

Sergio Sismondo

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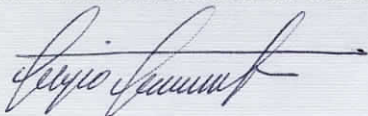
Syracuse, New York, 2004.04.29.

ASCENSION, 1867.

I have examined the envelope sent from Ascension to Devonport, England, posted on December 2 of 1867, franked with one postage stamp of Great Britain, "Queen Victoria" one penny rose red, printed from Plate 87, perforated 14, with watermark "Large Crown", Scott Catalogue #33; Stanley Gibbons #43, and alongside the despatch circular datestamp "ASCENSION A DE 2 67", and on reverse the arrival circular datestamp "CAPE-PACKET DEVONPORT DE 22 1867", with the stamp cancelled by the Devonport barred numeral "250" postmark; the cover sent by "*J Clark Boiler Maker Ascension*", and countersigned by "*John Hawkins for Com Officer*", a colour reproduction of which is on the reverse side of this certificate, in true size, and am of the opinion that:

The envelope, postage stamp affixed, and postal markings are **genuine in all respects**. The envelope is complete, but with a sealed tear at top center which impacts the postmark on reverse. The postage stamp is in perfect condition. The Ascension datestamp is weak, while the other postmarks are clear and fully legible. The payment of one penny represents the military concession rate for a letter of up to 1/2 ounce. The use of the concession rate was authorized by the commanding officer. Military concession rate covers from Ascension are scarce. I have signed the cover in order to its authenticity.

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