

# CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

1853-1898

THE 'BESANÇON'  
COLLECTION



TO BE OFFERED 2018-2019



*Printers at Perkins Bacon*



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# CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

## The 'BESANÇON' Collection

This wonderful collection  
– built over the last 45 years –  
will be auctioned by Corinphila in 2018-2019.

The 'BESANÇON' collection is a marvellous 'traditional' collection of this popular area, with Proofs, issued stamps, large multiples and interspersed throughout with outstanding covers, chosen by the owner both for their rarity and aesthetic appeal.

The collection boasts items from all the great collections previously formed, from Ferrari, Riesco, Hind, Pack, Caspary, Huston, Burrus, Maria de la Queillerie, Sir Maxwell Joseph, Lea and Dale-Lichtenstein, to the more recently formed 'pseudonym' collections and the outstanding Ad Indusophon Grand Prix collection.

Like the classic France and Australian collections also sold by Corinphila, quality was of paramount importance to 'BESANÇON' and the following pages provide a small extract from this marvellous collection.





## History

### History of Cape Colony

Due to the strategic nature of the Cape of Good Hope, mail had been left by sailors at Table Bay (then called Saldanha) under large inscribed boulders for collection on return journeys to Europe, the earliest so far found (now in the South African Museum) being dated 1619 which states “Letters Under”.

In 1647 castaways from the wreck of the Dutch sailing ship „Nieuw Haarlem“ built a small fort called „Sand Fort van de Kaap de Goede Hoop“. The Dutch East India Company noticed the strategic location of the area and founded Cape Town in 1652. After various conflicts between the Netherlands and Great Britain, the Cape became a British colony on 8 January 1806.

### Postal reform of 1846 and initial plans to introduce stamps

Initial suggestions to introduce uniform postage rates irrespective of distance came from the governor of Cape Colony, Sir Peregrine Maitland, in 1844. In January 1846 the Inland letter rate was fixed at four pence following the UK postal reform of Rowland Hill. Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Michell, surveyor-general in the service of Cape Colony, travelled on government service to England to review the options for producing and delivering stamps. The start of 1847 saw a written enquiry to the Perkins Bacon printing works in London about the terms of delivery and price. The new governor of Cape Colony, from 1 December 1847, Sir Harry Smith had his own ideas of postal reform. In particular, he wished to reduce letter postage from four pence to one penny, based on the model of Great Britain. An order to produce penny and two pence stamps was placed with Perkins Bacon in 1848. The plans amounted to a first issue of stamps on January 1, 1849.

However the commercial section of the community did not accept Sir Harry Smith’s suggestions to reduce the standard rates postage. So the stamp production order had to be cancelled.

### New plans for introducing stamps in 1852

Sir Harry Smith’s successor as governor of the Cape Colony, Sir George Cathcart, reconsidered introducing stamps for the Cape in 1852.

The new stamps were to be quite distinct from the British model: triangular rather than rectangular. Charles Bell, designed the triangular Cape stamps with the allegorical „Hope“ in the centre.



*S.S. Lady Jocelyn carried the first 1d. & 4d. triangular stamps to the Cape in 1853*

## Die Proofs

The dies from which the printing plates of 120 pairs (= 240 stamps) were made were formed of two impressions.



1d., 4d., 6d. & 1s. pair die proofs cut to shape  
in black on India paper mounted on card

**Provenance:**  
*'Bonaventure' Collection (1993)*







## CAPE OF GOOD HOPE – THE BESANÇON COLLECTION

### Proofs



1d. plate proof block of eight in dull rose

**Provenance:**

*Dale-Lichtenstein Collection (1989)*



1d. plate proof block of eight in black

**Provenance:**

*Maria de La Queillerie Collection (from the block of twelve) (1970)*  
*'Salisbury' Collection (1995)*



4d. plate proof block of eight

**Provenance:**

*Arthur Hind Collection (1934)*  
*Maria de La Queillerie (1970)*  
*'Bonaventure' Collection (1993)*



## 1853, 1d. and 4d. printed by Perkins Bacon on blued paper

On 23 June 1853 the first stamp delivery from London arrived in Cape Town. It had one penny stamps in a brick-red colour and four pence stamps in blue on blued paper. The official first day of issue was 1 September 1853. Perkins Bacon printed the famous Cape Triangulars with the same inks and probably on the same paper as the current Great Britain one penny and two pence stamps.

Perkins Bacon delivered numerous printings of the Cape Triangular one penny and four pence. They differ in shades and the blueing of the paper. Subsequent deliveries up to 1857 show less blueing of the paper.

1d. pale-brick red pair  
on blued paper, unused



4d. deep blue on deeply blued  
marginal pair, unused

**Provenance:**  
*Dale-Lichtenstein  
Collection (1989)*



1d. pale brick-red block of four on deeply blued paper

**Provenance:**  
*Sir Maxwell Joseph (1982)*



1d. "Ivory Head"



4d. deep blue on blued paper, unused

**Provenance:**  
*Charles Lahrop Pack Collection (1944)  
Solomon Collection (Heinrich Köhler Auction 1982)*





## 1857, 1d. and 4d. printed by Perkins Bacon on cream toned or white paper

Following a disastrous fire at Perkins Bacon printers in London in March 1857, the deliveries after this date are characterised by printings on cream toned to white paper.



1d. rose mint block of four

4d. blue mint  
block of twelve



4d. deep blue, cancelled rare  
"SMITHFIELD BETALD" handstamp on cover

**Provenance:**

*Ida Rothschild & Spongental Collection (1957)*



4d. (7) used on cover to the Netherlands

**Provenance:**

*Sir Maxwell Joseph Collection (1982)*  
*Alfred Caspary Collection (1958)*



4d. used on much travelled and re-addressed Great Britain Postal Stationery 1d. pink envelope to Italy





## 1858, New values 6d. and 1s. printed by Perkins Bacon

In July 1857 the postage between Cape Colony and Great Britain was lowered to a uniform rate of sixpence for letters up to ½ oz. and one shilling for letters of up to 1 ounce. These stamps were ordered at Perkins Bacon in London without delay. On 19 February, 1858 the new values of the Cape Triangular went on sale at Post Offices for the first time. There was a sixpence value in lilac and a one shilling value printed in green.

6d. slate lilac on blueish paper, unused

**Provenance:**

*Dale-Lichtenstein Collection (1989)*



*Charles Bell  
Local artist, designed the  
triangulars in 1852*

1s. bright yellow green, pair, mounted/unmounted mint!

**Provenance:**

*Dale-Lichtenstein Collection (1989)*  
*'Samos' Collection (1991)*  
*'Salisbury' Collection (1995)*  
*Ad. Indhusophon Collection (1999)*



6d. pale rose lilac on white paper, marginal pair, unused

**Provenance:**

*A.H. West Collection (1949)*  
*J.W.K. Schofield Collection (1951)*  
*Emerson Huston Collection (1961)*



6d. deep rose lilac, a pair used with 1d. red-brown on cover to Canada

**Provenance:**

*Ad. Indhusophon Collection (1999)*



6d. slate lilac and 4d. block of four used on cover to Orange Free State

**Provenance:**

*Dale-Lichtenstein Collection (1989)*  
*Franschhoek Collection (2012)*



## 1861, Local Provisional issue: 1d. “Woodblocks”

At the start of 1861, Post Office officials noticed that the stock of one penny and four pence stamps would be exhausted within a few weeks. Deliveries were not to be expected in the near future and the last repeat order of January 1860 had apparently yet to arrive. Therefore, at short notice, stamps were produced locally at the Saul Solomon print works using stereotyping, from February 1861. Collectors soon called the locally-made stamps „Woodblocks“ due to the simple design - as if they had been prepared from woodcuts. Later on, the Postal administration discovered that the stamps originally ordered in January 1860 from England had indeed arrived, but were stored in the Queen's Warehouse and forgotten. However, when found, the „Woodblocks“ had already been put into circulation.



1d. vermilion pair

**Provenance:**

*Charles Lathrop Pack Collection (1944)*  
*Maria de La Queillerie Collection (1970)*



1d. vermilion, block of three and adjoining single

**Provenance:**

*'Solomon' Collection (Heinrich Köhler Auction 1982)*



1d. vermilion, pair used with Perkins Bacon printing 4d. blue on cover to Natal

**Provenance:**

*Charles Lathrop Pack Collection (1944)*



## 1861, “Woodblocks” Error of Colours

The plates of the „Woodblocks“ were composed of individual clichés. When the stereos were being assembled into plates at the Saul Solomon print works, a penny cliché found its way into the four pence Plate. Nor was it noticed that a four pence cliché had been fitted into the one penny Plate. This caused two of the most famous “Errors of Colour” to be found in philately, the Cape Triangular one penny blue (not vermilion) and the four pence vermilion (not blue).

‘ONE PENNY’ Error of Colour in pale milky blue in pair with normal ‘FOUR PENCE’

**Provenance:**

*Phillipe La Renotiere de Ferrari Collection (1921)*

*Burrus Collection (1962)*

*‘Solomon’ Collection (Heinrich Köhler Auction 1982)*



*Phillipe La Renotiere de Ferrari*



‘FOUR PENCE’ Error of Colour in carmine

**Provenance:**

*Phillipe La Renotiere de Ferrari Collection (1921)*

*R.F.A. Riesco Collection (1929)*

*Dale-Lichtenstein Collection (1989)*

*‘Salisbury’ Collection (1985)*



‘ONE PENNY’ Error of Colour in milky blue



## 1861, Local Provisional issue: 4d. “Woodblock”



4d. pale milky blue, unused



4d. deep bright blue, unused

**Provenance:**

*(found by Robin Taylor of London & Brighton Auctions in the early 1960's)*



*Saul Solomon  
produced the Woodblocks in 1861*



4d. pale milky blue on cover



4d. pale milky blue, pair, unused on cover to Grahams Town

**Provenance:**

*J.W.K. Schofield Collection (1951)  
C. Emerson Huston Collection (1961)  
Col. J.R. Danson Collection (1977)  
'Salisbury' Collection (1995)  
'Lady Hope' Collection (2003)*





## 1861, Cancelled Stamps for Rowland Hill's nephew Ormond Hill

On 18 April 1861 Ormond Hill, the nephew of Rowland Hill, wrote to Joshua Butters Bacon the head of Perkins Bacon and Co.:

*"My dear Sir,*

*Two or three of my friends who are collectors of Postage Stamps have asked me to procure for them specimens of new or uncommon stamps whenever I have it in my power.*

*It occurs to me that perhaps you may be able to give me a few ..."*

He added on 24 April:

*"... I should be glad to have six stamps of each kind ..."*

On 15 August J. Upham (for J.B. Bacon) sent the stamps to Pearson Hill with the following letter:

*"Dear Sir,*

*I beg now to send you as promised ... an envelope addressed to Ormond Hill Esq. containing 6 obliterated impressions of each of the stamps named in the list and request you will take two of each for Rowland Hill Esq. and yourself and then seal the package and forward it together with a letter which you will also find addressed to him, to Mr. Ormond Hill."*

It turned out that the supply of the Crown Agents' property was given without authority.

Ormond Hill was not asked to return the „specimens“, and in fact, all were treated as private property. Nevertheless, the case destroyed Perkins Bacon as future printers for the Crown Agents.

*From Peter Jaffe in „Cancelled by Perkins Bacon“, published for Spink & Son Ltd by James Bendon Ltd. (1998)*



1d., 4d. 6d. & 1s. each with  
'CANCELLED' obliteration

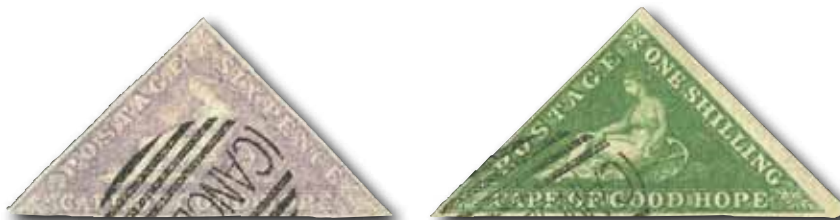
**Provenance:**

*Sir Maxwell Joseph Collection (1982)*

*6d.: C. Emerson Huston Collection (1961)*



Rowland Hill





## 1863/64, 1d. and 4d. printed by De La Rue from Perkins Bacon Plates

At the instigation of the colony-managing Crown Agency in London, the steel line-engraved Plates for the Cape Triangulars were transferred at the start of 1862 from Perkins Bacon to the Thomas De La Rue & Co. printing works. De La Rue actually specialised in surface printing. But apparently the intention was to shift the printing orders to this firm in the medium-term. De La Rue printed all four Cape Triangular values from the old worn steel plates. These printings by De La Rue used inks that were in most cases very different from the inks utilised by Perkins Bacon.



4d. deep blue mint block of four with printers guide lines in sheet margin



1d. deep red brown, block of four, used on cover (roadman's report from Sir Lowry's Pan to Stellenbosch)

**Provenance:**

'Maximus' Grand Prix Collection (1989)

'Lady Hope' Collection (2003)

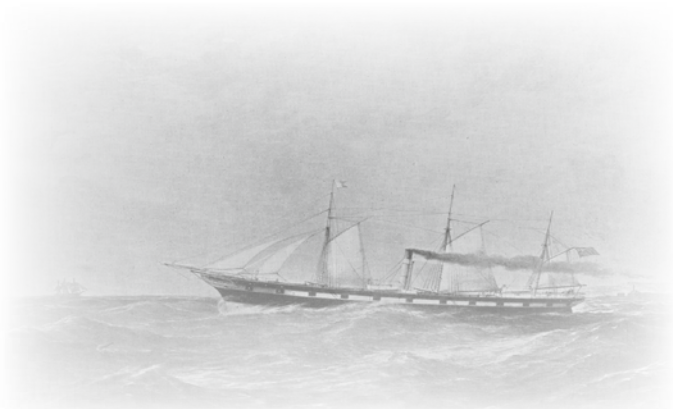


1d. deep carmine-red, mint block of thirty





6d. bright mauve mint block of eight



Royal Mail packet 'Athens' carried the last printings of Perkins Bacon triangular stamps to the Cape.



1s. bright emerald green mint strip of eight with corner sheet margins

**Provenance:**

Maurice Burrus  
Collection (1962)  
Maria de La Queillerie  
Collection (1970)



6d. used with Rectangular 4d. on cover to Foochow, China

**Provenance:**

Sir Maxwell Joseph Collection (1982)



1d. variety watermark "Crown C.C." sideways mint pair

**Provenance:**

Arthur Hind Collection (1934)  
Maria de La Queillerie Collection (1970)



## 1864/90, “Hope” Rectangular design

In 1864 and 1865 the famous Cape Triangulars were replaced by the new De La Rue surface printed stamps in the more traditional rectangular format.



1s. unfinished die proof



1s. die proof

**Provenance:**

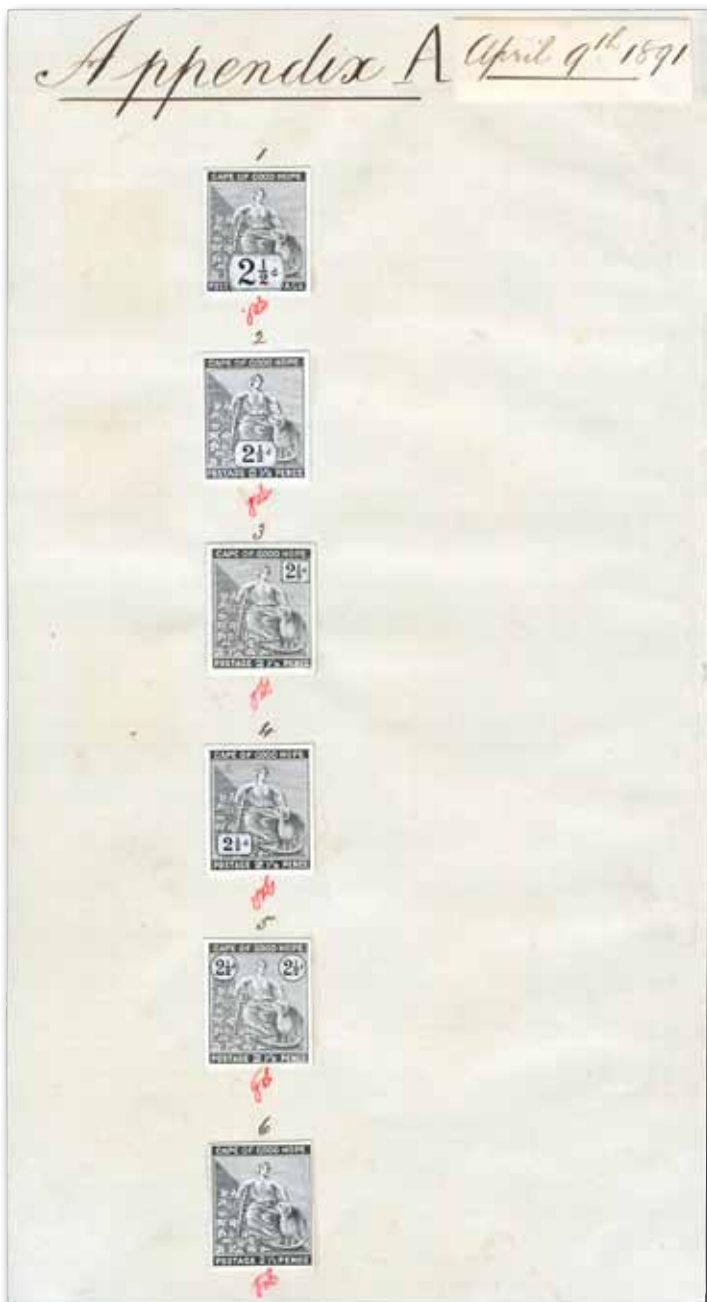
Dale-Lichtenstein Collection (1989)



Master die proof with value tablet in black

**Provenance:**

De La Rue Archive



2½d. different essays of which design No. 3 was adopted





1871/76, 4d. ultramarine mint block of twelve



1882, 5s. watermark crown, mint block of four



Thomas De La Rue



1884/90, 1s. blue green, plate number '1' corner marginal strip of three



6d. and 1s. with manuscript 'Specimen' on De La Rue printers record book



## 1874/80, Overprinted Provisionals



1880, "3" on 3d. pale dull rose, strip of three showing both types of surcharge and the central stamp with surcharge omitted



1879, 3d. on 4d., variety "surcharge double", unused



1880, "3" on 3d. pale dull rose block of ten showing both types of surcharge, se-tenant

**Provenance:**

*Dale-Lichtenstein Collection (1989)*



*Cape Town, ca. 1875*





## Corresponding Perkins Bacon printings of

- Cape of Good Hope One Penny
- Great Britain One Penny
- Chile 5 Centavos

The inks used by Perkins Bacon for the Cape Triangular 1d. and 4d., and Chile “Colon” issues are the same as those used for the Great Britain 1d. and 2d. adhesives printed during 1853-1855. The paper was most likely the same, supplied from Rush Mills, Northamptonshire.

The original paper for the three countries was greyish white, but as a result of the chemical reaction between the paper and the inks used by Perkins Bacon, a bluish discolouration was typical. Depending how intense the chemical reaction was, the paper became more or less blued. When using the recess printing method it is necessary to moisten the paper before printing. The moisture dissolves the potassium cyanide and colors the paper to blueish.

We do not recall having seen a collection demonstrating this comparison between the contemporary Cape of Good Hope, Great Britain and Chile issues before.

Red-Brown (shades) on blued paper.





## The Global Philatelic Network

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