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WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 1861.

I have examined the postage stamp issued by the Colonial Administration of Western Australia in 1861, "Swan" four pence vermilion, recess printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co., with perforation intermediate 14 to 16, Stanley Gibbons Catalogue #35; Scott unlisted but similar to #24B, unused, a colour reproduction of which is below, magnified to 125% of true size, and am of the opinion that:

The stamp submitted is **genuine**, unused, without gum. There is a natural paper inclusion towards the center which is quite thick (0.46 mm), and therefore interrupts the printing, creating a doughnut-shaped blank. The stamp is otherwise in sound condition, being free from hidden faults or repairs at this time. The intermediate perforations appear in the earliest printings of perforated stamps of Western Australia, and were executed in-house by Perkins, Bacon & Co. with a machine in poor condition. The 2014 edition of the Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue does not list these earliest printings.

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