

# CANCELLERS AND MARKINGS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAYS

By Alex Visser


## PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION

The information on Railway cancellers and markings is presented by Office name in a standard format, which is constructed as shown in the example below:

The upper row represents NAME, PROVINCE, SAR LETTER CODE, CSE numerical code, Section of line and comments. In 1981 the SAR modified some of the letter codes. Two or three letter codes are separated by “/”.

The second row shows illustrations as well comments related to the illustrations.

The third row shows the sequence number, and the dimensions and style. The last two lines show the earliest (ER) and latest (LR) recorded date together with the source of the information. The contributor names are included in the acknowledgements.

<b>AFRIKASKOP</b>	O	AKP	426	Ladysmith - Bethlehem
				
No. 1	31 x 26 mm DO	No. 2		
ER	29.8.1967 AV	ER		
LR		LR		

The postmark typology developed is to facilitate the extraction of common information, particularly in computer searches. The scheme is based on the one developed by Nethersole and presented by Frescura (2002) for Cape postmarks. This has been adjusted for the South African Railways where the Hagen and Naylor input was included. The typology is indicated as follows:

SC Single Circle	SO Single Oval	R.HD Rectangle-Horizontal Divisions
DC Double Circle	DO Double Oval	R.NHD Rectangle-No Horizontal Divisions
TC Triple Circle	TO Triple Oval	R.UB Rectangle-Unboxed
NS Negative Sealer		

The ER and LR dates are presented as dd.mm.yyyy in numerals. There was no consistent style for the dates as DD MM YY or as MM DD YY with the month date in letters - at some offices one arrangement would be used and then later the alternate arrangement of the order of dates, and then revert back e.g. 13 JA 1900 or JA 13 1900. Variants are not described, but most will be similar to the illustrations.

## EARLIEST AND LATEST RECORDED USAGE – ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Information was provided by a number of sources that are gratefully acknowledged. The information is referenced using the following abbreviations:

AV	Alex Visser – SA	RP	Roger Porter – SA
BP	Bas Payne– UK	JC	John Carter - SA
MF	Morgan Farrell – USA	GH	†George van der Hurk
PUT	Putzel (1986/90) and (1992/2003)	EB	Ebay Auctions

UN	Unknown owner	DvZ	Danie van Zyl - SA
HG	Hendrik Geyer – SA	JS	Jan Stolk
HN	Hagen and Naylor (1984)	JD	Johan Diesveld

A special word of thanks is due to Gawie van der Walt who provided material that started this study. Putzel executed a huge task by obtaining date stamps of each station in 1978. Most of the 1978 material are rectangular cachets in purple ink. It is unclear how complete this exercise was.

### NGR GUARD MARKS

Hart, Kantey and Leon (HKL, 1977) give an extensive overview of Rail Letters. Letters conveyed under this system were to be handed to the NGR guard who was provided with a handstamp bearing his name and N.G.R. An extra 1d postage stamp was applied as a railway service fee. This Rail Letter system was not widely used judged by the comparative rarity of such markings. Although not dated, these are important elements of the transport of mail by the N.G.R. HKL only list two marks, but Roger Porter has found four marks as follows:



H. Trundell. with Durban postmark 6 MY 1900



\* A. Beynon with Pinetown postmark 7 JY 1900



J.W.Humby.



P. Lestt...

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