

BARBADOS INFORMATION FROM 'THE POST OFFICE IN BARBADOS'
 BY HERBERT BAYLEY MAY 1933
 Summarised by Robert Johnson

1851	Inland postage on letters was fixed at 1d for ½d. To the United Kingdom by mail packet 1s 0d each ½ oz. To countries in the West Indies 4d each ½ oz exclusive of the local rate of postage of 2d collected from both the addressee and the sender.
1854	Inland newspapers ½d each.
1861 Sept	Compulsory prepayment on letters to the United Kingdom
1862/1864	The additional inland charge for letters coming into Barbados was abolished but the inland fee on incoming newspapers was still collected if the newspaper was delivered by the letter carriers. The inland rate of 1d for each ½ oz was still charged on all outgoing letters up to 1881 [when Barbados joined the UPU] and that applied even to countries in the West Indies with whom postal agreements had been made.
1872	Ship letters to the United Kingdom 3d for each ½ oz with newspapers going free of postage. Ship letters to British Guiana, other islands in the West Indies, Canada and the United States 2d for each ½ oz
1881 Sept 1	Barbados joins the UPU Letters to Great Britain 4d for each oz. Non contract ship letter rates: not stated for this period.
1885 Jan 1	The registration fee for foreign i.e. overseas letters was fixed at 2d and there was a provision that the special PO registration envelopes had to be used. The inland registration fee is confused as the requirement was to buy a PO envelope at 1½d unless the enclosure was too large for the standard size envelope [5¼ x 3¼ inches]
1889 March	Inland registration reduced to 1d including the cost of the envelope and some time later it became 1d exclusive of the cost of the envelope.
1891 Jan 1	UPU rates of 2½d for each ½ oz applied to letters to the United Kingdom and to places within 300 miles of Barbados. To all other places within the UPU such as Antigua and the USA and to places where the mail was sent by private steamer the rate remained at 4d for each ½ ounce.
1892 Sept 30	Letter rates to all countries whether members of the UPU or not was reduced to 2½d for each ½ oz
1896 Jan 23	The rate for inland newspapers became ¼d for each 2 ozs provided they were posted at the GPO in Bridgetown. From the 2nd February 1896 newspapers at this rate could be posted at parish post offices with the ¼d stamps becoming available on the 5th May 1896.
1898 Feb 2	The rate for inland newspapers became ¼d for 4 ozs
1898 Dec 25	The letter rate to the United Kingdom, to British Guiana, and to all other British West Indies Islands [except Jamaica] was reduced to 1d for 1 oz
1899 May 24	The rate for letters to Jamaica was reduced to 1d for 1 oz.
1904 Oct 1	Insurance of postal items: fees 8d up to £12 and 2½d for each £12 after that up to a maximum of £120.
1907 Jan 3	Inland letter rate changed to 1d for 1 oz Postage to the UK and to other British possessions became 1d for 1 oz. The rates to all other places became 2½d for the first ounce and 1½d for each extra ounce thereafter
1909 Feb 2	A COD system was introduced restricted to parcels, insured letters and registered packets sent to the United Kingdom and certain British Empire countries. The fee outwards charged in Barbados was 4d an item and the collection fee on incoming COD items was from 4d up to £5 and onwards to 1s 0d for up to £20.

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1915 April 1	The postage to the USA was to be the same as the Barbados inland rates that is to say 1d for 1 oz.
1917 Oct 15	War Tax stamps were put on sale at post offices in Barbados having been authorised on the 29th June 1917. The rule was that a 1d war tax stamp had to be affixed to any letter to any place abroad to which the postage was 1d for 1 oz i.e. to British Empire countries and to the USA.
1920 April 1	War Tax stamp requirement was abolished.
1931 Oct 23	The registration fee for foreign letters was increased to 3d. The registration fee on inland letters became 2d.
1931 Nov 1	The arrangement with the USA was terminated and the rate became the UPU rate of 2½d for the first ounce and 1½d for each ounce thereafter. The rate to the United Kingdom and countries in the Imperial scheme was raised from 1d for 1 oz to 1½d for each oz. Inland newspapers were now charged ½d for 6 ozs instead of ¼d for 4 ozs. The overseas newspaper rate remained unchanged at 1d for 2 ozs [the rate since 1851].
1932 Oct 1	Insurance of postal items: fees including the registration fee reduced to 5d for £12 with 2½d for each £12 thereafter up to a maximum of £60.
1933 May 15	Inland postage on letters still 1d for 1 oz.
1933	Non contract ship letter rates For every 5 letters sent to places in the Imperial postage scheme & to USA – 1d For every 5 letters sent to all other places 2½d For every 5 articles other than letters or parcels sent to all places ¼d

NOTE ON LATE FEES

Bayley only gives examples rather than operative dates:

1874: 4d first 30 minutes after 6pm and 1s 0d 6.30pm to 8.30pm

1904: mails to the UK or in transit through the UK

1d 3.00pm to 3.30pm on Saturdays

2½d for letters only 3.30pm to 4pm on Saturdays

1905 August 26: late fees abolished.

NOTE ON AIRMAILS

The only undated reference [so current at the time of publication – May 1933] was 3s 0½d for ½ to 1 oz and 1s 7½d for up to ½ oz. This gives UPU postage of 2½d and ounce and an air fee of 1s 5d for each ½ ounce.

The first Post Office Guide in Barbados was published in 1932