

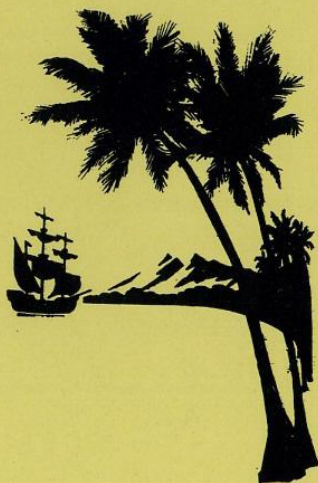
Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana



CARIBBEANA



Roses Caribbean
Philatelic Society



Nº 13

April 1985

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CARIBBEANA



The Journal of the Roses
Caribbean Philatelic Society

No. 13
May 1985

OFFICERS 1984 - 1985

President	Michael	Rego
Secretary	Malcolm	Watts
Treasurer	Derek	Sutcliffe
Editor	Lionel	Ward

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ROYAL MAIL LINE STAMPS and AGENTS CACHETS Michael Rego

While conducting research into the history of the Royal Mail Line's activities in the West Indies, some information has come to light which is worthy of a brief article in this Journal, thanks to the notes of Basil Benwell, Bruce Walker and Joe Chin Aleong. The first part of this article deals with the Royal Mail stamps and how they came to be issued, while the second part of this study records the company's Cachets known used in their West Indies offices.

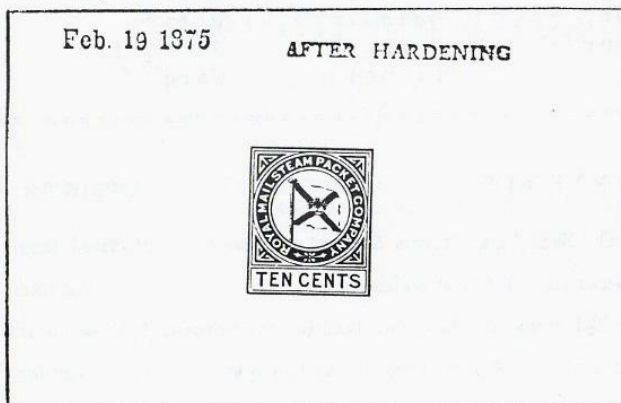


FIG 1

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company had a contract with the British government for the transportation of mail to the various countries of the West Indies, both from and to the U.K. and also for the inter-island mail service which each island paid a nominal fee for this scheduled service. During 1875, a number of West Indian ports of call were dropped from the schedule having first received permission from H.M. Government. Consequently this reduced service to the West Indies no longer made the regular calls at Puerto Cabello, Willenstad, Santo Domingo, Puerto Plata and Paramaribo, all of which were non British colonies. As a substitute

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FIG. 3



FIG. 4



FIG. 5



FIG. 6



FIG 2

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arrangement, the RMSPCo with British government backing, established a private service between the non-contract ports and issued stamps for use on this service.

During FEB 1875 die proofs were prepared (see Fig.1) and shortly afterwards the stamps were printed by De La Rue & Co, London in APRIL 1875. Each stamp had a single value tablet of "TEN CENTS" which was the fee for a $\frac{1}{2}$ oz letter between the non-contract ports. These stamps were usually pencancelled by the captain of the ship, and in some cases cancelled by the local Agents of the RMSPCo, or other shipping agents who were associated with the non-contract runs between the various West Indian isles and the Caribbean coast of South America.

Ocasionaly, the stamps can be found singly in mint condition but rarely seen, is a large block of these adhesives (see Fig.2).

This service ceased in 1880 when most of the non-contract countries were now full members of the UPU and the use for the RMSPCo stamps was no longer needed. The following list are Agents handstamps known cancelling the postage stamp.

KEITEL & Co./AGENTS /GONAIVES
ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO/SIGISMUNDO M./CURACAO AGENTS
JON KOCK & CO/LLOYDS AGENTS/PORTO CABALLO
ROYAL STEAM PACKET CO/.....WEIL & CO/HAITI AGENTS
ADMN.DE CORREOS DE SAMANA (applied Dominican Republic)

The RMSPCo had several offices in the West Indies or Agents who were responsible for Royal Mail business of their particular Island or territory. The Company Office marks are known from Trinidad, Grenada and St. Vincent; (see FIG's 3 - 6) and while most of these marks are found on loose postage stamps of each country, the large Trinidad datestamp is known applied as a backstamp on cover with St. Vincent stamps, addressed to Port of Spain.

It is thought that this marking was applied to mail which was first brought into the Royal Mail office in Port of Spain then forwarded to the post office for cancellation there at 3PM 4 FE 1921. On such occasions, this practice must be scarce. The other markings are thought to have been applied to fiscal documents or

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shipping particulars as each has been found on loose stamps which have been removed from their original sheets, therefore no dates of use are known. An attempt to record these marks which were all applied in violet ink is as follows:

FIG 3	Grenada Agency	SG 78
FIG 4	Grenada Agency	SG 78
FIG 5	St.Vincent Agency	SG 80
FIG 6	Trinidad	4 FEB 1921

It is very likely that other such marks were used at Jamaica, Barbados, St. Lucia, or St Thomas and I would be very interested to hear from collectors who may have such marks in their collection on postage or fiscal stamps.

LITERATURE

Do you have a copy of all the various handbooks published by the Society?? Buy NOW before they sell out.

'POSTAL REGISTRATION IN BRITISH GUIANA' by M. Rego
Special Members price £3-50

'THE MILITARY MAIL OF JAMAICA' by A.P. Derek Sutcliffe,
Special Members price £6-50

Both books are postage paid worldwide and are sent by Surface Mail at Printed Paper Rate.

Overseas Members should pay in Sterling, if possible or otherwise send U.S. Currency Notes allowing \$1 extra for charges. U.S. Dollar cheques are accepted provided that sufficient funds are allowed to cover the very high charges made by U.K. banks for handling --i.e., \$5 per cheque.

NEWS FLASH NEW BOOKS

Tony Shepherd has recently published a book on Postal Censorship in Barbados and copies can be obtained from him, the BWISC or from Caribbean Philatelic Auctions. Mike Rego is producing a new handbook dealing with Caribbean Shipping Lines and will be glad to hear from any one who can supply information, covers, dates or photostats

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The Two Pence Half-Penny Issue of Jamaica.

The Double Overprints.

R.V. Swarbrick

The provisional issue of 1890 attracted the attention of collectors from the outset, and the research carried out by contemporary students has ensured that the information collated is available to all. The stamp itself is not rare, and it has been estimated, probably with some accuracy, that 96,000 were issued. That is, 400 sheets in all, divided into four panes of 60 per sheet. As large blocks of this issue still exist, it is possible to reconstruct fully all the settings, and such blocks assist to evaluate the varieties as well as assisting in the plating of the issue.

Whilst the method of plating is widely known, little, if anything, seems to have been written about the double overprints of this issue that are often seen, and it is with this complex facet of the stamp that I am concerned here.

That a double overprint exists at all, is due to a variety of factors. This is not an error, as such, but rather a deliberate attempt on the part of the printer, Camille Vendryes of Kingston, to correct what he considered to be misplaced or misaligned overprints. The contract which he accepted stated that the value tablet of the 4d issue, used for this provisional, had to be obscured by the words "TWO PENCE/HALF-PENNY" so as to avoid confusion. Thus we have some strange combinations.

To carry out the instructions, the printer was faced with a variety of problems; firstly, the limitations imposed by the available equipment and, secondly, the fact that the actual printing was carried out at night. This latter problem arose because of climatic conditions, for if printing took place during the day, the temperature and humidity caused the sheets to curl, although working at night, under the then lighting conditions was not conducive to perfect workmanship nor did it help in the spotting of any errors.

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As to the printing, a vertical format was adopted for the type setting, probably due to a shortage of actual printing type. Also, due to the limitations of the press, it was found that only one pane of sixty stamps could be accommodated at a time. These factors led to the overprint comprising a single vertical strip of ten repeats of the wording, which was used six times to complete a sheet. However, the sheet limitation of one pane at a time meant that the selvage had to be removed from at least one side of the pane making anchorage difficult.

At this point, we embark into the realms of supposition. Study shows that the fifth vertical row of each sheet is always more heavily inked than any other, and my own feeling is that this row is the first row printed. The printing of this row then gave time for a



FIG. D



FIG. E



FIG. E



FIG. A



FIG. B



FIG. F

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visual check, so as to ensure correct positioning of the overprint, and, at the same time, this operation helped to anchor the sheet. Further evidence to support this theory lies in the fact that I have never seen a copy of this row, (ROW 5), which is badly positioned, thus needing a second or corrective overprint. Again, there also exist several pairs of the stamp with the overprint missing from the left hand stamp - the sixth row, Figure A.

As mentioned, Vendryes applied a second overprint to correct faulty positioning, and in the main, such second overprints had the same characteristics as the fifth vertical row of the overprint, that is, the second overprint was also blotchy and overinked. (FIG. E)

To my mind, this is illustrated by the block of four stamps, FIG. B, which shows a double overprint on two of the stamps. It can be seen from this block, and others, that the second or corrective overprint is identical to the first or original overprint.

It should be stressed that so far I have only been considering the first setting of this issue - there are three settings - but this identical printing is of great assistance in establishing the stamps of this setting as well as helping to eliminate many of the forgeries that exist.

Indeed, it must be said that the forger went quickly to work to satisfy the demand for this unusual stamp, but, lacking the detailed knowledge now available to the student, very often, fanciful variations were created.

Basically, two methods of production were open to the forger. More often than not, he took an ordinary example of SG 30, and added his "overprint". (FIG C) Less often, the forger took an example of the issued 4d value, SG 22a, and applied the two "overprints" described. (FIG C and FIG D)

Of the methods mentioned, the first is the easier to spot, as it is virtually impossible to match the original type exactly. Thus, in verifying the status of an example, we must look for a comparison with the genuine stamp. For instance, certain letters, notably the "C" is peculiar to the genuine overprint, which aids

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identification, as does the position of the hyphen. However, the best way, in my opinion, is to attempt a positive matching through the relative position of the letters "T" and "H"; and the measurement of the whole - the genuine being 14 - 14½mm for the words, "TWO PENCE" and 15 - 15½mm for the words, "HALF-PENNY". Attention should also be paid to the spacing between the two lines of the overprint, the 1mm and 1½mm spacings listed in the catalogues, whilst the overprint itself is in pica sans serif capitals, 2½mm high. Although these measurements were easily ascertained from a quick study of the stamps, nevertheless, the forger often made errors of measurement.

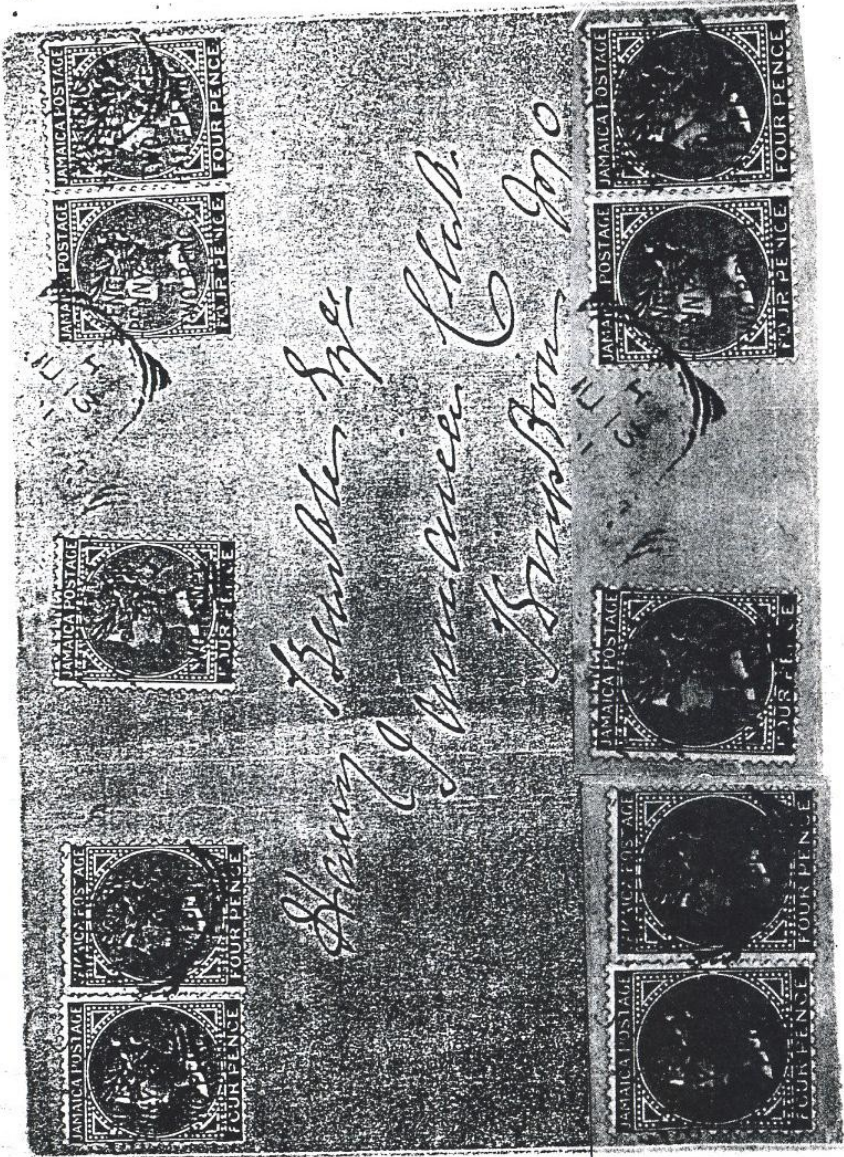
Personally, I view any correctly positioned example with a double overprint with some suspicion, as it was unnecessary in the first place, and hence the forger of -ten "gives away" his work by being too careful. Sadly, these products are usually the most attractive examples.

Obviously the printer had problems, for he abandoned the vertical format of the overprint - the first setting - in favour of a horizontal setting - the second setting. Whilst undoubtedly simplifying the printing process, the new format created another problem, a shortage of type. This shortage was probably due to two causes; firstly, the first setting required the ten repeats of the overprint, but because of the sheet format, the second setting required twelve such repeats, as the horizontal printing was in two lines of six, the sheets being in their four panes of 6 x 10.

The second factor which probably caused the shortage of type was that Vendryes was also the printer employed to produce the 1890 Official stamps, and these were also produced by overprinting SG 16 with the word "OFFICIAL", using some of the same type as that employed for the provisional issue.

To get over this shortage, certain letters were altered to produce the necessary amount of type, particularly the letter "K" being altered to "Y" by removing the lower limb; and "E's" being altered to "F's" by a similar process. It should be said that this change helps students of this issue, for whilst it is undoubtedly the easier setting to plate, it did produce another phenom-

ALL STAMPS ON THIS COVER ARE THE 2ND. SETTING



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enon - the double overprint is quite different. (FIG D)

The chief difficulty encountered in this setting seems to have been a gradual drift of the type downwards. Thus the doubling effect is more obvious on Nos. 4, 5 and 6, but as the corrective overprint was applied to the whole horizontal row, more presentable examples are available. However, an interesting situation arises, for the second or corrective overprint is from the row directly above or below the overprint. Thus a stamp in position 6 will show the corrective overprint of position 12, and vice versa. (See COVER photostat)

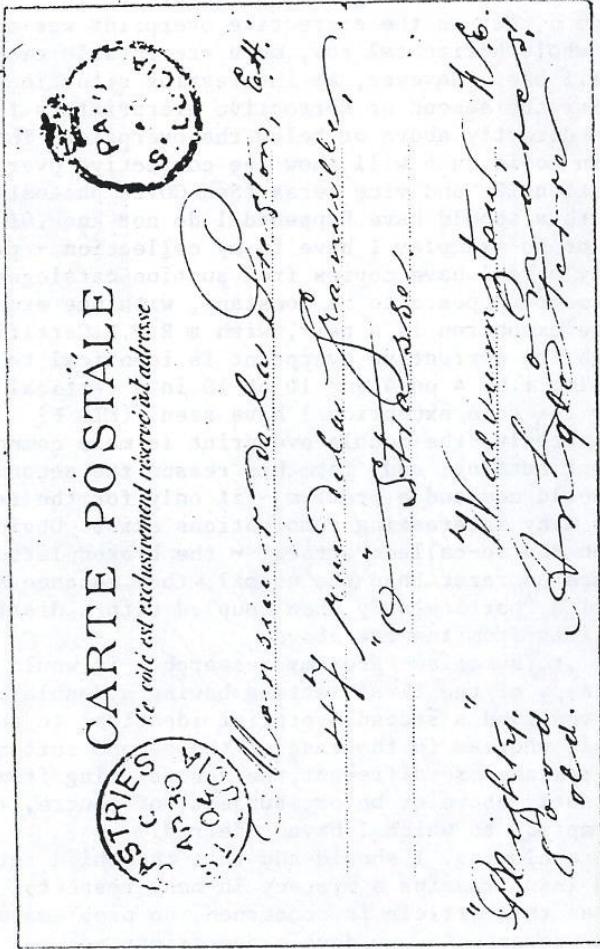
Why this should have happened I do not know. Of the thirty or so examples I have in my collection - plus the many more I have copies from auction catalogues - this process appears to be constant, with one exception! The exception is a pair, with a R.P.S. Certificate, in which the corrective overprint is identical to the original, i.e. 4 on 4 and 10 on 10 in a vertical pair. This is the sole exception I have seen. (FIG F)

Undoubtedly, the double overprint is more common in the first setting, and, for this reason the second setting should command a premium - if only for the fact that so many interesting combinations exist. Obviously, although the so-called "errors" - the broken letters etc., are no rarer than the normal, they enhance any collection, particularly when coupled with a distinctive variety from the row above.

Thus, to summarise - from my research - it would seem that stamps of the first setting having a double overprint, received a second overprint identical to the original, whereas in the case of the second setting, the overprints are different, the second being from the row directly above or below, subject, of course, to the one exception to which I have referred.

Before closing, I should add that the third setting of this issue remains a mystery in many respects, but so far as this article is concerned, no problems are at present presented as no double overprints are yet recorded for the third setting.

Finally, I would be most grateful to hear any comments or explanations which would help unravel this paradox, or, in fact, any information on this issue.



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ST LUCIA THE AFTERMATH OF THE 1903 CYCLONE G.Bartlett
IN MARTINIQUE

Graham Bartlett has recently discovered an interesting postcard, the front of which depicts the stranding of several boats in Fort-De-France, Martinique, caused by the cyclone on 9 AUG 1903, including a French steamer which appears to have been an inter island vessel but whether mail was carried on these is uncertain.

The back of the postcard has a Castries 23mm CDS C/AP 30/04 upper left and a Crown paid at St Lucia handstamp in the upper right corner. This is applied in black and makes a new earliest known date, there being a shortage of postage stamps at this period.

LATE NEWS FLASH
- - - - -

We have just been informed that MANPEX 1985 has been cancelled because of the lack of support by Dealers.

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION
South Africa, 6-11 October 1986.

A letter has been received by the Secretary from our member Dr. Ian Matheson from South Africa together with a Brochure etc giving details of the above event which is being organised by the Johannesburg Society. Should any member be interested in exhibiting Ian would be very pleased to assist in any way, including an offer of arranging a rendezvous for Caribbean Collectors. All entries must have received at least a Silver Medal at National Level or have been certified by a Commissioner that they are of that standard. See previous Members list and contact Ian direct. Thank you Ian for your kind offer of help.

Articles, photographs and items for inclusion in the Caribbeana should be sent to the Editor, Mr. L.R. WARD, 1, Broadwater Dale, LETCHWORTH, Herts. England. SG6 3HQ
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MEMBERS LIST AS AT 23RD February, 1985.

Due to the number of changes to the Membership, since the last list published in July 1984, we are pleased to produce an updated one. As Caribbeana is used for publicity purposes as well as for the membership we are not showing the Addresses in full. Please refer to the last list or make contact by sending a letter to the Secretary for forwarding. Where a Member has notified the Society of a change of interests these have been included.

ADDISS, Edward F.	Florida USA	Br. Honduras
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ALLAN,	Tyne & Wear	Jamaica
ASHLEY, W.B. (Bill)	Massachusetts USA	Dominica
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AYRE, John G.	Tyne & Wear	Jamaica
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BARTLETT, Graham C.	West Yorks.	St. Lucia
BARWICK, Chris.	Berks.	Montserrat
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BROWN, Bernard H.	N. Humberside	Cayman Is.
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CHIN ALEONG, Joe	Trinidad, W.I.	Trinidad
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GOODALL, J.E.	West Yorks.	General BWI
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HOEY, S.G.	Strathclyde	Bahamas
HUTSON, Terry.A.	Kent	St.Lucia
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JANE, Charles W.E.	Antigua WI	Bahamas, Jamaica & Turks
JOHNSTON, J.R. Vivian	W. Yorks	St.Kitts-Nevis
KING, David	Warwickshire	St.Kitts-Nevis
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MATHESON, Dr. Ian A.	Johannesburg RSA	Br. Honduras
MATTHEWS, W.H. (Bill)	Trinidad WI	Trinidad & Tobago
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MURPHEY, Colin T.H.	Kent	General BWI
NETHERSOLE, Mike J.	Northlands RSA	Leewards, ST. Vincent & Trin.
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POTTER, Ian A.	S. Yorks.	Gren. Jam. & Trin.
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RITCHIE, Dr. G. eoff. G.	N. Yorks.	St. Lucia
ROGERS, Brian J.W.	W. sussex	Br. Honduras
ROWAN, Hugh	Ontario, Canada	Bermuda
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STEPHENS, Fred	W. Yorks.	Bahamas & G.B. used in BWI
SUMMERHAYES, E.J.	Wiltshire	Jamaica
SUTCLIFFE, A.P. Derek	W. Yorks.	Jamaica & Martinique
SWARBRICK, R.V. (Bob)	Leics.	Jamaica
SWETLAND, Mark W.	S. Carolina, USA	Antigua & Jamaica
THOMPSON, Arthur	S. Humberside	Jamaica
THOMPSON, Brian E.	Mallorca, Spain.	Jamaica
THOMPSON, Sqdn Ldr. D.	Herts.	General B.W.I.
THORN, Phillip	Lincs.	Jamaica
TOPAZ, R. (Bob)	Massachusetts USA	Dealer Member
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VANCE, Geoffrey	Warks.	Jamaica
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WALKER, Bruce	Aberdeenshire	Jamaica, St. Vincent & Trinidad
WALKER, W.D. (Dan)	Virginia USA	Grenada
WALSH, Fred	W. Yorks.	Jamaica
WARD, Lionel R.	Herts.	Cayman Is, Cuba & St. Lucia
		BWI postal history.

Roses Philatelic Society Caribbeana

SECRETARYSHIP

Dear Member,


For many years I have served the Society i.e. from 1971 - 1977 and more recently from 1982-85. It has been a pleasure to serve the Society in this way and also to be honoured with the Chairmanship from 1977-79. Due to the pressure of work over the last two years I feel I need a break from the position for a few years and therefore will not be seeking re-election at the AGM in April. I am prepared to assist anyone taking over who may want some guidance and also will always have the Society's best interest at heart. May I thank you for the backing that you have given me during my secretaryship.

Yours very sincerely,

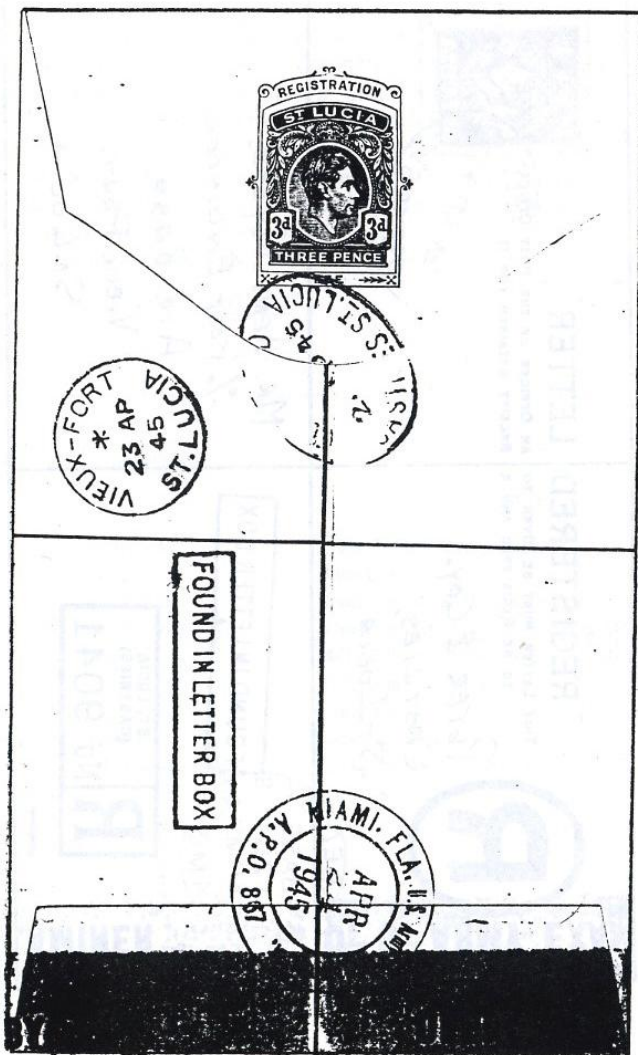
Malcolm D. Watts.

MEMBERSHIP LIST CONTINUED.

WARD	S.Yorks.	Cuba & BWI Waterfalls
WATKINS, R.	Herts.	Jamaica
WATSON, W. Ken	W. Yorks.	Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis
WATTS, Malcolm D.	N. Yorks.	Jamaica, Turks & Caicos & Dealer
WEBBER, Peter	Warks.	BWI KGV I Pmks & Postal History
WIKE, Ronald G.	Cheshire	Trinidad & Tobago
WILSON, A.	N. Yorks.	Jamaica
WOOLFSON, Dr. David	Essex	General BWI
WYNSTRA, ROBERT	Illinois, USA	Leeward Is. & Barbuda

<p>REGISTERED</p> <p>THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO TO BE REGISTERED AND A</p> <p><i>PETER & Coy. CASTRIES, ST. LUCIA</i></p> <p>R</p> <p>U. S. ARMY EXAMINER</p>	<p>LETTER.</p> <p>AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT</p> <p><i>24 HRS CASTRIES ST. LUCIA</i></p> 
<p>FOUND IN LETTER BOX</p> <p>R ST. LUCIA (CASTRIES) No 9041</p> <p>BASE 1251 ARMY & AIRMINES</p>	<p><i>MR. JENS NYBOE, % Post ENGINEER, AIR BASE, Vieux-Fort, ST. LUCIA.</i></p>

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BRITISH GUIANA CENSOR MARKINGS

Michael Rego

Following a void of new information on Br. Guiana censor markings in recent years, there has suddenly been several new finds mainly thanks to Derek Lilley's observations and fortunate finds. (Fig.1)

Firstly, Derek wishes to report the use of the "missing" Octagonal Crown Censor handstamp of which three are now known. The EKD:27 SEP 1943 and the LKD:24 AUG 44 are all from the same BG correspondence to Washington, DC, U.S.A. Each handstamp is applied in violet ink and they contain in pencil No. "33". It was always thought that this handstamp should have been used in Br. Guiana and it is reassuring to know that it was not only issued to the censor staff in BG but was also used there. As this is the first time this marking has been reported in use, it would seem appropriate to call it 'TYPE 12' which continues the numbering scheme found in the Roses Caribbean handbook No.2, published in 1977.

Secondly, there are new numbers to be added to TYPE 11 label. This series of labels arrived from Trinidad to Br. Guiana in April 1945 following the Great Fire which destroyed much of the city area and post office building in Georgetown.

The new numbers are as follows:

IE/8790 IE/8791 IE/8793 IE/8797 (Fig.2)
each of which has been altered to read 11/number.
The EKD: 12 APR 1945 LKD: 28 JULY 1945

Finally, TYPE 3a handstamp has been reported with manuscript numbers 5, 9, 11, 12 each in manuscript red or blue crayon, on incoming or outgoing censored mail. (Fig.3)

The EKD: 3 JAN 1940 LKD: 5 FEB 1941

ST. LUCIA FOUND IN LETTER BOX Graham Bartlett

Regarding the illustrated registered envelope used 21 APR 1945 at Castries is this the EKD for boxed "FOUND IN LETTER BOX" ?

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BRITISH GUIANA CENSOR MARKINGS

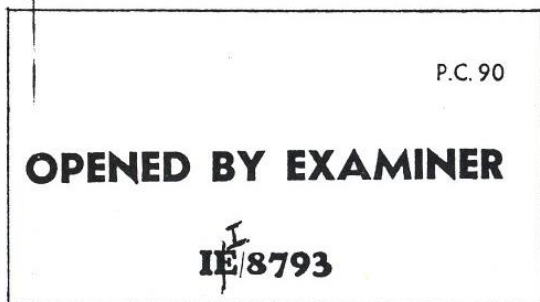
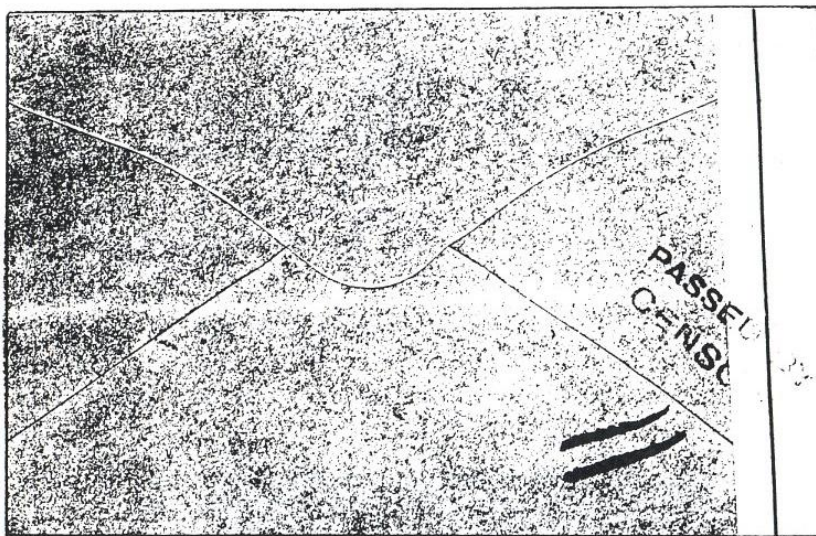


Fig. 2
Type 11 label from Trinidad used in
British Guiana.



Fig. 1
Type 11 1/2 in
violet.

BELOW: Cover with Type 3a handstamp applied in red
with manuscript censor No. 11 in red crayon
Fig.3 used on 5 FEB 1941.



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Amendments to TURKS ISLANDS & CAICOS ISLANDS TO 1950

p. 8. Line 2. The second sentence should begin: "However, in 1842 Turks"
==== for though a few steamers went out to the W.I. beforehand, the service did not start until January 1842. See also p.83, line 4.

p. 11 I have an O.H.M.S. cover with a typewritten "1st Direct air
==== mail service from Turks Islands/ to Jamaica" across the front, underlined in red ink. It has a 1s grey-olive cancelled Grand Turk, Type 6, dated AU 16 47 and is addressed by hand (not typewriter) to Kingston. There is no backstamp. It may, or may not, be a genuine first airmail.

p. 39 1d. orange-brown, bisected. I have never seen this on complete
==== cover, only on piece. I have a) bisected vertically: single on piece, and a pair (right and left halves of adjoining stamps, still attached to each other) on piece, and b) bisected diagonally: single attached to a complete stamp with a separate stamp alongside, all on Proofs, etc. Type 3l with blank panels, (piece.

Wink Crown CA, imperf., gummed, exist in a range of colours, for they are not specifically Turks Is. proofs I have three, in ultramarine, red-brown and grey, and have seen one in green.

p. 41 "One Penny" Provisional. This also exists surcharged "Penny
==== One" (surcharge extremely misplaced to the left and printed slightly downhill). The last stamps in each row are surcharged "Penny" only.

p. 44. Line 4. I have the original manuscript records showing that
==== 10 sheets (=600 stamps) of the 4d. were received for surcharging on 28 July 1893 and were entered as ½d. stamps in the Postmaster's stock the same day.

p.48. ½d green. Double ("bounce" prints are known.
==== 2d sepia. "Printer's waste copies are known. I have one on which the bottom third of the stamp was not printed.

p. 49. 2s purple. Known imperf. on left hand side with a wide margin.
==== only five copies of this can exist, since the sheets were 6 x 5

p. 63. 1½d scarlet. There is a prominent retouch on No.9, Left pane.
==== The triangular background close to the frame above the right value tablet is in solid colour, instead of having horizontal lines. Sheets Though the sheets, at least of the lower values, are of 120,
==== in this issue they are in two panes of 60 (each 6 x 10), with a narrow vertical gutter between the panes. I feel this should be mentioned, and the re-entry numbering on p.79 modified to avoid confusion.

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Amendments to TURKS ISLANDS & CAICOS ISLANDS TO 1950 Handbook

p. 83 Line 2 should read "... postal markings of".

==== Line 4 should read "Company started from the U.K. in January 1842

Note re illustration. The routes of the R.M.S.P. changed with the departure from the U.K. of the first September 1842 steamer. Those steamers already in the W.I. completed their previously assigned routes before changing to the new ones, a process that took some time. The cover illustrated was probably carried in the last mail from Turks Is. under the old system of routes.

p. 83 Lines 7-9 should be rewritten to read: "These manuscript markings were written by the Packet Agent or his assistant, for two styles of hand writing are known." (There was no regular Postmaster, appointed by the G.P.O., London, until 1854.

p.85. Type 1a. It should be made clear that this is simply the Type I device with the index letter, which was loose type like the date, removed.

p. 86. Type 2a. Similarly, this is simply the Type 2 device with the loose index letter added.

p. 94. Other K.N.S.M. ship marks seen cancelling Turks & Caicos stamps are Amor, Artemis, Castor, Luns and Mede.

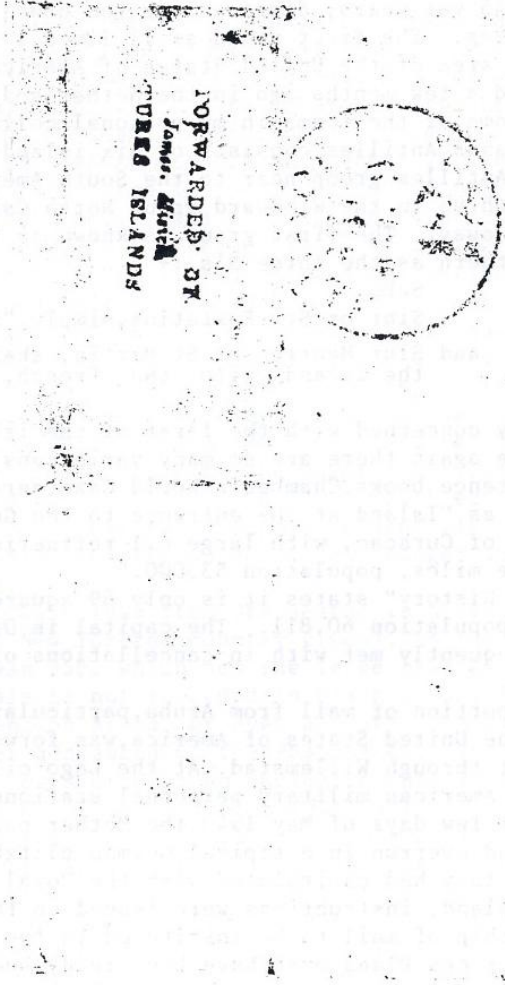
p. 98. Type CM2. LKD 7 MY 42. Add: "to Glasgow; with label "P.C.90/ OPENED BY/ EXAMINER 708" in black.

p. 110. Crude lithographed forgeries by the Spiro Brothers are known of the three Perkins Bacon values, perf. 12½, 13, pin perf. or imperf. on unwatermarked paper. Two types exist, without or with a small diagonal line on the cheek right of the upper lip. The former, when used, are usually cancelled by a diamond of dots, the latter by an oval of horizontal bars separated by vertical arcs. "Unused" are occasionally found, as are complete sheets of 25 "used" .

p. 112. Pen Cancellations. Most of these are believed to be Perkins Bacon archive specimens which came on to the market through Charles & Harry Nissen and Thomas Allen in 1936 (see Perkins Bacon Records by De Worms). Similar pen cancelled stamps are found from many other colonies whose early stamps were printed by Perkins Bacon.

p. 112. Forwarding Agents.
Add James Missick, 1850, as attached cover ex "Glassoo" collection.

LETTER FROM TURKS IS. TO NEW ORLEANS VIA NEW YORK.
Manuscript note on back: "J. Frith/Turks Islands/January March 9/50."
F.A.C. IN BLACK: FORWARDED BY James Mielck/TURKS ISLANDS "
NEW YORK SHIP MAR 9 12 cts (due) IN RED ON FRONT. NO ARRIVAL DATESTAMP.



William H. M. Salt and Co. of
New Orleans

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CENSORSHIP ON ARUBA, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES. Ronald Ward.

It would be only too easy to open "A Postal History of Curacao" by Frank W. Yulsen and A. M. Benders, published by Van Dieten, The Hague, 1976, and take the story of this island's 1939-45 war years, disregarding the usual copyright formalities. The first named still lives, I believe, in the Arizona area of the United States of America, whilst the second died a few months ago in the Netherlands. This only details some of the items in my personal collection.

The Netherlands Antilles consists of six islands, three in the Lesser Antilles group near to the South American mainland, and three in the Windward group North Caribbean some 600 miles away. The first group is known as the A, B, C, and the northern as the three S's :-

Aruba	Saba
Bonaire	Sint or St. Eustatius, simply "Statia",
Curacao	and Sint Maarten or St. Martin; sharing the island with the French.

This is only concerned with the first of the islands given, and here again there are so many variations in different reference books. Chamber's World Gazetteer (1954) gives the area as "Island at the entrance to the Gulf of Venezuela, West of Curacao, with large oil refineries: Area 181 square miles, population 53,000."

The "Postal History" states it is only 69 square miles with the 1971 population 60,811. The capital is Oranjestad, a name frequently met with in cancellations of the period covered.

A large proportion of mail from Aruba, particularly when sent to the United States of America, was forwarded direct, and not through Willemstad. At the Lago oil colony there were American military personnel stationed.

In the first few days of May 1940, the Mother country was attacked and overrun in a typical German blitzkrieg, and as soon as they had capitulated with the Royal Family escaping to England, instructions were issued on the 10th May for censorship of mail to be instituted in the Dutch overseas possessions. Plans must have been ready, because the actual censorship of mail commenced on 11th May 1940,

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and this continued through until 18th August 1945.

The American Army Post Office functioning at St. Nicolaas, Aruba, from 14th February 1942 until 7th March 1946, was A.P.O. 811, and letters from their forces used U.S.A postage stamps with their own censor facilities. There was also a U.S Navy F.P.O. 155 at the same town.

The earliest described known is a cover cancelled at Oranjestad on 15th February 1941, addressed to Scotland, postage 15c. This has been opened and resealed with tape printed black on white with the royal arms between POST CENSUUR and CURACAO. Additionally there is the regularly seen GEZIEN CURACAO CENSUUR and cypher 18. in a single ring, the latter two in red. "Gezien" is translated as seen, or "seen by..", and although in this case the letter had been seen, it is frequently found on items which were classed as "safe" mail and allowed to continue without being opened in the islands.

The next item is on 27th October 1941, again the adhesive cancelled at St. Nicolaas, to cover direct route by Transatlantic Clipper to London. This has the double framed triangle with the Royal Arms in the centre, with the wording reading from the lower left to the apex NIET GEOPEND then downwards to the lower right point DOOR CENSUUR and across the foot CURACAO - which equates to "Not opened by the Censor Curacao". Incidentally there is a cedilla below the second 'c' which changes this into an 's' sound.

In February 1942 from Oranjestad is a second scal air letter to New York (no country given), as the normal rate for 10G was 35c, which has the large triangle struck in black. This is not recorded in black by Julsen and Benders as used on Aruba, or even any other island.

A cover addressed to the Postmaster, St. Lucia, B.W.I. was sent registered at an inclusive rate of 60c, cancelled at St. Nicolaas, and the registration etiquette or label has the number completed in manuscript. The triangular "Not opened"...struck in violet ink, and prior to forwarding, a registration label of Oranjestad was applied on the reverse, with the date stamp. The double registration - sub office then head office, dates back to the introduction of the system whereby all offices had their own labels. Both labels would seem to be a locally

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printed type with no point or period below the "o" of "No" with the insertion of the actual number in manuscript. This type I have been unable to recognize in their special chapter on the registration system. The date the cover started off was 2nd September 1942, both island offices, then flown to Trinidad where it passed through their Registration Branch on the 3rd (c.d.s.) and finally reached St. Lucia registered section (oval handstamp) on 18th September 1942.

On the 9th October 1942 a cover marked as posted at "S.N. Oranjestad" had adhesives to the value of 1.80 Gldn cancelled in ST. NICOLAAS on this date; the triangular "Not opened" in violet, then opened by the British censor and resealed with tape "P.C.90 OPENED BY/EXAMINER 4056". Its final destination was in Dublin, and before delivery it was again opened and resealed with black print on pink tape "S.P.I. AN SCRUDOIR D'OSCAIL/I39/OPENED BY CENSOR".

A letter sent by an agent in Aruba at a rate of 1.20 Gldn had these cancelled at CURACAO/WILLEMSTAD and sent by Clipper direct to London. The triangular "Not opened.." in violet, but opened and resealed by a British Examiner No. 3176 on white tape P.C.90 but code of the printers 51-2107-G.W.D.

7th December 1942 a cover with the name and part of the address scratched out, but in very similar writing to the first mentioned in the story, reted at 15c to Glasgow, Scotland, U.K. The adhesive cancelled at Oranjestad. This has the regular "Not opened.." of the Dutch but now has an endorsement in the lower left and a British single framed military type triangle "P.S.S.E.D BY CENSOR No. 257" with the crown above. This confirms once again that British military personnel were on the island or on naval vessels which were granted port facilities throughout the group. It is also known that members of the K.S.L.I. (King's Shropshire Light Infantry) were also stationed there to help guard the oil installations. No mention of this by Julsen and Benders.

Having now reached 1943 and still no signs of an end to the conflict censorship possibly became keener than ever, even though from the Antilles much mail still continued to pass through unopened by the Dutch.

One such letter left on the 27th March 1943 with the 60c rate by air to Scotland, posted in St. Nicolaas, then

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Oranjestad. The writer had put his address as "C/o Marine Office" -the authorities must have known the sender otherwise an obvious place from which information could be leaked. The United States Censor was not so sure and the letter was opened and resealed by their Examiner No. 8132, proving it was after the handstamp supplied, as it covers one point of the triangle. It was also re-opened at the opposite side by the British, and resealed with their tape "51-1436H.&S. P.C.90/ OPENED BY/ EXAMINER 953".

A roughly opened by recipient cover cost 70c airmail to Miami, Florida, posted in St. Nicolaas on 18th October 1943. There is also a small handstruck "10" in black to indicate that it was written within the limits of weight. It was received in Oranjestad the same day, and there opened and resealed with the specially named tape "Royal Arms/ GEOPEND DOOR/ CENSUUR ARUBA". This is the second type used, the first having additionally "N.W.I." The detailed above is only recorded as having been used from 9th August to 4th November 1943. On this tape is pencilled "44" the number of the censor concerned. On arrival in USA, or possibly in the U.S. Base before dispatch, again censored with the number handstamped 30290.

A first day cover bearing the Curacao issue for the Dutch Royal Family was sent on 8th November 1943. As these stamps only totalled 20c, a further 15c value was added to make the 35c rate to the United States, in this case New York. The sender put his address as Lago Colony, Aruba. Lago as stated previously being the site of the large oil refineries. The adhesives cancelled at St. Nicolaas, with Oranjestad on the reverse. Also struck in black, only used in Aruba, (Curacao using violet) is a large, rather crudely made First Day of issue handstamp in six lines with two posthorns. This was apparently only used for three issues. Incidentally, the Royal Family issue was printed for the Dutch Government in exile by Bradbury, Wilkinson Ltd., and the 6c value in black does not have the extra border or outer frameline as the other stamps. The printers cannot now say why, but it is thought to be to distinguish this value from a die-proof in the same colour.

The envelope was twice opened by censors - first by the Dutch using the tape noted by Julsen & Benders as "Resealing Label -L.C.5" and is the only one known to them printed in black on buff coloured paper, and although the words are all in upper case, different type fonts are noted. The earliest date they quote as seen is 19th December 1943, but as already stated, the example described above is on a dated cover of 8th November 1943.

My last example in 1943 is one addressed to Huntley & Palmer Ltd., Reading, England, at double rate of 1G 20c, the adhesives cancelled

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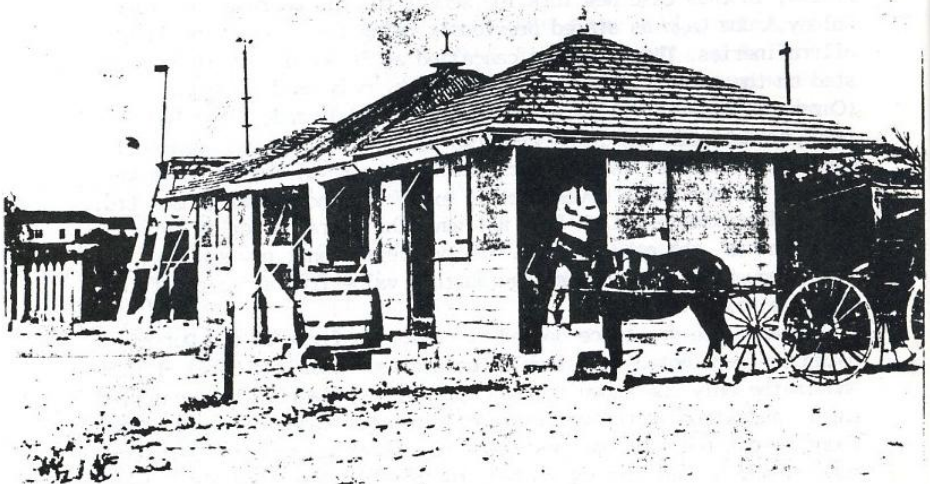
Aruba/Oranjestad 18th December. The three line GEZIEN/CURACAO/CENSUUR is struck in violet, and whilst earlier noted as translating to "Seen by ." my Dutch/English Dictionary defines the first word as "read and approved".

This also has a military censor with the octagonal framed upright containing a Crown, PASSED and the number T.130, without any indication as to the sender.

The final item is local island mail from Oran-jestad franked on 24th March 1945 to San Nico-laas using a 6c postal stationery envelope issued in 1939. Unused stocks were later revalued and sold in the 'Home Country'.

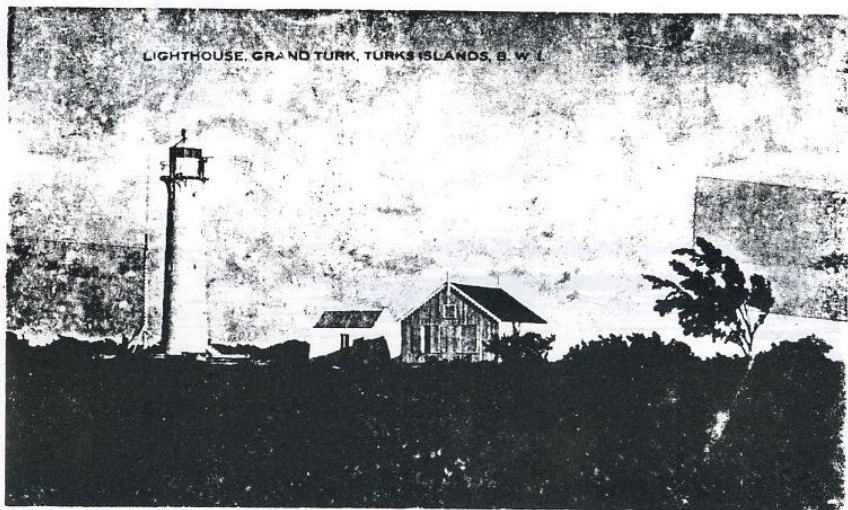
This cover has struck in violet a double outer ring, with inside GEZIEN/ ARUBA/ CENSUUR. This type censor stamp was introduced in December 1944 and used to either July or August 1945 when censorship ended.

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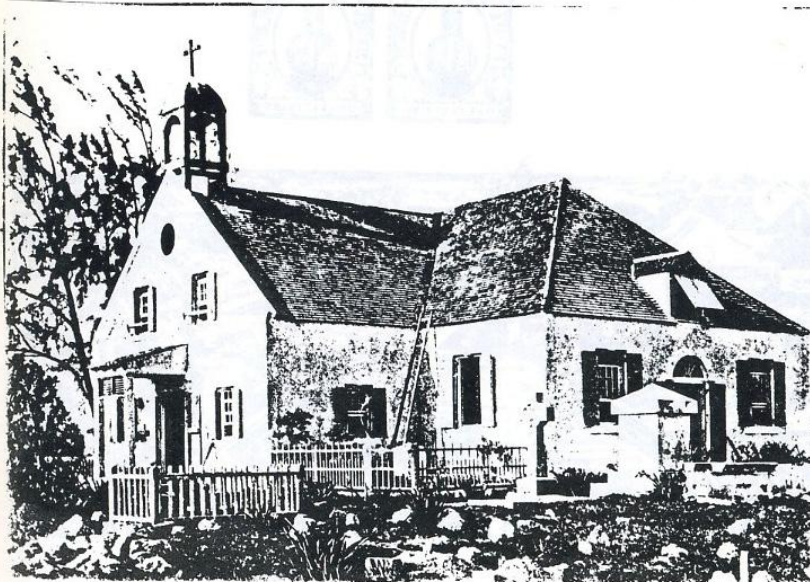


CABLE HUT.

TURKS ISLAND W. I.



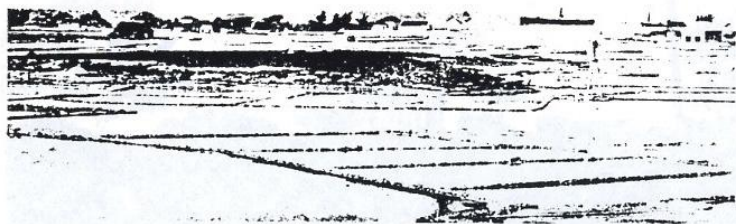
LIGHTHOUSE, GRAND TURK, TURKS ISLANDS, B. W. I.



TURKS ISLAND W. I.

CHURCH.

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BIRD'S EYE VIEW SALT PONDS.

GRAND TURK. B.W.I.

North Town, Grand Turk.



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