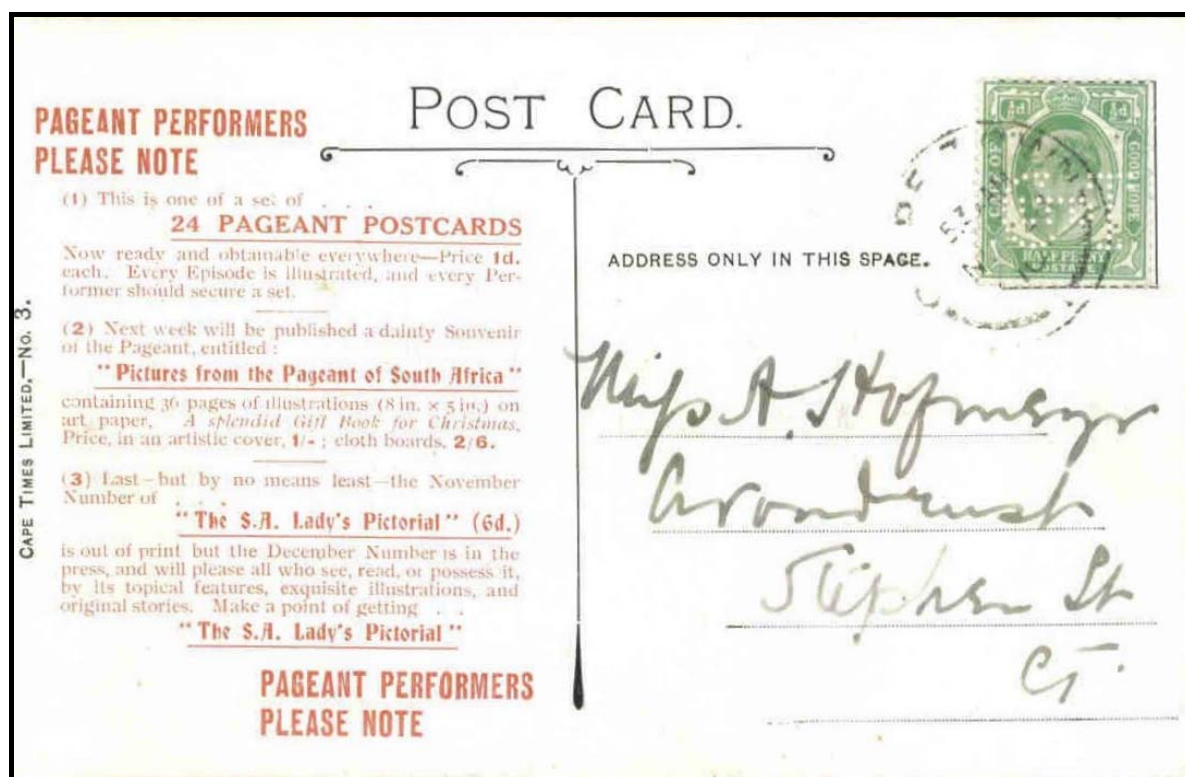


THE CAPE TIMES PERFIN

Brian Dennis

The Cape Times is a popular English language newspaper in Cape Town and the Western Cape. First published in March 1876, under the editorship of Frederick York St Leger, it is still widely read every morning by a large number of South Africans, including myself. Although mainly known as publishers of newspapers and journals, the Cape Times described itself in 1908 as “printers, engravers, bookbinders and manufacturing stationers”.

A recent article, by Chris Oliver, was published in the Stamp Lover (October 2007) on the Cape Town Pageant of 1910. It covered a series of 24 postcards that had been printed by the Cape Times to illustrate this historic pageant. One card used in this article showed a postage stamp with the “CLTDT” perfin of the Cape Times Ltd. This prompted **Dave Hill** to request an article on the perfin itself.



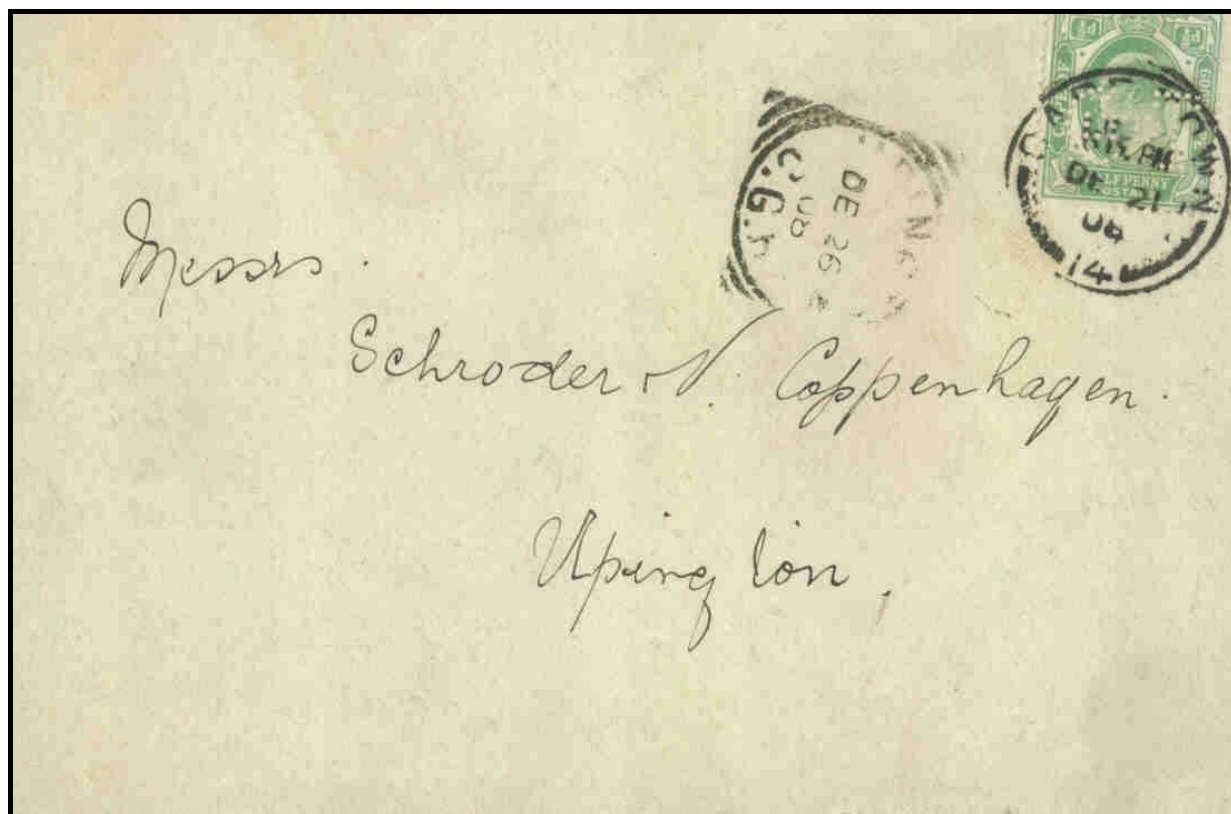
The perfin - Type C5 in the African Catalogue of the Perfins Club (editor Bob Schwerdt) - has been recorded on almost 150 postage stamps from the Cape of Good Hope and South Africa. It was used

over the period 1907 to 1915. It is only found with Cape Town cancellations but is recorded on the Cape of Good Hope stamps until 1910, on stamps of all four South African Provinces (when these could be used inter-provincially) and then on the KGV Kings Head stamps of South Africa.

For the record, I have noted this perfin on the following postal issues:-

- Cape of Good Hope. Hope Standing: 3d (SG68)
- Cape of Good Hope. KEVII: ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/-
- Transvaal. KEVII: ½d, 1d, 4d, 6d
- Orange River Colony KEVII: ½d, 1d, 2d, 6d
- Natal. KEVII: ½d, 1d, 3d, 4d
- South Africa. KGV: ½d, 1d, 3d, 4d, 6d

That the user of the perfin was the Cape Times has been recorded on four covers of which two from my collection are illustrated. The perforator has not been seen, but from a study of multiples in my collection it is clear that it had a single row configuration, with at least four dies in the row.



No doubt there is more to be learned from others holding this perfin (please contact me at bdennis@mweb.co.za). However, several collectors have already contributed to my data base, including **Peter Maybury**, a fellow Perfin Society member.