

“VURTHEIM” DESIGN POSTCARDS OF ENSCHEDE, 1885

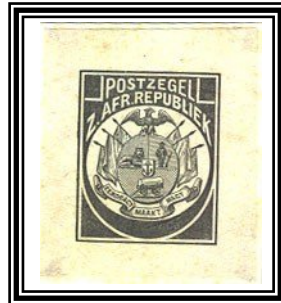
SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The exhibit will develop in full the first postal card issued by the South African Republic, designed and ordered in 1883-84 and delivered 1885. These were the first stationery issues of the Second Republic. A comprehensive display of its use will be shown during the beginning period of world-wide card use with decreasing rates and ultimately UPU membership. Special printings for NZASM use (railway parcel) were provided in 1893. These issues were replaced by the Shaft Issue of 1894. This subject is a perfect fit for a one-frame exhibit as it fully develops the issue and its intended purposes.

VURTHEIM DESIGN

Progressive proofs and color trials of the design were produced by Enschede & Sons of Haarlem, Netherlands followed by essays of the card in various sizes, black and red and lettering placement. The first order was printed and dispatched 17 April 1885. Over the ensuing 9 years 4 more shipments were made; 1 June 1888, 9 September 1889, 17 April 1893 and 1 November 1893. Cards were printed in sheets of 15 for orders 1-2 and 20 for the last 3 orders. Total cards shipped were 190,000. Size of card stock and thickness varied as did the ink shade over this period.

INDICIA PROOFS



Only example in private hands.

Master die proof of design with areas for values fully raised and blank. On wove paper mounted on card.



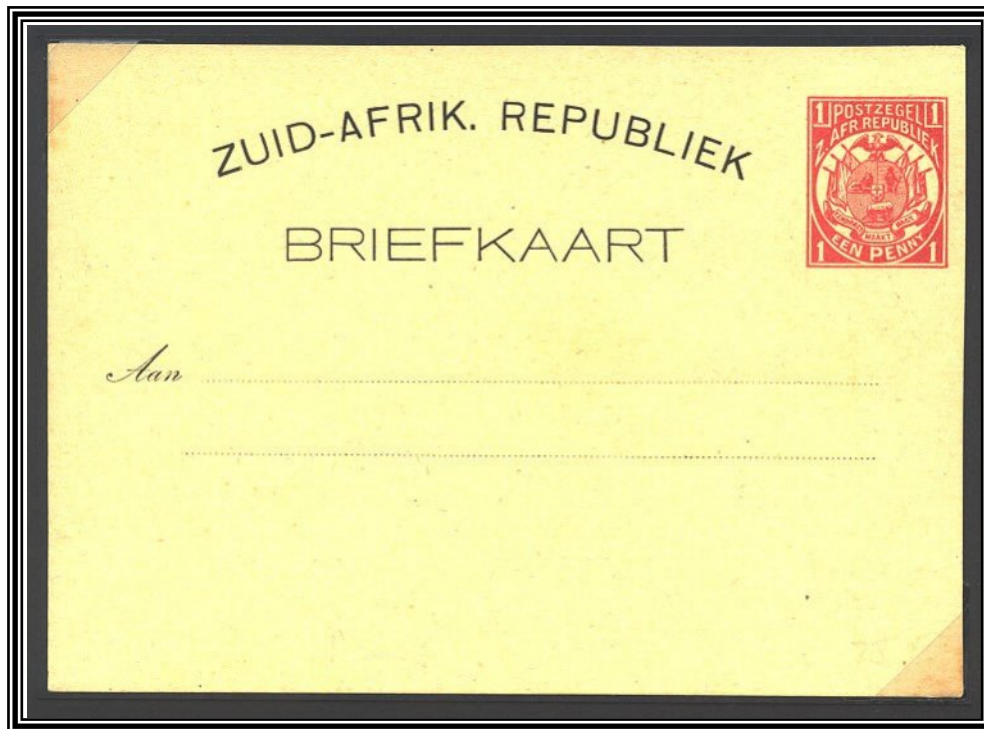
Color plate proof of same printed in the selected color as used for the ordered postal cards.

Entire pane of 60 clichés was laid down using the 1d value which would be used for the card. Color trial plate proof block of 4 with printer's notation of approval for "1 penny".

Unique block

CARD ESSAYS

Lettering in black



Essay of reduced size from issued card (122 x 86 mm) with wording in black. Word BRIRFKAART is raised 1mm above base of indicia and top address line is 90 mm long versus 92 mm for lower line.

One of two recorded examples.



Lettering in red

Essay of reduced size from issued card (122 x 86 mm) with wording in red. All as above. All essay have raised BRIEFKAART line versus 1mm below indicia on issued cards.

Only recorded example.

CARD ESSAYS

Lettering in black



Essay in normal size of 138 x 92 mm. Wording same as above. Printed on both sides indicia inverted on shown side, reverse shown reduced.

Only recorded example.



Reduced scan of reverse

CARD ESSAYS

Lettering in red



Essay of issued size (138 x 92 mm) with wording now in red. Word BRIRFKAART is raised 1mm above base of indicia and top address line is 90 mm long versus 92 mm for lower line.



Essay of issued size (138 x 92 mm) same as above example, impression double, one tete-beche.

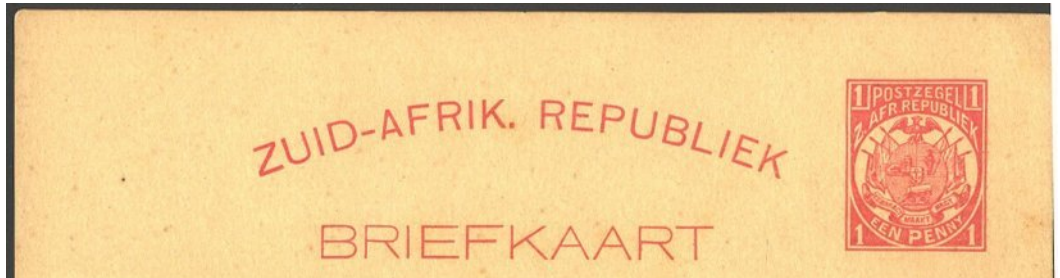
Only recorded example.

1d ISSUED CARD

There are numerous card stock thickness noted ranging from 0.17 to 0.25 mm, which can be attributed to separate printing orders. * Color also varies weakening in brightness for later printings. Size of stock was variable from 137 x 91 mm to 140 x 92 mm. Put on sale 1 Nov 2 cards 2½d, 240 cards for 25/-. 5 printings: April 85, 30,000; June 88, 50,000; Sept 89, 60,000; Apr 93, 20,000; Nov 93, 30,000. Balance sent Mar 94, 2,092.

Early Printings

140 x 91 mm in size, 0.17 mm in thickness.



137.5 x 91.5 mm in size, 0.19 mm in



Late Printings

138 x 91 mm in size, 0.23 mm in thickness.

138 x 92 mm in size, 0.25 mm in thickness.

EARLY DOMESTIC USES

The first printing of April 1885 was delivered and put on sale 1 November 1885. Usages prior to 1890 are uncommon. Card stock very thin and brittle; cards in pristine condition very elusive. Rates for domestic cards were initiated at 1d upon first issue and the rate lasted until September 1895. Sold 1436 in 1885, 4836 in 1886 and through 1894 total sold 194,184.



Early use 30 June 1886 from Pretoria (3-ring 1) to Potchefstroom 6 July

Local use Pretoria 15 December 1887.



Utrecht 8 Feb 89 to Vryheid. 3-ring 11 of Utrecht. Both towns in old Boer state of New Republic which was absorbed into ZAR in 1888.

SOUTHERN AFRICA USES

The Southern Africa postal card rate was established at 1d 24 October 1885 for all states except Natal (1 January 1886) and was kept at that rate until 1 January 1898 when the South African Postal Union was established reducing rate to ½d.



Helvetia 14 Apr 1889 via Pretoria to CT. Provisional straight-line cancel in purple.

Only recorded example.



Venterskroon 15 June 1891 via Potchefstroom to Bloemfontein 19 June. Numeral 76 assigned to Venterskroon.

Proving card for cancel.



Vryheid 26 Oct 93 to Adams Mission Station just south of Durban.

FOREIGN USES: PRE-UPU

Prior to joining UPU 1 January 1893, postal cards were treated as letters. After issuance, any cards mailed overseas would have been rated at either 9½d (going via Cape Town) or 7½d via Natal. *Only one example rated at 7½ has been recorded.* September 1891 saw a rate reduction to 5d for Europe and 4d for England.



5d letter rate underpaid by 2d. Johannesburg 12 Sep 1891 via Cape Town 16 Sep arriving Salzburg 7 Oct. Block T applied at CT along with notation **20c** manuscript for 2d shortage. Arrival blue T and 16 kr indicating payment of shortage and penalty.

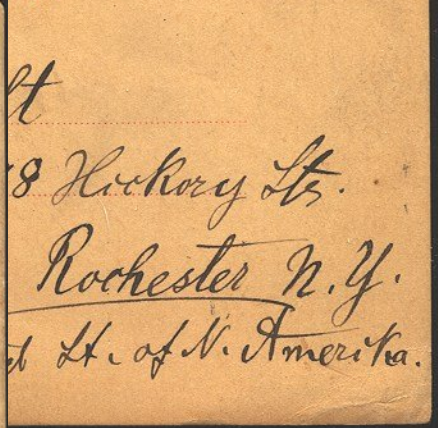
Earliest recorded example of 5d rate.

Correctly franked card at 5d letter rate from Johannesburg 12 Dec 1891 via Cape Town 16 Dec to Amsterdam 3 Jan 1892.



FOREIGN USES: POST-UPU/PRE SEPT 95

Per official notice, effective 1 January 1893, the rates for postal cards were set at 1½d for the UK and 2d for other UPU-member countries. 3d rates have been recorded but there was no such rate at any time. Even though the UPU later reduced the rate from 1½d for members/2d for non-members to 1d/1½d 15 Sep 93, the ZAR did not follow suit keeping the difference.



Erroneous 3d rate to USA from Lydenburg 1 Jun 93 via London with PONY 5 Jul. Second card properly rated at 2d Pretoria 22 Apr 94 to USA.



Pair of examples with proper 2d rate to Europe. Early card 5 Johannesburg Mar 93 to Amsterdam 26 Mar with 1d on 6d provisional. Other card to Germany, Pretoria 10 Sep 94.

FOREIGN USES: POST-UPU/PRE SEPT 95



2d rate from Pretoria 1 Oct 93 via London 23 Oct arriving Goteborg Sweden 26 Oct.



2d rate from Pretoria 30 Apr 94 via Calais/Paris 21 May to various Dutch Indies towns, Welievieden 17 Jun, Semarang 20 and Soerabaja Java, 23 Jun 94. Very unusual destination.

FOREIGN USES: POST-SEPT 95

On 23 September 1895, the Government finally allowed for the proper UPU rate of postal cards to be reduced from 2d to 1½d. Even though the rate had actually been 1½d since joining UPU (later reduced to 1d) the ZAR procrastinated and continued to collect excess fees to help subsidize mail service throughout the countryside. Confusion reigned!

Proper 1½d rate to UK, per UPU regulations as of 1 Jan 93 and changed to 1d 15 Sep of same year. ZAR did not reduce rate to UK until 2 years later. Pretoria 11 Feb London 6 Mar 93.



ZAR 1½d rate 3 days prior to reduction to 1d 23 Sep 95. Spelonken 20 Sep 1895 via Pretoria 22 Sep and London 14 Oct to Geneva 16 Oct.

Proper rate of 1d to UK, yet unrecognized by ZAR post office. Barberton 18 Jan 95 circle **T** possibly applied Johannesburg. Single **T** and **½D** appear to be similar to marks of Cape Town. Assessed 1D upon arrival by Foreign Branch clerk 2x shortage where **½D** crossed out. Handled twice by Inland Branch office on 11 and 12 Feb.



SPECIAL SERVICES

Published and Unclaimed

GEPUBLICEEERD or published was service of PO of written notice in local paper as to mail waiting for pickup in effect at the Poste Restante counter.



ONAFGEHAALD or unclaimed marking indicating that the item was never called for at the PO counter and sent to the Unclaimed mail division in Pretoria.



Registered Mail

Johannesburg 27 Jan 94 via CT 30 Jan and London 19 Feb to San Marino.

Registration caused card to be treated as letter. 4d for registration and 4d letter rate.

Rare commercial usage.

LATE USES

The Vurtheim design was replaced with the Shaft design ordered July 1894. A design error was discovered and a corrected design shipped in July 1895 not arriving until late in the year. Stock of the Vurtheim issues continued to be used even after the rate changes of 6 September 1895 and 1 January 1898.



Late usage after arrival of 50,000 of the Shafts design of 1894. Johannesburg 4 June 1895 to Graaff Reinet 7 June.



Convenience over-franking 15 days after rate change to ½d. Lydenburg 21 Sep 1895 to Middelburg 22 Sep. ½d Disselboom cards were not available until March 96, long after the rate change.

Proper but late foreign use of old design replaced by new Shafts and Disselboom issues of 1894 and 1895 respectively. Spelonk-en 14 Oct 96 to Germany 10 Nov.



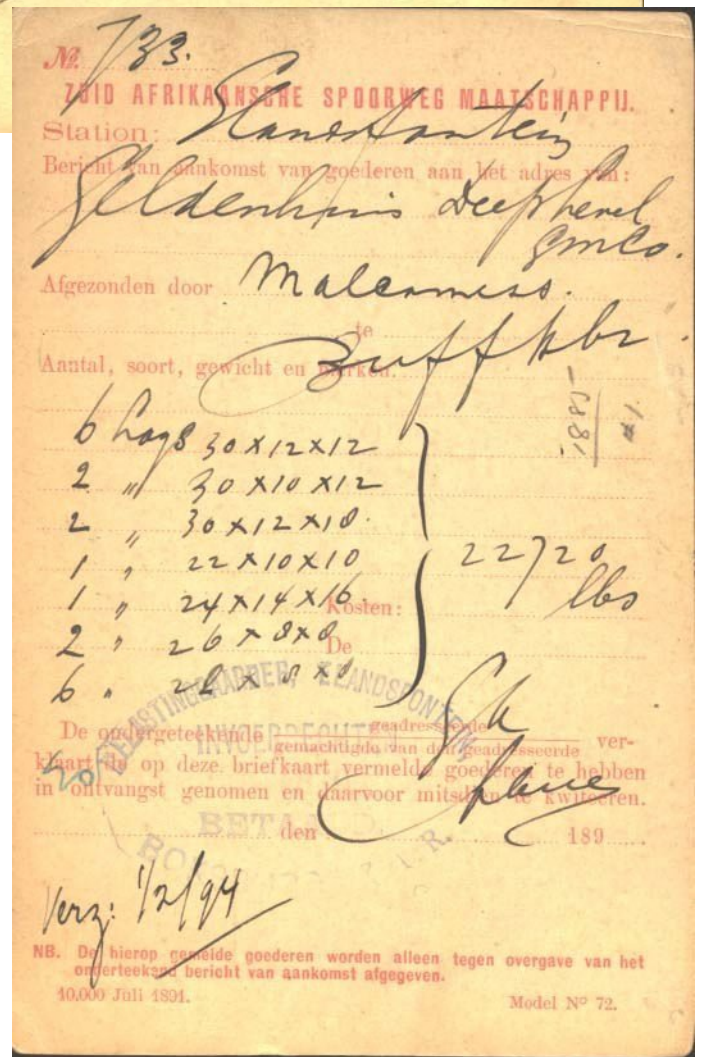
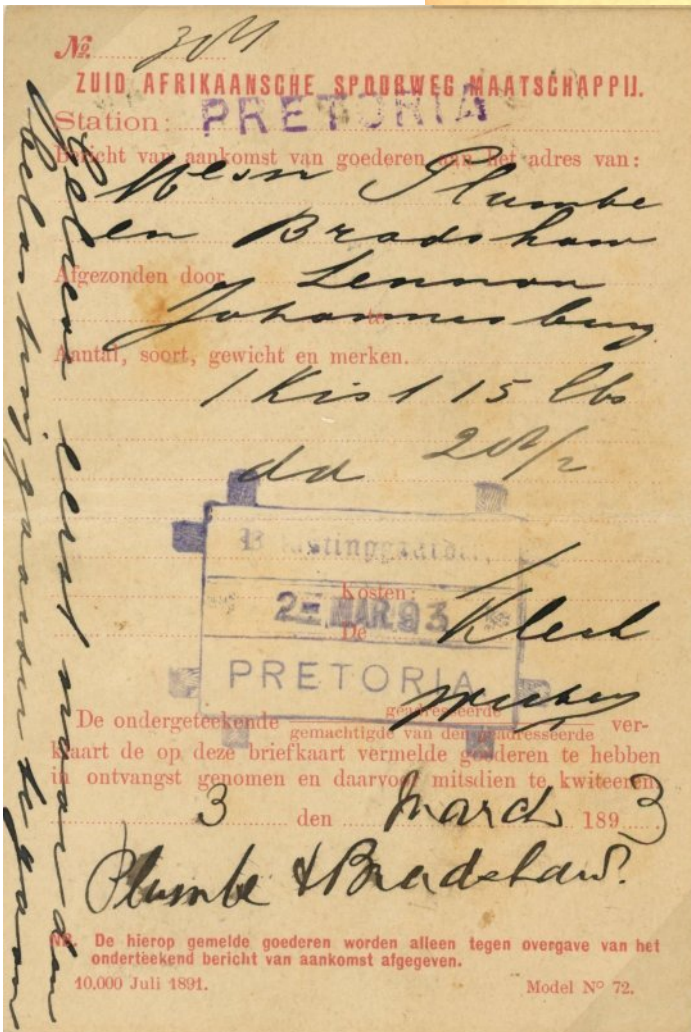
1d NZASM PARCEL FORMS Juli 1891 Printing

The Nederlandsche Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorweg Maatschappij (Netherlands South African Railway Company) required a notification format advising arrival of goods awaiting collection. Enschede printed the cards in sheets of 20 and shipped 10,000 sometime in 1892 arriving January 1893. Why dated Juli 1891? Possibly to coincide with the order/printing timing. The cards were in addition to the regular cards, the instructions added were in red.

Used at the Johannesburg Station 23 January 1893.

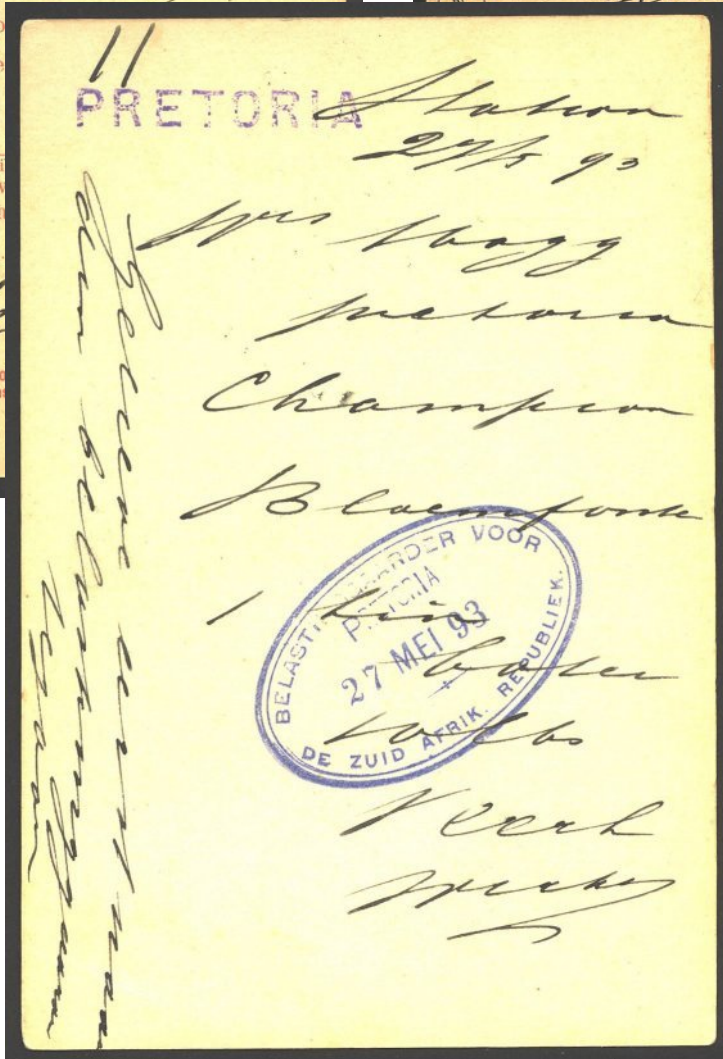
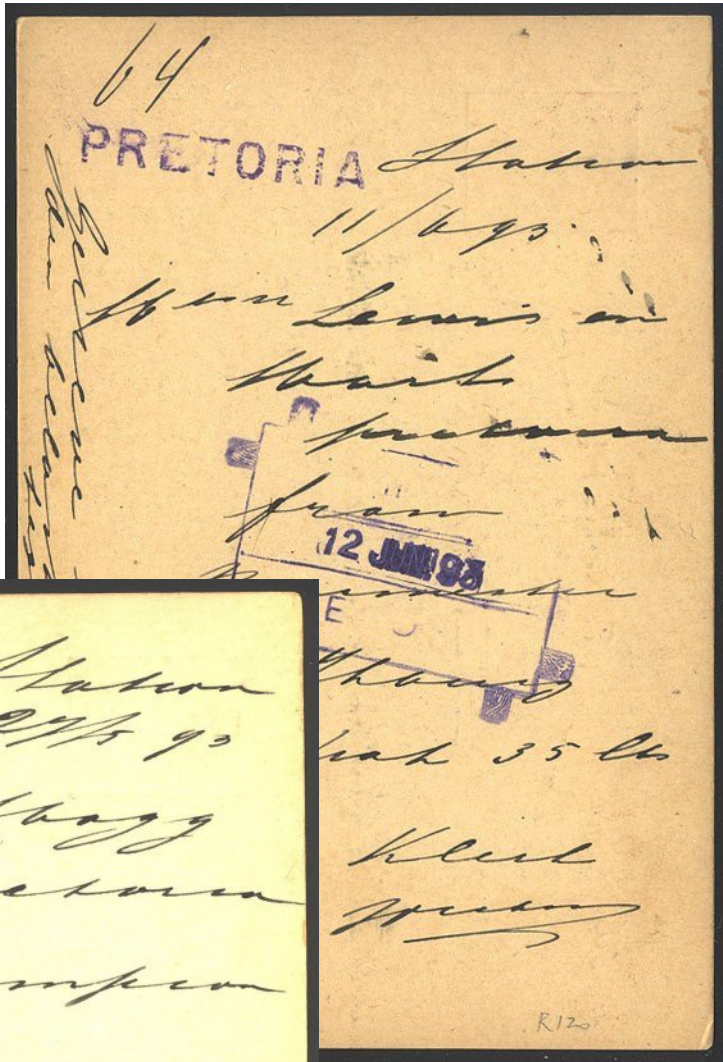
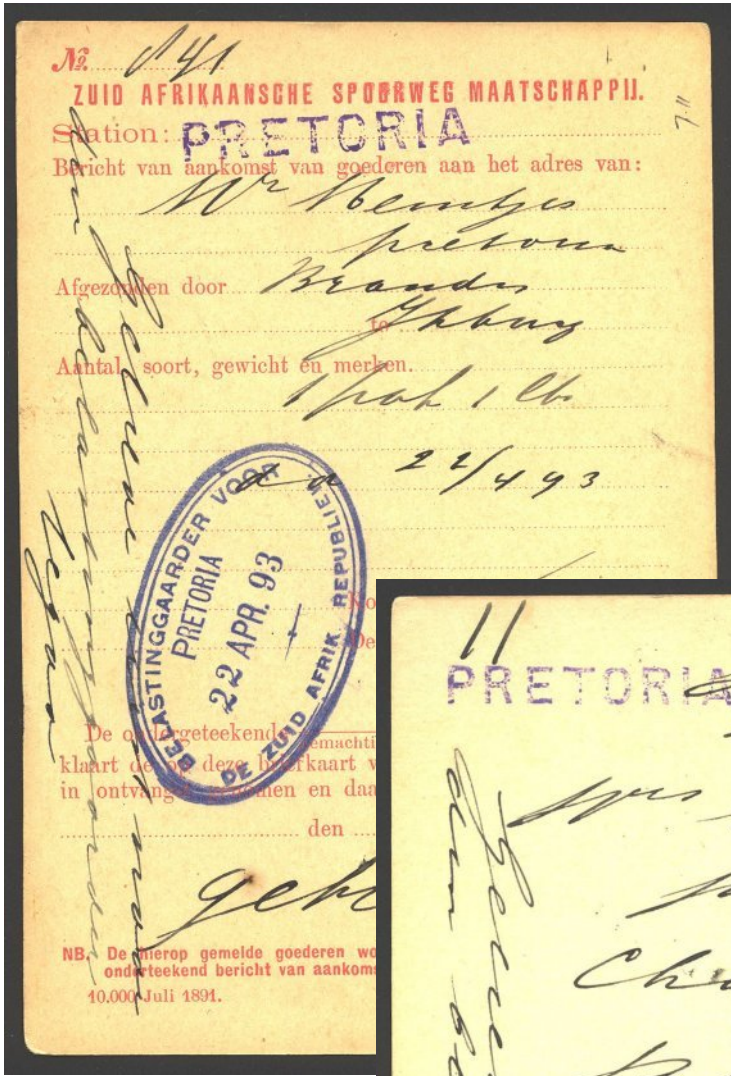
Earliest recorded use.

2 Examples used Pretoria and Elandsfontein. Both with Customs Officer showing payment of duty and delivery charges.



NZASM PARCEL FORMS Provisional Issue May-June 1893

Late in April, the first shipment of the cards ran out necessitating the use of the later printings of the regular card for notification of parcel arrivals. The station hand stamp was placed at the top with manuscript Station and date added along with instructions. The new shipment dated Jan. 1893 arrived in late June.



Late use of Juli 1891 card above with oval hand stamp of station agent in charge of collecting fees and release of parcels. Belastinggaarder meaning revenue or customs collector.

These were made for each railway station as at least 15 different ones are known by the exhibitor. *

2 examples of provisional use. Above example with unusual boxed cancel showing pick up of parcel and payment of duty.

At least 25 different station marks have been recorded by the exhibitor, most are quite rare. Uncommonly they are used as cancel devices. *

1d NZASM PARCEL FORMS Juli 1893 Printing

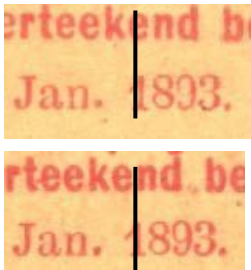
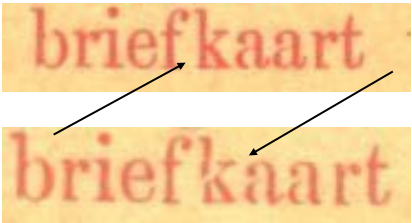
A further order was placed with Enschede with a shipment of 10,000 first used sometime in late June 1893 and a final shipment of 25,000 in November which was used well into 1896. The date of Jan. 1893 probably indicates a printing order which was not changed for the later shipment. These are questions that are not answered by the Enschede archives.

NB. De hierop gemelde ondertekend bericht
10.000 Jan. 1893.

Blowup above for new order.

Examples below both from Elandsfontein May and Jun 96 with sequential numbers. Former from June printing and later from November printing.

Based upon dates of use, the two printings can be separated based upon a flaw in the **k** of **briefkaart**, sixth line from the bottom of the reverse (Strawser). This damage may have occurred during the resetting of the date. Also the alignment of the 1 of 1893 is different the June printing having the 1 under the **e** of **ondertekend** and the November printing between the **e** and **n**. *



June printing
Nov printing

N^o 1757
ZUID AFRIKAANSCH E SPOORWEG MAATSCHAPPIJ.
 Station: **EELANDSFONTEIN**
 Bericht van aankomst van goederen aan het adres van:
A. Shures Shepherd
 Afgezonden door *Shepherd* te *Shepherd*
 Aantal, soort, gewicht en merken:
2 bags meal
5 bags Rice
4470 lb
 Kosten: *0.19.0*
 De *ambtenaar*
 De ondergeteekende *[Signature]* geadresseerde gemachtigde van den geadresseerde verklaart de op deze briefkaart vermelde goederen te hebben in ontvangst genomen en daarvoor mitsdien te kwijteeren.
 den *[Signature]* 189
 NB. De hierop gemelde goederen worden alleen tegen overgave van het ondertekend bericht van aankomst afgegeven.
 10.000 Jan. 1893. Model N^o 72.

N^o 2387 *10/6 96*
ZUID AFRIKAANSCH E SPOORWEG MAATSCHAPPIJ.
 Station: **EELANDSFONTEIN**
 Bericht van aankomst van goederen aan het adres van:
S. Simon
 Afgezonden door *S. Gidon & Co.* te *Johannesburg*
 Aantal, soort, gewicht en merken:
2 Bedsteds } 130
1 Matras } 130
 Kosten: *5045* *1-6*
 De *[Signature]*
 De ondergeteekende *[Signature]* geadresseerde gemachtigde van den geadresseerde verklaart de op deze briefkaart vermelde goederen te hebben in ontvangst genomen en daarvoor mitsdien te kwijteeren.
 den *[Signature]* 189
 NB. De hierop gemelde goederen worden alleen tegen overgave van het ondertekend bericht van aankomst afgegeven.
 10.000 Jan. 1893. Model N^o 72.