Frescura and Nethersole (1991) do not record that number in use by a Cape post office. Invariably the impressions on cover, which allow dating, are unclear. According to Bas Payne it may be possible to date these cancellers according to the ink colour ¹ used. A copy of fig 2b was seen on an unoverprinted Vürtheim ½d duty. Mathews et al (1986, p.153) mention that BONC 748 was reputedly used in Swaziland but there is no evidence and it is likely that 718 was misread as 748. A Barred Triangular Obliterator without number has been recorded (fig 3) which Harvey Pirie (1955, p.16) recorded as having been used at the Darkton Post Office.