ANGUILLA ISLAND

GIBBONS' STAMP MONTHLY, NOV. 1954

Anguilla Island

By PETER BELFAST

ANGUILLA, or Snake Island, is the largest of the little group of five British Leeward islands lying south-west of Sombrero and the British and U.S. Virgin Islands and north of the four Franco-Dutch islands —St. Bartholomew, St. Martin (which is shared between them), St. Eustatius and Saba—dependent on Guadeloupe and Curaçao respectively. It is some seventeen miles long and four to five miles broad and enjoys a sub-tropical climate mellowed by sea breezes.

The island first appeared on stamps on 1st September, 1948 when the now keenly sought after 10s. and £1 values were added to the St. Kitts-Nevis set. This design also showed Dog, Seal and Scrub Islands to the north of the main island and Little Anguilla at the south-west tip. Some two years later, on 10th November, 1950 the current 1d., 1½d., 2½d., 3d., 6d. and 1s. values of this issue were overprinted "Anguilla Tercentenary 1650–1950" to commemorate 300 years of British settlement.

More recently the $1.20 value of the June 1952 issue shows the Salt Pond in the centre of the island. In this issue the 3 c. value shows the three main islands and every value is inscribed Saint Christopher (locally and generally abbreviated to St. Kitts) Nevis and Anguilla. Anguilla has arrived philatelically.

Whether Anguilla shared the bad reputation of Anguila Island (north of Cuba near the Bahamas) of being a slavers' paradise is unknown to the writer. The Bahamas lighthouse yacht was serving in counter-measures off Cuba as recently as 1865, by which time the British Anguilla was surely respectable. There the heat of the sun evaporated salt from the lakes to provide a modest income for the inhabitants. Salt production seems to have averaged some 3,000 tons a year. While in 1884 the Anguilla salt royalty contributed £187 10s. to the St. Kitts revenue the next year nothing came in because of the "small crop". The island sent goods to St. Kitts worth £651 in 1879 and imported from its parent £293 of locally produced and £1,248 worth of imported goods. As further evidence of modest size the school population was 225 and a liquor licence cost only 75s. a year in 1887.



Later date-stamp of Anguilla.



Early postal cancellation by pen and ink.

Road Bay, Anguilla—the position is not shown on the two 1948 high values—was made a port of (legal) entry for imports on 7th May, 1867 by Act 568 of the St. Christopher Legislative Assembly, to which Anguilla sent one representative. Sandy Hill Bay was added as a second port of entry on 22nd May, 1868. Previously all goods required had to travel via Basse Terre, St. Christopher or enter the islands irregularly.

Anguilla was governed by a vestry of seven, under the presidency of the stipendiary magistrate. The three divisions—Road, Valley and Spring—each sent one member to the vestry.

There is little evidence about early postal history. Seemingly no special marks were used on the island which possibly sent mail directly to St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, en route for Britain, or possibly via St. Kitts. Whether Anguilla was regularly linked with Basse Terre in the 1870s is doubtful, and postal services were probably casual depending on trading schooners such as the "Spring Bird" (1879 Gazette) but by the 1880s there was a regular schooner service, subsidized for mail carriage at £16 a year. Adhesives were pen-cancelled. By 1890 the population, mainly of African descent was 3,700.

The first Anguilla date stamp was supplied in May 1900 from London and apparently came into use in June. It was a duplex comprising the A12 obliterator in upright form in general use in St. Kitts, and a special date stamp with St. Kitts at the top of the circle and "AN" below, above the date. Later marks inscribed "ANGUILLA" at top and the division, as "VALLEY", at the bottom were continued in use from the King George V period up to the war.

When St. Christopher, with Anguilla, was joined to Nevis by the Leeward Islands Legislature in 1882 Anguilla lost its semi-independence. Worse still, in 1883 the combined presidency became liable to stamp duty, a fate which had struck Nevis in 1876. For this, 1d. postage stamps could be used and pen-cancelled (generally with date and initials), just as the 1d. and 6d. revenue labels could be employed to pay postage.

ANGUILLA
ISLAND.

STAMP COLLECTING. NOV. 2, 1967.

ANGUILLA OVERPRINTS WERE LONDON-ADVISED

THE " rebel " island of Anguilla, which has broken off " diplomatic relations " with the erstwhile parent colony of St. Christopher, continues to hit the headlines with news about the overprinted stamps—now being offered at around £1,000 for a complete used set of 16 values.

What has not been revealed before is that John Lister Ltd., the London wholesalers, inspired the overprints and, according to Ronald C. Coleman, an Englishman living on St. Thomas in the neighbouring U.S. Virgin Islands, ordered and paid for the overprinting on behalf of the seven-man Council who run the island*. The Chairman of the Council is Ronald Webster who also ordered approximately 200 St. Kitts aerogrammes to be overprinted.

Mr. William Bracken, manager of the Island Press Inc., of St. Thomas, confirmed that the quantities as published are accurate. He also stated that the overprinting was done by linotype supplied by the *Home Journal* of St. Thomas.

The overprinting was in panes of 25 and two settings of 25 were set up, one for overprinting the horizontal stamps and one for the vertical stamps. To avoid problems connected with the accurate placings of the overprints on the stamps, all sheet margins were stripped before overprinting, all of which was in black.

Nine panes were spoilt during printing, these including two of the $5 which received inverted overprints. These, and the overprint plates, were destroyed in the presence of three witnesses. Mr. Bracken added that this was his firm's first experience of overprinting stamps and that it had proved to be a " very difficult job ".

Agency for Definitives

The Chairman of the Council has stated that a representative of John Lister Ltd. (it was in fact John King) has been acting as " adviser " and Mr. Lister told STAMP COLLECTING WEEKLY that his firm had been appointed philatelic agents to Anguilla. A definitive issue is at the moment being printed in Holland and six values—those most urgently needed for normal postal use—would soon be issued. The six stamps had only 4s. face value. Further values, completing the definitives, were likely to follow in January. Mr. Lister added that his firm was appointed in competition with a German, a French and two American firms.

Postal validity

Mr. King, on his return last week-end from Anguilla, reported on the postal validity of the overprints and postal affairs in general.

A curious position exists. The post offices in Anguilla will only use the overprinted stamps. Mail bearing the stamps is accepted at Basseterre, the St. Christopher capital, as fully stamped if for local delivery but no mail is accepted for forwarding beyond Basseterre. All mail addressed *to* Anguilla through St. Christopher has been held at Basseterre since May 30th. Outward mail from Anguilla, franked with the overprinted stamps, is being sent via St. Thomas, where the U.S. Post Office takes over. The U.S.P.O. has also announced the re-routing of its parcel service to Anguilla so that Basseterre is avoided. Another report says some Anguillans are using French or Dutch stamps and sending and receiving mail through the respective national services by using post office boxes, but that delays are " abnormal ".

It is also confirmed that the overprints were not handled by members of the public posting letters. The stamps are affixed to the letters by the post office staff who also see to their posting so that neither mint, nor unused, stamps are likely to come on the market. The $5 stamp, of which 225 were overprinted, is being used very sparingly and mainly for fiscal purposes. All values are still on sale. The only mint examples which have left the island are those submitted to the U.P.U. for record purposes.

Status

Finally, comes the question of status of the overprints and, in due course, the definitives.

The view of the Commonwealth Office in London is quite clear. The Council in Anguilla is a self-appointed body without constitutional authority and neither its acts nor its stamps are legal.

While St. Christopher, as a " State in Association " has U.P.U. membership through Great Britain, Anguilla (on its own) does not, and representations on this point are in process at Berne.

On the other hand, since St. Christopher denies postal facilities—and stamps—to Anguilla, its 6,000-odd population, out on a limb 70 miles away from St. Christopher, feel it right to provide their own stamps. There was no postal need to overprint the supplies that *were* on hand (or which had been obtained from outside sources?) but the obvious political gesture, was perhaps, to be expected when the " rebellion " broke out and a referendum among the almost 100 per cent negro population resulted in a Gibraltar-proportioned vote in favour of secession from the " statehood " and a declaration of loyalty to Great Britain and the Queen.

Writing from St. Thomas, Mr. Coleman concludes his report thus:—

" It may be of general interest to your readers to learn that St. Thomas has a high alien population from the B.W.I., including a great number of workers from Anguilla. As a result of this, many thousands of U.S. dollars were donated from residents in the U.S. Virgin Islands for the purchase of urgent medical supplies for Anguilla. T.V. broadcasts covered many appeals to contribute to the medical fund, whilst also making it clear that the U.S. islands were not taking political sides. With supplies cut off from St. Christopher, there is no doubt that the U.S. Virgin Island population helped greatly in this humanitarian need. Small wonder that Mr. Webster chose a U.S. firm to undertake his overprint."

* John Lister Ltd have since stated that they advanced the cost of the overprint and have been repaid by the Council.

STAMP COLLECTING 12 Oct. 1967

Anguilla Overprint: Quantities

The Anguilla " rebel " overprints on St. Kitts (first reported in *S.C.W.* on September 21st) are stated by *New Stamps* to have been in the following quantities: ½c., 3,050; 1c., 2,800; 2c., 4,250; 3c., 3,600; 4c., 3,450; 5c., 2,475; 6c., 2,575; 10c., 4,100; 15c., 3,200; 20c., 2,800; 25c., 2,575; 50c., 175; 60c., 100; $1, 175; $2.50, 225; $5, 225. The overprint is reported as having been in panes of 25 on St. Kitts stock available in Anguilla by the Island Press Inc., St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Is.

Despite uncertainty as to the status of the issue, prices ranging to £800 for a complete set of the 16 stamps are being quoted in London.

ANGUILLA ISLAND

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE (C.R.) 5. 1. 1968.

commonwealth review

ANGUILLA

The following are extracts taken from "The Beason" (Anguilla's only news sheet) dated December 2nd, 1967.

"**STAMPS.** Philatelists all over the world all know that a very limited supply of the current St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla stamps were overprinted with 'Independent Anguilla'. On Monday, November 27th, all these stamps were withdrawn from circulation, and the balance destroyed, and a new issue of six stamps were put on sale. This is a day to be remembered when the history of Anguilla is written. First day covers of the new issue are on sale for $1.01 and there is still a stock of the overprinted airgraphs of 5 cents and 15 cents, which have already an enhanced value. Our grateful thanks are due to Mr. John King, of Listers, the Stamp Dealers, who has seen all our philatelic efforts to a successful conclusion. He hopes that a further issue of the remaining stamps to make a complete set will be ready in the early months of 1968. The Sale of the Overprinted Stamps and the New Stamps are already bringing into Anguilla a considerable increase in income. Even when the peak demand has passed the sale of stamps should be a major item in our economy. All stamps sold have been sold at face value.

The whole process of issuing stamps, getting them accepted by the Universal Postal Union, and advertising them to the world is very complex. The Government of Anguilla decided that from the very beginning all should be above board. It resisted all temptations to sell sets of stamps on the quiet, and get some quick money. If it had done so the future of Anguilla as a reputable stamp issuing country would have been ruined. It is because no one has attempted to use the stamps otherwise than in the genuine postal business, that the value of these stamps, and Anguilla's reputation is so high today".

ANGUILLA

STAMP COLLECTING (Aldon) June 1965

BRIDGER & KAY PUBLICATIONS DEPT.

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(4,100 printed)



£10

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INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA

When Anguilla, following a referendum, declared her independence in 1967 the stocks of St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla stamps held on the island were sent to neighbouring St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands to be overprinted.

The Island Press Inc. found it necessary to divide each sheet of 50 into two blocks of 25 and to remove all the marginal paper before the overprint could be applied. There are thus no Plate Numbers or Imprints and the complete setting of the overprint was 5×5 on both the vertical and horizontal stamps.

There was only a limited stock of stamps available for overprints—as few as 100 copies of the 60c.—and in no case more than 4,250 (2c.). Before further sales were restricted to essential postal requirements, up to 10 complete mint sets had been sold and visitors present on the island had bought a few sets to the $1 value; but the Postmaster accepted no trade orders. Used copies of the lower values to 25c. are, therefore, much more common than mint. Compare the numbers overprinted—and most of them were used—with those of some of the South African High Commission Territories Decimal Surcharges (most of which survived mint); and remember that 3,128 of the Falklands Centenary £1 were sold!

P.C. June '69

ANGUILLA ISLAND

STAMP LOVER. MAY-JUNE, 1968

INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA

by Gale J. Raymond, F.R.P.S.,L.

THERE has been considerable speculation in the philatelic press as to the validity of the "Independent Anguilla" stamps. Having had the opportunity to visit Anguilla in November, 1967, I made inquiries into this as well as other postal history questions.

In February, 1967, England granted Associated Statehood to the West Indies islands of St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla. From the very outset the Anguillans were most unhappy with their particular situation within the Statehood, for a great many reasons. It came to pass that on 30th May, 1967, the Anguillans rebelled, ousting the Warden and St. Kitts police stationed on the island. On 11th July, after a brief period of casting about somewhat at loose ends, Anguilla asserted independence, and set about to solve the very knotty ensuing problems. In all aspects the most firm resolution was that under no circumstances would Anguilla ever ally itself again with the island of St. Kitts under Premier John Bradshaw. Under the circumstances the island had progressed from rebellion into independence, and continues to be independent at the time of writing.

Among the knotty problems, the postal system was certainly one of the most urgent. Traditionally all Anguilla mail had come and gone through St. Kitts. On 31st May Premier Bradshaw ordered all mail addressed to Anguilla to be impounded. For some three weeks in June Anguilla had no postal system at all. This sharply increased their financial problems, as Anguilla's largest income derives from remittances from Anguillans living and working abroad, some twice as many as live on the island. Therefore the Anguilla government rented a post office box on the adjoining island of St. Martin, at Marigot. This is the island which is half Dutch, half French—and everyone speaks English! Somewhat later an additional post office was rented on the Dutch side of the island, at Philipsburg. Supplies of French and Netherlands Antilles stamps were kept at "The Valley," the sole postoffice on Anguilla. Postmaster G. K. Harrigan, or one of his two clerks, travelled twice weekly by fishing boat to St. Martin to post out and pick up the mail. This was somewhat awkward due to variations in currencies, rates, and lack of a registration facility. Needless to say, the islanders were completely disinclined to ever again use any stamps inscribed "St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla." Within a short time, as the LIAT airline had discontinued any stops at Anguilla, a light plane connection was made to and from St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. An enormous backlog of mail addressed to Anguilla had been accumulating in the St. Thomas Postoffice, primarily from the many Anguillans located in the American Virgin Islands. Without any political implications pro and con, the St. Thomas Postoffice released the accumulated mail to Anguilla and permitted direct routing of Anguilla mail to, from, and through St. Thomas on an Air Mail basis. Seapost mail via St. Thomas was routed to St. Martin. This greatly helped ease Anguilla's postal isolation.

Anguilla's "independence" attracted a great many opportunists who found their way to Anguilla by charter aircraft. The islanders, under a Council of Seven, led by Ronald Webster, quite deftly sidestepped such obvious promotions as Swiss-type "number" banks and gambling projects. At least five different private philatelic agencies sent representatives to the island. John Lister Ltd., the English wholesalers, represented by John King, did in fact win this concession which included Mr. King's services as "Philatelic Adviser." Under pressure of other affairs, the islanders had not considered the possibility of special stamps; but the advantage of such a special issue were quickly pointed out, particularly the publicity value insofar as world attention was concerned. The urgent need for postage stamps, in any event, was undeniable. The long-departed Warden/Chief Magistrate had maintained in his office a reasonable supply of the current St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla postage stamps, which were given to the Postoffice as needed. The back of the safe was blown off, the stamps removed and flown to St. Thomas. There the Island Press overprinted the stamps in black ink with an obliterating bar over the offending inscription, adding "INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA" across the centre of each stamp. The selvage was removed from each pane of 25 stamps in order to fit the Company press. During the overprinting two panes of $5.00 stamps were erroneously overprinted upside down, and seven other sheets of lower-value stamps damaged in the overprinting process. These printing errors and mutilations, as well as the printing plates themselves, were completely destroyed in the presence of witnesss. Exact quantities printed of each stamp were as follows: ½c. (3,050); 1c. (4,250); 3c. (3,600); 4c. (3,450); 5c. (2,475); 6c. (2,575); 10c. (4,100); 15c. (3,200); 20c. (2,800); 25c. (2,575); 50c. (175); 60c. (100); $1.00 (175); $2.50 (225); $5.00 (225).

It is understood this printing was arranged and paid for by the philatelic adviser. However, the complete stock was retained by the Anguilla Government, which placed them promptly on sale on 4th September, 1967. Due to the small supply, these stamps were restricted completely to local sale in that each letter had to be placed on the Postoffice counter, stamps purchased and applied on the spot, and postmarked for dispatched. No stamps were sold mint, nor were mail orders accepted for the stamps or posting of covers. All mail was Air Mail to St. Thomas, and came and departed on Tuesdays and Fridays. The philatelic agents placed orders with a printing firm in the Netherlands for a six-value set of special Anguilla pictorial stamps; however, delivery was not anticipated before early 1968. For this reason, and to guard against philatelic hanky-panky, the overprinted provisional stamps were strictly controlled. While these controls were not foolproof, there is no question but that the vast majority of the overprinted stamps were in actual fact used on genuine non-philatelic mail. Of some 6,000 Anguillans on the island, virtually all are literate, and maintain close touch with their relatives overseas. During my stay on the island on other matters, I had the opportunity to observe some 100-150 letters per day being posted, of which I noted only four which might be construed as philatelic. For the most part the islanders themselves had little or no concern in matters philatelic. On other islands I saw such "native" letters, and was given a few as gifts, which I was most happy to receive. For the most part, however, such stamps as were preserved by overseas Anguillans were in the form of envelope-corners, as they are reluctant to

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INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA

(continued from page 74)

part with whole envelopes bearing their name and address. I was told this stems at least partially from matters involving "obeah," the milder form of voodoo practised throughout the islands.

The first bags of mail from Anguilla via St. Thomas to English and European addresses were processed and delivered normally through the British Postoffice system. As these letters were delivered without postage-due, the tacit implication was postal acceptance of the overprinted stamps as full prepayment of postage. As this delivery established a precedent, future letters were accepted and delivered the same way. In furtherance of this official acceptance of the stamps by the British Postoffice, the U.S. and other international Postoffices simply followed suit. I have heard of no instances anywhere in which the stamps were not fully accepted.

On St. Thomas I saw a small handful of these stamps neatly clipped from envelopes—perforations and all! Each was completely uncollectable. It is highly likely that the great percentage of Independent Anguilla overprinted stamps were similarly lost to the philatelic world. From inquiries in the island Postoffice, virtually all the $1.00, $2.50 and $5.00 stamps were used fiscally, on court documents, deeds, title transfers, etc.

At the time of my visit in November, most of the overprinted stamps had been used up, with the exception of the lowest values. To post a registered Air Mail letter it was necessary to plaster an entire envelope with stamps front and back! Already the islanders were beginning to revert to the old "by hand" method of sending some mail through the islands (stampless). Furthermore, it was not unusual for mail to be posted at Anguilla Postoffice with U.S.A. Air Mail stamps, which were later postmarked at St. Thomas.

In visiting the Postoffice I took careful note of the postal markings. There was one small circular date stamp (c.d.s) in use, applied to all mail. However, in a desk-corner, I spotted a large new temporary rubber datestamp (T.R.D.) inscribed "VALLEY POST OFFICE, ANGUILLA W.I.," with date in one line across the centre. This had been recently acquired, foreseeing the possibility that the sole c.d.s. might be damaged, run out of year dates, lost, etc., and had not previously been used. At my specific request, however, this T.R.D. was applied to the relatively few covers I was permitted to post during two days, Nov. 21 and 22, 1967: the T.R.D. was then retired from use until actual necessity requires.

Several days after my departure, John King returned to the island, bringing with him a supply of the six new Anguilla pictorial stamps, whose printing had been rushed up in the Netherlands. The overprinted stamps were sold through Saturday, 25th November. Early on Monday morning, 27th November, the few remainders were burned in the presence of witnesses. At 9.30 a.m. that same morning the new stamps were placed on sale at the Postoffice. At the same time a new larger c.d.s. was placed into use, which also had come in with John King. This too was inscribed "ANGUILLA" on top, "VALLEY" below, with the date in one line across the centre, similar to the previous date stamp.

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INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA

(continued from page 76)

A much more comprehensive article, including details of all postal markings, photographs of the Postmaster, Postoffice and postal stations, "phantom issues," etc., can be found in the latest journal of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group: Secretary, Reg. Lant, 25 Rochampton, Apt. 401, Toronto 12, Ontario, Canada. Every two months the group publishes a very large journal filled not only with current reports of new stamps, postmarks, and philatelic material on this area, but also detailed serious articles on earlier postal history. This encompasses all periods from pre-stamp folded letters right through news of forthcoming new issues. The Study Group has the great good fortune of having Col. Fred F. Seifert, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, as its editor. Col. Seifert is himself one of the world's outstanding specialists on British Guiana and has just returned from a trip to Guyana and many West Indian islands. As a matter of interest, the B.C.P.S.G. had a convention in Jamaica in late November. On this occasion, the Jamaica Postoffice used and utilised a special T.R.D. at the Kingston Postoffice, inscribed with the Study Group initials.—Editor.

ANGUILLA

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE 25 June 1969

Independent Anguilla

When Anguilla, following a referendum, declared her independence in 1967 the stocks of St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla stamps held on the island were sent to neighbouring St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands to be overprinted.

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Over the page you will find these extremely scarce Anguilla stamps illustrated. Compare the numbers overprinted – and most of them were used – with those of some of the South African High Commission Territories Decimal Surcharges (most of which survived mint); and remember that 3,128 of the Falklands Centenary £1 were sold!

STAMP COLLECTING 22 July 1971

ANGUILLA'S F.P.O. POSTAL MARKINGS

By Gale J. Raymond

SINCE my trip to the Virgin Islands earlier this year took me near Anguilla, I paid another visit to that interesting island. In the course of my visit, after completion of certain security preliminaries, I was granted access and privileges of the British Army base. The base Commander, Lt.-Col. Bruce Bown, had just flown back from a visit to Antigua, bringing a mail back with him, so the opportunity presented itself to visit, photograph and enthusiastically delve into the Forces Post Office, certainly a part of Anguilla's postal history.

Camp Alamo which was previously headquarters of " Red Devils " paratroop units, is still largely a tent city. Currently it is occupied by the 52nd Field Squadron (Airfields), Royal Engineers, and certain other Army and R.A.F. Units. Metropolitan Police personnel remaining on the island are scattered about in rented housing such as the former hotels Hibiscus House and the Anguillian. Only British personnel (military and civilian) may utilise the Forces Post Office. However, since the United Kingdom mail strike was on at the time of my visit, many of the troops were using the Anguilla Post Office to send and receive mail from other countries. According to Col. Bown, the U.K. relatives of British troops overseas could hand-carry their letters to the B.F.P.O. Headquarters in London. From there, mailbags went out by military courier service via the R.A.F. All other private mail addressed to and through the U.K. was simply piling up in London.

B.F.P.O. 643 remains the military address of Land Force Anguilla, now served since December 28th, 1970, by F.P.O. 701 (F.P.O. 1046 was established officially on Anguilla on March 19th, 1969, according to Registry Book records, and closed on December 27th, 1970). Under Sgt. Robertson, the main post office of F.P.O. 701 is located at the Antigua supply base, the F.P.O. on Anguilla being in effect a Branch or Sub-Post Office. Cpl. D. Kerr is clerk for the Anguilla unit at the moment. The F.P.O. occupies a tent that is located just across from the headquarters building, and is surrounded by flowering red hibiscus.

In looking through the Registry Book, I was intrigued by strikes of several rubber F.P.O. date-stamps inscribed " F.P.O. 143 "! I was told that they were used by F.P.O. 1046 on parcels, and remained in the F.P.O. safe for similar use by the current F.P.O.!

Needless to say, we now record their use on covers, for historical record. Sadly, the F.P.O.s are not normally permitted to cancel philatelic covers, and when such requests are received in London, the covers are returned unpostmarked.

Commonwealth Review (P.M.)
Oct. 27. 1967

ANGUILLA
ISLAND

QE II
PANORAMA by AVON



THE PHYSICAL, POLITICAL AND PHILATELIC FACTS OF

ANGUILLA

Physical Facts

ANGUILLA, among the most northerly of The Leeward Islands, is a flat coral island 19 miles long and [illegible] miles wide. It is separated from St. Kitts & Nevis by some 70 miles of sea. Its population consists of two Englishmen (the Anglican priest and the doctor), one American (the Methodist minister) and some 5,600 Anguillans of whom over 99 per cent. are negroes. The island is very poor and relies almost entirely on stock breeding (pigs and goats) and the receipt of remittances from exile Anguillans now resident in Great Britain and the U.S.A. There is no electricity, no telephones, no piped water, no radio transmitter and only 3 of its 70-odd miles of roads are surfaced, the remainder being incredibly bumpy coral tracks. There are some 200 vehicles on the island, but not more than half a dozen would pass an M.O.T. examination! Mosquitos and lizards abound. The climate is quite wonderful, with a permanent breeze tempering the vicious heat of the sun. Their Sunday prayers always include one for rain, but with the reservation that it shouldn't be hurricane-borne! A small landing strip enables light planes to operate to St. Martin and St. Thomas.

Political Facts

Until early this year Anguilla was the "Cinderella" of the three-island colony of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla. Indeed, it wasn't until 1952 that Anguilla was included in the title on their stamps, although the £1 stamp of 1948 did show a map of the island, while two years later an Anguilla Tercentenary set was issued. In spite of the fact that nearly all financial help from Great Britain, together with the colony's own revenue, has been spent on developing only St. Kitts and Nevis, the islanders of Anguilla have maintained a very strong loyalty to Great Britain and the Queen. But a bitterness against the Government in Basseterre has been growing for years and there is a loathing of the dictatorial leadership of the present Prime Minister (Mr. Bradshaw).

The real blow came in the Spring of this year when, without reference to the wishes of the people, the British Government offered a new constitution of "Statehood" to the colony. The affect of this was to transfer virtually all administration from Whitehall to Basseterre and, in the opinion of Anguillans, to make their island a colony of St. Kitts. This they refused to accept and, after many peaceful protests and pleas to Whitehall (culminating in a particularly unfortunate visit by the then Commonwealth Minister, Mr. Bottomley, which only aggravated the situation) it was decided to hold a referendum on the island as to whether it should secede from the new State. The result of the referendum left room for no doubt. 1,830 in favour of secession, 5 against!

The island police (all from St. Kitts) decided that the time had come to evacuate and, after destroying the only radio transmitter on the island, they took to their boats and returned to St. Kitts.

Since then Anguillans have run their own affairs quietly and efficiently, while at the same time keeping a vigilant watch on the beaches in case of a sudden invasion from St. Kitts. One tentative raid by some 30 invaders proved abortive, but neither on that occasion nor at any time has there been any loss of life or injury. Nevertheless, the otherwise cheerful Anguillans are quite clearly prepared to fight and die in their determination to be free from St. Kitts.

The island is effectively governed by a 7-man Council under an extremely able Chairman (Ronald Webster). They make no arbitary decisions and are guided by a simple eleven-point Constitution prepared by their legal adviser (Dr. Fisher of Harvard). The Magistrate's court, schools, hospital and all civil service departments are functioning efficiently.

Philatelic Facts

From the moment of secession all mail addressed to Anguilla has been impounded at St. Kitts. This not only includes all private mail but also hospital supplies, school examination papers, etc., etc. Anguillans are very bitter about this, feeling that the Post Office should at least return such mail to the senders.

One or two islanders have succeeded in obtaining P.O. Box numbers on neighbouring French and Dutch islands, but this line of communication is subject to abnormal delays.

Until September 4th, the only means of sending mail out from Anguilla was by affixing French or Dutch stamps and transporting such mail to St. Martin. But from that date, when the small residue of St. Kitts-Nevis stamps was overprinted "INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA" and placed on sale at the one and only post office, a system has been devised whereby mail bearing these stamps is accepted in the Virgin Islands for onward transmission.

The justification for the overprinting is clear. No loyal Anguillan would consider soiling the cover of his letter with a St. Kitts stamp!

To ensure that the small number of stamps overprinted should not run out before the arrival of an entirely new definitive set (expected any day), the Postmaster has been instructed to supervise the affixing of stamps on mail and to ensure that all such mail is bona-fide. No mint stamps are allowed to pass over the counter.

I understand that by the beginning of October the stock of 25c. stamps (of which 2,575 had been overprinted) was so low that the Postmaster was affixing odd values to make up the air letter rate. At the same time, the number of 50c. stamps had been reduced to only 9! The $5 stamp (of which 225 were overprinted) is used almost exclusively for passport and other fiscal purposes and it seems unlikely that more than a dozen or so will be postally used.

There is no doubt whatever that these stamps qualify for full catalogue status. They have every bit as much validity as the Tristan Relief set of St. Helena or the U.D.I. issues of Rhodesia. They were issued on the authority of the effective government of the island and have been accepted everywhere as valid for postage. The very fact that they were issued to serve genuine postal and fiscal purposes, to the total exclusion of philatelic interests, commends them.

Pricing is going to be very tricky indeed. On the basis of numbers printed, and taking a quick look at the Basutoland, Bechuanaland, and Swaziland decimal overprints and the St. Helena Tristan Relief stamps, I find it hard to believe that any single fine used stamp will be offered at much less than £10, while the 50c. and higher values must surely each be measured in £100's. If anyone can succeed in the virtually impossible task of mustering together a complete set, it must surely fetch over £1,000 at auction – for don't forget there are a number of millionaire collectors and they'd all be bidding against each other.

My advice? Stop every dark-skinned fellow you meet in the street and ask if he comes from Anguilla! If you're lucky enough to find one who does, then offer him a darned good price for any covers from his home island.

ANGUILLA ISLAND

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE Sept. 29, 1967

Anguillian Independence Stamps

OUR correspondent in Anguilla reveals that the residue of the St. Kitts-Nevis stamps on the island have been overprinted "Independent Anguilla" and the words "St. Christopher Nevis Anguilla" deleted. A new series of definitives is in preparation.

The stamps were overprinted in sheets of 25 in the following quantities: ½c. 3,050, 1c. 2,800, 2c. 4,250, 3c. 3,600, 4c. 3,450, 5c. 2,475, 6c. 2,575, 10c. 4,100, 15c. 3,200, 20c. 2,800, 25c. 2,575, 50c. 175, 60c. 100, $1 175, $2.50 225, $5 225.



The stamps were placed on sale on September 4th, but in view of the small quantities available and the genuine postal need, instructions were given that mint stamps were not to be supplied to customers, but letters were to be handed to the counter clerk for him to affix the stamps. Any other course would have resulted in a sell-out and would have caused an embarrassing situation. The stamps could only be used on genuine correspondence, not philatelic mail.

Even requests for higher denomination stamps to be affixed than were required for actual postage were refused.

The responsibility for the overprinting of the stamps and the preparation of a new series was entrusted to a British company, who have undertaken to ensure that there will be no breach of the wishes of the Anguillan Government that the stamps will be used solely for postal purposes. Even the company concerned will have no mint examples.

The actual overprinting was carried out by The Island Press Inc. of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE. Jan. 19, 1968.

Anguilla

Letters from Anguilla bearing postmarks dated December 23rd have been received with no stamps on them but with a large rectangular rubber handstamp reading VALLEY POSTAGE/W.I./ANGUILLA in three lines and with the value added in ink.

It is not at present known whether this is due to a shortage of the new definitives or whether it has something to do with the interim settlement of the dispute between ANGUILLA and ST. KITTS.

STAMP COLLECTING Dec. 7. 1967

Anguilla's First Definitives Now Out

The West Indian "rebel" island of Anguilla released its first definitive stamps on November 27th. There are six horizontal pictorials, litho-printed in sheets of 50, values and designs being: 1c. Mahogany Tree; 5c. Old Plantation House; 10c. Methodist Church; 20c. Sandy Ground (airfield); 25c. Island Harbour; 40c. Map of Anguilla.

PHIL. MAGAZINE Aug. 2, 1968

Anguilla 'Bird' lays an Egg!

The Royal Tern depicted on the 40c. value of the Anguilla "Birds" pictorials issued July 8th is known locally as "Egg Bird". True to its name, it has appeared with a misprint which looks suspiciously like an egg, in actual fact a very marked *transfer flaw in the shape of a 1¼ mm. red circle with central triangle*, just to the top left of the value.

Possibly a misplaced register mark, the flaw occurs on stamp No. 10 in the upper sheets – printing was done in vertical pairs of 5×5 sheets – and only on part of the printing.

C.P.S.

ANGUILLA ISLAND

STAMP COLLECTING - Dec. 21, 1967

ANGUILLA—Up to date

By GALE A. RAYMOND, of Houston, Texas

AS a rider to R. C. Coleman's article " A Visit to Anguilla " (STAMP COLLECTING, November 30th, 1967), I report that I, too, have recently been in Anguilla, on church business. Apparently, my visit was a week or so following Mr. Coleman's, for already the postal picture had changed by November 21st–22nd.

I, too, visited the Post Office, and was received most cordially by Postmaster Kenneth Harrigan. Most values of the overprinted set were already sold out, specifically the 5c., 20c., 50c., 60c., and only 25 copies remained of the 25c., 200 copies of the 2c. and 125 copies of the 15c. The remaining lower values ranged from 14 panes of 25 stamps of the 6c. to 60 panes of the 3c. The few remaining $1, $2.50 and $5 stamps, if any remained at all, were in the Administration Headquarters safe, and used strictly for fiscal purposes. Virtually, their entire utilisation was payment of revenue fees on deeds, court orders, property transfers, etc. Actual postal usage must have been extremely rare.

I, too, was able to post a few personal letters to friends, but only with special permission. I was able to locate only five copies each of the two air-letter forms. Nosing about the post office, I encountered a large temporary date-stamp (T.R.D.) inscribed " Valley Post Office, Anguilla, W.I.", with the date in one line across the centre, which I was told had not been previously used. Needless to say, it found good use on November 21st, 1967!

I registered very few of my letters, and wished I had registered all of them, as letters bearing the Anguilla stamps have had a tendency to " disappear " in transit through other post offices.

These stamps were not used for postage due purposes, as the few arriving short-paid articles were delivered normally, without comment or surcharge. By now, November 27th, 1967, first day covers of the new six-stamp Anguilla definitive set are undoubtedly freely available. As this is written (*on December 4th*, 1967), I have no word of the final disposition of the overprinted remainders. A large straight-line marking reading " Anguilla " was on a desk, but had no postage usage, according to the Postmaster. The current c.d.s. was a neat postmark in clean sharp letters; a slightly larger c.d.s. with much larger lettering " disappeared " in June, and any Anguilla overprinted stamps bearing this particular early c.d.s. might be questioned as to postmark point of origin. A completely new large c.d.s. went into use on first day covers of the new stamps.

As a matter of interest, there are no other sub-post offices on the island. However, there are collecting stations at West End, East End and South Hill. At each of these places there are some rather old collection boxes; however, no-one ever posts any letters in them, according to Postmaster Harrigan, who has them checked every few months, just in case. He says that there are less than two dozen letters a year posted on the island for internal delivery.

Unofficial Labels

I was particularly intrigued on St. Thomas to hear of certain Anguilla stamps depicting two mermaids supporting a large conch shell. On Anguilla I was told a number of these labels were printed in the United States for a misguided Anguillan. Although offered gratis to the Anguillan Government, these labels were not accepted, and Postmaster Harrigan very strongly affirmed that none had ever been or would be cancelled at his post office. I later heard these " labels " somehow found their way to the New York stamp market.

Further, regarding the overprinted stamps, it is understood that some few mint values somehow escaped to the philatelic world. On St. Thomas I was shown a nice handful of used examples from personal mail, each carefully snipped from the cover—perforations and all! Every stamp was totally useless to a collector. Later, however, on another nearby island, I located and acquired a few non-philatelic covers. Although I encountered at least three serious stamp collectors on the island, one receiving an English stamp journal, the population for the most part was totally uninterested in any matters philatelic. As customary over many years, much of the mail was still travelling " by hand " between the islands, or posting arranged in St. Thomas with United States stamps, for various reasons.

ANGUILLA 1S.

[Source unknown.)
Jan. 1951.

Anguilla's P O's

It is a real Gilbertian affair. The four sub-offices of Anguilla, i.e. those other than Valley, were opened in 1928, but through lack of support they died out in about 1930. However the St. Kitts Post Office clean forgot to close them officially and they kept turning up in lists until 1939. Some people doubted if they ever existed but that they did function for a time I know for certain. When the attention of the authorities was drawn to the existence of "Offices that were not," an Order in Council was very hurriedly included at the next meeting of the Governors Council. This order officially declared them closed—some nine years after they died on themselves ! But they still live according to Millbank ! I thought I would mention this as a warning to George VI. postmark enthusiasts who might wear themselves out trying to get these four ghostly offices. As a matter of fact, it is intended to open two sub-offices, again in Anguilla, but there is nothing official yet.



When I first reported on the St. Kitts Tercentenary set I mentioned two shades of the 1s. Since then I have been watching for variations in the other two high values. They have now turned up. In the 3d. I have a deep scarlet frame and a dull purple centre along with a pale scarlet frame and washed out dull purple medallion. Basically they are the same colours but the second is much paler. There is not much difference in the purple frame of the 6d. but the centre of my latest copy is a paler green than the first ones I had. Such varieties appear to be inseparable from St. Kitts stamps, although the bi-coloured ones suffer from it more than the low values.

STAMP COLLECTING 15 May 1969

Force's Mail in Anguilla

The British troops stationed on Anguilla are using British stamps, cancelled by F.P.O. 1046 c.d.s. The two examples I have seen are both dated April 4th. Other covers I have seen emanate from H.M.S. *Minerva* and carry various oval rubber stamp markings such as: COXSWAIN 31 Mar 1969 H.M.S. MINERVA; COMMANDING OFFICER 29 Mar 1969 H.M.S. MINERVA; SUPPLY OFFICER 31 Mar 1969 H.M.S. MINERVA; also a home-made rubber stamp (" John Bull " Printing Outfit type) and used to backstamp the covers:

J, F, AUSTEN L/REG
POSTMAN
H.M,S. MINERVA

(note the mixture of commas and full points).

One of the covers was addressed to the ship thus, HMS MINERVA/F 45. Another came to me with a British stamp cancelled ANGUILLA AIRWAYS right across the stamp in block capitals. This is not new, and happens when a letter is too late to catch the daily plane to St. Thomas and is handed to the pilot at the airport, thus by-passing the Post Office and which is perfectly legal from the P.O. aspect. The same facility is available in St. Thomas; one may mail at the post office or hand-in at the Harry S. Truman Airport and in which case Anguilla Airways cancel the stamp as indicated above. Forty minutes later, the letter is in Anguilla. Via the Post Office, it can take three days.

Definitives. I have today (17.4.69) received from the Valley P.O. in Anguilla, a letter franked with the original definitive issue and a note from the Postmaster, advising that these stamps are now being brought back into general use in place of the second overprints. Thus, my contention, voiced some little time ago, that the overprints were not a new definitive issue, but a commemorative, has been proved correct.—*R. C. Coleman* (*St. Thomas*).

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE 20 June 1969

Anguilla Mails

The Postmaster of Anguilla in a letter to me dated May 10th confirmed that they treat the Independence overprint issue as a commemorative and it was only placed on sale for a maximum life of three months or, as Mr. Baker suggests, until individual values were sold out. Certain values were still available at the end of the three months period but were automatically withdrawn because of its commemorative status.

The St. Thomas, Virgin, route is being deliberately intercepted by the British Postal Administration from this country if they spot the fact that the address at the head is going to Anguilla via The Virgins. Whether they have any means of intercepting mail from other parts of the world via St. Thomas, Virgins, I doubt, unless the Postal Administrations are now in cahoots.

Civilian mail is now obviously coming out of the island by two means. The first in all probability via the Dutch island of St. Marten and these are carrying Anguillan stamps with normal civilian cancellations, and probably more generally utilised, the B.F.P.O. on the island and for these British stamps are utilised, postmarked with the A.F.P.O. number 1046.

H. SINCLAIR-BROWN.

Liverpool.

INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA

by GALE J. RAYMOND

On November 20, 21 and 22, 1967, being on the island of Anguilla in the West Indies on other matters, I became quite interested in matters philatelic.

After seceding on May 30, 1967 from the St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla Associated Statehood for good and valid reasons, Anguilla found itself in an awkward position postally, among many other problems to be solved. Traditionally, over many decades, the mail had gone and come through St. Kitts; however, since May 30th St. Kitts had seen fit to impound all mail destined for Anguilla. For some three weeks after secession, there was no official mail service. Then an emergency set-up was organized wherein the Anguilla government paid for a post office box at Marigot, St. Martin, and mail came and went bearing French stamps which the Anguilla Post Office stocked. For convenience, another post office box was rented at Philipsburg on the Dutch ("St. Maarten") side of the island. Postmaster G. Kenneth Harrigan or one of his two clerks traveled twice weekly over to the adjoining island to deliver and pick up mail, and to restock French and Ned. Antilles stamps. This was still an an awkward arrangement, with rate and currency complications as well, and mail service was somewhat unpredictable.

When the Police Detachment and Magistrate from St. Kitts departed hastily from the island on May 30th, a fairly large supply of current St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla postage stamps had been in the Magistrate's safe, from which supplies had been issued to the Post Office as needed. Entry to the safe was made through the back, the stamps removed and taken to the island of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands where they were overprinted. This overprint took the form of an obliterating mark over the St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla inscription, and "Independent Anguilla" printed across each stamp in black ink. The overprinting was done by the Island Press Inc., which removed the selvage from each pane of 25 stamps in order to fit their presses. Two panes of the $5.00 stamp and seven panes of lower values were spoiled during the printing set-up. These were all destroyed before witnesses at the same time as the overprint plates.

As one of my philatelic collections is an attempt to display at least one genuine postal cover from all stamp-issuing entities, past and present, I was indeed pleased to receive several personal letters from an "Independent Anguilla" friend, soon after the overprinted stamps had been issued on Sept. 4, 1967. When the opportunity arose to include Anguilla on a trip concerned with church matters, I found myself on the island on 20-22 November. As soon as business permitted, I paid a visit to the sole Post Office, located at "The Valley." This occupied two small rooms in a long, one-story Administration Building. There I found Postmaster G.K. Harrigan and his two assistants, Lionel Gumbs and Eustace Brooks. At this first visit I posted a few personal letters and found that most higher-value stamps were already sold out. Each letter had to be posted individually, stamps applied at the counter itself and placed in the outgoing mailbox for postmarking and transmittal. The P.O. is open six days a week, from 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., but mail arrives only on Tuesdays and Fridays, from St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

The next day, in my island rambles, I caught a jeep ride with Postmaster Harrigan, and spent several hours visiting within the Post Office itself. I took this opportunity to go into postal matters as thoroughly as possible, supplemented by additional information acquired elsewhere on the island. Listed below are the denominations and quantities of overprinted stamps officially issued on Sept. 4th

and the remainders, if any, which I found in the P.O. on November 21st, by actual count:

VALUE	4 SEPT. 1967 STAMPS ISSUED	21 NOV. 1967 STAMPS REMAINING
½¢	3050	1425
1¢	2800	925
2¢	4250	200
3¢	3600	1500
4¢	3450	1125
5¢	2475	NONE
6¢	2575	350
10¢	4100	400
15¢	3200	125
20¢	2800	NONE
25¢	2575	25
50¢	175	NONE
60¢	100	NONE
$1.00	175	P.O. NONE
$2.50	225	P.O. NONE
$5.00	225	P.O. NONE

As virtually all outgoing mail carried airmail rates, it was becoming increasingly difficult to get enough stamps on a letter to prepay postage, particularly if registered! The above figures do not include the few loose copies of the available values in the counter-book, perhaps 3 to 10 copies, each. It was not known if the Treasury safe still contained any $1.00, $2.50 or $5.00 stamps as these had been withdrawn previously from postal sales to fill the demand for fiscal purposes. Virtually all of these were utilized on court documents, property deeds and transfers, etc. Actual postally-used copies must be extremely rare. (I was later told these were, in fact, all used up prior to my visit.) The Post Office itself included a small adjoining room normally used for parcels, etc. However, the only parcels in it were a few addressed to St. Kitts, postmarked May 28 and 29 1967, immediately prior to secession. As there was no exchange of mail, these parcels could not be delivered.

As yet, I have not been able to locate any covers from the St. Martin/St. Maarten mail period which are actually identifiable as originating from Anguilla. However, I did locate a few covers addressed to Anguilla via that routing. Shortly, it became possible to arrange a direct exchange of mails between St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, by a light aircraft. Parcel Post from the U.S.A. was routed from St. Thomas to Dutch St. Maarten for transmission to Anguilla. Scheduled airline service via LIAT had already been suspended. The U.S. Post Office Department took no political side on this secession, but made this informal arrangement due to a growing accumulation of mail at St. Thomas from Anguillans working and residing in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Initially, there were questions raised in the British Press as to the validity of the overprinted Independent Anguilla stamps; however, the first bag of mail through England from Anguilla via St. Thomas was processed normally through the British Post Office system, establishing a precedent of implied recognition of the stamps as prepayment of postage. To avoid an awkward situation, this tacit acceptance was simply continued. Again using this as a precedent, the U.S. as well as other international post offices simply followed suit. In illustration of only one of many similar situations, the Maldive Islands sent out mail under their own stamps since 1906, and only just now have signed-in with the U.P.U.

Any possible question as to the legitimate postal usage of the Anguilla stamps was nullified by on-the-spot observations. During my visit, some 100-150 letters were posted each day across the Post Office counter, of which my sharp eye detected only four obviously philatelic covers. These were posted by a local stamp collector to a relative in England. Most of the mail was going to personal and business addresses on St. Thomas, St. Croix, Tortola and Virgin Gorda, Barbados, Trinidad, British Honduras, France, England and a large number of cities in the U.S.A., plus at least one to Australia.

Anguillans are virtually all literate and maintain close contact with overseas relatives. This is due to the fact that most of the island income is from relatives working in other countries who send money back home. I was told that Anguillans make a living chiefly by going away to make it elsewhere! Although some 6000 people live on the island, more than twice that number of Anguillans live abroad!

Back in the Post Office I checked on the various cancels available. There was a single small 24 mm circular date stamp (B) of the "star" type, inscribed ANGUILLA above; the date in two lines, and VALLEY below in very small compact letters. Another cds had disappeared from the Post Office in mid-summer and was thought to have found its way to England. Lettering on the missing cds (A), according to 25 mm strikes found in the Post Office, was much more widely separated and in slightly larger letters. Independent Anguilla stamps showing cancellation by this cds might be questioned as to point of origin.

I also noted a long (63 mm) single-line rubber marking of the single word ANGUILLA on a desk, but was told this had no postal use insofar as canceling stamps was concerned.

Anticipating that the overprinted stamps might well be sold out before any regular definitive stamps were available, a 68 x 26 mm box marking was on hand inscribed in 3 lines VALLEY/W.I./ANGUILLA plus the word POSTAGE and a space below for a manuscript endorsement of the postage paid. (I note this mark is being utilized on 23 December 1967 on an airmail printed-matter mailing of the island's mimeographed news sheet, THE BEACON.)

In one corner of a desk I found a large 45 mm temporary rubber date stamp (TRD) inscribed VALLEY POST OFFICE ANGUILLA, W.I. with date in single line across the center. I was told that this had not previously been used, but had been recently acquired for such time as it might be needed. This was forseeing any future malfunction, defacement or loss of the sole remaining regular date stamp. I asked and was given permission to apply this TRD to some outgoing mail. It was utilized again on November 22nd mail sparingly and retired from further use, I understand, until actual necessity requires.

The only other marking noted in the P.O. was an aged "T" to indicate postage due on short-paid items. Asking about postage due mail, I was told that since Independence, very few letters, etc. were delayed from prompt delivery, and that normally postage due was overlooked. None of the Independent Anguilla stamps had been utilized as postage due stamps.

The only postal stationery available was a few remaining Air Letter sheets, of which 100 each of two values had been overprinted "Independent Anguilla." I was only able to acquire 5 copies of the 5 cent and 15 cent sheets; these had been rapidly utilized as the higher value stamps for Air Mail rates had been used up. I was told that the new issue of stamps of 6 values was in preparation in Holland.

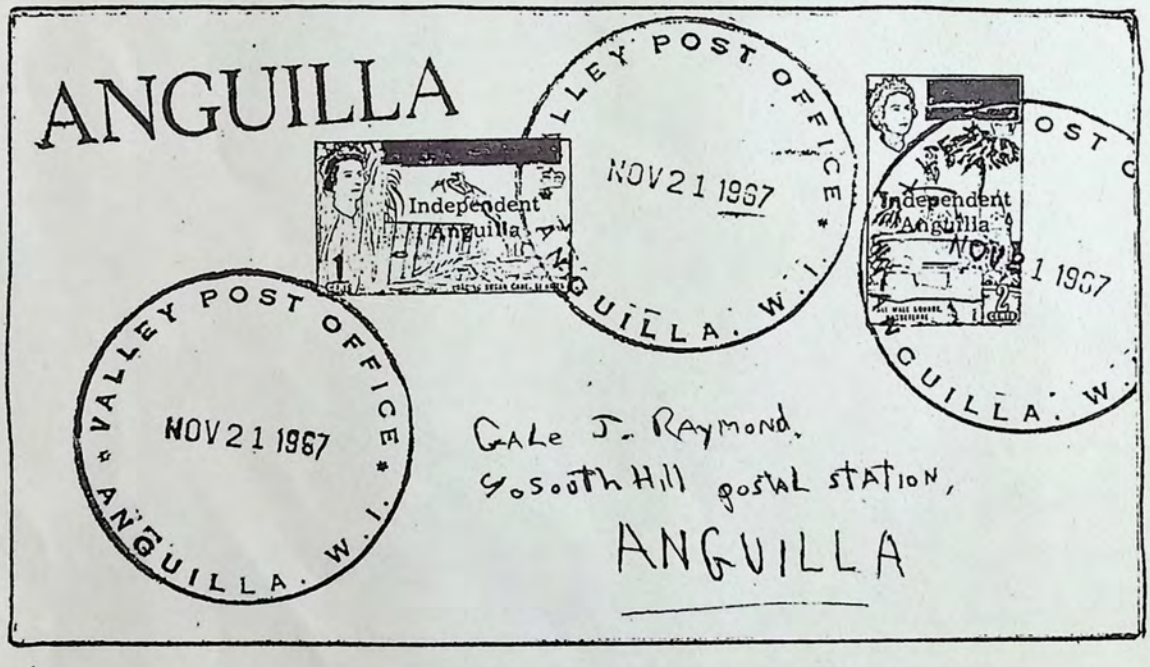


A.

T



B.



ANGUILLA

VALLEY	POSTAGE
W. I.	
ANGUILLA	

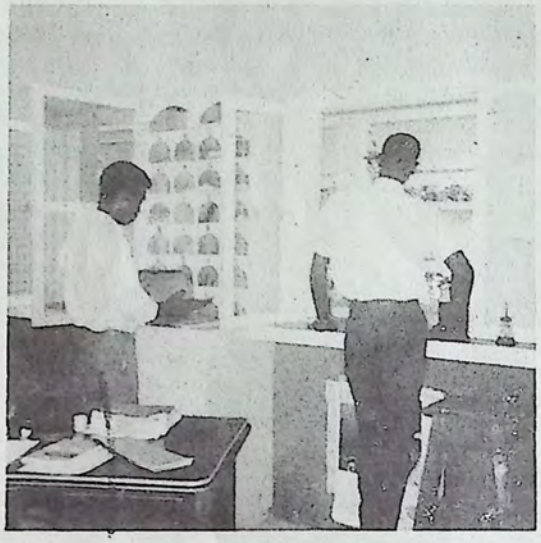
Outside the Post Office, from other sources, I learned that a number of sheets of labels portraying two mermaids and a seashell had been printed for an Anguillan in the U.S. These labels were offered to the Anguilla Government for use as postage stamps, but the donation was respectfully declined. Postmaster Harrigan later told me definitely that none of these had ever been used at the Anguilla Post Office. I understand that these may have found their way subsequently to the New York stamp market.

Regarding my inquiry on sub-post offices, I was told that there were none; however, there are collecting stations at West End, East End and South Hill. Each of these, and several other locations, have some old collection boxes painted "post office red"; however these simply are never used as the islanders have to buy their stamps at the Post Office anyhow. Mail is sent out regularly to these stations, though, for personal delivery. I was able to take pictures of several of the collecting stations, particularly the one at East End, which is under the supervision of Mrs. J.C. Fleming. Postal historians know that in the early 1930's certain sub-post offices did exist at East End, Blowing Point, Forest and The Road, with individual postmarks. However, these have been surrounded with mystery. By a little discreet questioning on this and nearby islands, I finally pieced together the story of these sub-post offices, which must await a later article.

Regarding internal mails (letters posted on the island to Anguilla addresses), I was told there were probably less than two dozen such letters per year. As news of the Independent Anguilla stamps became known in the philatelic world, many collectors tried to obtain these stamps and covers direct. Each such letter was politely answered by Postmaster Harrigan, in returning the remittances, with the explanation that due to the small supply of stamps, sales had to be restricted to meet local needs. For this reason, no mail orders for stamps or posting of covers was currently permitted. I was shown a large file of stamp and cover orders, some as many as 4 pages long in fine detail as to requirements, but each had been answered the same way. This routine letter of apology, however, was in most cases answered in an official Government of Anguilla cover, and the overprinted stamps utilized as postage, so that each received at least one cover and a few stamps, compliments of Anguilla. One collector on St. Thomas had a massive unstamped manila envelope bursting with prepared philatelic covers flown over to Anguilla with orders for posting; these too were regretfully returned, but returned by the same channel--"stampless."

Postal rates are predominantly airmail, as all mail does go out via light aircraft. Typical air rates (per 1/2 oz.) are: U.S.A. - 40c. "BeeWee"; U.S. Virgin Islands - 20c.; Australia 90c.; U.K. 40c.; Antigua 6c.; Jamaica 16c.; European countries 44c. Registration is 10c. additional. Of the two air letter sheets, the 15c. one was for most of the world, while the 5c. one could be used only to Nevis and St. Kitts--but weren't! The intermediate rates, 6c. to Antigua and Montserrat, 8c. to other B.W.I., had to be made up by adding adhesive stamps to the air letter form. Sea mail to U.S.A. is 12c., but goes air to St. Thomas, and thence by sea, or by air-mail on "space-available" basis.

Anguilla had hardly seceded before the "wellwishers" began to arrive with grandiose schemes, suggestions, plots, advice and ideas. Some of the advice fortunately was sound. Plans to open Swiss-type "numbered accounts" banks were squelched, as were also gambling house offers. Representatives of at least 5 private philatelic agencies promptly made the scene, with the appointment going to John Lister Ltd. (England), represented by John King. The genuine need for stamps for normal mail was an urgent one, and the overprinting was quickly accomplished in St. Thomas. While the controlling stamp-rules for posting letters at the Anguilla P.O. were not foolproof, nevertheless the vast majority of the overprinted stamps were in fact



EUSTACE BROOKS AND LIONEL GUMBS INSIDE INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA P.O.



"THE VALLEY" P.O., POSTMASTER G.K. HARRIGAN AND CLERK EUSTACE BROOKS



MRS. J.C. FLEMING AND THE EAST END POSTAL STATION. NOTE LETTER BOX TO LEFT OF DOOR



POSTMASTER G. KENNETH HARRIGAN SEEN POSTMARKING MAIL WITH THE VALLEY TRD

postally used on nonphilatelic mail. Small as the issue was, a dismaying number have been lost to collectors by the usual attrition. On St. Thomas, I saw one small handfull of the stamps, each stamp neatly snipped from its cover--perforations and all! Not one stamp was in collectible condition.

Two days after my leaving the island, Mr. King returned, bringing supplies of the new six-stamp definitive set, and a new large 28 mm cds with the same wording as the two previous ones. The overprinted stamps continued on sale one more day, Saturday, November 25th. On Monday morning, November 27th, the small remainders of overprinted stamps were destroyed by burning, in the presence of witnesses. At 9:30 A.M., November 27th, the new set was placed on sale. Printed in Holland, they were lithographed in sheets of 50 on unwatermarked paper. Denominations are 1c., Mahogany Tree; 5c. Old Plantation House; 10c. Methodist Church, West End; 20c., Sandy Ground; 25c. Island Harbour; and 40c., Map of Anguilla. Number of FDC's is at present unknown. The remaining values to make up the complete set are expected for early 1968.

Coins and currency in use are East Caribbean (Beewee) dollars and coins, but U.S. coins and currency are freely accepted, plus guilders and francs! An unusual commemorative coin was minted however in limited quantities. The words "ANGUILLA LIBERTY DOLLAR July/11/1967" were die-stamped deeply on large Latin American coins, mine being on a Mexico 5 Peso piece.

Needless to say, my stay on Anguilla was a most enjoyable one, purly aside from an interesting philatelic visit. The total island situation was unusual in many ways, and it was inspiring to see the leaders facing and solving the tremendous problems involved. It was my privilege to meet and visit with many of the fine people of Anguilla, who treated me as a brother. The island has a strange beauty of its own, with long white sandy beaches and lovely bays, and soon tourists will be flocking in for better or for worse. I'd like to remember it as it was, though tourists may bring prosperity.

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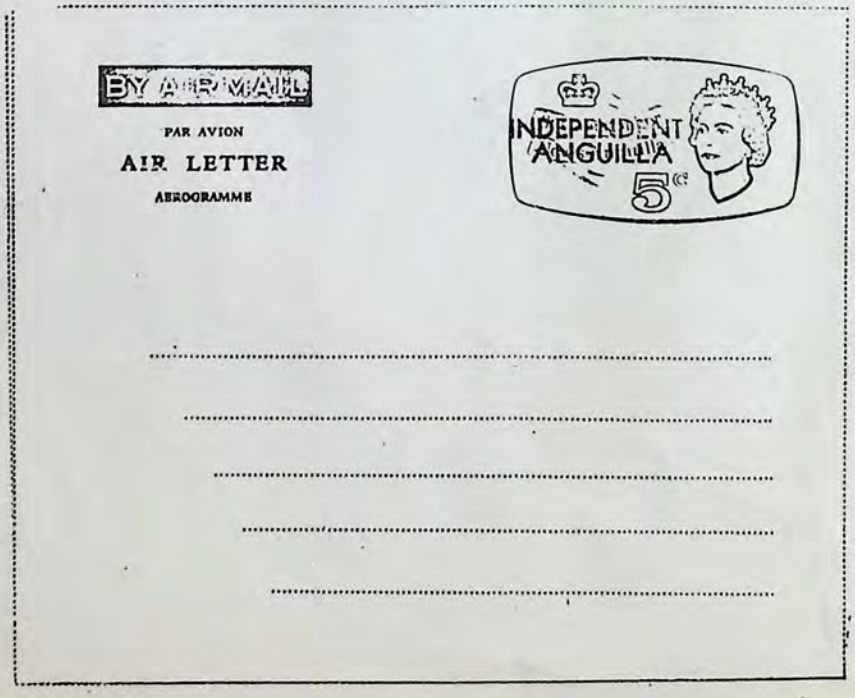


AN "INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA" OVERPRINT VARIETY---- by KENNETH ROWE

The photographs shown below illustrate a variety of the "Independent Anguilla" overprint with "Anguilla" shifted to the left of normal. The normal overprint always shows the "i" of "Anguilla" directly in line with the right hand leg of the "n" of "Independent", but the variety--the upper-left stamp in the block--shows "Anguilla" off to the left by about ½ mm. An enlarged photograph of the variety is shown, and on it the shift is quite apparent.





Thanks to Gale Raymond, who kindly sent me a copy of a print made from the defaced 25 unit setting, I am able to place the position of this stamp at #17.

17	18	19	20
	23	24	25

In a complete pane of 25 stamps, this would be the second stamp of the fourth horizontal row.

****

ANGUILLA

Philatelic Prospecting

by Stanley C. Durnin

THIS portion of our prospecting for postmarks in the Leeward Islands finds us aboard one of the planes, a Piper Aztec of the now philatelically important Anguilla Airways, in front of the quite modern air terminal of Juliana Airport on the island of St. Maarten for our very short "hop" over to the tiny island of ANGUILLA. Approaching his homeland, Mr. Connor, our pilot, pointed out the various sections of the island. A few minutes later we landed on the dirt runway of Wall-Blake Airport (S.G. 24). Needless to say, this airport is not a busy one, but there was quite a crowd at the one-building terminal.

We were made welcome to Anguilla by Mr. Atlin Harrigan, Editor of "The Beacon", who edits and publishes Anguilla's only newspaper. Clearing Customs and Immigration, my "Honorary Passport of Anguilla" was duly stamped, and we departed immediately in our rented car for the hotel. One stop was made en route—at the Police Station (S.G. 20) to obtain my temporary driving permit which, by the way, cost $1.00 E.C. (4s. 2d.). At the breakneck speed of 10 to 15 miles per hour we sped to our hotel located on one of the most beautiful beaches that I have ever seen—Rendezvous Bay. Our arrival was uneventful, but quite educational for when my wife went to freshen up for lunch, no water came from the cold tap. Close inspection revealed the fact that no pipe lead to the tap—the facade was there but no plumbing behind it! This is what is meant by hot and cold water—one tap marked HOT, another marked COLD. Beyond that, you're optimistic!

After a delicious lunch of fish and lobster (S.G. 31), we headed for the only Post Office (S.G. 22) on the island, and the long looked-forward-to pleasure of meeting its Postmaster, Mr. Kenneth Harrigan. Our inquiry into the postal history of the island was not new to Mr. Harrigan for he was well aware of the aims of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. He, ever patient and hospitable, and his assistants—Mr. Eustace Brooks and Mr. Leonel Gumbs—answered our every question, postmarked our numerous covers, and even helped me search in out-of-the-way places for anything of historic significance.

Elaine kept busy affixing stamps to prepared covers and recording pertinent information as it cropped up in our casual conversations with the Post Office staff. The Post Office and other Governmental Offices are located in the section of the island known as The Valley. The present Post Office building was erected in 1961, just two years prior to Mr. Harrigan going to work for the Department of Posts. The Postmaster and I combed the entire office looking for handstamps—old, new, current, obsolete, ANYTHING. We were most successful and located thirteen different handstamps. From what Mr. Harrigan could remember, all Post Office records were probably destroyed in 1955 by the hurricane that blew the roof off of the Courthouse cum Post Office cum Treasury Building then located on Crocus Hill.

Figure 1 depicts the registration R in Oval which is no longer in use, having been replaced by the R ANGUILLA rectangular handstamp of Figure 2 in April or May of 1968. Figure 3 illustrates the standard TAX or POSTAGE DUE handstamp seen throughout the West Indies. This old-timer has been around for many, many years, but is very seldom used today. However, when it is impressed officially, the amount due appears in manuscript beneath a strike of the T. Figure 4, the wide-lettered CDS was withdrawn from use on 2nd September, 1967 (my EDK is 6 MR 28) as evidenced by the illustration. This CDS had been reported removed from the island during the Summer of 1967. Either that is in error, or else the canceller was later returned for I handled the item during our visit in November, 1968. The narrow-lettered CDS of Figure 5 was withdrawn on 25th November, 1967 (my EDK 8 FE 49). Its replacement, Figure 11, was first used 27th November, 1967.

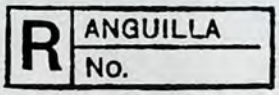
The Statehood TRD, Figure 6, is a much sought after item for it was in use only for a short time in March of 1967. Reportedly it was pressed into service on 1st March and withdrawn at the end of the business day on 28th March. Figures 7 and 8 depict rubber handstamps made available to the Post Office in July, 1967. It has been suggested that the very interesting item Figure 7 was used only "by favour" on two or three occasions, but such postmarker is a legal cancelling entity. The POSTAGE (paid) rectangle of Figure 8 was frequently used during December, 1967 and January, 1968 when certain stamp denominations were out of stock. Bear in mind that this was the period when supplies of INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA overprinted stamps were running out and only a portion of the new definitives had been issued. The large straight-line ANGUILLA of figure 9 also came into existence during the breakaway period, but was not intended to be used as a canceller or franking, but rather as a standby all-purpose marking. During our visit it was being impressed on the routing cards attached to each departing mail bag to indicate the origin of the bag.

The VIA AIR MAIL of Figure 10 is incorporated into a general use office-type rotateable handstamp not specifically made for only postal affairs. Its use is seldom, if ever, from the Anguilla Post Office. Figure 11 illustrates the new CDS which came into existence with the advent of the first definitive stamps on 27th November, 1967. This is the only CDS now being used to cancel the daily mails. The FIRST DAY OF ISSUE handstamp first saw use with the Ships stamps issued 11th May, 1968, and understandably changes date only when a new stamp or series of stamps is issued.

The last handstamp located in the Post Office was the Postmaster's official use triple-oval DEPARTMENT OF POSTS shown by Figure 13. This item has been in the hands of Mr. Harrigan since approximately 7th October, 1968 and is NEVER used to cancel franking. It should be noted that the inscrip-



1.



2.



3.



4.



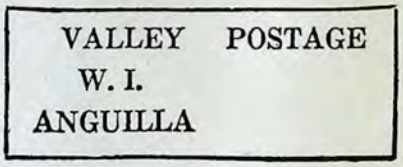
5.



6.



7.



8.

VIA AIR MAIL

10.

ANGUILLA

9.



11.



12.



13.

tion reads ANGUILLA W.1 (note numeral 1 instead of the letter I), an error that is also known on a Trinidad machine cancel. The manufacturer of the handstamp undoubtedly thought that Anguilla was a section of London!

There are four metal Post Boxes on the island and each is cleared twice weekly! the boxes are located at VALLEY, EAST END, SOUTH HILL, and WEST END. Stamps available over the counter during our visit (November, 1968) were the Girl Guide commemoratives plus all of the definitives, with the exception of the 6c. which was sold out. The 5c. and 15c. air letter sheets were also available. My query as to the purpose of the 5c. ALS brought the answer that they were " . . . meant solely for use to St. Kitts and Nevis, if such were permissible . . . "! In actual practice, the ALS were surcharged with adhesives and used to any destination. Registration Fee is 10c. E.C. to anywhere in the world. With a head-full of information and Elaine's written notes, we hurried at the top possible speed of 15 m.p.h. back to our hotel to record what was still fresh in our minds.

Next day was spent in trying to dig out some information on the elusive TRDs of the village Post Offices of the 1928-30 era. Sorry to say, I was unable to ascertain anything other than the fact that IF any records were kept of such offices, all were destroyed either by hurricane(s) or fire(s) during the subsequent years. Sight-seeing on the island (as depicted on her stamps) took us through our last afternoon on the island.

The following morning called for our departure from Anguilla: we had visited the tiny island that had so fascinated me postal history-wise since I first became interested in the Leeward Islands; we had met many of her friendly people and had made lasting friendships. Mr. Connor, of Anguilla Airways, deposited our luggage in the nose of his small aircraft, along with lobster for St. Thomas; we said our fond farewell to our good friend Atlin Harrigan and off we went. As the plane climbed gracefully, our necks were cramped for one last loving look at the Island of Anguilla . . . next stop—Nevis.

The writer is Research Leader for the Leeward Islands in the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group and is extremely interested in ALL aspects of the Postal History of the Leeward Islands. He welcomes correspondence and/or exchange of information and material of the area.—Editor.

ANGUILLA

STAMP COLLECTING 20 APR. 1974

Independent Anguilla Forgeries

By

R. C. Coleman & R. A. Ramkissoon, M.D.

MOST British Caribbean philatelists are aware that forgeries were made of the 1967 INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA overprint. (The original set is listed by Stanley Gibbons, Nos. 1–16 and is not listed in Scott's.) They came into being as a result of the purchase of some 20 to 30 complete sets of the St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla definitives by the forger. These stamps were taken to Antigua where a printing firm applied a forged overprint.

While the printer did not have a type face that exactly duplicated the genuine, he substituted a close approximation, but made one major error. He ran the overprint vertically, from bottom to top, on the horizontal format stamps. Thus, one could tell at a glance, with no need for close scrutiny, that the 1, 4, 6, 10, 20 and 50 cents and $2·50, were obvious forgeries. It was, however, correct for the vertical format stamps, including the rarest of all overprints, the 60c. value. The obliterating of St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla was poor, and appears to have been done by hand, using India ink or a felt type pen.

The matter of the existence of this forgery was revealed by one of us (R.C.C.) to the Anguilla Post Office Department. Subsequently, the man responsible for the forgery was interviewed by Detective Inspector O'Hara of Scotland Yard, who flew out to handle the matter. Later, the man was charged, fined, and the matter closed.

However, before the file was closed, a second set of the overprinted stamps having the characteristics of this forgery appeared. To our amazement, this issue showed the correct orientation of the overprint on the horizontal format stamps, so every denomination had its overprint correctly applied. In addition, the obliteration of St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla was done more professionally—in fact, the stamps were, for all practical purposes, good enough to pass a person collecting them for philatelic investment, not being too careful of fraud possibilities.

Differences between genuine and the second discovered forgeries are: " t " has a very sharp hook on the bottom, but that of the forgery is nearly blunt; the genuine " e " has its horizontal member lower than that of the forgery, and shows a much greater open space in the upper loop; the forgery has the upper and lower lines spaced too far apart by at least a millimetre. If anything, the forger did *too* good a job of obliterating the text. On genuine stamps with horizontal format, the bar usually ends short of the right edge of the stamp, but the forger carefully extended it to the very edge of the design. On the genuine vertical format stamps, the bar is in two pieces, with an irregular horizontal space showing about one-third the way up from the bottom, while all the forgeries show a solid bar. *Caveat Emptor!*

NOTE: *This article was reprinted from " The American Philatelist " to which it was contributed by the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group of the U.S.A.*

STAMP COLLECTING 8 Mch. 1973

ANGUILLA PROOFS HUNT

It has become known that a very small quantity of imperforate colour proofs of Anguilla stamps issued up to 1969 were pulled, without authority, on paper differing from that used for the printers' working proofs (which have never been available to the philatelic market). Anyone being offered Anguillan proofs is asked to notify the Philatelic Squad at Scotland Yard immediately.

Just a tiny piece of paper,
but the humble postage stamp has meant much
to even the smallest communities in the world.
Little wonder they are celebrating this 150th anniversary.

Anguilla

Could Sir Rowland Hill really have imagined the impact the postage stamp would have on the world? His reforms introduced a cheaper, more efficient postal system which the public could understand and was not afraid to use. As a result the idea spread across the globe, and even 150 years later the basic concept remains unaltered.

Even more, the postage stamp proved to be an object worth keeping — to be collected for its beauty and romance. Collectors would create such a demand for the stamps from the remoter parts of the world, that for many of the issuing authorities the sale of stamps to collectors would prove to be a substantial part of the annual income.

Little wonder therefore that at an event like an international stamp exhibition, postal administrations are anxious to be represented, to show their latest releases to the potential collector customers. And little wonder that in this 150th anniversary year of the Penny Black, the opportunity is being taken to celebrate.

Such is the case with Anguilla, the island in the West Indies which has enjoyed a colourful philatelic career, for many years linked with St Kitts and Nevis. Anguilla hit the philatelic, and news, headlines in 1967 when a referendum on the







The four stamps and miniature sheet being issued by Anguilla to mark the 150th anniversary of the postage stamp, and Stamp World London 90.







...post offices outside The Valley post office in

A 1930 air mail envelope sent from Anguilla to Tortola in the British Virgin Islands with an 'Anguilla Road' cds of July 15, with the 1923 St Kitts 3d and 6d tied by 'St Kitts' cds of July 17. Redirected to the US Post Office at St Thomas, Virgin Islands; St John's, Antigua; Road-Town, Tortola; St Kitts — with datestamps of each place. Finally returned to Anguilla with a superb 'Anguilla Forest, cds and then redirected to the USA. Illustration courtesy of Argyll Etkin Ltd.



island declared 'independence', with the then current definitives of St Christopher Nevis Anguilla being overprinted with the legend 'Independent Anguilla'. Since that time, a colourful array of new issues has been produced, reflecting the beauty of the island and its rôle within today's world.

Anguilla is being represented at Stamp World London 90, and is celebrating the fact with a set of four stamps and a miniature sheet which adopt the 'stamps on stamps' approach.

Famous stamps

The four stamps reproduce famous stamps — naturally the Penny Black (on the 25c value) and Twopenny Blue (on the 50c value), together with the Cape of Good Hope One Penny vermillion ($1.50) and Great Britain £5 orange ($2.50). The miniature sheet contains a $6 stamp depicting both the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue, while the sheet margin provides a representation of Alexandra Palace.

The stamps and sheet have been designed by Derek Miller, and printed by The House of Questa.

With this issue of STAMP MAGAZINE, by courtesy of the Government of Anguilla, is included one of the miniature sheets overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. This is only the second time that Anguilla has produced a SPECIMEN overprint, the first

Winter Olympic Games set in 1980.

In recent years tourism has become increasingly important to Anguilla. The opening of the new Wall Blake Airport terminal building has meant that there are now more scheduled flights arriving and departing, bringing more visitors — and more bags of mail.

Over recent years there has been a steady rise in the number of all items received and sent, whether it be letters, registered items, packets or parcels.

In any year, there are nearly 250 air mail despatches to the USA, Puerto Rico, St Kitts and St Maarten, with nearly a further 150 to Antigua and Great Britain.

Not all the mail goes by air, of course: a considerable amount also arrives and is despatched by sea, that to and from Great Britain going via St Kitts, and for the USA via St Maarten.

The post office staff consists of just nine. To reach all the villages, two travelling post office vehicles are used, visiting each of 22 points three times a week for the distribution and receipt of mail.

Those who wonder whether the days of the postage stamp are numbered might like to reflect that there are many parts of the world where the established postal service, coupled with the postage stamp, is as important as ever, and is likely to remain so for many more years. Little wonder that 1990 is such an *important*

3/10/74

MULTUM IN PARVO

By Tom King

SOME five years ago I wrote an article, which appeared in STAMP COLLECTING, on the way in which a very small part of a well-known picture was taken "out of context" and made the subject of a stamp design. Now the pendulum seems to have swung the other way, for it has been a sign of recent times that a well-known painting is reproduced more or less in its entirety by sub-dividing it amongst the various values of a set of stamps.

This has been exemplified by this year's Easter issue of Anguilla which, taking as its subject Raphael's well-known work, the "Crucifixion", now in the National Gallery, has divided it into six different parts, or rather one showing the whole scene on the 1 cent, and five small details on the other values: 15c., the Madonna with St. John; 20c., Mary Magdalene with St. Jerome; 25c. and 40c. the two Green and Gold flying Angels; and $1, Christ crucified. Mind you, this is not the first partition of this particular painting, for a few years ago Barbuda issued a triptych in gold, with Christ between the two Angels, the values being (from left to right) the Green Angel, on the 35c.; Christ on the 50c. and the Golden Angel on the 75c.

This partition idea first originated, so far as I can see, on another type of work of art, namely wood-carving. I refer to the tremendous Altar in St. Mary's Church, Krakau, by the famous Veit Stoss. Here the central panel was shown on the Polish 10 zloty sheet, and each of the six values showed one of the side panels of which there are three on each side of the central panel. The centre panel also appeared on its own on the 80 gr. of the 1933 issue, and the figure of the Virgin was featured on the 60 gr. of 1956.

Back to painting, and another split suggests itself at once. This is the "Children Playing" by Pieter Brueghel which appeared as a set of six designs which, when placed together, formed a large portion of the original painting. The set was issued by Belgium in 1967, and this was followed by six individual scenes which formed the series issued by Suriname in 1971. By the way, the original is in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna.

Curiously enough, another Brueghel painting suffered a somewhat similar fate. This was his "Adoration of the Kings" painted in 1564 and also in the National Gallery. This was carved up for an "issue" from Manama which had the central figure of the Madonna with two of the Kings on the 1 dh., an attendant soldier on the 2 dh., two figures talking on the 5 dh., two onlookers from the extreme right of the picture on the 10 dh., the second king (with the frankincense) on the 4 dh., and the enlarged portion showing the Madonna on the 6 dh. The complete scene (or most of it) has also appeared on the 22c. of British Solomon Islands at Christmas 1973, on the ½c. of Dominica (also Christmas 1973) and on a 20f. issued by the Togolaise Republic for Christmas 1968.

Another Flemish painter had a work similarly dismembered. He was Hans Memling (or Memline if you prefer it) whose large, panoramic painting of "The Passion" (Galleria Sabauda, Turin) formed the subject of a set issued by Umm al Qiwain in 1972. Here the successive steps of the Crucifixion are shown starting with The Last Supper on the 5 dh.; the Trial before Pilate on the 10 dh.; Pilate showing Christ to the people on the 50 dh.; the scourging of Christ on the 20 dh., the actual Crucifixion on the 1 riyal, and the Resurrection on the 3 riyals. For good measure, the accompanying souvenir sheet shows a large, overall picture of Christ falling for the first time, with the central part (available for postage) perforated round.







Three of the Anguilla stamps based on Raphael's "Crucifixion"

Top right—the complete picture (1c.)
Above—Mary and St. John
Lower right—The Gold Angel

This last scene was also used for a diptych effect by Grenada for its Easter 1970 issue where there are two joined 25 cents stamps each with part of the scene.

Italy, as the home of some of the most famous painters of the early Renaissance naturally had to be in on the act, and so we have items from the best-known of the works of Gentile de Fabriano (1360–1427), give or take a year or so. His "Adoration of the Magi", an immense panel measuring 300 × 282 cm., and now in the Uffizi, Florence, has had four bits and pieces issued by San Marino this year. The 5 lire shows one of the attendant women to the left of the picture, the 30 lire, one of the kings (head only); the 115 lire, the first king (head); and the 250 lire a group of horses heads, from the lower right of the painting. The central part of the panel is shown on a 0.30g. issued by Paraguay, the whole scene is on the Italian 150 lire of 1970; and "The Flight into Egypt", from the central panel of the Predella, is shown on a 2 riyals from Ras al Khaima at Xmas 1968 and as a souvenir sheet by Upper Volta for Christmas 1972.

There are probably others which I have not seen: carry on searching, you never know your luck.

BIG N.Z. SHOW IN 1977

PANPEX. 77, organised by Pan Pacific Philatelic Exhibition, Inc., will be held in 1977 in the Canterbury (N.Z.) Horticultural Society building, opened in 1963. With the Rt. Hon N. E. Kirk as Patron and Brian Vincent as Chairman, the show has the support of the Federation of New Zealand Philatelic Societies, Inc. and promises to be the best show New Zealand has staged to date.

Collectors and societies throughout the country are becoming supporting members by subscription and donations of stamps, covers and cash are providing a growing fund necessary to run an exhibition of this size.

Details are available from the Secretary (Robert Duns), PANPEX 77, P.O. Box 1129, Christchurch, N.Z.

The Siege of Brimstone Hill



By Anthony Shepherd

TO collectors of the modern issues of the British West Indian stamps, the colourful set of commemoratives issued by the small islands of St. Christopher and Nevis in September 1971 depicting troops, both British and French, involved in this stirring action makes a strong appeal.

In St. Christopher's (or St. Kitts as the island is most commonly known) turbulent history, the fortified summit of Brimstone Hill has figured frequently. It was built in 1716 as a place of refuge in case of a slaves' revolt and as a strong-point to rally to in case of invasion. By 1740, the fort was provided with 49 pieces of cannon and had a well-stocked magazine and a large cistern for water.

When, in 1778 France joined the new American States in their War of Independence against Great Britain, the French took the opportunity to capture the then rich British West Indian islands, namely, Dominica in 1778, Grenada in 1779 and the islands of St. Christopher and Nevis in 1782.

During the War of Independence (1778 to 1783) the people of the British West Indian colonies were in sympathy with the new American States, and when the threat of invasion was imminent did little to aid the garrisons of British troops stationed in the islands.

The colonial merchants were even more incensed by Admiral Rodney's action in capturing the Dutch island of St. Eustatius which, being a free port, was the principal entrepôt centre of the West Indies. Goods owned by St. Kitts' merchants were seized in this action and declared prizes of war, and a long, costly action was needed before the merchants could recover their goods.

The people of St. Kitts and Nevis remaining disaffected until the end of the war, and but for this the garrison and local militia of the islands would have made the imminent invasion by the French a much harder task.

The commander of the French forces in the area was the Marquis de Bouille, and he, despite the extended nature of the British forces, mounted a successful invasion of Dominica from the French-controlled island of Guadeloupe. De Bouille intended to reduce the British island of Barbados, but the French Fleet under Admiral De Grasse, upon whose support he depended, was driven by adverse winds to the Leeward Isles, a change of plan was necessary and the island of St. Kitts was invaded.

On January 11th, 1782, the French army of 8,000 seasoned troops stormed ashore in the vicinity of Basseterre the capital of St. Kitts, and after a brief holding action the British troops and island militia retired to the fortress on Brimstone Hill.

The British troops, numbering 600 men, consisted of the flank companies of the 1st of Foot (Royal Scots), elements of the 15th of Foot (the East York) and men of the Royal Artillery. The local militia numbered 350 men, and all the British troops on the island were under the command of the Governor of St. Kitts, Major-General Shirley.

After a brief parley, the Marquis de Bouille, set about laying siege to Brimstone Hill, and with the aid of a strong siege train and heavy cannon from the French Fleet battered several large breaches in the defences. The British troops were subjected to a constant bombardment, and after repulsing many attacks by infantry were reduced to 400 effective defenders. Consultations between the Marquis and Governor Shirley took place and after a siege of 33 days, the garrison capitulated.

The gallant nature of this defence was recognised in the articles of surrender, which allowed the garrison to march from the fort with drums beating and colours flying, the Militia being free to return to their homes, the Imperial troops to be sent home in sound ships to await exchange.

The triumph of the French was short-lived and St. Kitts was restored to Britain by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783, which followed the brilliant and decisive victory gained by Admiral Rodney's fleet over the French in the naval " Battle of the Saints " off the island of Dominica on April 12th, 1782, when British sea power smashed the French hold on the West Indies.

Stamps commemorating the Siege of Brimstone Hill, depict on the ½c. value a group of the 15th of Foot (East Yorks); the 20c. value shows the Royal Artillery and the 30c. the French Infantry charging. The French infantry regiments involved in the siege were drawn from the regiments of Armagnac, Champagne, Auxerre, Agéne, Vienne and Touraine. The 50c. stamp shows a party of the 1st of Foot (Royal Scots) in action during the siege.



The issue was designed by Victor Whiteley and pictures a stirring event in the history of the now peaceful islands of St. Kitts and Nevis where the only invaders today are visitors and tourists seeking relaxation and the sun.

As a footnote it is worth recording that in March 1784 a group of British merchants in London, who had interests in the West Indies, sent a vote of thanks and piece of plate to the Marquis de Bouille as a public testimony of esteem for the " humanity, justice and kindness " he displayed in his conquest of the British West Indian islands. Wars in the 18th century were certainly fought in a gentlemanly manner, to say the least!

DORCHESTER, DORSET, EXHIBITION

The 8th Annual Exhibition organised by the Dorchester and Weymouth Stamp Club will be held on **Saturday, November 15th,** at The United Reform Church Hall, South Street, Dorchester, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The official opening will be by Mr. R. A. Wheeler, of Bournemouth, the well-known specialist collector of Tibet.

Entries in the Wessex Philatelic Federation Thompson Cup Competition will be included in the exhibits. All-day catering and car parking in Charles Street will be available. Admission, 10p (children, 5p).

Aerophila 76. The address of the secretary of AEROPHILA '76 (the second Frankfurt Air Mail Exhibition, May 7th–30th, 1976) is: Joachim Frey, 6 Frankfurt am Main 70, Postfach 700 403, West Germany and not as printed on August 14th, page 1061.

Sombrero Island – A Private Local Postage Stamp?

PART I

By
L.N. WILLIAMS

ACCORDING to the centenary edition (1970) of *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, page 653, "local" means, "in colloquial parlance, the local hostelry; also the local paper".

Fair enough, so far as it goes. However, it does not go far enough. Brewer, it seems, has never heard of philatelists, for on page 161 he gives to "Bull's eye" several meanings but nary a one connected with the first issue of Brazil. Nor is there any Brazilian flavour related to his entries for "cat's eye" or "snake eyes."

It is not surprising, therefore, that Brewer does not devote printed thought to the philatelic meaning of "locals", which the *Glossary of Philatelic Terms,* compiled by a sub-committee of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain (London 1951) defines on page 33 as meaning "postage stamps, the franking validity of which is limited to a town, district or route between particular seaports".

What are locals?

Broadly speaking, locals are of two kinds: governmental issues, as instanced by the Swedish stamps for Stockholm 1856 (SG L6 L7) and the Spanish stamps for Madrid in 1953 (SG 30, 31); and private issues, as instanced by those supplied by mail conveyance undertakings in towns in Denmark and the Treaty Ports of China during the 19th century.

Incidentally, it is perhaps not frequently remembered nowadays that the Penny Black and Twopence Blue of 1840, and all other early issues of postage stamps, were locals in the *Glossary* sense. Their franking validity was limited to the district of the country of issue.

The arrogant Dr. John Edward Gray PhD, FRS, FLS, FZS etc, of the British Museum, London, who produced one of the first stamp catalogues – *Hand Catalogue of Postage Stamps* first published in December 1862 – loftily declined to list private local postage stamps. In his 2nd edition (1863) p. xiii he wrote that he had–

> "excluded the stamps issued by different private persons or companies who carry letters or parcels, or electric telegraph messages, and which have found it convenient to issue stamps. They are no more postage stamps than the stamps issued by the Inland Revenue Office for fiscal purposes."

His views had considerable weight early on, the more particularly because he blatantly claimed (2nd ed, 1863 p. vi) that he "was the first who proposed in 1834, the system of a small uniform rate of postage to be prepaid by stamps", and he set out, as his own, the essence of Rowland Hill's reforms. Dr. Gray was, of course, forced to resile from his claim, and it was dropped from later editions of his catalogue. However, as long as he continued to edit his catalogue, he continued to air his intolerant views about locals and omitted them from his listings.

Other, more enlightened, early collectors accepted that stamps prepaying the service of conveyance of mail ranked as postage stamps, whether they stemmed from governmental or private sources, and had even more restricted franking validity than within the district of the country of issue. For example in 1868, Dr. Charles W Viner, the editor of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine,* writing in vol 6 p 33 an article titled "On 'Locals' and their Value", stated:

> "In spite of all that has been from time to time written upon local stamps, there still seems to exist considerable misapprehension as to the relative value of the different classes. Some collectors take fright at the mere name 'local', and a stamp which, rightly or wrongly has acquired it, is in their eyes not worth obtaining. Now, whilst admitting that there are many of this genus of doubtful fame, we must urge that there are also many varieties highly respectable and very well connected. Others again, occupy a middle ground; concerning such no exact data are procurable, and their position is consequently unsettled. To guide our friends in their valuation of the different kinds of locals,

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La Guaira local, oblique line roulette; the "Lady McLeod" (hand cancelled); Venezuela local, Bejuma; Sombrero Island 1d private local stamp; Venezuela local, Coro and La Vela; Venezuela local, Merida; and Venezuela local, Caracas and Petare.



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we purpose giving some details respecting them, and to this end shall enumerate them under five divisions, vis.:- I – Stamps issued by the state for local use. II – Stamps issued by private companies under a postal contract with the state, or under special government sanction. III – Stamps issued by private persons, or companies, without government sanction. IV – Stamps termed 'locals' issued by private companies, but not used for postal purposes. V – Sham 'local' stamps."

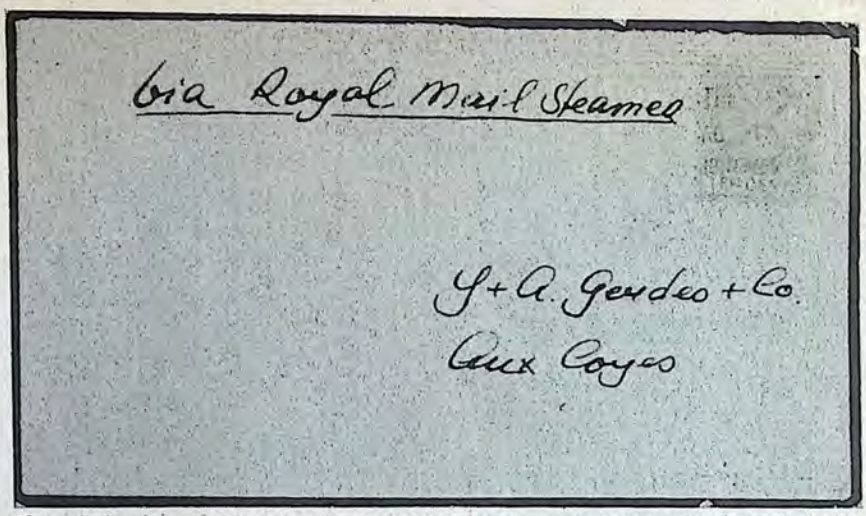
Dr. Viner then proceeded to list in that and two further instalments the stamps then obtainable or known which fitted into his five classes.

In 1913, on pages 115 and 116 of *Stamp Collecting – A Guide For Beginners* by A.B. Creeke, Jun. – he was a leading philatelist and part-author of the classic work, *A History of the Adhesive Stamps of the British Isles* (London 1899) – he wrote:

"There are locals *and* locals. Every stamp is more or less a local, because it can only be used in its country of origin. Many ordinary stamps are really locals, their face-value being insufficient to prepay postage out of the country.... 'Locals, however, in the ordinary philatelic sense, are those issued under official or semi-official authority, for use in a particular town or district, or along a specified route, or between certain seaports. The term is also applied, somewhat with a note of scorn, to the emissions of private companies, doing a certain amount of legitimate letter-carrying business, but often reaping the greater part of their profits from the sale of their wares to credulous collectors".

Interpolating a comment at that stage, one may wonder what A.B. Creeke would have to say, doubtless vitriolically, about those present-day governments – not only governments of patently Banana republics – who do just that which he scornfully referred to as being done by "private companies".

Nowadays, in its philatelic sense, a private local postage stamp means a receipt issued by a private undertaking wholly or partly to signify prepayment of a charge for a service of carriage of mail. "Wholly or partly" because, as is the case with governmental issues, part of the face value may represent purposes other than the specified charge for the service of mail carriage; one example is provided by the practice, almost unquestioningly and universally accepted nowadays, of grossly overpaying a postal rate in order to obtain a souvenir which is called a "first day (of issue) cover" because the postage stamp is, or postage stamps are, cancelled by a postmark bearing a particular date. "Prepayment" because there is still an element of controversy about the question whether a document indicating postage due is or is not a postage stamp – although, in an appropriate case, there can be no disputing its status as a local.



The only known cover bearing the RMSP Co's stamp, cancelled KEITEL & Co., AGENTS, GONAIVES. The agents' handstamp is also at the lower left corner of the cover.

There is some evidence that a private local postage stamp was issued on or for Sombrero Island, that outpost of the Leeward Islands, famed for its lighthouse.

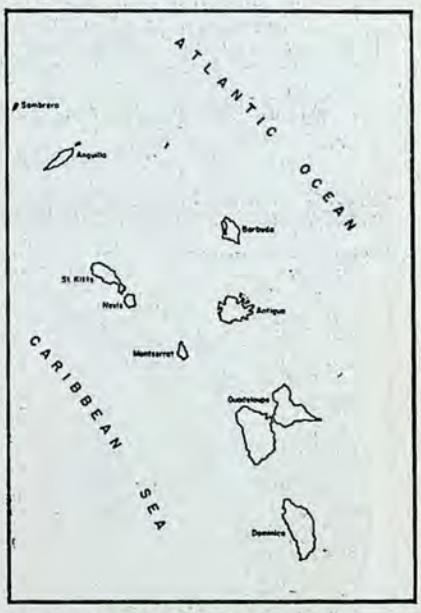
There is mystery about the issue, and the stamp is very rare. Indeed, to date I have been able to trace only one example of it and only three references to it in the philatelic press, apart from its appearance in Harmer of London's auction on 18th July 1978 and then in Caribbean Philatelic Auctions on 12th April 1979, where it was acquired by its present owner.

However, in the part of the world where Sombrero Island is located, the Caribbean, several private local postage stamps have been issued over the years, and the present absence of conclusive supporting evidence does not *ipso facto* cast that Sombrero Island issue into Dr. Viner's fifth class.

West Indian Locals

Perhaps best known of the Caribbean issues is the stamp that was the first adhesive postage stamp issued in any British Colony – Trinidad's "Lady McLeod" of April 1847 – a stamp which was sold for "a bit" or four dollars a hundred by David Bryce, proprietor of the ship the *Lady McLeod,* for carrying mail between Port of Spain and San Fernando.

Map showing the position of Sombrero Island.



Other such stamps in that part of the world include those of Robert Todd, who made semi-official issues under a concession from the Venezuelan Government of conveying mail by the steamer, the *Robert Todd,* between La Guaira, Puerto Cabello and St Thomas, and also to Caracas.

Both the Lady McLeod and the La Guaira locals, as they are known, are catalogued by Stanley Gibbons. The private local postage stamps of Venezuela, namely, those of Bejuma, Caracas and Petare, Coro and La Vela and Merida, make

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a fascinating group in philatelic and postal history, but they are completely ignored by Stanley Gibbons.

Moving northwards one arrives at St Lucia, of which the first crude local issues of 1870(?) are among the rarest in the world, with a mere six examples recorded: see "St Lucia Steam Conveyance Co Ltd", STAMP COLLECTING 14th September 1978 and 30th November 1978. That issue, too, is not yet listed by Stanley Gibbons. However, that catalogue has not been able entirely to ignore the second private local postage stamp issue made in St Lucia – it forms part of the design of the incorrectly titled *Centenary of First Postal Service by St Lucia Steam Conveyance Co Ltd* issue of 22nd June 1972 (SG 335-338). Perhaps in time both the private local postage stamp issues of St Lucia will appear in the Stanley Gibbons Catalogues and to them will be added such issues made in Venezuela.

Also one may include in the list of private local postage stamps of the West Indies the solitary issue made by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co between 1875 and 1880 for its postal service between Curacao, Surinam, San Domingo, Puerto Plata and Puerto Cabello. That company played an important part in making Sombrero Island a shining beacon for shipping.

Sombrero: Location and Status

Sombrero Island is in one of the groups of islands which comprise the West Indies– in the Leeward Islands group of the Lesser Antilles, of which Sombrero Island forms the northernmost limit of land. The location of its old lighthouse is stated on the Admiralty chart as latitude 18° 35' 10" N and longitude 63° 25' 43" W.

Anguilla is about 38 miles away to the south-east. In the same general direction and twice that distance away from Anguilla is Barbuda. Westward of Sombrero Island is Anegada and the Anegada Passage. The stretch of sea includes some of the most treacherous reefs in the Caribbean, and the rocks have been strewn with hundreds of wrecks over the years.

Sombrero Island derives its name from its shape's fancied resemblance to a broad-brimmed hat, which later became fashionable in Spanish America. It is said to have been sighted, probably, by Columbus on his second voyage in 1493. For some time it remained within the Spanish sphere of influence, but Sombrero Island was included in the letters patent by which Charles I in 1627 authorised the settlement of St Kitts of 1623.

Early in 1807 the island, which is treeless and waterless, was the location of an event which led to the court-martialling and dismissal from the service of Captain the Honourable Warwick Lake R.N. He was in command of HMS *Recruit,* a brig, and he put ashore and abandoned there as a punishment for misbehaviour a crew member named Robert Jeffrey. Some days later Jeffrey saw an American ship sailing past. He signalled frantically and was seen and picked up. He was landed in Massachusetts and obtained work in Marblehead, where he settled down to live.

However, the Admiralty got to hear of the abandonment of Jeffrey on Sombrero, and they sent a search party for him to the island and Anguilla. Of course, he was not found there but eventually his whereabouts became known. Then H.M.S. *Thistle* was sent to bring him home from the United States. At the subsequent court-martial Capt. Lake was found guilty and dismissed from the service. Jeffrey was granted £600 compensation for having been abandoned.

In 1834 steamships began voyaging between Falmouth and the West Indies, and in 1842 the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company began operating the service from Southampton. By 1848 their ships regularly passed Sombrero Island. Because of the danger to shipping an urgent request was made for a lighthouse there to guide vessels through the passage on their way from England to Venezuela and Central America.

The Admiralty moved slowly – too slowly. In 1859 the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's ship, *Paramatta,* foundered on a rock just off the west coast of Sombrero Island, and the loss of life was considerable. The United States – in the form of phosphate exploiters, of whom mention will be found later – claimed possession of Sombrero Island, and the claim delayed still further the lighthouse's construction. It was not erected until 1867 and came into operation on 1st January 1868 under the aegis of the Imperial Lighthouse Service.

For collectors interested in the background to stamp designs, it is worth recording here that the structure consisted of a wrought-iron open framework supported and strengthened by a large central column or tube in which a narrow spiral stairway led to the service room. In that room were placed air and oil containers. The lantern room containing an Argand lamp and reflectors was 156 feet



Above: Various West Indian issues showing Sombrero Lighthouse. Below: View of Sombrero Island on 5c Anguilla.



above sea level. The tower was designed by an outstanding civil engineer named Parke, and the lighthouse cost £11,236, which was met from United Kingdom parliamentary grants, as was the cost of initial maintenance. The lighthouse was administered from St Kitts but was manned from Anguilla.

The Lighthouse on Stamps

Politically and administratively, Sombrero Island was originally under the jurisdiction of the British Virgin Islands. They, together with other Leeward Islands, were amalgamated into the Leeward Islands Federation in 1871, by which time phosphate mining had been in operation for some six years, as will be seen. Each constituent unit of the Federation was called a "presidency"

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under the overall control of the Governor of Antigua.

The jurisdiction of the Virgin Islands over the lighthouse is reflected in the Virgin Islands issue of 15th April 1952 1 cent (S G 136), which depicts the structure much as it was when first erected, except that in 1931 the by then corroding supporting columns were encased in concrete at the time when a new and improved paraffin light was installed and major repairs and renovations were carried out. The massive support afforded by the concrete casing can be seen on the stamp.

Curiously enough, Sombrero Island is not shown on the map, which is the main part of the design of the $4.80 value (S G 147) and did not appear on the map of the Virgin Islands depicted on the issue made on 2nd April 1951 to commemorate the restoration of the Legislative Council (S G 132-135).

In 1956 the Leeward Islands Federation was dissolved, and Sombrero Island was transferred to the jurisdiction of St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla with effect from 1st May 1956. Sure enough, on 1st February 1957 the St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla 8 cents stamps (SG 112a) showed the lighthouse, virtually as it had been depicted on the Virgin Islands issue of 1952. Although a map of Anguilla and Dependencies formed the main feature of the $2.40 value (SG 117a), Sombrero Island was not on it, doubtless because of the scale, which would have necessitated a much larger stamp to show the island.

New Lighthouse on Stamps

The original lighthouse withstood endless hurricanes, including one on the night of 12th-13th September 1898 that was described as the worst for 30 years in the neighbourhood. Since that year maintenance costs have been charged to the General Lightouse Fund, which derives its income from the light dues that are levied on all vessels entering ports in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. The British Government, in the form of the Marine Division of the Department of Trade, has ultimate responsibility for the administration and financial upkeep of the lighthouse on Sombrero Island.

A decision was taken to rebuild the lighthouse, work beginning in 1960. However, in September of that year, when construction had resulted in the new structure rising about 20 feet from ground level, Hurricane Donna hit Sombrero Island. The old lighthouse survived well, but so violent was the hurricane that some of the metal framework of the new lighthouse was distorted to such an extent that it had to be replaced, thus delaying completion. Another unfortunate result of Hurricane Donna was that it (or she) destroyed such records as existed on Sombrero Island, with the result that that avenue of possibly fruitful research was closed.

In The Alluring Antilles by J. Linton Rigg (Princetown N.J. 1963) on page 86 the author states that, during another hurricane, all the members of the lighthouse crew sat down and wrote letters resigning from the lighthouse service. They were mailed in the postal box, which was a sealed box. When the hurricane had passed, they all proceeded to write letters retracting their letters of resignation. Both sets of letters were received by the authorities in the same mail. Presumably the first lot of letters were applied to the authorities' blind eye.

The new lighthouse came into operation on 20th July 1962. On 26th of that month the old tower was cut off just above the concrete supports. At that time Sombrero Island was part of the West Indies Federation, and St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla issues are, for the relevant period, listed in the catalogue as under Ministerial Government.

During that period, on 20th November 1963, the new lighthouse was depicted on the ½ cent stamp (SG 129) of an issue printed in photogravure by Harrison & Son Ltd – the previously issued stamps showing the lighthouse had been printed from intaglio engravings.

On 27th February 1967 St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla became an Associated State. In its status of Associated Statehood it issued a series of six stamps in designs the same as those which had been used for the issue of 20th November 1963. The new ½ cent stamp (SG 166), which depicted the new lighthouse differed from the previous ½ cent stamp in the same design only in having a sideways instead of an upright watermark.

Anguilla broke away from Associated Statehood in 1967, and the first provisional issue in its new status was made by overprinting ~~(SG 18) with the words~~ Sombrero Island lighthouse with the words "Independent Anguilla" (S G 1). Sombrero lighthouse appeared again on the 2 cents value (S G 18) of the first definitive series issued on 21st March 1968.

A further provisional issue in which Sombrero lighthouse figured was made on 9th January 1969, and consisted of overprinting S G 18 with the words "Independence January 1969" in two lines. The issue is mentioned but not yet listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue.

In 1979 for the first time Sombrero Island itself appeared on a stamp. It is the 5 cents of the *Anguilla Outer Islands* issue, which comprises six values. The 5 cents stamp bears in its lower portion a view of the island from the sea, with the red-painted lighthouse clearly visible. At the right of the upper portion of the stamp appears an outline map of Sombrero Island, with the location of the new lighthouse given as latitude 18° 35' 09" [N] and longitude 63° 25' 37" [W]. In the lower margin of the miniature sheet of the issue a representation of Sombrero Island appears, but nowhere is its relative position to Anguilla shown.

Miscut Panes in Stamp Booklets

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printed and processed mechanically.

The panes found in these are quite different from their predecessors of the stitched book era. They are composed of two rows of five stamps and are affixed to their covers in the same way as the pane in the 10p book.

In this case, the printing cylinders produce repeatedly four columns of these panes with vertical margins on the outer edges as well as between the two centre columns. These margins are used to produce the folded books and panes from columns 1 and 3 have these margins to the left of the pane of stamps and those from columns 2 and 4 have the margins on the right. As these are printed in a double pane sheet columns 1 and 3 bear cylinder numbers in a similar format as that found on sheets of counter definitives. The cylinder from column 1 is the no dot number while that from column 3 is the dot number.

Lighthouse

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Sombrero Island – A Private Local Postage Stamp?

PART II

By
L. N. WILLIAMS

Commercial Importance

SOMBRERO Island is just over three-quarters of a mile long by about 400 yards wide at its broadest point. Clearly, therefore, there could have been no call for an internal postal service, even if there had been a teeming population, which there was not. However, for an external postal service different considerations applied.

From about 1865 onwards for something like 20 years American interests exploited phosphate deposits which had been discovered on Sombrero Island by a British geologist who had paid a visit there in 1811. After the end of the American Civil War, enormous areas of land were being cultivated for agriculture, and phosphates for fertiliser were much in demand. In March 1865 the Sombrero Phosphate Co. Ltd. was granted a 21 years' Crown lease by the Crown Agents for the Colonies at £1,000 a year rent for £100,000 and subject to a mortgage of £12,400.

The company established extensive facilities on the island; they included a light steam railway, a steam rock crusher, landing point at the shore, a boiler house and, of course, accommodation for the work force. The phosphate was mined from open quarries and the work force was drawn mainly from Anguilla. By 1870 the annual value of the phosphate exported was considerable. However, the company encountered financial difficulties, mainly because of shortage of capital.

The phosphate was found in pockets in the rock. It was very hard and could be worked only by blasting. Many of the pockets were quarried to below water level, and that necessitated the employment of divers to drill underwater holes and insert the blasting charges. After blasting the divers gathered the loosened rock, which was winched to the surface. Production costs increased enormously, and continued operations were not only uneconomic but also impossible. The Sombrero Phosphate Co. Ltd. went into liquidation and was wound-up in 1871.

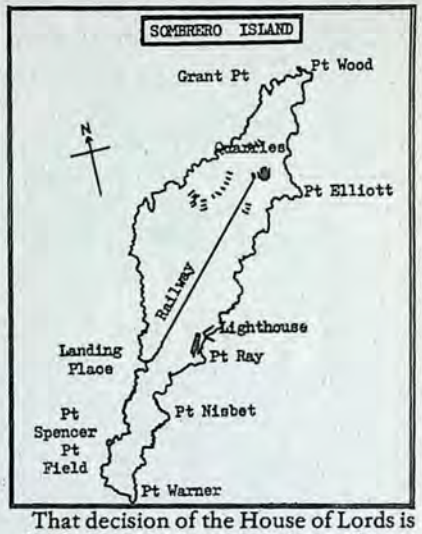
What happened next was that a syndicate, headed by a Paris banker, Baron Emile Erlanger, purchased the remainder of the lease from the liquidator for £55,000 on 30th August 1871. The baron and other members of the syndicate and friends then formed a joint stock company, called the New Sombrero Phosphate Co. Ltd., with themselves or their nominees as directors, for the expressed purpose of purchasing the lease and working the phosphate.

The price charged to the company for the lease (bought only a short while before for £55,000) was £110,000, and the contract of sale was made. In the meantime a prospectus was issued to the public, inviting applications for shares in the company and painting a rosy picture of the prospects of sale of phosphates. Many applications for shares were received and shares were issued. Virtually, therefore, the syndicate had sold the lease to themselves, using the money subscribed by the shareholders, and had made a profit of £55,000 on the deal.

However, phosphate mining operations were not remunerative, mainly because of the steady fall in the price of phosphates on the open market.

The shareholders learnt about the purchase and sale of the lease and, on Christmas Eve 1872, brought an action in the Chancery Court to rescind the company's purchase of the lease and return the purchase price with interest to the company in exchange for the island to be returned to the syndicate.

After an eight-day hearing in front of the judge, Vice-Chancellor Malins, the company lost; but, after a four-day hearing in the Court of Appeal on appeal from the Vice-Chancellor's judgment, the company won. Then the syndicate appealed to the House of Lords, the highest judicial tribunal in the land, where the hearing of the appeal lasted 12 days. The House of Lords held that the syndicate had failed in a duty to make disclosure of material facts in negotiating the sale to the company and in not having nominated independent directors. The result was that the syndicate lost their appeal, the contract of sale was rescinded and the purchase price was returned.



That decision of the House of Lords is a leading case on company law and is an authority which is still cited as a precedent. All the judgments appear in the Law Reports, and the appropriate citations of the cases are: *New Sombrero Phosphate Co. Ltd.* v *Erlanger* (1876) 5 Ch D 73, Malins V-C and CA; and *Erlanger* v *New Sombrero Phosphate Co. Ltd.* (1878) 3 App Cas 1218, HL(E).

By 1880 production of phosphate had, virtually, ceased. By 1890 the phosphate workings were abandoned.

The superintendent of the phosphate company was responsible also for the lighthouse. He received an allowance of £50 a year for the additional duty. His staff consisted of some native keepers, and they remained on Sombrero Island with the caretaker and tended the light after the superintendent had left. The Board of Trade took over the light in 1893, and it was visited by the Inspector of Lighthouses from Nassau for the first time in that year.

It is then, in the short time between the leaving of the superintendent and the transfer of his duties to the caretaker, at one end of the time scale, and the taking over the light by the Board of Trade, at the other end of the time scale, that the date 27th March 1892 falls – the date appearing in the manuscript cancellation on the Sombrero Island postage stamp.

The Stamp

The Sombrero Island postage stamp is

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typeset. It comprises an outer rectangle 23 mm across by 23.5 mm high, made up from printer's rule ¾ mm wide.

Within the outer rectangle, at the top and bottom, a horizontal rule forms a tablet 3.5 mm in depth from the outer rule. In the top tablet in serifed capital and lower case letters appears the wording "Sombrero Island". In the lower tablet similarly appears "Postage Stamp". In the middle of the rectangle central in the design, in sanserif capital letters, appear the words "ONE PENNY".

The type face used in the upper and lower tablets resembles Caslon Old Face, while that in the centre appears to be Standard Bold Condensed. The type sizes are, respectively, 6 point and 12 point.

The impression bears the unmistakeable characteristics of squash and squeeze – the minute excesses of ink outside the edges of lines of the design – associated with true letterpress printing.

The paper is toned, wove and unwatermarked, and the stamp is imperforate.

The colour of the ink precisely matches the colour termed "chocolate" in Stanley Gibbons Stamp Colour Key (item 2530). The ink used was aniline and is fugitive.

The back of the stamp has adhering to it over its major portion paper of an entirely different texture and colour from that of the stamp itself. An attempt or attempts in the past to free the stamp from adherent paper by application of moisture has resulted in ink from parts of the design suffusing not only parts of the stamp paper but also parts of the adherent paper.

The face of the stamp bears a handwritten cancellation in blue-black ink which has darkened with age. Parts of the cancellation also have suffered somewhat from the application of moisture, causing some suffusion of parts of the stamp paper.

The writing appears to be "S.I./March 27/1892/Prince Edw/Islands".

The first three lines are easy to read, "S.I." could well stand for Sombrero Island, and the date requires no explanation. It is, possibly, not entirely without significance that the date is expressed in the American manner, namely, month, day, year.

It is the last two lines of inscription which provide the puzzle, on the assumption that I have read the handwriting correctly. I know of only two islands called Prince Edward: the Canadian province; and the Antarctic island in the Indian Ocean. Neither has any immediately obvious connection with Sombrero Island. I know of no other group of islands called "Prince Edward Islands".



The single example of the Sombrero local, enlarged.

I must add here, to show that I have not forgotten, that the North American Prince Edward Island not only issued its own stamps between 1861 and 1873 but also had foisted on it by the Boston Gang, whose leading member was S. Allan Taylor, an entirely bogus issue. It was a 10 cents design depicting a vessel but incorrectly inscribed around the frame "PRINCE EDWARDS ISLAND POSTAGE", plural "Edwards" rather than a single possessive one in the absence of an apostrophe. Further, in 1872, S. Allan Taylor grafted on to the legitimate issue a 10 cents design in rosy-lilac and a 15 cents design in bright ultramarine.

Sombrero Island was surveyed by the United States government in 1859, and an Admiralty chart has soundings and additions from surveys by the Royal Navy in 1810 and 1846-1847. Although the chart bears names of various places on the island, none of them is, or even approaches, "Prince Edw Islands".

The significance of those word's appearance on the Sombrero Island postage stamp remains, therefore, a mystery. If the stamp were to be bogus, then those words are explicable by ignorance or carelessness. However, if the stamp were bogus, one would have expected to have encountered more examples of it than the single one known, and more supporting accompanies efforts to foist phantoms on the collecting public.

Where it was printed, to whose order, by whom and for what use remain mysteries, so far.

Research

It was in the late autumn of 1977 that my opinion was sought on the Sombrero Island postage stamp. I had never encountered it, and I knew of no references to it in the philatelic press. Immediate research into the philatelic press produced only a vague and unidentified reference to something that had been published somewhere in Essex in 1954. None of the Caribbean experts could help in my inquiry; indeed, one of the leading experts in the field, stated that he had never heard of Sombrero Island.

I traced the text of the reference, but not the source and, eventually, it was Harry Hayes, the literature dealer, who put me on the right track by suggesting

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that I refer to the *Official Handbook* published by the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies for their 10th Annual Convention and Stamp Exhibition on 8th May 1954. He, however, did not have a copy. I was lent one by the Association's secretary.

The reference occurred at the foot of page 21. The Sombrero Island postage was illustrated, and the text read:

> "Where is Sombrero Island?
>
> An island of this name is a dependancy of St. Kitts Nevis Presidency in the Leeward Islands and is 100 miles North West of Basseterre, St. Kitts. A bare rock, it rises to 40 feet, it has a lighthouse, and in the last century, phosphate of lime was quarried there.
>
> A member of the Chelmsford Philatelic Society found this stamp in an old collection. Inscribed 'Sombrero Island', it is type set on buff paper. The pen cancellation on it appears to read 'D.I. March 27, 1892, Prince Edw Islands'. Perhaps this is an hitherto undiscovered local stamp and if anyone can throw light on its origin the information would be welcomed by the Secretary of The Chelmsford Philatelic Society on behalf of the owner".

The only other references in the philatelic press, traced much later, are from *Green I.S.L.E. Philately* for January and March 1955. That publication was produced by Dr. Paul Singer who went to Dublin from Bratislava and, as older readers may recall, became the evil genius presiding over Shanahan's Stamp Auctions Ltd. He was sentenced to 14 years' penal servitude on conviction of 19 charges of fraud, conspiracy and fraudulent conversion involving more than £700,000 between 1954 and 1959, only to have the conviction and sentence quashed on appeal, mainly because the jury foreman had an undisclosed claim against the company. Singer's re-trial on counts involving a mere £1,800 lasted more than 47 days and was, as is stated in *Doctor of Millions* by Seamus Brady (Tralee 1965), "the longest criminal trial in the Irish record books". He was acquitted and disappeared from Ireland and the philatelic scene.

Green I.S.L.E. Philately had a kind of cosy-corner chit-chat style, only part of which is reflected in the extracts which follow. In the issue for January 1955, on page 115, the following paragraph appeared:

> "SOMBRERO ISLAND
>
> What do you know about Sombrero Island? A friend of mine has a Sombrero Island penny stamp, a local apparently for use between the island and Prince Edward Island, pencancelled in 1892. Gibbons' list (*sic*) Locals Catalogue was in 1890 (*sic*): we all wish they would hurry up with a later edition. Meanwhile, can any reader help? Is the stamp unique? Are there other values?"

"List" is obviously a misprint for "last", but I cannot be certain that "1890" was not due to ignorance. The last, and only, edition of Stanley Gibbons' *Priced Catalogue of the Local Postage Stamps of the World* appeared in 1899.

In the issue of *Green I.S.L.E. Philately* for March 1955, on page 168, there was an illustration of the stamp, and the text read:

> "Following our note in the January number, many people have asked what a Sombrero Island stamp looks like. By the courtesy of its owner we reproduce an enlarged photograph of it. The stamp is almost square 22.5 mm. by 23.5 mm. high and is printed in reddish-brown, in a fugitive ink, and is imperforate. I read the pen cancellation as 'S(ombrero) I(sland)/ March 27/1892/ Prince Edward/ Island'.
>
> Sombrero Island is one of the Leeward Islands (lat. 18.35 N., long. 63.27 W.), and is about fifty miles east of the Virgin Islands.
>
> Collectors of locals, specialists in the West Indies, and millionaires in search of a unique stamp will be disappointed to hear that this copy is not for sale."

In the meantime it was clear to me that research would have to be far more widespread than merely into philatelic literature. Apart from the specialists, who had proved unable to help, two obvious starting points were: general literature and officialdom. Both lines of inquiry were pursued until it became reasonably certain that progress had reached a terminus.

Because of the syncopated history of administration of Sombrero Island and its lighthouse, the written and personal inquiries to officialdom had to be directed to various places. Among them were: Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Marine Division, Department of Trade; H.M. Commissioner in Anguilla – he had had published in *The Times* of 28th October 1977 a letter concerning conditions of life on Sombrero; Deputy Governor, British Virgin Islands; Accountant General, St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla; Chief Secretary, Anguilla; and, of course, the Public Record Office, Kew.

It would be pointless to detail the individual inquiries. Whatever else may have resulted, I feel that I must put on record that everyone whom I approached expressed a desire to assist and was most patient with my pressing and sometimes repeated inquiries. Also, as a by-product, my correspondence resulted in several colourful covers from the Caribbean.

The nearest approach to information which I received about the stamp being issued resulted from an inquiry that I had made of H.M. Commissioner in Anguilla. A copy of an account of what was known about Sombrero was sent to me, and the covering letter stated:

> . . ."You will note that the first lighthouse at Sombrero was erected in 1868, at which time there were still phosphate workers living on the island. By 1890 the last of the phosphate workers had left and in 1892 there were only the lighthouse keepers on the island which was, as it is today, otherwise completely uninhabited. One might suppose, therefore, that any kind of postal service would have been more likely at a time when the American phosphate workers were there, rather than just when they had all left. Another possibility might be that the final departure of the phosphate workers, with their supply and transport ships, led to an attempt to maintain some kind of postal service for the lighthouse keepers. . . "

The Secretariat at Anguilla, which provided an article on Sombrero dated September 1978 stated:

> ". . . I'm afraid I can, however, do little to answer your specific query about the Sombrero Island [stamp]. By 1892 the phosphate workings had been abandoned and only the lighthouse keepers were resident on Sombrero. It could only have been used, therefore, as mail emanating from those keepers and the only records of such a postal service would be at Tortola B.V.I., under whose jurisdiction Sombrero fell, or at Basseterre from where the lighthouse was administered. We have no information here. . . "

Inquiries at the two suggested sources drew blank. From correspondence with the British Virgin Islands it emerged that:-

> ". . . any records that had been kept in the West Indies on Sombrero were destroyed in a fire which gutted

(Continued on page 931)

Sombrero Island – A Private Local Postage Stamp?

(Continued from page 917)

the Leeward Islands Secretariat in Antigua in 1951, when all historical records were lost. . . "

Correspondence from Basseterre, St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla produced the information that:-

". . . I have made inquiries in an effort to obtain information regarding Sombrero in 1890-1892 and have drawn a blank. I regret not having been able to give any assistance in this matter. . . "

The article on Sombrero dated September 1978 from the Secretariat at Anguilla referred to records in the form of lighthouse keepers' occurrence books, which were kept in Anguilla, and stated, ". . . the first entry in the first occurrence book of 1895, that for July 4th reads. . . " and set out the events of that day as recorded. The words above within quotation marks contained the possible implication that occurrence books earlier than those of 1895 were kept in Anguilla.

However, hopes in relation to them were dashed, because further inquiry brought the answer that the earliest book there was that for 1895 to 1898 and that some ten other books covered intermittently the period up to 1935.

A search of the daily entries in the earliest book had revealed that they were in the main concerned with the daily activities of the keepers and the operation of the light. At fortnightly intervals there is mention of the sloop *Tender,* and sometimes the sloop *Cassowary*, arriving with mails, stores and keepers and returning with other keepers. Periodic mention is made of the sloop departing with "mails for Nassau" and occasional mention occurs of the SS *Richmond* arriving with Inspector of Lighthouses from Nassau.

Incidentally, in *Silent Sentinels* by Ronald Langton Jones (London 1944), when writing on page 200 about the hurricane of September (he puts it in October) 1898, the author, a retired Inspector of Lighthouses, states that the relief sloop *Cassowary* was caught at sea and ran for shelter but was torn from her moorings and lost with all hands.

Perhaps the most frustrating of dead ends was encountered at the Public Record Office at Kew. There the index revealed the existence of what was stated to be "12167 Sombrero, Report of Conditions of. Governor 1st June 1892". The date was only just over two months from the date on the stamp. Here, I thought, was the very bedrock which must settle the question.

Having tapped out my request for the document on the computer terminal, I waited with a deal of impatience to hear a bleep on the electronic device, issued to me on my arrival, which would signal that the document was ready for collection at the issuing desk.

In due course the signal came, and it was with equal impatience, having returned to my seat with the bundle handed to me, that I undid the covering and located the report. It was from the Governor. It was dated 1st June 1892. It read:

"There is no prospect of the island yielding any revenue. I shall be happy to afford any particular information on my arrival in England."

That was all!

That, then, is the terminus at which research into the general literature and officialdom has arrived.

It is possible that someone, somewhere, has some information which would solve the mystery of the Sombrero Island One Penny Postage Stamp's existence. If any reader has any information – or knowledge of another example of the stamp – I should be grateful if he or she would kindly write to me, care of The Editor, STAMP COLLECTING.

Acknowledgments

In the course of the text I have indicated the private and public sources of my assistance which I have received during the research resulting in the foregoing contribution, such as it is, to philatelic knowledge. To them it is right to add the name of David Feldman, of Dublin, who complied with my request to provide me with a photocopy of each of the relevant pages of *Green I.S.L.E. Philately.*

EUROPAGE

(Continued from page 929)

Paris to help the campaign to keep the city clean. Cleanliness is second nature to cats; no wonder they look so pleased at doing what comes naturally to them. Contrast their gleeful expression with the annoyance of the dog at having to use the gutter, not the pavement.

Postmarks Promoting Philately

On 13th October the Association of Austrian Philatelists (hon. secretary: Tom Marsh, 14 Sopwell Lane, St Albans, Herts., AL8 8RR) held an Anglo-Austrian Stamp Exhibition in London. The special postmark encouraged readers to VISIT VIENNA FOR WIPA MAY 1980. In Geneva, the U.N. Postal Administration has extended its good wishes (rather selectively, one might feel) to all collectors of U.N. stamps.





Rare Stamp Gallery

(Continued from page 909)

able Hugh Fraser, Secretary of State for air, 1962-64; Maxwell Joseph; A. Ronald Butler, President of the Royal Philatelic Society; John Marriott, Philatelic Adviser to the Queen; Rigo de Righi, Curator of the National Postal Museum; General Sir Leonard Atkinson; Leslie Phillips, the actor; Adam Faith, former pop star now film actor; and Sam Costa.

Savoy Luncheon

At a luncheon afterwards held at the Savoy Hotel, among the distinguished speakers were Sir William Barlow, Post Office Chairman, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Fraser PC., MBE., MP., Howard O. Fraser, Chairman of Stanley Gibbons International Ltd., and A. Ronald Butler, FRPSL., RDP., President of the Royal Philatelic Society.

PHILATELIC HISTORY

REBEL ANGUILLA

Twenty years ago, on 27 July 1971, the Anguilla Act passed through the British Parliament and restored full British control over this tiny Caribbean island which, on 30 May 1967, had unilaterally seceded from the former colony of St Christopher - Nevis-Anguilla for political reasons. A remarkable period of postal history followed. Here the full story is recalled by Kenneth F. Chapman whose contacts with an on-the-spot observer have unearthed new facts incorporated in this definitive account of philatelically historic events.

BRITISH associations with the Caribbean island of Anguilla go back to 1650. Much of the time since, Anguilla has been under the control of St Christoher but it was not named on any stamps until the Legislative Council was appointed for St Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla in 1952, thus bringing Anguilla firmly within the colony's constitution.

The post-World War II restructuring of the old British Empire led many colonies to complete independence but, in1967, this particular colony opted for becoming a 'statehood in association with Great Britain.' At least, that was the pronouncement from the seat of Government, Basseterre, in St. Christopher. The component part of Nevis went along with this but the fiercely anglophile Anguillans rejected the idea and demanded to remain a colonial dependency of the Mother Country. This St. Christopher would not accept. Distant Anguilla had been neglected by the St Christopher Government who, however, refused to let it go.

Forthwith all communications with Anguilla ceased: no commerce, no postal service, no anything: except that a squad of policemen were despatched 70 miles across the ocean to restore law and order in Anguilla which, on 30 May 1967, had declared its independence.

The unfortunate guardians of the law were repulsed on arrival and had to return with mission unaccomplished.

Led by their elected provisional President, Peter Adams, and Council Chairman, Ronald Webster, the rebellious Anguillans set about looking after themselves. On an island totalling 35 square miles and with a population approaching 4,000, they first developed closer contacts with their near neighbours on the 6 mile distant French/Dutch island of St Martin/St Maarten and the 20 miles away island of St. Thomas, one of the U.S. Virgin Islands group.

INTERIM POSTAL PERIOD

The period between 30 May 1967 and the issue of overprinted Independence stamps on 4 September has not previously been dealt with in the philatelic press. A letter from G. Kenneth Harrigan, the Anguillan postmaster at that time, to Reginald C. Coleman, a Briton, then resident in St. Thomas and known in philatelic circles as the one-time proprietor of the Federal Stamp Co. of the then Southern Rhodesia, helps to fill the gap.

Postmaster Harrigan (writing on 18 August 1969), said his recollection was that immediately following the UDI event of 30 May 1967, normal St Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla stamps were still on sale but the public demand dropped when it was realised that mail was not leaving the island for transmission via St. Christopher in the normal way. At the end of June an official visit to Marigot in French St. Martin sought to establish a route both outward and inward for Anguilla mails through Marigot. The French Post Office on St. Martin refused to accept letters franked with overprinted St Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla stamps and those imprinted by the Valley WI Anguilla - Postage handstamp (described in Postal Markings section).

A little later a quantity of French stamps was imported into Anguilla and were sold by the Post Office for franking letters which were conveyed by boat to Marigot. Any of these covers still existing, franked with French stamps and cancelled at the Valley Post Office in Anguilla by the TRD handstamp (once again, see Postal Markings), must represent a most interesting phase of Anguillan postal history and, incidentally, be considerable rarities in their own right.

Individuals were also known to have used U.S. and Netherlands Antillies stamps on letters forwarded privately by boat to St. Thomas and St. Martin respectively but none of these stamps was sold in the Anguilla Post Office.

Mr. Harrigan concluded his letter by saying that the first official despatch of international mail through St. Thomas for inclusion in the U.S. mail system was on 4 September 1967. On that day were issued stamps from the carefully preserved stock of colonial definitive stamps which had been overprinted Independent Anguilla with a black bar obliterating the original St Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla inscription.

THE INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA OVERPRINTS

The overprinting was done by the Island Press Inc. in St. Thomas from type supplied by the locally published daily newspaper "Home Journal". William Bracken, manager of the Island Press Inc. confirmed that overprinting was done in panes of 25 and that there were two settings: one for the horizontal stamps and one for the vertical. After difficulties caused by the sheet margins, these were all stripped away before overprinting to ensure that the overprint fell accurately on each stamp in the pane.

Nine panes were spoilt, including two of the $5 value on which the overprint was inverted. These were immediately destroyed under official supervision. The quantities supplied to the Anguilla Post Office were:

1/2c, 3,050; 1c, 2,800; 2c, 4,250; 3c, 3,600; 4c, 3,450; 5c, 2,475; 6c, 2,575; 10c, 4,100; 15c, 3,200; 20c, 2,800; 25c, 2,575; 50c, 175; 60c, 100; $1, 175; $2.50, 225; $5, 225. From these quantities many of the $1, $2.50 and $5 stamps were kept back for fiscal use on court orders, property transfers and other legal documents (as reported by Gale J. Raymond who visited Anguilla in November 1967).

A total of 200 aerogrammes were also overprinted, this time with Independent Anguilla in capital letters. Of these 100 were the 5c local rate (to St. Christopher) and 100 were the 15c overseas rate. This overprinting was done by the Ace Printery of St. Thomas. As St. Christopher was out of bounds, most of the 5c aerogrammes were used with the addition of a 10 cents adhesive overprinted stamp.

The formes of overprint type were reported by Mr. Bracken as having been destroyed in the presence of three witnesses once all the stock had been overprinted.

A SCOOP FOR "THE TIMES"

First news of these rebel overprints published in Great Britain came from "The Times" in London which, in mid-September 1967, reported the receipt by one of its staff of the current St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla aerogramme with the overprint. The cancellation was that of Valley, Anguilla, dated 5 September. A day or so later, Clifford Rayner, the London stamp dealer, was offered a cover with one of each of the 4c, 6c, 10c and 20c overprinted stamps, the total of 40c being correct for the minimum weight air mail.

"The Times" concluded its report on the aerogramme with: "Depending on how many have been issued, its philatelic future is bound to the island's political fate. If Anguilla wins independence then it will acquire rarity value as an interesting forerunner of legally issued stamps. If not, it will be condemned to curio value only.

"As a stamp it seems to be officially worthless. Because Anguilla is not a member of the Universal Postal Union (she is represented indirectly through St. Kitts and Britain), it has no international status as an Anguillan stamp, and is avowedly no longer a St Kitts-

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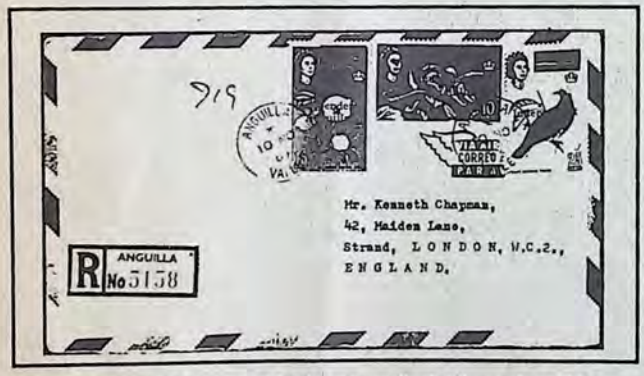
Nevis-Anguilla issue. My colleague was lucky not to pay double on the air letter's arrival."

Despite the uncertainty as to the status of the issue, by mid-October, complete sets of the overprinted stamps were being quoted at up to £800, although the report did not specify mint or used.

RATIONING THE PROVISIONALS

The Anguillan leaders clearly realised that their rebel stamps would not last long if the public (especially the stamp trade), were allowed to buy freely and so a complete ban on the sales of mint stamps was enforced. The local public paid cash over the counter and the stamps were put on the envelopes by the Post Office staff.

One report in "Stamp Collecting" (2 November 1967), stated that the only mint overprints to leave the island were those submitted to the UPU for record purposes. This was a bit cheeky. Not only was Anguilla not a member of the UPU but the normal UPU distribution for record purposes is over 500 copies of each stamp, that is, more



Registered letter posted at Valley, Anguilla 10 November 1967: delivered in London on 15 November. Franking is 10c, 15c and 25c of the provisional overprints. The registration label was from the pre-rebellion stock.

than actually existed for some values. The probability is that no more than four or five sets were submitted to Berne at the most.

As the story unfolded, it was revealed that a firm of London stamp wholesalers, John Lister Ltd., had advanced the cost of the overprinting and were subsequently repaid by the Anguilla Post Office. This gesture of goodwill did not gain Listers any advantage concerning mint provisionals but it did lead to the firm being appointed as agents for the design and printing of all subsequent definitive and commemorative stamps, the contract being awarded in spite of American, French and German competition for a certain money-spinner.

Reg Coleman, as a resident of St. Thomas, was in a good position to observe how the provisional stamps were regarded by the public of the neighbouring islands. There was considerable commercial mail between St. Thomas and Anguilla and although Mr. Coleman begged of his friends any covers with provisional stamps, he found that most of the recipients were loathe to pass on their addresses on the envelopes to people unknown to them. Some tore the envelopes around the stamps and others either clipped them out, but damaging perforations when doing so, or tried to peel the stamps off cover, dry. Mr. Coleman reckoned that somewhat less than 50% of these used stamps survived intact. Very few of the provisionals were used internally in Anguilla in view of the long tradition that such letters were normally passed on by hand.

OUTWARD MAILS

The normal pre-rebellion route for outgoing international mail was via St. Christopher but this service was suspended as from 30 May. In view of family ties between Anguilla and St. Christopher, one concession was granted. Lister's man, the late John King, is quoted in "Stamp Collecting" (2 November 1967) as saying that the Basseterre Post Office in St. Christopher was prepared to accept mail franked with independence overprints for delivery locally in Basseterre alone. Only mail franked with the normal definitives (not, of course, available in Anguilla). was forwarded internationally because the St. Christopher Government argued the overprint had invalidated the UPU status of the basic stamps.

Ronald Webster and his Council turned to the Postmaster at St. Thomas for help. With U..S Government approval, he agreed to accept mail franked with the overprints and once it was within the U.S. mail system, the UPU turned a blind eye to the illegal status of the stamps.

The system worked well. Registered letters posted at air mail rates at the Valley Post Office took only five days for delivery in London.

COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OPINION

Quite apart from any local arrangement between Anguilla and St. Thomas, there was a wider legal aspect to the whole affair. Technically, Anguilla was still part of the new Statehood since the Basseterre Government did not recognise the UDI claim. To clarify the situation the Commonwealth Office in London issued a statement in November, 1967. This said categorically that the Council in Anguilla was a self-appointed body without constitutional authority and neither its acts nor its stamps were legal. The statement continued that while St. Christopher, as a State in Association held membership of the UPU through Great Britain, Anguilla on its own did not, although representations to do so were then in process.

On the other hand, the Commonwealth Office stated, since St. Christopher had denied postal facilities - and stamps - to Anguilla, the 4,000 population, out on a limb about 70 miles from St. Christopher, had felt it right to produce its own stamps. There had been no need to overprint the supplies that were on hand although the political reason for doing so could be understood.

This is of philatelic interest in that the overprints - as non-Governmental - might well have been omitted from Gibbons Catalogue. In the event, Gibbons took the charitable view (engendered, perhaps, by the Commonwealth Office stance) and the Anguilla overprints are now firmly in place as SG Nos. 1-16.

MAIL INTO ANGUILLA

Getting mail into Anguilla would have been impossible but for, once again, United States Post Office help. Since Basseterre refused to forward to Anguilla any mail received through the customary channels, Anguilla was forced to act in its own interest.

Reg Coleman explained the position in "Stamp Collecting" (2 November 1947). To start with, mail originating on the U.S. mainland and addressed to Anguilla was routed to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, thus avoiding the normal route through Basseterre, and then flown to Anguilla. Some Anguillan residents used post office box addresses in neighbouring St Martin/St Maarten and arranged for their mail to be taken by private boat to Anguilla.



Inward mail from St. Thomas, flown by Anguilla Airways.

Local mail from St. Thomas for Anguilla was franked, as normally with U.S. stamps and taken to the St. Thomas airport where Anguilla Airways (operators of two six-seater Piper Aztec aircraft) accepted the mail, cancelling the stamps with an Anguilla Airways handstamp in either red or black (depending on the most handy inking pad!) before making the short flight to Anguilla.

U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Postal matters apart, the unofficial Government of Anguilla soon required help from outside to keep going. Reporting from St. Thomas in October 1967, Reg Coleman wrote: "St Thomas has a high alien

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pulation from the British West ndies, including a great number of workers from Anguilla. As a result of this, many thousands of U.S. dollars were donated by U.S. residents in the U.S. Virgin Islands for the purchase of urgent medical supplies for Anguilla. TV broadcasts covered many appeals to contribute to the medical fund, while also making it clear that the U.S. islands were not taking political sides. With supplies cut off by St. Christopher, there is no doubt that the U.S. Virgin Islands' population helped greatly in this humanitarian need.

BRITISH MILITARY AND POLITICAL MOVES

When it became evident that Anguilla was determined to remain fully British, the Westminster Government despatched a military detachment styled Land Force Anguilla, whose task was to quell the riot and restore order pending a political solution. The troops were conveyed to the island by HMS "Minerva" and Reg Coleman was in Anguilla when she arrived. He duly reported: "The island's rum punches and general hospitality were greatly enjoyed by members of the ship's crew and shared by my wife and self during our week on the island whilst covering the situation for Stamp Collecting. Indeed a first class riot enjoyed by all."

The first political move was the arrival of a British parliamentary delegation consisting of Nigel Fisher (Conservative) and Donald Chapman (Labour), together with a staff member of the Commonwealth Relations Office at the end of 1967. The delegation was to investigate, in detail, the wish of the Anguillans for colonial status rather than be part of the St. Christopher 'Statehood'.

By 1969 a British Commissioner had been appointed to run the island's affairs. From 1971 onwards, Anguilla's stamps incorporated the phrase "HM Commissioner in Anguilla" in all definitive and commemorative stamp designs. This underlined Anguilla's provisional independence from St. Christopher and its new status under direct rule from Great Britain.

The final legal break from St. Christopher and Nevis came in 1980 and was marked on 18 December 1980 by a "Separation 1980" overprint on a long run of stamps up to the $10 value. This was not the first time Anguilla had fought for independence. A pictorial commemorative issue for the 1980 event included an 18 cents stamp illustrating an earlier petition for separation which had been submitted on 10 March 1825.

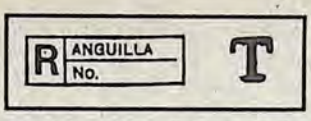
From December 1980 onwards the HM Commissioner reference was omitted from all Anguillan stamps and, pro tem, the island became a British dependency, pending the grant of a new constitution which was eventually proclaimed in 1982. This provided for a Governor, an Executive Council, comprising four elected members with the Attorney-General and Permanent Secretary (Finance) as ex-officio members. An "eleven member" legislative House of Assembly was also set up under a presiding Speaker. Anguilla had finally become fully British and on her own. Strangely, this important occasion was not commemorated philatelically.

POSTAL MARKINGS

Anguilla has always had just one post office, that at Valley, where all mail is cancelled before despatch. There are three other collection points - at West End, East End and South Hill - but so few people use the letter boxes provided they are only cleared occasionally. At the time of the rebellion in 1967, less than two dozen letters a year were posted for internal delivery.

The events of 1967 generated several interesting civilian postal markings, some being cancellation handstamps and others serving specific purposes. The fullest account of these was by Stan Durnin in the April 1969 issue of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal of the (American) British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. G. Kenneth Harrigan, already a postal employee under the St. Christopher's regime, was appointed as Anguilla's postmaster on Independence (1967), and remained until 1974. He gave Mr. Durnin a free run of all available handstamps, at the same time explaining that all records prior to 1955 were virtually non-existent following the destruction of the old Post Office by a hurricane.

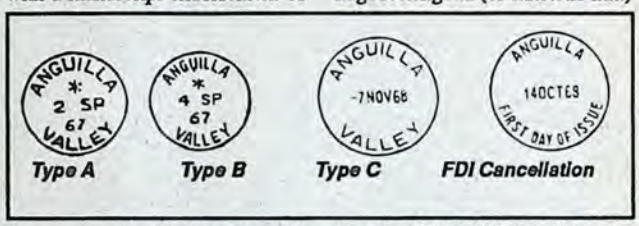
Apart from those already in use, the handstamps described here were made for the breakaway Government by Impresos Modernos Inc., Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, who also provided handstamps for the "newly independent" police, registrar and Customs departments. They were delivered to the Anguillan provisional President, Peter Adams, on 30 June 1969.



Registered handstamp to be completed manually with serial number and the "T" handstamp

Registration. Early Independence registered covers bear an adhesive serially numbered registration label. These were quickly exhausted and about April 1968 a handstamp (illustrated), was brought into use, a serial number being inserted in manuscript.

Postage Due. A "T" (i.e. Taxe) handstamp was provided for use with a manuscript endorsement of the amount due, but is very rarely seen on cover.



Type A ***Type B*** ***Type C*** ***FDI Cancellation***

Date Stamps. Already available in the Valley Post Office were two identifiable single circle dated handstamps. Type A - wide lettered - was first known used 6 March 1928 (according to Durnin) and to have been withdrawn from use on 2 September1967, that is, two days before the issue of the Independence overprints. Type B - narrow lettered, is known used on 8 February 1949 and was withdrawn on Saturday 25 November 1967. Type C - larger, but thinner lettering was first used on Monday, 27 November 1967.

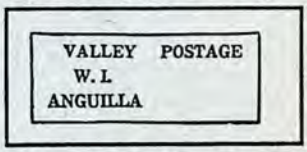
(For philatelic purposes a First Day of Issue dated handstamp inscribed Anguilla [note, no "Valley"], was first used for FDC's of the Birds definitive issue on 18 July 1968 and, of course, was used for subsequent new issues with an appropriate change of date.)



The unloved "Statehood" TRD, scrapped after 30 May 1967.

Temporary Rubber Date Stamp. Following the granting of Statehood to the colony, and prior to the Anguilla breakaway, there arrived from Basseterre, St. Christopher, on 27 February 1967, a double-circle (40mm diameter) TRD inscribed "State of St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla" round the edge with "Anguilla" horizontally above the moveable date. This handstamp went into service on 1 March 1967 and has not been seen dated later than 28 March 1967. The growing urge for independence from the unwelcome new State probably lessened its use: and from the declaration of UDI on 30 May, this handstamp was withdrawn.

Blank Frank. One of the most interesting handstamps was the large rectangular (65 mm x 25 mm) inscribed Valley WI Anguilla at the right and Postage at the left. This was used post-May 1967 whenever stamps were in short supply, the amount of postage paid by the sender in cash being either punched in by a numbering machine (the numerals being without c or $), or added in manuscript when, normally, the c for cents is expressed; or the word cents is in full.



The blank frank before the machine-applied postage paid or a manuscript addition.

A letter from the publisher of the weekly Anguillan newsheet, "The Beacon", to the Editor of "Stamp Collecting" on 6 January 1968, with manuscript "26 cents" endorsement and was delivered in London on 11 January, having been routed through St. Thomas. Durnin states that this frank was first used in July 1967, i.e., prior to the issue of the overprints but when (following UDI on 30 May), no further supplies of the basic definitives could be expected from St. Christopher.

Large SCD. The large single circle date stamp (50 mm diameter) inscribed "Valley Post Office" and "Anguilla WI" was little used. It was intended for use as a cancellor. Durnin states it was first used in July 1967 and was only used to

PHILATELIC HISTORY



Very Infrequently used by favour.

favour on two or three occasions. However, an article by Ernst T. Theimer in "The American Philatelist" includes an illustration of the blank frank ("25" added by machine), cancelled by this 50 mm marking on cover from Anguilla to St. Thomas by air on 30 June 1967.

ANGUILLA

Mail bag "tag" marker.

Mail Bag Marker. The final post marking supplied from Puerto Rico was a single Anguilla (60 mm) straight line handstamp not meant as a cancellor. It is known used in April 1969 on mail bag tags indicating the place of origin of the mail.

For internal office use only there was an oval rubber handstamp inscribed "Department of



The Anguilla W.1. office hand stamp.

Posts" and "Anguilla W1", the curious error (which went uncorrected), which should have been "WI" (for West Indies).

FORCES POSTAL SERVICES

As with any military expedition, Land Force Anguilla was given its own postal facilities. British Forces Post Office 643 was the unit's official address. It was first served by Field Post Office 1046 which operated aboard HMS "Minerva".

Gale J. Raymond, a leading American student of military posts, visited Anguilla in February 1971. He reported that FPO 1046 had functioned until 27 December 1970 when HMS "Minerva" left for other duties.

The following day, 28 December, Field Post Office 701 took over. FPO 701 operated from Antigua, the postal unit on Anguilla being a sub-office which also used 701 for identification.

Certain complications arose during the British Postal Strike of February-March 1971. During the strike, letters from friends and relatives in Great Britain addressed to any overseas BFPO had to be handed in at BFPO Headquarters at Mill Hill, London, from where it was taken by the Army Postal Service to RAF airfields for world-wide distribution and delivery, including, of course, FPO701 in Anguilla.

Military personnel and British civilians working for the Army could normally use the Army Postal Service for private mail to any part of the world, although all letters were passed to the Post Office in London for ultimate delivery. The strike meant that letters would get no further than London and, in these circumstances, the soldiers used the Anguillan postal service for inward and outward mail other than to or from Great Britain.

An outward parcel service was also organised for personnel in Anguilla. Gale Raymond's researches revealed that a Forces Post Office Parcel Post handstamp, FPO 143, was used by FPO 1046 (the "Minerva"-based office) but had been retained by FPO 701 for possible similar use in the future. With the rectangular Parcel Post Killer was also a single ring Forces Post Office 143 dated handstamp.



Parcel Post Cancellation. Forces (not "Field") Post Office 143 and the FPO 143 c.d.s in the post Minerva period.

FORGERIES

Rare provisional overprints invariably interest philatelic forgers and the Independent Anguilla stamps were no exception.

The best article on this less savoury aspect of the subject was by R. C. Coleman and R. A. Ramkissoon in "The American Philatelist" (reprinted in "Stamp Collecting", 20 April 1972). These writers traced the sale of up to 30 sets of the basic St Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla definitives to an individual who took them to Antigua, where a local printer applied a forged overprint.

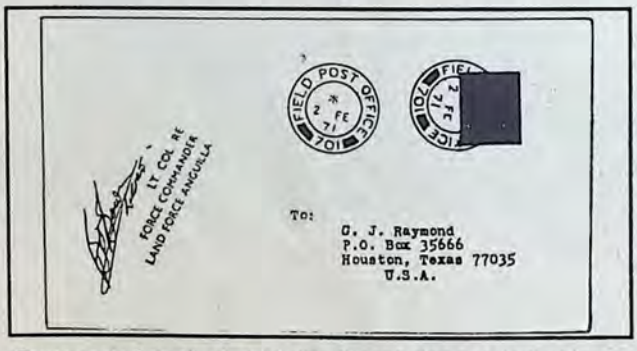
The type, although not identical, was a close match to the genuine Island Press overprint. However, there was an incredible error on all the horizontal design stamps on which the overprint read vertically upwards in two lines instead of horizontally. It was simply that the ill-primed printer had inserted all values the same way up in the press with the forme of type set for vertical designs. Thus the 1c, 4c, 6c, 10c, 20c and $2.50 forged stamps received a non-existent overprint. Another fault was that the blocking out of the original inscription was by hand instead of inked lead-type blanks.

Reg Coleman alerted the Anguillan Post Office who called in Scotland Yard. An arrest was made, a charge brought and a conviction secured, the culprit being fined a nominal $250 (East Caribbean).

A second, and more dangerous, forgery also exists. The Coleman-Ramkissoon team reported that the overprint this time was accurately positioned on all values. Two minor variations from the genuine are clues to the forgeries. The curved bottom of the letter 't' is much blunter in the forgeries and the horizontal member of the letter 'e' is higher on the genuine than in the forgery. Finally, the spacing between the lines of forged type is a good millimetre wider than in the genuine.



A cover from FPO 1046 aboard Minerva. Note the G.B. Machin stamp which correctly franks the letter to St. Thomas. The mail was taken ashore and then picked up by Anguilla Airways.



Cover posted at the Anguilla land-based FPO 701 (Sub-office to Antigua).

A BOGUS ISSUE

Gale Raymond reported the existence of an entirely bogus issue for Anguilla. The design is said to be two mermaids supporting a large conch shell.

Printed in the United States for, as Raymond put it, a misguided Anguillan, these labels were offered to the Anguillan Post Office free of charge. Postmaster Kenneth Harrigan has stated firmly that none of these labels was ever cancelled in Anguilla. Some of these imposters were later circulating on the New York stamp market but found few buyers because of the well-documented history of the genuine provisionals and later definitives.

In view of the fascinating background to the Independent Anguilla overprints and their tacit acceptance by post offices around the world. Anguilla's post- Independence issues are a disappointment to many who would otherwise have built up a collection

BY KENNETH CHAPMAN

STAMP MAGAZINE MARCH 1992

Anguilla

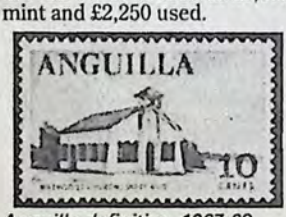
On September 4 the Caribbean island of Anguilla celebrates the 25th anniversary of its first stamp issue. The island has been British since 1650 and the tercentenary was commemorated in 1950 by overprinting six of the contemporary St Kitts-Nevis definitives — 1d,1½d, 2½d, 3d, 6d and 1s — ANGUILLA/TERCENTENARY/1650-1950.

A map of the island was featured on the £1 St Kitts-Nevis definitive of 1948 and on the $2.40 of the St Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla series of 1954-57. In the 1963 series the ½c showed Sombrero lighthouse, the 20c depicted boat building in Anguilla and the $2.50 featured a map of the island.



Independent Anguilla overprint on St Christopher Nevis Anguilla 2c of 1963.

In February 1967 the islands of St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla were granted Associated Statehood, but Anguilla, fearing domination from Basseterre, seceded in May and asked to become a United States territory. The United States Government refused the request and Anguilla returned to its previous status, but following a referendum declared its independence and on September 4 overprinted the 1963 St Christopher Nevis Anguilla series 'Independent/Anguilla', with a thick bar deleting the old names. Values from 50 cents upwards are very rare and Stanley Gibbons price the full set of sixteen at £8,000 mint and £2,250 used.



Anguilla definitive, 1967-68, 10c.

A new definitive series of 15 was issued between November 27, 1967 and March 21, 1968.

On January 9, 1969, Anguilla re-affirmed its independence and overprinted new definitives INDEPENDENCE/JANUARY 1969. The following month British Forces occupied the island to restore it to colonial rule. A British Commissioner was appointed and, in 1976, an Executive Councillor *ex-officio*. Stamp issues made between 1971 and 1981 were all inscribed 'H.M. COMMISSIONER IN ANGUILLA', following the passing of the Anguilla Act of July 27, 1971 which restored it to direct British control.

On December 18, 1980, the links with St Kitts-Nevis were officially severed and the definitives were overprinted SEPARATION 1980. A commemorative set of five (SG443/447) and a miniature sheet (MS448) were also issued to mark the occasion.

In the past 25 years some 900 stamps have been issued by Anguilla on a wide variety of subjects.

ANGUILLA REMEMBERS WINSTON CHURCHILL













IN common with many stamp-issuing territories in the British Commonwealth—and outside it—Anguilla is issuing commemoratives marking the centenary of the birth of Sir Winston Churchill. The expected release is " towards the end of May ". There will also be a souvenir sheet incorporating all six stamps. The issue consists of the six stamps illustrated above. They were designed by R. Granger-Barnett and printing was by Questa Colour Security Printers Ltd.

The Anguilla Administration are supporting the Churchill Centenary Trust, who are responsible for the current Churchill Exhibition at Somerset House, and a quantity of the stamps and souvenir sheets are to be sold for the benefit of the Trust.

The values and designs are: **1c.**, Churchill at Downing Street (1954) after meeting the U.S. Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles; **20c.**, President Roosevelt and Churchill at Quebec (1943); **25c.**, A "siren-suited" Churchill making a war-time broadcast to the British nation; **40c.**, Blenheim Palace, Churchill's birthblace; **60c.**, The Churchill Statue in Parliament Square, London; **$1·20**, Churchill's country home, Chartwell, in Kent.

NEXT WANSFELL COLLEGE COURSE

The third in the series of week-end residential philatelic courses, co-ordinated by the Chelmsford and District P.S. and run on behalf of the Essex Education Authority at Wansfell College, Theydon Bois, Essex, takes place on November 8th–10th.

Speakers booked for the course include Air Marshal Horsley (Postal Reform), Ian Glassborow of H. R. Harmer Ltd. (Auctioneering), A. J. Branston (Fournier and Jeffreys Forgeries), H. Mears of Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. (Line-Engraved Stamp Printing), Mr. Ineson (Mafeking Siege) and Miss Alma Grunberg (Thematic Collecting).

Applications for the course (£7·20 each student) should be addressed to the Principal, Wansfell College, Theydon Bois, Epping, Essex.

GUYANA'S U.P.U. CENTENARY ISSUE

Guyana will issue a four-value set on June 18th to mark the U.P.U. centenary. The two designs were prepared by R. Savory, and adapted by Harrisons who are printing the issue in lithography: panes of 25 on Lotus Blossom Bud watermark: **8c.** and **40c.**, reproduction of 1874 British Guiana; **25c.** and **50c.**, Guyanese postman cyclist.

SALES OF 1973 B.P.E. SOUVENIR SHEET

Of the B.P.E. souvenir sheet for 1973—a die proof in blue of the Seahorses design—6,682 were sold or given to supporters (such as stewards and other workers). A special printing in red was made for presentation to exhibitors, those who attended the Exhibition dinner, members of the Jury and the Council. None of these latter was sold.

Each colour was produced in three states: (*a*) In plate blocks of four; (*b*) In single item form overprinted " SPECIMEN " in the lower right-hand corner. The colours used were RED on the blue souvenir and BLACK on the red. (*c*) In single item form.

There were ten sheets in plate blocks of four in each colour. None of these was placed on sale, sheets being earmarked for specific collections such as the Queen's Collection, the Royal Philatelic Society Collection, and the National Postal Museum Collection. There are ten items in each colour overprinted "Specimen" and allocated as for the plate blocks of four. All remainders have been destroyed.

The net revenue from the sale of blue die proofs was just over £1,600, described in the Chairman's report on the 1973 B.P.E. as " a critical item in the Exhibition's budget ".

The exhibition attracted an attendance of just over 5,000, approximately the same as in 1972, and the summary of accounts shows a deficit of £1,084.

The Postal Services and Stamp Issues of Anguilla

THIS story is not only of interest in itself, but is closely linked to the history and constitutional events affecting Anquilla over the past two decades, and hence provides an interesting background to those years. The story started in 1861 when Nevis, which was administred separately from St. Christopher, issued its first postage stamps leaving St. Christopher, (which at that time administered Anguilla) then to issue its own stamsp in 1870. In 1882 St. Christopher (together with Anguilla) was formally united with Nevis to form the Presidency of St. Christopher Nevis, and the first St. Kitts/Nevis postage stamps were issued with three designs only, the head of Queen Victoria, a picture of Christopher Columbus, (the discoverer of St. Kitts) and a view of the medicinal spring of Nevis. It was not until 1952 that the first stamps to bear the words St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla were issued, when the name of the Presidency was officially changed to include Anguilla.

In 1904, the first Post Office in Anguilla opened in The Valley, remaining the only post office in use for 23 years. In 1927, four sub-post offices were proclaimed at The Forest, East End, The Road and Blowing Point. Unfortunately, little business resulted, and in 1931 these sub-post offices were closed, leaving the Valley Post Office once again the only one in Anguilla, though in later years a travelling branch post office was initiated.

During this period the stamp issues of St. Kitts/Nevis (and Anguilla after 1952) did little to publicise Anguilla. They portrayed a map of Anguilla in the 1938 Definitive set, carried an Anguilla tercentenary (1650-1950) commemorative set in 1950, and included another map and a view of the first Sombrero Lighthouse (built in 1868) in the 1952 definitive set. The 1963 definitive set included an Anguillan boat-building scene, yet another map of Anguilla and a view of the second Sombrero Lighthouse (completed in 1962).

In 1958, when the short-lived West Indies Federation was formed, Anguilla, which for a long time had been discontented with its subordinate role in the St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla relationship, formally petitioned for "a dissolution of the present political and administrative association of Anguilla with St. Kitts" but to no avail. She remained part of the St. Kitts/Nevis grouping, together with that unit formed a part of the West Indies Federation from 1958-1961 and reverted with St. Kitts/Nevis to Crown Colony status in 1962.

When, in the late 1960s Britain began to negotiate a new form of Association (short of actual independence) for her smaller colonies in the West Indies it became clear that St. Kitts had little sympathy for any semi-autonomous role for Anguilla. Hence, when the new Associated State of St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla formally came into being on 27th February, 1967 Anguilla decided herself to do something about it. She broke away unilaterally from the Associated State, on 30th May, 1967 expelled the force of St. Kitts police on the island, the

(Continued on page 1433)

A selection of recent issues from Anguilla.



Postal Services of Anguilla

(Continued from page 1431)

symbol and power of State authority, and following a referendum in July of that year, declared herself an Independent Republic.

This break with St. Kitts led, of course, to a break in the normal routing of mail to/from Anguilla through St. Kitts. For a time letters were posted through contacts in the neighbouring islands of French and Dutch St. Martin and in the U.S. Virgin Islands, using the stamps of those territories. Later the U.S. Postal Authorities agreed that letters with stamps of St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla could be accepted in St. Thomas (U.S. Virgin Islands) and the local stocks of the St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla 1963 Definitive stamps, ranging from 4,250 copies of the 2c stamp to 100 copies of the 60c stamp were taken to a private printer in St. Thomas where under strict security conditions they were overprinted, "Independent Anguilla" on 4th September, 1967 and then sold for normal use. This set is now very difficult to obtain, and so commands ever-increasing prices in the stamp world.

Meanwhile, there was a political impasse as the problems posed by Anguilla's U.D.I. were discussed by all concerned. Eventually, at the end of 1967, agreement was reached whereby a Senior British Official would be permitted to work with and to advise the Anguillan authorities with a view to reaching some possible agreement over Anguilla's break with St. Kitts. Following this interim agreement, mail services through St. Kitts were again resumed. However, despite the presence of the British Official in Anguilla throughout 1968, no agreement to the main problem could be found, and the official was withdrawn at the end of the year. On 9th January, 1969 Anguilla reaffirmed its independence by overprinting its first definitive stamp issue INDEPENDENCE JANUARY 1969. Again, all postal links with St. Kitts were severed. This overprinted set, which is of great historical interest, was limited to 15,000 copies and can still be obtained, though with some difficulty.

Although Britain now formulated certain proposals, which indicated its desire to ensure that Anguilla was administered in a way acceptable to its people, these proposals came to naught when a senior British Minister, who went to Anguilla to explain these proposals, was forced to leave the island at gunpoint. A week later, on 19th March, 1969, British troops were landed on Anguilla by land and sea in a well organised and efficient operation, and a British Commissioner was installed on the island with wide-ranging powers to maintain public safety and public order. These events attracted worldwide publicity on press and radio. The 1969 overprints were taken out of circulation, but Anguilla's definitive set was permitted to continue in use, as were the five commemorative sets that had already been issued by Anguilla, those of ships, birds, the 35th anniversary of the Girl Guides, Christmas 1968 and Anguilla's salt industry.

It was also decided that Anguilla's stamps should continue to be designed and produced by the London stamp dealers with whom the previous regime had entered into a contract, and a stamp-producing policy was developed to ensure maximum interest in and revenue from Anguilla's stamps without excessive numbers of issues. During 1969 a further five commemorative sets were issued, at Easter and Christmas and on the flowers of the Caribbean, local sea shells and fishes. During 1970, four more commemorative issues were made, at Easter and Christmas, of local flowers and to mark the 40th anniversary of Scouting in Anguilla. A second definitive set of 15 stamps was also issued on 23rd November, 1970.

Meanwhile, negotiations over the political future of Anguilla had continued throughout 1970, the objective being a direct status for Anguilla with Britain, a relationship in which the elected Anguilla Council would be a fully recognised legal constitutional body, and with H.M. Commissioner carrying out his duties in full consultation and co-operation with the Anguillan Council. To this end, the Anguilla Act came into effect on 27th July, 1971 enabling H.M. The Queen to make detailed provision for the administration of Anguilla through a legally appointed Commissioner. The act was to have effect, notwithstanding anything in the West Indies Act of 1967 (which had set up the Associated States). On 4th August, 1971 the Anguilla administration Order came into operation and the stage was now set for a period of orderly constitutional government on the island, with the Commissioner now provided with all the powers he had so long needed and so long lacked.

During this year three further commemorative issues were made before it became possible for the stamps to reflect these constitutional changes, one to celebrate Easter '71 and one on the butterflies of Anguilla, while the third issue portrayed various sea battles in the West Indies. In the light of Anguilla's new constitutional position, it now became possible for the 1971 Chrtistmas issue and for all future issues of Anguilla's stamps to bear the words H.M. COMMISSIONER IN ANGUILLA, together with the Royal Cypher ER, a unique inscription indicating Anguilla's special status, and one which has appeared on all Anguilla's stamps since then.

In 1972 there were the usual commemorative sets to celebrate Easter and Christmas together with an issue depicting old 18th and 19th century maps of Anguilla. The Royal Silver Wedding Anniversary was also commemorated. The same year saw a new definitive set of stamps issued. In 1973 there was the usual Easter issue and an issue dealing with Columbus's discovery of the West Indies. The wedding of HRH Princess Anne to Captain Mark Phillips was also commemorated. The year ended with the Christmas issues. In 1974, apart from the Easter and Christmas issues, there were two centenary issues, relating to the anniversary of the birth of Sir Winston Churchill and of the founding of the Universal Postal Union. In 1974, in addition to the Easter and Christmas issues, there was one special issue to celebrate the Bicentenary of the American Revolution.

Based on information contained in the Government Information Service Monthly Bulletin, prepared by the Department of Information and Broadcasting, Anguilla.

JERSEY–SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS

A machine cancellation will be applied to postings in Jersey from 8th to 21st April on the occasion of the 50th Annual Open Badminton Tournament.

A similar cancellation will publicise the Jersey Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and will be in use during the following dates–1st March to 7th April; 22nd to 30th April and 3rd to 30th June.

Collectors unable to arrange postings locally may forward addressed cocers to PO Box 304, Jersey, Channel Islands, prestamped with Jersey stamps to the value of the appropriate postage plus 2p (ie within Jersey 8p, UK and Guernsey 10p and the rest of the world 12½p). Alternatively, addressed covers will be accepted for stamping and posting if accompanied by a remittance to cover postage charges and a handling fee of 2p per item.

FÄROES 1979 PROGRAMME

March, 25kr. definitive; *May*, Europa 140o., 180o.; autumn (dates and denominations undecided), Children's drawings three values, Faroe flora five values, vending machine booklet, p.s. cards and envelopes.



Pre-1967 Anguilla

RONALD WARD

WHEN in 1967 the island of Anguilla literally hit the headlines of the world's press, it was a new name to the general public, but to collectors of stamps and postal history, particularly of the B.W.I., it did not come as any surprise. They knew where it was, but apart from the 1950 Tercentenary overprints which followed only two years after the 10s. and £1 Anguilla Islands map design of the St. Kitts Nevis series, they probably did not give it much attention. Covers, or even postcards, from the Anguilla portion of this colony were rarely seen, and only die-hard collectors were really concerned about having at least one example in their possession.

From time to time the philatelic press has carried short articles on this particular island, but from the large amount of information and newspaper reports which I have accumulated I can cover its history from its discovery by Columbus in 1493 to the present. From this, a brief outline of its postal history to 1967 has been put together.

Anguilla is the most northerly of the Leeward Islands, being some 60–70 miles south-east of St. Kitts; 19 miles long by 3 miles wide, it has an area of 35 square miles. It has as dependencies The Dogs and neighbouring islets, and a population of five to six thousand, practically all coloured. Industries are stock raising, mainly pigs and goats, and a salt pond which has been worked for over 50 years, the salt being shipped to other West Indian islands. Many of the boats in use are built locally and, since independence, it could be said that frequent stamp issues also constitute an industry!



The Anguilla tercentenary overprint, and a salt pond on the 1952 St. Kitts definitives

The climate is healthy, with a marked absence of malaria and other tropical ailments, even though mosquitos abound. Against this Anguilla lies in the hurricane belt, and in 1960 at least 35% of the island's buildings were destroyed by hurricane "Donna".

The island's name is said to be derived from its resemblance to a snake, or possibly from having been supposed to have been infested with them, and it was discovered by Columbus on his second voyage in 1493. The first British settlement was in 1650, earlier ones being St. Christopher in 1623, followed by Nevis in 1629. In 1689 the inhabitants sought refuge in Antigua, defended by Sir Timothy Thornhill and a detachment of troops, as the French were then very active in the Caribbean. Some Irish convicts were included in the resettlement of the island, and this accounts for some of the surnames found there today.

This article is reprinted from "Caribbeana", the journal of the Roses Caribbean P.S. Based in Yorkshire and Lancashire, the society caters for B.W.I. specialist collectors in the north of England. The secretary is M. D. Watts, 18 Linden Way, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS22 4QU (Phone: Wetherby 3304).

By an Act of the Imperial Parliament in 1781, the British colony known as the Leeward Islands came into being. This geographical designation comprised Anguilla (with Barbuda and Redonda), St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands. Dominica also came under this colony, but was transferred to the Windward Islands on 1st January, 1940. In 1882 St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla were combined into a single presidency, and all the islands ceased issuing their own stamps on 31st October, 1890. The British Virgin Islands recommenced its own issues in 1899, and St. Kitts and Nevis in 1903, but the Leewards issues continued concurrently in all the presidencies until 30th June, 1956, as the Leewards Federation was abolished from the following day.

First Postal Service

It was not until 10th May, 1900 that any trace of a postal service between Anguilla and St. Kitts is found, and in the G.P.O. proof book (Volume 51, Steel) are strikes of duplex "A12" handstamps for use in St. Kitts' villages and the sub-office on Anguilla. The latter is distinguished by the letters "AN" below St. Kitts and above the date. The issue of this handstamp would suggest that the office was either already open or ready for opening as soon as the required equipment, including the handstamp, arrived. No mail of this year has apparently been recorded with examples of the duplex: in fact, none is known prior to 1910, but it is possible that some covers repose in collections without the owner knowing the significance of the "AN".

One very early letter is known, written towards the end of the 18th century, from the wife of a parson, the Rev. Jno. Armstrong, and this gives a very pathetic account of conditions on Anguilla. How letters, which must have been very few, were dealt with for over a century has not yet been traced, nor have any details of any infrequent service between Anguilla and St. Kitts, or even the much nearer St. Thomas, in the American Virgin Islands.

The 1920 *Handbook of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla* by Katherine Janet Burdon states that the Magistrate on Anguilla was also the sub-postmaster under the post office at St. Kitts, the office at Anguilla being situated on Crocus Hill. A chartered sloop took the mails fortnightly to St. Kitts. The office opened daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., but was closed on Saturdays at 1 p.m.

In the early 1920's, possibly in 1921, a large circular date-stamp was issued with a large single "A" below "St. Kitts". The name St. Kitts had no hyphen; the "A", signifying use in Anguilla, was 3¼ mm. high and the same wide. The G.P.O. in Basseterre also used these circular stamps but with the code "C". The recorded examples of the "A"

(Continued on page 277)

stamp are mainly 1924–27, but the duplex with "AN" has been listed as late as January 1925.

Sub-offices

Between this date and 1967 the most interesting aspect of Anguillan postal history has been the opening of further sub-offices on the island; these were enacted by Order-in-Council S.R.O.26 (*c.* 1927) by the Governor of the Leewards, as FOREST, EAST END, THE ROAD and BLOWING POINT. The original sub-office was then apparently renamed ANGUILLA / VALLEY, as several examples are recorded in 1927 with the circular single-ring datestamp so worded; from impressions over the years this was a steel die. The other sub-offices were issued with temporary rubber stamps. How long these were serviceable does not appear to have been reported, but Stan Durnin, writing in *Linn's Weekly Stamp News* (U.S.A.), has recorded EASTEND in one word and "ROAD" without "THE".

These sub-offices were in the Customs Buildings, and the Customs Agents were the sub-postmasters. The Blowing Point (PT in the c.d.s.) customs building was destroyed by fire on the night of 10–11th January, 1969 and the Forest building was partially destroyed by fire and hurricane in 1960.

After 1931 the sub-offices seemed to lapse into obscurity through lack of use. Letters from the island all seem to have the VALLEY handstamp. Some seven years later an English collector obtained a copy of the Leewards Is. Post Offices Guide, and wrote to a correspondent in St. Kitts with the request that specimens from these four offices in Anguilla be sent to him. The reply came back that these offices did not exist and never had! Then Alan Morley of Manchester supplied a copy of the postmark for FOREST, which was sent out to St. Kitts. This clearly surprised the then Colonial Postmaster, who ordered a full-scale enquiry into the matter. This brought to light the actual handstamps for the four offices and the not surprising information that there had been so little demand that they had been closed down. When the facts were placed before the Governor of the Leeward Is., the necessary Order-in-Council was passed by his Privy Council (S.R.O.18/8 Sept. 1939) and the matter officially closed, as well as the offices! Still more surprising, however, is the statement in *Handbook of British Colonial Stamps in Current Use* (Sept. 1939). This work contained historical, geographical and general information obtained from official and other supposedly reliable sources, compiled by Courtney Cade of the Colonial Office and re-published by H.M.S.O. in 1950. It quotes, under the sub-offices of St. Kitts Nevis: "On Anguilla—Blowing Point, East End, Forest, The Road and The Valley."

The next circular datestamp for ANGUILLA/VALLEY is recorded from early 1949; in this the letters are much narrower and there is an asterisk above the date. This datestamp appears to have been used until the Associated Statehood types of March 1967 were introduced.

On 10th November, 1950 six values of the current St. Kitts and Nevis definitives were overprinted in three lines: "ANGUILLA/TERCENTENARY/1650–1950" to commemorate





Anguilla in relation to the other islands

the first British settlement, and it is from this date that covers become more plentiful.

In 1952, recognition of this third island in the presidency came to the fore when the inscription on the new Queen Elizabeth stamps was amended to read "St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla"; the 3c. value bore a map of the whole area showing the positions of the three islands.

Hurricanes have already been mentioned, but not the one in 1955 when the Courthouse which housed the Post Office, Treasury and other local government departments, then situated at Crocus Hill, was severely damaged. The present post office at The Valley was erected in 1961. The *Crown Agents Stamp Bulletin* for October 1965 described the "Postal Service of St. Kitts, Nevis & Anguilla", from which the following is taken:

> "Branch Post Offices include The Valley, which is a Money Order Office controlled by a junior officer of the clerical grade, with two messengers. Air mails are flown to Anguilla about four or five times a week by Leeward Islands Air Transport, and parcel mails at random periods by sailing craft. The officers are Government paid, and the postal service of the territory falls under the Ministry of Communications and Works in Basseterre."

On 27th February, 1967, the three islands became an "Associated State", but this did not please the Anguillans, and on 30th May they seceded from the statehood. Peter Adams, their 56-year-old spokesman, flew from San Juan, Puerto Rico to make the declaration. He asked if they could join the U.S.A., since Britain had not agreed to resume control of Anguilla and grant it a special status, independent of the Federation or State.

From Basseterre had come temporary rubber datestamps for use in the various offices; these came into use on 1st March and were inscribed: "STATE OF ST. CHRISTOPHER / NEVIS ANGUILLA with the name of the office, "ANGUILLA" above the date line. The last date of use was 28th March, 1967. A new steel datestamp in the same format was then introduced.

This brings us to the independent Anguilla story, with adhesive stamps issued on 4th September, 1967. Enough has been said to show that Anguilla already has quite a postal history, but it is necessary to search long and hard for any of the earlier postal markings, and for the comparatively few available there is a keen demand. The writer trusts that the above account will have whetted your appetite, and that in future you will give Anguilla more than just a passing glance

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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT NEXT WEEK

Next week's issue of "Stamp Collecting" will contain a comprehensive 16-page retail price list of the albums, catalogues and accessories held by HARRIS PUBLICATIONS LTD. Every collector will be able to find albums and stockbooks to suit his collection and his pocket. It is the biggest single advertising project ever undertaken in "Stamp Collecting" and will also provide a serious reference work of value to all active philatelists.

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European Guides to London's 1980 (*continued from page 815*)

German Stamp Fair Troubles

Quite unexpectedly, the organisation of RHEIN-RUHR-POSTA, held in the fair halls in Essen from October 29th to November 1st over a German holiday week-end, was a complete shambles, at least on the first day. Dealers, of course, predominated but their stands were often incomplete, or of makeshift appearance, and litter abounded. The exhibits, almost entirely from Germany, were confined mostly to areas of German influence, past or present, and were generally of an inferior standard in quality and interest to those at Milan (though there were honourable exceptions). The Bundespost had a large display of telecommunications, telephones, telex and the like, though what interest that was supposed to have for philatelists no one could satisfactorily explain. A Dutch band often drowned any attempt at speech and daily discussions took place before an audience and cameras (the internal television service making it difficult to avoid) with various persons pontificating at length, solo or in concert.

However, to be fair, the second day was an improvement and the entire area was packed with visitors, so it was clearly what people wanted. This time it was the Crown Agents who were selling the Isle of Man EUROPA set, and the now usual passports were ubiquitous. (One dealer was even offering to sell them serviced at 65DM.) Official black prints of the West German Coal and Steel Community 40 pf. commemorative were on sale together with stamped-to-order postal stationery. One feature where a great improvement over Milan was shown was the consideration given to youth—kiloware floating-off areas and slide shows. As an international fair with more dealer stands than anything it was interesting experiment, no doubt to be repeated, and an certainly most people go to exhibitions to buy what they can. At both exhibitions a two-day trade bourse also took place.

Taking the two exhibitions or fairs together, what conclusions can be drawn? I believe there are two essentials—comfort and interest. Comfort entails good, preferably purpose-built, premises easy of access, compassionate soft floor covering, ample seating arrangements and quality, in-built, refreshment areas. Interest demands many items available *only* at the exhibition—official black prints, stamps, stationery, miniature sheets, cancellations or what have you—fine displays imaginatively presented and perhaps a limit to the number of them. Organisers might remember that big is not always beautiful but, often, only wearisome. As in the best philatelic displays there should be an economic use of words and no extraneous matter. An important area of activity might be set aside for young collectors as at HAFNIA or RHEIN-RUHR-POSTA.

At least our Post Office now seems to realise that if it wants the prestige of a large international stamp exhibition, it must pay for it, economic distress or no.: see last week's page 733!

"Battle for Anguilla" Commemoratives



"La Vaillante" aground off St. Martin

On November 8th Anguilla issued a six-value set of stamps to commemorate the battle for Anguilla in 1796: 1c. Two French Ships, *Le Desius* and *La Vaillante* approaching Anguilla; 3c. A fast-sailing craft leaving Anguilla for Antigua; 15c. H.M.S. *Lapwing* engaging French ships *Le Desius* and *La Vaillante;* 25c. French brig *La Vaillante* forced aground off St. Martin. $1 H.M.S. *Lapwing*, 28 guns—Captain R. Barton; $1·50 Burning of *Le Desius*.

In 1744 Mr. Hodge, then Deputy Governor of Anguilla, went on a marauding expedition with 300 volunteers and two privateers and captured St. Martin. A year later, the French in reprisal came with two frigates, about 700 men, and small craft under the command of M. de la Touche who made the mistake of landing his men at Crocus Bay. The enemy had to ascend what was the most-easily defended terrain on the island. Governor Hodge with a militia of 150 men gallantly resisted this attack from behind a breastwork at a narrow pass and forced the enemy to retreat—with the loss of 32 killed, 25 wounded and 50 prisoners—in less than a quarter of an hour, de la Touche himself being wounded twice.

To avenge this defeat, in November 1796 the revolutionary, Victor Hughes, sent two frigates, *La Vaillante* (10 guns) and the *Le Desius* (26 guns) with 400 men to devastate Anguilla. The French landed at Rendezvous Bay; and the Anguillans made a determined resistance, retreating slowly, until they made their last stand at Sandy Hill Fort. When the defenders' ammunition was exhausted, the fishermen cut off the lead balls from their sprat seines to load the cannon.

A fast sailing ship had been sent to Antigua to seek help and there they found H.M.S. *Lapwing* under Captain Barton who sailed immediately to Anguilla's relief. He was just in time to save the situation, as the town had been captured and burnt. At the sight of the *Lapwing* sailing down the channel between Anguilla and St. Martin, the French re-embarked their troops during the night and set sail. The *Lapwing* engaged them in the channel and forced *La Vaillante* aground on the shores of St. Martin and *Le Desius* struck her colours. Captain Barton took off her crew and the troops and set fire to the vessel.

SPECIAL HANDSTAMPS

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting should bear ½p in excess of the normal postage and should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the town or the relevant district postmaster in London marking the outer cover "Special Handstamps".

"Anniversary of Award of VC to Sqn. Cdr. Bell Davies RN **19 Nov 76.** British Forces **1554** Postal Service", Philatelic Officer, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London NW7 1PX. **Nov. 19th–Feb. 28th**—"Pompeii AD79 an Exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts London W1". "75th Anniversary 1st British Corps **24 Nov 1976** Bielefeld. British Forces **1923** Postal Service". Repostings to Philatelic Officer, 1 (BR) Corps PCCU, RE BFPO 33. "75th Anniversary 1st British Corps **24 Nov 1976** Aldershot. British Forces **1901** Postal Service". Repostings to Philatelic Officer, c/o BFPO Aldershot, HPCCD Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London NW7 1PX. **Nov. 24th–Dec. 23rd**, "A Tonic to the Nation 1951–1976 Victoria and Albert Museum Sth Kensington **London SW7**".

"Lombard RAC Rally City of **Bath 27 Nov 1976**". "Corps of Royal Engineers. 120th Anniversary Royal Engineers Band **30 Nov 76.** British Forces **1525** Postal Service". Repostings to Philatelic Officer, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London NW7 1PK.

GSM April 1999

Catalogue Column

Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue Editor, David Aggersberg, reports

Anguilla 1969 Independent overprint

The island of Anguilla declared itself independent of St Kitts-Nevis on 30 May 1967 and was, eventually, constituted a separate territory by the Anguilla Act of 27 July 1971.

One of the results of the 1967 Declaration was that the postal service via St Kitts was suspended and was not resumed until July 1969. In the meantime incoming and outgoing mail reached the island through various means, principally through the US Virgin Islands.

The current set of St Kitts-Nevis definitives was overprinted 'Independent Anguilla' and issued on 4 September 1967, with a number of the values being worth a considerable amount in mint condition as most were used on mail. These initial surcharges were replaced by a set of 15 definitives during 1967–68. These were printed in Oxford by Alden and Mowbray and showed local views.

On 9 January 1969 these 15 values appeared overprinted in black 'INDEPENDENCE JANUARY 1969' in two lines. There was no apparent political change at this time and, for some reason, this 1969 set of overprints was only available at considerably increased prices to the London stamp trade. Although large first day covers carrying the complete set of 15 overprints were also on offer, at the time there was no evidence of normal postal use from the island where, apparently, the unoverprinted stamps continued to be used. Because of the difficulties of discovering the status of these 1969 overprints they appear as a footnote, rather than a listing, in the *Part 1 (British Commonwealth) Catalogue*.

After 30 years, however, Mr T Harrison of Gorleston has shown me a small cover addressed to Portland in the USA, franked by a single example of the 25c. value with this 1969 overprint. There are no back stamps, but the envelope does carry a local sender's address which, correctly for this period, indicates routing of mail via the US Virgin Islands. What is interesting, however, is that the stamp on the cover is clearly postmarked 11 March 1969, two months after the overprints were said to have been placed on sale locally.

I would be most interested to hear of any other examples of these 1969 'INDEPENDENCE' overprints used on either commercial or personal mail, hopefully with readable postmarks. Mr Harrison's cover cannot have been an isolated example. Were stocks of all, or perhaps just some values sent to the island for postal use some time after the announced date of issue?

ANGUILLA OVERPRINTS WERE LONDON-ADVISED

THE " rebel " island of Anguilla, which has broken off " diplomatic relations " with the erstwhile parent colony of St. Christopher, continues to hit the headlines with news about the overprinted stamps—now being offered at around £1,000 for a complete used set of 16 values.

What has not been revealed before is that John Lister Ltd., the London wholesalers, inspired the overprints and, according to Ronald C. Coleman, an Englishman living on St. Thomas in the neighbouring U.S. Virgin Islands, ordered and paid for the overprinting on behalf of the seven-man Council who run the island*. The Chairman of the Council is Ronald Webster who also ordered approximately 200 St. Kitts aerogrammes to be overprinted.

Mr. William Bracken, manager of the Island Press Inc., of St. Thomas, confirmed that the quantities as published are accurate. He also stated that the overprinting was done by linotype supplied by the *Home Journal* of St. Thomas.

The overprinting was in panes of 25 and two settings of 25 were set up, one for overprinting the horizontal stamps and one for the vertical stamps. To avoid problems connected with the accurate placings of the overprints on the stamps, all sheet margins were stripped before overprinting, all of which was in black.

Nine panes were spoilt during printing, these including two of the $5 which received inverted overprints. These, and the overprint plates, were destroyed in the presence of three witnesses. Mr. Bracken added that this was his firm's first experience of overprinting stamps and that it had proved to be a " very difficult job ".

Agency for Definitives

The Chairman of the Council has stated that a representative of John Lister Ltd. (it was in fact John King) has been acting as " adviser " and Mr. Lister told STAMP COLLECTING WEEKLY that his firm had been appointed philatelic agents to Anguilla. A definitive issue is at the moment being printed in Holland and six values—those most urgently needed for normal postal use—would soon be issued. The six stamps had only 4s. face value. Further values, completing the definitives, were likely to follow in January. Mr. Lister added that his firm was appointed in competition with a German, a French and two American firms.

Postal validity

Mr. King, on his return last week-end from Anguilla, reported on the postal validity of the overprints and postal affairs in general.

A curious position exists. The post offices in Anguilla will only use the overprinted stamps. Mail bearing the stamps is accepted at Basseterre, the St. Christopher capital, as fully stamped if for local delivery but no mail is accepted for forwarding beyond Basseterre. All mail addressed *to* Anguilla through St. Christopher has been held at Basseterre since May 30th. Outward mail from Anguilla, franked with the overprinted stamps, is being sent via St. Thomas, where the U.S. Post Office takes over. The U.S.P.O. has also announced the re-routing of its parcel service to Anguilla so that Basseterre is avoided. Another report says some Anguillans are using French or Dutch stamps and sending and receiving mail through the respective national services by using post office boxes, but that delays are " abnormal ".

It is also confirmed that the overprints were not handled by members of the public posting letters. The stamps are affixed to the letters by the post office staff who also see to their posting so that neither mint, nor unused, stamps are likely to come on the market. The $5 stamp, of which 225 were overprinted, is being used very sparingly and mainly for fiscal purposes. All values are still on sale. The only mint examples which have left the island are those submitted to the U.P.U. for record purposes.

Status

Finally, comes the question of status of the overprints and, in due course, the definitives.

The view of the Commonwealth Office in London is quite clear. The Council in Anguilla is a self-appointed body without constitutional authority and neither its acts nor its stamps are legal.

While St. Christopher, as a " State in Association " has U.P.U. membership through Great Britain, Anguilla (on its own) does not, and representations on this point are in process at Berne.

On the other hand, since St. Christopher denies postal facilities—and stamps—to Anguilla, its 6,000-odd population, out on a limb 70 miles away from St. Christopher, feel it right to provide their own stamps. There was no postal need to overprint the supplies that *were* on hand (or which had been obtained from outside sources?) but the obvious political gesture, was perhaps, to be expected when the " rebellion " broke out and a referendum among the almost 100 per cent negro population resulted in a Gibraltar-proportioned vote in favour of secession from the " statehood " and a declaration of loyalty to Great Britain and the Queen.

Writing from St. Thomas, Mr. Coleman concludes his report thus:—

" It may be of general interest to your readers to learn that St. Thomas has a high alien population from the B.W.I., including a great number of workers from Anguilla. As a result of this, many thousands of U.S. dollars were donated from residents in the U.S. Virgin Islands for the purchase of urgent medical supplies for Anguilla. T.V. broadcasts covered many appeals to contribute to the medical fund, whilst also making it clear that the U.S. islands were not taking political sides. With supplies cut off from St. Christopher, there is no doubt that the U.S. Virgin Island population helped greatly in this humanitarian need. Small wonder that Mr. Webster chose a U.S. firm to undertake his overprint."

* John Lister Ltd have since stated that they advanced the cost of the overprint and have been repaid by the Council.

Slogans for Local Radio Stations

Slogans announcing the start of local radio stations will be in use, standard position, as follow: " From Nov. 8 B.B.C. Radio Leicester V.H.F. 95.05 " at **Leicester**, Nov. 1st to 29th, and " From Nov 22 B.B.C. Radio Merseyside on V.H.F. 95.85 " at **Liverpool**, Nov. 1st to Dec. 9th.

" See the **Christmas** Illuminations December 1st–27th In **Cheltenham** ", **transposed**, Nov. 27th to Dec. 27th.

STAMP COLLECTING

INCORPORATING 'STAMP REVIEW'

Edited by KENNETH F. CHAPMAN

BRITAIN'S PHILATELIC WEEKLY ESTABLISHED 1913

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ANGUILLA—Up to date

By GALE A. RAYMOND, of Houston, Texas

AS a rider to R. C. Coleman's article " A Visit to Anguilla " (STAMP COLLECTING, November 30th, 1967), I report that I, too, have recently been in Anguilla, on church business. Apparently, my visit was a week or so following Mr. Coleman's, for already the postal picture had changed by November 21st–22nd.

I, too, visited the Post Office, and was received most cordially by Postmaster Kenneth Harrigan. Most values of the overprinted set were already sold out, specifically the 5c., 20c., 50c., 60c., and only 25 copies remained of the 25c., 200 copies of the 2c. and 125 copies of the 15c. The remaining lower values ranged from 14 panes of 25 stamps of the 6c. to 60 panes of the 3c. The few remaining $1, $2.50 and $5 stamps, if any remained at all, were in the Administration headquarters safe, and used strictly for fiscal purposes. Virtually, their entire utilisation was payment of revenue fees on deeds, court orders, property transfers, etc. Actual postal usage must have been extremely rare.

I, too, was able to post a few personal letters to friends, but only with special permission. I was able to locate only five copies each of the two air-letter forms. Nosing about the post office, I encountered a large temporary date-stamp (T.R.D.) inscribed " Valley Post Office, Anguilla, W.I.", with the date in one line across the centre, which I was told had not been previously used. Needless to say, it found good use on November 21st, 1967!

I registered very few of my letters, and wished I had registered all of them, as letters bearing the Anguilla stamps have had a tendency to " disappear " in transit through other post offices.

These stamps were not used for postage due purposes, as the few arriving short-paid articles were delivered normally, without comment or surcharge. By now, November 27th, 1967, first day covers of the new six-stamp Anguilla definitive set are undoubtedly freely available. As this is written (*on December 4th*, 1967), I have no word of the final disposition of the overprinted remainders. A large straight-line marking reading " Anguilla " was on a desk, but had no postage usage, according to the Postmaster. The current c.d.s. was a neat postmark in clean sharp letters; a slightly larger c.d.s. with much larger lettering " disappeared " in June, and any Anguilla overprinted stamps bearing this particular early c.d.s. might be questioned as to postmark point of origin. A completely new large c.d.s. went into use on first day covers of the new stamps.

As a matter of interest, there are no other sub-post offices on the island. However, there are collecting stations at West End, East End and South Hill. At each of these places there are some rather old collection boxes; however, no-one ever posts any letters in them, according to Postmaster Harrigan, who has them checked every few months, just in case. He says that there are less than two dozen letters a year posted on the island for internal delivery.

Unofficial Labels

I was particularly intrigued on St. Thomas to hear of certain Anguilla stamps depicting two mermaids supporting a large conch shell. On Anguilla I was told a number of these labels were printed in the United States for a misguided Anguillan. Although offered gratis to the Anguillan Government, these labels were not accepted, and Postmaster Harrigan very strongly affirmed that none had ever been or would be cancelled at his post office. I later heard these " labels " somehow found their way to the New York stamp market.

Further, regarding the overprinted stamps, it is understood that some few mint values somehow escaped to the philatelic world. On St. Thomas I was shown a nice handful of used examples from personal mail, each carefully snipped from the cover—perforations and all! Every stamp was totally useless to a collector. Later, however, on another nearby island, I located and acquired a few non-philatelic covers. Although I encountered at least three serious stamp collectors on the island, one receiving an English stamp journal, the population for the most part was totally uninterested in any matters philatelic. As customary over many years, much of the mail was still travelling " by hand " between the islands, or posting arranged in St. Thomas with United States stamps, for various reasons.

ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE!

The special January Sales Number of " STAMP COLLECTING " will appear on January 18th, and the FINAL copy date for this issue is WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3rd.

This is the last issue for which the copy date has been brought forward. We would like to thank advertisers for their promptness in meeting copy dates during December, thus permitting our printers to have a well-earned Christmas holiday!



R. C. COLEMAN describes . . . A VISIT TO ANGUILLA

I HAVE just returned from a trip to Anguilla and if anyone wishes to " escape " from civilisation, then " follow me ". Accompanied by my wife, and with three other passengers, our pilot took his Piper off the runway at the Harry S. Truman Airport here in St. Thomas and, in seconds, we were climbing over the blue, blue waters of the Caribbean.

I believe I am right in saying that there are 102 islands in the Virgin group, but from the air it seems there are hundreds of them stretching in all directions and each one reflecting the different colours of the water according to the depth of the reefs below.

In just under 50 minutes we were over Anguilla and circling in preparation for the run-in on the grass and earth runway; it struck me that this must be a bit " sticky " on a wet day, and the pilot confirmed this. The highest " peak " is just over 200 ft., and yet, a mere 11 miles away the mountains on the island of St. Martin make a magnificent backdrop.

Obviously, the first port of call was the post office, which is within a single-storey block of buildings, used entirely for Government affairs. No, I could not purchase mint stamps, but I *could* address letters and hand them over for mailing throughout the world. I must confess that I was prepared for this eventuality in that my wife and I had prepared a bundle of letters, about 20 in all, for personal needs and a few more for special friends and customers overseas and which we registered for the sole purpose of picking up transit postmarks and thus proving that they had actually travelled through the mail and were not cancelled to order.

I was also able to buy air letter forms of the 5 cents value, *but*, and here's a point, as the 15 cents form was out of stock with overprint, I was offered additional 5 cents forms (which I took) plus *mint* stamps for me to affix to make up the extra 10 cents. The Postmaster and his staff of two were courtesy itself—nothing was too much trouble and when we bought a silk flag of Anguilla for two U.S. dollars, the entire staff thanked us profusely. When the Immigration Officer let it be known that we were Rhodesians, and travelling on " Smith " rebel passports, their interest was intensified to the point of embarrassment.

With the business of the day completed, a taxi took us the six miles to Rezendous Bay Hotel, which is one of the few buildings that have electricity, which is generated by their own plant (and cut off about 9 p.m. each night). There are no telephones to remind one of the outside world, and later that afternoon, sitting on the beach in Rezendous Bay and with not a soul in sight, one had to admit that Anguilla had something to offer to the tired businessman—and his girl friend maybe. The beach of fine white sand stretched in both directions for two or three miles, and after a swim we walked along it for a full hour and compared the peace and quiet with the hustle and milling crowds of tourists one meets every day in St. Thomas. In St. Thomas we had left behind a temperature of 90 and humidity in the high 80s. Here in Anguilla it was 80, and it remains at this the year round.

The hotel was adequate and food perfect, and by 9 p.m. we could not worry whether there was electric light or not because it was our bedtime, as is the case with most people who rise at 5 a.m. each morning to greet the eternal summer sun.

By 7 a.m. we were on our way to the airstrip and back to St. Thomas to await the arrival of our letters from Anguilla post office, carried by Anguilla Airways each day. We now have 10 of the 16 overprints, and a few of our friends have at least one cover from the island. A good day's work.

* * * *

It is difficult to state exactly which of the values are " off-sale ", but the fact that letters arriving in St. Thomas now bear 5c. and 15c. stamps instead of a single 20c. indicates that the latter is sold out. The 50c., 60c. and $1 are definitely not available. I personally mailed a letter to my office in St. Thomas which called for a $5 stamp, but this will not arrive for a day or so—but I just could be lucky.*

On the subject of " luck ", and proving that the rare values were actually sold over the counter in Anguilla, I have obtained in a bank lot from St. Croix part-envelopes with a 50c. and 60c. thereon in perfect condition. How many of us have read those advertisements covering bank lots—" guaranteed unsorted ": I believe in this now! Only 100 of the 60c., and we now know for sure that at least one was commercially used from Anguilla to St. Croix.

In spite of the number of letters that have arrived in St. Thomas franked with the overprints, it is certain that few will survive in collectable condition. The local U.S. Virgin Island resident has a rooted objection to parting with the entire envelope because it has his name and address thereon. What the connection is, I do not know—but it is fact. Thus, he invariably tears the stamp from the cover and I need not add to that. Sometimes it is possible to get him to tear the corner of the cover and bring it along to the office, but here again, the small piece is placed loosely in his pocket, along with his lunch and, more often than not, arrives dirty and badly creased. Not more than 10 per cent of the stamps survive to reach collectors.

* The $5 stamp turned up (on cover) on November 14th—R.C.C.

The Postal Services and Stamp Issues of Anguilla

THIS story is not only of interest in itself, but is closely linked to the history and constitutional events affecting Anquilla over the past two decades, and hence provides an interesting background to those years. The story started in 1861 when Nevis, which was administred separately from St. Christopher, issued its first postage stamps leaving St. Christopher, (which at that time administered Anguilla) then to issue its own stamsp in 1870. In 1882 St. Christopher (together with Anguilla) was formally united with Nevis to form the Presidency of St. Christopher Nevis, and the first St. Kitts/Nevis postage stamps were issued with three designs only, the head of Queen Victoria, a picture of Christopher Columbus, (the discoverer of St. Kitts) and a view of the medicinal spring of Nevis. It was not until 1952 that the first stamps to bear the words St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla were issued, when the name of the Presidency was officially changed to include Anguilla.

In 1904, the first Post Office in Anguilla opened in The Valley, remaining the only post office in use for 23 years. In 1927, four sub-post offices were proclaimed at The Forest, East End, The Road and Blowing Point. Unfortunately, little business resulted, and in 1931 these sub-post offices were closed, leaving the Valley Post Office once again the only one in Anguilla, though in later years a travelling branch post office was initiated.

During this period the stamp issues of St. Kitts/Nevis (and Anguilla after 1952) did little to publicise Anguilla. They portrayed a map of Anguilla in the 1938 Definitive set, carried an Anguilla tercentenary (1650-1950) commemorative set in 1950, and included another map and a view of the first Sombrero Lighthouse (built in 1868) in the 1952 definitive set. The 1963 definitive set included an Anguillan boat-building scene, yet another map of Anguilla and a view of the second Sombrero Lighthouse (completed in 1962).

In 1958, when the short-lived West Indies Federation was formed, Anguilla, which for a long time had been discontented with its subordinate role in the St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla relationship, formally petitioned for "a dissolution of the present political and administrative association of Anguilla with St. Kitts" but to no avail. She remained part of the St. Kitts/Nevis grouping, together with that unit formed a part of the West Indies Federation from 1958-1961 and reverted with St. Kitts/Nevis to Crown Colony status in 1962.

When, in the late 1960s Britain began to negotiate a new form of Association (short of actual independence) for her smaller colonies in the West Indies it became clear that St. Kitts had little sympathy for any semi-autonomous role for Anguilla. Hence, when the new Associated State of St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla formally came into being on 27th February, 1967 Anguilla decided herself to do something about it. She broke away unilaterally from the Associated State, on 30th May, 1967 expelled the force of St. Kitts police on the island, the

(Continued on page 1433)

A selection of recent issues from Anguilla.



Postal Services of Anguilla

(Continued from page 1431)

symbol and power of State authority, and following a referendum in July of that year, declared herself an Independent Republic.

This break with St. Kitts led, of course, to a break in the normal routing of mail to/from Anguilla through St. Kitts. For a time letters were posted through contacts in the neighbouring islands of French and Dutch St. Martin and in the U.S. Virgin Islands, using the stamps of those territories. Later the U.S. Postal Authorities agreed that letters with stamps of St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla could be accepted in St. Thomas (U.S. Virgin Islands) and the local stocks of the St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla 1963 Definitive stamps, ranging from 4,250 copies of the 2c stamp to 100 copies of the 60c stamp were taken to a private printer in St. Thomas where under strict security conditions they were overprinted, "Independent Anguilla" on 4th September, 1967 and then sold for normal use. This set is now very difficult to obtain, and so commands ever-increasing prices in the stamp world.

Meanwhile, there was a political impasse as the problems posed by Anguilla's U.D.I. were discussed by all concerned. Eventually, at the end of 1967, agreement was reached whereby a Senior British Official would be permitted to work with and to advise the Anguillan authorities with a view to reaching some possible agreement over Anguilla's break with St. Kitts. Following this interim agreement, mail services through St. Kitts were again resumed. However, despite the presence of the British Official in Anguilla throughout 1968, no agreement to the main problem could be found, and the official was withdrawn at the end of the year. On 9th January, 1969 Anguilla reaffirmed its independence by overprinting its first definitive stamp issue INDEPENDENCE JANUARY 1969. Again, all postal links with St. Kitts were severed. This overprinted set, which is of great historical interest, was limited to 15,000 copies and can still be obtained, though with some difficulty.

Although Britain now formulated certain proposals, which indicated its desire to ensure that Anguilla was administered in a way acceptable to its people, these proposals came to naught when a senior British Minister, who went to Anguilla to explain these proposals, was forced to leave the island at gunpoint. A week later, on 19th March, 1969, British troops were landed on Anguilla by land and sea in a well organised and efficient operation, and a British Commissioner was installed on the island with wide-ranging powers to maintain public safety and public order. These events attracted worldwide publicity on press and radio. The 1969 overprints were taken out of circulation, but Anguilla's definitive set was permitted to continue in use, as were the five commemorative sets that had already been issued by Anguilla, those of ships, birds, the 35th anniversary of the Girl Guides, Christmas 1968 and Anguilla's salt industry.

It was also decided that Anguilla's stamps should continue to be designed and produced by the London stamp dealers with whom the previous regime had entered into a contract, and a stamp-producing policy was developed to ensure maximum interest in and revenue from Anguilla's stamps without excessive numbers of issues. During 1969 a further five commemorative sets were issued, at Easter and Christmas and on the flowers of the Caribbean, local sea shells and fishes. During 1970, four more commemorative issues were made, at Easter and Christmas, of local flowers and to mark the 40th anniversary of Scouting in Anguilla. A second definitive set of 15 stamps was also issued on 23rd November, 1970.

Meanwhile, negotiations over the political future of Anguilla had continued throughout 1970, the objective being a direct status for Anguilla with Britain, a relationship in which the elected Anguilla Council would be a fully recognised legal constitutional body, and with H.M. Commissioner carrying out his duties in full consultation and co-operation with the Anguillan Council. To this end, the Anguilla Act came into effect on 27th July, 1971 enabling H.M. The Queen to make detailed provision for the administration of Anguilla through a legally appointed Commissioner. The act was to have effect, notwithstanding anything in the West Indies Act of 1967 (which had set up the Associated States). On 4th August, 1971 the Anguilla administration Order came into operation and the stage was now set for a period of orderly constitutional government on the island, with the Commissioner now provided with all the powers he had so long needed and so long lacked.

During this year three further commemorative issues were made before it became possible for the stamps to reflect these constitutional changes, one to celebrate Easter '71 and one on the butterflies of Anguilla, while the third issue portrayed various sea battles in the West Indies. In the light of Anguilla's new constitutional position, it now became possible for the 1971 Chrtistmas issue and for all future issues of Anguilla's stamps to bear the words H.M. COMMISSIONER IN ANGUILLA, together with the Royal Cypher ER, a unique inscription indicating Anguilla's special status, and one which has appeared on all Anguilla's stamps since then.

In 1972 there were the usual commemorative sets to celebrate Easter and Christmas together with an issue depicting old 18th and 19th century maps of Anguilla. The Royal Silver Wedding Anniversary was also commemorated. The same year saw a new definitive set of stamps issued. In 1973 there was the usual Easter issue and an issue dealing with Columbus's discovery of the West Indies. The wedding of HRH Princess Anne to Captain Mark Phillips was also commemorated. The year ended with the Christmas issues. In 1974, apart from the Easter and Christmas issues, there were two centenary issues, relating to the anniversary of the birth of Sir Winston Churchill and of the founding of the Universal Postal Union. In 1974, in addition to the Easter and Christmas issues, there was one special issue to celebrate the Bicentenary of the American Revolution.

Based on information contained in the Government Information Service Monthly Bulletin, prepared by the Department of Information and Broadcasting, Anguilla.

JERSEY–SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS

A machine cancellation will be applied to postings in Jersey from 8th to 21st April on the occasion of the 50th Annual Open Badminton Tournament.

A similar cancellation will publicise the Jersey Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and will be in use during the following dates–1st March to 7th April; 22nd to 30th April and 3rd to 30th June.

Collectors unable to arrange postings locally may forward addressed cocers to PO Box 304, Jersey, Channel Islands, prestamped with Jersey stamps to the value of the appropriate postage plus 2p (ie within Jersey 8p, UK and Guernsey 10p and the rest of the world 12½p). Alternatively, addressed covers will be accepted for stamping and posting if accompanied by a remittance to cover postage charges and a handling fee of 2p per item.

FÄROES 1979 PROGRAMME

March, 25kr. definitive; *May,* Europa 140o., 180o.; autumn (dates and denominations undecided), Children's drawings three values, Faroe flora five values, vending machine booklet, p.s. cards and envelopes.

Anguillian Independence Stamps

OUR correspondent in Anguilla reveals that the residue of the St. Kitts-Nevis stamps on the island have been overprinted "Independent Anguilla" and the words "St. Christopher Nevis Anguilla" deleted. A new series of definitives is in preparation.

The stamps were overprinted in sheets of 25 in the following quantities: ½c. 3,050, 1c. 2,800, 2c. 4,250, 3c. 3,600, 4c. 3,450, 5c. 2,475, 6c. 2,575, 10c. 4,100, 15c. 3,200, 20c. 2,800, 25c. 2,575, 50c. 175, 60c. 100, $1 175, $2.50 225, $5 225.



The stamps were placed on sale on September 4th, but in view of the small quantities available and the genuine postal need, instructions were given that mint stamps were not to be supplied to customers, but letters were to be handed to the counter clerk for him to affix the stamps. Any other course would have resulted in a sell-out and would have caused an embarrassing situation. The stamps could only be used on genuine correspondence, not philatelic mail.

Even requests for higher denomination stamps to be affixed than were required for actual postage were refused.

The responsibility for the overprinting of the stamps and the preparation of a new series was entrusted to a British company, who have undertaken to ensure that there will be no breach of the wishes of the Anguillan Government that the stamps will be used solely for postal purposes. Even the company concerned will have no mint examples.

The actual overprinting was carried out by The Island Press Inc. of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

"Battle for Anguilla" Commemoratives



"La Vaillante" aground off St. Martin

On November 8th Anguilla issued a six-value set of stamps to commemorate the battle for Anguilla in 1796: **1c.** Two French Ships, *Le Desius* and *La Vaillante* approaching Anguilla; **3c.** A fastsailing craft leaving Anguilla for Antigua; **15c.** H.M.S. *Lapwing* engaging French ships *Le Desius* and *La Vaillante;* **25c.** French brig *La Vaillante* forced aground off St. Martin. **$1** H.M.S. *Lapwing*, 28 guns—Captain R. Barton; **$1·50** Burning of *Le Desius.*

In 1744 Mr. Hodge, then Deputy Governor of Anguilla, went on a marauding expedition with 300 volunteers and two privateers and captured St. Martin. A year later, the French in reprisal came with two frigates, about 700 men, and small craft under the command of M. de la Touche who made the mistake of landing his men at Crocus Bay. The enemy had to ascend what was the most-easily defended terrain on the island. Governor Hodge with a militia of 150 men gallantly resisted this attack from behind a breastwork at a narrow pass and forced the enemy to retreat—with the loss of 32 killed, 25 wounded and 50 prisoners—in less than a quarter of an hour, de la Touche himself being wounded twice.

To avenge this defeat, in November 1796 the revolutionary, Victor Hughes, sent two frigates, *La Vaillante* (10 guns) and the *Le Desius* (26 guns) with 400 men to devastate Anguilla. The French landed at Rendezvous Bay; and the Anguillans made a determined resistance, retreating slowly, until they made their last stand at Sandy Hill Fort. When the defenders' ammunition was exhausted, the fishermen cut off the lead balls from their sprat seines to load the cannon.

A fast sailing ship had been sent to Antigua to seek help and there they found H.M.S. *Lapwing* under Captain Barton who sailed immediately to Anguilla's relief. He was just in time to save the situation, as the town had been captured and burnt. At the sight of the *Lapwing* sailing down the channel between Anguilla and St. Martin, the French re-embarked their troops during the night and set sail. The *Lapwing* engaged them in the channel and forced *La Vaillante* aground on the shores of St. Martin and *Le Desius* struck her colours. Captain Barton took off her crew and the troops and set fire to the vessel.

More postally-used Anguilla

Following the piece in the April 1999 Catalogue Column, I have been contacted by two further collectors who possess values from the 1967–68 Anguilla definitives, overprinted 'INDEPENDENCE JANUARY 1969'.

To briefly recap the earlier article, such stamps are currently not listed in the *Part 1 (British Commonwealth) Catalogue* due to the previous lack of any evidence of local postal use other than on large First Day Covers franked with the entire 15-value series. I have previously been shown an example of the 25c. value with the overprint, used on a commercial cover to Portland in the USA and postmarked 11 March 1969.

Now Mr J Ayto of Kent reports a cover showing 3c., 4c. and 6c. stamps with the overprint and postmarked 27 March 1969. Although a philatelic usage, the cover is interesting as Mr Ayto tells me it was the result of writing to the island postal authorities, enclosing an International Reply Coupon, and asking for examples of the stamps currently available for postal purposes. The postmark date, 27 March, is within three weeks of the cover reported earlier.

Further information has come from Mr D Charlesworth of Stafford, who is Hon Editor for the British West Indies Study Circle *Bulletin*. Mr Charlesworth provided photocopies of three pieces of mail. Two are air-letter forms, both addressed to St Kitts, and additionally franked with the 5c. value showing the overprint. The first air-letter was sent on 12 February and the second on 14 July, both 1969. They were routed via Philipsburg on the island of St Maarten, which acted as a postal go-between during this period in much the same way as did the US Virgin Islands. The third cover is a registered envelope from Anguilla to Barbados, franked with the 5c. and 15c. values showing the overprint and postmarked on 24 February 1969.

Collating this information provides confirmation that at least six of these overprinted low values; 3c., 4c., 5c., 6c., 15c. and 25c. did normal postal duty between an earliest reported date of 12 February and a latest reported date of 14 July, both in 1969. I would welcome further reports of any more of these overprinted values used on commercial mail (not f.d.c's) and, indeed, of any other dates which extend the period outlined above. It is likely that overprinted values for which postal use is confirmed, will be listed in further editions of the *Part 1 (British Commonwealth) Catalogue* although it was too late for them to be added to the 2000 volumes due for publication in the autumn.

I am most grateful to both Mr Ayto and Mr Charlesworth for providing the information.

G.S.M. September 1999

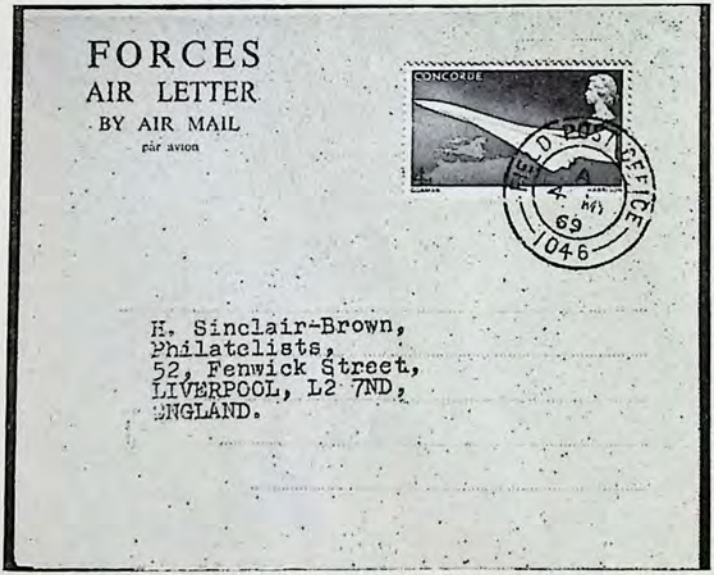
ANGUILLA

Since February all British mail addressed to Anguilla has been intercepted by the British Post Office and returned to sender stating that there is no mail service at present to the Island. This still applies at the time of writing this advertisement.

When the British Forces moved into the Island, a B.F.P.O. was established for them using Field Post Office 1046 HAND-STAMP. At present, therefore, this is the only official means of communication from the Island. The Forces out there are, of course, using British stamps on their forces aerogrammes.

We have been fortunate in obtaining limited stocks of these with very clear cancellations dated during May on the 4d Concorde. This makes a most attractive item of Postal History, not only for this Island, but also for collectors of Army Field Postmarks, as naturally with such a small detachment on the Island, the number of similar aerogrammes will be very restricted.

It follows that with the British acceptance of ultimate Independence for Anguilla the normal civilian mail channels will be open soon using the stamps released solely for the Island. This aerogramme, therefore, represents an important integral part of the philatelic history of the Island.



ANGUILLA BRITISH FORCES " FIELD POST OFFICE 1046 " AEROGRAMME WITH CONCORDE 4d. **15/-**

P. Mag. Mch. 1975

ANGUILLA: A NOTE ON THE POSTAL SERVICES

BY M. C. LOWE

Since the West Indian island of Anguilla decided to live an independent existence, separated from its former companion islands of St. Christopher and Nevis, it has produced rather a flood of stamps. One sometimes wonders what proportion of these are in fact used in the island.

Curiosity made me write to the Department of Posts in Anguilla to find out about the present postal services there. It is through the information supplied by courtesy of Mr. E. R. Brooks, the Postmaster of Anguilla, that I am able to write this note.

There is one Main Post Office, at the principal settlement, the Valley, and a Travelling Branch which serves all the out districts daily. Valley Post Office uses the circular date stamp, 28 mm. in diameter, ANGUILLA/date/VALLEY, illustrated at fig. 1. The Travelling Branch circular date stamp is also 28 mm. in diameter, but inscribed POST OFFICE/ANGUILLA/date/TRAVELLING BRANCH, as shown at fig.2. An oval cachet is used by the Post Office Department, inscribed DEPARTMENT OF POSTS/ANGUILLA W.1 (note the W.1 error for W.I.).

Outgoing mail from the island is despatched five times a week and is routed via St. Thomas (U.S. Virgin Islands) and Philipsburg (St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles), this last island being adjacent to Anguilla. Incoming mail is routed via St. Maarten.

New issues are distributed through John Lister Ltd., the Postal Department's London stamp agents, and no mailing list is held in the island.

As the island of Anguilla has a population of about 6,000, the number of postage stamps used cannot be very large, and one is again left wondering whether the number of commemorative and other special issues is fully justified by postal needs. There is no doubt, though, that much interest is to be found in the byways of West Indian postal services and postmarks, and Anguilla is one of those byways.



M. C. Lowe



Sc(?). Whole No. 41

ANGUILLA

DOWN IN THE VALLEY (ANGUILLA, THAT IS)--- by Gale J. Raymond

Recent news from the Island adds a few facts to the tale of the Independent Anguilla overprints. In July 1967, the Valley P.O. did in fact use a few UNoverprinted stamps of St.Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, from supplies at hand. For the overprinting, the remaining stock was supplemented by a fresh supply of the old stamps from the Crown Agents, brought in by the John Lister Ltd. representative.

On 10 Feb 1968, new values were added to the current definitive set; 3, 4, 15 and 60 cents and $1 and $5 (and many thanks to John M. King for a First Day Cover). Three additional values will be added in about three months time, and a commemorative short set is planned for Christmas 1968, according to the Anguilla News-sheet, *The Beacon*, $10.00 U.S.A. per year, posted weekly with a variety of stamps. Mail to Anguilla should always be specifically addressed "via St.Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00801", or it will end up impounded indefinitely by St.Kitts. At present, postal money orders, personal checks, etc. cannot be cashed, currency is best, by registered mail.

With advent of charter aircraft from St.Thomas, U.S.V.I., to Anguilla, the U.S.P.O. sent a special airmail "First Flight" to Anguilla on 4th August 1967. With grateful thanks to recent new member R.C. Coleman, we now know of another "last-minute" airmail arrangement, set up and officially approved by the U.S.P.O. at St.Thomas. Letters could be handed in directly to the airways ticket desk at St.Thomas airport, which mail had to have 10¢ in U.S. stamps affixed. These stamps were then cancelled with the airways marking. One such cover to Anguilla has the U.S. stamps cancelled solely with a straight-line "ANGUILLA AIRWAYS" mark. There appears to be an interesting longer story on this recent "airmail-paquebot" mail, and we've already put out some inquiries in the Islands. More later on this!

At least six sub-post offices WITH CANCELS are due to open soon on Anguilla, and we learn that others are scheduled for later on. The East End sub-p.o. (postal station) closed on 6 JAN 1968 and removed, same day, to nearby Mt.Fortune in same district, to the premises of Miss Ruth Webster.

The latest *Beacon* has a story on prices being realized in England for the "INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA" overprinted stamps---WOW!! Some of our members were quick enough to pick up copies and covers of these stamps very soon after issue, by means of exchange, ads, etc. The scarcest low value is, of course, the ½¢ stamp, for which there was no postal rate. It was utilized last, as stocks of other values dwindled, to make up low rate mails (air printed-rate, etc.) On cover it is RARE!

(Reference postal relations between St.Kitts and Anguilla, we noted the following in the January 4th 1968 issue of STAMP COLLECTING magazine of London. "Following a settlement of the Anguilla problem, the St.Kitts Government has released all the mail which was addressed to Anguilla and which has been held up for the last six months. However, St.Kitts has instituted a new ban in that all mail traffic from Anguilla to St.Kitts has been stopped. Also, anyone in St.Kitts found with Anguilla stamps in their possession will be prosecuted, threatens the St.Kitts Government!-Peter Ibbotson." Reports of any later developments will be appreciated.--EDITOR)

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