

# FALKLAND ISLANDS

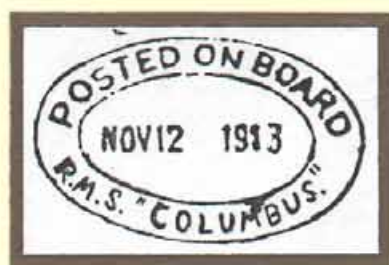
SHIP CANCELLATIONS

1911-13

1911-13? POSTED ON BOARD - RMS "COLUMBUS"

The Columbus belonged to Salvesen & Co. and arrived in the Falkland Islands on 6 April 1911. The vessel immediately went into service under the terms of the contract between the company and the government, and provided a facility for both mail and passengers by linking Stanley with Fox Bay and New Island. The service was maintained up to August 1913.

The few known strikes of this marking are all in brown ink.



# FALKLAND ISLANDS

## SHIP CANCELLATIONS

1914-19 R.M.S. FALKLAND line and POSTED ON BOARD oval datestamp

In 1914 the Falkland Islands Company bought the Wheatchief and renamed it Falkland. A few months later the Falkland replaced the Columbus on the coastal run; and carried the mails between Port Stanley and stations in West and East Falkland.

The arrangement continued until late in 1919 when the contract expired.

The straight line R.M.S. FALKLAND is sometimes found alone but more often in combination with the oval POSTED ON BOARD datestamp. It is believed that the oval datestamp used to belong to the Columbus and that the name of the ship which occupied the space between the oval lines below the date; was erased when the datestamp was handed over to the Falkland.

The earliest recorded date is 7 September 1914 and the latest 12 November 1918.

Impressions are violet or black.

R.M.S. FALKLAND



# FALKLAND ISLANDS

SHIP CANCELLATIONS

1922-23

1922-23? "Posted on H.M.C.S. AFTERGLOW"

This marking was probably in use before the introduction of the oval H.M.C.S. "AFTERGLOW" datestamp.  
Very little is known about it and only one cover and a few stamps are known with the marking.

"Posted on H.M.C.S. AFTERGLOW"

"Posted on H.M.C.S. AFTERGLOW"



"Posted on H.M.C.S. AFTERGLOW"



1922? HMS AFTERGLOW in manuscript

It is possible that this was the method used to cancel the stamps on mail before the arrival of any of the cancellations.





# FALKLAND ISLANDS

## SHIP CANCELLATIONS

1923-26 H.M.C.S. "AFTERGLOW" \* POSTED ON BOARD datestamp

In 1921 the Government purchased the H.M.C.S. Afterglow; an Admiralty drifter; for service as an armed patrol boat to protect the seal fishing. The Afterglow also augmented the inter-insular mail service between 1921 and 1926; and in January 1923 one of the crew was appointed mail officer and letters posted on board received a special ship mark.

In 1926 the Afterglow was withdrawn from Government service. The earliest recorded date is March 1923 and the latest 9 August 1926.

Impressions are violet or black.



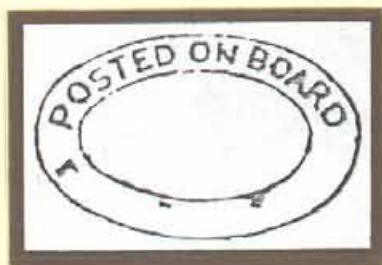
# FALKLAND ISLANDS

SHIP CANCELLATIONS

1927-31

## 1927-31? POSTED ON BOARD

After the withdrawal of the Afterglow in 1926 the Falkland as well as other vessels served the out-lying districts and some time between 1927 and 1931 the old cancellation from the Falkland was used again but this time without the straight line "RMS FALKLAND" and without date.





# *FALKLAND ISLANDS*

## WEST FALKLAND

West Falkland, which in size does not differ greatly from that of the more heavily populated East Falkland, has developed essentially as a sheep-farming area. The administrative centre, Fox Bay, is situated on the coast towards the south-east of the island.

In the latter part of the 19th century local mail was brought to and from the West Falkland by, at best, a once a month call of one of the local trading schooners.

In the 1890-ies a Stipendiary Magistrate for West Falkland was appointed and by 1896 Government quarters had been erected at Fox Bay. From 1899 he also acted as Postmaster and the first sub-post office of the Falkland Islands had thus been established.

From 1902 to 1918 postal duties were conducted by the colonial surgeon of West Falkland, probably at his residence, occasionally relieved by a temporary Postmaster.

In 1918 a small wireless station was opened at Fox Bay and the operator there also conducted the work of the post office.



# FALKLAND ISLANDS

WEST FALKLAND

1899-1900

1899-1900(?) W.F.I. steel obliterator (type WF.1)

The second post office in the Falkland Islands was set up at Fox Bay with effect from 1 July 1899.

This obliterator was almost never used since the general practice of using obliterations ceased in 1895. It must consequently have been ordered before 1895 with the intention of opening a post office at Fox Bay.

It is only known on a few Queen Victoria 1d. stamps.





FALKLAND ISLANDS

WEST FALKLAND

1899-1904

## 1899-1904 W.FALKLAND.W.ISLANDS datestamp (type WF.2)

This datestamp, as well as the steel obliterator, had probably been ordered several years earlier and it looks very much like the first datestamp of the Falkland Islands.

The earliest recorded date is 28 July 1899 and the latest 6 October 1904.

There are many varieties known, e.g. date, month or year inverted; year abbreviated to one or two figures.





# FALKLAND ISLANDS

WEST FALKLAND

1908-13

## 1908-13(?) FALKLAND ISLANDS datestamp (type F4.F)

The "W·FALKLAND·W·ISLANDS" datestamp was discontinued in 1904 and for a few years there was no datestamp in use at Fox Bay. With the arrival of two new datestamps in Stanley (types F.4E and F.4F) in late 1907, Fox Bay was issued with one of them, type F.4F. It remained in use until the arrival of the Fox-Bay datestamp sometime between 1912 and 1914. The QV 1d. stamp below is dated 7.FE.10 with year-slug inverted.



# FALKLAND ISLANDS

## WEST FALKLAND

1914-53 FOX-BAY - FALKLAND ISLANDS datestamp (type FB.1)

This datestamp was introduced in 1914 and was to serve the Fox Bay post office for a period of forty years.

The earliest recorded date is 4 February 1914 and the latest 12 December 1953.

The code letter is either "A", "B" or "C".





# FALKLAND ISLANDS

WEST FALKLAND

1914-53

1914-53 FOX-BAY - FALKLAND ISLANDS datestamp (type FB.1)



# FALKLAND ISLANDS

WEST FALKLAND

1914-53

1914-53 FOX-BAY - FALKLAND ISLANDS datestamp (type FB.1)





# FALKLAND ISLANDS

WEST FALKLAND

1932

## FOX-BAY - FALKLAND ISLANDS datestamp (type FB.1) - VARIETIES

In 1932 the postmaster found himself without metal type set for the year "32". He had to improvise and inserted a "2" to represent the year.

1932 "2" for "32"



# FALKLAND ISLANDS

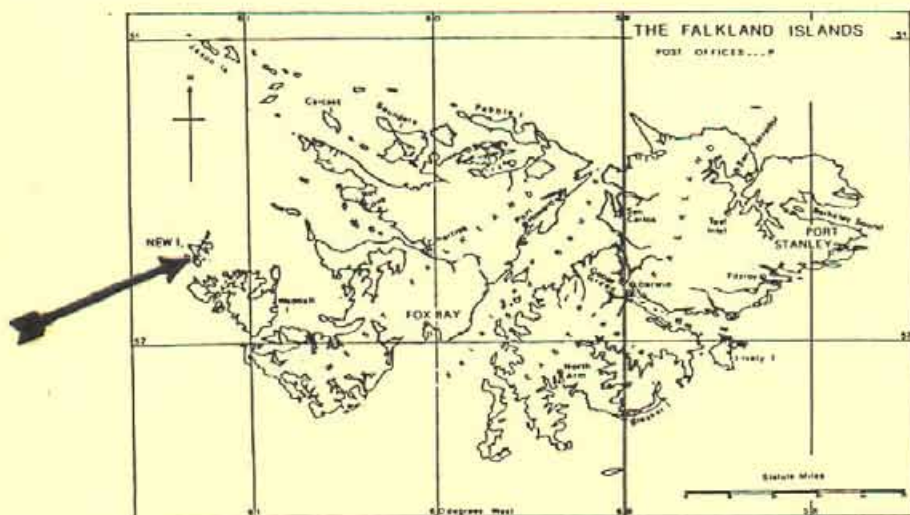
## NEW ISLAND

Just about the most westerly of the Falkland Islands is New Island, the home of large colonies of penguins and many other birds. There was little contact with the island until the turn of the century when whaling and sealing vessels would sometimes call on their way south to Antarctic waters.

In 1908 Messrs Salvesen & Co of Leith obtained a lease for the purpose of erecting a whaling factory at New Island's south harbour. By 1909 the whaling industry had expanded to such an extent that it became necessary to afford increased postal facilities and better control over postal matters. A post office was accordingly opened and a Postmaster placed in charge.

In 1911 the whaling operations took a downward trend. Firstly, the whaling factory was destroyed by fire. Secondly, it was found that whaling round the Falkland Islands was less successful compared with the Dependencies.

Consequently the activities were reduced and the whaling station closed down in 1916, the machinery being moved to South Georgia, and in 1917 the post office finally closed.





# FALKLAND ISLANDS

## NEW ISLAND

### 1909 NEW ISLAND provisional datestamp (type N.1)

The post office at New Island was opened on 10 August 1909. Until the arrival of the distinctive New Island datestamp an improvisation was made with one of the FALKLAND ISLANDS datestamps (type F.4A). The metal date type was removed and "New Is" and the date added in manuscript.

The earliest recorded date is 19 August and the latest 19 October.

The datestamp is also known without the centre manuscript entry. This may have occurred with a last-minute posting or pressure of mail, which left the postmaster no time in which to insert the date before the mail bag closed and the mailship sailed for Stanley.



# FALKLAND ISLANDS

## NEW ISLAND

1909-17 NEW ISLAND - FALKLAND IS datestamp (type N.2)

This canceller was sent out from England in October 1909 and arrived at Stanley on 16 November and left for New Island on 20 November.

The whaling station at New Island was closed early 1916 and later cancellation dates are few and far between. The post office finally closed down on 1 June 1917 since the population had declined rapidly after the rundown of the whaling industry. The earliest recorded date is 24 November 1909 and the latest 8 May 1917.





# FALKLAND ISLANDS

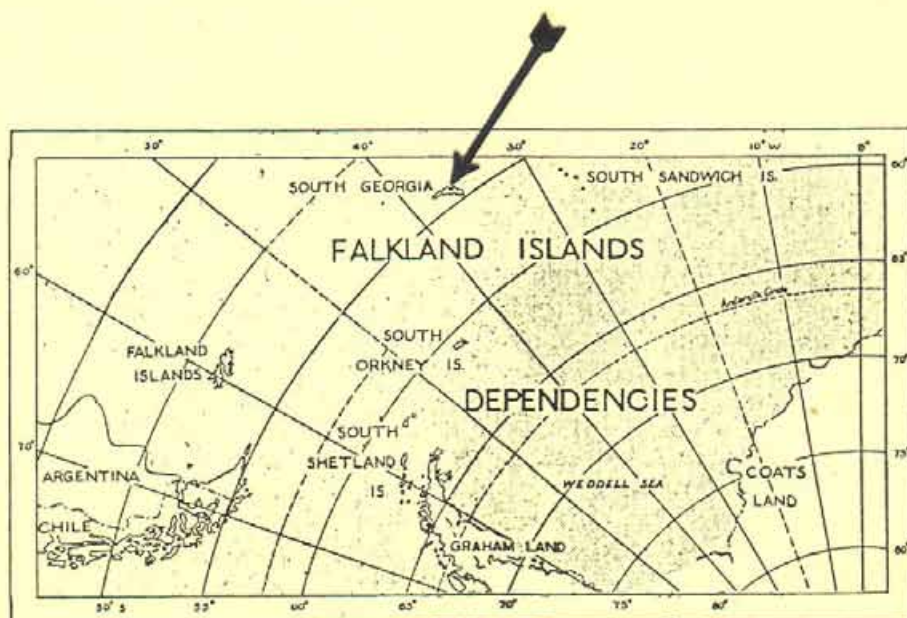
## SOUTH GEORGIA

South Georgia, a large island which lies about 800 miles east-south-east of the Falkland Islands, is a lonely outpost in the South Polar regions, with a population which was largely seasonal and Scandinavian.

South Georgia was discovered by La Roche in 1671 and in January 1775 James Cook visited the island and named it in honour of King George III. The main settlement Grytviken was named by members of the Swedish Antarctic Expedition who explored the island in 1902.

From soon after the turn of the century a whaling industry gave South Georgia considerable economic importance. By 1909 seven companies operated on the island, the industry expanded rapidly, and with it the population.

Some form of governmental administration was now called for and a Stipendiary Magistrate was appointed. His duties included that of Postmaster and thus the first post office in the Dependencies was opened.



# FALKLAND ISLANDS

SOUTH GEORGIA

1909-10

1909(December)-10(May) FALKLAND + ISLANDS datestamp (type F.4D)

This datestamp was used at South Georgia from 22 December 1909  
- 23 May 1910 in conjunction with the South Georgia imprints.  
There is no evidence to suggest that it was ever used again.



27.31.1909  
JAN-MAY



# FALKLAND ISLANDS

SOUTH GEORGIA

1909-10

1909(December)-10(March) The "SOUTH GEORGIA." imprint (type SG.IMP.1a)

The post office at South Georgia was opened on 3 December 1909. The postmaster, Mr Wilson, was issued with one of the large FALKLAND ISLANDS C datestamps (type F.4D). There was no distinguishing feature to associate it with South Georgia as the office of posting, so the postmaster also used a handstruck imprint showing "SOUTH GEORGIA." in a single line.

This imprint is only known on some postcards and covers, a few pieces from large OHMS envelopes and struck across some King George V 10/- stamps (made at a later stage).

The earliest recorded date is 22 December 1909 and the latest one 30 March 1910.

SOUTH GEORGIA.



# FALKLAND ISLANDS

SOUTH GEORGIA

1910

1910(22-25 May) The "South Georgia." imprint (type SG.IMP.2a)

This imprint replaced the first one and it was normally applied beneath the postage stamp, or at the side of it.

Its use in conjunction with the FALKLAND ISLANDS C datestamp (type F.4D) occurs only between 22 and 25 May 1910 after which the datestamp was withdrawn from service at South Georgia.

South Georgia.





# FAKLAND ISLANDS

SOUTH GEORGIA

1910-12

1910(July)-12(June) The "South Georgia." imprint (type SG.IMP.2b)

Although the postmaster now had the first South Georgia datestamp in his possession and it was no longer necessary to use the imprint, it was still used, on and off, for another two years, in conjunction with the SOUTH GEORGIA C datestamp (type SG.1). The earliest recorded date is 4 July 1910 and the latest 29 June 1912.

The imprint can on occasion be found across the stamps rather than below them.



# FALKLAND ISLANDS

SOUTH GEORGIA

1919

In 1919 the post office at South Georgia ran out of registration labels and used labels from the closed New Island post office with "New Island" erased and "South Georgia." added, using the old imprint (type SG.IMP.2) from 1910-12.





# FALKLAND ISLANDS

## SOUTH GEORGIA

1910-38 SOUTH - GEORGIA datestamp (type SG.1)

This datestamp was introduced after the departure of the mail of 25 May 1910.

The datestamp had a very long life and was in almost continuous use up to 1938. The code letter is always "C". The earliest recorded date is 27 June 1910 and the latest 30 March 1938.



# FALKLAND ISLANDS

SOUTH GEORGIA

1910-38

1910-38 SOUTH GEORGIA datestamp (type SG.1)





# FALKLAND ISLANDS

## SOUTH GEORGIA

### 1915-43 SOUTH GEORGIA datestamp (type SG.2)

Type SG.1 was not to serve alone for very long. At the beginning of the First World War it was joined by type SG.2 .

This datestamp had a very long life too; and for most of it in concurrent service with its predecessor.

The earliest recorded date is 7 March 1915 and the latest 25 November 1943.

In 1932 the postmaster found himself without metal type set for the year; so he improvised and inserted a '2' to represent the year.

The code letter is either 'A' or 'C'.



# FALKLAND ISLANDS

SOUTH GEORGIA

1915-43

1915-43 SOUTH GEORGIA datestamp (type SG.2)





# FALKLAND ISLANDS

SOUTH GEORGIA

1933-43

## 1933-43 SOUTH GEORGIA time datestamp (type SG.4)

This datestamp is extraordinary for its inclusion of an hour of posting from a post office restricted at best to the despatch of mails several weeks apart. It was never greatly used but the postmaster seems to have used the hour of posting seriously. The earliest recorded date is 17 October 1933 and the latest 25 December 1943.





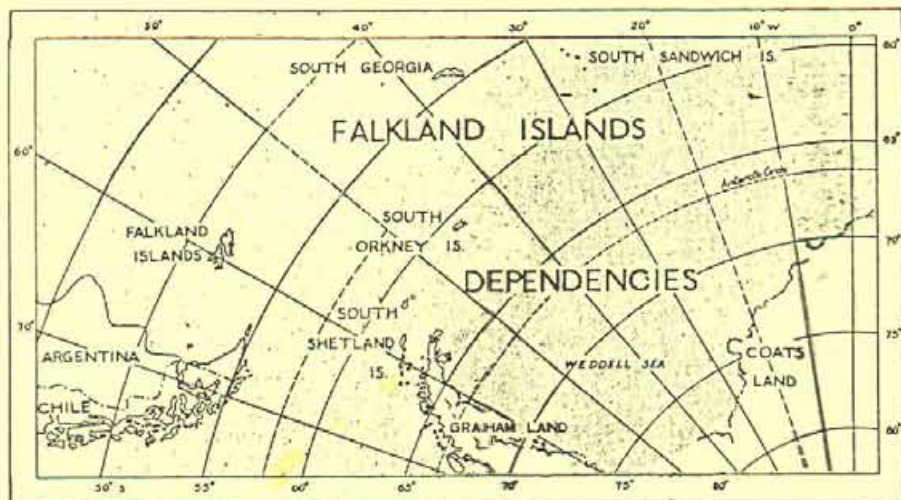
# FALKLAND ISLANDS

## SOUTH SHETLANDS

The South Shetlands is a group of, more or less, ice-bound islands lying some 600 miles south of the Falkland Islands. They were first discovered by Dick Gerritz, a Dutch navigator, and re-discovered by William Smith in the "Williams" in February 1819. He called the islands New South Britain but this was soon changed to the New South Shetlands, afterwards shortened to the South Shetlands. In 1820 Edward Bransfield visited the islands and took formal possession for the British Crown. Henry Foster in the "Chanticleer" made magnetic observations on the islands in 1830 and the harbour at Deception Island, Port Foster, is named after him.

There was no commercial activity until about 1910 when Deception Island became an important whaling centre with a shore factory at Port Foster. It was opened each year at the beginning of the whaling season and closed in the following March or April. The mails were carried in the ships which passed through Port Stanley to and from the fishing grounds.

A Magistrate appointed by the Governor of the Falkland Islands sailed with the fleet and from 1912 he also acted as Postmaster, his headquarters being at the shore station.



# SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS

## SOUTH SHETLANDS

1913(6 March - 25 March) The 'PORT FOSTER.' imprint.

The postal history of the South Shetlands commences with the whaling season of 1912-13 when some stamps are known bearing an imprint 'PORT FOSTER.'; which was the centre of the South Shetlands Whaling Company operating at that time.

Mr Binnie; the Government Whaling Officer; went to Port Foster in November 1912 and took with him only about £5 worth of stamps - all low values and certainly none over 2 1/2d. Only a part of the supply of stamps was used.

No registered mail facilities were available and neither was there a cancelling mark; but on 6 March 1913 a wireless signal was received from the Postmaster at Stanley authorising the obliteration of postage stamps with the words 'PORT FOSTER.'. At the end of the season the whalers and Mr Binnie left Port Foster and arrived in Port Stanley on 27 March and any mail with the imprint would have passed through the Stanley post office and received the datestamp at that office.

PORT FOSTER.





# *FALKLAND ISLANDS*

## SOUTH SHETLANDS

1914-27 DECEPTION ISLAND \* SOUTH SHETLANDS datestamp (type SS.1)

At the beginning of the whaling season 1913-14 the postmaster took with him this oval rubber stamp, and for ten years it was the only cancellation used on mail from the South Shetlands.

Impressions are either in black or violet ink.

The earliest recorded date is 3 February 1914 and the latest 10 May 1927.





# FALKLAND ISLANDS

## SOUTH SHETLANDS

### 1923-31 SOUTH SHETLANDS datestamp (type SS.2)

This datestamp came into use in 1923 and was at first used in concurrence with type SS.1. It was in use until the postal activity ceased when the whaling station at Deception Island closed down at the end of the 1930-31 season.

The earliest recorded date is 11 January 1923 and the latest 6 March 1931.

The code letter is either "A" or "C".



# FALKLAND ISLANDS

## SOUTH SHETLANDS

1924 SOUTH SHETLANDS datestamp (type SS.2), violet ink.

Violet ink was used at three occasions: 1 MR 24, 10 MR 24 and 10 AP 24.



# *FALKLAND ISLANDS*

SOUTH SHETLANDS

1924

1924(3 November) SOUTH SHETLANDS datestamp (type SS.2)

This day both violet and black ink was used. On the three last despatches of the previous season violet ink was used and obviously black ink was not added until part of the mail had been cancelled.

