

Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

---

# CARIBBEANA

---



---

Roses Caribbean  
Philatelic Society

---

No. 8      April 1979

---

## Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

ROSES CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC HANDBOOK NO. 3

ST. LUCIA: A PHILATELIC HISTORY

114 pages A4, fully illustrated

covering

Pre-stamp, the British Period, the Adhesives to 1977, Postal Stationery, SPECIMENS, Revenue stamps and all the known postal markings and labels to date including registration, meter marks etc, and the American Forces PO's at Gros Islet and Beane Field.

Price: Members - £3.85 or US\$ 10.00 Transatlantic,  
both post free

Non-members - £5.35 or US\$ 15.00 Transatlantic,  
both post free

Obtainable from the Secretary, 16 Stray Walk, Harrogate  
N. Yorks HG2 8HU

### CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

Our Sales offer fine Commercially Used Covers  
with an interesting range of Postmarks  
usually unobtainable elsewhere in the U.K.

including

Smaller Offices, TRD's, Missents, Postage Dues,  
Registered etc., plus Pre-stamp, Postal Stationery,  
Specimens and Adhesives

Catalogues are sent free to all regular bidders in the UK  
and overseas. Get on our mailing list now!

CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC AUCTIONS, 'GOOD INTENT',  
18 LINDEN WAY, WETHERBY, WEST YORKSHIRE LS22 4QU  
Tel: Wetherby 63304



# CARIBBEANA



The Journal of the Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society 1979  
No. 8 April

## THE CHAIRMAN'S EDITORIAL

Since the publication of our last Journal another year has passed and with it another milestone. The Society has come of age and is now in its 22nd year. Our Society continues to flourish with a membership of around 70.

Congratulations to Geoffrey Ritchie, our very hard working Editor and Secretary, who was awarded a Bronze-Silver Medal at Stampex'79 for his excellent handbook 'St. Lucia - A Philatelic Handbook' Without doubt this will be rightly acknowledged as the standard reference book on this territory. If you have not already purchased a copy you should do so straight away. Publication is limited, and the number of copies left gets smaller every week. Congratulations also are due to Ken Watson who won a Large Silver Medal at CAPEX for his

### Officers 1978-79

#### CHAIRMAN

M.D.Watts

#### SECRETARY

G.G.Ritchie

#### TREASURER

M.Rego

#### EDITOR

G.G.Ritchie  
16 Stray Walk  
Harrogate, UK  
HG2 8HU

### Contents

Chairman's Editorial.....	1
In Memoriam, Tom Foster...D.Sutcliffe.....	3
The Bahamas: The Exumas and their Postmarks.....Malcolm Watts....	4
Supplement to ST.LUCIA: A PHILATELIC HISTORY.....Geoff Ritchie....	8
A Problem Cover.....	12
Censorship in Barbados during WWII Tony Shepherd...13	
Review: The Falmouth Packets.W.K.Watson...15	
London 1980: Society Notice.....	16
Trouble in Bermuda...Horst Augustinovic...17	
U.S.Bermuda Censorship....Richard Heap....18	
Covers of interest.....	22,23
Censorship Update.....Tony Shepherd...25	
Jamaica Last Century.....	28

## Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

2

entry 'Packet Letters of Jamaica'.

On a less pleasant note I regret to have to report the deaths of three members during the year - Vic Heseltine of Bradford, Tom Foster of Hull, and more recently Jim Whitfield of Summerbridge. All will be greatly missed. Vic had been a very regular attender at our meetings in Leeds until the two years prior to his death, when he found it difficult to get around. Jim Whitfield had suffered from ill health for nearly four years, during which time his sight was beginning to fail. Jim was not a Caribbean collector as such, his territory being West Africa for which he had won International Gold Medals. He did, however, form one of the finest collections in existence of Proofs, Essays and Specimens, which covered the whole British Empire, and he displayed this magnificent collection to the Society some six years ago.

Tom Foster was much more widely known to Caribbean collectors the world over and was rightly acknowledged as the leading authority on Jamaican philately. He was a true student and had written the standard reference book on Jamaica as well as numerous articles in the philatelic press and various private publications. His contributions to "Caribbeana" will be greatly missed. It is sad that such a man should be stricken down in his prime, and elsewhere in this Journal appears an 'In Memoriam'.

I am pleased to announce that the Society has donated a very handsome trophy to the Yorkshire Philatelic Association in the form of a Silver Tray. This will be awarded to the winner of a new Literature Class who reaches the required standard. This award has been donated in memory of Tom Foster, and will be known as 'The Thomas Foster Memorial Award for Literature'. It is also hoped that we will be able to produce a handbook on Jamaica in memory of Tom at some future occasion, based on his notes and articles.

Once again this Journal has been produced by a handful of members, and I would appeal to all to prepare something for the next publication. Do it now. This is your Journal, and without your contributions it will die.

Wishing you all happy hunting over the coming year.

Malcolm D. Watts

---

## In Memoriam

by Derek Sutcliffe

---

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of Tom Foster, the leading authority on the postal history of Jamaica, on 28 May 1978 at the early age of 54 after a prolonged illness. He was well known to all our members, and indeed to collectors of the West Indies the world over. His book 'The Postal History of Jamaica 1662-1860', for which he was awarded the Francis Webb Memorial Trophy at the British Philatelic Exhibition in 1969, is the recognised modern handbook on this period of Jamaican postal history.

Many members will recall meeting him at the joint Convention with the BWISC in 1977 at Warwick, where he chaired the informal group of Jamaican enthusiasts, and as always he was willing to give his advice, opinion and guidance on his favourite country's stamps and covers. His philatelic career reflects Tom himself; he was always delighted to travel anywhere in the country to give a display, and in the North of England was a visitor to most Societies. His last display was at Scarborough on 5th December 1977, just prior to his admission to hospital in mid-January.

At the time of his illness Tom was Hon. Secretary of the Hull Philatelic Society, a post which he had held for 22 years, and he was also a member of the British West Indies Study Circle and the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, to mention but two of the Societies concerned with his major interest. On a regional basis he was the Senior Vice-President of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association, having held the office of Junior Vice-President for 1976/77. Tom was one of the collectors whose name appeared on the Roll of Distinguished Yorkshire Philatelists, and was a familiar and friendly figure at many conventions and meetings in the county and elsewhere.

Internationally, Tom Foster will be remembered for his displays at many exhibitions, having successfully competed at Stampex in 1969 and 1970, and at BPE in 1969. Indeed, his last accomplishment was the gaining of a 'Silver' at Stampex 1977 for his entry on Jamaican Censorship.

## Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

4

He contributed to many publications, but perhaps will be best remembered in this context for his regular contribution of over 30 'Jamaica Newsletters' and other articles to "Stamp Collecting", and for many others in the BCPJ, Caribbeana and such journals.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Tom's father, brothers and sisters, Tom never having married. He will be long and well remembered by his many friends the world over, and all Jamaican and West Indies collectors will be the poorer for his absence, as will philatelists in general.

\*\*\*\*\*

---

### THE BAHAMAS: THE EXUMAS AND THEIR POSTMARKS

by Malcolm D. Watts

---

Rich in history, the Exumas were once inhabited by the gentle Arawak Indians, who named their islands 'Yuma'. During the late 17th and early 18th centuries pirates roamed these waters and even today the locals say that many stolen treasures lie beneath the sea in the depths of long-forgotten coves!

In 1773, loyalists from Carolina who remained patriotic to Britain began to settle in Great and Little Exuma because of the fertile soil, and remains of this plantation aristocracy are still found today. Lord Rolle, Baron of Steventon, was the major landowner in the Exumas in the 19th century. He voluntarily emancipated all his slaves long before it became law, and deeded them all his land. Consequently, more than half of the current population of some 3000 bear his name. Two villages are also named after him, ie Rolle Town and Rolleville.

The Exuma chain, or Exuma Cays as they are often known, stretch from Beacon Cay in the north (which is only 35 miles from Nassau) to Hog Cay in the south, a distance of approx. 100 miles. They form an enchanting jewel-like string of tiny cays of all shapes and sizes, only a few of which are inhabited. Local lore has it that there are 550 cays in all,

## Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

whilst the guide-books claim but 365! The two main islands - Great and Little Exuma - are connected by a tiny bridge.

These Exuma Cays are the location of the Land and Sea Park created by the Bahamian Government. This waste park spans 22 magnificent miles to preserve bird and marine life. No spears or other weapons are allowed in this exquisite skin-diving area, where the water is so clear that the ocean floor can be seen at depths of 60 feet. The main industries in the Exumas are tourism and fishing, and some of the finest bone-fishing flats in the Bahamas are to be found on the south coast of Great Exuma.

George Town, the capital, is situated on Great Exuma, and is by far the largest settlement. It sits snugly on the eastern side of beautiful Elizabeth Harbour, one of the finest harbours in the Bahamas. This harbour was the favourite rendezvous for pirates and privateers during the 17th and 18th centuries, when Exuma was isolated and uninhabited.

Collecting the postmarks of the Exumas is no easy task, despite the fact that most of the post offices have opened in the last 25 years. The fact remains that most of them only handle a small volume of mail. George Town is the District Post Office for this group of islands, and probably handles almost two-thirds of the total mail. Commercially used covers bearing cancels of the smaller offices are thus quite scarce, and examples of registered letters from these offices are very scarce.

The offices, with opening dates where known, are as follows:

Barraterre	(28.1.1953)	Rolle Town	(by June 1944)
Black Point	(1938?)	Rolleville	(1922)
Farmers Cay	(by Oct 1946)	Staniel Cay	(1890's, at least by 1909)
Forbes Hill	(1.12.1958)	Steventon	
George Town (opened as Exuma		The Ferry	(by 1902)
1865? Renamed 1890)		Williams Town	(27.7.1946)
Moss Town	(by May 1944)		
Mount Thompson	(by Sept 1944)		

Some of the postmarks used are illustrated overleaf:

Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

6

25mm Single Ring



Short M



BARRATERRE (12.10.66); BLACK POINT (25.11.66/12.6.75)  
FARMERS CAY (2.9.72/24.6.77); GEORGE TOWN (1)(30.10.61/  
19.6.68, 18.5.71) (2)(7.1.70 to date); MOSS TOWN (12.4.63 /  
24.6.71); MOUNT THOMPSON (30.1.75); ROLLEVILLE (29.5.64 /  
20.12.72); STEVENTON (15.7.75/27.4.77); THE FERRY (21.12.66)  
WILLIAMS TOWN (27.5.61)

30mm Single Ring



FORBES HILL (9.8.63/7.4.77); ROLLE TOWN (2.7.71/6.7.77);  
STANIEL CAY - short M (17.1.73); THE FERRY (27.5.77);  
WILLIAMS TOWN (23.10.72/5.5.77)

Rubber T.D.S.

STANIEL CAY (8.12.69/15.1.70)





# Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

7

## Registered Markings

Manuscript: Farmers Cay; Forbes Hill; George Town  
Straight Line:

**REGISTERED**

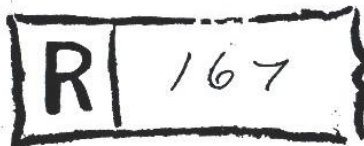
99

**REGISTERED**

463

George Town (1) & (2)

Boxed R:



George Town (Feb 76 to date)

## Official Markings

As mentioned in the previous Caribbeana, official mail goes totally free inland provided an initialled office stamp is shown. In the Bahamas initials seem to be a matter of chance, and a selection of office stamps is given.



Black



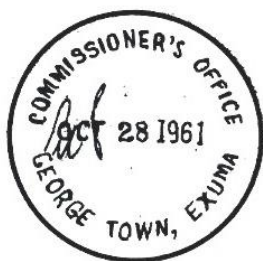
Black



Pale blue

# Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

8



Black



Black



Pale blue

\*\*\*\*\*

---

Supplement to ST. LUCIA: A PHILATELIC HISTORY

by G. G. Ritchie

---

Naturally, when writing any account one has to set a time limit on the information presented, but the following information has come to hand since the above was written.

## CHAPTER 10 Abnormal Watermarks

Extra abnormal watermarks on the engraved De La Rue issues are -

SG 7		inverted
9	reversed	
12	inverted and	reversed
F7		inverted
F8	reversed	

## Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

9

From F7 it follows that the (1d) black perf 14 should exist with inverted watermark. Who can report this?

### CHAPTER 11 Coil Stamps

The KGVI perf 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  coil stamps are known with the date 5 Aug 1950 (a Saturday), which may or may not be the date of issue.

### CHAPTER 13 Postal Stationery

With regard to the numbers overprinted SPECIMEN, which of course refers to all colonies and not only to those of the West Indies, it was stated on p.44 that there was no reason why this should not be the same as for the adhesives of the corresponding period. This seems to be confirmed by the following extract from a letter of 12 Sept 1892 from the GPO via the Crown Agents to De La Rue, the printers...."it will be necessary for each member of the Union (the UPU) to send to the International Bureau in future for distribution among the various administrations belonging to the Union 730 specimens of each new postage stamp, post card, stamped envelope or wrapper issued by it."

The letter further requested 736 specimens in all to be sent, but, as stated in the book, 750 were supplied of the QV 2d adhesive of 1898, the first new adhesive of St. Lucia to be supplied after this letter was written.

### CHAPTER 14 Underpaid Mail

The small T in inverted triangle (T3), which was found among Col.Reid's notes, has now been reported on a letter of 1906, showing that it was commercially used.

There is some doubt about the actual printer of the first adhesive dues. All previous references to this provisional issue have stated that it was printed by the "Voice" local newspaper, but in this book it was given as the Government Printer on the basis of an article in the "Jamaica Philatelist" of July 1947. This even named the person responsible for setting up the type! In attempts to confirm this issue as the work of the Government Printer, he was written to but, as expected, no records now exist due to the fires which have taken place at Castries. However, in a recent letter from the present PMG, this official stated that "I have not been able to get evidence to substantiate that the first St. Lucia adhesive postage due stamps were printed by the Government Printing Office nor could I find anyone who could confirm

## Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

10

this. The information I can supply however is that the type-set was prepared by the "Voice" newspaper of Castries."

The possibility is that, while the idea did no doubt come from the PMG/Govt. Printer, the latter had the type set up by the "Voice" newspaper as he probably did not have sufficient suitable face on hand. Where the printing was actually carried out remains obscure. It is also now known that two separate devices, as shown by different-shaped figures, were used in the subsequent numbering.

### CHAPTER 16 Forgeries

Many more forgeries exist, including some by Fournier and Samuel Allan Taylor. Even the De La Rue key-and-duty type seems to have been forged, but not dangerously.

### CHAPTER 17 Castries Datestamps

The postmaster has recently extended the single-ring numbered series by adding a number '5' (C29a); Type C33 with the total inscription round the top has appeared with the figure '1' instead of an asterisk. Together with a few extended dates, the list now reads:

	EKD	LKD
C6	5. 9.16	27.6.26
C16	24.10.36	31.5.47
C20a No time figures (on FDC)	16.11.70	1.5.71
C22	13. 7.63	23.4.64
C22a	8. 3.76	15.9.76
C24	24. 1.69	19.4.73
C29a With figure '5'	12. 5.78	current
C32d	19. 3.75	27.11.75
C33a With '1' in time space	11. 8.78	current

### CHAPTER 20 Meter Marks

It can now be added that no. 7 is Barclays Bank, Vieux Fort (from June 1974) and no.8 is the Royal Bank of Canada (from August 1974).

### CHAPTER 21 Officially-approved Cachets

The FIRST DAY COVER cachet (no.3) can be extended until 23 April 1964, while no.14 "St.Lucia in the 8th Continent/of the world the Caribbean" appeared on a letter dated 5 Nov 1970.

### CHAPTER 22 Miscellaneous Marks

## Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

11

Two examples of the boxed LATE FEE mark have been seen on letters of the 1936 pictorial set period. One was dated 6 Feb 1937. REBUT and DECEASED were struck on a US letter of Feb 1941 before returning it to the sender.

### CHAPTERS 28 - 30 Registration

As might be expected, new labels are in use at Castries, Soufriere and Vieux Fort. At Castries L17 has been followed by a much better printed label with the same lettering, first seen on 27.10.78, while new EKD of 17.5.37 can be given for RC2 and 25.11.73 for RC4.

The new Soufriere label (Type LS7) is perf 13 with rounded corners to the frame and SOUFRIERE only; the number is of 6 digits (as L17 of Castries). A very similar label is in use at Vieux Fort (Type LVF9). The EKD are 21.8.78 and 12.5.78 respectively.

The rubber stamp Type SL1 of Laborie can now be put back at least to 24.11.37.

### CHAPTER 31 Censorship

The LKD of Handstamp H1 can be advanced a week to 31 MR 43, while the EKD of the first label (L1) can be put back three months to 15 FE 41. Of L2, a label with no.1 has been recorded on a letter of 9 JA 43 to Jamaica, while no.4 can be attributed to both labels L4 and L5. Both 1 and 4 can be added to label L7 and the LKD advanced to 29 JY 44.

### CHAPTER 32 U.S. Forces Post Offices

The following information, with one exception, comes from a single collection of these marks.

Type 4 cancellation	All three periods occur in purple.
Type 5	LKD: 17 MR 42
Type 6	Seen used on 25 DE 43
Type 7	LKD: 24 DE 43
Type 8	LKD: 30 AP 49. This was the last day of this APO number.

The following extra censor numbers are known in the standard boxed-circle marks: 804, 806 & 807. There is also another type (Fig 1), which has numbers 1251 or 1253 in the centre, the whole being in black; dates are between 1 AP 44 and 12 DE 44. This mark also appears on a letter from a US soldier to British Guiana. As this territory was not controlled by

# Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

12

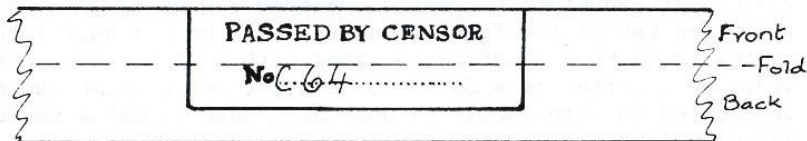
the USA, the letter had St. Lucia adhesives and travelled from Vieux Fort in the ordinary mails. The mark shown is a standard US Army censor mark (for it in purple, see p. 22). On the reverse is a transparent tape on which is printed OPENED BY/U. S. ARMY EXAMINER. US Army censorship of letters apparently ceased in 1945, as no marks are known on letters after March of that year.

Figure 1



\*\*\*\*\*

## A PROBLEM COVER FROM SWITZERLAND



This January 1942 registered (philatelic) cover from Road Town, British Virgin Islands, appears here by virtue of the pre-stamped buff-paper label which has been used to re-seal it after opening. The green handstamp is of a type never before seen. The brown label is itself reminiscent of St. Kitts, but the censor's number is 'C64'. 'C' is the letter allocated to Bermuda, but no such combination is known from there and no other Bermuda marks appear on the cover. The backstamps of Charlotte Amalie (US Virgins), San Juan (Porto Rico) and New Yqrk are on the reverse in that order, but none of St. Kitts. Is this an unknown BVI marking, as it is after the period of the only known mark PASSED/BY CENSOR/V.Is.?

\*\*\*\*\*

Since the publication of the Roses Handbooks 1 and 2, more information concerning the postal censorship at Barbados during the period September 1939 to October 1942 has come to light. Due to the scarcity of information to hand when the chapters in the Handbooks were contributed by the author, these can be classed only as lists of known handstamps and labels used by the postal examiners on the island. Now with the kind help of several residents of Barbados who were concerned with censorship of mail, a clearer picture of the activities has emerged.

A directive was sent by the British Government to the Barbados Government in or about June 1939 to prepare a system of postal censorship on the outbreak of hostilities; this was put into operation in the early days of September. The staff who were to carry out the postal examination were drawn from people prominent in the local community, being volunteers and probably unpaid. They were under the direction of an Englishman, a Mr Norton, who had been sent out from Britain to organise the postal censorship.

The censorship was carried out in the GPO Building, Bridgetown, with a censor also on duty at the Cable and Wireless office in Hastings, a suburb of Bridgetown. Quoting from information supplied by a person connected with the postal censorship: "Letters were selected at random for examination with particular attention being paid to mail to or from hostile countries. Linguists were on call to translate letters written in French, German, Spanish etc."

Concerning the procurement of handstamps and labels used by the censors, the informant states: "I believe they were obtained locally, the labels of local manufacture being used until English labels were sent out in February 1942." In the lists in Handbook No.2 these are respectively 'local' and labels of the 'P.C.90 format.'

It would appear that Mr Norton was the person who dealt with any mail of a suspect character, and a directive was issued which classified the mail as follows:

## Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

14

Privileged: a list of privileged persons was circulated and these letters were passed through the office unopened.

Harmless: these were opened, read, resealed and allowed to proceed.

Interesting and objectionable: these had geographical details, information on morale or military data of use to the enemy.

Again, one assumes that Mr Norton dealt with mail of the last type, deleting passages where necessary.

On or around the 7th October 1942 the volunteer censors were stood down and the censor's office was taken over by the British Government. A letter sent to one of these volunteers read as follows:

Dumfries  
St. Michael  
7th October 1942

Dear Charlie

My work at censorship having come to an end, I wish to thank you and all others who in the early days helped in carrying on that work on the voluntary basis.

The work was tedious and inconvenient - to some more than others - but one and all, except in case of illness or for other good reason, carried on for the regular hours and, when occasion required, I was always able to find one who would fill an extra period.

The lack of criticism in those days was the result of your work as much as mine and again I thank you.

Gerry R. Emlyn

The continued activities of the censors remain covered by the Official Secrets Act and thus must remain untold until the 1990's. Note that although the above refers specifically to Barbados, a similar reorganisation took place in many other West Indian territories, as shown by the change from CENSOR to EXAMINER and by the introduction of 'P.C.90' labels, sometimes earlier and sometimes later in 1942.

\*\*\*\*\*



---

W.K.Watson's REVIEW of "THE FALMOUTH PACKETS by David Mudd  
Published by Bossiney Books, Bodmin, Cornwall and available  
from Harry Hayes, 45 Trafalgar St, Batley, price 0.65p

---

The Post Office Packet Service based on Falmouth in the 18th and 19th centuries has received wide publicity in the last few years with a number of articles in the philatelic press and some books, including L. E. Britnor's most detailed and comprehensive study entitled "The History of the Sailing Packets to the West Indies".

The present little book - it is only 65 pages - is a tribute by David Mudd, an author of wide experience and MP for Falmouth-Camborne since 1970, to the colourful history of the men and ships involved from 1688 to 1852 in the Packet Service. Born in Falmouth, he is rightly proud of the achievements of his forefathers.

Divided into five chapters, the author deals with the Packet ships and men, devotes space to the Mutiny of 1810 and relates some of the deeds of heroism which were recorded over the years. Included are some 25 illustrations and pictures and at least one reader was pleased to see the sketches outlining the differences between a packet brig and a brigantine. With the demise of the Dummer West Indies packet service in 1711, it has been accepted that the Post Office took no steps to introduce a regular run to the Caribbean until 1755, but this book makes mention of the re-introduction of a regular service in 1745. Reference was also made to this date by Mr Britnor in giving a display to the BWISC in September 1978. The 10 years between 1745 and 1755 certainly seem worthy of further research by postal historians who have letters of this decade.

This is a small very readable book about a subject which is full of interest, though it is doubtful if it contains very much that will be new to postal historians. On the other hand, stamp collectors who wonder what all the fuss is about with regard to postal history may well find the book to be most interesting and for them it is highly recommended. But stamp collectors be warned - you may be hooked!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

16

---

### LONDON 1980

---

The following notice will appear in the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal:

#### The 1980 Group Meeting in London

"It is very pleasing to be able to report that most cordial relations have been established with the British West Indies Study Circle and the Roses Caribbean Society regarding the above event. Both of these very active organisations have assured us of their wholehearted support and the fullest participation. The general basis of the whole-day event which includes the Group Meeting has been agreed with enthusiasm.

One very important point which will be particularly welcome is that the cost of the major item, the room hire, will be met from the Group funds. It has therefore been possible to ask members of the three organisations for a nominal 25p charge only, to cover the badge and registration fee.

We are therefore in a position now to go ahead and make a provisional booking of a room and the drink/meal services against a date. Then the rest of the programme, including the events for the ladies, can be tackled.

Finally a reminder, The London International, at Earls Court will be from May 6th to 14th and the Group Meeting will therefore fall within that period. It is hoped to publish progressive news in each issue of the Journal."

Al Branston

We have since heard from Al that the Elizabeth and Margaret Room (The Princess Suite) at the Bonnington Hotel, 92 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4BH (01-242-2828) has been provisionally booked for this event, and you are asked to make a note of the date which is Saturday, 10th May 1980. Although the hotel has 270 bedrooms, it is absolutely essential to make a prior booking if you intend to stay there. The hotel is approx. 5 min from Holburn underground station on the Piccadilly Line, and the Exhibition is on the same line.

Please come if you can, and meet your American counterparts.

\*\*\*\*\*

---

**Troubles in Bermuda**

by Horst Augustinovic

---

The following press release was received some time ago:

BERMUDA GOVERNMENT PRESS RELATIONS OFFICE

March 28, 1978

STATEMENT ON CONSIGNMENT OF MAIL RECEIVED IN DAMAGED CONDITION

A consignment of Air Mail from the United States arrived at the General Post Office on Saturday of last week in a damaged and wet condition according to Mr Sidney Corbett, Bermuda's Postmaster-General.

Mr Corbett said that the mail, from Miama, Florida, which came via New York appeared to have been damaged and mutilated to some extent between the office of despatch and its final destination in Bermuda. The damage to the mail was not apparent and only discovered to be wet, he said, when the mail bag was opened; and there was no tag on the bag indicating that the mail had been damaged in transit, having been re-bagged before despatch to Bermuda.

The Postmaster-General said that the damaged mail will be put into new envelopes and forwarded to local addresses as soon as possible, and when the mail is dry enough for delivery.

---

The rubber stamp below was supposed to be struck on this mail:

DELIVERY DELAYED FOR DRYING  
DUE TO WET RECEIPT AND  
DAMAGE FROM ABROAD

\*\*\*\*\*

## Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

18

---

### UNITED STATES MILITARY CENSOR MARKINGS IN BERMUDA IN WWII by Richard Heap

---

In 1940, in exchange for 50 destroyers, the United States leased as military bases a number of areas in what were then British colonies in the Western Hemisphere. Two areas of Bermuda were included; at the western end of the Great Sound, 73 acres on the mainland, together with Tucker's and Morgan's Islands, became a naval base, whilst on the eastern side part of St. David's Island, and other adjoining islands, became the Army/Air Force base. Part of this now forms the airport. Both services set up their own post offices using US stamps, and they also had their own censorship.

This article sets out these censor marks and labels which seem to be attributable to Bermuda and which the author has either seen or had reported to him. Some of the naval marks are not certain, and further information would be welcome, as indeed would corrections, additions, comments etc on any aspect. The author would like to thank Horst Augustinovic, Dann Mayo, Ernest Roberts, Malcolm Watts and particularly Morris Ludington for their assistance. The author accepts all responsibility for errors and omissions!

#### SECTION 1

The first post office was opened at the naval base on 14th March 1941 by the US Marines. (Reference numbers are the author's)

#### a) Censor Labels

- USNCL1 On back of cover to Canada. Blue. 6 MY 41.
- USNCL2 Colour unreported. Line after 'EXAMINER' solid.  
No imprint.  
Examiner no: 33
- USNCL2a As above in red, but line after 'EXAMINER' dashed.  
Imprint: Norfolk Navy Yard-3-11-42-100,000  
Date: SP 42  
Examiner no: 91

OPENED BY  
U. S. NAVAL  
CENSOR  
BER. 1

USNCL1

OPENED BY  
U. S. NAVAL  
CENSOR  
EXAMINER 33 BE

USNCL2

OPENED BY  
U. S. NAVAL  
CENSOR  
EXAMINER 9/ BE  
Norfolk Navy Yard - 3-1(42-100,000

USNCL2a

## Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

20

### b) Censor Markings

- USNCM1 In black or blue. With an initial in the centre. One example appears to be 'B' (Bermuda?), but Ludington reports all different initials on his copies. Date: JU 41 to MR 42
- USNCM2 In black or purple, with letters BE and nos. 1, 2 & 3. Date: NO 41 to JA 42
- USNCM2a As above with 'E' removed. Often found with an additional figure in pencil preceding the 1, 2 or 3. Date: AP 42 to DE 42  
Nos: 13, 21, 33, 91, 92. One 33 also has USNCL2/33.
- USNCM3 In black. Known on incoming mail from FE to JU 42. No: 102, ?
- USNCM4 Black double ring. One cover has the return address of the Naval Operating Branch, Bermuda; the others are from a unit then based in Bermuda. Date: AU 42 to AU 44
- USNCM5 Purple. Only known on a single card, a ppc of a Bermuda scene. Date: MR 42

### SECTION 2

The US Army post office opened on 18 April 1941 as APO 802. In May 1942 it became APO 856. British readers are reminded that there is no separate US Air Force.

### a) Censor Labels

- USACL1 Black, with black borders. Printing on 3rd line 55mm. Imprint: GPO 16 - 25791-1  
Date: FE 42 to FE 43  
Nos: 3, 32, 60, 66, 69, 70, 80, 104
- USACL1a As above, but the 3rd line measures 53½mm, and the imprint is 'GPO'.  
Nos: 52, 54, 55, 107  
Often these labels are mutilated beyond classification; no.61 has been recorded in this category.

### b) Censor Marks

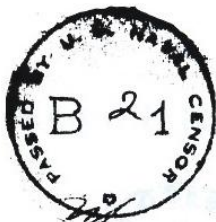
The first two, the standard US 'boxed oval' censor mark is



USNCM1



USNCM2



USNCM2a



USNCM2a



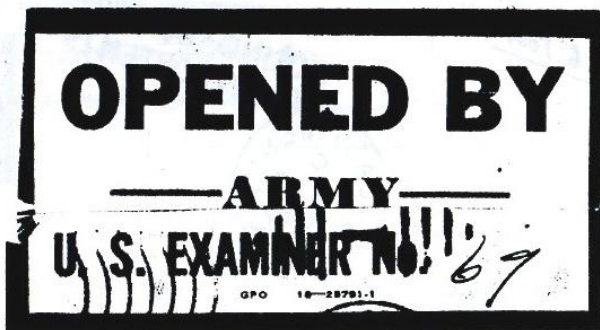
USNCM3



USNCM4



USNCM5



USACL1

# Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

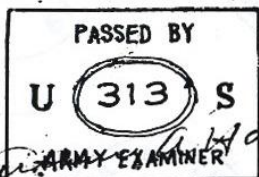
22

found with numbers between 300 and 315. Up to 318 have been reported, but the author has no confirmation. These are often found used with USACL1 and 1a, and also with signatures superimposed.

USACM1 Size 34 x 28mm. In black, violet or red.  
Date: AP 41 to MY 42  
Nos: 300, 302, 303

USACM1a Size 37 x 26mm. In black or blue-black.  
Date: FE 42 to FE 43  
Nos: 307, 313, 314, 315

USACM2 Circular in purple.  
Date: DE 43 to JU 44  
No: 0358



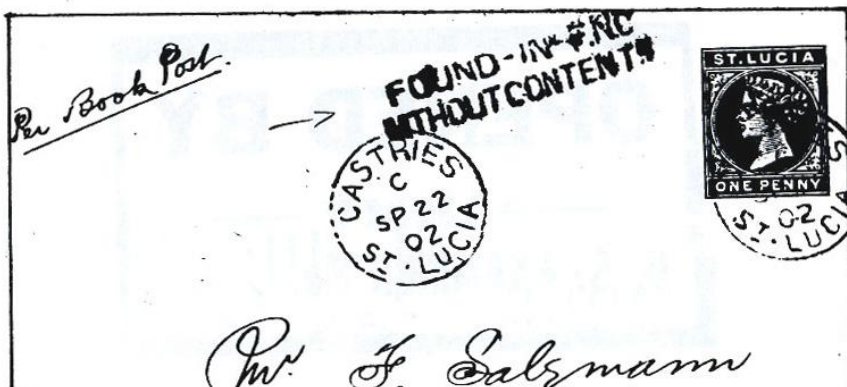
USACM1



USACM2

\*\*\*\*\*

## What is 'F.N.C'?





What does 'F.N.C.' in the above handstamp signify? This was struck either in Castries or London - possibly the latter. As can be seen, the addressee was Saltzmann of Switzerland, a dealer to whom much of the world's postal stationery was sent. The posting of an envelope by book post would be much cheaper, as the normal postage at this time was still 2½d, but someone somewhere has noticed the lack of contents. Could 'F.N.C.' stand for 'Foreign Newspaper Collection'?

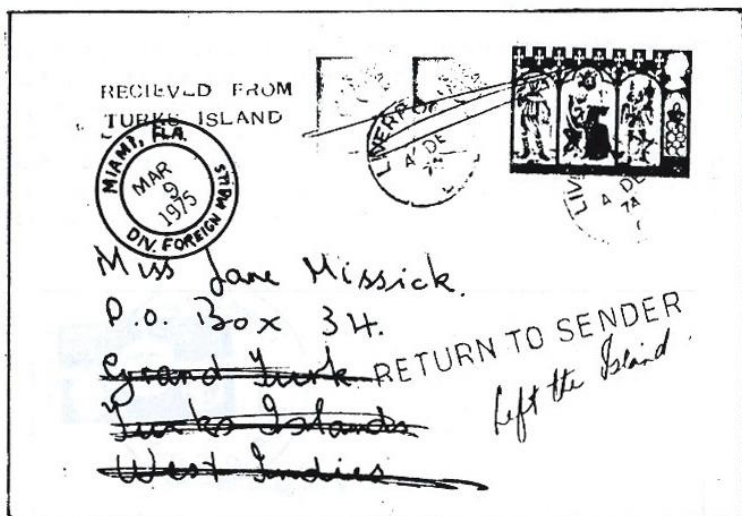
\*\*\*\*\*

---

## Some Interesting Covers

Malcolm Watts

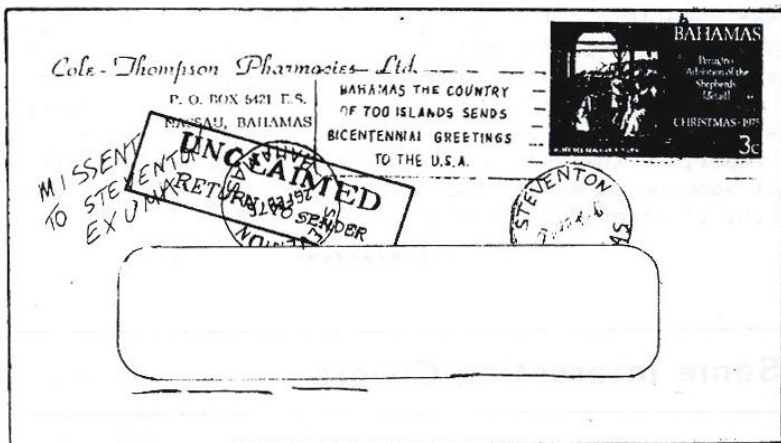
---



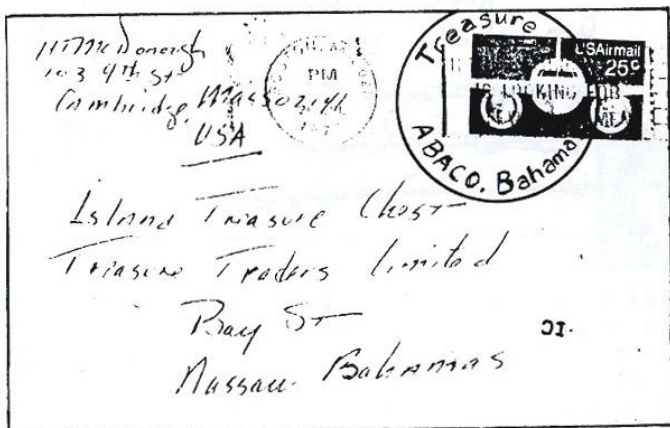
Above is a December 1974 cover from GB to the Turks Islands. Was the RETURN TO SENDER (black) applied there along with the 'Left the Island' in red manuscript, or in the US or GB? The RECEIVED FROM TURKS ISLAND is in the exact shade of red-purple as the Miami datestamp, so it was probably applied there. Can anyone confirm this? It appears to be a specially made-up mark.

Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

24



Two Bahamas Missent covers are also shown. A February 1976 cover was missent to Steventon, Exuma, but as it was finally unclaimed it was returned to sender. The other cover, from the States, was rather excusably missent to Treasure Cay, Abaco, where a somewhat distorted TRD was applied reading 'Treasure Cay ABACO, Bahamas'. What however do the letters 'IC' (in blue) mean?. Or is this merely a private marking?



\*\*\*\*\*

---

**Censorship Update**

---

by Tony Shepherd

The following information for various territories updates that given in Handbooks Nos.1 and 2.

ANTIGUA

Label L4B With 'B2' in black manuscript, July 1942

BARBADOS

Handstamp H1: This is definitely a Newfoundland and not a Barbados mark, as several have been recorded by Gayle Mayo from there to places other than Barbados.

Label L1 New number: 2 (in red) New LKD: 5.10.39

Label L2c New LKD: 29. 9.41

Label L4 New number: 28 New LKD: 18.11.42

GRENADA

Label L1 New LKD: 20. 3.42

Label L2 New numbers: 2, 3

Label L8 New number: 645

MONTSERRAT**OPENED BY CENSOR**Type L1a

Label Type L1a (new type) Length of inscription 58mm.  
EKD: 19. 4.41

Label L3 New EKD: 15. 6.42

Label L4 New LKD: 26.11.43

Label L5 New numbers: 79, 93 New EKD: 26.11.43

# Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

25

## DOMINICA

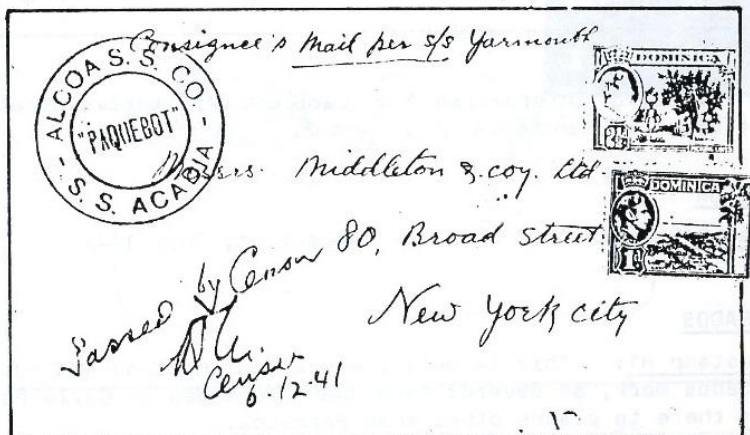


Fig 1 Dominica consignee's letter with manuscript censor's mark

Manuscript 'Passed by Censor' Two covers have been reported with this marking, dated respectively 9.11.41 and 6.12.41 (Fig 1). As these are both consignee's letters, such mail may have been treated differently to the normal.

Handstamp H1 New LKD: 30. 8.40

Handstamp H2 New LKD: 24. 5.42

Label L1 A new EKD of 2.8.41 has come to hand, and like the label shown in Handbook No.2 it is tied with a violet handstamp. This label (in red) was used in Britain by censors from 30.10.39 to May 1940, and it is found used after this date only on mail from internee camps in the U.K. It must be presumed that there was a surplus left in the U.K. and some of these labels were sent to Dominica. However, the wording was OPENED BY CENSOR, and in the reorganisation of 1942 these were withdrawn. Possibly someone in authority thought that the word CENSOR was too authoritarian and smacked of all that the Free World was fighting against, while the word EXAMINER was more liberal and in line with a democratic outlook!

Label L2 New number: 2 deleted and 51 inserted.

Label L3 New numbers: 6, 7, 59, 61

ST. KITTS & NEVIS

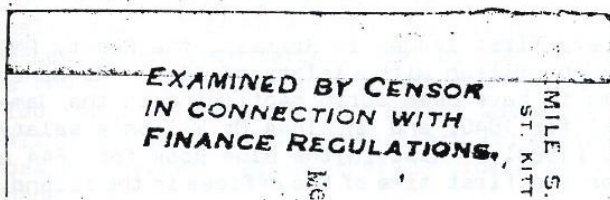


Figure 2



Figure 3

The handstamp shown in Figure 2 must be considered to be St. Kitts. Several examples are known struck in red or purple in 1941-42.

Handstamp H1 Seven examples of this have now been reported tying the plain brown tape to the envelope.

New EKD: 18. 9.39

Handstamp H2

New LKD: 28. 3.42

Handstamp H3 Two sizes of this stamp are now known. The earlier (Fig 3) measures only  $19\frac{1}{2} \times 29\frac{1}{2}$ mm, has concave corners and is struck in violet or, more usually, red. The nos. are 1, 3 or 4, and the dates are

EKD: 2. 6.42

LKD: ?. 7.43

Label L2 New manuscript numbers: 103, 109, 122

Label L3 New numbers: 52, 74, 171, 173, 175, 289

New LKD: 4. 9.44

It is also to be noted that a P.C.5 label reading "This item was open when it reached the censor" has been seen on a St. Kitts cover, but no other details are known.

\*\*\*\*\*

---

## Jamaica Last Century

---

This has been put together from information supplied by Malcolm Watts. This information is over 50 years old, but it is hoped that the result will be of interest.

When adhesives were first issued in Britain, the Deputy PMG at Kingston was John Wilson with a salary of £400. No other post office seems to have been worth mentioning in the Jamaican 'Blue Book' for 1840, and in 1844 Mr Wilson's salary was increased to £1500! Also in the Blue Book for 1844 a list is given for the first time of the offices in the island. Fifty offices are listed in 1858, differing from the London list by omitting Ewarton and Little River but including Clarendon, Dry Harbour, Flint River, Gagle, Port Royal and Porus. This local list is the much more trustworthy, as it came out over the signature of Wilson's successor, O'Connor Morris. Outside Kingston, Falmouth, Montego Bay and Savannah were the most important offices.

Jamaica had to take over the management of its own postal affairs in 1860. This was largely due to the work of Anthony Trollope, who visited the West Indies to examine the matter on the spot. Included was his suggestion that the packet business should be withdrawn from unhealthy St. Thomas and transferred to Jamaica. Although the grounds were increased efficiency, in fact the packet business was a loss to the Imperial Post Office in London, which admitted that the only runs to make ends meet were those of Dover-Calais and Dover-Ostend. So after a delay due to the unwillingness of the colonies to take over their own posts, on 1 August 1860 Jamaica was forced to bow to the inevitable. The London PMG stated that from this date no colonial post office was under his jurisdiction except those at the military stations of Gibraltar and Malta.

Drastic reductions had to be made at Kingston - the island Postmaster's salary was reduced from £1000 to £600 p.a. and the staff was cut down to four clerks who got £150 to £350, princely sums however in comparison with other postmasters! Only four got fixed salaries; Clarendon (£25), Dry Harbour (£25), Flint River (£12) and Port Royal (£40). The remainder

## Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

29

received 15% of their postal business, and very little business was transacted! However, after December 1862 the minimum was raised to £12 per annum.

In 1847 the post to the country districts was increased to two each week, and in 1868 it became three for some years although many thought that once a week was ample! The mails went mainly by stage coach since the railway did not cover the island until the 90's. Only Kingston had a house-to-house delivery, and letters had to be called for at the other offices. These were largely used by the estate owners, as only a few true-born Jamaicans could read and write. If not called for within a month, any letter was returned to the sender. Although few district postmasters (or mistresses) could have passed any examination, there is widespread evidence of their honesty.

In mid-1868 Jamaica brought into force post office regulations based on those ruling in the UK. These included, for example, the fact that any postmaster was empowered to pay to the master of an inward-bound vessel the sum of 2d for each letter from abroad, but only 1d if it came from the UK.

The cancellation of Kingston was A01 in different types and colours. This disappeared early in 1885, although A75 was used by Spanish Town at least to May 1891 and the 'A' cancellations of other towns (not necessarily those to which they were issued in 1859) are found frequently on the key-plate issue of 1889, after which they practically cease.

A28 to A78, except apparently A38, A50 and A63, were first used on GB stamps on 1 March 1859 (introduced to Jamaica on 8 May 1858). Previous to this, all letters received a date stamp and the adhesive was cancelled when the letter reached Kingston. Sometimes the local postmaster obliterated the stamp by handwriting the date across it, but these were officially cancelled by the A01 at Kingston.

Numbers between A27 and A78 appeared on British stamps, but a few additional numbers of this series were added later in the century. Altogether another 31 offices were opened or re-opened by 1875, including Half Way Tree and May Pen, many of which were allotted numbers in other series.

Details of some of the offices to which the 'A' series of cancellations were issued in 1859 now follow.

## Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

30

A27 ALEXANDRIA This name was given to his estate by John Alexander, a Scotsman, in the early 17th century, and later the name was applied to the town, famous for its grapes. The post office is first mentioned in 1841. The postmaster had £24 p.a. which on a 15% basis was reduced to £8 in 1855. He received the minimum salary from 1863 to 1875. The cancellation is normally distinct with thick numerals.

A28 ANNOTTO BAY An Act of 1844 authorised certain persons to purchase waste land and improve the town, and the extension of the railway through it and the rise of the banana industry in the nineties caused it to flourish. Although Trollope described it as a small village its postal business was considerable, being about £200 p.a. Its first postmaster held the post for 24 years from 1844. The cancellation on GB and pines is heavier in type than that on the CC issue. Until 1896 it was over 6 hours from Kingston by coach.

A35 CLARENDON The parish took its name from the British Lord Chancellor, but the post office was closed in 1876. The place is now called Clarendon Park from an abandoned estate. The post office was first mentioned in 1847 and the total takings in 1851 were about £117. It was closed in 1876.

A36 DRY HARBOUR Columbus was the first European to land in Jamaica when, on his second voyage, he named this place Puerto Bueno. He again landed on his fourth voyage in 1503, when he stayed a year. His son, Diego, founded the town of Sevilla Nueva, the first capital of Jamaica, some three years later. This cancellation is in smaller type than the others.

A38 EWARTON In 1853 the postmaster's salary was £2.10.0! This was 15% of the takings, and in 1856 it was understandably vacant. It probably closed before the A38 cancellation arrived, as no strike on a GB stamp is known; it re-opened in 1873 with the number 196. As some A-numbers dropped out from the series, a re-distribution took place about 1863 and the A38 is found with the Falmouth datestamp and later, in 1884, with Up Park Camp. Ewarton is at the end of a branch line from Bog Walk, and in 1885 there were 3 trains a day. Postage to Kingston was reduced to 1d per ½oz.

A40 FLINT RIVER In 1851 this small place in Hanover parish did business to the extent of only £11.15.0, and business did not improve!



## Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

31

A51 LUCEA (now LUCIA) The importance of this, the chief town in Hanover parish, arose from an Act of 1840 "to enlarge, alter and improve the town." It had a post office in 1847, but when the Colonial Government took over postal affairs the postmaster's salary was considerably reduced. The large trade of this place is shown by the fact that silver was always plentiful here, while it was difficult to get in Savannah la Mer! All letters to Lucea came via Montego Bay.

The datestamp instead of A51 is frequently found on the pine issue, and from 1863 onwards this number may be found with Manchioneal as the post office. The cancellation A49 was commonly used at Lucea from 1864. This mark originally belonged to Lilliput, which transacted so little business that it was closed down about 1874.

A53 MANDEVILLE This town is called after the courtesy title of the Duke of Manchester's eldest son, the Duke being the Governor of the island from 1808 until 1837. The parish was named after the Governor himself. The town was built like an English village with a green and square-towered church, probably because resident landlords were more numerous here than in other parts of the island. The post office is mentioned in 1847 and the salary of the postmistress was doubled to £84 in 1869. A mail-coach service was established in 1878 which ran three times a week to Old Harbour at a fare of 20 shillings. There was a connection at Old Harbour for Kingston.

A57 MONTEGO BAY Columbus found a large Arawak village here in 1494. This the Spaniards called Manteca, or Hogs Butter Bay, and in an old deed of conveyance a road is marked as going to Lard Bay. There were many wild hogs here. It eventually became the end of the railway from Kingston, 113 miles away, thus reducing the time from 11½ hours to 7 hours.

A60 OCHO RIOS This mail-coach office in the parish of St. Ann's was until 1841 called Chareiras, probably derived from the Spanish 'choreira', a spout from a waterfall. The present name means 'eight rivers', and the Llandoverly Falls on the Roaring River of this parish was depicted on a stamp of 1900. The average takings of the post office were £120.

A61 OLD HARBOUR Columbus anchored here in 1494 and again 10 years later. Ten miles from Spanish Town, it was called Esquivel by the Spaniards. They laid down a good road to Bluefields and Savannah, which was later used by the mail

## Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

32

coaches. It received its present name after the English arrived in 1655, as at that time the Spaniards appear to have preferred Caguay. It had a post office in 1835, but was rather unfortunate in its choice of postmaster or mistress, as there were 14 in the 19 years between 1855 and 1884, of whom **three** resigned and one was dismissed! In 1869 the railway reached Old Harbour, and this appears to have been one of the first places with a station letter box in 1878 (see BCPJ Oct 1976). Whether this continued when the railway changed hands is unknown.

A64 PORT ANTONIO The chief town in the parish of Portland dates from 1723. At this time immigrants were given inducements to settle here, one being freedom from taxes for five years! It possesses one of the best harbours on the island, and has steadily increased in importance, the postmaster's salary being raised in 1870 from £24 to £35. Mails went by train first in 1896. Bluish postmarks can be found from this office.

A67 PORT ROYAL Situated on the natural breakwater, The Palisadoes, this was not of much importance during Spanish rule, but after the English arrived in 1655 it became the finest town in Jamaica. It received the name in 1674, when there was said to be more loose cash in Port Royal than London! Over the next century it suffered from earthquakes, fires and hurricanes, from which it did not really recover and was described in 1855 as a "place for the memory". Much money was later wasted at the Royal Dockyard, and the office of Commodore was abolished at the turn of the century. In 1848 the Postmaster received a fixed salary of £40, and due to its situation in the island the post office continued to do good business.

A75 SAVANNAH LA MER This was destroyed by a tidal wave in 1744 and again by a hurricane in 1780, but being a centre of sugar growing it recovered and by 1860 was of fair size. The post roads were good, but the others were a positive danger! Post office business was considerable as shown by the number of pairs bearing A75 which have survived. The numbers in the cancellation, like those of Dry Harbour, are shorter in height compared with the others.

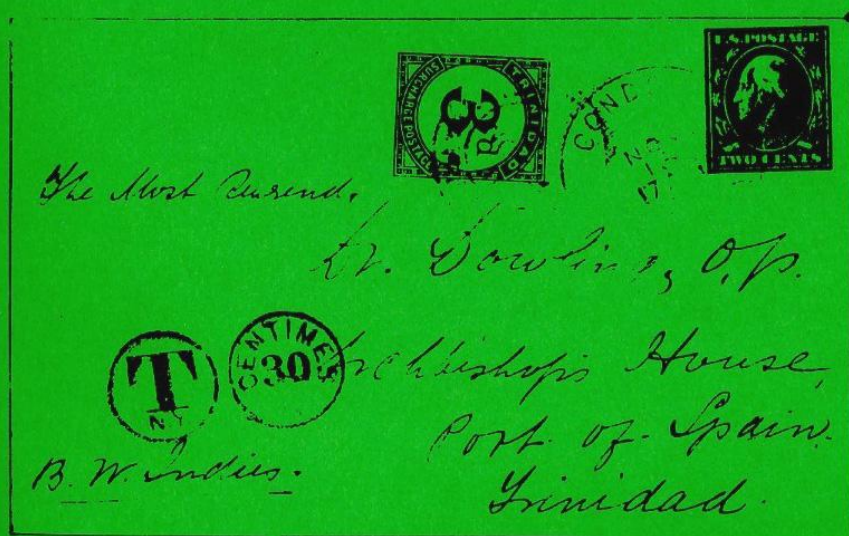
A76 SPANISH TOWN This was the capital of Jamaica under the Spaniards and the British until 1870. On the banks of the Copper River 13 miles from Kingston, the town was founded in

## Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

1534 as the previous Spanish capital of Sevilla Nueva was unhealthy. It was badly knocked about during the conquest of 1655, but under the British it became a principal settlement together with the towns of Port Royal, Old Harbour and Morante. It was struck by an earthquake in 1791, and by 1861 it was apparent that it had had its day. Just before this Trollope described it as "corpse-like, a city of the very dead". The capital was, therefore, transferred to Kingston in 1870.

In the 'Blue Book' the post office is first mentioned in December 1846, but the postmaster's stipend fell from £159 to £100 in fairly regular steps. Next to Kingston, it is the cancellation most often encountered, especially on official mail.

\*\*\*\*\*



An underpaid letter from the States to the Archbishop of Trinidad in 1911.



This "pre-panton" postage-due cover to the Dayman Islands is addressed to H. H. Hutchings, who is believed to have been both a collector and Governor at the time. Can anyone confirm that he was indeed Governor?