“A rubber stamp in the Ordnance Survey, 1877”
Richard T Porter
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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 today 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

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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.