

The result of 40 years of research into the workings of the Cape colonial Post Office, this book offers a credible history and chronology of postal management at the GPO in Cape Town during the 19th century. Faced with a dearth of archival data, Franco Frescura has used basic postal information drawn from personal collections of colleagues worldwide to reconstruct events during the colonial era.

For many years Jurgens' supposedly seminal publication has remained the starting point for students of Cape postal history, despite the fact that Douglas Roth and others have since unmasked him as a fraud. In this important work Franco Frescura shows that Jurgens was not simply a forger of postal documents but that, when it suited him, he also invented historical facts, and thus cannot be relied upon. (Hugh Amooore, 2017)

The outcome, in most cases, contradicts the assumptions made by previous researchers in this field, making this book a valuable addition to the libraries of researchers of Cape history and the development of its colonial infrastructure.

Frescura's reputation as a meticulous researcher and author on Cape philately is well-established. Based on the acclaim received by previous works, this offering is a "must have" for both stamp collectors and postal historians. One of the primary goals of philatelic study is to share new findings and analysis, and Franco's latest book will be gratefully added to my library. (Michael Wigmore, RDPSA. Chairman, Philatelic Federation of South Africa Expert Committee)

Franco Frescura read architecture at the University of the Witwatersrand and was awarded a PhD in 1986. He is perhaps best known for his research in the rural architecture of Southern Africa, and has published eleven books and more than 300 papers and articles on a variety of subjects, including a two-volume opus on the *Post Offices of the Cape of Good Hope, 1792-1910*, which received a number of local and international awards. In 1994 he took up the position of Senior Manager (Philately) at the South African Post Office and until 1999 was responsible for the design and production of the country's stamps. In November 2002 he returned to academia as Professor and Chair of the Department of Architecture, at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He has lectured extensively as Visiting Professor both locally and overseas and is currently Honorary Professor and Senior Research Associate at UKZN.

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