

## **ACRONYMS USED TO DESCRIBE THE POST OFFICE STATUS**

The status used is generally that last recorded as changes up and down were often frequent.

**P.O.** or **M.O.O.** – Post Office

**S.O.** or **S.P.O.** – Sub Post Office

**S.T.O.** – Sub Post Office with Telegraph

**P.A.** – Postal Agency

**R.P.A.** – Railway Postal and Telegraph Agency

**R.S.O.** – Railway Sub Post Office

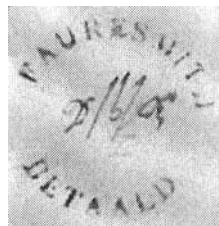
**R.T.O.** – Railway Telegraph Office

**R.S.T.O.** – Railway Sub Telegraph Office

## THE PRE-STAMP 'BETAALD' HANDSTAMPS

Overall, not a lot is known about these interesting BETAALD (PAID) markings. The earliest authentic example recorded is a Smithfield mark used on March 22 1856 and it is presumed the handstamps were introduced at more or less the same time that legislation was agreed by the newly-born Volksraad (People's Government) that postage should be paid in advance by the sender of a letter. This legislation came into effect on November 1 1854 and was followed, on January 1 1855, by an increase in the internal letter rate from 4d to 6d per half ounce. They are of the same style in capital letters with the post office name at the top and 'Betaald' on the bottom.

By November 1854 the following post offices had been opened, all during the period of the Orange River Sovereignty (Feb. 3 1848 to Feb. 23 1854): Bloemfontein, Smithfield (also known as Caledon River), Harrismith, Winburg, Fauresmith (also known as Sannah's Poort), and Philippolis. It is amazing that so few of these marks have been recorded considering that there were no other handstamps in use until the postage stamps were issued in 1868, a period of over 13 years.



## THE DUMB CANCELLERS

Very little information is known about these dumb cancellations and only nine have an identified place of use. Upon the introduction of postage stamps in 1868 the early large post offices and many of the smaller post offices and postal agencies used these dumb cancellers for a time before being issued with an official metal place/date canceller. These dumb cancellers were locally made by using cork or wood and then cutting simple and crude shapes into this material. It appears that these dumb cancellers were also used later for parcel post and printed matter items.

The first postal agency was Blesbokfontein which was opened in 1874/75 in the Bloemfontein district (though it is noted that this agency does not appear in Putzel). In 1875 the "*Friend*" reported the postal agent may have an office in a private house, on a farm, sometimes in a wayside store. They carry out their duties free of charge, although they sometimes get paid a small fee for accessories or mail transport. By 1880 there were 17 post office agencies in the OFS and 29 at the end of 1881. It is reported that on July 7 1883 the Volksraad made a decision to furnish all postal agencies with gutta-percha date stamps. Some dumb cancellers have also been seen on stamps issued post 1900.



Bloemfontein



Fauresmith



Oliphantsfontein



Winburg



Heilbron



Vredefort



Smithfield



Doornfontein



Bloemfontein

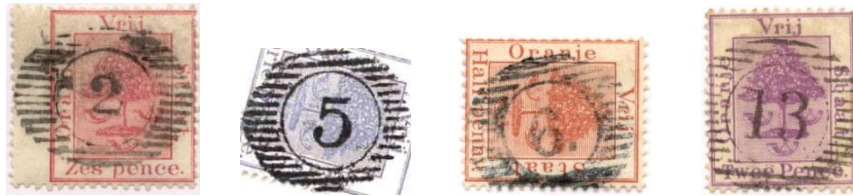
## THE 16-bar NUMERAL CANCELLERS

It is evident that the 16-bar Numeral Cancellers (numbers 1-19) were used in the Orange Free State from about 1872. Almost invariably they were used with other cancellers currently in use. The numeral was used to deface the stamp (though not always so) and the other, often the borderless double circle or a double circle type, appeared elsewhere on the cover.

The 16-bar Numeral Cancellers have now been certainly identified with the following towns:

1 Bloemfontein	7 Bethulie	13 Zand River	19 Reddersburg
2 Winburg	8 Boshof	14 Edenburg	
3 Harrismith	9 Jacobsdal	15 Bethany	
4 Fauresmith	10 Philippolis	16 Wepener	
5 Smithfield	11 Bethlehem	17 Ladybrand	
6 Kroonstad	12 Rouxville	18 Ficksburg	

It should be observed that all the 16-bar numerals, surprisingly, are not the same size. Numeral 1 is enclosed in a circle 12mm diameter, while the circle of Numeral 4 is 13mm. Numeral 11 is 13½mm diameter.



## THE 11-bar NUMERAL CANCELLERS

The 11-bar Numeral Cancellers, which appear to have followed the 16-bar Numerals, run from 20 to 60 (see next page). Numerals 20-30 were introduced first and then 31-60 after the Alphabetical Cancellers. This latter series of numeral cancellers (which also included numbers 1, 3 and 11 again) were distinctive in having more rounded figures with thicker bars and are classified as **Archival** types from a sheet of specimen strikes found in post office archives. They were introduced as replacements and for use by new post offices and agencies. For most of the 11-bar numerals there is still doubt as to their precise places of use. Those shown below with place names are the only numbers in this range to which a place of use has so far been attributed with certainty, though the other listed numbers have been sighted.

1 Bloemfontein	26 Bultfontein			53
3 Harrismith	27 Hoopstad	36	45	54
11 Bethlehem	28	37		55 Reitz
20 Brandfort	29 Senekal	38	47	56
21 Ventersburg	30 Lindley		48	57
22 Thaba 'Nchu	31 Abrahamskraal	40 Christina	49	58
23			50	59
24 Heilbron		42	51	60 Zuringkrans
25 Frankfort		43 Zwartkoppies		



Archival type



Archival type



Standard type



Standard type

## THE ALPHABETICAL CANCELLERS

The 11-bar Alphabetical Cancellers (in *sans-serif characters*) range from A to Z and were introduced after the 11-bar Numeral Cancellers (20 to 30). Not very many of them can be allocated to specific places and most of them are not common – although the whole range exists. There is also a separate series of cancellers which show a *narrow* type of letter and these are termed **Archival** types. The letter 'R' (shown below), which was allocated to Bloemfontein for use on registered post, is one of these.

A Clocolan	G	M Deput	S	Y Dewetsdorp
B	H Bultfontein	N	T Koffiefontein	Z
C Bushmanskop	I Bloemfontein	O Jagersfontein	U	
D Abrahamskraal	J	P Brandsdrift	V Kleinvischgat	
E	K Zastron	Q Helvetia	W	
F	L	R	X Vrede	



Besides these cancellers there appear to be some in *seriffed characters*. Only three have been sighted, 'D', 'M' and 'G'. The sans-serif 'M' was used at Deput and often appears in purple ink. This 14-bar seriffed 'M' is also in purple/blue so it is assumed that it was also used at Deput. Similarly, the 'D' was probably used at Abrahamskraal. Perhaps these cancellers in serifs were used as a temporary replacement for the damaged or lost cancellers in sans-serif characters.



## THE 'B.E.' CANCELLER



For many years the meaning of this canceller was not known. It is usually found on newspaper wrappers of 1899 and 1900. It is generally thought that the letters might stand for **B**uiteland **E**kstern (Foreign Country External). After the Occupation it was still used for foreign newspapers and later for general and registration use.

## THE COLOURED INKS

During the 1880s the main post office at Bloemfontein used a succession of coloured inks to cancel mail. In this period the number of post offices increased dramatically while the 16-bar and 11-bar Numeral and Alphabetical Cancellers were introduced and so these cancellations show the full range of colours. These post offices followed Bloemfontein's lead and used coloured inks experimentally in the defacing of the postal issues to prevent reuse and fraud.

Statistics show that the distribution of colours was fairly equal between blue, red and purple. Magenta and brown (which may be a degradation of red ink) are the least common with the former not often seen. After 1890 most offices reverted to black ink though a few, most notably Bethanie, Clocolan, Kroonstad, Ladybrand and Smithfield, continued the use of these coloured inks.



Blue



Red



Purple

## THE 'POST-KANTOO' CACHETS/CANCELLERS



These circular 34mm cachets *without* a date appear to have been in use from about 1884. They have the OVS arms with the words POST-KANTOO above (a misspelling of POST KANTOOR) and the post office name underneath. Only nine post offices seem to have used this uncommon cachet: Bethanie, Bethlehem, Bloemfontein, Ladybrand, Philippolis, Reddersburg, Rouxville, Wepener and Winburg. It appears these cachets were prepared for use to be used by postmasters on their official correspondence. They have been seen on official covers, on correspondence, on revenues, as a postal canceller, and also used philatelically.

## THE ORANGE FREE STATE RAILWAY CANCELLERS



In 1899 the Orange Free State Railways issued three cancellers with O.V.S.S (Oranjevrijstaatsche Spoorwegen) at the base instead of the usual O.V.S. These were used at Smaldeel, Vrededorp Road and Wolvehoek. Examples of these cancellers are by no means common and are often overlooked by reason of the whole of the mark (especially the second 'S') not always being clear.

## THE TRIANGULAR CANCELLERS

There exists a series of triangular cancellers almost invariably found upon the ½d stamps of King Edward VII, this amount also being the printed matter postage rate at the time. The numbers range from 1 to 60 and only a few have been ascribed to a particular place. They were mentioned (without lists) in Post Office Circulars from 1907 and were intended to mark mail containing reproductions made by chromography and mimeography (early forms of duplicating) and were used when 20 or more such identical items were posted.

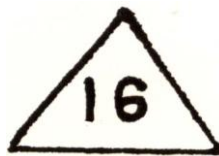
1 Bloemfontein 7 Bothaville 16 Frankfort 42 Dewetsdorp 48 Harrismith 49 Brandfort



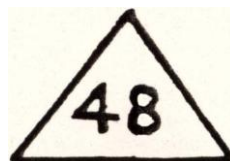
Bloemfontein



Brandfort



Frankfort



Harrismith



Dewetsdorp

## THE BARRED OVAL NUMERAL CANCELLERS

It is very fortunate that in 1974 a set of Orange River Colony Circulars for 1901-1910 was discovered. From these documents Dr. Hasso O. Reisener wrote an article on the ORC Numeral Postmarks and the following list is taken from this. The cancellers were made of brass and ranged from '1' to '134', though it has been discovered that some four-digit numbers from '1093' through to '1398' were used (probably post 1910) and these are added after this list.

The exceptions to this are the numbers '777' and '1257' which were **Cape** BONCs. The '777' from Stormberg Junction was allocated to Springfontein in 1900 by the British as a supplementary canceller, possibly to cover the increased correspondence. The '1257' was only used at Bethulie Bridge in 1901. Numbers other than in this range were used in locations outside the ORC, particularly in the Cape.

These cancellers can be differentiated from the Cape BONCs by their size – numerals '1'-'15' (12mm by 8.5mm boxes, digits 6.5mm high with the '1' digits having a long oblique serif at the top); numerals '16'-'134' (11.5mm by 8mm boxes, digits 5mm high with the '1' digits having a small horizontal serif at the top); numerals of four figures (11.5mm by 9mm boxes, digits 7mm high). It should be noted that the numerals were often transferred from one agency to another. To determine the place of origin, look for sending address or for a transit mark from the head office to which the particular agency was subject – which is not always the same thing as the district in which the agency was situated.

**NOTE.** Two notable *corrections* to the following list follow: the office name for '55' is not Albert's Rust but Robertsrust (in the Bloemfontein district) and the office name for '13' Jackhalsfontein was changed to Jackhalskraal before the canceller was delivered for use. In light of later research into these BONCs many amendments have been made to this listing and readers are requested to refer directly to the respective office and its history in this PmkBOOK for clarification.



### Allocations and withdrawals of numerical defacers from April 1904 to September 1910.

No.	Name of office	Head office	Date issued	Date withdrawn	Listed in Post Office Guide
1	Woodside	Vrede	April 1904	27 June 1905	—
2	Bezuidenhout's Drift	Reitz	May 1904	15 Jan. 1905	—
2	Mushroom Valley	Winburg	March 1905	—	July 1910
3	Brakkrans	Harrismith (! )	May 1904	Renamed	—
3	Christina	Harrismith (! )	Aug. 1905	—	July 1910
4	Commando Drift	Hoopstad	May 1904	30 April 1908	January 1906
4	Daggafontein	Thaba 'Nchu	June 1908	August 1908	—
5	Kromellenboog's Drift	Jagersfontein	May 1904	May 1905	—
5	Waschbank	Brandfort	22 May 1905	30 Nov. 1905	January 1906
5	Newmarket	Harrismith	January 1906	Name change	—
5	Outlook	Harrismith	July 1906	—	July 1910
6	Klippan	Ventersburg Road	May 1904	July 1907	January 1906
6	Constantia Drift	Ladybrand	July 1907	—	July 1910
7	Quaggashoek	Bultfontein	May 1904	1 May 1908	January 1906
7	Ongegund	Senekal	1 May 1908	—	July 1910
8	Zandfontein	Frankfort	May 1904	15 September 1905	—
8	Verrekijkerskop	Frankfort	September 1905	January 1907	—
8	Zandfontein	Frankfort	January 1907	—	July 1910
9	Tafelkop	Vrede	May 1904	—	January 1906
10	Kalkoenskrantz	Harrismith	June 1904	August 1905	July 1910
10	Coal Brook	Viljoens Drift	1 August 1905	—	January 1906
11	Boesmanskop	Hoopstad	June 1904	September 1905	July 1910
11	Wilson's Post	Frankfort	September 1905	July 1907	—
11	Klipnek	Petrusburg	July 1907	March 1909	January 1906
11	Homerule	Petrusburg	March 1909	—	—
12	Twefontein	Lindley	June 1904	—	July 1910
12	Zoutpansdrift	Boshof	June 1904	January 1907	January 1906
12	Zoutpansdrift	Boshof	January 1907	January 1907	July 1910
13	Elim	Bethlehem	June 1904	31 March 1907	January 1906
13	Jackhalskraal	Theunissen	February 1910	Name Change	—

No.	Name of office	Head office	Date Issued	Date withdrawn	Listed in Post Office Guide
13	Jackhalsfontein	Theunissen	?	—	July 1910
14	Langhoek	Vrede	June 1904	—	January 1906
14	Inzicht	Reddersdorp	May 1910	—	July 1910
15	Leeuwwlei	Bloemfontein	1 June 1904	June 1906	January 1906
15	Leeuwwlei	Bloemfontein	February 1910	—	July 1910
16	Karba	Winburg	September 1904	November 1906	January 1906
16	Saltpan	Brandfort	November 1906	July 1907	—
16	Karreespruit	Victor	July 1907	—	July 1910
17	Marseilles	Ladybrand	September 1904	15 March 1905	January 1906
17	Elim	Bethlehem	August 1909	—	July 1910
18	Doornkloof	Lindley	September 1904	21 June, 1906	Jan. 1906
18	Lake Warden	Hoopstad	Sept. 1906	31 Dec. 1907	—
18	Commissie Poort	Ladybrand	Feb. 1908	—	July 1910
19	Grootfontein	Dewetsdorp	15 Sept. 1904	Dec. 1905	Jan. 1906
19	Klipfontein	Dewetsdorp	July 1906	—	July 1910
20	Du Plooy's Rust	Senekal	1 Oct. 1904	—	July 1910
21	Oranje Pan	Bultfontein	Sept. 1904	March 1905	—
21	Willoughby	Bethulie	April 1905	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
22	Riviera	Heilbron	Sept. 1904	Oct. 1906	Jan. 1906
22	Groothof	Trompsburg	Nov. 1906	May 1910	—
22	Groenvlakte	Trompsburg	May 1910	—	July 1910
23	Daggafontein	Thaba'Nchu	Sept. 1904	Aug. 1907	Jan. 1906
23	Mahemskuil	Kroonstad	Sept. 1907	—	July 1910
24	Lombard's Drift	Bloemfontein	Sept. 1904	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
25	Gottenburg	Wolve Hoek	Sept. 1904	April 1905	—
25	Revelstoke	Harrismith	April 1905	Feb. 1907	Jan. 1906
25	Paridijs	Kroonstad	Sept. 1907	—	July 1910
26	Vaalspruit	Smithfield	Sept. 1904	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
27	Tevredenheid	Luckhof	Sept. 1904	June 1906	Jan. 1906
27	Hillside	Ficksburg	July 1906	—	July 1910
28	Winkel Post	Kroonstad	Sept. 1904	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
29	Tweespruit	Thaba'Nchu	Sept. 1904	?	Jan. 1906
30	Kassel	Dewetsdorp	1 Oct. 1904	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
31	Cornelia	Vrede	15 Oct. 1904	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
32	Modderpoort	Ladybrand	Nov. 1904	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
33	Novo	Wepener	15 Nov. 1904	31 March 1909	Jan 1906
33	Novo	Wepener	Feb. 1910	—	July 1910
34	Westminister	Thaba'Nchu	Nov. 1904	March 1907	—
35	Welkom	Boshof	Nov. 1904	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
36	Sweethome	Boshof	Nov. 1904	April 1910	Jan. 1906
36	Aloepoort	Zastron	July 1910	—	—
37	Hulpmakaar	Jagersfontein	Nov. 1904	—	Jan. 1906
37	Helpmekaar	Jagersfontein	Name Change	—	July 1910
38	Vierfontein	Kroonstad	Nov. 1904	Feb. 1906	Jan. 1906
39	Ireland	Thaba'Nchu	Dec. 1904	15 March 1905	Name Change
39	Glenrock	Thaba'Nchu	15 March 1905	—	Jan. 1906
39	Oranje Pan	Hoopstad	Jan. 1908	—	July 1910
40	Boschvarkfontein	Bloemfontein	Dec. 1904	—	Jan. 1906, July 1910
41	Helvetia	Smithfield	Dec. 1904	Aug. 1908	Jan. 1906
41	Stonewall	Boshof	Sept. 1908	—	July 1910
42	Zevenfontein	Boshof	Dec. 1904	July 1905	—
42	Hibernia	Senekal	July 1905	Sept. 1905	Jan. 1906
42	Brakfontein	Hoopstad	March 1906	?	—
43	Sand River	Bethlehem	Dec. 1904	July 1906	Jan. 1906
43	Rexford	Bethlehem	July 1906	Name Changed	July 1910
44	Georgina	Harrismith	Jan. 1905	May 1905	—
44	Gertruida	Harrismith	May 1905	Nov. 1909	Jan. 1906
44	Rustfontein	Heilbron	Nov. 1909	—	July 1910
45	Port Allen	Smaldeel	Jan. 1905	March 1909	Jan. 1906
45	Quaggashoek	Bultfontein	April 1909	—	July 1910
46	Sepani siding	Thaba'Nchu	Jan. 1905	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
47	Makauws Drift	Petrusburg	Jan. 1905	Sept 1906	Jan. 1906
47	Salderijspoort	Petrusburg	Sept. 1906	Feb. 1909	—
47	Cheddar	Petrusburg	Feb. 1910	—	July 1910
48	Holfontein	Ventersburg Road	Feb. 1905	April 1906 ( ? )	Jan. 1906
49	Kaffirskop	Bethlehem	March 1905	—	Jan 1906 July 1910
50	Philippolis Road	Philippolis	March 1905	Jan. 1907	Jan. 1906
51	Prinsloos' Request	Kroonstad	March 1905	July 1905	—
51	Wolvefontein	Boshof	July 1905	July 1906	Jan. 1906
51	Wolve(n)spruit	Bloemfontein	?	—	July 1910
52	Leeuwbank	Frankfort	March 1905	May 1908	Jan. 1906
52	Van Der Merwe's Fontein	Heilbron	May 1908	Feb. 1910	—
52	Glenlennie	Harrismith	Feb. 1910	Aug. 1910	July 1910
52	Steenpan	Viljoensdrift	Aug. 1910	—	—
53	Odendaal's Rust	Ventersburg Road	March 1905	Sept. 1909	Jan. 1906

No.	Name of office	Head office	Date issued	Date withdrawn	Listed in Post Office Guide
53	Kaalvalley	Ventersburg	Sept. 1909	—	July 1910
54	Waterval	Bethlehem	March 1905	15 Sept. 1907	Jan. 1906
54	Slootkraal	Rouxville	1 Dec. 1907	Dec. 1909	—
54	Koudekraal	Rouxville	Dec. 1909	—	July 1910
55	Albert's Rust	Dewetsdorp	April 1905	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
56	Cypherfontein	Brandfort	April 1905	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
57	Abraham's Kraal	Bloemfontein	April 1905	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
58	Brindisi	Ficksburg	May 1905	31 May 1906	Jan. 1906
58	Van Dyk's Kraal	Harrismith	July 1906	April 1907	—
58	Kaalkop	Vrede	1 June 1907	Feb. 1910	—
58	Lusthoff	Theunissen	Feb. 1910	—	July 1910
59	De Kuile	Harrismith	1 May 1905	31 Dec. 1905	Jan. 1906
59	Bethlehem	Bethlehem	March 1906	?	—
59	Scotland West	Ventersburg	Aug. 1909	—	July 1910
60	Stonybroke	Thaba'Nchu	1 June 1905	Dec. 1906	Jan. 1906
60	Oudebergfontein	Koffyfontein	Oct. 1908	—	July 1910
61	Paardekraal	Kroonstad	June 1905	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
62	Olivier's Post	Lindley	15 June 1905	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
63	Tiger River	Bethlehem	27 June 1905	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
64	Kromspruit	Bethlehem	27 June 1905	20 June 1906	Jan. 1906
64	De Molen	Reitz	15 Aug. 1906	—	July 1910
65	Zeekoevlei	Vrede	Aug. 1905	Dec. 1906	Jan. 1906
66	Witlaagte	Winburg	1 Sept. 1905	31 July 1909	Jan. 1906
66	Holspruit	Vrede	1 Jan. 1910	—	July 1910
67	Marquard	Winburg	15 Sept. 1905	1 Aug. 1906	Jan. 1906
67	Theron's Post	Bloemfontein	Sept. 1906	—	July 1910
68	Kestell	Bethlehem	1 Oct. 1905	15 Jan. 1906	—
69	Gottenburg	Heilbron	1 Oct. 1905	17 May 1906	Jan. 1906
69	Stijldrift	Harrismith	July 1906	—	July 1910
70	Retief's Nek	Bethlehem	15 Oct. 1905	31 Oct. 1906	Jan. 1906
70	Riviera	Heilbron	Dec. 1905	—	July 1910
71	Stillewoning	Kroonstad	Nov. 1905	31 Dec. 1906	Jan. 1906
71	Langvlakte	Zastron	Aug. 1907	Replaced No. 81	July 1910
72	Senekal's Rust	Senekal	15 Nov. 1905	1 Jan. 1909	Jan. 1906
72	Ngoana	Thaba'Nchu	Feb. 1910	—	July 1910
73	Bordeaux	Frankfort	15 Nov. 1905	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
74	Kruger's Drift	Bloemfontein	15 Nov. 1905	13 July 1907	Jan. 1906
74	Eksteen	Lindley	— Dec. 1907	—	July 1910
75	Aasvogelsrand	Vredefort	— Nov. 1905	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
76	Northfield (Farm)	Bloemfontein	— Nov. 1905	May 1908	Jan. 1906
76	Thabapatchoa	Thaba'Nchu	— Aug. 1908	—	July 1910
77	New York	Thaba'Nchu	15 Nov. 1905	14 Aug. 1908	Jan. 1906
77	Fonteinriet	Heilbron	— Sept. 1908	—	July 1910
78	Waterkloof	Philippolis	1 Dec. 1905	—	Jan. 1906 July 1910
79	Hammonia	Ficksburg	— Dec. 1905	—	July 1910
80	Cornetspruit	Rouxville	— Dec. 1905	15 Nov. 1906	—
80	Beginseldam	Boshof	— Sept. 1907	Replaced No. 106	—
80	Verkeerdevlei	Brandfort	— Aug. 1908	—	July 1910
81	Langvlakte	Zastron	— Dec. 1905	— July 1907	Damaged (71)
82	Klipplaats	Frankfort	1. Jan. 1906	31 Dec 1906	—
82	St. Clet	Frankfort	— July 1906	1 Jan. 1907	—
82	Talsen	Boshof	Feb. 1907	—	July 1910
83	Winkeldrift	Vredefort	1 Jan. 1906	15 July 1907	—
84	Reitzburg	Vredefort	1 Jan. 1906	—	July 1910
85	Inland Sea	Vredefort	1 Jan. 1906	?	—
85	Bernhardina	Reitz	— Dec. 1907	—	July 1910
86	Rietspruit	Winburg	16 Jan. 1906	Aug. 1906	—
86	Zamenkomst	Thaba'Nchu	Aug 1906	Sept. 1907	—
86	Kaallaagte	Bethlehem	1 Oct. 1907	—	July 1910
87	Austin's Post	Reddersburg	— April 1906	—	July 1910
88	Viakfontein	Philippolis	— April 1906	—	July 1910
89	Tierton	Vredefort Road	15 May 1906	July 1908	—
89	Mooifontein	Harrismith	July 1908	—	July 1910
90	Wonderheuvel	Vredefort	1 June 1906	28 Feb. 1907	—
90	Providence	Bethulie	1 June 1907	Name Changed	—
90	Kleinzuurfontein	Bethulie	— July 1907	— July 1909	—
90	Slaapplaats	Lindley	— Oct. 1909	—	July 1910
91	Thaba'Nchu Station	Thaba'Nchu	— June 1906	?	—
91	Kestell Road	Harrismith	Feb. 1910	—	July 1910
92	Lindley Road	Lindley	20 June 1906	?	—
92	Varkfontein	Heilbron	April 1910	—	July 1910
93	Lovat	Lindley	20 June 1906	—	July 1910
94	Rietspruit	Winburg	— July, 1906	—	July 1910
95	Dover	Parijs	15 July 1906	—	July 1910
96	Kaffirriver	Bloemfontein	— July, 1906	—	July 1910
97	Koedoesrand	Petrusburg	15 Dec. 1906	—	July 1910
98	Oosthuizen's Siding	Kroonstad	1 Oct. 1906	31 July 1908	—
98	Grandstable	Hoopstad	1 Sept. 1908	—	July 1910

No.	Name of office	Head office	Date issued	Date withdrawn	Listed in Post Office Guide
99	Gottenburg	Heilbron	– Dec. 1906	Jan. 1908	–
99	Ramsbottom's Post	Bethlehem	– Feb. 1908	–	July 1910
100	Schaapplaats	Senekal	– Jan. 1907	?	–
100	Müller's Pass Noord	Harrismith	8 April 1908	18 April, 1908	–
100	Susanna	Hoopstad	15 June 1908	–	July 1910
101	Verrekijkerskop	Harrismith	– Jan. 1907	–	July 1910
102	Molendraai	Heilbron	– Jan 1907	–	July 1910
103	Hibernia	Senekal	– Feb. 1907	–	July 1910
104	Tampasfontein	Smithfield	– Feb. 1907	–	July 1910
105	De Werf	Jacobsdal	15 Feb. 1907	31 May 1908	–
105	Immigrant Siding	Bloemfontein	1 Aug. 1908	Dec. 1909	–
105	Uitzicht	Fauresmith	– Dec. 1909	?	–
106	Beginseldam	Boshof	1 March 1907	Destroyed September 1907	–
107	Malan's Post	Bethlehem	– March 1907	–	July 1910
108	Constantia Drift	Ladybrand	– April 1907	– July 1910	–
109	Oorlogspoort	Bloemfontein	1 July 1907	–	July 1910
110	Levensbron	Lindley	1 Jan. 1907	–	July 1910
111	Gruisfontein	Bethlehem	1 Sept. 1907	–	July 1910
112	Stillewoning	Voorspoed	– Sept. 1907	–	July 1910
113	Emms	Bethulie	15 Sept. 1907	–	July 1910
114	Generaal's Nek	Fauresmith	1 Oct. 1907	Name change	–
114	Brindisi Road	Ficksburg	– Dec. 1907	–	July 1910
115	Commando Siding	Fauresmith	1 Oct. 1907	–	July 1910
116	Kaffirstad	Harrismith	– Jan. 1908	–	July 1910
117	Cornelisriver Bridge	Harrismith	– Jan. 1908	–	July 1910
118	Steynspruit	Thaba'Nchu	– March 1908	–	July 1910
119	Stonewall	Boshof	– March 1908	Aug. 1908	–
119	Glenrock	Thaba'Nchu	– Aug. 1908	–	July 1910
120	Twistnietmeer	Heilbron	1 June 1908	–	July 1910
121	Zamenkomst	Ladybrand	– Oct. 1908	?	–
121	Bluegumboom	Westminster	1 Jan. 1910	–	July 1910
122	Waaifontein	Hoopstad	– May 1909	?	Destroyed
123	Senekal's Rust	Senekal	– June 1909	–	July 1910
124	Klipdrift	Bloemfontein	– June 1909	–	July 1910
125	Bloemfontein	Bloemfontein	– July 1909	–	July 1910
126	Bloemfontein	Bloemfontein	– July 1909	–	July 1910
127	Waaifontein	Hoopstad	– July 1909	–	July 1910
128	Van der Merves Dam	Koffyfontein	– Aug. 1909	–	July 1910
129	Vinies Siding	Ladybrand	– Aug. 1909	–	July 1910
130	Klipnek	Petrusburg	1 Jan. 1910	–	–
131	Serfontein	Kopjes	– Sept. 1909	–	July 1910
132	Randjeslaagte	Kroonstad	– Sept. 1909	–	July 1910
133	Verbljding	Odendaalsrust	– Jan. 1910	–	July 1910
134	Kleinzuurfontein	Bethulie	– Feb. 1910	–	July 1910

No Further Issues

1312	Kroonstad	Kroonstad	– Jan 1906	–	July 1910
1316	* Daggafontein		– June 1904	Sept. 1904	–
1316	Tempe	Tempe	– Feb. 1906	–	July 1910
1322	* Winkelpost	Kroonstad	– June 1904	Sept. 1904	–
1355	* Lombard's Drift	Bloemfontein	– June 1904	Sept. 1904	–
1387	* Gottenburg	Wolvehoek	– June 1904	Sept. 1904	–
1392	* Vaalspruit	Smithfield	– June 1904	Sept. 1904	–
1392	Bloemfontein	Bloemfontein	– Nov. 1905	?	Jan. 1906
1396	* Teverdenheid	Luckhoff	1 July 1904	Sept. 1904	–
1396	Bloemfontein	Bloemfontein	– Nov. 1905	?	Jan. 1906
1503	Kroonstad	Kroonstad	– Jan. 1906	–	July 1910

\*Provisionally issued

#### Numeral Defacers Identified from Later Research

51	Walker's Post	Boshof	July 1906	Name Changed	–
51	Orangia	Boshof	Nov. 1908	May 1909	–
57	Damvlei	Bloemfontein	Nov. 1906	Name Changed	–
60	Altona	Thaba'Nchu	Dec. 1906	13 Sep 1907	–

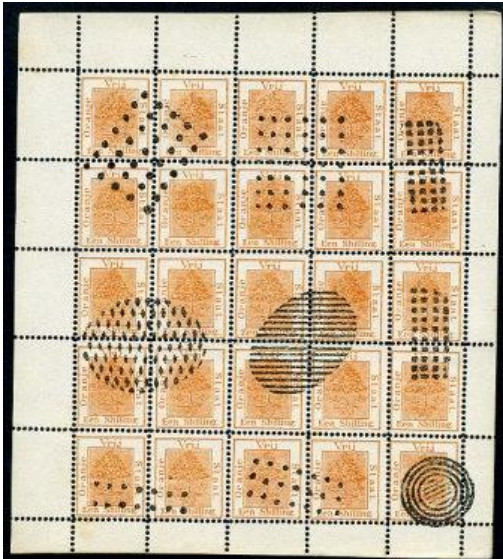
The following BONCs have since been identified as also having been used in the ORC, mainly in Bloemfontein or its surrounding district:

**Springfontein** – 777.

**Bethulie Bridge** – 1257.

**Bloemfontein** – 1093, 1132, 1184, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1197, 1213 (used earlier in the Cape), 1217, 1264, 1270, 1271, 1275, 1276 (used earlier at Blanco in the Cape), 1278, 1279, 1302, 1303, 1305, 1306, 1311, 1321, 1362, 1381, 1382, 1395 (used earlier in the Cape), 1398.

## THE FORGED POSTMARKS



The first recorded postmark forgeries in 1875 were attributed to the **Spiro Bros.** of Hamburg. The reduced illustration at left shows a forged sheetlet of 'stamps' with the forged cancellations *printed* on the 'stamps'. Notice that every 'stamp' has a partial 'cancellation'. They are easy to detect because of the lacklustre appearance of the 'stamps' compared to the original stamps.

The next OFS forgery is that of Type 70 made by an **unknown** forger. It has only been seen on the 3rd type of stamp forgery, the 5/- green. Its main characteristics are that the crosses on both sides of Bloemfontein are missing; there is no stop after the 'S'; the day figures in the date are taller; all reported examples have the same date of 21 APR 96.

The next two ORC forgeries are not so easy to differentiate from genuine cancellations of Type 90. The first appears to be a **Fournier** forgery. It is the same 22mm size as genuine examples but the main difference is that the date sits much higher up.

The last forgery is ascribed to a lady stamp dealer, **Madame Joseph**. She 'hired' her implements out to members of the trade to convert their stamps into 'fine used' examples. The main discernible features of this 22mm bogus cancellation are that O.R.C. appears to be offset to the left with a stop after the C and BLOEMFONTEIN begins level with the top of the day and ends level with the base of the month.



Unknown



Fournier

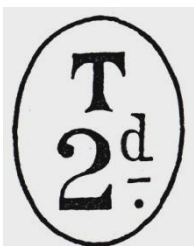


Madame Joseph

## THE NUMBERED POSTAGE DUE TAXE MARKS

Around the middle of 1905 the postal authorities introduced large circular cancellers to indicate underpayment of postage on letters and cards. These new cancellers consisted of a capital 'T' contained within a 26mm circle with a number from 1 to 58 below. From early 1904, though, Bloemfontein had been using its own unnumbered oval tax marks which indicated the actual amount of deficient postage to be collected. These can be found in *Bloemfontein Part 2*. The Universal Postal Union convention stated that the short payment of postage should be observed by the country in which the item was first posted and the shortfall recorded on the letter or card by means of a hand stamp while the amount due to be paid should also be recorded in 'centimes' (based on the French Gold Franc). In the OFS/ORC, one penny was expressed as '5c' in this international currency and so the equivalent of 1d deficiency would often be noted on the mail. Upon arrival, the destination country would *double* this amount which then had to be collected before delivery.

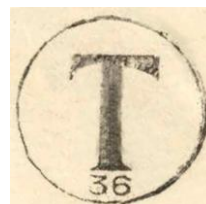
These cancellers are very uncommon and are only sighted on complete covers or postcards and most appear on items posted overseas. Each number was allocated to a post office and the following list shows the number and the place at which it is recorded as being used, together with its *earliest* recorded year of use. Interestingly, four cancellers are still to have a post office allocated to them. Even though these numbers are known used up until 2000, much needs to be learnt of their dates of use prior to Union.



Bloemfontein



Reddersburg



Reitz



Heilbron

1 Parys 1905	13 Jagersfontein 1908	25 Kings Hill 1906	37 Edenburg 1937	49 Brandfort 1911
2 Ventersburg Road 1906	14 Jacobsdal 1967	26 Bethlehem 1926	38 Petrusburg 1958	50 Dewetsdorp 1967
3 Springfontein 1905	15 Philippolis 1967	27 Senekal 1915	39 Smithfield 1912	51 Heilbron 1908
4 Theunissen 1908	16 Thaba 'Nchu 1910	28 Villiers 1962	40 Hoopstad 1967	52 Marquard 1967
5 Bloemfontein East 1906	17 Harrismith 1907	29 Vrede 1906	41 Frankfort 1912	53
6 Winburg 1958	18 Fouriesburg 1909	30 Ficksburg 1907	42 Koffiefontein 1909	54
7 Trompsburg 1906	19 Fauresmith 1937	31 Lindley 1907	43 Ladybrand 1906	55 Westminster 1907
8 Tempe 1907	20 Zastron 1907	32 Kestell 1958	44 Wolvehoek 1967	56
9 Rouxville 1968	21 Bultfontein 1962	33 Viljoens Drift 1907	45 Bethulie 1954	57 Odendaalsrust 1909
10 Reddersburg 1905	22 Wepener 1968	34 Boshof 1912	46 Kroonstad 1908	58 Kopjes 1916
11 Ventersburg 1920	23 Clocolan 1923	35	47 Luckhoff 1965	
12 Vredefort 1958	24 Bothaville 1913	36 Reitz 1907	48 Dealesville 1962	

## CONSEQUENCES OF THE 1899-1902 ANGLO-BOER WAR

Upon the outbreak of war on 11 October, 1899, Boer forces advanced into the Cape Colony and Natal. The burghers from the OFS used their own stamps and so postmarks of the occupied towns are sometimes seen on OFS stamps. The **first** list shows the period that towns of the Cape Colony were occupied by the Boers. The **second** list shows the movement of the Capital of the Orange Free State around the country as the British forces advanced. The **last** list displays the dates the British forces occupied OFS towns.

Many post offices/postal agencies closed as the war encroached upon them and they were often destroyed by fire due to Kitchener's "scorched earth" policy. Most offices did reopen after occupation but as official post office records did not always show the exact closing and reopening dates in this period, the reopening dates in this reference work are often preceded with the word "by" to signify that cover evidence shows that it was reopened before this date.

### Occupation of Cape Towns by the Boers

Aliwal North	13.11.99 – 12.3.00	Burghersdorp	15.11.99 – 7.3.00	Stormberg	26.11.99 – 5.3.00
Barkly East	22.11.99 – 5.3.00	Colesburg	14.11.99 – 28.2.00	Vryburg	18.10.99 – 9.5.00
Barkly West	late Nov 99 – 5.3.00	Lady Grey	18.11.99 – 15.3.00	Warrenton	late Oct 99 – 16.3.00

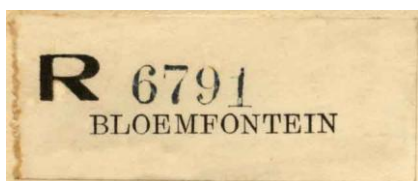
### Movement of the OFS Capital

Bloemfontein	pre 11.3.00	Heilbron	on 13.5.00	Bethlehem	circa 30.6.00	Fouriesburg	on 26.7.00
Kroonstad	on 11.3.00	Frankfort	circa 21.5.00	Reitz	on 7.7.00		

### Occupation of OFS Towns by the British

Jacobsdal	14.2.00	Wepener	29.3.00	Clocolan	17.5.00	Lindequesdrift	25.5.00
Boshof	11.3.00	Reddersburg	4.4.00	Hoopstad	17.5.00	Viljoens Drift	26.5.00
Petrusburg	11.3.00	Rouxville	15.4.00	Wonderfontein	17.5.00	Lindley (reoccupied)	1.6.00
Bloemfontein	13.3.00	Smithfield	3.5.00	Lindley	17.5.00	Frankfort	2.7.00
Bethulie	15.3.00	Brandfort	3.5.00	Ladybrand (reoccupied)	17.5.00	Bethlehem	7.7.00
Edenburg	15.3.00	Winburg	5.5.00	Heilbron	22.5.00	Reitz	7.7.00
Springfontein	16.3.00	Smaldeel	6.5.00	Honingspruit Stn.	22.5.00	Fouriesburg	26.7.00
Thaba 'Nchu	20.3.00	Welgelegen	9.5.00	Roodewal.	23.5.00	Harrismith	4.8.00
Zastron	20.3.00	Rietspruit	10.5.00	Vredefort	25.5.00	Vrede	15.8.00
Philippolis	21.3.00	Ventersburg	10.5.00	Vredefort Road	25.5.00		
Ladybrand	25.3.00	Ventersburg Road	10.5.00	Bothaville	24.5.00		
Jagersfontein	25.3.00	Geneva Siding	11.5.00	Parys	24.5.00		
Fauresmith	27.3.00	Kroonstad	12.5.00	Ficksburg	25.5.00		
Dewetsdorp	28.3.00	Trommel	17.5.00	Senekal	25.5.00		

## NUMBERED ADHESIVE REGISTRATION LABELS



These labels comprise a bold 6mm black 'R' with the town name underneath and are roughly perforated along their left edges and many also along the right. Pre-printed cyclometer numbers appear above the town name. They were mostly used between 18 January and 28 November 1908 with one late example in October 1909 and appear to be a relatively short-lasting, failed experiment. Labels have so far been sighted from Bloemfontein, Boshof, Edenburg, Harrismith, Heilbron, Hoopstad, Jacobsdal, Kroonstad, Ladybrand, Petrusburg, Philippolis, Rouxville, Smithfield, Springfontein and Tempe.

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## 'R' WITH NAME REGISTRATION HANDSTAMPS

This second form of ORC registration was of a rubber handstamp composed of a large capital 'R' followed by the town name. The registration number was to be written in manuscript under the town name. They have been reported used at Bloemfontein, Harrismith, Heilbron, Jagersfontein and Kroonstad between September 1908 and November 1910.



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## SINGLE-LINE NAME REGISTRATION HANDSTAMPS

The third type of registration was simply the town name in letters 5 or 6mm high which was generally applied to the top left corner of registered items. Archives of the British Post Office in London show that this type of marker was issued to the ORC from August 1907. This handstamp has been seen used from November 1908 to April 1910 (and much later in the Union) at Bethlehem, Bethulie, Bloemfontein, Bloemfontein East, Boshof, Bothaville, Brandfort, Dewetsdorp, Fauresmith, Ficksburg, Frankfort, Harrismith, Heilbron, Kaalspruit, Kroonstad Station, Lindley, Reddersburg, Rouxville, Smithfield, Tempe, Voorspoed, Vrede, Wepener and Winburg.



## ACRONYMS USED TO DESCRIBE THE POST OFFICE STATUS

The status used is generally that last recorded as changes up and down were often frequent.

- P.O.** or **M.O.O.** – Post Office
- S.O.** or **S.P.O.** – Sub Post Office
- S.T.O.** – Sub Post Office with Telegraph
- P.A.** – Postal Agency
- R.P.A.** – Railway Postal and Telegraph Agency
- R.S.O.** – Railway Sub Post Office
- R.T.O.** – Railway Telegraph Office
- R.S.T.O.** – Railway Sub Telegraph Office