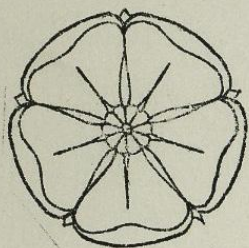


MAGAZINE
OF
THE

"CARIBBEANA"

ROSES
CARIBBEAN
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY



Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

Nº 2

ROSES CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

1970/71 SESSION

This brochure has been specially
compiled for the occasion of the
25th Annual Convention

of the

YORKSHIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

to be held on the 8th May, 1971

at

WAKEFIELD

Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

ROSES CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

1970/71 SESSION

Officers:-

Chairman	W. K. Watson, 69 Baildon Road, Baildon, Shipley. (Tel. Shipley 57991)
Secretary,	A. Shepherd, 3 Willowfield Road, Halifax.

Approximately four meetings per year are held, usually one meeting in each of the months of September, November, February and April, at

THE GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, LEEDS.

Details of all meetings, which are held on Saturday afternoons from approximately 2.15 p.m. until 4.30 p.m., can be obtained from the Secretary.

The Society is actively connected with other local Philatelic Societies, and on an average two outside displays are given each year, in addition to the ordinary meetings.

Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

The following members of the Society are also prepared to give individual displays, or part displays with other members to other Societies, and may be contacted through the Secretary.

- W. Best, (Huddersfield), Bermuda
- J. Roberts, (Huddersfield), Leewards and Antigua
- A. Shepherd, (Huddersfield), Barbados, St. Kitts, Nevis and Grenada
- F. Stephens, (Wakefield), Stamps and postmarks of Antigua, Bahamas, Bermuda, Turks and Caicos, also postmarks of Trinidad and Tobago
- M. Steward, (Bradford and Leeds), Leewards
- D. Sutcliffe, (Huddersfield), Barbados and Jamaica
- R. Ward, (Sheffield), Haiti, British Guiana, Anguilla
- K. Watson, (Leeds), Jamaica

Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

The first meeting of what was to become the Roses Caribbean Society was held at a private house in Leeds on the 13th July 1957, when several local philatelists from Wakefield, Bradford and Leeds gathered together. As a result, a group was formed to encourage the study and display of the stamps and postal history of the West Indies in the North of England. It should be noted that it is the study of material of the West Indies, and therefore the group decided not to limit themselves purely to the stamps, etc., of the British West Indies, but to cater for collectors and those interested in any countries within the area.

In the early stages the group operated under the banner of the British West Indies Study Circle, but of recent years the members have met as an independent body. Membership tends to fluctuate around fifteen per meeting, and, apart from a few meetings in Lancashire - for we welcome those wearing either rose, meetings have been held in Leeds as a matter of convenience.

Since the end of the last war, Study Circles have come to play a large part in the life of even local philatelists, and undoubtedly they have been responsible for the wide dissemination of philatelic

Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

knowledge and the spread of the hobby. Probably the only disadvantage of a study circle is that the meeting place is invariably far removed from the homes of the members. Thus the main means of communication tends to be by pamphlet and bulletin, rather than personal contact and the display of stamps. It was this last point which led to the formation of our group - our only reason for existing being our mutual wish to see West Indian collections.

There is naturally a wide variety of interests, so that on an afternoon it is almost impossible not to find something on display of interest, when the members as a whole show their material. We have over the years been host to a number of eminent philatelists, some of whom have travelled far to show their material. Amongst those who have visited us have been the late Commander Bridgemoor-Brown (Bermuda); Mr. P. Saunders (Cayman Islands); Miss Rose Titford (St. Christopher-Nevis); Mr. J. Todd (Turks and Caicos Islands); Mr. A. J. Branston (Bahamas); Mr. C. W. Hellewell (St. Vincent); Mr. C. F. Hodson (British Guiana); Mr. T. Foster (Jamaica); Mr. A. Morley (Antigua); Mr. J. B. Marriott (Trinidad); Dr. R. H. Blackburn (Jamaica); Mr. K. J. A. O. Manning (Ship Letters) and Dr. G. G. Ritchie (St. Lucia), to name but a few.

Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

The West Indies has for many years been a favourite area amongst collectors, and it is therefore not surprising that at the present time there are two international study circles, one in England and the other in the U.S.A. The oldest of the two, the British West Indies Study Circle, is based in England, and was founded by Philip Saunders in 1954. The other group is the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group operating from the U.S.A. Both groups issue bulletins and sponsor books and/or pamphlets, and both are first class international organisations dedicated to West Indian philately. Needless to say, some of our members belong to either or both of these bodies, and thus are able to draw on a wealth of information for their hobby.

International study groups are a far cry from our own little Society, but nevertheless over a period of fourteen years or so, we have also enjoyed a wide variety of displays of "the West Indies". Probably the best way to close this article is to quote our only lady member, who was heard to say that the nicest thing she enjoyed at our meetings was the friendly atmosphere. We trust that you will come along to see us, and judge for yourself the truth of this statement.

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Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The British West Indies consist of the Bahamas, Jamaica, including its dependencies, the Cayman Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Leeward Islands, the Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, and the two countries on the mainland of South America, British Guiana and British Honduras.

For philatelic purposes, at least, the island of Bermuda lying some four hundred miles to the North of the main Caribbean is also considered as part of the British West Indies.

The English adventurers and settlers did not arrive in the Caribbean until about the seventeenth century, and in the wars during the next two centuries the islands, with the exception of Barbados, changed hands many times between Britain, France, Spain and Holland. Admiral Rodney, however, restored all the islands to Britain after defeating the French at the Battle of the Saints (off Dominica) in 1782.

Geographically the Turks and Caicos Islands form part of the Bahamas, but in 1848, at the request of the inhabitants, they were formed into a separate colony under the supervision of Jamaica.

The most Northerly of the British West Indies

Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

group are the Bahamas, which consist of twenty nine islands and over six hundred and sixty islets, scattered over seven hundred miles of the Atlantic. San Salvador on Watlings Island was the first land discovered by Columbus on his first voyage of discovery in 1492.

During the last century the Windward Islands consisted of Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Tobago. Barbados ceased to be a member of the group in 1885, and in 1888 Tobago became a dependency of Trinidad. Dominica was transferred from the Leeward group to this area in 1939.

The seat of the Governor of the Windwards is situate at Grenada, which was the island discovered by Columbus in 1498. St. Lucia, the northernmost of the group was also discovered by Columbus in 1502.

During the early part of the seventeenth century, St. Vincent and Dominica were the homes of the warlike Carib indians, from whom the word "Caribbean" is derived. These islands were captured in turn by the English and the French during the eighteenth century, but passed to Britain early in the nineteenth century.

Barbados, the only island in the British West Indies which has never belonged to a foreign power, was claimed for Britain in 1605, when the captain of

Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

an English ship, "The Olive Blossom", claimed it for James I of England.

Trinidad, the largest island in the British West Indies after Jamaica, was discovered by Columbus in 1498. It was captured by the English from the Spaniards in 1797. The adjoining island, Tobago, like Trinidad, was a separate colony until it ceased to be one of the Windward group in 1888 to become a dependency of Trinidad. It was in 1913 that the first stamps were issued bearing the title "Trinidad and Tobago", both colonies hitherto having had their own issues of stamps.

The Leeward Islands was a federal colony comprising the four "Presidencies" of Antigua, with Barbuda and Redonda, St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands.

Antigua was discovered by Columbus in 1493 and named after a church in Seville, the "Santa Maria de la Antigua". With a population of some 49,700, and an area of over a hundred square miles, it is one of the larger islands of the group. Barbuda lies some twenty five miles to the North of Antigua and Redonda some twenty five miles to the Southwest.

St. Kitts (or St. Christopher) Nevis and Anguilla are the next group, and have together a population of some 52,000 They were colonised in 1623 by Sir Thomas

Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

Warner, and it was from St. Kitts that Sir Thomas set out to settle on Antigua and Montserrat.

Montserrat, with an area of thirty two square miles and a population of over 13,000, was discovered by Columbus in 1493, who named it after a mountain in Spain.

The British Virgin Islands consist of thirty six islands and islets and are situate at the Eastern end of the Greater Antilles. The total area of this group is sixty seven square miles, with a population of about 7,500, who live on only seven of the main islands.

Guyana, formerly British Guiana until it gained its independence in 1966, lies on the Northeast coast of South America. This coast was first visited by Columbus in 1498, but apparently he never landed there. Guyana has a population of 465,000, with an area of some eighty three thousand square miles, of which about eighty five percent is forest. The Spanish, French and Dutch all fought for possession of this area, but it was left in the hands of the Dutch until 1781, when it was captured by the British and finally ceded to England in 1814.

The other colony on the main coast of South America is British Honduras, which lies on the East coast of Central America. It is bordered on the North

Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

by Mexico, on the West and South West by Guatemala and on the East by the Bay of Honduras. The coast was visited by Columbus in 1502, and British Honduras became a Crown Colony in 1871. It has an area of eight thousand eight hundred and sixty six square miles with a population of 75,750.

The "Bermudas" or "Somers Islands" form a group of small islands in the Western Atlantic some six hundred and ninety miles from New York. The total area of the islands is twenty one square miles with a population of some 40,000.

Jamaica, the largest of the islands in the British West Indies, has an area of four thousand four hundred and eleven square miles, and a population of about 1,500,000. It was discovered by Columbus on 3rd May 1495, and remained in Spanish hands until May 1655, when it was captured by the English. It has been the centre of English power and trade in the West Indies since that time.

Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

Membership of the

ROSES CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

is open to all who have
a common interest in
the study of the stamps
and postal history of
the Caribbean area,
British or otherwise.

The Annual Subscription
is 50p. and meetings
are held at the
Great Northern Hotel,
Wellington Street,
Leeds 1.

Details from the Secretary
or from this stand.