

## Under the Magnifying Glass: No.16 Victorian Datestamp Challenges by Malcolm Barton and Kim Stuckey

One area of Falklands collecting that can still be rewarded by a trip to a Stamp Fair is the purchase of a nice datestamp on a Victorian stamp. It is also a subject that has not been discussed in detail recently in Upland Goose. So we use this edition of Under the Magnifying Glass to challenge our readers to look again at what can be a rewarding area of collecting for finding new or unusual items.

This article concentrates on the first Stanley Post Office datestamp, type F.1, which appeared on the first Black Frank cover.



**Figure 1 – F.1 Datestamp plus some interesting variations**

The datestamp can be distinguished by its narrow band between the outer and inner circle, some 7½mm, compared to the other Port Stanley cancellers.

Figure 1 above shows from left to right:

- An example of the F.1 cancel for DE 11 1896.
- You can sometimes see loose type in the F.1 cancel, here the “16” of the MY 16 1895 cancel is shifted upwards.
- A small “10” in the OC 10 1896 cancel.
- A small “29” in the OC 29 1896 cancel.
- An inverted “28” day of the month in the 28 OC 1899 cancel. This also occurs on the 31<sup>st</sup> December.

Stefan’s catalogue shows six varieties for the F.1 cancel, these are shown below:



**Figure 2 – The Six Listed F.1 varieties in the Heijtz catalogue**

Figure 2 shows the F.1 varieties from left to right:

- F.1v1 “190C” (OC inverted) only known on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1900. The “OC” is higher in the year frame than the “19”. This would be a great find in a dealer stockbook!
- F.1v2 “190C” (uniform size), known between 13<sup>th</sup> January – 8<sup>th</sup> February
- F.1v3 “190C” (large OC), known between 9<sup>th</sup> February – 13<sup>th</sup> May
- F.1v4 small “1900”, known between 23<sup>rd</sup> May – 20<sup>th</sup> June
- F.1v5 “OC19”, only known on 6<sup>th</sup> February. Finding one of these would also be rewarding!
- F.1v6 year abbreviated to two figures, known from 25<sup>th</sup> August to 13<sup>th</sup> December 1899.



**Figure 3 – A couple of F.1v3 date variations**

There are also some date variations, further to the year varieties for F.1. Two of these are shown in Figure 3 above. On the left is F.1v3 for the 20<sup>th</sup> April 1900 with the “20” inverted (Barnes also reports the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> with days inverted) and on the right is a large “MR” for March (Barnes reports all March dates have this variation).

From looking at the postmark collections of Wilf Vevers and Sir Geoffrey Palmer, we are able to add some more dates to the listing of 1900 dates in Bob Barnes book on p16. These are:

F.1v1 1 JA 190C (OC inverted)

F.1v2 JA 16 190C                      JA 18 190C

F.1v3 MR 10 190C                      MR 16 190C (16 inverted)                      AP 3 190C                      17 MY 190C

F.1v4 MY 23 1900                      MY 25 1900                      JU 13 1900

F.1v5 6 FE 190C (OC inverted)

We would welcome any more dates you have to add into an updated listing. As Bob Barnes stated, especially with the F.1v4 (small 1900), take care that you don't have a WF.2 cancel used in the same period in Fox Bay Post Office.

We hope that this article on the F.1 datestamp inspires you to look out for nice cancels on your travels around stamp fairs and dealers. In a future article we will look at the F.2 and F.3 cancels to complete the story of Falkland Islands Victorian datestamps.

References: Specialised Stamp Catalogue of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies by Stefan Heijtz 6<sup>th</sup> Edition p122.

The Postal Cancellations of the Falkland Islands by Bob Barnes p15-17.

Acknowledgements: Wilf Vevers and Sir Geoffrey Palmer for access to their superb postmark collections.