



Sheetlines

The journal of
THE CHARLES CLOSE SOCIETY
for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps

“A rubber stamp in the Ordnance Survey,
1877”

Richard T Porter

Sheetlines, 84 (April 2009), p.59

Stable URL: <http://www.charlesclosesociety.org/files/Issue84page59.pdf>

*This article is provided for personal, non-commercial use only.
Please contact the Society regarding any other use of this work.*

Published by
THE CHARLES CLOSE SOCIETY
for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps
www.CharlesCloseSociety.org

The Charles Close Society was founded in 1980 to bring together all those with an interest in the maps and history of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and its counterparts in the island of Ireland. The Society takes its name from Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close, OS Director General from 1911 to 1922, and initiator of many of the maps now sought after by collectors.

The Society publishes a wide range of books and booklets on historic OS map series and its journal, *Sheetlines*, is recognised internationally for its specialist articles on Ordnance Survey-related topics.

A rubber stamp in the Ordnance Survey, 1877

ORDNANCE SURVEY OFFICE,
SOUTHAMPTON,

22nd October, 1877.

MR. ROSE,

In reply to your note, I have the satisfaction of informing you that the India Rubber Stamp supplied by you to this department in July last, has already yielded over 12,000 impressions, and that an impression made to-day appears to be as sharp and clear as those produced when the stamp was purchased.

R. M. PARSONS,

Lieut.-Col. Royal Engineers.

This testimonial in *The Southampton Directory* appeared in the four-page advertisement of 'Henry Rose, manufacturer of India-Rubber Hand Stamps, (By a process Invented by himself) 164, High Street, Southampton'.¹

The couple of dozen stamps that Rose illustrated regrettably omit an impression of that supplied to OS, so the question is, what did it depict for OS to use it 12,000 times in under four months (120 times a day)? A revised price? But not, presumably, of the one-inch, which seems to have been stable at 2/6 per full sheet or 1/- per quarter sheet in this period.²

Richard T Porter

¹ W Cox (compiler), *The Southampton Directory. 1878. For the borough and the surrounding neighbourhood*, Southampton: 'Hants Independent' Office, 1878, between pp 8 and 9 of the advertisement section.

² *The Old Series Ordnance Survey maps of England and Wales, VIII*, Lympne Castle: Harry Margary, 1991. Introduction to carto-bibliography by R R Oliver, xxxii.