

## **ST. LUCIA – Handstamps and Labels**

**Dr Ian Matheson**

The exhibit shows a number of the more unusual items from my collection of handstamps and labels. Of particular interest are the range of boxed handstamps and a few airmail markings not recorded in the publication on St Lucia air mails.

Note that all pages shown are photocopies. If any member wishes further details about any item please contact me in person or at [ian@cdi.biz](mailto:ian@cdi.biz).

**The Type H2 Double –Arc Datestamp.**

Two date formats were employed with this datestamp – ‘Month / Day’ and ‘Day / Month / Day’. The covers below illustrate the difference well as both were used on 4 February.



Day / Month / Day

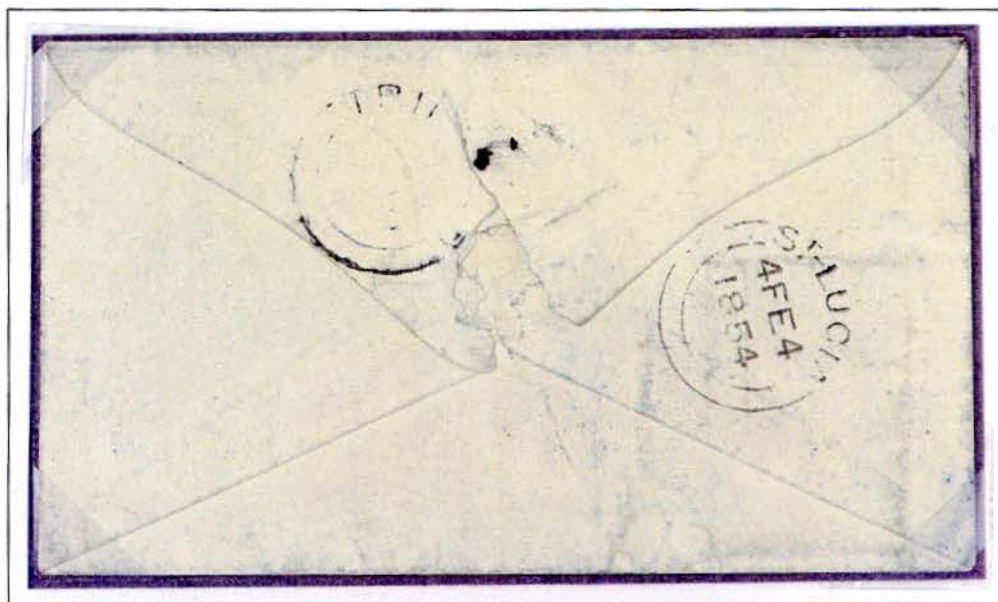


Month / Day

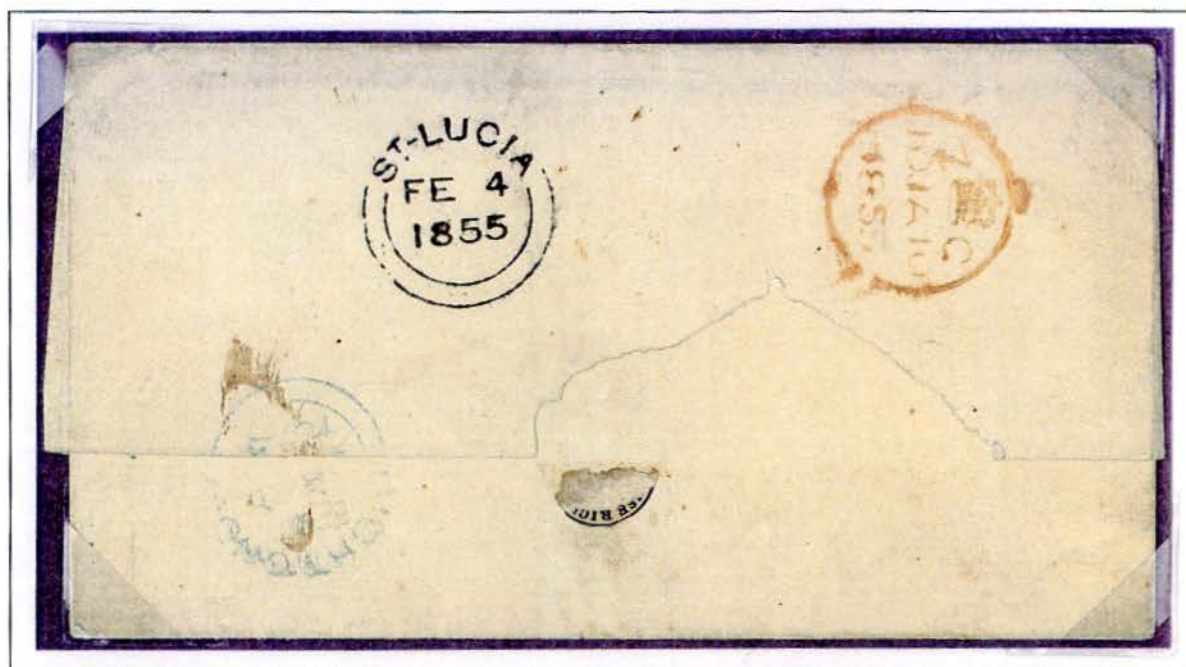
**Type H2**

ERD = 1/9/1845

LRD = 11/5/1880



**4 February 1854.** Small cover from Castries to “The Reverend Antonetti, Maraval, Trinidad”. Endorsed “PP” (Port Paye) and “4” in manuscript denoting prepayment of the fourpence inter-island rate. Handstamped with type H2 datestamp (day / month / day format) and with weak Trinidad double-arc datestamp on receipt.



**10 January 1855.** Entire from Richmond, Surrey to Castries. Datestamped at Richmond and London (both 10 January). Manuscript “6” (sixpence per half ounce, introduced 23 March 1854). Handstamped on receipt with type H2 datestamp (month / day format)

OFFICIAL PAID



Proud type OPD2  
earliest recorded strike



**5 April 1892.** OHMS envelope sent from Castries to Paris bearing the type OPD2 "ST. LUCIA / L / OFFICIAL / PAID" handstamp and a St. Lucia type D6 datestamp.. Backstamped in London and Paris (21 and 22 April 1892). The French P.O. obviously disregarded the Paid handstamp and a total of 50 centimes in postage due stamps was applied.

GOVERNMENT OFFICE / ST. LUCIA

The status of this scarce marking is not known.



Proud type K4



GPO Fire (14-15 May 1927)

The GPO at Castries was destroyed during the night of 14-15<sup>th</sup> May 1927, when some 17 blocks of the capital were burnt out, including most of the business section. The Postmaster produced a provisional datestamp, which was used for six days only. All datestamps in the GPO were lost and new datestamps had to be introduced shortly afterwards.

Castries  
St. Lucia  
19 May 1927

Type C12

ERD = 15/5/27

LRD = 20/5/27



19 May 1927. Local cover to Major Donaldson (British Official at Government House) bearing 1/2d definitive cancelled with the provisional Castries datestamp (Ritchie type C12).

**"POSTED ON BRITISH PACKET"**

The Packet Letter rate was 2½d per half ounce from 1 January 1891. The cover below was obviously handed to the ship's captain on the British Packet as the St. Lucia stamps were cancelled in Barbados, rather than in Castries, St. Lucia. The contents of the letter provide a report on events in Castries up to and including Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 1894, so it was probably passed to the ship's captain on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> and cancelled in Barbados the following day. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Service had the contract to carry mail between St. Lucia and England at the time.

On arrival in UK the letter was carried by train where it received the rare boxed "G.N.S.C." cachet denoting the Great Northern Sorting Carriage.

Posted on British Packet.



Sorting Carriage Marking



**1 December 1894.** Cover sent from Castries, St Lucia to Bury St. Edmunds in England. The fivepence rate comprises double the 2½d per half ounce Packet Letter rate. This can be confirmed as the original letter is still enclosed. Posted aboard the British Packet, hence the handstamp at left. Cancelled on receipt in Bridgetown, Barbados. The sorting carriage handstamp described above is applied to the left of the adhesives. Bury St. Edmunds receipt datestamp on reverse (13 December, 1894)

"POSTED ON BOARD R.M.S."

Cover posted at sea between St. Lucia and Barbados on a Royal Mail Steamer. The Royal Mail Steam Packet operated the service between England and Bridgetown, Barbados and thence to Castries, St. Lucia. The program allowed one day for the inter-island service in the West Indies and twelve days for the Transatlantic leg. The datestamps on this cover are completely consistent with this.

POSTED ON BOARD R. M. S.



**17 November 1894.** Cover sent to England at double the 2½d Packet Letter rate. Postmarked in Bridgetown on 17 November with a dumb bootheel canceller and small datestamp and backstamped in Bury St. Edmunds on 28 November. Cachet reads "POSTED ON BOARD R.M.S. The text of the letter refers to just missing the French mail boat so it would be posted on the British Packet. The content of the letter was written between 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November, so it would have caught the Packet of 16<sup>th</sup> November 1894.

**"POSTED ON BOARD"**

Hosking type 2342, rating "D" (rare).

Cover posted at sea between St. Lucia and Barbados on a Royal Mail Steamer. Posted to Sierra Leone – a somewhat uncommon destination!

**POSTED ON BOARD.**



**30 January 1904.** Postal stationery envelope probably sent from Castries, St. Lucia to Freetown, Sierra Leone, whence it was forwarded to Chesterfield in England. The letter was handed to the ship's captain of the Royal Mail Steamer, hence the "POSTED ON BOARD" cachet. Hosking reports that this mark was a rare Bridgetown paquebot mark. St Lucia joined the Empire Penny Post (1d per ½oz) on 25 December 1898. Sierra Leone was one of the listed destinations in the Gazette, hence the use of the penny envelope.

The letter would have been carried to England and forwarded to Sierra Leone, where it received a backstamp of Freetown on 1 March 1904. The cover was then forwarded to an address near Chesterfield in England and bears a 21 March Chesterfield backstamp.

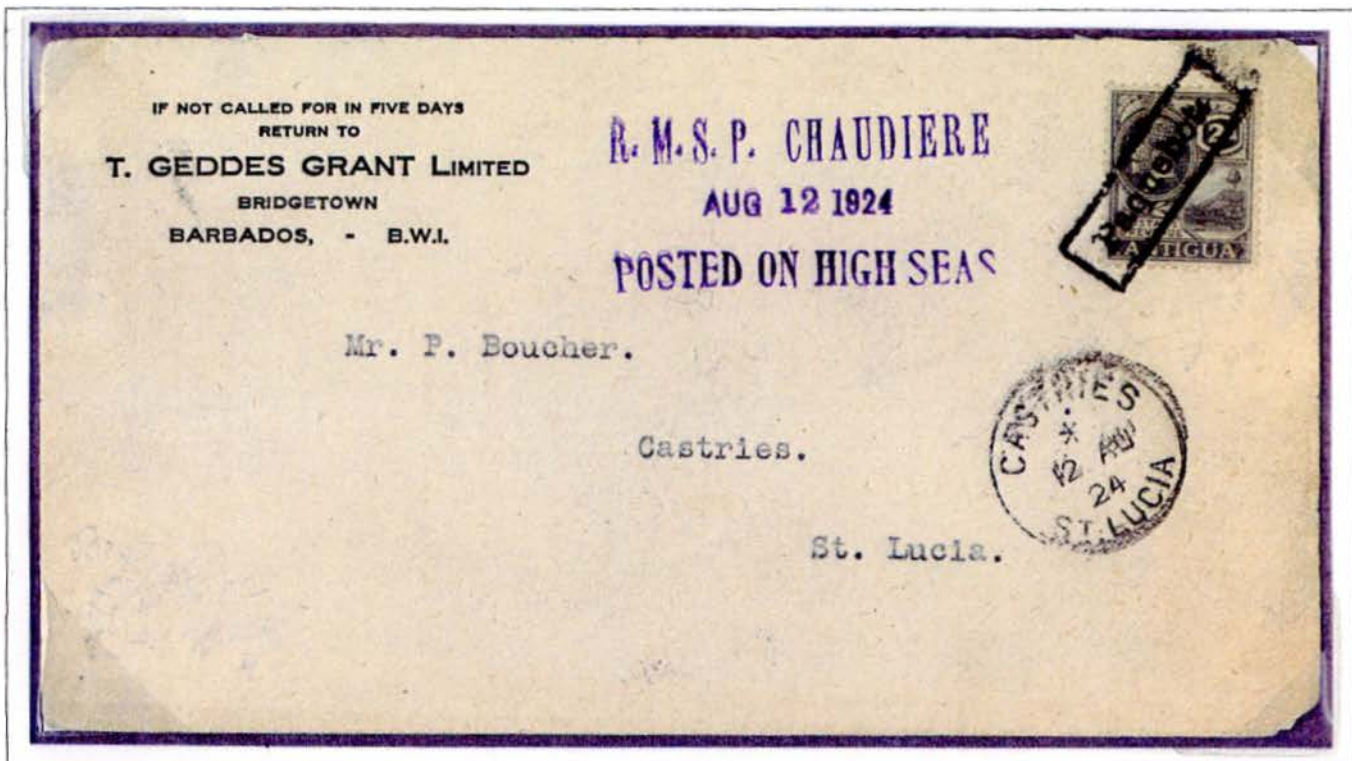
**PAQUEBOT**

(Proud type SL4, Hosking type 1083. Rarity DD (very rare). *Three strikes recorded*)

This rare mark was used in Castries in 1923-24. Only three strikes are recorded, each on mail posted on Royal Mail Steam Packet Company steamers. (One other cover was posted on S.S.Chignecto and the mark is applied over stamps of St. Kitts-Nevis). Hosking accords the mark the highest rarity factor of 'DD' – very rare.

**Paquebot:**

Type 1083  
ERD = 25/4/23  
LRD = 16/12/24



**12 August 1924.** Cover posted at sea on Royal Mail Steam Packet Company steamer S.S.Chaudiere. The ship's cachet is struck on both the front and back of the cover in violet. The Antigua adhesive is cancelled with the boxed Castries 'Paquebot' handstamp. Ritchie type C6 Castries datestamp struck alongside (12 August 1924).

**R. M. S. P. CHAUDIERE**  
**AUG 12 1924**  
**POSTED ON HIGH SEAS**

Rego' type 16  
(12 August 1924 -11 June 1925)  
Rarity "R" (rare)  
Built 1899, 3986 tons, 1914-72

**Reference:** 1. "The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company" by Michael Rego. Cockrill Series Booklet No. 49 (1987)



## MISSENT TO ST. LUCIA

(Proud type I13, unrecorded by Ritchie, *only recorded strike*)

This is the first recorded example of this straight line "MISSENT TO ST. LUCIA" handstamp. The next missent strike is only recorded used from about 1950, so it is probable that others were in use in the interim, but have not yet been recorded.

## MISSENT TO ST LUCIA



**14 February 1890.** Cover sent from Montserrat to Jamaica bearing Montserrat 4d mauve tied by "A08" killer with rare type M7<sup>1</sup> Montserrat code P datestamp alongside (see comment below). The cover was a double rate cover (rate was 4d per half ounce) and there is a manuscript "8" at top left, so a Montserrat "T" tax mark has been applied. The letter was then misdirected to St. Lucia where the "MISSENT TO ST. LUCIA" handstamp (first recorded strike) was applied and a Feb 16 St. Lucia datestamp applied to the reverse. A manuscript "2d" rate was applied somewhere along the way, possibly on receipt in Jamaica, but its significance is unclear. The cover reached Jamaica on 10 March, 1890 and a Kingston datestamp was applied to the reverse.

**The Montserrat code 'P' datestamp:** "The<sup>1</sup> few examples known all have the code letter "P". Whether this was intended to denote Plymouth or Paid is conjecture. It has been suggested the "P" is the result of a broken "B". I discount this because the "P" is larger than the "B" and there is no sign of breakage. The three examples I have seen cancel stamps". It has been subsequently suggested that "P" may denote "PM". Recorded dates range from 1889 to 4 July 1890.

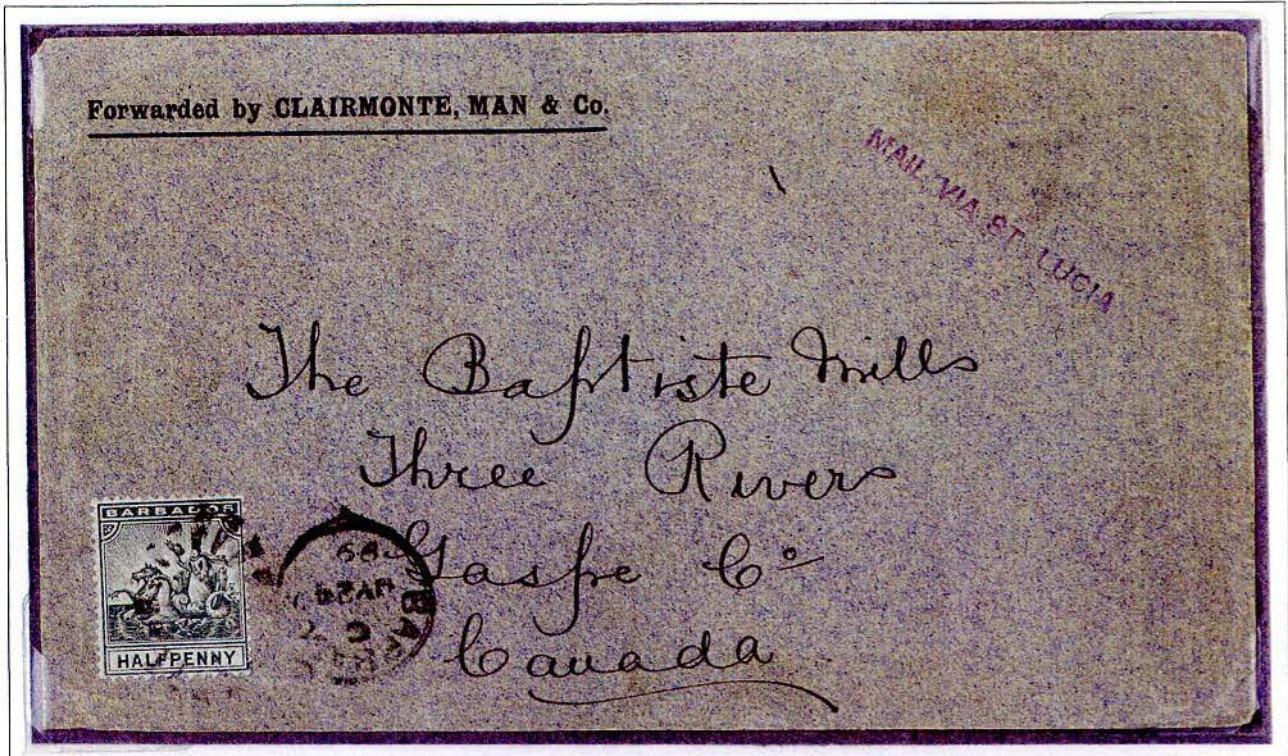


Castries transit datestamp

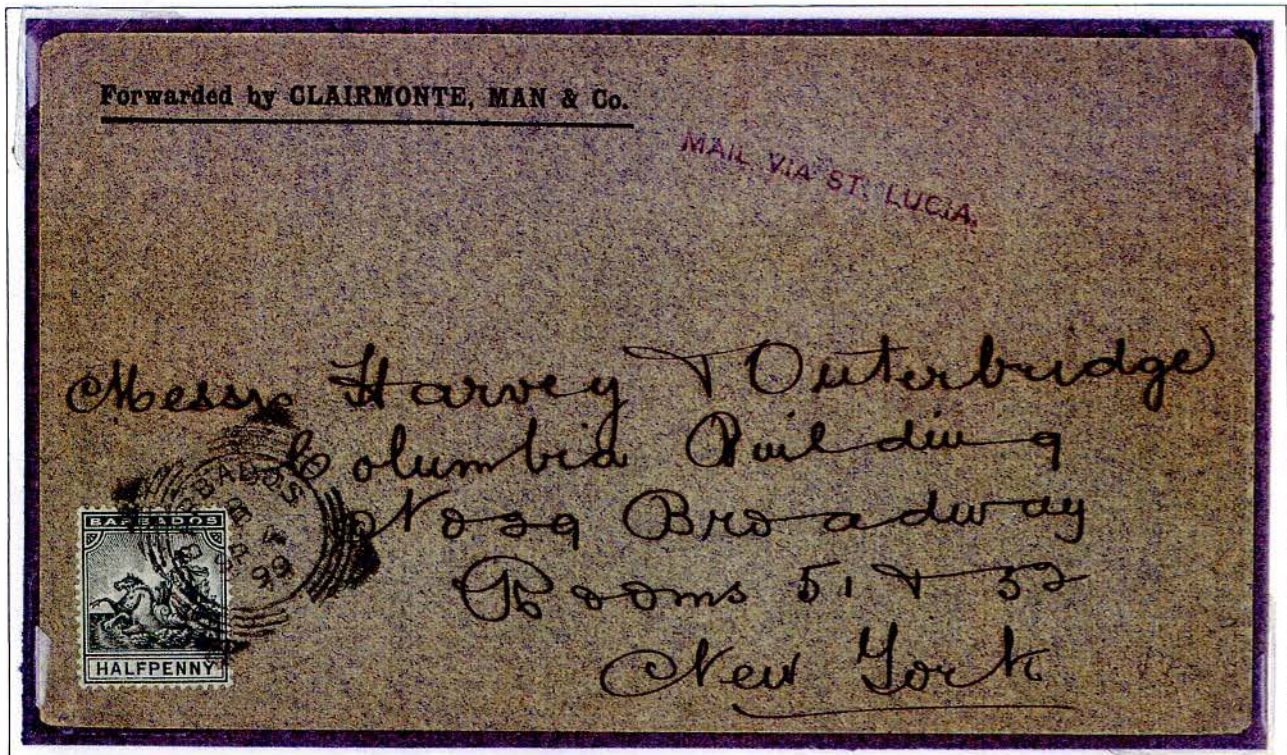
**"MAIL VIA ST. LUCIA"**

The covers below were sent from Bridgetown, Barbados by Forwarding Agents Clairmonte, Man & Co to Canada and USA via St. Lucia. They are each endorsed "MAIL VIA ST. LUCIA", are unsealed and are posted at the half penny printed matter rate. The mark is not listed by Clarke, Radford & Cave<sup>1</sup>.

MAIL VIA ST. LUCIA.



**24 July 1899.** Cover sent from Bridgetown to Canada. Adhesive cancelled with type C5<sup>1</sup> bootheel duplex cancellation. Backstamped in Three-Rivers on 15 August 1899.



**4 September 1899.** Cover sent from Bridgetown to USA. Adhesive cancelled with type E6<sup>1</sup> squared circle datestamp.

**RIVERSDALE**

Riversdale PO was opened in 1914 and used the type TDC-11 datestamp. Riversdale was the first post office to use a triple circle datestamp (type TTO-1). This rubber mark deteriorated after a few years and later strikes appear to be only double ring marks.



Type TDC-11



Type TTC-1

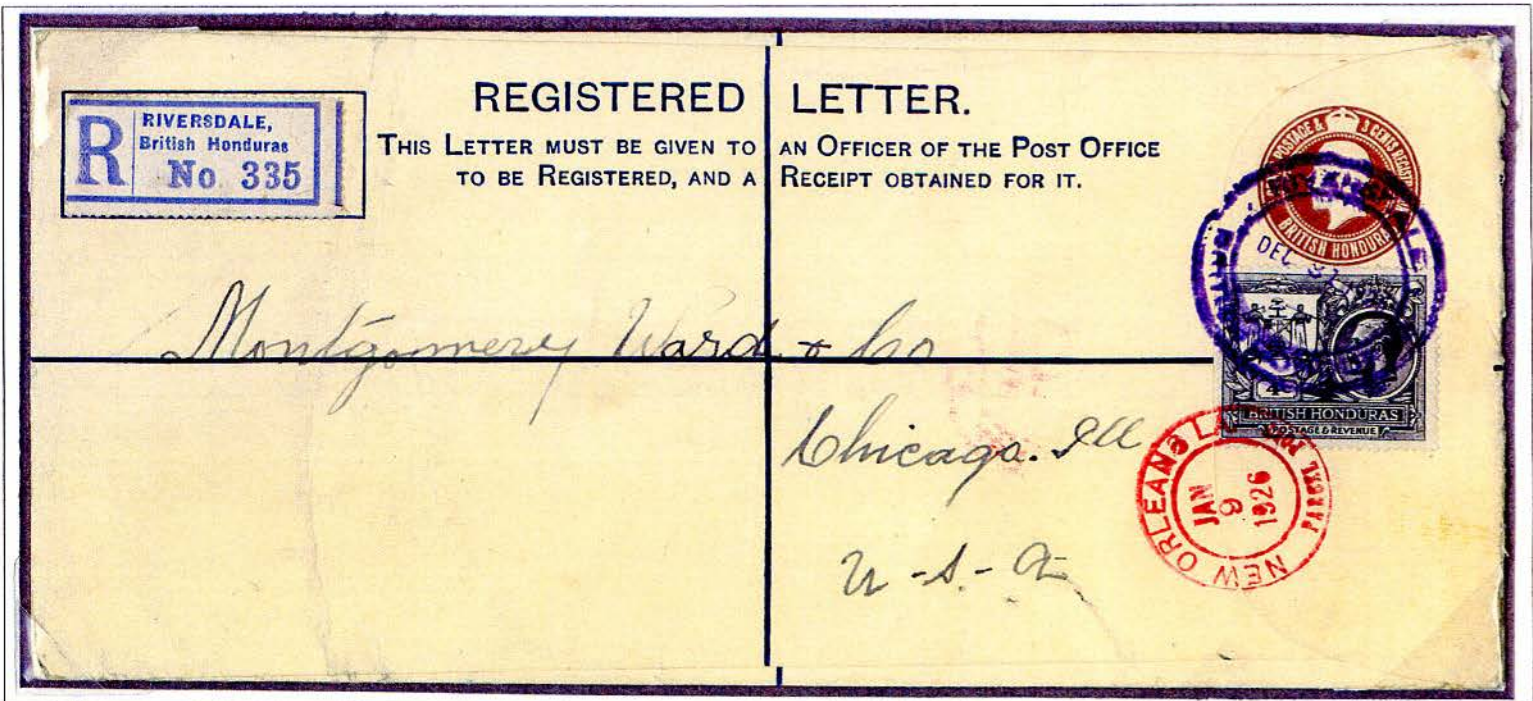


Early strike of type TTO-1 Riversdale datestamp dated "?? 2 1922" showing clear triple ring.

21 December 1916. Cover to UK showing Riversdale type TDC-11 datestamp with month inverted. The service in 1916 was provided by the United Fruit Company. The stamp shows the use of a one cent WAR stamp to pay the War Tax surcharge.

Type TDC-11: ERD = 1 October 1916 LRD = 31 January 1921

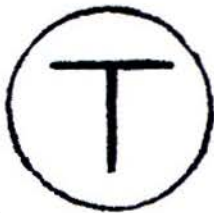
Type TTO-1: ERD = 30 October 1921 LRD = 31 December 1926



31 December 1926. Postal stationery 2c + 3c brown on cream size H2 registered envelope (H&G 1a) commercially used from Riversdale to USA. The four cents adhesive is cancelled with the type TTC-1 Riversdale triple circle datestamp. As this is a late usage the datestamp shows the characteristic wear around the outer rings. Backstamped in Belize (2 January 1927) and Chicago (10 January 1927) and cancelled on front with a 9 January 1927 New Orleans transit datestamp. The postal rate was four cents and the registration fee five cents, so an additional four cents adhesive was required.

COMPULSORY REGISTRATION.

Post Office regulations required that coins, jewellery and other valuables had to be sent by registered mail. Unregistered letters known or suspected to contain valuables were returned to the sender for 'compulsory registration'.



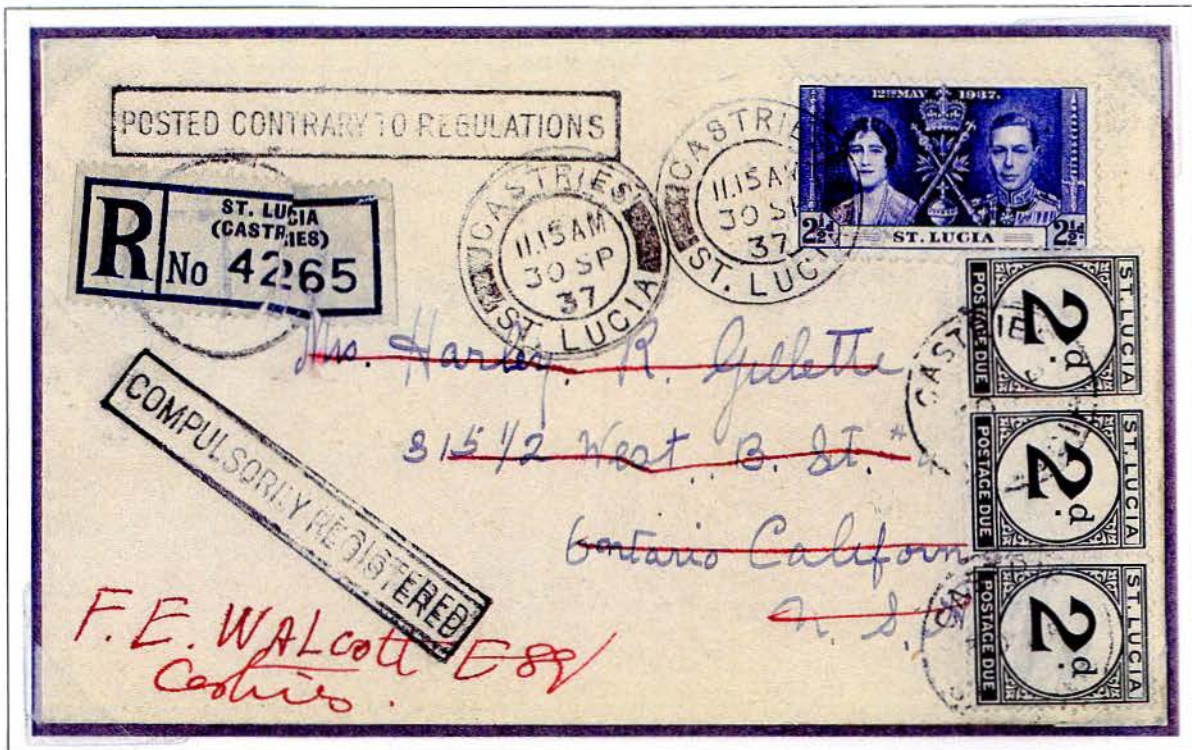
Proud Type UP5

POSTED CONTRARY TO REGULATIONS

Proud Type I18

COMPULSORILY REGISTERED

Proud Type I19



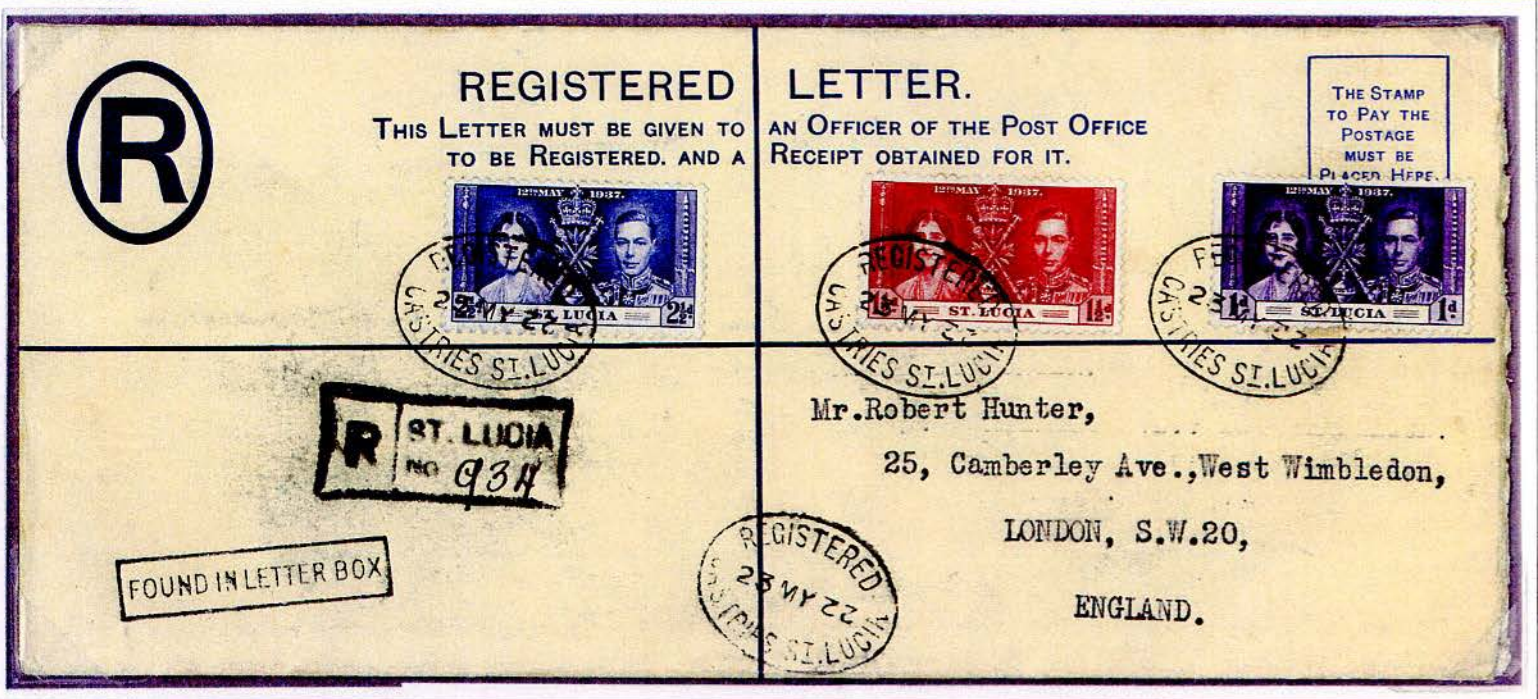
**30 September 1937.** Cover to USA franked at the 2½d surface rate. Postmarked in Castries with a type C16 datestamp (30 Sept). The cover was obviously deemed to contain valuables so it was returned to the sender and struck with the "POSTED CONTRARY TO REGULATIONS" boxed cachet. The cover was then endorsed with a boxed "COMPULSORILY REGISTERED" handstamp and struck with a type T2 Tax mark for the outstanding registration fee. On payment of the sixpence registration fee the Tax Mark was covered with the registration label and three 2d postage due labels affixed to denote receipt of the fee, and cancelled with type C9 Castries datestamp (also 30 Sept). The cover was finally backstamped with a Castries type RC1 registration datestamp and dispatched to USA. **Less than five examples are recorded** of each of the two boxed handstamps.

**"FOUND IN LETTER BOX"**

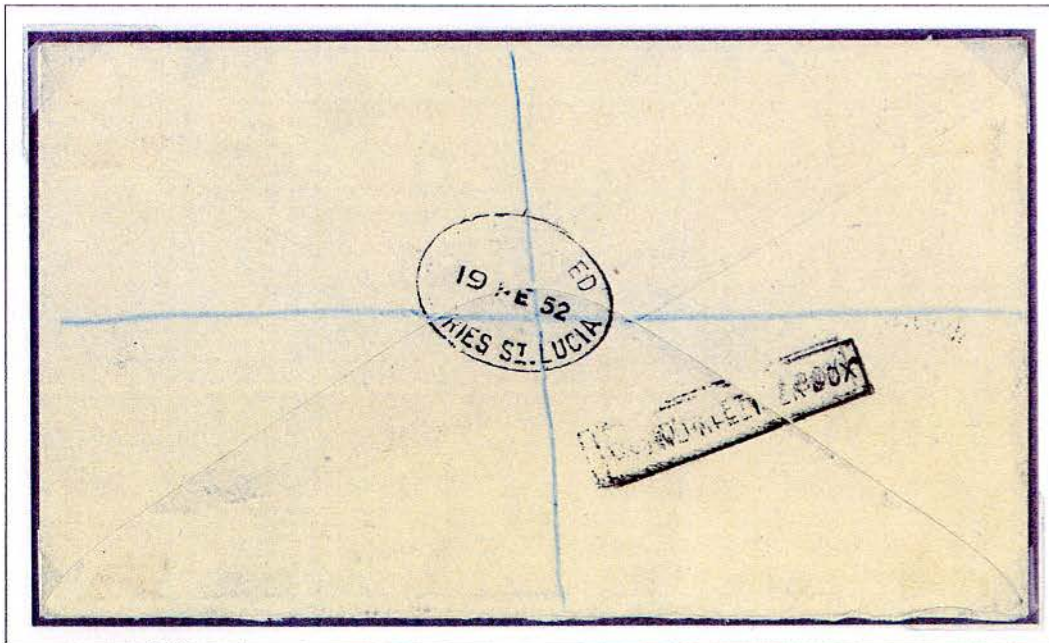
This mark was applied to registered mail, which was "mysteriously" found with other mail rather than having been segregated for special treatment

**FOUND IN LETTER BOX**

**Proud Types I21 and I42**  
(Duplicated in error.)



23 May 1937. Registered postal stationery envelope to UK with additional adhesives applied (philatelically). Type I42 boxed "FOUND IN LETTER BOX" marking applied indicating that it must have been mixed with the regular mail. Postmark date error.



**Proud Type D2**

19 February 1952. Registered cover from Anse-La-Raye to UK postmarked with Proud Type D2 postmark. Type I42 boxed "FOUND IN LETTER BOX" marking applied to the reverse.

LETTER BOX"

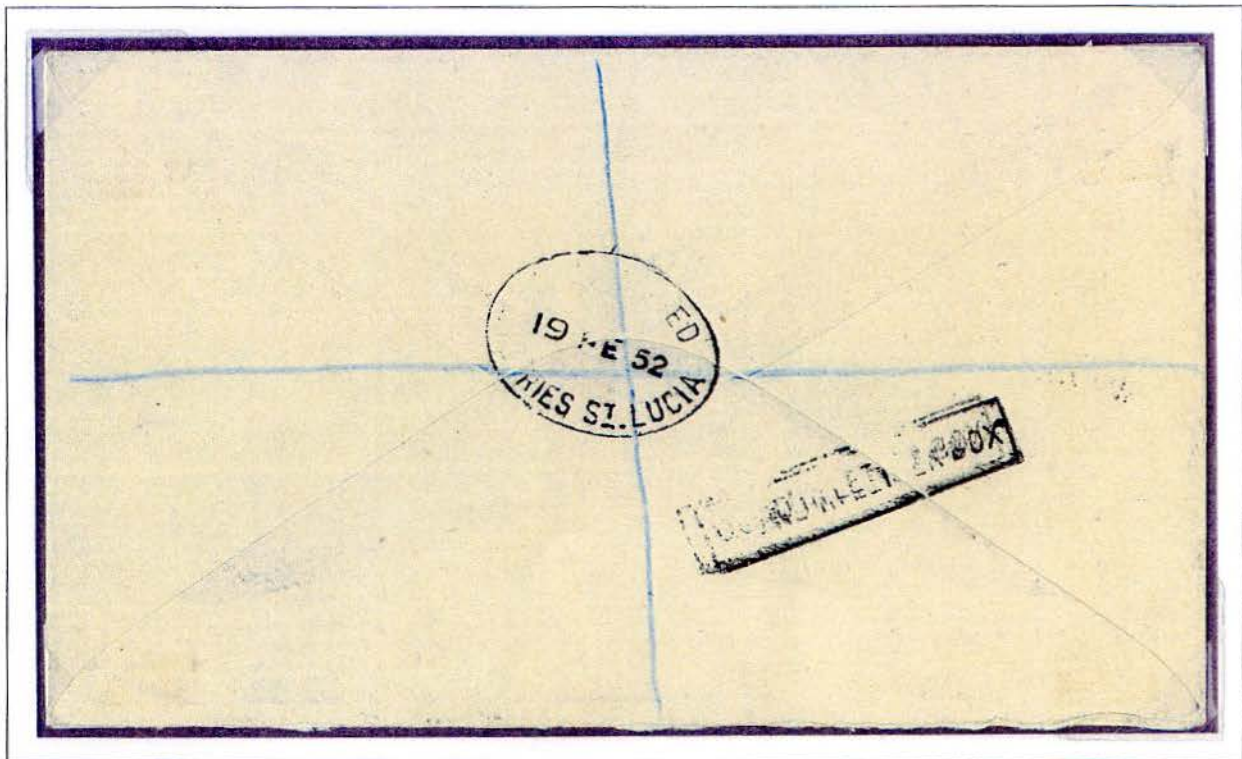
as applied to registered mail, which was  
found with other mail rather than having  
been treated for special treatment

FOUND IN LETTER BOX

Proud Types I21 and I42  
(Duplicated in error.)



Registered postal stationery envelope to UK with additional adhesives applied (philatelically). Type I42 boxed "FOUND IN LETTER BOX" marking applied indicating that it must have been mixed with the regular mail. Postmark date error.



Proud Type D2

19 February 1952. Registered cover from Anse-La-Raye to UK postmarked with Proud Type D2 postmark. Type I42 boxed "FOUND IN LETTER BOX" marking applied to the reverse.

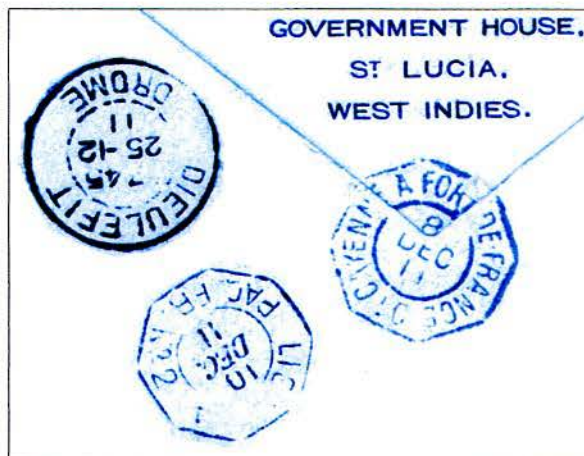
**AVIS DE RECEPTION (Acknowledgement of Receipt)**

(Proud type AR2, unlisted by Ritchie, *only recorded strike.*)

AR



**7 December 1911.** Cover sent from Government House, Castries to France. The 4½d postal rate comprised 2½d UPU letter rate plus 2d registration fee. No surcharge appears to have been levied for the AR service. The "AR" marking is applied in blue crayon and additionally via a type AR2 handstamp. An "R in oval" handstamp is struck to signify registration. The cover is endorsed "by French mail 8.12.11" in manuscript and was carried on the fortnightly Compagnie Générale Transatlantique service (see backstamps reproduced below.). There is also a Dieulefit, Drome receipt datestamp of 25 December (Christmas Day) on the reverse.



Scanned detail from reverse of cover

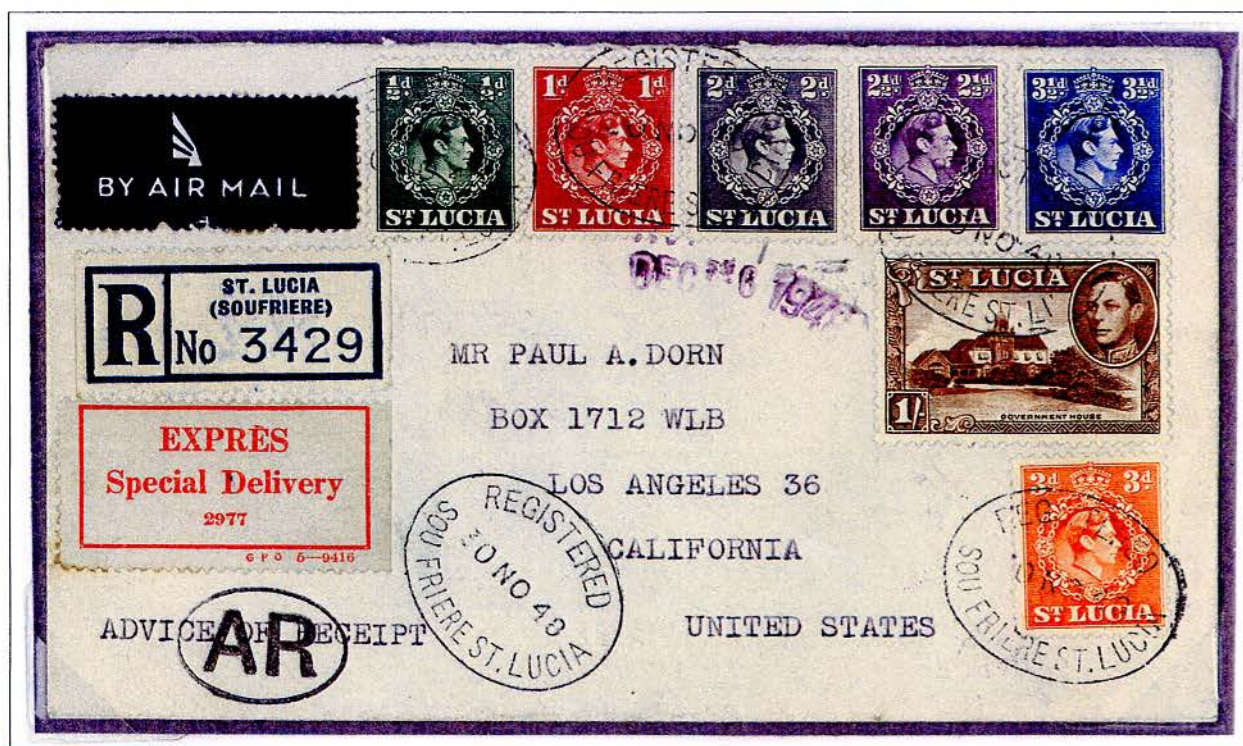
**AVIS DE RECEPTION (Acknowledgement of Receipt).**



**Proud Type AR3**



**5 July 1948.** Marginal cylinder number pair of 6d carmine-lake adhesives (perf 13½) on special 'Atlantic Charter' envelope sent from Vieux-Fort to Chicago. "AR" handstamp applied to the top left of the cover. Cancelled with a type VF4 Vieux-Fort postmark (earlier date than recorded by Ritchie). The airmail postage rate was 6d (PAA special rate), so it is deduced that the Acknowledgement of Receipt fee may also have been 6d. This seems rather steep, as the registration fee was only 3d.



**30 November 1948.** Registered cover to USA with "Expres / Special Delivery" label and also struck with a Type AR3 AR handstamp (two further strikes on reverse. Philatelically over-franked.



Air Mail

via Nyrbaline

New York, Rio & Buenos Aires Line (First Southbound Flight)

The first southbound flight by NYRBA left Castries on 7 March 1930.

The American Airmail Catalogue (AAMC) lists flights to Buenos Aires (NY-24, 7 carried) and Port of Spain (NY-24a). However covers have also been reported sent to Georgetown, Paramaribo and Pernambuco; it is probable that several other destinations also exist. The cachet is known to more than one addressee suggesting that it may have been official, but AAMC does not list it. It was first illustrated by Grigore in his book<sup>1</sup> on the NYRBA line



NY-24a. Castries – Port of Spain. Number carried not recorded, but probably more than to Buenos Aires (7 carried)



NY-24var. Castries – Pernambuco. Number carried not recorded, but probably less than to Buenos Aires (7 carried)

**Reference:** 1. Julius Grigore Jr. "NYRBA's Triple Crash Covers, Outlaw Flight and its Postal Markings." Pub. 1990

**'First Flight' (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic – St. Lucia)**

Following the execution of a contract between Pan American Airways and the Dominican Republic the first dispatches under this contract were made on 30 December 1930. The American Air Mail Catalogue lists the numbers carried (between 9 and 28) to nine destinations between Cayenne and Santos via Rio de Janeiro, and reports that mail was also carried to several other destinations. One of these was Port Castries in St. Lucia. The number flown was probably less than nine. Although a special first flight commemorative postmark was used on the cover below, this was not the first flight between these two destinations, as both were points on the FAM6 southbound route from Miami to Paramaribo in September 1929.



AAMC Type F6n  
First Flight Cachet



**30 December 1930.** 'First flight' cover sent from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic to Port Castries, St. Lucia on flight AAMC F6-65(var). Postmarked with AAMC type F6n special cancellation. Backstamped on receipt in Castries (30 December)

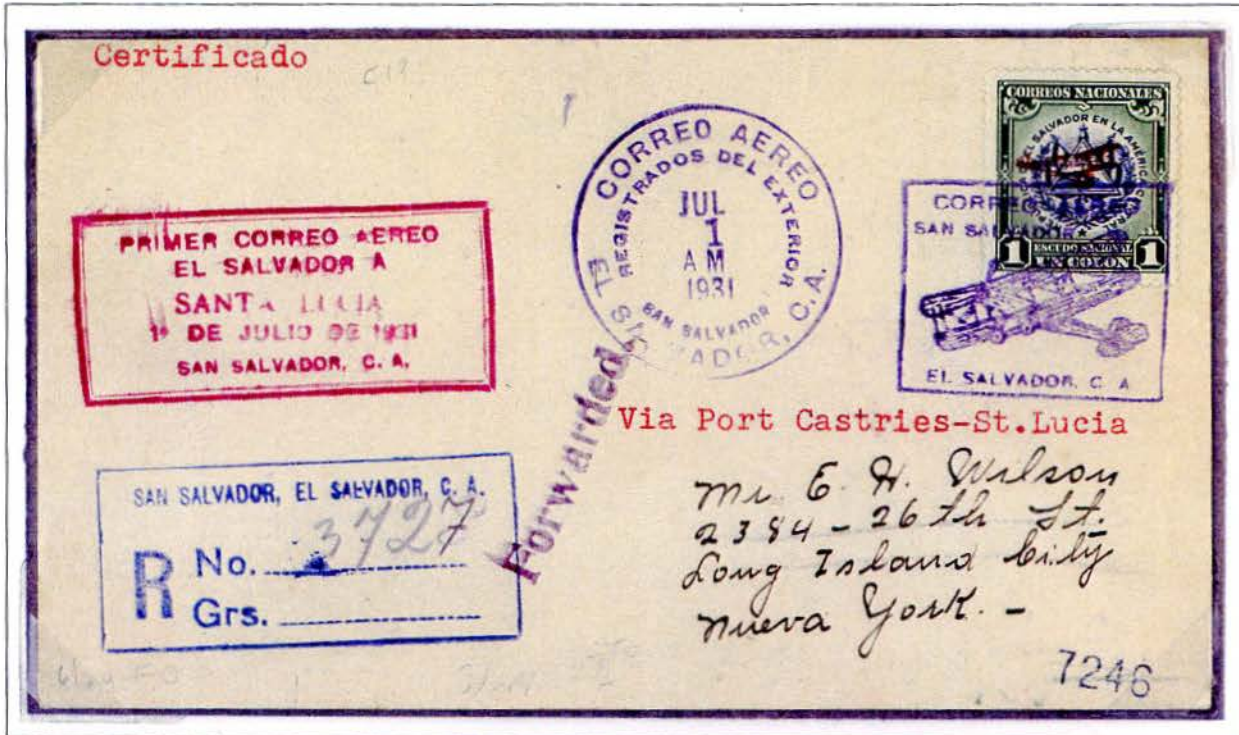
**First Flight (El Salvador – St. Lucia)**

On 28 June 1931 El Salvador introduced flights to link with destinations on FAM routes 5 and 6 under the terms of a new contract negotiated with Pan American Airways, inc. The two FAM routes had been interlinked since February 9, 1931 and operated as a single network. The first flight (AAMC F5-108) departed on 28 June to Kingston, Jamaica and a special cachet was applied to the 100 covers carried. A further flight (AAMC F5-109, Muller 35) departed on July 1, 1931 to Port of Spain, Trinidad and carried a small quantity of letters to several destinations on routes 5 and 6. The original Kingston cachet was modified by inserting the name of the destination either by rubber stamp or in manuscript.



**Forwarded.**

Unrecorded handstamp



1 July 1931. Salvador – Castries – New York. Castries "Forwarded" and receipt datestamp (13 July).



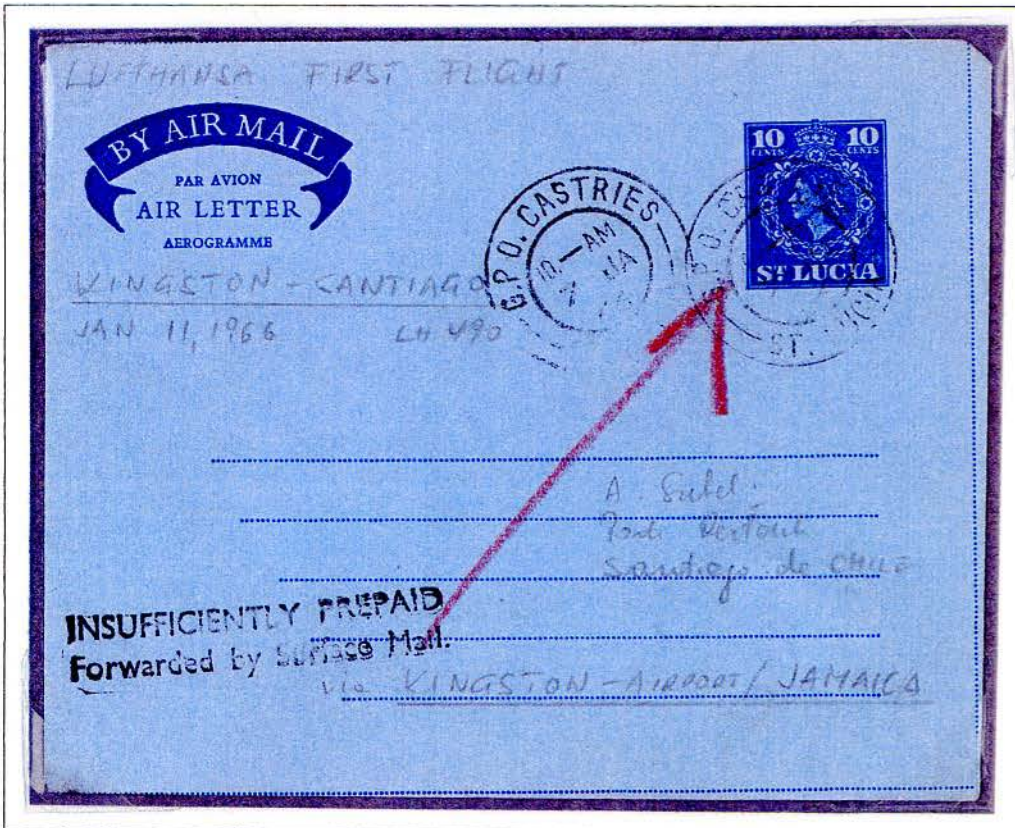
1 July 1931. Salvador – Castries – Salvador. Castries receipt datestamp (12 July).

**"INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID for Airmail"**



9 November 1956. Cover from Castries to USA franked with 28 cents in postage. Obviously the letter weight exceeded a quarter ounce in weight (28c rate introduced 10 October 1953), as it has been endorsed with a Type I56.

**INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID**  
**Forwarded by Surface Mail**  
**Proud Type I56 (53mm x 9.5mm)**  
**5mm between "Y" & "P"**

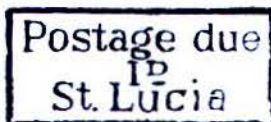


7 January 1966. Aerogramme from Castries to Santiago, intended for inclusion in the first flight, but underpaid, so it did not travel by air. The aerogramme rate was 15c from 1 January 1963.

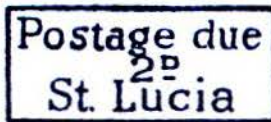
**INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID**  
**Forwarded by Surface Mail.**  
**Proud Type I59**  
**(49,5mm x 9mm)**  
**2mm between "Y" & "P"**

Postage Due Handstamps.

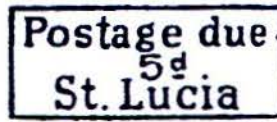
These handstamps were introduced sometime after the Post Office fire of May 1927 and were replaced by the locally printed postage due labels, which were issued on 3 January 1930. As a result of their very short lifetime they are extremely rare. Ritchie reported that a small number of 1d strikes were recorded (believed less than five) and the 2d appears to be even rarer. Although 3d, 4d, 5d and 6d handstamps were found in GPO Castries in Col. Reid's investigation, no strikes have yet been recorded.



Proud Type UP15



Proud Type UP16



Proud Type UP19



**27 December 1928.** Front sent from Kingston, Jamaica to Government House, Castries with Kingston 10 centimes postage due mark. On arrival in St. Lucia the cover received a type UP15 boxed Postage Due mark. Unfortunately the mark was cut out from the cover, but it has been replaced.

Postage Due Handstamps.

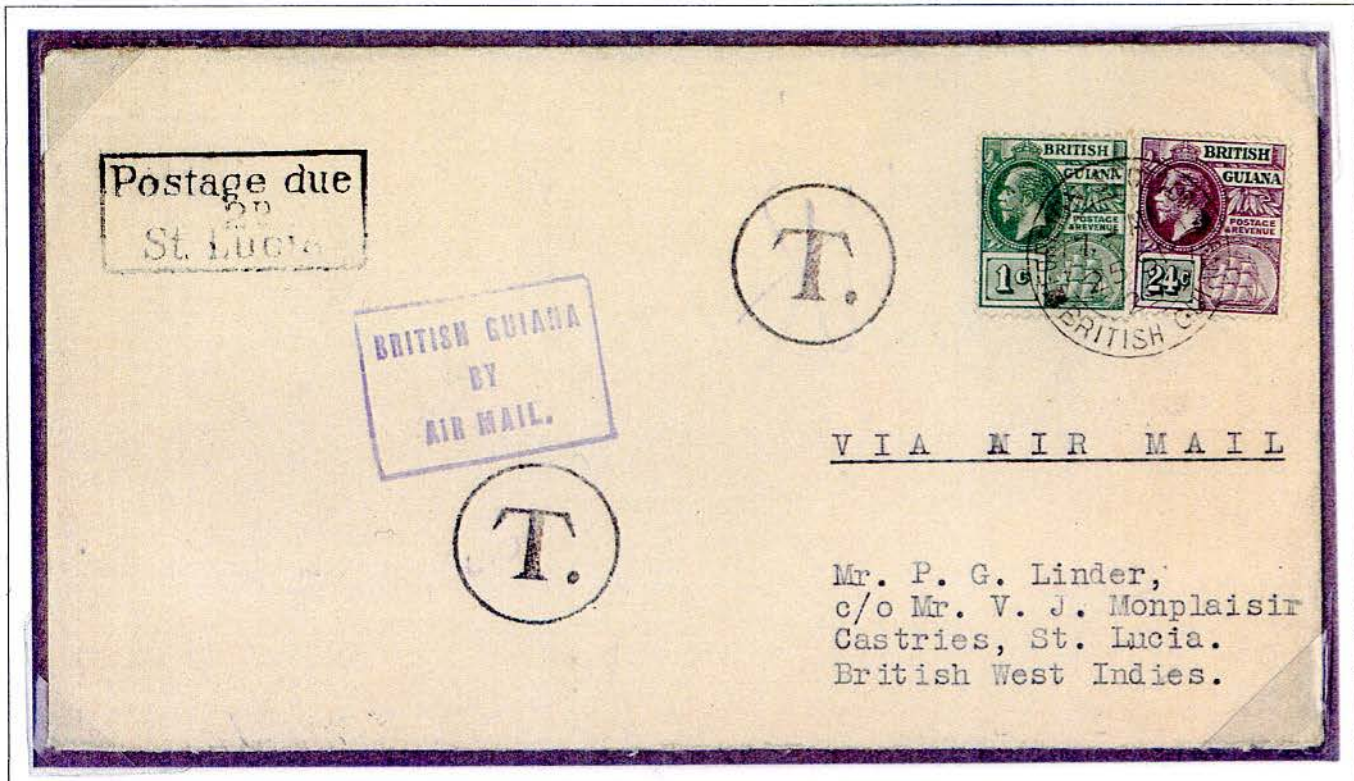
The cover below bears a rare strike of the "Postage due 2d St. Lucia" handstamp.

Postage due  
2<sup>d</sup>  
St. Lucia

ERD = March 1929  
LRD = 26 Sept 1929

Type UP16 ↓

Proud Type UP16



**25 September 1929.** Inward first flight cover from British Guiana bearing 25c in adhesives tied by "FOREIGN SECTION / BRITISH GUIANA" datestamp with violet boxed BRITISH GUIANA / BY / AIR MAIL" cachet at left. The cover is struck with two examples of the Georgetown "T." tax mark. There is a Castries arrival mark of 26 September 1929 with a strike of the rare type UP16 boxed St. Lucia postage due marking.

**First Air Mail (Northbound): Paramaribo – Miami**



This cover was flown on a section of this important first northbound flight. A total of 97 articles were flown between Bridgetown and Castries (**Flight F6-26b**). No special cachet was used. The pilot was Charles Lindbergh as far as Port of Spain and J.H.Tilton thereafter. The flight departed from Paramaribo on 25 September 1929 and arrived in Miami on 28 September.

**"D / TO PAY" Handstamp**

This mark was not reported by Ritchie. At least two strikes have been recorded. The other strike was also used in 1952 (from Jamaica) and has received a BPA certificate (2000). It is interesting that the only two copies recorded to date should have been used after the changeover to decimal currency. This happened on 1 January 1948 (2c = 1d) and pence currency definitive stamps were invalidated on 20 November 1951.

D

TO PAY



**11 March 1952.** 1952 envelope sent by air mail to Castries, St. Lucia from Stegi, Swaziland. Manuscript tax marking applied in Swaziland. When the envelope arrived in St. Lucia it received the "D / TO PAY" handstamp with "20c" added in manuscript, and 20c in postage due labels (from the 1949-52 series) were applied and cancelled in GPO Castries.

**LATE POSTING**

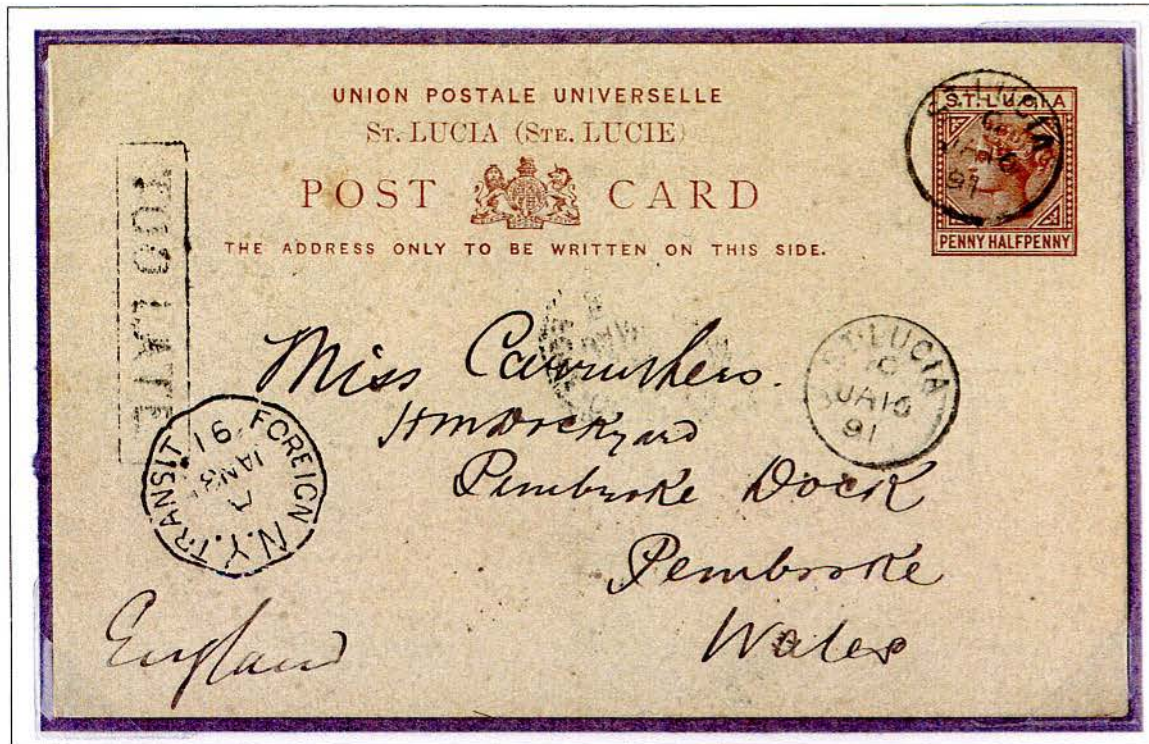
Covers posted after the normal closure time for the mails, and subjected to a "late fee" surcharge.

**TOO LATE**

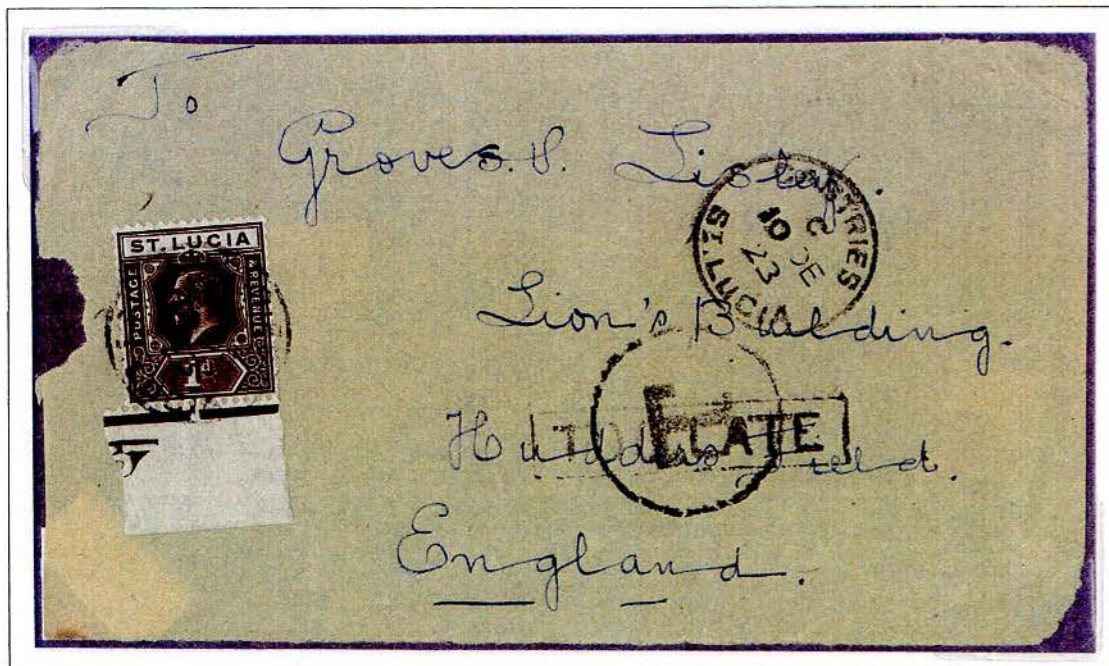
**Proud Type I50**  
(43mm x 10mm)

**TOO LATE**

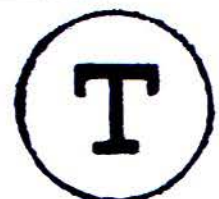
**Type I50a**  
(unlisted by Proud)  
(41mm x 10mm)



10 January 1891. Postcard to UK endorsed with a strike of the type I50 "TOO LATE" handstamp.



10 December 1923. Portion of newspaper, commercially used to England. Correctly rated one penny. Posted too late for normal inclusion in the mails, hence the application of the type I50a "TOO LATE" handstamp (unlisted by Proud: different size from I50). The fee was not collected, hence the use of the type T1 tax mark.



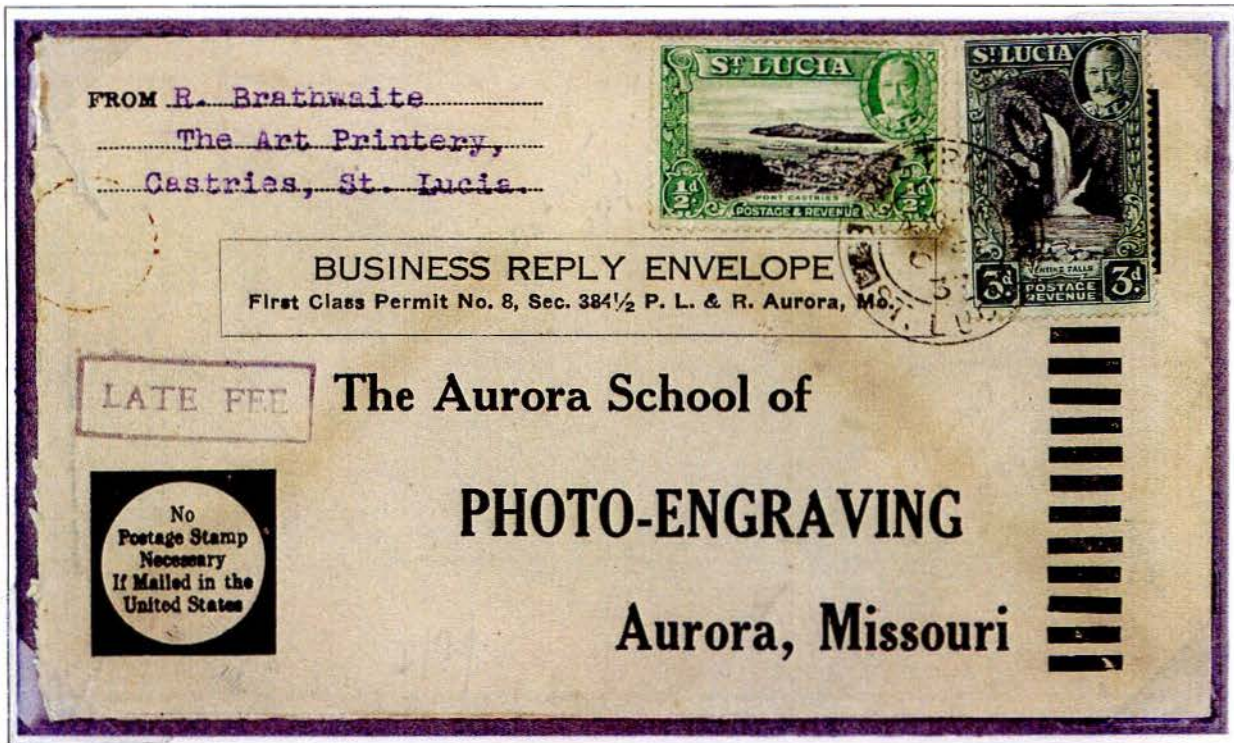
**Proud Type UP3**



"LATE FEE"

**LATE FEE**

Proud Type 152



6 February 1937. Commercial cover to USA. The normal surface rate was 2½d. The cover was posted late, so an additional 1d late fee was charged to have it included in the mails. Consequently, the cover is struck with a type TL1 "LATE FEE" handstamp.



4 October 1937. Commercial cover to Hong Kong. The normal surface rate was 1½d (Empire rate), so an additional 1d late fee has been added to the rate. Consequently, the cover has been struck with a type TL1 "LATE FEE" handstamp.

**“UNCLAIMED” and “RETOUR”**

( Unclaimed - Proud type I9, unrecorded by Ritchie, *only recorded strike*)

This is the only recorded example of this boxed “UNCLAIMED” handstamp. It is quite possible that the “RETOUR” handstamp was also applied in Castries, but the purple “Non Réclamé” marking does not appear to be of local origin.

**UNCLAIMED**

**RETOUR**

**Non Réclamé.  
Not called for.**



**2 November 1899.** Hungarian reply paid postcard sent from Budapest to Castries. Endorsed in manuscript “via New York” the card bears a New York transit mark of 17 November. The card was not claimed in St. Lucia so it bears a Castries datestamp of 1 December alongside a strike of type I9 “UNCLAIMED” and a pencil endorsement “Cannot be found”. The reply portion of the card was addressed so it would be easy to return to sender. “RETOUR” and “Non Réclamé” handstamps were struck to instruct and explain this action.

**BOXED UNDELIVERABLE MARKS.**

**UNCLAIMED**

**Proud Type I10**

**REBUT**

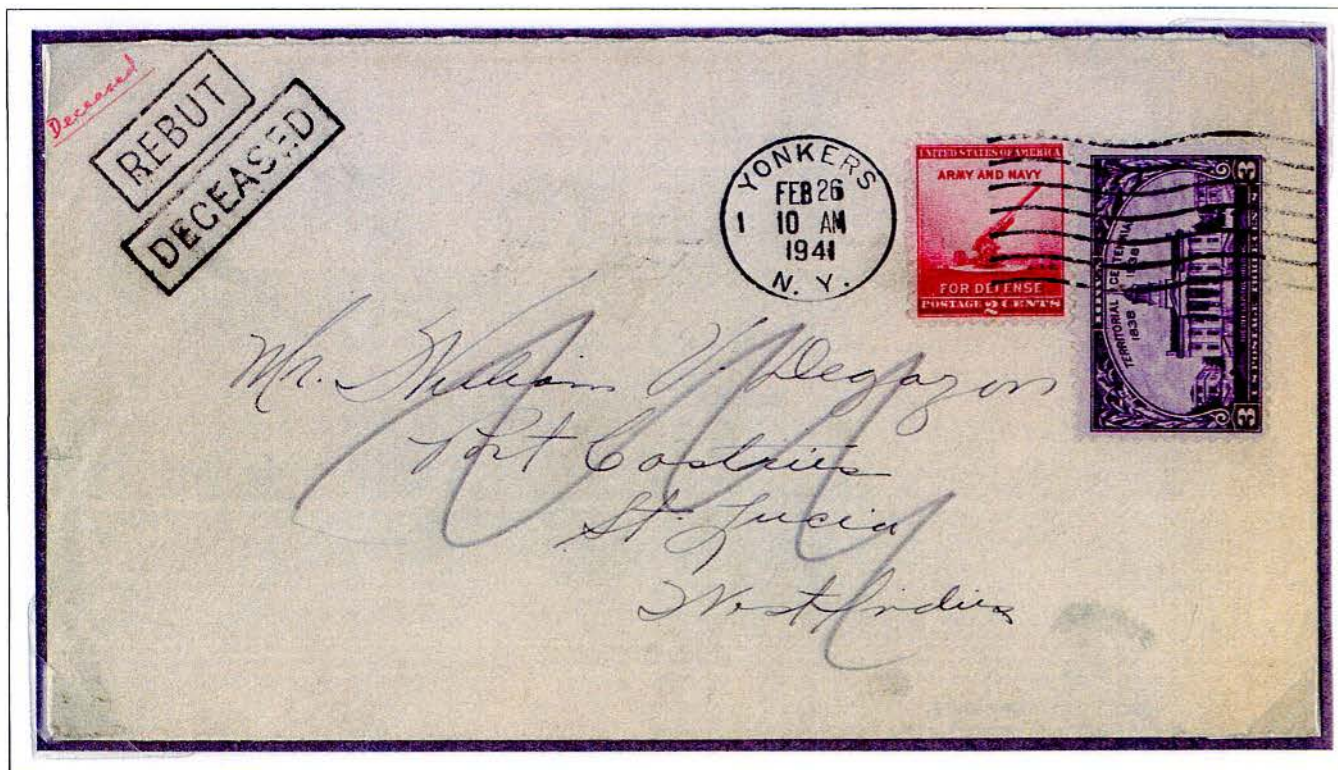
**Proud Type I23**

**DECEASED**

**Proud Type I32**



**5 September 1935.** Cover from USA to Castries, St. Lucia. The addressee was deceased so the cover bears boxed "DECEASED" and "UNCLAIMED" handstamps and a type D14 Castries datestamp, all applied in St. Lucia. The cover also bears a Downington Dead Letter Office datestamp (30 January 1936) and a pointing hand (returned to Writer) from the Dead Letter Office.



**26 February 1941.** Cover from New York to St. Lucia. Returned to sender due to the death of the addressee. The cover bears strikes of the rare boxed handstamps "DECEASED" and "REBUT". Backstamped with a Castries type D15a (different from Proud type D15) datestamp (16 March 1941).

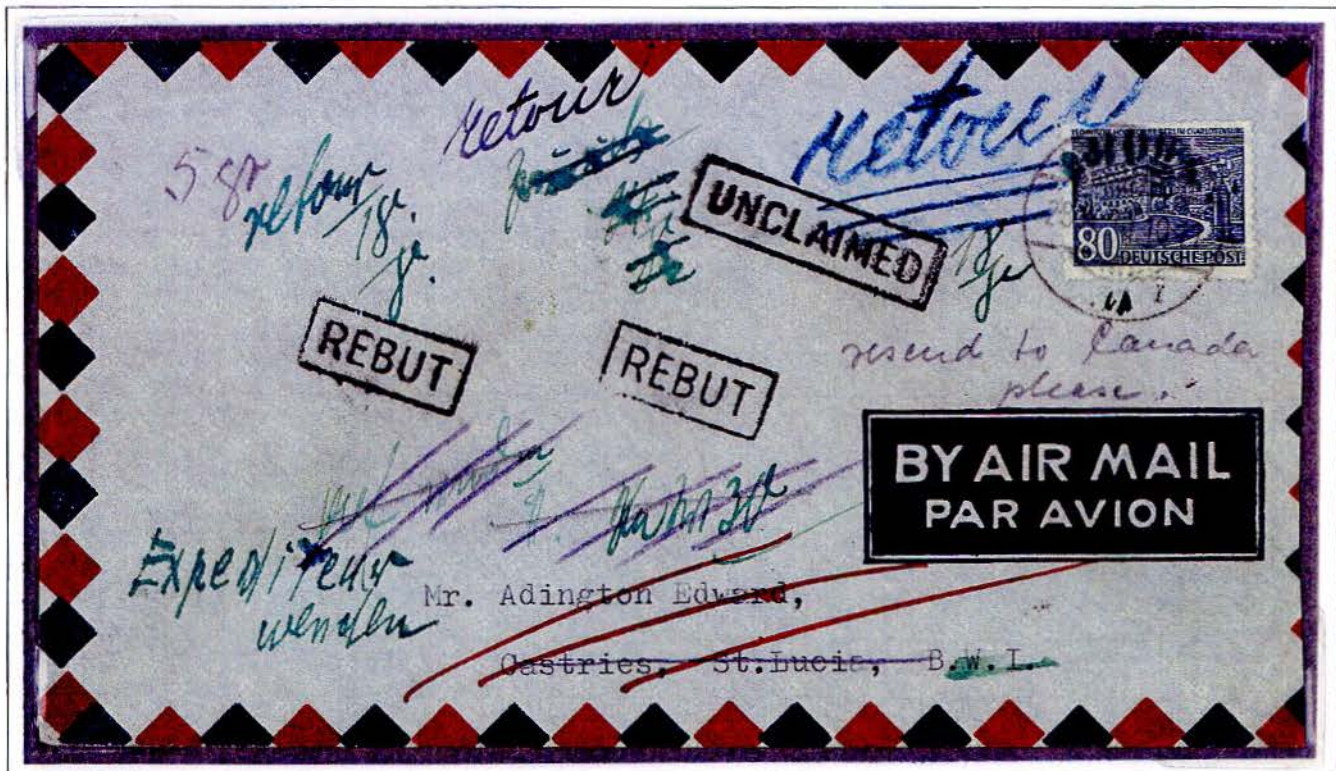
BOXED UNDELIVERABLE MARKS.

UNCLAIMED

REBUT



8 April 1946. Special flight cover from Netherlands to Castries via Curacao. The cover was backstamped on receipt in Willemstad, Curacao on 16 April and in Castries on 23 April. The cover was unclaimed and received a boxed "UNCLAIMED" handstamp. It also bears a Trinidad datestamp of 13 May, a Castries datestamp of 21 May and another Trinidad datestamp of 27 May, presumably en route to its return to sender in Amsterdam.



28 April 1950. Airmail cover from Germany to Castries. Backstamped on receipt on 3 May. Numerous "Retour" manuscript endorsements indicate that the addressee could not be found and the cover was struck with the Castries boxed "UNCLAIMED" and "REBUT" handstamps. Returned to Germany. The cover is then endorsed "left" and "resend to Canada please". Backstamped in Berlin with a datestamp of 17 August.

**BOXED UNDELIVERABLE MARKS.**

Boxed REBUT handstamp with "Unclaimed" in manuscript. Had the boxed UNCLAIMED handstamp been misplaced? Ritchie reports that the handstamp was in the GPO in August 1974 and he illustrates a strike from the instrument, proving that it had not been damaged. Whatever the explanation, the boxed types were superseded by the step type marks, as shown below. To date only the UNCLAIMED / St.L. mark has been seen, although there were eight different types prepared.



23 February 1966. Cover from UK to Port Castries, St. Lucia. The cover was backstamped on receipt on 18 March, the addressee could not be located, and it was endorsed "Unclaimed" and "REBUT". Backstamped again in Castries on 20 August prior to returning to sender.

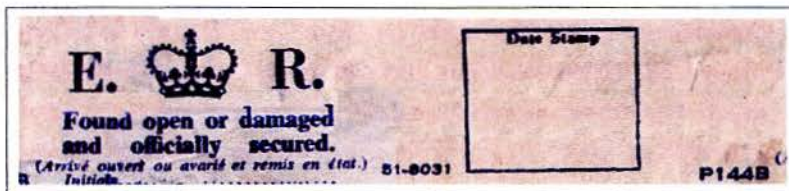
**REBUT**



29 May 1974. Local cover from Castries. Backstamped on receipt on 30 May. Struck with the rare step-type "UNCLAIMED / ST.L." boxed handstamp. Maybe this mark was required due to unavailability of the original UNCLAIMED handstamp

**UNCLAIMED  
ST.L.**

**BOXED INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS + RE-SEALING LABEL (Type P 144B)**

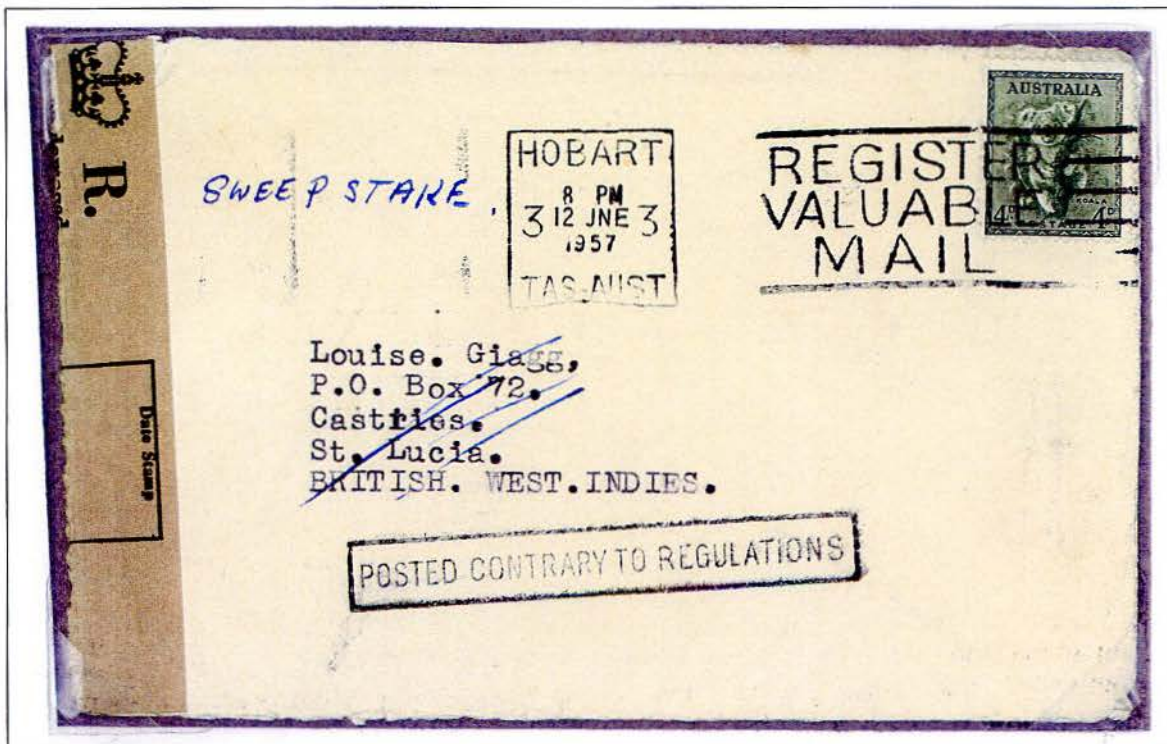


**POSTED CONTRARY TO REGULATIONS**

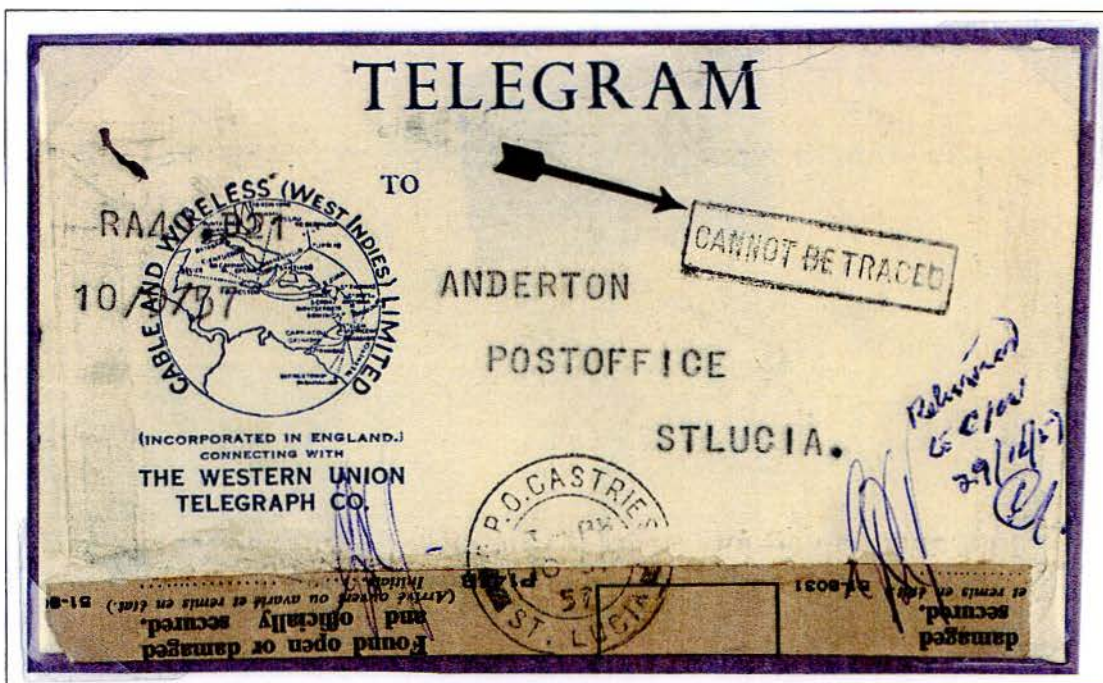
Proud Type I18

**CANNOT BE TRACED**

Proud Type I30



**12 June 1957.** This cover was probably suspected of containing cash – indicated by the manuscript endorsement “Sweepstake”. Such mail should only be sent by registered mail. The cover has been opened on receipt in St. Lucia to confirm the nature of the contents and bears a strike of the rare “POSTED CONTRARY TO REGULATIONS” boxed handstamp. It was re-sealed with a type P144B re-sealing label, but was not compulsorily registered. Maybe this indicates that it did not contain cash after all. It is interesting that the slogan datestamp reads “Register valuable mail”.



**10 September 1957.** Telegram envelope sent to untraceable addressee. Resealed with type P144B re-sealing label, tied by Castries datestamp and returned to Cable and Wireless.

**PARCEL POST CANCELLATION**

Ritchie reports in his handbook<sup>1</sup> that Col. Reid had a copy of this cancellation on a 2c and 5c of the first QE2 series. However, Reid had many favour strikes in his collection, which had been prepared for him by the GPO, so this did not confirm usage. Ritchie then adds "However, that this mark was actually used – probably only for a short time – has subsequently been shown by a part strike on a \$1 adhesive of the same series" (see below). At least three further strikes have been recorded and it is most probable that a few more will be recorded, but the strike remains extremely scarce as few parcel wrappers were ever retained.

# CASTRIES ST. LUCIA.

Proud Type PP6



Original reported strike  
on \$1 definitive



Slightly smudged undated strike on 4c, 10c and \$1 definitives.



Enlarged photocopy from  
the parcel fragment on the  
next page.

**PARCEL POST LABELS**

Fragment of parcel wrapper from Castries to USA. The \$2.50 adhesive is cancelled with the finest recorded strike of the Castries parcel post obliterator. Also shown are copies of the "Imperial & Foreign Parcel Post" label #280 and a portion of the the customs declaration form, postmarked March 1957. (It appears as if this label may have been relocated on the fragment.) At upper right is a 15c due handstamp applied in new York for "clearance and delivery".

Imperial & Foreign Parcel Post  
 ST. LUCIA, WEST INDIES.  
**280**  
 ST. LUCIA, WEST INDIES.



Post Office New York  
**INTERNATIONAL PARCEL POST**  
 513  
**COLLECT 15 CENTS**  
 To be affixed and cancelled.

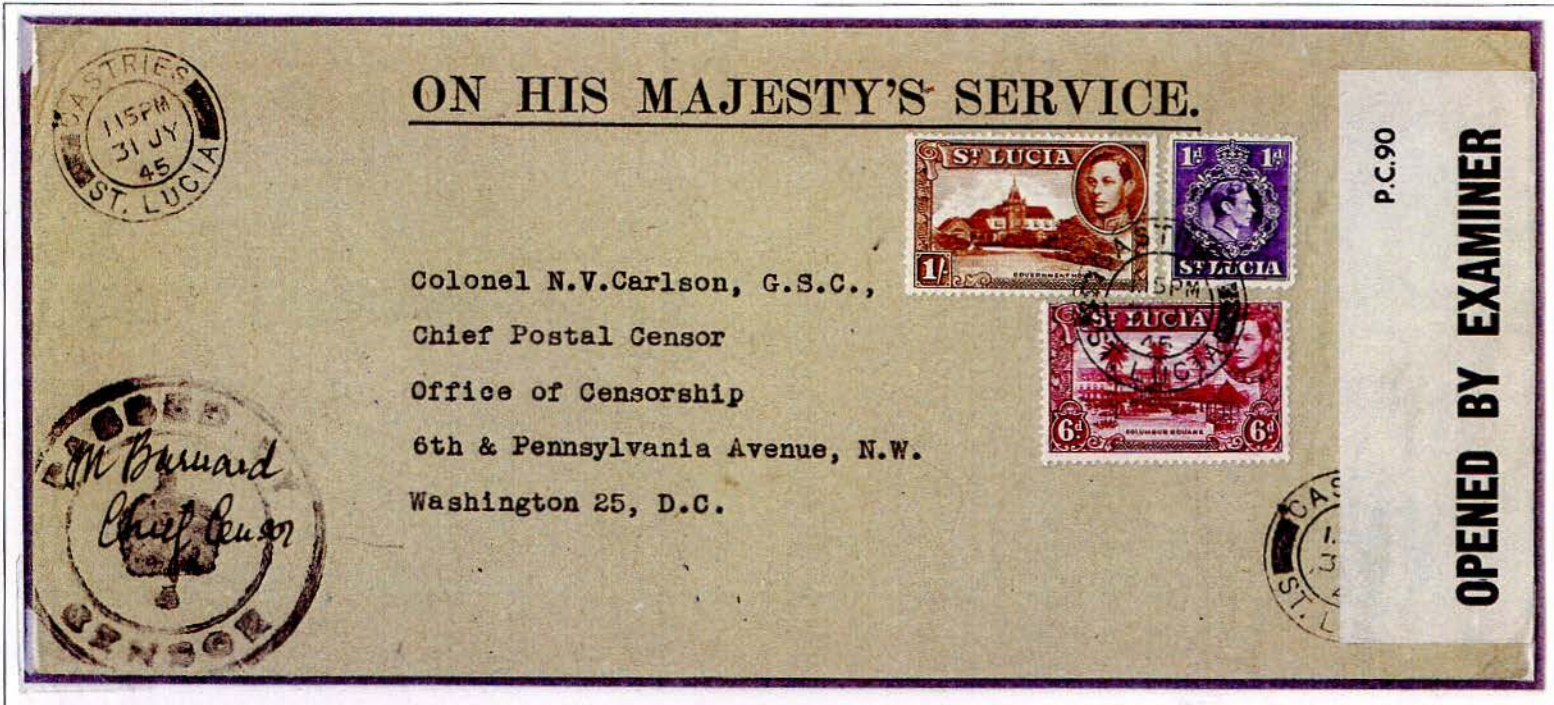
**To:**  
 DR. N. D. THETFORD  
 68 SOUTH ST  
 IN TOWN  
 N. J.  
 U. S. A.

Date Stamp 	To be used for Colonial and certain Foreign Parcels <b>PARCEL POST</b> ST. LUCIA (British West Indies)	Place to which the Parcel is addressed	Value as merchandise
		Route <i>via</i>	Net Weight Contents
FORM OF CUSTOMS DECLARATION The nature of contents should be stated in N.T.S.			
Gross Weight of Parcel			



**Type CH3a "PASSED BY CENSOR" Handstamp.**

Edward Tweddell, in his recent study<sup>1</sup> on civil censorship in St. Lucia, described a large triple circle mark inscribed PASSED BY CENSOR with a crown in the centre. The letters "T T" are printed to the left and right of the crown and an indecipherable numeral is printed below the crown. He classified this unique mark as type CH3. This cover shows an identical handstamp, but without the letters "T T". The numeral below the crown is a "4", the standard number for St. Lucia. The mark has been given a new classification number, type CH3a.

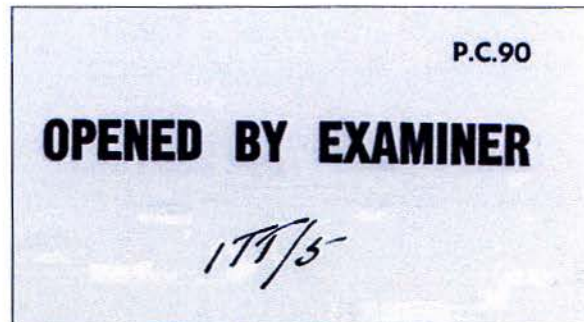


31 July 1945. Censored OHMS cover from Castries to Washington DC. The cover bears postage of 1/7, which was probably intended for the air mail rate; as the cover was official it would have been carried free by surface mail. However there is no air mail endorsement on the cover. The cover has been passed by M. Barnard, the Chief Censor, and is signed by him over the **type CH3a handstamp** described above. A similar cover (to the same addressee and dated 30 July 1945) is recorded from St. Vincent with a similar handstamp, but with numeral "1" (for St. Vincent).

The above envelope has then been re-sealed with a type CL9 label (latest recorded date) and signed "ITT/5" on the reverse. This is the latest recorded example of civil censorship from St. Lucia.



**Type CH3a Handstamp**  
(only recorded strike)



**Type CL9 Resealing strip**  
ERD = 30 April 1945 LRD = 31 July 1945

**Reference:** 1. World War II Civil Censorship in St. Lucia. Edward T. Tweddell. British Caribbean Philatelic Journal. Vol 40(2). June 2000.