



3 – PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION

The information on postmarks and postal markings is presented by Office name in a standard format throughout, which is constructed as shown in an abbreviated example below:

ALDERLEY		Op 1899 near Richmond, PA 1901, PA closed 1.8.1911
		<p><u>Shown in flag above:</u> Office history in terms of status and date of subsequent changes including renaming; abbreviations used are given in Section 3.1. Telegraph offices are also listed as they could have cancelled stamps used to receipt services. Taken from Putzel Encyclopaedia and Dickson (1997) unless shown otherwise.</p>
No. 1 PUT – 1 HKL - R	POA 27 ER 1900 HKL LR *.5.1911 RNP Rarity C/R	<p><u>Shown in flags at left:</u> –Office Name. – Image of actual postmark or other marking. If a drawing is shown, then it is marked with  in bottom right corner. <u>Below left.</u>- Reference number for this publication, with references for date stamps given by Putzel and by Hart et al are presented. If no number is given in these two sources, a ‘tick’ mark is used, and if no reference is given then it is left blank.</p> <p><u>Below right.</u> –canceller type, detailed in Section 3.2, with POA numbers by Kantey and Porter. –ER denotes earliest recorded date of use, with source code given in Section 3.3. –LR denotes latest recorded date of use, with source code. –Rarity ratings are defined in Section 3.4.</p>

3.1 – OFFICE HISTORY AND STATUS

Together with the name of a post office, its history in terms of status and date of change is given. . The following abbreviations are used:

PA, POA	Postal Agency
PAR	Postal Agency at Railway Station
PO	Post Office
SO	Sub Post Office

3.2 – CANCELLER OR POSTAL MARKING TYPE

The postmark typology developed is to facilitate the extraction of common information, particularly in computer searches. The scheme is based on the one developed by Nethersole and presented by Frescura (2002) for Cape postmarks and adjusted for Natal by using the HKL listing which included the Shield types and POA types. The design is indicated by double circle (DC), single circle (SC) or oval (OV). The following descriptions are used:

N	NATAL at base	BONC	Barred Oval Numeral Canceller
POA	Post Office Agency	POA n/c	Post Office Agency not confirmed
R.SK	Relief canceller, skeleton type	R.T	Temporary rubber relief canceller, date in three lines, usually in mauve ink. A postmark in use for a short time by the Natal PO after re-capture of the place by the British Army and Volunteer Regiments.
Ns	Negative sealer, used for sealing the mail bag. Occasionally used to cancel stamps.		
Forgery	Forgery with place name.		
CACH	Cachet	TAX	Taxe mark
DC.FPO	Double circle Field Post Office	DUMB	Dumb postmarks, i.e. without name.
PARC	Parcel obliterator	XE	Cross at base, enclosed by curved bars
REG	Registration or Office cachet		

The ER and LR dates are presented as dd.mm.yyyy in numerals. Natal were consistent (with one early exception being the first SC date stamps) in having the dates as DD MM YY or as MM DD YY with the month date in letters - at some POs one arrangement would be used and then later the alternate arrangement of the order of dates, and then revert back e.g. 13 JA 1900 or JA 13 1900. Importantly the first set of SC date stamps had the entire date in numerals (<1885) e.g. 13 1 81, but later (>1880s) the cancel was modified and the month was in letters e.g. 13 JA 86 - this is an important distinction in the period of use.

The date format is described below the postmark if another format is used besides that illustrated. The date format is DF1 to DF4 describing

- DF1 - DD MM YY month in letters
- DF2 - MM DD YY month in letters
- DF3 - DD MM YY month in numerals
- DF4 - MM DD YY month in numerals

3.3 – EARLIEST AND LATEST RECORDED USAGE – ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Information was provided by a number of sources that are gratefully acknowledged. The information is referenced using the following abbreviations:

AV	Alex Visser – SA	RNP	Roger Porter – SA
WS	†Werner Seeba - Germany	BP	Bas Payne– UK
EBP	Edward Proud – UK	EF	Erich Freshwater - SA
PP	Peter Prime – UK	KK	Keith Klugman – SA/USA
MH	Michael Hamilton – UK	HKL	Hart, Kantey, Leon (1977)
KAN	Basil Kantey (1982)	CR	Cedric Roché – SA
MF	Morgan Farrell – USA	PD	Proud (1996)
PUT	Putzel (1986/90) and (1992/2003)	EB	Ebay Auctions
UN	Unknown owner	DvZ	Danie van Zyl - SA
PvZ	Paul van Zeyl - SA	HG	Hendrik Geyer - SA
Ch	†Mark Chutter - SA		

3.4 – RARITY RATINGS

Based on the recorded period of usage a relative scarcity indication is given after “Rarity”. The first symbol is on piece, or substantially on a stamp, and the second is on cover. The codes are:

C	Common, more than 50 recorded
R	Rare, less than 50 copies recorded
RR	Significantly rare, less than 20 copies recorded
RRR	Extremely rare, less than 10 copies recorded

3.5 – FORGERIES

Forgeries are listed under the post office name where there is a name to allow comparison with the actual postmark.

3.6 –REFERENCES

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