

Falkland Islands Forgeries

Jeff Turnbull - The G.B. Perfins Society

[Reprinted with permission from the *G.B. Perfin Society Bulletin*; Volume 362, Page 16]

Jeff Turnbull writes in relation to five copies of a “perfin” that have recently appeared on eBay.

I saw this item (Figures 1 and 2) on eBay and I thought other members might be interested to hear that I and other perfin collectors think that it is a fake perfin!! You can clearly see the excess punch marks on the back of this stamp (Figure 3).



Figure 1
Scott #17 (9d
Orange-vermilion)



Figure 2
Back of Scott #17
showing forged
perfin

The dealer selling the perfin also had four other CW perfins for sale. I have written to eBay expressing my concern, in that they may be forgeries.

In over 10 years on eBay I have only ever seen one of these CW perfins for sale (and that was 2 weeks ago) it sold for over £250.00 Then suddenly this

dealer in Hong Kong has five for sale!!!! The CW perfin does not match up to the original die, the W being much wider at the top and the C holes being different. Two of the values for sale are also not recorded as being perfined.

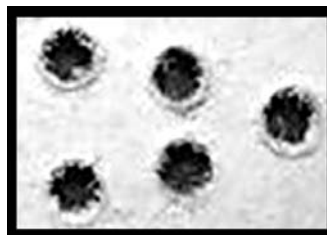


Figure 3
Enlarged section of back of stamp.
Note that the paper clearly stands
proud of the back of the stamp.

A couple of years ago I was warned of a dealer in Hong Kong who was producing forgeries of China perfins, this warning came from the China Study Circle (this could well be the same dealer).

[Ed (Maurice Harp): The five values for sale were Queen Victoria ½d green and 9d Orange-vermilion, and Edward VII ½d Green, 1d Red, 2d and 2½d Ultramarine 1/- etc.. George V 2d, 6d. Caveat Emptor. More of these forgeries can be seen on the Falklands Islands Philatelic Study Group website www.fipsg.org.uk.]

PERFINS

There is only one recorded perfin (security puncture) on Falkland Islands stamps. It was used by Charles Williams who operated a private banking, retail and trading business in Stanley. The period of use was between 1900 and 1915.



“C W” perfin (often inverted and/or reversed) on QV, KEVII or KGV stamps£350 NK

Excerpt from page 234 of

The Specialized Stamp Catalogue of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies Including Postal History and Cancellations 1800-2006 with British Antarctic Territory and also Paper Money, Coins and Telephone Cards.

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Editor's Note of Explanation - Falkland Islands Forgeries

Over the past several months, I have received emails from several Perfin Club members [Alan Sandy (LM#2539) , Bruce Brunell (#2831), Doug Turner (LM#2549) and others] with a warning that Falkland Islands forged perfins were being offered on eBay.

I also received a similar email from Maurice Harp, Editor of the *G.B. Perfin Society Bulletin*, indicating that he planned to publish an article about these items in the October 2009 of their Bulletin. Rather than trying to develop our own article and give this situation more credit that it is due, we decided to reprint the G.B. Perfin Society article that appears, slightly reworded, on page 16.

Subsequent to and completely unrelated to these emails, Perfin Club member Carl Faulkner (LM#70) emailed me concerning this same issue. Carl is also the North American Representative of the Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group. In that capacity, he

referred me to Mr. Stefan Heijtz.

Stefan is an expert on Falkland Islands philately and the Editor and Publisher of *The Specialized Stamp Catalogue of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies Including Postal History and Cancellations 1800-2006 with British Antarctic Territory and also Paper Money, Coins and Telephone Cards*. Stefan provided the additional information about these forgeries printed below along with permission to reprint the section from his catalog about the Falkland Islands perfin shown at the bottom of page 16. For detailed information about this catalog, including where to purchase it, go to www.novastmps.com/stefan/Sidor/specFI or contact the Editor for a hard copy of these details.

Many thanks go to all of these individuals for sharing their specialized knowledge on this touchy subject.

More on Falkland Islands Forgeries

Stefan Heijtz - Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group

Many thanks for contacting me in this delicate but sad issue. First of all, the name of the business that used this perfin is Charles Williams and nothing else. Secondly, I very much doubt that these stamps were used much on internal mail since there was very little such mail at this stage. It would be more correct to assume that they were used mainly on mail to England (postal rate 1d) but possibly also on some foreign mail (postal rate 2½d).

I do agree that values higher than 2½d are most unlikely to have been perfined. I have myself a 1d strip of three as well as a single 2½d apart from single 1d stamps. [Editor Note: One of our members commented that: "The perfin was used by Chas Walker only for mail internal to the Islands. So seeing it on anything higher than 2½ pence is quite surprising." Stefan's comments above address this.]

The first stamp that appeared on eBay in July 2009 was a KEVII ½d stamp. This was from a different seller than all the other stamps, but also from somebody in Hong Kong. This stamp was eventually sent to me for examination and sadly it turned out to

be a forgery, but of a different kind than the later ones. All the later examples on eBay came from the same seller and he claims that he bought a large lot of them in good faith. That may be so but they are all forgeries, albeit of two different kinds! So we now know of three different types of forgeries, all with their origin in China or Hong Kong.

The seller of all the later forgeries has been very good in communicating with me, and has sent two examples to me as a gift for my reference collection. He has also agreed that whenever selling these on eBay in the future, he will make it clear that they are not genuine. So far he has kept to that agreement.

So far so good but it is always bad with dangerous forgeries in circulation, of course. So a word of warning to all potential buyers is always useful.

I agree that we should not publish the details of how we can tell that they are forgeries, and I haven't told anybody about all the small details I have discovered. Those are my secrets to be used for examination only!