

## FILATELIC PHORGERS

# GEORGE JEFFRYES

Member of the notorious 'London Gang'



In 1883 at the age of sixteen, Jeffryes started producing fake overprints on genuine stamps of Colombia, Ecuador, North Borneo, Sarawak and Zululand. He later turned his attention to forging basic classic stamps which included:

Ceylon 1857-59 8d, 9d, 1/9 & 2s  
 Grenada 1857-81 1/2d, 2.5d & 1s  
 New South Wales 1850 1d & 2d,  
 1851 1d, 2d, 3d & 6d. 1856 6d  
 New Zealand 1855 1s  
 Tasmania 1853 1d, 4d & 1863 2/6  
 Victoria 1850 2d & 3d & 1854 1s

these have now become highly desirable items among collectors.



Genuine



Victoria 1850 3d half-length litho forgery by Jeffryes corner block of 15 with a genuine single alongside

Jeffryes' main outlet was through the firm of Benjamin and Sarpy who were very successful forgers in London towards the end of the eighteenth century. In 1891 all three men were arrested for conspiracy to defraud. After a lengthy trial, all three were sentenced to six months hard labour.

Jeffryes' surname may also be spelt Jeffries, Jeffreys or Jeffreyes

# FILATELIC PHORGERS (Edward) STANLEY GIBBONS

1840 - 1913



Gibbons was born in Plymouth and became one of the great pioneers in British Philately. During a lengthy career which he shared with six wives, he engaged in certain philatelic practices not now considered completely reputable.



Portrait of Stanley Gibbons with some of the publications that have made his name a household word



5c original



5c reprint



10c forgery



15c forgery

Examples of the Argentina 1862 issue which became his Nemesis

In 1871, Gibbons purchased the lithographic stone of the 5c value of the 1862 issue of Argentina from the printer Robert Lange. From it he not only produced large quantities of unofficial reprints of this value, but he had the value altered to 10c and 15c and thus produced the complete set of three.



# FILATELIC PHORGERS BILL (William) FRESHWATER

## A LOVEABLE ROGUE

Bill Freshwater was stamp dealer during the latter half of the twentieth century. He shared his vast knowledge with many students and there are about forty philatelic handbooks which acknowledge his help. Bill frequently offered material for auction which sometimes included items that had been cleverly enhanced. Bill died around 1998 and his huge stock was sold off by his family.



1948 £1 brown imperf



1939 7d imperf on three sides



1939 10d imperforate pair



1950 1.5d tête-bêche pair



1950 2.5d tête-bêche pair

A selection of 'Freshwater' enhancements

Bill apparently found a way of joining paper at their edges to create fairly convincing tête-bêche and imperforate pairs

## FILATELIC PHORGERS

# ROGER B WEST

### St HELENA - THE 17th FACSIMILE



Some years ago whilst I was studying the forgeries of St Helena, I felt it would be a good idea to produce my own forgery and thus be able to appreciate the efforts of those who came before me. I contacted the Crown Agents seeking permission to produce a facsimile based on the first issues of St Helena. Permission was granted and a copy of their letter is attached over leaf. The 17th facsimile was so called as I had established that there were already 16 types.



A genuine 1s on 6d from the original Perkins Bacon plate



A selection of 17th facsimiles

From a typographic block of 15 images, seven basic colours were used and were variously surcharged in a similar manner to the originals. Some of the classic errors were copied and bogus overprints were also applied. Attempts were made to age the paper, impress watermarks and perforate. Cork cancels similar to genuine types were made and several covers from the period were produced.





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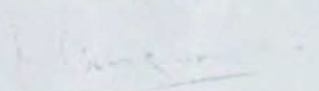
Dear Mr West

Thank you for your letter dated 17 October 1983 in connection with an article you are writing about the early Victorian forgeries of St Helena.

2 We understand that you intend to reproduce, for philatelic and not commercial purposes, a "facsimile" of an early St Helena issue. We are pleased that you provided us with full details of the proposed exercise and it is our view that you can proceed as you suggest without official permission. However, we feel that the Government Secretary of St Helena will be interested in your project and we are sending a copy of your letter to him. A sample of the "facsimile" would be appreciated by the Government Secretary and if you would provide a copy of your article also we are certain that it would be read with interest.

3 In due course, when the items are available, we should be happy to forward them to St Helena on your behalf.

Yours sincerely

  
MRS J P LANIGAN  
Advertising & Publicity Manager  
for the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau