

Under the Magnifying Glass: No.22 A New West Falkland Find by Malcolm Barton and Kim Stuckey



The ubiquitous eBay occasionally throws up a gem amongst all the first day covers and strangely priced Falklands offerings. In a mixed postmark lot of some five stamps including a nice London cancel on a Queen Victoria stamp was a rather unprepossessing (some might say scruffy looking!) Queen Victoria 1d with a killer cancel and a datestamp.

It takes a bit of deciphering to work out that we have something we believe to be unique in Falklands philately, the only example of a stamp cancelled with **BOTH** the WF.1 obliterator and the WF.2 datestamp.

All appears to be genuine, there are some forgeries of the WF.1 cancel, but this example does not appear to show the left hand serif of the “W” bending to the right, which is a way of spotting the forgery.

The only listed date we have (see Under the Magnifying Glass No. 18) for August 1901 is the 5th August. The day part of the cancel, although covered by the obliterator, could be a “5”, but doesn’t look quite right for this. Perhaps a “3”. What do you think?



To help with identification of the cancels we used the Retroreveal programme (well worth finding out about if you collect postmarks and are fairly computer literate – it is a free image processing programme found at www.retroreveal.org). An image from the Retroreveal processing shows a better contrast of the postmarks against the stamp, with the “WFI” of the killer obliterator being clearer and the “W” of the West Falkland WF.2 canceller being seen at the bottom right hand corner of the stamp.

Always keep your eyes peeled for interesting buys on eBay or in dealer’s stock books at stamp fairs. There may well be another WF.1 / WF.2 combination stamp out there!

Another interesting find on eBay was not spotted by many, given its low sell price of £12! What may seem to be an incomplete Falkland Islands cancellation actually has a “W” showing at the bottom (circled here), that means it is another WF.2 cancellation. It is nice for two reasons

- (i) It is on the QV 6d orange-yellow, not an easy stamp to find a WF.2 cancellation on. We have four in our listing of cancellations.
- (ii) It is a new date for the WF.2 cancellation listing of SP 22 1900. This is our first known September 1900 date. The listing will be kept up to date with new additions on the “Online Resources” page at www.fipsg.org.uk.



Reference:

Specialised Stamp Catalogue of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies 6th Edition by Stefan Falkland Heijtz.