

BWISC Golden Jubilee Formal Display  
Grenada By Joseph Hackmey

Joseph introduced himself as a member of over 20 years standing but this was the first meeting he had attended. He started collecting Barbados in 1979, when the Messenger collection came up for sale in 1982, he contacted Robson Lowe and asked to purchase the Barbados collection intact but was informed that he would also have to purchase the complete Grenada collection as well, thus started his interest in Grenada. During the 1980s, he won several top awards but became irked by the frequent description of his display as the Messenger collection, despite it only forming about 30% of the material. As a result, Joseph sold both collections and has been rebuilding the Grenada from individual purchases since the early 1990s. Recent Grenada sales have been the Dan Walker collection, where prices were 3 to 4 times his expectation and the Cyril Bell sale at Spink where he was pleased to have obtained the unique unused 1883 Revenue 1d orange with manuscript 'postage'



The display opened with a short history of the Island, possession transferred between Spain, Britain and France until 1783, when the Treaty of Versailles finally transferred the Island to British control. The British introduced sugar and a large number of slaves from Africa.

The pre-stamp pages commenced with the earliest known letter from GB to Grenada and this was followed by various Grenada (and Carriacou in the Grenadines) covers with Grenada markings.

The 1850s period was represented by Crowned-Circle handstamps and GB Used in Grenada covers with A15 obliterator (including a 4d Inter Island rate to Trinidad (Figure 1) and a 2d underpaid 6d rate to London), unfortunately Joseph realised that had omitted to include either of his covers with the rare 1s green.

Grenada's own first issue was in 1861, consisting of the 1d & 6d Postage stamps. The 1d is listed by SG in bluish green as SG1 and green as SG2, the former is extremely rare whereas SG2 is common. In Joseph's opinion: SG1 is known on no more than 5 covers (paying the local rate) and only 5 unused copies exist. The shades can be distinguished quite easily when seen together, however, he knows that certificates have been incorrectly granted. The 6d rose was shown unused and on covers (paying the packet rate to UK) followed by the 6d lake-red in a block of 6 (the largest known) and a block of 4, this issue was either a perforation trial (being perf 11 to 12½ rather than 14 to 16) or an unissued stamp.

The second issue (1863-71) was represented with a series of covers showing the various rates (Figure 2) and fine blocks illustrated the 1873 issue (when the paper was changed from small star to large star and the colours become more vivid). In 1875, there was a shortage of Postage stamps, this problem was overcome (for the next 8 years) by the usage of the Revenue stamps overprinted in various forms with 'POSTAGE'. The next several sheets illustrated the many overprint varieties that inevitably exist (Figures 3, 4 & 5) and an amazing strip of 4 of the Dec 1875 1d Green perf 15.

Joseph's tour-de-force were his bisects on cover, the 1s 1½d rate was the correct rate to France, covers bearing other rates are fakes (Figure 6 & 7).

The 1881 issue was shown with the Double impression used, large blocks from the Yardley collection, a lovely cover with multiple adhesives and lots of overprint varieties.

Joseph's display peaked with the 1883 overprint of the Revenue stamps, firstly where the 1d stamps were overprinted twice to enable them to be cut in half and secondly with 'POSTAGE' added in manuscript, either in black or red (the latter being more difficult). Figure 8 shows the only known cover bearing this adhesive.

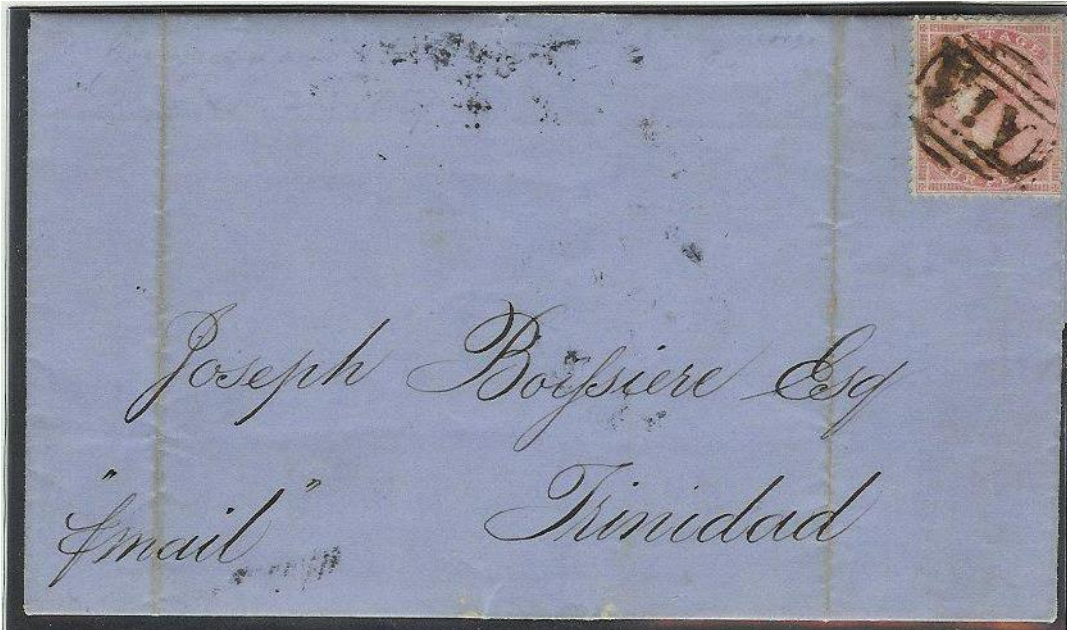
The De La Rue printings and later Revenue overprints, were equally well represented by covers, mint stamps and varieties. Joseph found the mixed adhesive covers (such as Figure 9) particularly rewarding. His collection finished with the 1891 issue which included 2½d on 8d surcharge double, one inverted.



The display concluded with an extensive discussion of 19<sup>th</sup> Century postal rates and a vote of thanks given by Andy Soutar.

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Figure 1



23 Feb 1858 - 4d Inter Island rate to Trinidad

Figure 2



9 January 1869 - 6d pair paying the packet rate plus 1d x4 for Registration

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Figure 3



1881 - ½d 'OSTAGE'

Figure 4



1881 – No Hyphen

Figure 5



1881 – No Stop & PENC F

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Figure 6



9 December 1876 – 1s1½d rate to France

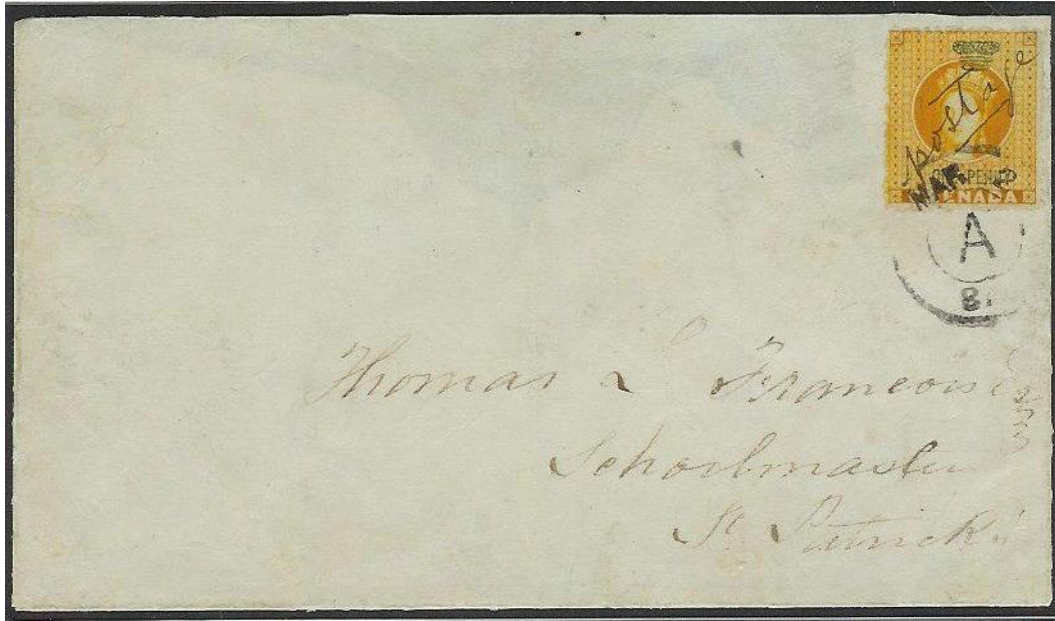
Figure 7



2<sup>nd</sup> August 1878 – 1s1½d rate to France

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Figure 8



2 March 1881 – 1d orange Revenue with m/s 'postage'

Figure 9



13 May 1887 – 4d Postage plus 2d Registration to Moscow