



# De-Mystifying the Line-Engraved Cape of Good Hope Triangles



*Chris Dorn*

*“The Beryllium Guy”*

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# Presentation Outline

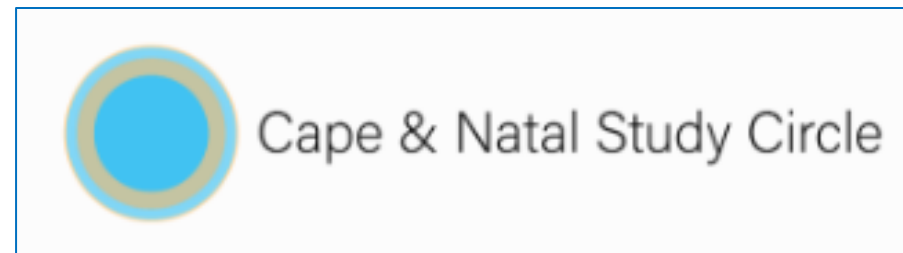
- Introduction
- Brief Overview on Cape Triangles
- Resources for the Collector
  - How to Gain Knowledge
  - Online vs. Traditional
  - Web-based Stamp Communities
- Challenges & Steps to Correct ID
  - Genuine or Forgery
  - The Numbers Game
  - Blued vs. Non-Blued Paper
  - Color & Changelings
  - Print Clarity
  - Comparison to Reference Examples
- Tips in the Current Market
- Low-Cost Fun with Triangles
- Future Projects





# Introduction

- Opening Disclaimer
- Indecision about Specialization
- Very Wary of Forgeries
- A Perfect Storm—Fate?
- The Stamp Forum (TSF)
  - Joined in 2016
  - First philatelic writing in 2017
  - Became a TSF Moderator in 2020
- Former TSF Member
  - Posted many Cape Triangle images
  - Left TSF & deleted his posted images
  - Made it my quest to replace images
- Searched for online images
- Eventually able to see the differences
- Article on how I learned (TSFN, 2021)
- First article on Cape Triangles (CNPJ, 2022)



# Brief Overview on Cape Triangles

- World's First Triangular Stamps
- First Postage Stamps issued in Africa
- History Well Documented
  - Allis, 1930
  - Stevenson, 1950
  - Famous Story of Stanley Gibbons Sea-Bag Acquisition from Sailors
  - More recent books and articles
- Two Printers
  - Perkins Bacon
  - De La Rue
  - Paper
  - Inks
  - Printing Methods
  - High Degree of Variation



Source: Lajer, Victoria. *The Tale of Triangles*. Stanley Gibbons Ltd. website, published Jul-2021, accessed 04-Feb-2023.

[The Tale of Triangles \(stanleygibbons.com\)](https://www.stanleygibbons.com)

Image Credit: [The history and heritage of Stanley Gibbons](#)

# Resources for the Collector

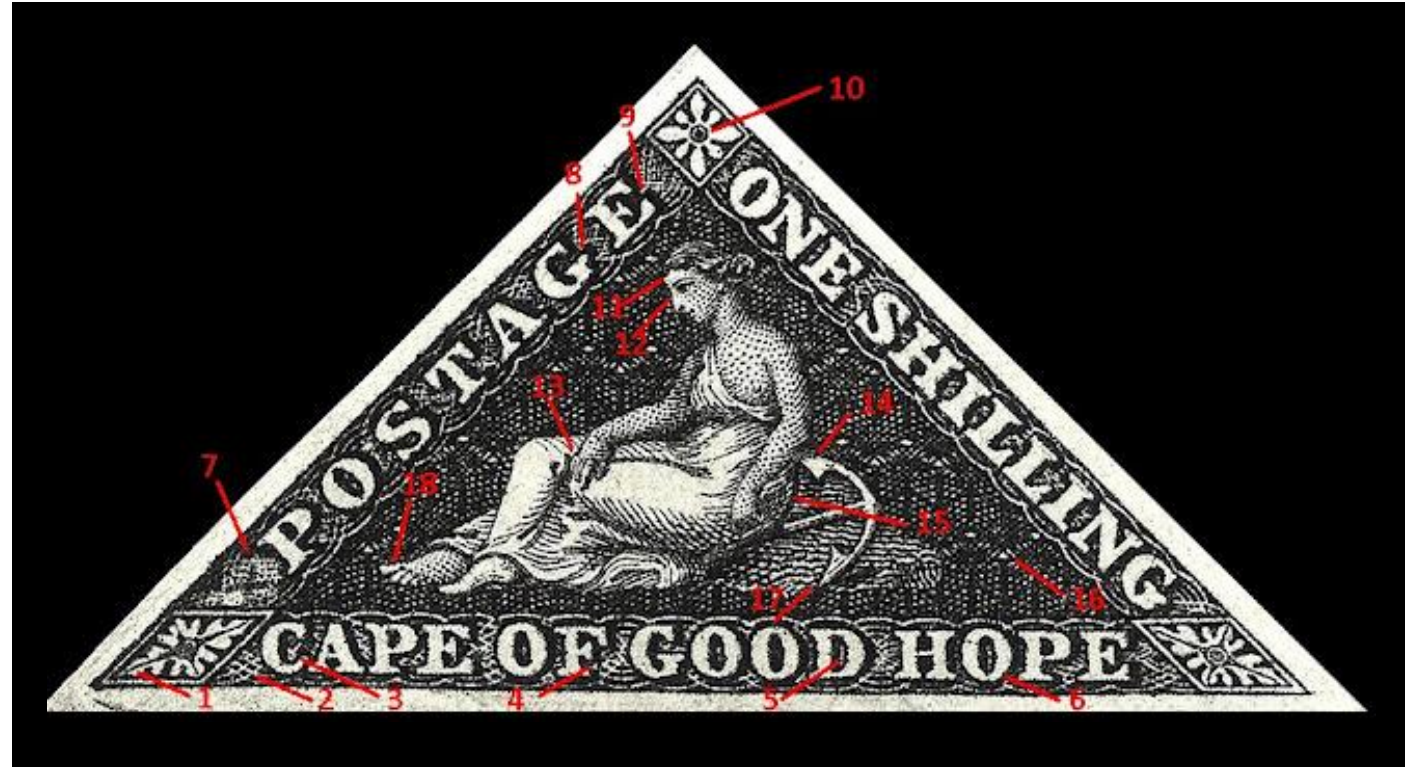
- How to Gain Knowledge
  - Trusted sources, recommendations
  - Challenge the status quo?
- Traditional
  - Major WW Stamp Catalogues
  - Allis & Stevenson
  - Auction Catalogues
- Online
  - Big Blue 1840-1940 Stamp Blog
  - Stamp Forgeries
  - Classic Stamp Forgeries
- Web-based Stamp Communities
  - The Stamp Forum
  - Stampboards
  - Stamp Bears





# Challenges & Steps to Correct ID

- Many Variables
- Genuine or Forgery
  - Websites
  - Books
- The Numbers Game
- Blued vs. Non-Blued Paper
  - How to determine
  - So-called “White” paper
- Color & Changelings
  - Perkins Bacon vs. De La Rue
  - Sulfuretted
- Print Clarity
  - Perkins Bacon vs. De La Rue
- Comparison to Reference Examples



Source: Marleau, Ron. *Cape of Good Hope, Part 1*. Classic Stamp Forgeries blog website, posted on 25-Apr-2021; accessed on 05-Feb-2023.

<https://stampforgeries.blogspot.com/2021/04/cape-of-good-hope.html>

# Genuine or Forgery



Source: Munck, Morten. *Forged Stamps of Cape of Good Hope*. Stamp Forgeries website accessed on 05-Feb-2023.  
<http://stampforgeries.com/forged-stamps-of-cape-of-good-hope/>

# The Numbers Game

## SUMMARY OF QUANTITIES (IN THOUSANDS) OF STAMPS OF EACH DENOMINATION AND PRINTING

	ISSUE I: PERKINS BACON	ISSUE II: WOODBLOCKS	ISSUE III: DE LA RUE	TOTAL
1d.	(a) 1,970 (b) 3,880	125	1,223	7,198
4d.	7,010	113	1,264	8,387
6d.	(a) 400 (b) 520	—	96	1,016
1s.	380	—	38	418
Totals	14,160	238	2,621	17,019

- 1-Penny (1d.)
  - PB 83%, DLR 17%
- 4-Pence (4d.)
  - PB 85%, DLR 15%
- 6-Pence (6d.)
  - PB 91%, DLR 9%
- 1-Shilling (1s.)
  - PB 91%, DLR 9%

Source: Stevenson, D. Alan. *The Triangular Stamps of Cape of Good Hope*, H.R. Harmer Ltd., 1950.





# Blued vs. Non-Blued Paper



More

Less

Non

Source: Dorn, Christopher. Composite image created from posted images on The Stamp Forum, accessed on 05-Feb-2023.  
[Cape of Good Hope: Triangular Issues, 1853-1864 | The Stamp Forum \(TSF\) \(boards.net\)](https://boards.net/threads/cape-of-good-hope-triangular-issues-1853-1864)



# Color & Changelings (1)



Source: Dorn, Christopher. "Cape of Good Hope Triangles: The 4-Pence Blue De La Rue Issues, 1863-1864". *Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal (CNPJ)*, Vol. 26, No. 3 (103), September 2022.  
[Cape and Natal Study Circle \(capenatalstamps.com\)](http://capenatalstamps.com)

# Color & Changelings (2)



Source: Dorn, Christopher. "Cape of Good Hope Triangles: The 4-Pence Blue De La Rue Issues, 1863-1864". *Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal (CNPJ)*, Vol. 26, No. 3 (103), September 2022.  
[Cape and Natal Study Circle \(capenatalstamps.com\)](http://capenatalstamps.com)



# Color & Changelings (3)



Sources: Left image: Switt, Jeff. Cape of Good Hope: Triangular Issues, 1853-1864. The Stamp Forum. Posted 26-Nov-2022.

<https://thestampforum.boards.net/post/157027/thread> (Digitally cropped from posted image.)

Right image: Dorn, Christopher. "Cape of Good Hope Triangles: The 4-Pence Blue De La Rue Issues, 1863-1864".

*Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal (CNPJ)*, Vol. 26, No. 3 (103), September 2022. [Cape and Natal Study Circle \(capenatalstamps.com\)](http://capenatalstamps.com)

# Print Clarity (1)



Source: Dorn, Christopher. "Cape of Good Hope Triangles: The 4-Pence Blue De La Rue Issues, 1863-1864". *Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal (CNPJ)*, Vol. 26, No. 3 (103), September 2022. [Cape and Natal Study Circle \(capenatalstamps.com\)](http://capenatalstamps.com)



# Print Clarity (2)



Light  
Patchiness



Source: Dorn, Christopher. "Cape of Good Hope Triangles: The 4-Pence Blue De La Rue Issues, 1863-1864". *Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal (CNPJ)*, Vol. 26, No. 3 (103), September 2022.  
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# Print Clarity (3)



Source: Dorn, Christopher. Composite image created from posted images on The Stamp Forum, accessed on 05-Feb-2023.  
[Cape of Good Hope: Triangular Issues, 1853-1864 | The Stamp Forum \(TSF\) \(boards.net\)](#)

# Comparison to Reference Examples (1)



Source: Dorn, Christopher. "Cape of Good Hope Triangles: The 4-Pence Blue De La Rue Issues, 1863-1864". *Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal (CNPJ)*, Vol. 26, No. 3 (103), September 2022.  
[Cape and Natal Study Circle \(capenatalstamps.com\)](http://capenatalstamps.com)

Left image credit: Stanley Gibbons Ltd., reproduced with permission.



# Comparison to Reference Examples (2)



Source: Dorn, Christopher. "Cape of Good Hope Triangles: The 4-Pence Blue De La Rue Issues, 1863-1864". *Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal (CNPJ)*, Vol. 26, No. 3 (103), September 2022.

[Cape and Natal Study Circle \(capenatalstamps.com\)](http://capenatalstamps.com)

Left image credit: Stanley Gibbons Ltd., reproduced with permission.



# Comparison to Reference Examples (3)



Source: Dorn, Christopher. "Cape of Good Hope Triangles: The 4-Pence Blue De La Rue Issues, 1863-1864". *Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal (CNPJ)*, Vol. 26, No. 3 (103), September 2022.  
[Cape and Natal Study Circle \(capenatalstamps.com\)](http://capenatalstamps.com)

Left image credit: Stanley Gibbons Ltd., reproduced with permission.

# Tips in the Current Market

- The three most important factors
- Price vs. Risk
  - Get to Know the Sellers
  - Major Auction Houses
  - Established Dealers
  - eBay, Delcampe, HipStamp, etc.
- Online Buying
  - Image Quality
  - Fronts & Backs
  - Print Clarity
  - Look for Details
- Expertizing
  - Requires in-depth expertise
  - SG cites BPA as “gold standard”



Source: Dorn, Christopher. “With or Without Stamps: Developing Philatelic Expertise in the Digital Age”. *The Stamp Forum Newsletter (TSFN)*, Vol. 5, Issue 3, April-June 2021. <https://thestampforum.boards.net/post/119155/thread>



# Low-Cost Fun with Triangles

- Related Areas to Collect
  - Stamps-on-Stamps Topical
  - Cinderellas with Cape Triangles
- Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Cinderellas
  - Use as Decorative Labels
  - Commemorate Events
- Triangle Birthday Celebration





# Future Projects

*“Separation of the various complicated shades and printings of the 4d De La Rue stamps on a simple yet truly scientific basis with dates of issue is needed greatly and is the most important question that still faces philatelists in connection with Cape triangulars.”*

— D. Alan Stevenson, 1950

- Color Shade Study
  - Color Recognition Software
  - Comparisons to Resources
    - SG Color Key
    - Maxwell Joseph Auction Catalogue
    - Non-philatelic standards?
- Soaking Study
  - Water
  - Hydrogen Peroxide
- Catalogue Revisions?
  - Numbering & Descriptions
  - SG: Paper More or Less Blued
  - Scott: Lightly Blued & Bluish Paper?
  - Include Print Clarities?





**Thank You  
Very Much for  
Your Kind  
Attention**

Please feel free to contact me at:

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