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BARBADOS

BARBADOS

THE PHILATELIST, July, 1962.

The Plantation Papers: II – Barbados

By COLIN MAYCOCK

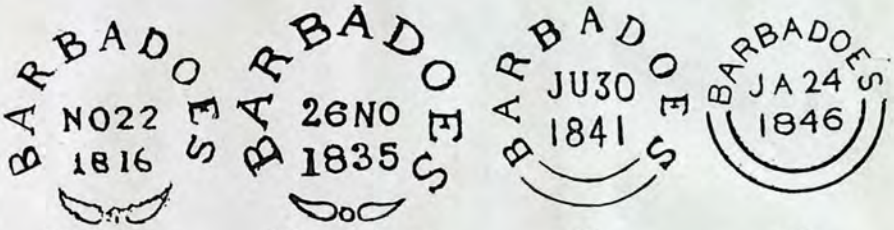
(*continued from page* 179)

Packet Letters

IN the excellent study of Barbados postal markings published recently as Paper No. 2 of the British West Indies Study Circle*, the authors, in describing the "*fleuron*" mark, type [PG], say:—

"*In some of the examples recorded the diameter varies from* 30 *to* 33 *mm. whilst the height of the letters varies from* 4 *to* 5 *mm. . . . . Mention has been made in the press of a small fleuron, but no precise details are available. In the cases of the various specimens reported the diameter has varied from* 30 *to* 32 *mm. and the height of the letters from* 4 *to* 4½ *mm. The variation in the size of the letters may have been due to wear of the handstamp and/or over-inking; this difference does, however, give the appearance of different sizes of fleurons when viewed casually*".

A careful examination of the 72 specimens in the *Plantation Papers* leads me to think that two different types exist. It is true that the great majority of the strikes are poor, faint or blurred but the earliest group of seven copies, with dates from 22.11.1816 to 3.11.1820, appears to be of a stamp smaller than and different from the later group of 65 copies with dates from 25.11.1826 to 20.5.1836.



[*PG*] *first type* [*PG*] *second type* [*PH*] [*PL*]

The differences between the two types may be tabulated as follows:—

	1st Type	2nd Type
Vertical diameter	29.5 mm.	31.5 mm.
Horizontal diameter	30.5 mm.	33 mm.
Height of letters BARBADOES	4 mm.	4.5 mm.
Height of figures and letters of date where comparable	3 mm.	3.5 mm.
Width of fleuron ornament	16 mm.	17 mm.
Shape of fleuron ornament	more curved	flatter
Angle of sector between first and last letters of BARBADOES	130°	105°

The position of the month letters in the date line varies with fine impartiality; sometimes preceding and sometimes following the day, and occasionally sandwiched between a pair of single digits. The day is found missing (e.g. JY/1832) and in January 1835, there are five examples of a strike showing only JA—no day or year.†

Of the 85 copies of type [PH] (BARBADOES, 29 mm. diameter broken circle, serif capitals), most are poor in quality. The earliest is on a letter dated 31.1.1838 and although poor, the month letters FE are visible (*earliest date known*). This is followed by a clear 2 MR/1838, also earlier than previously recorded. The latest date found for this type is SP 8/1845 (*latest date known*). The month usually precedes the day in the date line but examples of the reverse are found in March 1838, September 1838, August 1839, August 1841 and November 1842. Two examples struck in blue (*hitherto unrecorded*) were found, both dated OC20/1843. At this period, the manuscript unpaid charges are all found in bright blue ink, (from August 1843 to January 1844, when they revert to black). Blue ink was again used for this purpose in 1846 (February to May).

There are 63 copies of type [PL], (BARBADOES, 25 mm. diameter broken circle, sanserif capitals) with the earliest date 24.9.1845 (*earliest date known*) and latest 27.2.1853. Only one of these is at all unusual, showing a loose figure 6 sideways below the year, 1846.

* "*The Postal Markings of Barbados*"—Basil B. Benwell & L. E. Britnor, 1961.

† These varieties usually indicate the employment by the post office of newly emancipated slaves.—Editor.

[continued overleaf]

Ship Letters

The analysis of arrival ports of the 96 Barbados ship letters is as follows:—

Brighton	S.5(2)
Bristol	S.7(6)
Brixham	S.4(1) - purple red (see illustration).
Deal	S.8(6)
Devonport	S.5(1)
Dover	S.11(9)
Falmouth	S.6(1) - red
Folkestone	S.3(1)
Gravesend	S.9(3)
Greenock	S.12(1)
Hastings	S.3(1)
Kingsbridge	S.1(1)
Liverpool	S.3(1), S.6(1), S.7(2), S.8(8), S.9(1), S.10(7), S.11(13), S.12(3), S.13(8), S.14(1).
London	S.18(1), S.19(3)
Penzance	S.3(1) (see illustration)
Plymouth	S.6(1)
Portsmouth	S.13(4), S.14(1)
Teignmouth	S.2(2) - purple red (see illustration. This cover left Bridgetown on the 30 May 1817 and arrived in London 9 July 1817).
Weymouth	S.4(5)



Vessels mentioned in superscriptions include:—

The *Lady Shurbrooke*, Capt. Lane	1815	The *Proselyte*, Capt. Barton	1815
The *Trinandra*, Capt. La Hanich	1816	The *Ann*, Capt. Warren	1816
Flora, Capt. Head	1816	*Renewal*, Capt. Cromartie	1816
H.M.S. Inconstant	1816	*Sussex*	1816
Lancaster	1817, 1824, 1832.	*Colonist*	1817
Irlam	1818	*Pandora*	1819
Neilson	1820	*Mercy*	1832
Nelson	1832	*Gratitude*	1832, 1834.
Tropic	1832, 1834.	*Margaret*	1832
Frances	1833	*Sarah*	1833
Barbara	1833	*Mary*	1833, 1834.
Fortitude	1833	*Barbadoes Planter*	1833
Quebec packet	1833	*Barton*	1833
Thomas Daniel	1833	*Falcon*	1834
Higginson	1834	*Arethusa*	1834, 1835.
Lucretia	1835	*Barbadian*	1835
Don Juan	1836	*Druid*	1839

There is one London Packet Letter (P.3) of 1830 and one Southampton P.1 (blue) of 1851.

BARBADOS & TRINIDAD

STAMP COLLECTING, Apr. 4, 1953.

THE "PIN" PERFS. OF BARBADOS & TRINIDAD



By R. W. DAVIS

TO the older generation of philatelists this story will be familiar, but to the young and not-so-young collectors the information here given may be of some interest.

Although postage stamps first appeared in 1840, fourteen years elapsed before separation by scissors was replaced with perforations: indeed, it would appear that not until the late 1840's did anyone give the matter any serious thought; and then Henry Archer began experimenting. Not that separation by perforation was unknown—far from it. Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. themselves used a perforating machine for perforating cheques, but as it was only a single-line machine they considered its use for stamps far too expensive. Archer's machine was of the "comb" variety. Rouletting machines were also commonly used, though here, again, that process is not satisfactory for separating rows of stamps.

Archer's machine was more or less perfected by 1850, and he had made trial perforations on sheets of stamps. These trials were sufficiently successful to persuade the Treasury to purchase the machine and instal it at Somerset House. There it was further improved upon, and the first officially perforated stamps appeared in 1854. So much as a résumé of the introduction of perforation.

Now we come to the particular difficulties of Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. The appearance of British perforated stamps brought enquiries from Colonial Governments who wished to take advantage of the new invention. The first of these came from Ceylon, in August 1856, to which the firm gave an estimate for the production of stamps, but not for perforating. The only suitable perforating machine in existence was at Somerset House, and although the authorities there were willing to perforate stamps for Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., the machine could take only stamps of the same size as those of Great Britain, and the Ceylon ones were to be much larger. The cost of altering the machine was estimated at the prohibitive amount of £100. The question of perforating was, therefore, dropped.

Next came an enquiry from Natal, where the "Chalon" head was to replace the very poor production of the first issue of that country, and as the stamps were of the same size as those of Great Britain, Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. were able to supply these perforated—with the co-operation of Somerset House. Thus the 3d. blue (S.G.10) was the first Colonial postage stamp to be sent out by Perkins Bacon & Co., perforated.

But the amount of work to be done at Somerset House made it impossible to take regular jobs from outside, so when Perkins Bacon & Co. were asked by both Barbados and Trinidad to supply perforated stamps they realised that something would have to be done about it. As a matter of fact as far back as 1855 the firm had been in communication with Messrs. Wm. Bemrose & Sons, of Derby, on the possibility of producing a machine which would perforate more than one line at a time and so reduce the time, and, therefore, the cost. In a letter to Messrs. Bemrose, dated January 5th, 1860, Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. went into this matter in detail, and wrote "Our present opinion is that nothing but a punctured opening in the paper will answer", and in a postscript said "We understand that Messrs. Topham Carpenter & Co. altered the machine you made for them; so as to perforate the American postage stamps by pins instead of slitting, although we never learnt how it was done, and we are much puzzled to know how they accomplished it with that machine". (Topham Carpenter & Co. printed the 1851 issue of U.S.A.)

Eventually they had a machine made by a Mr. James Griffiths, a machine-maker who had a business in Clerkenwell, and on that machine the 1861 issue of Trinidad was perforated. Meanwhile, as it was of the utmost urgency that some means of perforating stamps should be found, the firm began experimenting on its own account. One wonders why they were so reluctant to use the single line perforator which they possessed, used exclusively for cheques and drafts, which could be extended to a line of sufficient length. The only possible explanation seems to be their apprehension that the cost would be too high for the Agents General for Crown Colonies. Indeed, in a letter to the Colonial Secretary, Barbados, they wrote—after apologising for delay in executing the order: "We have long had perfect machinery for perforating one line at a time whether it be a long or a short one, such as folio cheques, drafts, etc., but is too expensive. . . ." The expense was 6d. a thousand stamps, and the order was for "One hundred thousand blue postage labels".

So Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. set to work and finally produced what seems to have been a most "Heath Robinson" gadget, which must have been far more expensive to work than the single-line machine, not to mention the primitive and irritating method of using it. In short, the contrivance consisted of a small wheel, bonded with metal, with pins inserted through the bond and perpendicular to the bonded rim. This was hand-operated, being kept to the line of perforation by a straight edge, and pricking holes in the paper, but taking nothing out. Apparently two such wheels were made, and, as was inevitable with hand-inserted pins, the distances between the pins varied.

And that is how the 1859 issue of Trinidad and the 1860 issue of Barbados came to have "Pin Perfs." and why they vary from 12½ to 14.

This 1890 issue of Barbados (S.G.13–16a), and the 1859 issue of Trinidad (S.G.31–45) were the only stamps perforated by this method. From the note in the catalogue, and from the obviously slow and tedious character of the work, it would appear that some sheets were perforated in one direction only. It is probable that the necessity for completing the already delayed delivery did not allow further time being spent on the job. Therefore the sheets were despatched without waiting for all to be fully perforated—and it is not unreasonable to assume that the operators of those wheels were heartily glad to see the back of that job!

4.

? For Barbados Scrapbook

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DJA/TP/25030

7th May 1998

Mr P G Longmuir
5 The Byway
SUTTON
Surrey SM2 5LE

Dear Mr Longmuir

Thank you for your letter of 25th April concerning Barbados No. 15, the 1860 (1d.) deep blue pin-perforated 14 bisected on piece.

The information you have so very kindly supplied certainly demonstrates the known history of the two recorded examples of this variety. There seems little doubt that these are authentic, probably bisected under the same circumstances as the already listed 19a and 24a. Listings of bisects in the SG catalogues are restricted, for obvious reasons, to those existing on entire cover. I do, however, feel that the evidence concerning these two bisects on separate pieces is so strong that a footnote reference to them should be included beneath Nos. 13/16b. It is possible that my colleagues at the Strand may then decide to provide a price for such a bisect on piece, as has indeed occurred elsewhere in the listings.

Unfortunately all of the pages for the 1999 Part 1 Catalogue, Volume 1 (with the exception of Great Britain), are now to press, so the inclusion of the footnote will need to await the appearance of the edition to be dated 2000, which will be published in the Autumn of next year.

Many thanks for supplying the information concerning these interesting items.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID J AGGERSBERG
Catalogue Editor

BARBADOS

STAMP LOVER. Oct. Nov. 1950.

Re 1s. blue error.

BARBADOS ERRORS

By L. N. & M. WILLIAMS

In April, 1863, Perkins, Bacon & Co. sent a supply of 6d. and 1s. stamps in the "Britannia" type to Barbados. When the consignment was opened on arrival it was found that the 1s. stamps (there were 50,000 of them) had been printed in blue instead of black. It was rather a curious mistake for the printers to have made, because although the 1d. stamps in the same type were blue, they were, of course, inscribed "Barbados" at the bottom of the design and bore no indication of value, whereas the 1s. stamps had the words "One Shilling" clearly denoted.

The Colonial Secretary in Barbados at once wrote to the printers pointing out the mistake and offering to return the errors, with the exception of a few which had been "disposed of for a postage label album". Perkins, Bacon & Co. promised to send some 1s. stamps in the right colour and they were shipped at the end of October. At the same time the printers wrote that they were leaving the errors in the hands of the Colonial Secretary, to do with them as he thought best.

What he actually did with them has always been something of a mystery. At the end of the last century a well-known collector wrote to the Postmaster at Barbados asking what had become of the stamps and received a reply to the effect that none of the errors had ever been issued, but that he had reason to believe they were all destroyed at the time by order of the Governor. Apparently no further evidence of this destruction has been forthcoming, and the stamps might in fact be lying tucked away in some forgotten corner in Barbados, if the ravages of time have not led to their disintegration. One of the copies that was "disposed of for a postage label album" is in the Tapling collection, and a few others come on the market from time to time, but it is doubtful if there are more than a dozen altogether in circulation.

During March, 1878, there was a shortage of 1d. stamps in Barbados, and at the end of that month a 1d. provisional was made locally by surcharging the 5s. value with 1d. twice, cutting off the value tablet at the foot and bisecting each stamp before use. These provisionals were in use only a short while, but when some of them reached England a certain dealer wrote to Barbados, enclosed a remittance and asked the Postmaster to send some 1d. stamps. It was several months before a reply arrived, but when it did the dealer was keyed up with excitement, because in the meantime it had become obvious that the provisionals were going to be very scarce. Feverishly he tore open the envelope, and out tumbled a part sheet—of the ordinary 1d. blue "Britannia" stamps. Accompanying them was a polite letter from the Postmaster, apologising for the delay and explaining that he had waited until a fresh supply of stamps arrived from England, as he was sure his correspondent would not have wanted the ugly makeshifts!

Stamp Lover Nov/Dec. 1962
Extract from "Barbados to 1898" Display by L. S. Wheeler N.P.S.

"Error of colour. — On April 28, 1863, 50,000 1s. stamps were sent to the Island printed in blue — the colour of the 1d. Stamp — in error. A letter from the Colonial Secretary to Perkins Bacon & Co. dated September 25, 1863, stated that the stamps had been destroyed "Only a few having been disposed of for a postage label album". It is believed that only nine of these stamps exist."

5

Barbados

Up until 1873 every stamp issued by Barbados other than 6d. and 1s. values was printed from the same plate, their respective values being identifiable only by their colours, green for ½d., blue for the 1d. and red for the 4d., all of which appeared from a number of printings differing in shade, paper and method of separation.

The sheets were of 110 stamps, arranged in 11 rows of ten. There are four plate flaws and re-entries which may be found on stamps printed from this plate and they are all worth looking for. Re-entries which take the form of duplication to the letters of 'BARBADOS' and in the stars in the lower corners come from R3/2 and R4/2 and there is a deep patch on the bottom sail of the foremast on the ship behind Britannia on R11/4.

The best known of the flaws, however, is the 'Gash in throat' consisting of a conspicuous mark just below Britannia's chin (see illustration), this one comes from the penultimate stamp in the sheet—R11/9.

I came across my second Barbados variety in a club box a couple of months ago and wonder whether anyone knows anything about it. Found on the 1886 6d. olive-black, it takes the form of a white flaw on the 'X' of 'SIX'.





Although a single colour stamp, it would have been printed in two operations, as the head plate (including the country name) was common to every stamp in the set, with the value itself being added in a second operation. I do not know whether the duty plate (which printed the value) was used in the production of stamps for any other colony but it is a possibility—after all, the malformed 'CE' in 'PENCE' is catalogued on the equivalent 4d. values of both Dominica and Tobago.

I would, needless to say, be interested to hear of other examples of this flaw whether they be on SG 100 of Barbados or a similar stamp from any other colony.

G.S.M. June 1990

Stamp Mail — March 1990

CHRISTIE'S ROBSON LOWE

[illegible] among Barbados lots, an unsevered pair of the 1878 1d on half 5s dull rose, comprising SG types A and C se-tenant, (reading upwards) unused and with part o.g. realised £16,000. It is alleged that only two unused (one reading down) examples of the se-tenant combination are recorded).

STAMP MAGAZINE JULY 1990

Barbados error

In 1988 Barbados released a set of four stamps featuring cricket — the 50c value appeared over a month after the rest of the set because it was realised that the wrong portrait had been used: the stamp should have shown Herman C. Griffith.



The error.



The correct stamp.

The stamps with the wrong portrait should have been destroyed, but about ten copies were sold locally before the instructions to withdraw were received.

These error stamps are being offered by Brian Reeve/B. Alan Ltd.

BARBADOS

STAMP LOVER, Nov.-Dec. 1964

Barbados to 1898

LESLIE S. WHEELER, F.C.A.

Notes on the Display given to the Junior Philatelic Society on February 1, 1964

THE WRITER has been collecting the stamps of Barbados for over forty years and admits that the reason for commencing this collection was the purely fortuitous acquisition of a copy of the *Olive Blossom* stamp of 1906 soon after the first World War. This stamp, which is a very creditable example of the stamp maker's art, induced a certain interest in the West Indies in general and Barbados in particular.

After reading books about the West Indies it became apparent that it was very unlikely that the *Olive Blossom* ever called at the island of Barbados at all. By that time, however, the line engraved Britannia issues were attracting attention, and now, some forty years later, items of interest in the stamps of this small Colony are still being found.

Barbados is reputed to be the most English of the West Indian Colonies and at one time had a large proportion of Scots amongst its settlers. May be it is for this reason that many of the early stamps of Barbados were kept on the letters and envelopes used, and which are now available in reasonable numbers to adorn our collections.

Barbados issued its first stamps on April 15, 1852 and was thus the second West Indian Island to issue stamps, being beaten only by Trinidad whose first issue had been on August 14, 1851, some eight months earlier. As it was, the first stamps to be dispatched to Barbados were lost in the wreck of the Royal Mail Steamer *Amazon*, which was destroyed by fire off Ushant in the Bay of Biscay on Sunday, January 4, 1852, on her maiden voyage to the West Indies. The *Amazon* was the largest timber-built steam ship ever constructed up to that time.

THE BRITANNIA DESIGN

When the authorities in Barbados asked for suggestions for a design for the stamps of the Island, Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., possibly bearing in mind the Scottish proclivities of the inhabitants, informed them that the design already approved for Trinidad—that is to say, a figure of Britannia seated on a bale, holding a spear, and with a fully rigged vessel in the background—could easily be adapted for use in Barbados.

Imperforate stamps

This proposal was accepted and the design was used for the stamps of the Colony for thirty years, firstly imperforate and then perforated on paper with and without watermark.

The first stamps of the Britannia design had merely the name of the Colony engraved thereon, and no denomination was shown. It was therefore necessary to distinguish the stamps by colour; the green represented ½d., the blue 1d., the greyish-slate 2d., and the brownish-red 4d. The shades of the 1d. blue stamps are quite marked.

For many years controversy raged about the identification of the 2d. value, "greyish-slate", and many authorities denied that it had ever existed. In 1933, however, Mr. Herbert Bayley found a report of the Inland Postmaster dated September 19, 1853, which had been reprinted in the local newspaper. In this report reference was made to stamps of the value of 2d. "purple", and thus the existence of this stamp was proved.

As the only use for the 2d. stamp was for local letters over ½ oz. and under 1 oz. in weight, it was not extensively required, and many of the 2d. stamps were bisected vertically in 1854 and used for the 1d. postage rate.

The stamps originally sent to the island were on paper more or less "blued", and it appears likely that the blueing of the paper got progressively less and that by 1856 the stamps were exclusively printed on white paper. Examples are available, however, which prove that many stamps dispatched prior to May 21, 1856, were in fact printed on white paper, the earliest date known being February 18, 1855, in the Royal Collection.

In 1858, stamps of the value of 6d. and 1s. were ordered. These were in the Britannia design, and had the denomination shown on the stamps.

Perforated stamps

In September 1859 the Colonial Secretary wrote to Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. and requested that the stamps for the Colony should be perforated after the manner of those then in use in the Mother Country. The early efforts at perforating the stamps were poor, being a pin perforation of 14 or 12½. In many cases the perforating was so badly executed that the stamps had to be severed by scissors in the same way as the imperforate stamps had been.

(continued overleaf)

2

A clean-cut perforation varying between 14 and 16 was used for the ½d. and 1d. stamps issued in 1861 and then followed the long issue of stamps in a rough perforation between 14 and 16 between the years 1861 and 1870. During this period many printings produced a marked range of shades of colour and this issue alone makes a fascinating study.

Plate 2

On June 4, 1866, the original postage plate with blank denominations was destroyed and a new plate—plate two—was brought into use. It would appear from the Perkins, Bacon records that over 3¼ million stamps were printed from plate 1 and 2¼ million from plate 2.

Error of colour

On April 28, 1863, 50,000 1s. stamps were sent to the Island printed in blue—the colour of the 1d. stamp—in error. A letter from the Colonial Secretary to Perkins Bacon & Co. dated September 25, 1863, stated that the stamps had been destroyed, "Only a few having been disposed of for a postage label album". It is believed that only nine of these stamps exist.

Variety of perforation

During this period some of the ½d. and 1d. stamps are found perforated 11—12. These are exceedingly rare in mint condition and unknown used.

Watermarked issues

From 1870 to 1874 the Britannia stamps were printed on paper watermarked with large or small stars and in a variety of perforations. In 1873 the first 3d. value was issued whilst in the same year came the first 5s. stamp for the Island. This latter stamp was in large format and has been described as a "Noble stamp". Its colour, however, leaves much to be desired, it being a somewhat muddy rose shade. Perhaps its chief claim to fame lies in the fact that it was used for the famous provisional issue of 1878. Mint blocks of the ½d. and 1d. stamps printed by Perkins Bacon & Co. in 1874 with the values expressed are most difficult to obtain, and are worth much more than the catalogue price would indicate.

From 1875 onwards the contract for the printing of the stamps of the Island was given to Messrs. De La Rue & Co., and the colours of the stamps became brighter. The paper used was the familiar Crown over C.C. and the perforations were 12½ and 14. There are many delightful shades in these stamps.

One of the greater rarities in Barbados is the 6d. of this issue perforation 14, bright aniline yellow. None of those seen by the writer over the past five years have passed the Quartz Lamp test and obtained a "Royal" certificate. The 1s. value of the same issue in aniline violet is again a difficult stamp to obtain mint, but in the writer's view not nearly as rare as the 6d. value. The 3d. value—mauve—of this issue is most difficult to obtain in blocks, and even pairs of this stamp are rare.

The 1d. dull blue of this issue was bisected diagonally to make a ½d. rate, whilst the 1s. value, dull mauve, was bisected vertically to make a 6d. rate.

A great rarity of this issue is the 4d. red, perforation 14 x 12½. It is thought that a sheet of the 4d. perforation 14 missed being perforated vertically and was corrected on the wrong machine.

Provisional issue—March 1878

Owing to a temporary shortage of 1d. stamps some 100 sheets of the 5s. stamp of 1873 were perforated vertically, each half being surcharged 1d; the bottom labels were then removed. These stamps have been extensively forged and are indeed rare in good condition and especially in unsevered pairs. There are many varieties of the type used in surcharging the stamps, and unsevered pairs can be found showing the differing types *se-tenant*. Much has been written about these provisionals, which, owing to the way they were made, are most difficult to plate. The 5s. stamps were in sheets of 6 x 8, and as each stamp was bisected vertically, there were thus 12 stamps of 1d. in each row, which was entirely separated from the next row when the 5s. labels were cut off.

SURFACE PRINTED ISSUES, 1882-1898

Queens Head Design

In 1882 the first stamps for the Colony bearing the head of Queen Victoria were issued on paper having the Crown over C.A. watermark and perforated 14. Here again there are some interesting shades whilst the 5s. of this issue is worthy of note, only 3600 having been printed in all.

Provisional issue—1892

A shortage of ½d. stamps was the cause of the next provisional issue which consisted of the 4d. stamp of the Queens Head issue surcharged "HALF-PENNY".

There are a geat number of minor varieties of this stamp—the missing hyphen between "HALF" and "PENNY", a period for a hyphen, deformed letters, etc. One sheet was surcharged first in red but, as this was not distinct enough, it was

BARBADOS

(Mr Wheeler's notes continued)

further surcharged in black. These double surcharges are rare, especially with the hyphen missing, for as there were only two stamps on each pane with the hyphens entirely absent and only four panes to the sheet, there can only be 8 copies of the doubly surcharged stamp in existence without hyphens.

Seal of Colony design

In 1892 the first of a long series of stamps bearing a reproduction of the Seal of the Colony was issued. After these Seal type stamps had been placed on sale Messrs. De La Rue & Co. were requested to print a further supply of the then obsolete Queens Head type—presumably to meet a demand from collectors. This may account for the relatively low value of the 5s. Queens Head stamp as 1200 of these stamps were issued in 1892.

Diamond Jubilee

In 1897 Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was marked by a special issue on paper watermarked Crown over C.C. These stamps were re-issued in 1898 on blued paper and are much rarer than the original issue.

POSTAL MARKINGS

It is probable that a postal packet service existed during the latter part of the seventeenth century and letters are known with and without the marks which were in use on the Island until the introduction of adhesive stamps. Indeed, the "Crowned Circle" stamp in red "Paid at Barbados" was in use in 1854 and was brought back into use in 1893, this time in black to serve as a ½d. rate.

The early markings on the adhesive stamps were the barred obliterations of 1852 which had the parish number in the centre of the stamp. The parishes were:

1 — G.P.O. Bridgetown	6 — St. Joseph
2 — Christchurch	7 — St. James
3 — St. Philip	8 — St. Thomas
4 — St. George	9 — St. Andrew
5 — St. John	10 — St. Peter

11 — St. Lucy

In 1863 a boot-heel type obliteration was introduced which also contained the parish numbers down to about 1886. Together with the boot-heel mark a small circular date stamp was used. This again had the parish numbers.

Circular date stamps which also contained the name of the parish were introduced *circa* 1876. Some of these had the parish number in addition, others, e.g. Christchurch, St. John, St. Thomas, and St. Peter, did not.

SPECIMEN STAMPS

This display of the early stamps of Barbados would not be complete without the "specimen" stamps, which were used for circulation to other countries for information either direct, or through the Universal Postal Union.

The earliest example of a "specimen" stamp is on the issue of 1861 which was handstamped "Cancelled". This is the so called "Rowland Hill" specimen of which only six examples of each stamp being currently produced were made by Perkins Bacon & Co. for members of Sir Rowland Hill's family.

*

Summary of Exhibits

Sheets	
1—7	Pre-Stamp Covers.
8—10	Plate Proof of Britannia design and descriptive matter.
11—16	1852-55. Imperforate. Blued paper.
17	*ditto* 2d. bisected on cover.
18	Prepared but not issued, together with two complete sheets.
19—23	Flaws and re-entries on Britannia issue illustrated.
24—34	1856-58. Imperforate. White paper.
35—38	1860. Pin-perforations.
39—40	1861. Clean cut perforation 14—16.
41—67	1861-70. Rough perforation 14—16.
68	*ditto* *ditto* 11—12.
69	*ditto* 1s. Error of Colour.
70	*ditto* Examples from Plate 2.
71—89	1870-73. Watermarked issues.
90	1873. First 3d. value.
91—94	*ditto* First 5s. value including plate proofs.
95—98	Colour trials, plate proofs and die proofs of Britannia design.
99—101	1874. ½d. and 1d. with values expressed.
102—103	1875-78. Crown C.C. Perforation 12½.
104—121	*ditto* *ditto* *ditto* 14.
122	1d. dull blue bisected on piece.
123	1875-78. The rare 4d. value perforation 14 x 12½.
124—127	1878. 1d. provisionals including unsevered pairs.
128	1878. 1d. provisional on cover.
129—139	1882-86. Queens Head design.
140	*ditto* 5s. on cover.
141—145	1892. Provisional Issue. ½d. Surcharge.
146	*ditto* *ditto* Surcharge double.
147	*ditto* *ditto* Surcharge double (without hyphen) on cover.
148	1893. Crowned Circle stamp used for ½d. rate.
149—151	1892-99. Seal of Colony design.
152—158	1897-98. Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.
159—168	1852. Barred obliterations.
169—179	1863. Boot-heel obliterations.
180—184	1876. Circular date stamp.
185	1897. Jubilee mark.
186	1861. "Rowland Hill" specimen.
187—193	1873-97. Specimens.

3.

BARBADOS

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, April 11, 1952.

THE

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

Incorporating "The Philatelic Circular," "The Collectors' Magazine," "The Collectors' Monthly," "The Junior Stamp Magazine," "The Record of Philately," and "Alfred Smith's Monthly Circular."

FOUNDED BY THE LATE ALBERT H. HARRIS

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Will postal subscribers please note that the postal subscription is 15/- for 26 issues and a charge of 3d. will be made each time an address is changed during the currency of a subscription, to cover the cost of a new address plate for the Addressograph Machine. If 3d. is not enclosed, the period of the subscription will be reduced by one issue.

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VOL. 60. No. 8 (WHOLE NUMBER 959) APRIL 11, 1952 POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION 15/- FOR 26 NUMBERS

BARBADOS' FIRST STAMPS WERE LOST AT SEA!



● The first issue of the stamps of Barbados, which appeared exactly 100 years ago, did not bear any indication of their face value. Like those of Trinidad, the denominations were denoted by colours.

By

Patrick Hamilton

A HUNDRED years ago, in April, 1852, the first stamps of Barbados were placed on sale. This island, the most easterly of the Caribbean group had been annexed to the British Crown in 1605 and it was here, twenty years later, that the first permanent British settlement in the West Indies was made.

A post office was set up almost immediately to establish communications with England, letters being sent by merchant ships as opportunity offered. In 1702, the British Post Office, by which the Barbados office was controlled, set up regular packet services, but in 1705 the service was farmed to an Edmund Dummer who, under the authority of the P.M.G. in London, appointed Alexander Skein as his own postmaster in Barbados.

Dummer found that he could not carry on his service which ceased in 1711 and the practice of sending mails by merchant ship was reverted to until 1755 when the Post Office Packets again took over the service. Soon after this came the first postal markings, letters being impressed with the simple hand stamp "BARBA/DOES" in two lines; a single line type, similarly spelled followed. Date-stamps were introduced in 1800 and various postmarks of the British type may be seen on letters from the early part of the 19th century.

In 1851 the Post Office Act created an independent post office for Barbados so far as the handling of local letters was concerned, but the British Post Office maintained its office in Barbados for the handling of overseas mails until 1858.



As soon as the colony's own post office was established, arrangements were made for the provision of postage stamps, the work being entrusted to the celebrated London firm of Perkins Bacon and Co. The stamps were of three denominations, ½d., 1d. and 2d. and were in the classic Britannia type which had been introduced in the nearby colony of Trinidad in the previous year. Had it not been for the loss at sea of the Royal Mail Company's vessel *Amazon*, with the initial stocks of Barbadian stamps on board, Barbados too would have made its first stamp issue in 1851; as it was, a second supply was printed and these arrived in the island in time to be placed on sale on 15th April, 1852.

Like the Trinidad stamps, the first issue of Barbados did not bear any indication of the denomination which was only denoted by the colour of the stamps, green for the ½d., blue for the 1d. and slate for the 2d. These were all printed from the same plate which produced sheets of 110 stamps in eleven rows of ten. The first stamps were on paper showing signs of bluing and were of course, issued imperforate.

There being little use for the 2d. value, stocks of these were utilised in 1854 by bisecting to pay the 1d. rate. A new value, also without expressed denomination, came in 1855. This, printed in brownish-red was a 4d. stamp for heavier letters. In 1856, white paper began to be used and the ½d. and 1d. values may be found imperforate on paper showing no signs of bluing.

When, in 1858, the British Post Office handed over the handling of overseas mails to the Barbados Post Office, two new denominations were added. These were a 6d. for letters to England weighing up to ½ oz., and a 1/- for similar letters up to 1 oz. These stamps, which were also issued in imperforate sheets of 110 had the value expressed in words below the figure of Britannia, and the name of the colony in a curve at the top.

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PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, Oct. 13, 1950

THE
PHILATELIC MAGAZINE
Incorporating "The Philatelic Circular," "The Collectors' Magazine," "The Collectors' Monthly," "The Junior Stamp Magazine," "The Record of Philately," and "Alfred Smith's Monthly Circular."

Established at Bath in 1875

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VOL. 58. No. 21 (WHOLE NUMBER 920) OCTOBER 13, 1950 POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION 10/- FOR 26 NUMBERS

POSTAL RATES AND POSTMARKS OF BARBADOS

In 1852 it cost a shilling to send a letter from Barbados to Great Britain but when the Colony joined the U.P.U. in 1881 the rate was dropped to 4d. and then to 2½d. A brief story of the posts on the island is told here.

By
HAROLD D. G. GISBURN

THE postal history of Barbados can be traced back to very early days in the life of the colony. About the year 1663 a Packet Agency was established at the capital, Bridgetown, by the Imperial Post Office, and this remained in being until 1858 although it was incorporated with the Barbados Inland Post Office in 1854.

During this period of nearly two centuries this acted as Receiving Office for letters brought to the island by the Packet ships and, later (from 1841 onwards) by the vessels of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company which obtained the contract for the carriage of the West Indian mails in the latter year. No inland postal service existed during this period and addressees had to make their own arrangements for the collection of correspondence from the Post Office at Bridgetown.

The first inland service was authorised by local enactment in 1851 and brought into operation in April, 1852, when a Barbadian G.P.O. was opened at Bridgetown and the first definitive postage stamps were placed on sale. Concurrently, sub-offices were opened in the ten rural parishes, and thirty Receiving Houses were established at convenient points, the duty of receiving the mail being undertaken by suitable local residents.

The work of conveying the mails between the G.P.O. and the country areas was carried on by mounted constabulary, and local delivery was effected by letter-carriers appointed for this purpose. In 1881 the first wall-boxes were erected, and gradually these superseded the Receiving Houses although the last seven of the latter were not finally abolished until as late as 1932.



In 1870 the transmission of mails by mounted police was abandoned in favour of a contract system by horse and mule carts, which in its turn gave way to motor mail vans in 1925.

The year 1841 saw the termination of the old Packet system for overseas mails, and a contract entered into with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. This continued in force until 1920 although, as early as 1885, the Barbados Government acquired powers to dispatch mails (at prescribed "Ship Letter" rates) by any other vessel which might offer facilities for conveyance, the sole criterion being the speediest and most convenient route available at a given time.



When the inland postal service was inaugurated in 1852 the postage rate on letters to the United Kingdom was 1/- per ½ oz. inclusive of the inland rate; the fee to the other West Indian islands was 8d. per ½ oz. including a double inland rate of 2d. collected from both the sender and addressee. This latter fee was reduced in 1874 to 7d. inclusive; the United Kingdom rate having meanwhile been lowered to 6d. in 1854, but again raised to 1/- in 1858.

In 1861 prepayment of postal fees by means of adhesive stamps was made compulsory for the first time, any deficiency thereafter being collected at double rate from the addressee. Barbados joined the Universal Postal Union in 1881, when the United Kingdom rate was reduced from 1/- to 4d., and to 2½d. ten years later.

As from 1898 the rate to both the United Kingdom and the other British West Indian islands (except Jamaica where it operated from 1899) was brought down to 1d. and this was extended to include the whole Empire in 1907. This rate remained in force until 1931 when financial stringency compelled upper adjustment.

The inland rate for letters was fixed at 1d. per ½ oz. from 1852 to 1909 after which the initial weight was increased to 1 oz. The rate was subsequently increased to 1½d., at which figure it still remains.

As previously mentioned, inland mails are now distributed from the G.P.O. to each of the parish post

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• CONTINUED • OVERLEAF •

STAMP LOVER. (?date)

BARBADOS

The Kingston Relief Fund Stamps of Barbados.

WHEN the city of Kingston, Jamaica, was devastated by the great earthquake of January 14th, 1907, and the raging fires which followed it, a great wave of sympathy with the sufferers swept through the other English Islands in the West Indies. In Barbados especially was this the case—everyone, however poor, wished to contribute to the relief fund which was promptly started. The collection of small subscriptions from a large number of people is apt to cost nearly as much as the total sum raised, and so it was decided that the most economical method was by means of a stamp. At that time the Barbados Treasury had on hand a large number of the twopenny stamps of 1899, for which there was but little demand, and so the opportunity to work these off was utilised.

The following official information was sent by the Colonial Secretary of Barbados to the newspapers of the Island :—

" SURCHARGED STAMPS TO AID JAMAICA FUND.

" The Governor in Executive Committee, in order to extend as widely as possible in this Island facilities to subscribers of small sums to the Fund for the Relief of the Sufferers from the recent Earthquake and Fire in Kingston, Jamaica, has decided to make a special issue of 2d. stamps surcharged ' Kingston Relief Fund, 1d.' for sale to the public at 2d. These will be available for postal purposes as 1d. stamps. The remaining 1d. in respect of each stamp sold going to the fund for relief purposes. Each purchaser of a stamp of this special issue will thus thereby be contributing the sum of 1d. to the Fund, and the stamp purchased will be of the same postal value as a 1d. stamp."

The stamps, in panes of 60 (ten rows of 6), were sent to the Government printers, Messrs. T. E. King & Co. of Bridgetown, in batches as required on various dates, to be surcharged in red. Type for overprinting twelve stamps at a time, in two rows of six, was set up, the surcharge being in four lines :—

Kingston
Relief
Fund
1d.

The work appears to have been done on a small light press, and the printer seems to have divided up the first few panes into blocks of twelve. On these blocks the margins were left, and I have been able to find but very few of them, all in the first setting and nothing larger than a block of twelve. This way must have been tedious and difficult to obtain the proper alignment, as the margins varied in width. To secure uniform alignment of the surcharge the operator removed the margins. I have stamps which show the margins were stripped against a flat metal rule, others showing margins were cut away by knife or scissors, so that this was done by the printer for this purpose seems clear.

The stamps were first put on sale on January 25th, 1907, eleven days after the earthquake, and so far as I can ascertain both setting I and setting II were issued on that day. On March 19th a lot with inverted surcharge was put on sale, and during the weeks following further lots, both with normal and with inverted surcharge, were issued until April 25th, when all unsold remainders were withdrawn from sale, and, I believe, destroyed. During the last three weeks sales had fallen off and only small lots were printed as required, the inverted being in greater demand than the normal. Settings VI, VII and VIII all belong to this period and are difficult to find, doubtless many were destroyed with the remainders. Mr. E. W. Williams, writing from Barbados on April 15th, 1907, informed me the number printed with surcharge inverted was between 12,000 and 16,000. The total number surcharged, both normal and inverted, is given on the authority of the Postmaster as 24,000.

Turning now to the setting of the type, the salient features are the level stop after 1d. in No. 2 and the broken and curtailed R in No. 5, which are constant in those positions through all the printings; and the omission of the stop after 1d. in Nos. 6 and 8 in the later ones. In trying to distinguish the different settings I have taken No. 2 as the key stamp.

FIRST SETTING.—In No. 2 the F of Fund is 2mm. to the right of R of Relief; the colour is a clear bright red and all the letters of both rows are distinctly printed. A few blocks of 12 were issued with margins; the rest of this and all subsequent settings were in panes of 60 with all margins removed. Two panes of 60 were found with the surcharge inverted.

SECOND SETTING.—In No. 2 F of Fund is ½mm. only to the right of R of Relief, as illustrated in *Ewen's Weekly* of April 13th, 1907. The ball top of "f" in Relief generally fails to print on Nos. 2 to 6 in this and subsequent settings. The colour is bright red, but duller than the first setting. Two rows were doubly surcharged, both normal, one surcharge being shifted to the right, nearly, but not quite the width of one stamp. Both settings were issued together, comprising the first lot of 6000. Consequent upon the discovery of the panes with inverted surcharge mentioned above, repeated demands were made on the Post Office for more, and it was suggested to the Postmaster, Mr. Bailey, that the Fund would benefit greatly if some further panes with the inverted surcharge were issued. This was eventually done, a lot of 6000, all with the surcharge inverted, being put on sale on March 19th, 1907. But the whole of these are in the second setting and the colour is mid red and dark red. I am of opinion that all panes, except the two of the first setting, were fed into the press the same way, and that it was the type itself which was changed round to produce the inverted surcharge.

THIRD SETTING.—The distinguishing feature of this setting is a large woolly stop after 1d. in No. 6. The illustration given by *Ewen's*, May 18th, 1907, is, I believe, a repetition of the block published on April 13th, as it does not show the woolly stop clearly, and the surcharge is normal. I have as yet only found this setting with the surcharge inverted and do not believe it exists in the normal. Further, Setting III seems to have formed part of the lot of 6000 inverted of March 19th. It is found in fairly bright red, mid red and dark red.

Red printing ink is dried with some considerable difficulty in the Barbados atmosphere, and it was during the printing of this lot of inverted that the operator, to avoid smudging, commenced to overprint a portion only of each pane, leaving from two to four rows of stamps at the bottom to be done when the other portion had dried. Thus this third setting exists *se tenant* with the second. On one such pane ten stamps are doubly surcharged, both being inverted. This double surcharge is also misplaced the width of one stamp to the right and extends diagonally downwards till on the extreme right it is the depth of one stamp lower.

FOURTH SETTING.—The salient feature of the fourth setting is the omission of the stop after 1d. on No. 6. The colour is vermilion and the printing is heavy and blurred. It is found with both normal and inverted overprint, and the latter exists *se tenant* with Setting III.

BARBADOS

GIBBONS' STAMP MONTHLY, Sept. 1938.

A Chat on Barbados

By A. J. D.

I KNOW that a great deal has been written about the stamps of Barbados, particularly the early issues, and it is therefore with a feeling of trepidation that I approach my subject.

The object of this short article, however, is not to give fresh information, for, frankly, I haven't any, but to give my own point of view, as a collector of very moderate means, upon making a collection of the stamps of this popular British Colony. Should anything that I have to say be of interest to collectors generally, I shall be well pleased.

I have friends who shun the early issues of Barbados on the ground of expense. True, a glance at our catalogues lends ample proof to this, especially those very early issues up to, say, 1861. But after this date, I think it can be fairly stated that prices are within the scope of the collector of small to moderate means. Take a look at the period 1861–1878. It will be seen that no less than seventy-two different items are catalogued, and from these, with a little care, it is possible to make a good representative collection at moderate cost.

In my own case I first marked the items I desired to acquire commencing with No. 20. Thereafter I marked one variety of each denomination in those issues which, whilst being interesting, were not too costly. Probably no two collectors would mark the same item, but, for this purpose, it would not matter in the least. Where there was more than one variety, I acquired the first good specimen that came my way. In those issues with rough perforations I found that well-centred and lightly cancelled specimens were rarely met with. Either the stamp was well centred and heavily cancelled, or lightly cancelled, but off centre. If really good copies cannot be obtained at a reasonable price, each collector must choose for himself (or herself) which to have—well-centred copies or lightly cancelled copies. Most of the specimens in my own collection are lightly cancelled but only about 30 per cent well centred. I have picked over scores of these early stamps, and I hope that I have chosen the best.



Now with the introduction of clean-cut perforations, however, I found, amongst the many specimens from which I chose, a much higher percentage of well-centred copies and at the same time a great improvement in the cancellations from the collector's point of view. For example, in the course of time I have acquired a set of the issue 1875–78. The numbers of my stamps are 72, 73, 75, 77, 79 and 82. Each is perfectly centred and the cancellations light with the exception of the 1/– violet which may be described as passable. The set just enumerated, by the way, illustrates exactly my system of choosing one variety of each denomination, where more than one variety is catalogued.

It will be noticed that no mention has been made of designs, watermarks or perforations. All these are covered by that admirable handbook upon the stamps of Barbados by Bacon and Napier.

Those who have not taken any particular interest in the issues covered by this short talk, are, in my humble opinion, missing a philatelic treat, but it is never too late to make a beginning. The designs with their many different shades of colour lend added interest to the forming of a representative collection of stamps which rightly rank with the classics of Philately.

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, June 12, 1936

BARBADOS
BISECTED "POSTAGE DUE"

By WALTER HUSBANDS

It is seldom in these days that one hears of or sees a bisected stamp in the British Colonies. In point of fact, since the minute in 1893 by Lord Rippon, then Secretary of State for the Colonies and Protectorates, forbidding the issue of local and provisional stamps by means of surcharges or overprints and the subsequent finding in 1908 consequent upon an official enquiry instituted by Lord Crewe, a later Secretary of State for the Colonies, that the "Officer administering the Government, the Colonial Secretary and the Colonial Postmasters of the various Crown Colonies and Protectorates should be held collectively and individually responsible for ensuring that an adequate stock of stamps is kept in the Colony or Protectorate and for ordering a fresh supply as soon as the stock in hand falls below the amount normally required for a period of, say, six months," indeed, Postmasters, to whom such blame would chiefly be attributed, have got a real scare and have been particularly careful in avoiding provisional issues.

But, *necessitas non habet legem*, the Postal Convention held at Cairo in March, 1934, not only recognised, but upheld the practice of collecting the actual deficiency in postage (and not double the deficiency) in certain circumstances, consequently, half-penny (½d.) postage due stamps became an absolute necessity to all Colonies and Protectorates in which the postage due label system had been already introduced.

Barbados, who had in January, 1934, for the first time, introduced the postage due label system, only possessed a one-penny (1d.) postage due stamp, but deciding to give effect to the Postal Convention's recognizance of March, 1934, later ordered a supply of half-penny (½d.) postage due stamps, and to quote the actual words of Mr. G. F. Sharpe, Colonial Postmaster at Barbados, this is what happened:—"In the interim, a bisected 1d. label was used to indicate a surcharge of ½d., rather than revert to the old and objectionable practice of indicating the amount of the 'tax' in coloured pencil on the outside of the envelope."

"The half-penny surcharge was levied on 'Other Articles' returned to senders at their direct request."

Thus there can be no scepticism as to the authenticity of this stamp, it having been officially authorised. It is the one-penny (1d.) (S.G. No. D2), diagonally bisected and each half surcharged by hand "½d." in black or red ink, of which the latter is the scarcer of the two. Some are also found without any surcharge, representing as they do a half of a penny.

These bisects can only be found affixed to a blue Post Office Circular No. P.F. 132, ON SERVICE, which is folded into the form of a wrapper or envelope and bound with a paper clip so as to hold within the returned letter for which the surcharge is levied.

Unfortunately, the Barbados Post Office cannot supply the correct number of bisects used, but it is evident quite a small quantity has been used, as "tax" letters are not an everyday occurrence in a small colony like Barbados.

The 1d. postage due first came into use on the 2nd January, 1934, and the ½d. postage due on the 10th February, 1935, while the bisected 1d. was in use for approximately eight months in the interim.

Stamp Hunting

Nimrod suggests some stamps to look for

Barbados

This country has a steady following, and market movements tend to be unspectacular. Nevertheless there are plenty of scarce stamps and it is interesting to try to estimate the value of these. Some have been tipped before, such as the 1882 2½d. in both ultramarine and deep blue shades (SG 93 & 94) fine mint, which are sufficiently difficult to be worth another mention. The 10d. from the 1897 Jubilee series (123) is quite a scarce item in fine mint or used. Condition is an important factor here as the stamp often comes with discoloured gum or bent corners. Although the 1907 Kingston Relief Fund stamps are common, the 'no stop' varieties (153e, 153ea) are less so, and are worth looking for, either mint or used.





A stamp which was formerly quite easy to obtain but has become harder is the 1912 3s. violet and green (180). Again, this seems to apply to both mint and used. Although the 3s. violet of the 1916 issue (191) has been tipped before as outstandingly scarce used, this is worth re-emphasising.

Turning to modern issues, the three stamps issued in 1982 to complete the Bird definitives (622/38) are much sought after to make up sets, both by collectors and the trade. I refer to the 15c., 40c. and 60c. (627a, 631b & 633b). If you see these offered singly, do snap them up, as they will probably eventually be worth as much as the higher face values, at least in unmounted mint.





Finally, let us look at the 1985–7 Marine Life definitives. These are quite complicated, and all are now obsolete. There are four groups, and in all cases there is only one way for prices to move—up! Firstly, there was a set of 16 on Crown CA diagonal watermark, without imprint (763A/8A). These may turn out to be the least difficult in the long run but are still worthwhile. Then followed seven values with 1987 imprint (763B/78B). These are certainly very good, and should be picked up as soon as possible. Next there were nine values on Script CA diagonal watermark, without imprint (794A/809A). These will also be good both mint and used as their life was short and probably not many were used or put aside. Finally, there were 16 values on the same watermark with imprint (794B/809B). These have just become obsolete, and could well turn out to be the best of the lot. All in all this is a most interesting and promising issue, and is highly recommended.

Stamp Hunting

Nimrod suggests some stamps worth looking for

Barbados

Mint stamps from the 1882–86 series (SG89/103) seem at present to be more elusive than ever, despite some significant price increases over the years. The 2½d. (93, 94) and 6d. (100) are particularly difficult in fine mint, and the ½d. (89, 90) and 1d. (91, 92) are surprisingly uncommon in this condition. The 1s. (102) was at one time reasonably plentiful, but this no longer seems to be the case. A fine mint set is very worthwhile, though by no means cheap; however, you are unlikely to be offered one, and would probably be better advised to build the set in ones and twos as good examples turn up.

Most of the series between 1892 and 1935 have a solid look and show steady appreciation. Condition is often a problem up to and including the 1912–16 set (170/80); thereafter matters get somewhat better. The 1892–96 set of 11 (105/15) looks set to move up. Hitherto the low values have appeared quite frequently in mint condition, only the 2½d. (109) and 6d. (111) giving slight difficulty, but now the ¼d. (105), 1d. (107), 5d. (110) and 10d. (113) are at last also improving. The 2s.6d. violet and green (115) remains a very elusive item, both mint and used, and is strongly recommended. In 1905 seven values were reprinted on Multiple Watermark paper (135/44). The top two, the 8d. (142) and 2s.6d. (144) are notoriously tricky in fine used. Curiously, it is the three lowest values, the ¼d. (135), ½d. (136) and 1d. (137) which are currently hardest to come by in fine mint. All in all, this inconspicuous group is quite promising.

Two early commemorations were the 1897 Diamond Jubilee set of nine (116/24) and the 1906 Nelson Centenary (145/51). The former is far from easy in fine condition, either mint or used, and will doubtless advance from its present position. Best values are the 10d. (123) and 2s.6d. (124). The latter is more plentiful, but should also slowly gain. Here too the three lowest values, the ¼d. (145), ½d. (146) and 1d. (147) are in curiously short supply in fine mint; the 1s. (151) is very much the key to the fine used, with the 2d. (148) showing signs of improvement. In 1907 the ¼d., 2d. and 2½d. were issued on the Multiple Crown watermark (158, 161, 162), and the first two are often missing from dealers' stocks in fine mint.

In 1909–10 seven further values in the basic 'Seal of the Colony' design were produced. In mint condition these are hard to acquire, and are rising relatively rapidly. As with the previously mentioned 1905 series they are not a prominent group, and were probably rather overlooked at the time of currency, hence their comparative scarcity today. Best are the ½d. blue-green (164) and 2½d. bright blue (167), both of which could be confused with their 1905 counterparts. Also moving up are the 1d. red (165), 2d. greyish slate (166) and 6d. dull and bright purple (168). Used are in this instance less desirable, though the 2d., 6d. and 1s. (169) are fairly uncommon.

The 1912–16 series (170/80) is another steadily improving item. The two shades of the 1d., red (172) and scarlet (172a), are tricky in fine mint, especially the latter, while the top two values, the 2s. (179) and 3s. (180) remain desirable in either fine mint or fine used. Other used values often requiring a fairly long search are the 2d. (173) and 4d. (176). The attractive 'Large Seal' designs which followed (181/91) are rather easier in fine mint, but three values cause real problems in used condition, namely the 2d. (184, 184a), 4d. (187) and 3s. deep violet (191). Beware unsatisfactory postmarks, otherwise these are recommended. In 1918 the 4d. and 3s. had their colours changed (199, 200). These too are both scarce in fine used, particularly the 3s.

The 1920–21 Victory set of 12 (201/12) is beginning to look undervalued in fine used. Every value from the 2½d. (205) up to the 3s. (211) is at present in short supply, and steady appreciation can be expected. Mint is also good, with the 1d. on Script Watermark (212) being especially elusive, and the 2s. (210) and 3s. also frequently absent from dealers' stocks.

BARBADOS

STRAND STAMP JOURNAL, Jan. 1961.



Barbados

Star of the Caribbean

by ERIC GLASGOW, M.A. Ph.D.

THE honeymoon of Princess Margaret focussed greater attention on the island colonies of the British West Indies, which have always had a great attraction for stamp collectors. Of these islands Barbados is one of the most typical, although, like Trinidad, Jamaica and British Guiana, it is detached and not included in the Windward Islands group. Barbados is a good-sized island, about 160 square miles in area and very densely populated.

In the north it rises to over 1000 ft. in Mount Hillaby. The outstanding product is, of course, sugar-cane, whose cultivation is illustrated by the 2 cents stamp of the 1950 set. Barbados is, in fact, a typical "sugar island' of the West Indies; but it does grow certain other things, such as cotton, maize and citrus fruit. The fishing industry, as shown in the 6 cents stamp of the 1950 set, is also growing and there is in operation a Government loan scheme for the building, repair and maintenance of fishing craft. Its setting, amidst the blue Caribbean Sea, has made Barbados peculiarly open to maritime influences, which are represented in the stamp album by the schooner and the flying fish of the 1950 set. The seat, by its moderation of the climate of Barbados, has further made the island a popular holiday and tourist resort.

More Education Needed

Barbados does, indeed, appear large in any concept of the British West Indies. Because it is so overcrowded, its young people make a large contribution to the West Indian immigrants into Britain, and although the island has a fair number of schools, one teachers' training college, a public library at Bridgetown and a small theological college—Codrington College, in the north-east of the island, affiliated to Durham University—there remains a crying demand for more education, as in all the colonies of the British West Indies. In my work as History tutor for a well-known correspondence college, I have had, over the years, many students living in Barbados—and some of them have shown as good a knowledge of English History as the average student in this country. Moreover, this contact has helped my stamp collection considerably.

There is a map of Barbados—not a very explicit one, I'm afraid—in one of the stamps of the 1950 George VI set. This does show the boundaries of the eleven parishes, into which the island is divided; but no town, except the capital, Bridgetown, in the south-west of the colony. With a population of 18,000, Bridgetown, in the parish of St. Michael, has some very interesting public buildings,, including the Cathedral, shown in the 48 cents stamp of 1950. It is protected by Dover Fort, illustrated in the lowest value of the 1950 set, the scene of much thrilling action in earlier times when the Caribbean region was the resort of pirates and freebooters of all nationalities, and no rich sugar island like Barbados could be secure, except behind a show of force.

Barbados has 623 miles of road, mostly with a good surface, and there are, in addition, local roads maintained by the separate parishes. The airfield is at Seawell, about 12 miles south-east of Bridgetown; and this is regularly used by B.O.A.C. and British West Indian Airways, as well as by Canadian, French, Venezuelan and U.S.A. lines. Further, Bridgetown has regular sea links by the Harrison, Lamport & Holt, Dutch and Canadian companies. The erstwhile isolation of Barbados has, therefore, been broken.

Postmarks

Like all the colonies of the British West Indies, Barbados is a very attractive and promising field for all who are interested in postmarks. Its more recent pictorial stamps are much better collected in used condition, for then they have the final touch of authenticity; and it is possible to assemble them with postmarks other than Bridgetown, such as Speightstown, Bathsheba, Crane, Worthing and Hastings. So do these remote little villages, their beaches bathed in the languorous heat of the Caribbean sun, come to life through the vicarious medium of the postage stamp. It is, surely, one of the great joys of stamp collecting that it is able thus to eradicate distance.

Barbados is, perhaps, more interesting historically than it is geographically. Originally inhabited by Arawak natives, it was first visited by the Portuguese, who named it "Los Barbados," from the bearded fig trees which they found there. The English were the first to colonize the island, however, which they did in 1605. Barbados was thus the first British colony in the West Indies; and it has the further distinction that it has never, since that year, been lost by the English, even temporarily. There was no permanent settlement until 1627, however, when the island was granted to the Earl of Carlisle.

Barbados is remarkable in that a rudimentary form of postal organization was instituted there, almost as soon as the first English settlement. Fast mail-boats operated between Barbados and the United Kingdom before the

Barbados to British Guiana



One of the many fine covers from the collection of the late Dr. R. H. Urwick which are described on pages 298 and 299.

The cover was used in 1860 and bears pairs of the 4d. brownish-red imperforate and the pin perf. 14 1d. deep blue.

BARBADOS

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, Dec 23, 1949

TOURING AROUND THE EMPIRE

An Island Of Vanished Indians



BARBADOS

Down the years, the island of Barbados has been threatened by the French, Dutch and Germans, but it has remained British ever since the "Olive Blossom" arrived there in 1605. Nelson and George Washington have also visited this West Indies possession which depends almost entirely on its crop of sugar.

THE tiny island of Barbados (it is very little larger than the Isle of Wight) lies more to the east than any of the West Indies, its nearest neighbour in the British Commonwealth being the colony of Trinidad and Tobago. Barbados derives its name from the bearded fig trees which the Portuguese (the first Europeans to land there) called "Los Barbados."

The original inhabitants were the Arawak Indians who, it is believed, migrated there from the mainland of South America. The stamps of Barbados have never portrayed these natives, but Jamaica did so on the 1d. value of 1921. Strangely enough these Indians had vanished by the time the first British ship anchored off the island. It is believed they were exterminated by raiding Caribs and by the Spaniards who deported them to work in the mines of Hispaniola.

Landfall of the British was commemorated on the island's stamps in 1906 when a penny value in three colours was designed by Lady Carter. This showed the good ship *Olive Blossom* which, in 1605 it is believed, arrived on the leeward coast under the command of one Captain Cataline who had been driven out of his course on a voyage to Guiana. On a tree nearby he inscribed "James, K of E and of this Island" and from that day to this the British have maintained sovereignty over Barbados, though it has been threatened on more than one occasion.

The first settlers numbered eighty and travelling in the *William and John* reached Capt. Cataline's landing place in 1627. They called their settlement The Hole, a name that has survived in the modern Holetown. Soon afterwards a further sixty-four settlers arrived on the site of the present capital, Bridgetown. A quarrel soon developed between the two parties and after a struggle the newcomers proved victorious.

Not many years elapsed, however, before the settlers had to face an outside enemy. In 1655 the Dutch Admiral, de Ruyter, tried to seize the island with a fleet of twenty-five ships of the line, two fire-ships and 2,500 troops. At his approach the British ships were brought in close under the batteries and, although the Dutch vessels closed in, the fire from our ships was so deadly that the flagship was disabled and the expedition retreated in some disorder.

In the eighteenth century, the French and American wars threatened the Colony which was ringed with forts. One can still see these relics with their crumbling walls and rusting guns. In 1805, the French and Spanish fleets were sighted off St. Lucia, but Nelson made a timely arrival at Bridgetown on the *Victory* accompanied by the whole English fleet. This salvation was commemorated in 1811 by the erection of a bronze statue to the Admiral, the centenary of which was noted by the issue of the well-known Nelson Centenary sets of 1906 and 1907.

Another celebrated visitor to the island was George Washington who, as a lad of nineteen, came to Barbados in 1751. He caught smallpox but he may also have caught an idea! He had the opportunity of studying the ancient Barbados Legislature and electoral system and some historians even trace a connection between this visit and the Declaration of American Independence!



The Legislature is, in fact, the oldest colonial body after the Bermuda House of Assembly. Constituted in 1639 its Tercentenary was honoured by the special issue of stamps in 1939 depicting King Charles I, King George VI, the Assembly Chamber and the great Mace.

More than a hundred years passed between Nelson's delivery of the island from threatened French attack and the next danger from the outside world. Then, in 1914, the German cruiser *Karlsruhe* was sent to attack this outpost of Britain's West Indian possessions but, fortunately, blew up en route. The Germans were more successful in 1942. Then a submarine attacked a Norwegian and a British vessel lying at anchor in Carlisle Bay and the latter, the *Cornwallis* was hit by a torpedo.

So much for history. Now, what of the island itself? It is not a typical member of the West Indies, being entirely without the tropical luxuriance of many of them. It is green and undulating in appearance, but with sugar cane replacing the grass of England. It sometimes calls to mind the downs of Sussex or the weald of Kent and the resemblance is heightened by the plantation houses set in copses of dark-foliaged trees.



The postal box was originally in the wall of a rural post office in Barbados. The building was demolished in an accident but the box remained.

26 (Cont. ~~overleaf~~ underneath.)



Bathsheba, St. Joseph, in the volcanic area of the island.

It is perhaps the healthiest of the West Indian islands with little variation in temperature and with the cool north-east Trade Winds blowing across it between December and May.

The first thing necessary to an understanding of this little colony is that its entire financial position is based on the sugar crop. According to the *Colonial Annual* report for 1947 a little over 20,000 people are engaged in the active cultivation of this crop. But the island has nearly 200,000 inhabitants! What do the rest of them find to do? A correspondent in this month's *Crown Colonist* tells us "the rest of the population makes a living in secondary ways off the fruits of the labour of the primary workers." Can it be wondered at, therefore, that there is a big surplus of labour with the accompanying political unrest?



Attempts, none too successful, have been made to drain off this surplus labour to other West Indian colonies and to the U.S.A., but the problem is far from solution and we shall hear more of it.

As can be imagined, Bridgetown is grossly overcrowded, the houses of the poorer sections of the population being mostly built of imported lumber and shingles with one to three rooms with a lean-to kitchen at the back. Many are unfit for human inhabitation. Housing schemes are in progress but the task is a heavy one. The island is divided into eleven parishes and collectors will observe their names on the cancellation stamps: St. Michael Christchurch, St. George, St. Philip, St. John, St. James, St. Joseph, St. Thomas, St. Andrew, St. Peter and St. Lucy.

Bridgetown is situated in the parish of St. Michael but overflows into that of Christchurch (St. Michael and Bridgetown together account for over 76,000 of the population). One result of this overcrowding is the necessity for keeping a strict watch upon communicable diseases. Enteric fever, tuberculosis, dysentery and diphtheria might easily get out of control were it not for the devoted work of the island's medical and public health staff. Here again, the congested state of the General Hospital is a great handicap.

Tourists, of course, find Barbados an island of many attractions. There are facilities for yachting, golf, cricket, tennis and some of the finest sea bathing in the world. The southern and western coasts are famous for the last named pastime.

The island produces fine thoroughbred horses which compete successfully in the race meetings of other islands, while the Barbados Turf Club holds three meetings a year. Polo is played, and there are pleasant rides over the countryside, particularly along the "intervals" as the bridle paths through the fields are called locally.

The Post Office finances are in flourishing condition, it being estimated that £7,000 was raised by the sale of the Victory stamps to collectors alone. The *Colonial Annual* report contains one charmingly-worded phrase which, as it were, sums up the history of so many West Indian "errors": "Sales received considerable impetus by the discovery of a flaw in one of the 1½d. stamps. The rush of sales that followed made it a very profitable error." A new and larger Post Office is forecast to cope with increasing business!

Many famous steamship lines call at Barbados and a list may be of interest: Harrison, Blue Star, Royal Netherlands Steamship Co., Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, Canadian National Steamships, Alcoa Steamship Co. Inc., Booth Line, Lamport and Holt Line, Flotta Mercante del 'Estada and the Nourse Line. In addition, the Newfoundland railways operate a fleet of small motor vessels of about 325 tons.



Like so many British Colonies, Barbados is now making considerable strides in securing a more representative administration. In 1944, the Representation of the People Act was amended and the franchise lowered. As a result, a House of Assembly was returned for the first time with a predominantly trade union complexion. Reforms may move slowly, but they do move!

ADMISSION TICKET
You do not need one for the
HARRIS EXHIBITION
of Albums, Catal gues, Hinges, Tweezers, Literature and all kinds of Accessories.
DROP IN ANY TIME.

BARBADOS

Stamp Collecting, Mar. 22, 1941

The "Nelson" Stamps of Barbados

OUTSTANDING among the several interesting and attractive issues of commemorative postage stamps emanating from the British West Indian colony of *Barbados* is that dedicated to the memory of Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson, upon the occasion of the centenary of the Battle of Trafalgar (October 21st, 1805).

The decision to create special stamps in celebration of the centenary seems to have been in the nature of a last minute decision on the part of the Island Legislature, for it was only in September, 1905, that the project was announced. Consequently it proved impossible for the stamps to be prepared and shipped from England in time for release on October 21st of that year, and they did not in fact materialize until nearly five months later, on March 1st, 1907.

The subject of their design is a representation of the monument erected by public subscription to the hero of Trafalgar, which stands in Trafalgar Square, Bridgetown, overlooking the harbour, where it was unveiled by the Governor of the Colony, Sir George Beckwith, on March 22nd, 1813.

According to the inscription, this was "The First Monument erected to Nelson's Memory," but this claim has been vigorously disputed by the city of Montreal (Canada). The original design is attributed to Mr. G. S. Goodman, Solicitor General for Barbados; but the palm trees which flank the statue were incorporated at the suggestion of Lady Carter, wife of the then Governor, to lend a touch of local colour.

The water colour sketches prepared by De La Rue & Co.'s artists for the finished design were contained in the important collection of West Indian stamps formed by Mr. D. M. Brown, and are reproduced herewith by courtesy of Messrs. Robson Lowe Ltd., the auctioneers.

It will be observed that the left-hand drawing differs from the accepted design (right hand) in respect of the corner ornaments and other particulars. The former, executed in black throughout was approved on July 25th, 1906, but the adopted version (in black and carmine) is dated August 24th of the same year.

Two separate printings were made of all seven denominations from ¼d. to 1/-, the first upon thick, white paper, and the second upon paper of thinner texture having a bluish tinge, both with watermark Crown C.C. No figures are available except in the case of the 2d. value, each printing of which comprised 25,000 copies.

Recess printed in sheets of 60 (5 and 12), the bottom row of stamps was removed by the postal authorities from all sheets in the initial consignment of the 2d. value, but the reason for this has never been officially disclosed.

Both the ¼d. and 1d. stamps of this series are known with watermark inverted; whilst the frame of the 1/- exists in two distinct shades, viz. rose and deep lake, the latter being the scarcer.

Fifteen months later, on July 6th, 1907, a further supply of the "Nelson" commemorative stamps, limited however to the ½d., 2d. and 2½d. denominations was placed on sale, this time with the newly-introduced Multiple Crown C.A. watermark, a total of 50,000 copies of the ¼d., 12,000 of the 2d. and 27,000 of the 2½d. being printed upon this paper.

What proportion of the 2½d. value came in the rare *indigo* shade is not known, but probably did not exceed the odd 2,000 copies.



Artists' drawings for the "Nelson Centenary" stamps of Barbados. (*By courtesy of Robson Lowe Ltd.*)

BARBADOS

STAMP COLLECTING Mar. 10, 1951.

BARBADOS - 1905
Nelson Centenary Issue

By "X. N. O."



I HAVE always had a liking for "junk" shops (possibly due to having spent several years in China). There is so much uncertainty as to what you will find and I have found many things—old maps, etc. of great interest.

Recently, while prowling about in a well-known Surrey town (where, incidentally, there is a flourishing Philatelic Society) I bought six second-hand books for sixpence. The one I liked best was "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies" by Algernon E. Aspinall and published in 1910. It turned out to be a presentation copy from the author and as such is signed by him. Looking through this book, which is well illustrated and with numerous maps of the islands in colour, I came across in the Barbados chapter the story of the Nelson statue in Bridgetown, Barbados and I quote from the book :

"BRIDGETOWN—TRAFALGAR SQUARE

The open space situated at the east end of the city, which was formerly called the 'Green', contains the first statue erected to the memory of Lord Nelson. News of the hero's victory and death reached Barbados on December 20th, 1805; there was a brilliant illumination on December 23rd to celebrate the victory, while on January 5th a funeral sermon was preached at St. Michael's Church on the death of the hero. Subscriptions were invited towards the erection of the statue, and £2,300 was subscribed in a few weeks. The Green was purchased for £1,050, towards which sum the Legislature contributed £500. The statue, which is of bronze, and represents the Admiral in full uniform, was erected on March 22nd, 1813. Lieutenant-General Sir George Beckwith, the Governor of Barbados, who had already laid the first stone of the pedestal on February 24th in that year, performed the ceremony of unveiling. On the occasion of the Nelson centenary on October 21st, 1905 this square was again the scene of great rejoicings. The statue was decorated with flowers by day and illuminated at night and the populace celebrated the event in a suitable manner."

Then follows the inscription on the pedestal which I copied as set out in the book, and with one of the Nelson stamps makes a very interesting sheet which I do not remember ever having seen in a philatelic journal.

I had the pleasure of making a copy of this sheet for a friend who claims to be a descendant of Nelson :

To the Memory of
HORATIO LORD VISCOUNT NELSON, K.B.
Vice-Admiral of the White,
The Preserver of the British West Indies
In a moment of unexampled peril;
The Hero, whose various and transcendent merits,
Alike, conspicuous in address, decision, action and achievement
Throughout his whole unparalleled career of glory,
No powers of language can sufficiently delineate,
This statue was erected by the grateful inhabitants of Barbados
On a spot of ground appropriated to it by a public grant of the Colonial Legislature
In accordance with the solicitations of a select Committee, that so sincere, though humble a tribute of esteem, admiration and gratitude to their
Illustrious deliverer
Might be rendered more congenial
To his generous and exalted spirit
From the hand of one,
Himself a Hero and a benefactor to this country, the first stone of the pedestal was deposited by
His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir GEORGE BECKWITH, K.B.,
The Beloved and Patriotic Governor of Barbados,
And Commander of the forces in the Leeward Islands
February 24, A.D. 1814.
"Esto Perpetua!".

(This statue, the first to be erected to Nelson's Memory was unveiled on March 22nd, 1813. It stands in Trafalgar Square, Bridgetown, the capital of Barbados.)

THE NELSON CENTENARY ISSUE OF BARBADOS 1906-1907

By E. W. MANN, F.R.P.S.L.

VERY little seems to have been written about these stamps and information appears to be scanty.

It is perhaps small wonder because the issue, in truth, has very little to recommend it. It was unnecessary, it commemorated not the great Admiral himself but the erection of his statue. Incidentally to celebrate this statue as being the first statue to be erected in Nelson's honour and memory was totally incorrect as a statue had already been erected in Montreal five years earlier, in the year 1808.

The design is poor and the execution not up to any high standard. Further, it seems most inappropriate and almost incongruous that the statue with its railings should have been transplanted from its natural surroundings in the docks at Georgetown to the middle of a field of sugar cane. As well remove our own statue from Trafalgar Square to the middle of a cornfield in Cambridgeshire or a grouse moor in Scotland. Nelson himself is given the appearance of a vaudeville tap-dancer or, more specifically, of—to those of us who remember—the redoubtable Ichabod Bronson, as he appeared in the original *Belle of New York*. Contrast this picture with that of the same statue on the current Barbados four cents stamp, which is both a dignified and accurate representation.

There are, however, some points of philatelic interest in the issue. The stamps were first chronicled in March 1906. For some reason, for which it has not been possible to find any explanation in the philatelic Press or elsewhere, the sheets (60 format, 12 × 5) of the 2d. value were then issued with the bottom row of the sheet removed.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News in June 1906 states that a second full consignment—not necessarily new printings—had arrived in the colony, that these were shades in the case of the 1d. value, that the sheets of the 2d. value were now unbroken, that this value in the consignment was now printed on thin paper and that one sheet of the 1/– value was included which differed in depth of shade to the remainder.

In October it was reported that the ½d. and 2½d. values were running out and in August 1907 the issue was reported of the ½d., 2d. (in two shades) and the 2½d. on paper with the multiple Crown CA watermark instead of the original CC paper.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' catalogue has a footnote to the effect that two sets of this issue can be made, one on thick opaque creamy white paper, the other on a thin rather transparent bluish-white paper. It would be simpler to say thick and thin paper. It seems extremely doubtful whether there is any appreciable variation of paper in the case of the 6d. and 1/– values. It is true that copies can frequently be found which are gum stained and appear tougher in texture, but this is probably due to the effects of the gum. The ½d., 2d. and 2½d. undoubtedly appear on thick and thin paper: probably also the ½d. and 1d., although it should be said in the case of the latter value that no marked difference has been found in more than a thousand copies (mostly used) which have been examined.

The multiple watermarked stamps are invariably on thick paper.

Beyond some colour scratches there are no frame plate varieties on these stamps.

Two vignette plates were used, reproductions, as is usual, from an original master plate.

There are three slight varieties and one more important one to be found on both vignette plates and which must therefore be attributed to imperfections on the master plate.

On No. 34 there is a straight vertical line to the right of the tall palm tree at the left of the stamp. This is often very faint.

On No. 43 a faint broken line (vertical) to the left of the second tallest palm tree at the left of the stamp. Also a short diagonal dash running upwards from Nelson's knee.

On No. 50 a broken vertical line on the left side of the stamp to the left of the palms.

Stamp No. 36 seems to have been re-entered. The horizontal lines to the left between Nelson and the palm trees show a faint doubling. It is unusual to find these sort of happenings on a master plate.

On the first vignette plate there is a slight but easily seen retouch on No. 26 of the sheet. The three lines of the background which run to the vignette border under the first A of TRAFALGAR have been deepened. On the second vignette plate there is an even slighter retouch which is much less easily seen. On No. 46 there are two minute dashes inserted between the stems of the two palms nearest to the statue on the left of the stamp. These varieties are interesting as they differentiate the two vignette plates. The variety on No. 26 has been found on all values of the set on CC paper except the 2d. on thin paper, but there is no reason why this should not also exist. That on No. 46, on the ½d. and 1d. values of the CC set and on all values on the multiple paper. This does not necessarily mean that it does not exist on the ¼d., ½d., and 2½d. CC stamps, but it does seem improbable that the 6d. and 1/– stamps were ever printed from the second vignette plate. It should be remarked that out of the thousand or so copies of the 1d. stamp examined (as before stated mostly used) 12 copies were found with the retouch on No. 26 and only one with that on No. 46 so that it is fair to conclude that the 1d. value was mostly printed from the first vignette plate.

And now it is necessary to comment on some very curious varieties which are the prime cause for the writing of this article. These varieties are, it is thought, confined to the first vignette plate: they have every appearance of being re-entries, but it is probable that they did not appear in the earliest printings or possibly they appear only when there is some particular combination pressure in printing and wear of the plate used. The stamps concerned all show a doubling of the outside outline of Nelson's right shoulder and epaulettes. They are constant in position but vary in the intensity of impression. In the case of the 1d. stamp on which these varieties are most commonly found the extra outline is normally clear.

The following stamps on the sheet are affected:

No. 5, 1st horizontal row, clear.
No. 40, 4th horizontal row, usually clear.
No. 41, 4th horizontal row, not quite so clear.
No. 42, 4th horizontal row, only traces.
No. 44, 4th horizontal row, not especially clear.
No. 54, 5th horizontal row, not especially clear.
No. 55, 5th horizontal row, clear.
No. 56, 5th horizontal row, probably the most marked variety.

In the case of the other values, examples have been found on the ¼d. and ½d. stamps, but on the few copies seen the variations do not show up so well. It is because these varieties appear most commonly on the 1d. stamp and have not yet been found on the 2d., 2½d., 6d., 1/–, that the opinion has been formed that they probably do not appear on early printings.

The fact that they come, with the exception of No. 5, on the last two rows of the sheet might have had some connection with the removal of the bottom row from the sheets of the first consignment of the 2d. (as the colour would show up particularly a variety of this sort), *if* the last *two* rows had been removed. The 2d. value on thin paper, in the case of which the vignette is extremely clearly printed, would have been the most likely to have been affected, but the stamp on this paper was chronicled as part of the second consignment of stamps, which arrived in June 1906. Further, a block of 2d. on the thick paper shows the retouch on No. 26 (V.P. 1) and at the same time a block from what was almost certainly the same sheet shows No. 5 in an entirely normal condition.

There were probably remainders of these stamps which were retained for a time before being sold, probably the stock of some outlying post office, as so many examples, especially of the higher values, appear nowadays with marked gum-staining and discoloration. For this reason there seems to be some justification for caution in accepting the 2½d. in indigo as a natural colour shade. These stamps seem to come invariably with brown gum and the stamp may conceivably be a variety due to climatic causes. That the climate did affect the colour is certain. The ½d., for instance, comes with large discoloured brown patches, reminiscent, in a modest way, of the N.S.W. 3d. Sydney View. The 6d. has also been seen entirely brown.

All the above is largely inconclusive, but it is impossible to go further without examining many more stamps, especially of the higher values. Obviously blocks and pieces, whether large or small, would be of the greatest possible assistance.

BARBADOS

STAMP COLLECTING, Mar. 20, 1959

THE VARIETIES ON THE BARBADOS NELSON CENTENARY ISSUE—ONE PENNY

By BASIL B. BENWELL

THE Nelson Centenary stamps of Barbados were first issued on March 1st, 1906, and were printed in sheets of 60 (five rows of 12 stamps) on thick, opaque creamy white paper, watermarked Crown CC. Subsequent printings were made on thin slightly transparent bluish-white paper and in 1907 on watermarked Crown CA (Mult.) paper.

This article deals only with the 1d. value of this issue and it is interesting to note that on a sheet of 60 stamps no less than 40 contain one or more constant varieties on the black vignette plate, but it should be mentioned that most of these varieties can be found also on the other values on Crown CC paper.

TWO VIGNETTE PLATES?

It is thought that two vignette plates were made from the master die and these can be distinguished by varieties on stamps 26 and 46 on the sheet, namely :—

Row 3, No. 2 (*Stamp No.* 26). Four lines of sky deepened on the right-hand side. First vignette plate. Only on wmk. Crown CC paper.

Row 3, No. 10 (*Stamp No.* 46). Two minute dashes in the sky between the third and fourth palm to the left of the statue. Second vignette plate. I have only seen this on the wmk. Crown CA (Mult.) paper.

From a study of these stamps of the first vignette plate, it will be seen that, with few exceptions, each has four dots which were probably put on the plate as guides or register marks. Whilst the position of each varies slightly on each stamp, they are generally placed as follows :—

NORTH .. Close to the frame above Nelson's head.
EAST .. Close to the frame at the end of the lines of horizon.
SOUTH .. Close to the frame above the second M in MONUMENT.
WEST .. Close to the frame at the end of the lines of horizon.

With the aid of these dots it is possible to reconstruct a complete sheet.

The varieties discovered so far are as follows :—

Row 1

No. 3 .. .. .. Horizontal line cutting through Nelson's right toe.
No. 4 .. .. .. (*a*) Slight doubling of Nelson's left hand.
(*b*) Horizontal line cutting through the right-hand side of the top of the base of the monument.
No. 5 .. .. .. Doubling of Nelson's right epaulette (twice) upwards.
No. 6 .. .. .. Vertical line between second and third palms, left-hand side.
No. 7 .. .. .. Vertical line to the left of the first palm, left-hand side.
No. 8 .. .. .. Horizontal line cutting through the right-hand side of the top of the base of the monument.
No. 9 .. .. .. (*a*) Doubling of Nelson's left hand.
(*b*) Vertical line running down the trunk of the middle palm, right-hand side, and to the right of the railing at the foot of the palm.



No. 18 has partial doubling in sky, mainly to right of Nelson; No. 36 has considerable doubling in sky and between lines of horizon

No. 10 .. .. .. (*a*) Doubling between Nelson's legs.
(*b*) Vertical line between second and third palms, right-hand side, extending downwards across the lines of horizon.
No. 11 .. .. .. (*a*) Curved line from fronds of the first palm, left-hand side, downwards to the lines of horizon.
(*b*) Slight doubling between Nelson's legs.
(*c*) Horizontal line running left from the second A in TRAFALGAR, right-hand side.
No. 12 .. .. .. Short vertical line running upwards from the tallest frond of the first palm, left-hand side.

Row 2

No. 3. (*Stamp No.* 15) .. Horizontal line cutting through Nelson's right toe.
No. 6. (*Stamp No.* 18) .. General doubling of parts of sky (*see illus.*).
No. 10. (*Stamp No.* 22) .. Horizontal line cutting through the right-hand side of the top of the base of the monument.
No. 11. (*Stamp No.* 23) .. (*a*) Vertical stroke to the left of the first palm left-hand side.
(*b*) Horizontal line cutting through the centre of the base of the monument.
No. 12. (*Stamp No.* 24) .. Small vertical line between first and second palms, left-hand side.

(~~Continued on page 65~~)

~~Illus. checked.~~

BARBADOS

STAMP COLLECTING, Mar. 20, 1959

Barbados: Nelson Centenary Varieties (*continued from p.* 63)

Row 3

No. 2. (*Stamp No.* 26) .. (*a*) Vertical line between first and second palms, left-hand side.
(*b*) Lines of sky re-cut, right-hand side.

No. 3. (*Stamp No.* 27) .. (*a*) Horizontal line cutting through the top of the right-hand side of the base of the monument.
(*b*) Horizontal line running left from the second A in TRAFALGAR, right-hand side.

No. 4. (*Stamp No.* 28) .. (*a*) Vertical line to the left of the first palm, left-hand side.
(*b*) Horizontal line cutting through the centre of the base of the monument.
(*c*) Slight doubling of Nelson's right epaulette.

No. 5. (*Stamp No.* 29) .. Slight doubling of Nelson's left hand.

No. 6. (*Stamp No.* 30) .. Slight doubling of Nelson's left hand.

No. 8. (*Stamp No.* 32) .. (*a*) Slight doubling of Nelson's left hand.
(*b*) Horizontal line running left from the second A in TRAFALGAR, right-hand side.

No. 9. (*Stamp No.* 33) .. (*a*) Slight doubling of Nelson's left hand.
(*b*) Horizontal line cutting through the top right-hand side of the base of the monument.

No. 10. (*Stamp No.* 34) .. (*a*) Vertical line between second and third palms, left-hand side.
(*b*) Horizontal line cutting through the top right-hand side of the base of the monument.

No. 11. (*Stamp No.* 35) .. Vertical line to the left of the first palm, left-hand side.

No. 12. (*Stamp No.* 36) .. (*a*) Doubling of parts of horizon and sky (*see illus. on p.* 63).
(*b*) Slight doubling of Nelson's left hand.

Row 4

No. 2. (*Stamp No.* 38) .. Slight doubling of Nelson's left hand.

No. 4. (*Stamp No.* 40) .. (*a*) Doubling of Nelson's right epaulette.
(*b*) Slight doubling of Nelson's left hand.
(*c*) Horizontal line cuttingthrough top of right-hand side of the base of the monument.

No. 5. (*Stamp No.* 41) .. Doubling of Nelson's right epaulette.

No. 6. (*Stamp No.* 42) .. (*a*) Slight doubling of Nelson's right epaulette.
(*b*) Slight doubling of Nelson's left hand.
(*c*) Horizontal line cuttingthrough the top of the right-hand side of the base of the monument.

No. 7. (*Stamp No.* 43) .. Vertical line between the second and third palms, left-hand side.

No. 8. (*Stamp No.* 44) .. (*a*) Doubling of Nelson's right epaulette.
(*b*) Doubling of Nelson's left hand

No. 9. (*Stamp No.* 45) .. (*a*) Two short vertical lines between first and second palms, left-hand side.
(*b*) Doubling of Nelson's left hand.
(*c*) Horizontal line cutt ingthrough Nelson's right toe.

No. 10. (*Stamp No.* 46) .. (*a*) Doubling to the right of Nelson's left hand.
(*b*) Horizontal line cuttingthrough the top of the base of the monument.
(*c*) Horizontal line cutting through Nelson's right toe.

No. 11. (*Stamp No.* 47) .. (*a*) Doubling to the right of Nelson's left hand.
(*b*) Slight doubling between Nelson's legs.
(*c*) Horizontal line cutting through the top of the base of the monument.
(*d*) Horizontal line running left from the second A in TRAFALGAR, right-hand side, below the lines of horizon.
(*e*) Short vertical line between second and third palms, left-hand side.

No. 12. (*Stamp No.* 48) .. (*a*) Vertical line running down the trunk of the right-hand palm, right-hand side.
(*b*) Broken horizontal line below top of railings in front of monument.

Row 5

No. 2. (*Stamp No.* 50) .. Broken vertical line to the left of the first palm, left-hand side.

No. 3. (*Stamp No.* 51) .. Broken vertical line to the left of the first palm, left-hand side.

No. 4. (*Stamp No.* 52) .. (*a*) Slight doubling to the right of Nelson's left hand.
(*b*) Short horizontal line cutting through top of base of monument.
(*c*) Short vertical line between first and second palm, left-hand side.
(*d*) Short vertical line between second and third palms, left-hand side.

No. 5. (*Stamp No.* 53) .. (*a*) Doubling to right of Nelson's left hand.
(*b*) Horizontal line cutting through top of base of monument.

No. 6. (*Stamp No.* 54) .. (*a*) Doubling of Nelson's right epaulette.
(*b*) Slight doubling of Nelson's left hand.

No. 7. (*Stamp No.* 55) .. (*a*) Doubling of Nelson's right epaulette.
(*b*) Slight doubling of Nelson's left hand.

No. 8. (*Stamp No.* 56) .. Doubling of Nelson's right epaulette.

No. 9. (*Stamp No.* 57) .. (*a*) Broken vertical line between first and second palms, left-hand side.
(*b*) Slight doubling to right of Nelson's left hand.
(*c*) Horizontal line running left from first A in TRAFALGAR, right-hand side, below lines of horizon.

No. 10. (*Stamp No.* 58) .. Horizontal line cutting through top of base of monument.

No. 11. (*Stamp No.* 59) .. (*a*) Horizontal line cuttingthrough top of base of monument.
(*b*) Horizontal line running left from second A in TRAFALGAR, right-hand side, below lines of horizon.
(*c*) Curved line cutting across lower part of railings in front of monument.

(*Continued* ~~on page 69~~) overleaf.

(~~[illegible]~~ ~~items donated.~~)

STAMP COLLECTING. Mar. 20, 1959.

[CONTINUATION]

[C 20359

Barbados: Nelson Centenary Varieties (continued)

No. 12. (Stamp No. 60) .. (a) Short vertical line to the left of the first palm, left-hand side.

(b) Slight doubling to left of second palm, left-hand side.

(c) Slight doubling to left of palm on extreme right.

I feel that this article is only a beginning and that more interesting information would come to light from a study of the various printings, particularly those on the Crown CA (Mult.) paper. I would welcome correspondence from readers who are interested in this issue and the offer of stamps of all values, particularly in blocks, strips and pairs, preferably used, would be of great assistance to me.

51558

Varieties, Unchronicled, Uncatalogued, or Not Generally Known.

By THE EDITOR.

BARBADOS.

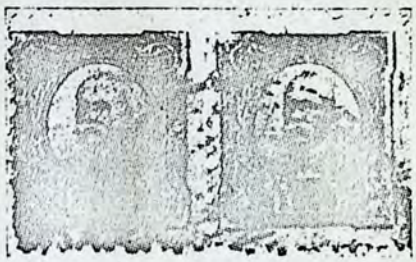
THE variety of the 1d. Barbados of the Victory issue of 1920, which is herewith illustrated, greatly enlarged, has been shown to us by Mr. P. T. Rama Iyengar. It will be seen that in the front of the foot of the figure of Victory is a flaw resembling a shaft of light. Such a flaw is most unusual on a recess-printed stamp, and is difficult to account for. The centre of the stamp is printed in black, and the surrounding portions, including the diagonal lines of shading inside the circle, are printed in vermilion. It will be noticed that some of the diagonal lines of shading are clearly to be seen over the white flaw. Whether this is a purely accidental flaw which occurred during the printing of this particular stamp, or whether it is due to an



accident which occurred to the plate, it is difficult to say, though if the latter it is obvious that other specimens must exist. The most probable explanation seems to be that a small piece of paper became attached to the surface of the plate before the stamp was printed, and, as it was a recess plate, this might have produced a white patch in the print.

BRAZIL.

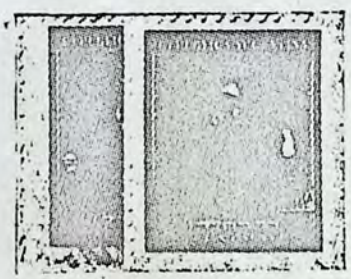
We are indebted to Mr. Sidney Homsy for a sight of the retouched varieties which are herewith illustrated. The stamps are the 1,000 reis of 1923, and are watermarked "Casa da Moeda" between stars, S.G. No. 468a. This plate wore so badly that in its last stages parts of the impression failed completely, and the printers evidently decided to retouch some of the design where it was particularly bad. In



the two stamps illustrated, which form a pair, it will be seen that the right-hand outline of the left-hand stamp has been redrawn, and that in doing so the engraver's burin slipped and produced a very strongly marked diagonal line just below the centre. The attempted repair is completed by the addition of a number of short vertical lines engraved across the right-hand margin. This is quite a spectacular retouch. The right-hand stamp is also re-touched, but not so extensively. A strong line has been drawn on the right margin at the bottom. It is possible that if one saw an entire sheet of this stamp printed from a late state of the plate, it would be found that quite a large percentage of the stamps had received more or less attention of this sort.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

We illustrate two specimens of the 1c. of 1917 (S.G. No. 433), which shows prominent flaws in the background. That on the right-



hand stamp is left uncorrected, but an attempt has been made to disguise the similar flaw on the left-hand stamp by drawing across it several lines, of which the top one extends over the narrow white border at the left, and ends on the inner frame-line. This variety is

The Barbados "Scadta" Issue–1921

SCADTA (Sociedad Colombo-Alemana de Transportes Aereos) was the acronym for an airline having exclusive rights to operate in the interior of Colombia. The airline issued stamps under authority of the Colombian Government.

To provide countries outside Colombia the opportunity to post letters to the Colombian interior, stamps were forwarded to the Colombian Consulates in 22 countries including, among others, the United States, Canada, France, Great Britain, Spain and Sweden.

Prior to shipping to the above consulates, the stamps were locally overprinted with the Spanish abbreviation of the country for which intended. Thus those for the United States had the overprint " E.U." in black.

Mail destined for the Colombian interior, from without the country, was delivered to the agent or Colombian Consulate in the sending country. The letters would be franked with both stamps of the sending country and SCADTA stamps, the latter bearing the overprint mentioned above.

SCADTA stamps were also forwarded to other countries where Colombia maintained consulates. However, they did not bear an overprint to distinguish them from domestic [illegible] Thus they can only be identified on cover where their [illegible] with stamps of the sending country establishes the point of origin.

Barbados was one such place. A recently-discovered postal history item substantiates the use of SCADTA services. The Sanabria catalogue has listed this item as GMA 1. They describe the stamp as being a manuscript overprint on the Colombia, Sanabria No. 46—30c. rose.

Sanabria goes on to explain that the stamp was issued in November 1921. The use from Barbados was authorised by the handwritten (manuscript) overprint by the Colombian Consul in Bridgetown, Mr. G. M. Alleyn. This seems to be a reasonable explanation as to how the use from Barbados was verified. Barbados has always been an important trade centre and gateway to trade from the British West Indiesto South America. All in all, this cover must be an outstanding piece of British Caribbean postal history.

A full report on the Barbados SCADTA issue appeared in the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal. This authoritative bi-monthly is the official publication of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group (Unit 27 of the American Philatelic Society).

For membership particulars, interested readers are invited to send to: B.C.P.S.G. Membership Chairman, A. N. Johnson, 2610 Virginia Street, Baytown, Texas 77520, U.S.A. If a sample copy of the journal is desired, 50c. in unused U.S. postage stamps will cover mailing.

If more convenient, inquiries may be forwarded to the G.B. representative: Alfred J. Branston, 144 The Avenue, Highams Park, London, E.4, England.

BARBADOS.

STAMP COLLECTING Apr. 27, 1951

BARBADOS 1925–1935

The Stamps and the Postmarks

By WILFRED BENTLEY

(Member of the Preston Philatelic Society)



IT was in 1892 that the Seal of the Colony of Barbados first made its appearance on the stamps of the island, and from then until the issue of the pictorial set a few months ago it remained the dominant motive of the designs of all regular issues of Barbados. Perhaps the most interesting, from a philatelic point of view, of the "Seal" issues of Barbados, are the last two: the King George VI issue, and its immediate predecessor of 1925–1935, the original values of which (¼d., ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s., 2s. and 3s.) appeared on April 1st, 1925.

The first six years of its life were comparatively uneventful, but on November 1st, 1931, certain alterations in postal rates took effect which affected the issue of stamps: the rate for letters within the British Empire was raised from 1d. to 1½d., and that for newspapers within the island from ½d. to ½d. The latter did away with the need for a farthing stamp, which became obsolete (existing stocks, which were considerable, were used up in pairs, etc., for higher rates, the Postmaster appealing to the public to co-operate in this); and the new Empire rate made a 1½d. stamp an obvious necessity. It was about nine months before this value was issued, and in the meantime permission was sought from Whitehall, but refused, to create a 1½d. stamp by surcharging the ½d. value (presumably the dark colour of the unwanted ½d. stamps made them unsuitable for surcharging). The rate for letters within the island remained unchanged at 1d.

The original printing of the stamps, in 1925, was in sheets of 80 (10×8). Two plates, numbered "1" and "2" in the margin, were used for the 1d. value, and one plate, unnumbered, for each of the others. The plate number "1" of the 1d. was printed in the left-hand margin, opposite the fourth horizontal row of stamps, and the number "2" in a similar position in the right-hand margin. The sheets of each value were surrounded by two thin lines of colour about 4 mm. apart, the nearer of the two being about 14 mm. from the frames of the stamps. The perforation was 14 (or, to be exact, 13.9) all round, by a comb machine.

The first important change occurred in February, 1932, when the ½d., 1d. and 2½d. appeared with a new perforation: 13½×12 (comb). The 1s. with this perforation followed shortly after. (The horizontal perforation varies slightly between 13.2 and 13.4; the vertical perforation is a constant 12.2.)

The first printings with the new perforation were from the original plates, and for a time the two perforating machines seem to have been in use together. Mr. Herbert Bayley has recorded that the 1d. stamp, perf. 14 from the original plates, was on sale at the G.P.O., Barbados, as late as August 18th, 1932, though by then the ½d., perf. 14, was obsolete. But some time during the summer—I think about June—printings of the ½d. and 1d. from new plates had been issued. These plates were of 120 subjects, with plate numbers ("2" for each value) in the bottom margin, and without the thin lines of colour round the sheets. The new plate of the 1d., though numbered "2", was in fact the third plate of this value, and for the sake of convenience I shall refer to it as Plate 3. I do not think that new plates were made of any of the other values.

On August 15th, 1932, the long-awaited 1½d. stamp was issued, printed in orange, in sheets of 120 with plate number "1" in the bottom margin, and perforated 13½×12. It was followed on September 1st by another new value, 2s. 6d. carmine on blue, in sheets of 80 with plate number "1" in the bottom margin, and perforated 14. This stamp replaced the 2s. and 3s. which were withdrawn at about the same time.

The next event was the appearance in October, 1933, of 1d. and 1½d. stamps with the old perforation 14 again—the 1½d. thus for the first time. The ½d., 2½d. and 1s. reverted to the 14 perforation shortly afterwards, and though the 13½×12 machine continued to be used, it became less and less frequently met with and finally the 13½×12 perforations disappeared altogether. These reissued 14 perforations can be fairly easily distinguished from the old in most cases. The ½d. and 1d. were printed from the new plates (plate 2 of the ½d. and plate 3 of the 1d.), which produced in the ½d. a slightly darker and less yellowish green, and in the 1d. a brighter and sometimes slightly darker shade of scarlet. Both values, especially the 1d., are somewhat more heavily inked, which gives to the stamps a sharper appearance. The 2½d. is in a distinctly paler ultramarine in which the value-tablets and the tablet containing the words POSTAGE AND REVENUE stand out in sharp contrast to the rest of the design. The 1s. appeared first in a rather deep and very dull jet-black on green, and later in the distinctive brownish-black listed in the catalogue as No. 237a. Blocks and pairs of the new perforations are very easy to distinguish, from the fact that a new line machine was now being used which gauged 13.8×14.1, against the old comb perforation 13.9. It seems to have come into use some time in 1932—the 2s. 6d. has this perforation—and was presumably used for other values as well.

It is not so easy to distinguish printings from the old and new plates of the ½d. and 1d., perf. 13½×12. The shades of this perforation merge somewhat into one another: there is no sharp break of eighteen months such as helps to divide the two classes of stamps perf. 14. Later printings from plate 1 (unnumbered) of the ½d. and plates 1 and 2 of the 1d. tended to be more heavily inked than their predecessors, and earlier printings from the new plates were lighter than those of 1933–34. Consequently there are many stamps perf. 13½×12 which defy classification.

(To be continued) (see over)

Barbados—1925-35

(*Concluded from page 245*)



lines above and below) and the other reading " Post Early for Christmas " in two lines without any frame or other decoration. This was intended for annual use, as in this country.

Just before the two tourist slogans appeared a change was made in the hand postmark at the G.P.O., which had continued in use alongside the cancelling machine. (The intention was that the handstamps should be used for local letters and the machine for letters going abroad, but this was not at all strictly adhered to.) Towards the end of 1931 a much larger handstamp, with BARBADOS—G.P.O. in a double circle just over 30 mm. in diameter, with time and date in the centre in three lines, appeared. The earliest date I have for this is December 23rd, 1931. The single-circle handstamps of the G.P.O. disappeared for a time (there are, incidentally, two or three varieties differing in the size of the letters, etc.).

During the course of 1932 a new series of postmarks came into use in the country parishes. These too were of a double circle type, 27 mm. in diameter, with the name of the parish at the top and BARBADOS at the bottom. separated at either side by the horrible black blobs with which so many colonial post offices now disfigure their stamps. The date is in two lines in the centre; and above the date, in the case of four parishes (Christ Church, No. 2 ; St. Philip, No. 3 ; St. George, No. 4 ; and St. John, No. 5) is a number which follows a list of " parish numbers " first used for postmarks many years before. Why this number was used in these four parishes and not in the others is a mystery. These postmarks did not supersede the single-circle postmarks but were in concurrent use with them : the single circle mark was in use, at least in some parishes, as lately as 1948, and probably still is. I have the two types used on the same piece at Christ Church in October, 1932.

The southern suburbs of Bridgetown—Hastings, Rockley, and St. Lawrence—run over the boundary of St. Michael into Christ Church, and when the need for a post office at St. Lawrence was filled on April 1st, 1933, Christ Church became the first parish to possess two post offices. Pending the arrival of the special postmarks which had been ordered for St. Lawrence (these included a registration mark, the first outside the G.P.O.), an old single circle G.P.O. handstamp was used at St. Lawrence. Later, St. Lawrence having received its own postmarks, the single circle handstamps came back into use at the G.P.O., but they seem to have been kept in reserve, and used only when there was an exceptionally heavy mail to be dealt with. With dates after 1931 this type of postmark is not too common.

The large double circle postmark of the G.P.O. was the subject of many complaints and had a short life, being superseded in 1934 by a smaller double circle similar to that supplied to the country parishes in 1932. This reads G.P.O.—BARBADOS between blobs, with time and date of posting in three lines, in the centre





(2)

BARBADOS.

STAMP COLLECTING Apr. 27, 1951

BARBADOS

The Stamps and



1925—1935

the Postmarks

By WILFRED BENTLEY

(Member of the Preston Philatelic Society)

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The first six years of its life were comparatively uneventful, but on November 1st, 1931, certain alterations in postal rates took effect which affected the issue of stamps: the rate for letters within the British Empire was raised from 1d. to 1½d., and that for newspapers within the island from ¼d. to ½d. The latter did away with the need for a farthing stamp, which became obsolete (existing stocks, which were considerable, were used up in pairs, etc., for higher rates, the Postmaster appealing to the public to co-operate in this); and the new Empire rate made a 1½d. stamp an obvious necessity. It was about nine months before this value was issued, and in the meantime permission was sought from Whitehall, but refused, to create a 1½d. stamp by surcharging the ½d. value (presumably the dark colour of the unwanted ¼d. stamps made them unsuitable for surcharging). The rate for letters within the island remained unchanged at 1d.

The original printing of the stamps, in 1925, was in sheets of 80 (10×8). Two plates, numbered "1" and "2" in the margin, were used for the 1d. value, and one plate, unnumbered, for each of the others. The plate number "1" of the 1d. was printed in the left-hand margin, opposite the fourth horizontal row of stamps, and the number "2" in a similar position in the right-hand margin. The sheets of each value were surrounded by two thin lines of colour about 4 mm. apart, the nearer of the two being about 14 mm. from the frames of the stamps. The perforation was 14 (or, to be exact, 13.9) all round, by a comb machine.

The first important change occurred in February, 1932, when the ¼d., 1d. and 2½d. appeared with a new perforation: 13½×12 (comb). The 1s. with this perforation followed shortly after. (The horizontal perforation varies slightly between 13.2 and 13.4; the vertical perforation is a constant 12.2.)

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On August 15th, 1932, the long-awaited 1½d. stamp was issued, printed in orange, in sheets of 120 with plate number "1" in the bottom margin, and perforated 13½×12. It was followed on September 1st by another new value, 2s. 6d. carmine on blue, in sheets of 80 with plate number "1" in the bottom margin, and perforated 14. This stamp replaced the 2s. and 3s. which were withdrawn at about the same time.

The next event was the appearance in October, 1933, of 1d. and 1½d. stamps with the old perforation 14 again—the 1½d. thus for the first time. The ½d., 2½d. and 1s. reverted to the 14 perforation shortly afterwards, and though the 13½×12 machine continued to be used, it became less and less frequently met with and finally the 13½×12 perforations disappeared altogether. These reissued 14 perforations can be fairly easily distinguished from the old in most cases. The ½d. and 1d. were printed from the new plates (plate 2 of the ½d. and plate 3 of the 1d.), which produced in the ½d. a slightly darker and less yellowish green, and in the 1d. a brighter and sometimes slightly darker shade of scarlet. Both values, especially the 1d., are somewhat more heavily inked, which gives to the stamps a sharper appearance. The 2½d. is in a distinctly paler ultramarine in which the value-tablets and the tablet containing the words POSTAGE AND REVENUE stand out in sharp contrast to the rest of the design. The 1s. appeared first in a rather deep and very dull jet-black on green, and later in the distinctive brownish-black listed in the catalogue as No. 237a. Blocks and pairs of the new perforations are very easy to distinguish, from the fact that a new line machine was now being used which gauged 13.8×14.1, against the old comb perforation 13.9. It seems to have come into use some time in 1932—the 2s. 6d. has this perforation—and was presumably used for other values as well.

It is not so easy to distinguish printings from the old and new plates of the ½d. and 1d., perf. 13½×12. The shades of this perforation merge somewhat into one another: there is no sharp break of eighteen months such as helps to divide the two classes of stamps perf. 14. Later printings from plate 1 (unnumbered) of the ½d. and plates 1 and 2 of the 1d. tended to be more heavily inked than their predecessors, and earlier printings from the new plates were lighter than those of 1933–34. Consequently there are many stamps perf. 13½×12 which defy classification.

(To be continued) (see over)

BARBADOS.

STAMP COLLECTING Jan. 18, 1952.

BARBADOS 1925-1935—*Supplementary Notes*

By WILFRED BENTLEY

SINCE the publication in STAMP COLLECTING a few months ago of my article on the above issue I have received some interesting letters from Mr. R. A. Newton of Hendon and Mr. T. G. Conlin of Glasgow about the varieties which I described as "re-entries" and from Mr. Edwin J. Cox of Haywards Heath about the postmarks to be found on this issue. I must express my thanks to these three gentlemen both for the information they have sent me and for their permission, readily granted, to include it in the present article.

Mr. Newton and Mr. Conlin both have specimens of the ½d. and 3d. values, in which duplications similar to those already reported on the ½d., 1d., 2½d. and 4d. occur, and Mr. Conlin tells me he also has a 2d. showing faint traces of duplication.

Mr. Newton has been struck by the similarity of the Barbados "re-entries" and some varieties, which he tells me are called "dry-points", found on the Bermuda Ship type 1d., Plate IV, Die II, a stamp of which Mr. Newton has made a specialised study. The plates of this latter stamp, he tells me, were made not by the roller process but by pantograph, and since the Barbados stamps were produced by the same firm at about the same time, it would appear likely that this method was also adopted for them. In making a plate by this method the plate is first coated with acid-resisting wax, and by tracing the design in the original die it is etched in the wax by a series of connected points. The process is completed by the application of acid which eats into the plate at the places where the wax has been cut away by the etching points. Sometimes the etching point itself will make a scratch on the plate, and if, subsequently, owing to misplacement or a faulty point, it is necessary to retrace the design the scratch will appear as a duplication of part of it. I entirely agree with Mr. Newton that the duplications found on Barbados stamps of this issue are probably caused in this manner; the constancy of position is thus accounted for as the tendency would naturally be for duplication to occur in the more heavily-engraved portions of the design. It would then seem that these varieties are not actual re-entries unless one belongs to the school of thought which calls any duplication of the design of a recess-printed stamp a re-entry. But this is a controversy into which I am not anxious to be drawn!

That these varieties occurred during the actual making of the plates and not during a subsequent overhaul is fairly clear from the fact that Mr. Newton has a ½d. dated July 28th, 1926. Mr. Newton's Bermuda studies have shown that Messrs. De La Rue improved the process with time, duplications being much less frequent on later plates; this fact is in line with the fact that they are rarely (if ever) found on the Barbados 1932 plates.

Mr. Conlin has shown me some interesting varieties on the 1d. and 3d. values, notably a 1d. and two 3d. stamps showing apparent duplication of the left frame-line in the bottom half of the stamp. Of these three stamps only one (a 3d.) shows any duplication elsewhere in the design, and that very faintly. The additional lines do not appear to be quite parallel to the frame-lines of the stamps themselves, and it seems to me possible that these are further examples of the "diagonal lines" variety which I suggested in my original article may have been due to scratches on the plate. It is curious, however, that Mr. Conlin should have three different stamps showing this variety in almost identical positions.

Mr. Conlin has also shown me a 1d. stamp in which an albino impression of the bottom frame-line, including the bulges made by the value tablets, protrudes for about half a millimetre below the stamp. There are also faint traces of an albino impression elsewhere on the stamp. (Something similar on a K.G.VI 4d. was noticed in *Gibbons' Stamp Monthly* in 1944.)

My correspondence about postmarks with Mr. Cox has convicted me both of over-simplifying the issue in regard to the 1932 type of postmark and of arguing from the general to the particular with the unfortunate results which usually follow from doing so. I stated that postmarks of this type from Christ Church, St. Philip, St. George and St. John included the "parish number", whereas those from the other parishes did not. The actual position is rather more complicated: from a comparison of Mr. Cox's data with my own the following facts emerge:—

There are actually what may be called three types of this postmark, which has the parish name at the top and "BARBADOS" at the bottom of a double-lined circle about 27 mm. in diameter. In what we may call Type 1 the centre block is composed of the parish number at the top, the day and month in the middle and the last two figures of the year at the bottom, Type 2 is similar but with a blank space instead of the parish number. In Type 3, which has been seen only for St. Joseph, the date (in two lines) is centrally placed in the block with no space which could be occupied by the parish number. I believe that St. Joseph was the first parish to be supplied with a date-stamp of the 1932 type, in which case it would appear possible that this was the original and the other types a modification when it was decided to include the parish number. Type 2 is, I think, a variety of Type 1 in which the number has dropped out or failed to register. The following is a list of parishes and their numbers, and the types of postmarks (1932 type) used there, as far as known to Mr. Cox and myself:—

2. Christ Church (Type 1).
3. St. Philip (Types 1 and 2).
4. St. George (Type 1).
5. St. John (Type 1).
6. St. Joseph (Types 1 and 3).
7. St. James (unknown).
8. St. Thomas (unknown).
9. St. Andrew (Types 1 and 2).
10. St. Peter (Type 1).
11. St. Lucy (unknown).

(The parish number "1" was allotted to the G.P.O. in Bridgetown, with which this series of postmarks was not concerned.) Neither Mr. Cox or I have a specimen of the 1932 postmark from St. James, St. Thomas or St. Lucy, and it will be much appreciated if any readers who are more fortunate can help to fill the gaps in the above list or can supply news of types not mentioned therein from any of the other parishes.

A later type of postmark was similar to that of 1932 but the [illegible]

BARBADOS CANCELLATIONS.

SIR,—Mr. C. Mackenzie Smith of Twickenham has been kind enough to fill two of the gaps in the list of postmarks of the 1932 type in my "Supplementary Notes" on the stamps and postmarks of Barbados, 1925-1935 (STAMP COLLECTING, January 18th). He informs me that he has:—

(1) A St. James postmark of Type 2, dated January 10th, 1933. This is a heavy strike, so that in this case at least the possibility that Type 2 may be due to the parish number's failing to register would appear to be precluded. It seems more likely that the number was on a movable block which was sometimes left out—or possibly was supplied either late or not at all.

(2) A St. Thomas postmark of Type 1, clearly showing the parish number "8".

This leaves St. Lucy still "unknown", and the possibility of course remains that postmarks of some parishes may come to light in types not so far recorded.

(REVD.) WILFRED BENTLEY.

Portsmouth.

Stamp Collecting. May 2. 1952.

BARBADOS

Gibbons Stamp Monthly (date unknown ?Dec. '50)

BARBADOS, ½d. FLAW



The above flaw showing as a white patch in the top right corner of the ½d. Seal of the Colony is due to the absence of some of the short vertical lines of shading. The larger patch is in the lower band close to the foliate ornament, but some weakness in the lines is also seen to the left in the upper band.

This flaw has been found in position No. 82 (2nd stamp, 9th row) on both the ½d. green (S.G. 248) and the ½d. yellow-bistre (S.G. 248*b*) and is evidently a defect on Plate 1, from which both these stamps were printed. As the same plate 1 was also used for the scarce ½d., perf. 14 (S.G. 248*a*), it exists, no doubt, in that as well.

STAMP COLLECTING (date unknown.)

Barbados "Penny Provisional"

By CHAS. H. MUNRO

(*Honorary Secretary of the Trinidad Philatelic Society*)

The "One Penny" on twopence provisional stamp became necessary in April, 1947, because a General Election campaign had exhausted stocks of both 1d. and ½d. stamps, and replacements ordered through the Crown Agents in London were late in arriving.

The provisionals were placed on sale at all Post Offices on April 21st, 1947, and remained on sale for a period of ten days, during which time a day to day supply was overprinted only. This was in case the replacements arrived, and too many provisionals would not then be required.

The overprints were made in full sheets of 120, twelve rows of 10, and certain "Broken Type" varieties may be said to be constant, having been checked on a number of complete sheets.

The six I have chosen as the most constant appear on the positions noted on sheets in both perforation gauges (14 and 13½×13).

Row 1, stamp 6, broken top right arm of "Y" of "PENNY".
Row 2, stamp 8, broken letter "O" and first "N" of "PENNY".
Row 6, stamp 2, short "Y" of "PENNY" (foot of "Y" broken off).
Row 6, stamp 4, broken "O" (top right of circumference).
Row 7, stamp 4, short centre bar to "E" of "PENNY".
Row 8, stamp 10, apostrophe after "O" of "ONE".
Row 11, stamp 4, same variety as on stamp 4 of row 7 (short centre bar).

John R. Miller.
26 Mather Road.
Eccles.
England.

Gibbons' Stamp Monthly, June 1937

Stamp News in Brief

(We shall be grateful to readers who will send us early or exclusive news *of forthcoming issues, official decrees and notices, historical and other details regarding new designs, names of designers, printers, engravers, etc., and numbers printed. Information is always acknowledged, either by post or in this magazine.*—ED.)

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Aden.—The anna values of the new Aden ordinary issue are printed in sheets of 80, arranged 8 × 10, and the rupee values in sheets of 60, 6 × 10. The bottom sheet margins contain the printers' imprint (De La Rue) and the Plate number (1).

Barbados.—A reader has sent our publishers a copy of a very interesting letter from the Postmaster-General of Barbados giving details of the use of the bisected 1d. Postage Due stamp, which was referred to on page 39 of the November number of *G.S.M.* The letter, which is dated 17th April, 1936, says:

"As you are aware, the majority of postal surcharges are for 1d. or multiple of 1d. When the Postage Due Label system was introduced as from January, 1934, only 1d. labels were at first ordered. The Postal convention held at Cairo in March, 1934, recognised the practice of collecting the actual deficiency in postage (and not double the deficiency) in certain circumstances, and ½d. Postage Due labels became necessary. These were in due course ordered. In the interim, a bisected 1d. Label was used to indicate a surcharge of ½d. rather than revert to the old and objectionable practice of indicating the amount of the 'tax' in coloured pencil on the outside of the envelope.

"1d. Postage Due Labels were first brought into use in Barbados on 2nd January, 1934; ½d. Postage Due Labels were first brought into use on 10th February, 1935; and the bisected 1d. Label was in use in the interim. I regret I am unable to supply the exact number of bisects used. The 1934 Post Office Annual Report gives such Returned Letter Office and other statistics as are available.

"The half-penny surcharge was levied on 'Other Articles' returned to senders at their direct request (chiefly Vestry 'Tax' Notices), and these numbered 288 in 1934 and 466 in 1935."

No reference is made in the above letter to the fact that some of the bisected 1d. stamps had "½d." written on them in red ink, presumably to emphasise the intention of the bisection.

As far as modern issues are concerned, we only admit to Gibbons Catalogue such bisects as are officially authorised, and from the letter quoted above there can be no doubt that this Barbados stamp comes into this category and it will therefore be listed in the 1938 edition of the Catalogue.

Judging by the figures given in the letter, the bisected 1d. on cover must be of some rarity. Our publishers have two, one with and one without the MS. surcharge.

New Zealand.—We have now seen the current 2½d. pictorial printed from Plate 3 (first mentioned on page 138 of the April *G.S.M.*) and notice that the central vignette is more deeply engraved than in Plate 1, the difference being particularly obvious in the shading of the sky, which now appears much darker than before. The perforation also differs. Stamps from Plate 1 show a comb-perforation measuring 13 to 14 × 13½, while stamps from Plate 3 are perforated by a line-machine gauging approximately 14 on all sides.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Bolivia.—The definitive stamps mentioned here in April have not yet been delivered by the printers. There has been a hitch in production and they are not expected before July at the earliest. What a chance for a nice lot of Provisionals, says the Bolivian Post Office, and so we can expect the following, all made by surcharging various old issues with "COMUNICACIONES: D.S. 25/11/37" and a new value. Details are as follows:—

	Quantity
5 c. on 2 c., 1933 (S.G. 278)	150,500
10 c. on 20 c., 1919–20 (S.G. 153)	150,500
15 c. on 25 c., 1933 (S.G. 282)	150,500
30 c. on 25 c., 1933 (S.G. 282)	150,500
45 c. on 1 b., 1919–20 (S.G. 157)	130,500
1 b. on 2 b., 1919–20 (S.G. 158)	50,500
2 b. on 20 c., 1919–20 (S.G. 153)	50,500
3 b. on 50 c., 1931 (S.G. 264)	50,500
5 b. on 50 c., 1931 (S.G. 264)	50,500

All this surcharging of low values with higher denominations seems very dangerous, but, anyway, why produce 1 b. and 2 b. Provisionals when large quantities of definitives of these values are in existence?

Bulgaria.—Mr. P. V. Karaivanoff sounds a note of warning to collectors who may be thinking of buying the scarcer Bulgarian stamps from sources in that country. He states that unscrupulous dealers are flooding the local market with stamps with forged overprints and surcharges, and are, in addition, counterfeiting the guarantee marks of the best known Bulgarian and foreign experts. The stamps of Eastern Roumelia, South Bulgaria and Thrace are also counterfeited—those of the first two always have been,—so that collectors purchasing stamps of this group will be well advised to submit them to one of the expert committees before purchasing. It will not be long before these fakes are more widely disseminated and

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ALTERATION IN PRICE OF GIBBONS CATALOGUE

1938 EDITION

In spite of the fact that the contents of the Whole World volume of our big catalogue have increased by 25 per cent since the 1927 edition was published, nearly eleven years ago, there has been no increase in the price at which the volume is sold—fifteen shillings, a reduction of 1s. 6d. as compared with the total cost of Parts I and II when bound separately.

We have reluctantly come to the conclusion that, having regard to the continuous increase in the size and cost of the Catalogue, we can no longer continue to make so great a reduction in the price of the Whole World volume. The price of this volume in the 1938 Edition, to be published next September, will therefore be fixed at 16s., the prices of Part I and Part II remaining at 6s. 6d. and 10s. respectively, as before.

We shall be obliged if collectors and the trade will kindly note the above, in order that confusion may be avoided when orders are placed.

21a

Stamp Magazine
May, 1945.

BY ERIC HEYER



BARBADOS COIL STAMPS

Below: front and back of a coil join strip of the Barbados 1d stamp—you can notice the join between the first and second stamps. Photograph of one of the stamp dispensing machines.

THE Scott and Gibbons catalogues do not list any coil issues for Barbados, so I was somewhat puzzled to discover on several visits to the GPO in Bridgetown in 1968 that there were some old stamp dispensers mounted in the walls. Attempts were made to learn from the GPO personnel 'how' and 'when' these machines had been used, but they were not sure whether they had dispensed coils or booklets. Several British Caribbean specialists were contacted in the hope that some light could be shed on the matter—responses were few and not altogether comprehensive. One collector kindly sent me copies of David Addey's articles on 'Commonwealth Stamp Coils' which appeared in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* from March to May 1963, but no Barbados coils were mentioned therein.

Another collector-friend, resident in Barbados, provided some local research on this matter, and he learned from an old former Postmaster General that in the time of Postmaster General G. F. Sharp these vending machines were employed to dispense coils. As the latter gentleman began his tour as PMG on August 27, 1931, the machines must have been placed in use after that date.

These machines always gave a great deal of trouble, and sometime between the years 1944 and 1949, during the tenure of PMG Armstrong, all were taken out of service. It was indicated that four were originally installed, but only two were visible during my visit, neither being in good condition. Booklets were always sold only over the counter, and neither coils or booklets have been employed in Barbados in recent years.

Another collector-friend in Illinois came up with another fine piece of information. From the lists of 'Printings of KGVI Colonial Stamps' compiled by Potter and Shelton, which were published in book form, he forwarded the following data, which throws some light on the coil stamps.

Apparently, included in the various dispatches of the ½d green on the 1938-1947 issue (SG248), there were three lots of coil stamps that consisted of 20,000 in July 1937, 20,000 in October 1938 and 30,000 in July 1940. The perforation of all three shipments is thought to be 13¼ x 13, but one or more could have been perforation 14.

More precise data was given for the 1d red (SG249). Three dispatches of coil stamps were made, but with different perforations for each of the dispatches. In July 1937, 40,000 stamps with perforation 13¼ x 14 were shipped; in October 1938, 40,000 of perforation 13¼ x 13 were sent out; and in July 1840 there was a final shipment of 40,000 stamps, these being perforation 14.1.

However complete, the above does not tell the complete story of the Barbados coils. Specialised collections have been examined which include sets of coil samples having 4 stamps in each strip with the overlap joint between the second and third stamp. However, these coils are not the ones previously mentioned, but the ½d bistre perforation 13¼ x 13 (SG248b) and the 1d green perforation 14 x 14 (SG249b), both being issued in 1942.

Neither of these coils has shown up on any published listings known to the writer, but it seems obvious that if these are coils and not the products of a philatelic faker, at least one shipment of each value took place after the colours for the ½d and 1d definitive stamps were changed in October 1942 and before the coil machines were retired.

Further information about these items is still coming to hand. An article about the Barbados coils by the late Everett Aguilar in the *British West Indian Philatelist* in September 1956 brought the following points to my attention:
1. The quantities released by the Crown Agents of SG248—½d green—on July 19, 1937, October 22, 1938 and July 13, 1941 were in agreement with the Potter and Sheldon listing. Additional information was that each coil contained 1,000 stamps;
2. For the release of 40 coils of the 1d red, SG249a on July 19, 1937 the perforation is given as 13.8 x 14.1. The release of 40 rolls of the 1d red on October 22, 1938 was said to contain both SG249 and 249a, thus being a mixture of perforations, coils still containing 1,000 stamps. Thus there is a possibility that

Continued on page 67



BARBADOS COIL STAMPS

Continued from page 63

'join pairs' exist where the stamp on one side of the join is perforation 13½ x 13, while the other stamp is perforation 14. The release of July 1940 of 40,000 of the 1d red stamps in perforation 14.1 in coils is not mentioned by Aguilar;

3. For the first time Aguilar mentions a release on July 13, 1941 of 40 rolls of 1d red (SG249a) and a 1942-49 release of 67 coils of the ½d bistre (SG248b), being coils of 1,000 stamps in both cases. A release of SG249b or 249c (1d green) is not mentioned.

Another collector, Dr M. Fitz Roett of Canada has reported that he has two 'join pair' strips of the ½d bistre (SG248b) in two different colours: the yellow-bistre of 1942 and the bistre of the 1943 printing. Roett is making an intensive study of the colour differences in the various printings of the George VI stamps of Barbados.

Major S. F. Cave of Surrey has reported that he received several coil strips from a colleague friend in Barbados of SG249b and 249c – green with perforation 14. A sample strip I inspected makes me assume that the coils were made from the earliest printings of this stamp in 1942, because the paper is more creamy and the gum is distinctly more yellow than the later printings in 1942, of which I have examples with very white paper and clear gum. Coil strips of SG249—1d red, perforation 13½ x 13—which he also received from Barbados unfortunately had been sold at auction, and so a sample could not be seen. But Major Cave confirmed that the joins on both types of coil were alike. That is the lower stamp overlapped the front of a ⅛in margin edge of the upper stamp, and that the joins occurred at intervals of twelve stamps, indicating that they had been prepared from sheets with twelve rows of stamps.

I must thank all those who have so far provided information, and trust that more will do so, so that a complete listing of the printings, release dates, perforations and colour variations of the Barbados coils can be compiled.

British Caribbean Study

In 1961 a small group of collectors in the United States, Great Britain and Jamaica formed a new specialist society with the initial intention of exchanging and studying information about the stamps and postal history of the then West Indies Federation. This society was known as the West Indies Federation Study Group.

In 1962 the Bahamas Postal History Study Circle combined their membership with the Group, and the coverage was extended to all of the British West Indies, including Bahamas, Bermuda, British Honduras and British Guiana. As a result the name of the Group was changed to the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group.

One of the pleasures enjoyed by the members is a close personal relationship through correspondence and exchanges. To promote such liaisons, a complete membership list is published which outlines the interests of each member; those with like interests are encouraged to correspond. The Group also publishes the bi-monthly *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, edited by Dr John C. Arnell of Bermuda. This article on Barbados Coils is typical of those which appear in the Journal.

Any collector interested in the British Caribbean area, whether a beginner or specialist is invited to apply for membership. Write to Alfred Branston, 11 Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 4DH.

Extracted from "The British Empire Postage Stamp Booklets", 2nd Edition, published by Harriet R. Work.

BARBADOS

Bklt #	Description	Scott #	Evaluation
1 1905	4 panes of 6 - 1d carmine Small Seal of Colony Typographed - De La Rue & Co. Perf. 14 Wmk: Mult. Cr. & CA Value: 2/ Sold for: 2/0½d Cover: _____ Interleaves: Waxed paper NOTE: Stock on hand 9/1/07 - 2,600 Stock destroyed 8/21/12- 2,300 Sales believed to be small because of additional ½d charged by the Post Office.	93_	$100.00
2 1912	2 panes of 6 - ½d green 3 panes of 6 - 1d carmine King George V Typographed - De La Rue & Co. Perf. 14 Wmk: Mult. Cr. & CA Value: 2/ Sold for: 2/ Cover: Black on dark red - stapled right or left No postal rates Interleaves: Plain waxed paper NOTE: 5150 received by Treasury 6/1/13 Last 105 issued to G.P.O. 5/2/16 for purpose of destruction.	117a 118b	$85.00
3 1916	6 panes of 2 - ½d green 9 panes of 2 - 1d dark red Large Seal of Colony Recess - De La Rue & Co. Perf. 14 Wmk: Mult. Cr. & CA Value: 2/ Format: 74mm x 30mm Cover: Black on dark red - stapled right or left - right at bottom selvedge and left at top selvedge. No postal rates Interleaves: Plain waxed paper NOTE: 5010 received by Treasury 6/14/16 No record of number destroyed.	128_ 129_	$80.00
4 1920	6 panes of 2 - ½d yellow green & black 9 panes of 2 - 1d orange red & black Victory Issue Recess - De La Rue & Co. Perf. 14 Wmk: Mult. Cr. & CA Format: 74mm x 30mm Value: 2/ Cover: Black on dark red - stapled right or left - right at bottom selvedge and left at top selvedge No postal rates Interleaves: Plain waxed paper NOTE: Stock on hand 4/1/25 - 3,930 4/1/25 Stock destroyed 4/6/25 - 3,930 Original issue believed to be approximately 5,000.	141a 142a	$200.00

BARBADOS

Bklt #	Description	Scott #	Evaluation
5	1 pane of 10 - ½d. green	166a	$70.00
	1 pane of 10 - 1d. carmine	167a	
1932	1 pane of 6 - 1½d. orange	168a	

Seal of Colony
Recess - De La Rue & Co. Value: 2/
Perf. 13½x12½ (Aug.1932) Wmk: Mult. Cr. & Script CA
Cover: Black on light green-stapled right or left
Outside front cover: Austin Cars
Inside front cover: "Johnnie Walker"
Inside back cover: Hamburg-American Line
Outside back cover: Morris Motors, Ltd.
Interleaves: Advertising on white paper - both sides-
1. Collin's Chemist; Hanschell & Co.
2. Knights, Ltd.; K.L.G. Plugs
3. Barclay's Bank; Royal Typewriter
4. Postal Rates; Barbados Electric Supply Corp.

NOTE: 5004 received by Treasury 11/12/32
254 issued to Post Office 11/12/32 (1st day of sale)
On sale until 1938 and none left on hand

6	1 pane of 10 - ½d. green	166a	$70.00
	1 pane of 10 - 1d. carmine	167a	
1933	1 pane of 6 - 1½d. orange	168a	

Seal of Colony
Recess - De La Rue & Co. Value: 2/
Perf. 14x14 (Sept.1933) Wmk: Mult. Cr. & Script CA
Cover: Black on light green-stapled right or left
Outside front cover: Advocate Co.,Ltd.
Inside front cover: Collins Chemist
Inside back cover: Barbados Electric Supply Corp.
Outside back cover: Morris Motors, Ltd.
Interleaves: Advertising on white paper - both sides-
1. Barclay's Bank; Royal Typewriter
2. K.L.G. Plugs; Hanschell & Co.
3. Hamburg-American Line; Ideal Store
4. Postal Rates; Parcel Postage Rates

NOTE: 5000 received by Treasury 12/4/33
On sale until 1938 and none left on hand

7	1 pane of 10 - ½d green	193b	$80.00
	1 pane of 10 - 1d scarlet red	194b	
1938	1 pane of 6 - 1½d orange	195b	

Seal of Colony
Recess - De La Rue & Co.
Perf. 13½x13 on ½d & 1½d; 13.8x14.1 on 1d
Wmk: Mult. Cr. and Script C A
Value: 2/
Cover: Black on light blue-stapled right or left
Outside front cover: Advocate Co.,Ltd.
Inside front cover: Collins Drug Store
Inside back cover: Ford Motors
Outside back cover: Canadian Bank of Commerce
Interleaves: Advertising on white paper-both sides
1. Barclays Bank; Royal Typewriter
2. DaCosta & Co.,Ltd.; Roberts,Bookseller
3. C.B.Rice & Co.; Ideal Store
4. Postal rates; Parcel Postage Rates

NOTE: 5000 received by Treasury from Cr. Agents 12/17/37
200 issued by Treasury to G.P.O. 12/17/37
1st day of issue at all post offices (of which there were 12) 1/3/38. Last day of issue by Treasury to G.P.O.,leaving no stock on hand at Treasury, 200 booklets 10/10/41. Small quantity believed to have been destroyed.

BARBADOS 1938-47 —Some Queries



Propounded by R. J. SUTTON

WITH the passing of duodecimal currency in this, and other West Indian colonies, renewed interest is bound to be excited in the obsolete and obsolescent stamps which will soon join the "Pence" series of Canada and Ceylon. The new currency will bring to the Barbados entirely new designs also, and this increases the interest.

Most of us therefore must have been intrigued by the explanatory note on page 18 of the new (1949) Gibbons K.G. VI, which reads "No. 249a (1d. scarlet, 1938) was perforated by two machines, one gauging 14.1, the other 13.8×14.1", and wondered where all this decimilisation is leading us. To describe a gauge in terms of tenths is surely something new, and—to my mind—most undesirable. Only in 1945 Gibbons stated in the introduction to Part I "Exit Quarter-Perfs.", and went on to say "We have been able to fulfil our promise to eliminate the use of quarters in the description of modern perforations". Strange world!

Having been fortunate in obtaining quite a few copies of the lower values of this series, I had been puzzling about the apparent disagreement with the published details of the perf. variations, and had just come to the conclusion that here was something to write about, and did so, but was informed that the new Gibbons had put the matter in order—by publishing the aforesaid note. But I still wasn't satisfied or happy over the position, for apart from these fractional perfs. I still could not agree, and the stamps in my possession told quite a different story.

The halfpenny green '38 is catalogued as 13½×13, but my copy gauges exactly 13 all round (No! I did not find a perf. 14, neither did I discover that elusive penny scarlet gauging 13½×13) and I found a copy each of the penny green and the three-halfpenny orange both of which gauged 13 all round. I *may* grant you a decimal point, but never half a perf. They are, all three, gauge 13, and not catalogued.

I am forwarding the actual specimens with this article for the Editor to see, and—if he so wishes—to check my findings.)

It seems to me, therefore, that someone with real stocks (I have only a dozen or so) should check up, and put matters right. There is either an uncatalogued perf. series around, or, most probable, there isn't such a perf. as 13½×13 in this series, and correction should follow.

But to revert for a moment to this decimalisation. Surely 13.8 is either perf. 14 or 13½; and 14.1 is a piece of stupidity, or we must all go in for the new "points-perfs." to one place in decimals. Which shall it be?

* * * *

In its own way, the heraldic design that really graces this series is just as ridiculous as "points-perfs.", and it may be of interest to recapitulate some of the kind, and unkind, things that have so often been said about it.

P. L. PEMBERTON & SON,
(formerly SEFI PEMBERTON & CO.
LEOMINSTER

The original design, which appeared on the Q.V. stamps of 1892 was presumably a true heraldic copy of the seal of the colony. It showed Her Majesty, crowned and armed with a trident, as a female Neptune riding the waves in a huge shell, which reposed on the backs of two "sea-horses"—as the heraldic artists saw these fearsome beasts. The Queen stands, her "throne" is firmly supported on the backs of two sprightly horses, one of which is dark and the other near white. The latter shows a caudal appendage (tail, to you) which shows its fishy origin, and the horses have webbed feet instead of hooves. All very (heraldic) traditional, and very nice, with a ruffled sea, and a dawn sky behind to throw the whole picture into relief. Just what granny liked!

The Geo. V 1912 set saw the design again perpetuated, The Queen of the Waves (no longer any pretence at it being a portrait of the late august Queen) still rides her nautical chariot, and the new King's head appears in an oval. But in the higher values a foreshore has made its appearance, and graceful palms (coconuts ?) now spring up as "supporters", although the main motif is still unaltered. Then in 1916 De La Rue's artist (probably through War nerves) went all haywire, and the design goes all modernistic and became mechanised. There was now a chariot drawn by the pair of fishy-equines whose webbed feet were impossible to miss, and to make progress certain, it (the chariot) is equipped with paddle-wheels—how driven no one yet knows—but there they are. The dawn sky disappeared and (is it ?) a stormy sunset took its place, while the figure (now comfortably seated) is undoubtedly that of the King, tiny beard and all. The 1921 set repeated this design, but the 1925 set showed more slight changes. The sea had become a little more disturbed and stormy, and the whole design took on bolder lines so as to fill the oval rather better. True, the anomalous paddle-wheel was still there, but somehow it recovered some of its lost dignity.

Then came King George VI, and all that seems to have happened was the wiping off of the beard, and an unmistakable new and younger rider appeared in the chariot. The words "Postage & Revenue" for some unexplained reason disappeared, and the gap left between the baroque floral ornaments was inadequately filled by an ornament that is something and nothing.

And now we look like losing it all, and the old familiar near-heraldic design becomes obsolescent. Ah me!

One of the penny scarlets I found has a joined and doubled paper, nearly a quarter of an inch from the bottom, and is printed very lightly—probably because of this unevenness. Another is on much thicker paper than the normal—or so I fancy; and still another has been so viciously struck by a worn and knife-edged handstamp, that even the letter inside the envelope was sliced. The handstamp actually cut through the envelope from back to front.

It is very noticeable how deep is the gum discoloration on these particular specimens, and it seems most advisable that all traces of the adhesive should be washed off used stamps. No doubt the climate has something to do with this, but the penny greens and the 1½d. oranges, curiously enough, do not show this defect at all noticeably.

I hope that what I have said will encourage some other worker to go more deeply, and perhaps, more authoritatively, into this particular series of stamps, so that the result can be put on record while the interest is still alive, and before they become really past history.

BARBADOS.

GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY, March, 1951

Through the Magnifying Glass

Conducted by C. P. RANG

BARBADOS ½d. FLAW NOW EXTENDS TO OTHER VALUES



WHEN the above variety was first mentioned, in December, it was known on S.G. 248 and 248*b*, and it was suggested that it probably existed also on S.G. 248*a*. Mr. Herbert Bayley of Barbados has now kindly sent me a specimen of the latter to prove that my surmise was correct.

This, however, is not the end of the story. So far, the character of the variety has been consistent with that of a plate flaw. But this view has been shattered by a reader showing me the same variety on the 1s., which I have since confirmed as being constant on stamp 46 in the sheet.

The existence of this flaw on two different values is no longer consistent with a plate flaw, but rather with a master-die flaw. On this assumption I examined sheets of other values and found enough evidence to suggest that we may have here a first-rate subject for study.

It must be admitted at once that the examination of material I have made has been purely exploratory, with the object of testing if the subject is worth following up, and much has been deliberately left unexamined so that collectors may have something further to look for.

The material consisted of a complete sheet of each value, ½d. to 5s. (S.G. 248 to 256*a*), ignoring perfs. and colour changes.

It was observed, first of all, that in some values there is a visible difference, from stamp to stamp, in the engraving of the vertical lines of shading in the two topmost bands, due, on closer examination, to the lines differing in length, spacing and thickness.

Further, it was found that the flaw exists not only on the ½d. and 1s. already mentioned, but also on the 1d. and on the 1½d. It also exists in intermediate states on several values.

From these facts the following tentative conclusions are drawn which I put forward as a basis for further consideration :—

1. The flaw is due to a defect on the master-die.

2. This defect was repeated on each of the 60 or 120 impressions on the plates of several values.

3. Before those plates were put into service the defect was corrected by retouching, but some individual impressions escaped correction while others were only partly corrected.

For collectors who wish to check my observations I append a list of the values examined.

½d. Pl. 1. Retouched. Flaw remains on No. 82.
1d. Pl. 1. Retouched. Flaw remains on No. 27. Flaw partly retouched on Nos. 22, 31, 68, 82 and 87.
1½d. Pl. 1. Retouched. Flaw remains on Nos. 1, 2 and 93. Flaw partly retouched on No. 100.
2d. Pl. 1. No clear evidence of retouching. All seem alike.
2½d. Pl. 1. No clear evidence of retouching. All seem alike.
3d. Pl. 1. Retouched. No flaws remain.
4d. Pl. 1. Retouched. No flaws remain.
6d. Pl. 1. No clear evidence of retouching. All seem alike.
8d. Pl. 1. Retouched. No flaws remain.
1s. Pl. 1. Retouched. Flaw remains on No. 46. Flaw partly corrected on Nos. 51, 52, 53 and 54.
2s. 6d. Pl. 1. Retouched. No flaws remain.
5s. Pl. 1. No clear evidence of retouching. All seem alike.

Owing to the smallness of the area of the flaw it is possible that closer examination will show differences in those four values in which I failed to observe any. If after such an examination there remain some values in which no evidence of retouching can be found, it will have to be assumed that the flaw was touched up on the value dies before those plates were made.

As far as the general collector is concerned, all he needs to know is that the flaw exists on the ½d. (Nos. 248, 248*a* and 248*b*), position 82; 1d. (No. 249*a* and probably 249), position 27; 1½d. (Nos. 250 and 250*a*), positions 1, 2, and 93; 1s. (Nos. 255 and 255*a*) position 46. And it appears to be of the same nature as the retouched dot on the 50 c. Kenya.

8.

BARBADOS

STAMP COLLECTING, Oct-10, 1952.

K.G. VI STUDY CIRCLE

VARIETIES 1938-1952

PART FOUR

By F. BENTLEY KETTLE

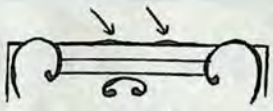


FIG. 1 ½d 1/10

I JOIN you again in our philatelic exploration of the West Indies and, as I said when last writing, we start with **Barbados.**

Let us consider first the ½d. value; we start with the weak place on 9/2 (Fig. 2), a variety already recorded and quite well known on this and on other values in the set. I have it on the 1d., 1½d. and 1/- stamps also, but the sheet position probably differs between one value and another. Next, we have a small but interesting piece of retouching on 10/6 (Fig. 3) where the third horizontal frame line from the top is recut as shown. I have this on the green stamp and on both shades of the brown, all perf. 13½×13. This would be a nice item to have in a positional block of the ½d., perf. 14. Yes, sir!

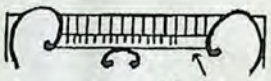


FIG. 2 ½d 9/2

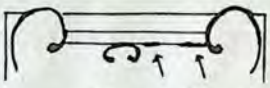


FIG. 3 ½d 10/6

Still on the ½d. value are two more items of yet greater philatelic charm, since positional blocks both "before and after" can be found. First, on 1/10 (Fig. 1) I have the green issue in the normal state and the brown stamp (both shades) with the top horizontal frame line recut. Again, on 8/10 (Fig. 4), I have the green stamp in the normal state and the brown one re-entered. The doubling is to be seen, vertically, in the S.E. corner and in the fine vertical lines behind and below "Barbados". To me, a variety is always more important when, as in this case, two states can be found.

Now for the 1d. value, and here it is very evident that the printers have done some extensive renovation on the plate. My sheet is from a latish printing—February, 1950—and traces of re-entries are to be seen on several stamps, the two more obvious items being on 9/7 (Fig. 5) and on 9/10. The former shows the right-hand vertical frame line doubled; the latter has the topmost horizontal frame duplicated.

The 2½d. value provides a nice little re-entry in the imprint block on 12/6 with vertical doubling in the S.W. corner.

Recorded recently in another stamp journal was the more obvious value tablet plate flaw on the 3d. value, stamp 1/1 (Fig. 6). When reported it was stated that the flaw was constant on all sheets examined at that time, but I am able to prove that the flaw was not constant throughout the entire life of the plate. I have the 1941 printing, perf. 14, without the flaw, and the 1944 (brown, 13½×13) and 1947 (blue) printings with the flaw. From this it may be assumed that the damage to the plate occurred between 1941 and 1944. If any reader can produce the former printing *with* the flaw or the latter printing *without*, then we shall be able to date it accurately.

Still on the 3d. stamp, there was a flaw on 4/10 which took the form of a short vertical line to the right of the rearward sea-horse's head. This "naked eye" variety I have on what I believe to be the 1938 and 1941 brown printings and on the 1947 blue printing. Apparently it ran the full life of the plate without attention from the engraver, which makes it rather remarkable when one knows what a lot of trouble is often taken to remove fly-specks.

In addition to the foregoing there was a small re-entry on 6/10, there being the merest traces of duplication of the top horizontal frame line.

With the 4d. stamp we have the now well known "flying mane" variety. This is to be found on both perforations but was not, I think, constant throughout the life of the plate. Incidentally, this item is missing entirely from my collection . . . any offers? The sheet position, of course, is 4/1.

And finally, so far as this colony is concerned, I want to draw your attention to the most interesting "joined scroll" variety. This is quite well known but I cannot recall having seen any reference to the three states of the flaw. I have examined these items very carefully and formed the opinion that the three states are shown in the correct order in my diagrams (Fig. 7). The original state of the flaw was caused almost entirely by the impressing into the plate face of a sliver of metal which, when removed, left a recessed line which took up ink. It will also be noted that some of the recessed horizontal lines have been closed up by the pressure and that they fail to print at this stage. Next we have what appears to be an attempt on the part of the engraver to restore the plate somewhat, the horizontal background lines having been roughly recut, apparently. The third diagram of Fig. 7 shows the final state, the flaw line having been eradicated and the background lines recut, these now being somewhat thicker than normal. What I would like to find—if it exists—is the positional block prior to the plate damage, thus making four states.

With time and space running out, let us dash off to the Jamaican dependency of **Cayman Is.** It was suggested some years ago—in another journal—that a new plate might have been used for a then recent printing of the 2½d. value. This was a perfectly correct assumption, but on none of the sheets which I have examined has there been any plate number. On what I opine to be the later plate (shall we call this plate 2.?) there is a very clear re-entry on 9/2, vertically in the S.W. corner and horizontally in the N.W.

(*Continued on page* 127)



FIG. 6. 3d 1/1



FIG. 4 ½d 8/10

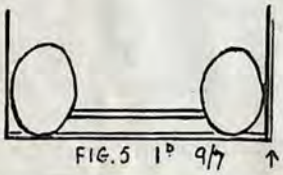
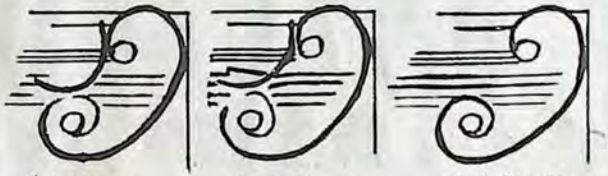


FIG. 5 1d 9/7



1st. State. 2nd. State 3rd. State.

FIG. 7 4d 7/8

K.G. VI Varieties 1938-1952 (*Continued from page* 113)

corner, the former feature being much the stronger. Curiously, this stamp and also 9/5 and 10/5 on *both* plates appear to have been re-entered but the characteristics of the re-entries are quite different. On plate 2 also there is evidence of a re-entered impression on 1/2 and 11/4 whilst on plate 1 are some slight traces of similar varieties on 8/5 and 11/3. So far as I am aware, the orange printing came entirely from plate 2 and the re-entry on 9/2 is to be found here also.

At that point I must leave you again but I hope to come back to you in a week or two with further B.W.I. variety news.

11.

KING GEORGE VI VARIETIES

Part 31—The 1947 Barbados Surcharge

Richard Lockyer OBE

Early Reports

The description of the Barbados surcharge in 'Stamps in Brief' in the June 1947 edition of *GSM* sets the scene: 'a surprise item appeared on April 21st.: the current 2d. carmine was surcharged ONE PENNY owing to the non-arrival of supplies of the ½d. and 1d. stamps. Local speculators have been quick in acquiring supplies and are already asking high prices.'

A contemporary report from Herbert Bayley, a prominent philatelist in Barbados and already mentioned in Part 2 of this series (*GSM* November 1986), noted that it was the second time within a few months that the Post Office had run out of stock of the 1d. value and had used ½d. stamps instead. Writing on 23 April 1947, the Trinidad Philatelic Society told *GSM* that the surcharge had been noted in two different positions—either at the top or the bottom of the stamp.

Behind the Scenes

Fortunately for KGVI collectors, these few bones from long ago can be fleshed out, thanks to the dedicated and thorough research work undertaken by Edmund A Bayley FRPSL, the elder son of Herbert Bayley. In his recently published book *The Stamps of Barbados*, Edmund Bayley has included an excellent account of the activities in official circles which eventually led to the authorisation of the surcharge. The description of events that now follow are based on the record of written correspondence and comment on pages 174–178 of the book, which was published by the author in 1989—1000 copies were printed in Barbados.

On 10 April 1947 the Colonial Secretary was told by the Colonial Postmaster (Mr H N Armstrong) that the position with regard to 1d. stamps was becoming acute. Annual consumption had been 480,000, but a new stock of 455,000 had been disposed of in less than four months. A cable was immediately sent to the Crown Agents requesting the urgent despatch of 120,000 1d. stamps by air. This partly satisfied an order dated 14 March for 120,000 ½d. and 960,000 1d. stamps. On 12 April the Chief Clerk (Major J E Griffith) reported to the Acting Colonial Postmaster that the consumption of ½d. stamps in lieu of 1d. stamps was alarming and it appeared that certain stamp dealers were trying to create a situation when some other denomination would have to be overprinted. In his words this was 'a philatelic ruse'. He added that one customer had asked one of the stamp sellers if an order for £100 worth of ½d. stamps would exhaust the stock. At the time 50,000 remained, thus such a purchase would have left just 2000! On the same day the Acting Colonial Postmaster proposed to the Colonial Secretary that: 'in order to avoid a catastrophe' he recommended that 144,000 2½d. stamps, recently withdrawn from circulation, should be overprinted ½d.



This block (perf 13½ × 13) shows the severe damage to the 'N's of 'ONE PENNY' on row 2/8. The varying position of the two words also illustrates the measure adopted to safeguard against forgery

On 17 April the Acting Colonial Postmaster advised the Colonial Secretary that only a day's supply of the ½d. was available and sought quick action. On 18 April a minute from the Acting Colonial Secretary to the Colonial Treasurer and copied to the Acting Colonial Postmaster read: 'I am directed by the Governor to inform you that in view of the shortage of the 1d. and ½d. stamps, His Excellency has authorised the surcharge to ONE PENNY of a portion of the stock of 2d. stamps in case the supplies of these denominations, which are on the way, do not arrive in a few days.'

Printing the Surcharge

The stamps were surcharged by the Advocate Company Limited from slugs cast on a Ludlow typecasting Machine. The first batch of 120,000 (1000 sheets) was overprinted on 19 April and the surcharge appeared on the lower half of the stamp. Sales started on 21 April. A second printing of 60,000 stamps was made on 22 April with the surcharge placed in the centre of the stamp. The third printing of 40,080 stamps was made on 28 April, to be followed by the final printing of 20,040 stamps on 1 May. The surcharge was placed near the top of the stamp on the third and fourth printings. The description by the Trinidad PS already mentioned does not quite match these facts. It seems probable that the *GSM* staff misread 23 April for 28 April, the news would then have matched events exactly. The overprinted stamps were not withdrawn until 1 May even though the supply of 1d. stamps which had been ordered arrived, via Trinidad, on 28 April. Sales totalled 237,702. Of the balance of 2418, 2414 were destroyed on 27 April 1950. The odd four stamps formed a block of four overprinted 'SPECIMEN' in purple by the Board of Survey and given to the Colonial Postmaster for insertion in the official album of the Post Office.

Frank Saunders, when writing in *Geosix*, the quarterly journal of the King George VI Collectors' Society, some thirty years ago, suggested, without the advantage of detailed local knowledge that, as the format of the surcharge on each of the 120 stamps was the same sheet by sheet then it was probable that the overprinting unit had been kept in being throughout. He also considered that as it was most unlikely that the Advocate printer would have had enough type to set up the forme letter by letter 'ONE' and 'PENNY' could have either been set up as a single unit and 120 slugs cast from it or the two words could have been cast separately. After careful examination of his material he chose the latter. Saunders also suggested that as 'ONE' fits conveniently over 'ENN' of 'PENNY' the slugs had been positioned by eye. Misplacements, he considered, were the result of misjudgement or perhaps slippage of the packing. The first two deductions appear to be very sound, but the third judgement about misplacements is far from correct as Bayley makes very clear in his book: 'the overprint was deliberately staggered, so that the word 'ONE' did not fall in the same position in relation to the word 'PENNY' on each stamp, as a precaution against forgery.' A measure that turned out to be fully justified.



Human Nature

As the stamps were sold only in Barbados, local stamp dealers were in a position to control the supply to overseas buyers and, thereby, make an additional profit; hence the terse comment in *GSM* quoted in the opening paragraph. Soon after 21 April the Post Office was forced to limit the quantity purchased at any one time to twelve. A sure way to increase demand when human nature comes into play. This point is reminiscent of events associated with the 1946 Great Britain threepenny Victory stamp and warrants a minor digression away from the activities of forgers associated with the Barbados surcharge. It was stated before the issue of the Victory stamp that 24 million had been printed. This quantity was intended to last for two months. However, following suggestions that speculators were active with the stamps and a completely irrelevant letter in *The Times* that the 'ration' was about half a stamp per head of population, a reprint of eighteen million was ordered—' a nice little earner' for the GPO and a salutary lesson for speculators. The stamps were not withdrawn from sale until sold out.

Forgers at Work

Bayley notes that locally produced forgeries appeared on the local stamp market in Barbados. The forger had managed to obtain the same type used by the Advocate printer, but faced a practical difficulty as his printing press could only print a maximum of twenty-four stamps at a time. Therefore, sheets had to be broken up into panes of this size. A rash of these small multiples aroused the suspicions of local dealers, who on closer inspection realised that a forger was at work. Unfortunately for him, he had failed to notice the significance of the staggering of the surcharge and anxious to produce a good quality product had carefully produced perfectly aligned overprints. An arrest was made and the stamps and plates were confiscated.

Inverted Overprints. Bayley states in his book that two sheets were discovered with an inverted overprint, but were destroyed. However, to add a touch of spice, Saunders wrote that although the overprint on the genuine stamps was not known inverted, a sheet of perf $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ had appeared in New York with the bottom row in that state. On this occasion the forger had failed to measure the word PENNY which is normally $13\frac{1}{2}$mm, but was $11\frac{1}{2}$mm on the forgery.

The Final Report

A report by the Chief Clerk dated 28 April 1947 explained the reasons leading to the surcharging of 240,120 2d. stamps. He explained that the shortage of 1d. stamps had been caused by abnormal sales due to unusual circumstances, difficult, if at all possible, to foresee and an error of judgement on his part. Abnormal sales stemmed, first, 'from the lowering of the franchise resulting in a larger voting electorate receiving circulars from an unprecedented number of candidates seeking legislative honours'. Secondly, a general increase in wages had meant that 'a very much larger number of wage earners affixed 1d. stamps to vouchers and receipts'. Thirdly, a rising standard of living caused a greater number of bills to be posted. Fourthly, an increase in the number of clubs entailed an increased number of notices to members. Fifthly, an increase in airmail postage especially at the 1s.1d. rate to USA and Curaçao had added to demand. Lastly, a big increase in the number of parcels received from abroad had also increased demand as each delivery note had to have a 1d. stamp affixed. In 1944 17,635 parcels had been delivered, but between 1 January and 28 April 1947 13,000 had already been handled. His error of judgement deserves some sympathy. He explained that he had been given to understand that during the war years it had been the practice to keep two years supply of stamps because of the risk of enemy action against shipping and the general uncertainty of steamship service. With the return of peace he had not thought this precaution was as necessary. He had noted that the annual requirement of the 1d. stamp amounted to about 1,250,000 to 1,350,000. The Chief Clerk's explanation then becomes detailed. In brief, he had unfortunately under-ordered by about six months supply of the 1d. stamp. (On a point of detail the annual consumption of 480,000 quoted by the Colonial Secretary on 10 April reflected a single order that had been made for 1946–47—a fact included in the Chief Clerk's report.) This under-ordering combined with the unforeseen very heavy demand necessitated the surcharge. With hindsight it is surprising that the sale of 1,307,000 1d. stamps during the nine months prior to 28 April did not alert someone that a supply problem was developing rapidly, other than local stamp dealers!

Varieties

Perforations. Another early news item from Herbert Bayley said that perf 14 and $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ stamps had been used and that a local survey estimated that the latter would be the scarcer in the ratio of about four to one. Edmund Bayley is more cautious stating that it is not known how many of each perforation were overprinted, but it is certain that there were more of the perf 14 and the first printing was on such stamps. Catalogue pricing in 'Part 1' tells a story. In 1953 mint copies of the perf 14 were the equivalent of 15 pence, with the perf $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ at 20 pence. By 1978 the prices were 30/40p, in 1981 45/70p, in 1988 20/70p, in 1989 15/70p, in 1991 15/85p, in 1992 15p/£1.25 and in 1993 20p/£2. However, looking back to November 1947 it was stated in *GSM* that the current general price for the scarcer perf $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ was 12s.6d. i.e. $62\frac{1}{2}$p. The same amount of money would have paid for a Leewards 10s., SG 113b, or even 113a, or better still 113ae, as at the time they were all grouped together under the same number. Could the message be, do not be hustled into following fashion? Finally, Edmund Bayley confirms that the perf $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ stamps came from those in stock from Requisition No 3367/1 which had reached Barbados early in 1944. The rest came from Req 3441/1 perforated 14 and received in October 1944.

...and Deformed Letters. Readers of ...s will be aware that it is difficult to ...n overprint register on a line ...ed stamp. The 2d. used in 1947 ...no exception. Relevant comment in ...(June 1947) that, 'There are numerous ...d badly formed letters' should be heeded. ...he item continued by describing two ...constant varieties on Rows 2/8 and 6/2 as being the most noticeable. The latter was listed in 'Part 1' in 1992 (SG 264a and ca). Both have been in the *Commonwealth* catalogue for many years. Saunders was able to examine complete sheets of both perforations postmarked to order with the date 24 April 1947. The perf $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ sheet was an earlier state than the perf 14 sheet. He suggested that they came from the first printing, but based on the information from Edmund Bayley that the first printing on 19 April was all perf 14 then the sheets seen by Saunders must have come from the second printing on 22 April. They were, of course, originally printed by De La Rue in sheets of 120 stamps with twelve horizontal rows of ten st...s.

In ...arly State Saunders confirmed the 'Broken "O" of "ONE"' at R6/4 (*Fig 1*), the 'Short Middle Shaft of "E" of "PENNY"' at R7/4 (*Fig 2*), the 'Short Lower Shaft of "E" of "PENNY"' at R8/8 (*Fig 3*) and the 'Short Middle Shaft of "E" of "PENNY"' at R11/4 (*Fig 4*). In addition, there were two dots like full stops on R1/3 and 1/5 and a mark like an apostrophe after the 'O' of 'ONE'. On the later perf 14 sheet Saunders reported that the 'Short Right Arm to the "Y"' had appeared on R1/6 (*Fig 5*), as well as the 'Short "Y"' at R6/2 (*Fig 6*). The dots on R1/3 and 1/5 and the apostrophe on R8/10 had disappeared. The other flaws already mentioned were present. In 1992 the varieties on R6/2, 7/4 and 11/4 were listed and illustrated in 'Part 1' (264a and ca and 264b and cb).

It is impossible to say when in the printing run the perf 14 sheet had been surcharged on 22 April, but Saunders noted the following damaged or broken letters and they exist in sufficient quantity to deem them constant and occurring from that time onwards. The 'P' of 'PENNY' shows a break on R7/8 (*Fig 7*). The 'E' of 'PENNY' was badly damaged on R10/4 (*Fig 8*) and a nick breaks the left side of the 'E' of 'ONE' on R10/9 (*Fig 9*). As already noted R7/4 and 11/4 have a defective middle shaft to the 'E' of 'PENNY'. The damage differs as is shown by *Figs 2* and *4*. A further identifying feature is that the 'P' is broken on R11/4 (*Fig 10*). 'Part 1' and *Commonwealth* illustrate the defect on R7/4 for both stamps. The surcharge on R2/8 must have suffered severe damage caused most probably by a slanting downward blow (*Fig 11*). The damage is most noticeable and attracted comment in *GSM* in June 1947. The variety has been listed by *Commonwealth* for many years. R12/4 has a defective foot to the first 'N' of 'PENNY' (*Fig 12*). On later sheets the first 'N' also shows signs of damage on R12/9 (*Fig 13*) and 12/10 (*Fig 14*) and on R 7/4 the top bar of the 'E' of 'PENNY' shows damage giving a second state (*Fig 15*). It is worth noting that, although the type used was generally serifed, it can be seen that on many occasions the serifs print irregularly. This is particularly apparent on the horizontal arms of the Es which are often serifless, but for good measure the 'E' of 'ONE' frequently carries a pronounced upper serif to the top bar (*Fig 16*), probably caused by a flaw in the original type from which the slugs were cast. Finally, the *Scott Catalogue* lists a double overprint variety, but Bayley notes that, 'this is believed to be caused by an offset'. *Commonwealth* restricts comment to: 'A double surcharge is reported to exist, but we have not seen this.'

Plate Varieties

Readers new to this series may wish to read Part 2 (*GSM* November 1986) which describes the plate varieties to be found on the definitive stamps. A weak entry occurs on R12/1 of the 2d. value where the outer frame line gives the impression of a break at the low left where the left hand value tablet touches the frame line (*Fig 17*).

Edmund Bayley's book *The Stamps of Barbados* may be purchased from him at PO Box 61, GPO Bridgetown, Barbados, WI. Price £50 inclusive of postage by Registered Surface Mail.

Part 32 (GSM May 1994) will describe varieties on the 1937 South Africa Coronation issue.

Further details of the King George VI Collectors' Society may be obtained from the General Secretary, KGVICS, 24 Stourwood Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth, BH6 3QP.

BARBADOS.

STAMP LOVER. June 7. 1963.

BARBADOS DUPLEX CANCELLERS

FOR many years, doubt has existed as to whether or not Barbados was issued with a duplex canceller for use at the G.P.O. in Bridgetown. I have searched through the Proof Books at the G.P.O. Records Office but have been unable to trace any reference to such a mark. The Colonial Postmaster could not throw any light on the problem either.

However, the examination of many hundreds of stamps, both on and off cover, led to the belief that not one but two such marks were in existence between 1875 and 1902. At one time it was thought that they were locally produced, but it was a letter from Mr. Stitt Dibden that gave me more positive proof that they were possibly made in the U.K. Mr. Stitt Dibden informed me that a firm in Edinburgh, Messrs. Kirkwood and Sons Ltd., were engaged at the time in producing similar hand-stamps for the G.P.O. in which the obliterator and circular date-stamp were each screwed independently into one handle. This information solved one problem—the reason for some of the strikes having the circular date-stamp at a different angle to the obliterator.

The duplex cancellations found on the stamps of Barbados can be divided into two types :—

Type 1. Single-circle date stamp, 21 mm. in diameter, with BARBADOS round the top in sans serif capitals 3 mm. high. The code letter A, B, C or D, denoting time of posting, and the date are in three lines across the centre. BARBADOS is closely spaced so that the first B and the S begin and end above the date line. The obliterator is spaced 1 mm. away from the c.d.s., although it sometimes has the appearance of being joined.



TYPE 1

This mark can be found with or without the code letters denoting time of posting and was in use between late August 1875 and 1902. Its use without letters was predominant between 1891 and 1893.

Type 2. Single-circle date stamp, 21 mm. in diameter, with BARBADOS round the top in sans serif capitals 3 mm. high. The code letter and date are in three lines across the centre. BARBADOS is more widely spaced so that the B and S begin and end below the date line. The obliterator is spaced 4 mm. away from the c.d.s.



TYPE 2

So far, this mark has only been recorded with the code letter A and the earliest and latest dates I have in my collection are :—

Earliest—19 March, 1886 : Latest—17 December, 1894

Correspondence with readers would be appreciated, particularly as to dates of use of both these duplex cancellers.

BASIL B. BENWELL.

(? G.S.M.)

A Barbados Query



Mr. Herbert Bayley the well known collector of Barbados tells us that in searching through the local G.P.O. records he found that on the 21st December 1931 three Registration postmarks were ordered from the Crown Agents. One was to be circular and two oval, each containing the words "G.P.O. BARBADOS" at top and "REGISTRATION" at foot. Mr. Bayley found the Crown Agents' invoice showing that these had been delivered and also an old hand stamp of which a strike is illustrated here, hitherto unknown.

Has any collector seen this postmark, with or without date, on a stamp or entire? A noted specialist in this country who was asked had not seen it before.

"The Saints" (one of/leaf)

13.

BARBADOS

The Philatelist (date unknown.)

The Saints of Barbados

By HERBERT BAYLEY, Barbados, B.W.I., and
JOHN M. SPENCE, Baltimore, Maryland.

ABOUT 100 miles to the east of the Windward Group of the West Indies is the small island of Barbados, a British colony since the early part of the 17th century. By the year 1639 a constitutional government had been established, with a General Assembly elected by the people and a Governor appointed by the King.

To-day it is densely populated, for with a total area of 166 square miles, 95% of which is under cultivation, it supports about 200,000 people. The climate is equable, disease rate is very low, and prior to the war it was quite a tourist resort, and will be again when more shipping is available.

While Barbados has issued many beautiful and some rare stamps in its nearly hundred years of philatelic history, this article will not attempt to deal with these, but with a different feature, the Saints of the Island.

It is quite evident that the early settlers were men of strong religious faith, as shown by the place names given to the eleven parishes into which the island is divided; all bear the name of a Saint but one, that is Christ Church.

The main P.O. is located at Bridgetown, in St. Michael's Parish; each of the other ten parishes has a branch P.O., and, since stamps have been used, each of these branches has had a different cancellation, first the parish number, later the name of the parish. As the number of letters originating at the branch P.O.s is small, the usual markings found are those of the Barbados G.P.O., but the Saints' names can be found by looking.

The recent acquisition of a set of the Saints on covers started a hunt to see what else could be found out about these rather unique markings, and correspondence between Mr. Bayley and the writer developed the following:

The list of the eleven parishes follows; numbers 2 to 11 are the locations of the branches.

1. St. Michael's Parish, Bridgetown G.P.O.
2. Christ Church.
3. St. Philip.
4. St. George.
5. St. John.
6. St. Joseph.
7. St. James.
8. St. Thomas.
9. St. Andrew.
10. St. Peter.
11. St. Lucy.

St. Lawrence, which never had a number, opened 1933, in Christ Church Parish.

POSTAL MARKINGS OF THE PARISHES.

Up to the year 1902 two distinct marks are to be found on all Barbados covers; an obliterator to cancel the stamp, and a circular dater to show date of mailing. This may be found spelt "BARBADOES" as late as 1878.

The markings which carry numbers and/or names of Saints are of the following seven types:

1. An oval bar killer, with parish number in centre; 1852-63.
   NOTE.—At this period a small circular dater, 20mm. in diameter, may be found on covers, used in addition to the Barbados dater, itself a relic of the "Packet Office" days in Bridgetown. This mark is a two-line dater, and below date is a number placed *sideways*, which is the parish number, one most often seen.
2. The "boot heel" killer, with number in centre, one of the ugliest and most effective cancellers known; 1863-78.
   NOTE.—About 1876 the numbers were taken out of these, and they were used at the G.P.O. as extra cancellers at rush hours.
3. Circular dater, 20mm. diameter, Barbados at top, parish number under that, date at bottom, used with killer 2, but may be found on stamps; 1863-88.
4. Circular dater, 22½mm. diameter, Saint's name at top, number below that, date in centre, Barbados at bottom; 1888-1907.
5. Same as type 4, without parish number; Mr. Bayley feels that these are due to numbers falling out and getting lost, but some parishes exist both with and without numbers; 1887-1905.
6. Circular dater, 25mm. diameter, Barbados at top, Saint's name at bottom, one-line dater in centre; 1905-47.
7. Circular dater, current English type, double ring, 27mm. diameter, name of Saint at top, three-line dater in centre ring, hour, day and year of mailing, Barbados at bottom.
   NOTE.—St. Peter, St. Andrew and St. Joseph can be found with parish number instead of hour of mailing, and there seem to be type varieties of these; 1933-47 (now in use).



Type 1



Type 2



Type 3



Type 4



Type 5



Type 6



Type 7

NOTE.—The dates given are from actual stamps in our collections, but are subject to change; besides this, all the parish P.O.s did not change their daters at the same time.

After 1902 the boot heel killers were discontinued, and the date stamps served the dual purpose of cancelling and date-stamping. The letters A, B, C, D and E, found on some daters, indicate *times* of mailing and have no connection with the parish markings.

With the exception of the early issues, material for the study of the Saints is cheap, and the cancellations may be found by those willing to do a little "hunting", though for reasons given they are not plentiful.

Comments and further information are invited.

STAMP COLLECTING, Sept. 12, 1968

BARBADOS


To the postmaster of Barbados
43, SEKFORD STREET, CLERKENWELL, LONDON.
PRIZE AWARD, EXHIBITION 1862.
Oct 26 1882
To George De Lacy & Son
Sole Engravers & Stamp Cutters to Her Majesty's Post Office.
Eschbinders Brass & Steel Ornaments Letters Punches &c.

1 brass stamp		1	3
1 " " "Value of stamps" sum to be collected		5	1¾
1 steel double stamp. "Barbados" fitted with two sets of type and Year type 82 to 91 in duplicate. the whole enclosed in a Mahogany box		1	9 10
	£	1	16 2¾

Correct. J. Fletcher Stockbinder

G.P.O. 27 Oct 82

THE BARBADOS DUPLEX HAND-STAMP

By Basil B. Benwell



Type 1

A FEW years ago there was a certain amount of controversy regarding the Barbados duplex hand-stamps. Some authorities held that there was no such stamp, the so-called " duplex " mark being produced by tying together the two hand-stamps—the c.d.s. and the open " boot-heel ". Two important facts seemed to support this theory:

1. The relative position of the c.d.s. to the boot-heel was not constant; it appeared that the former was loose enough to rotate.

2. Whilst the impressions of the c.d.s. and the boot-heel had been found in the Die Impression Books at the G.P.O. Records Office, no such impression of a duplex mark had been found

Now, however, a new piece of evidence has been found which throws more light on the matter. In 1882 all member-countries of the U.P.U. were instructed to use a distinctive hand-struck " R " in an oval, on all registered mail where the official registered envelopes were not used. Whilst my colleague, Leonard E. Britnor, was recently examining some of the correspondence relating to this, a letter was discovered dated September 14th, 1882, from the Postmaster of Barbados to the Secretary General, Post Office, London.

General Post Office, Barbados.

Sir,

Referring to your letter of the 14th June last I shall feel obliged if you will furnish this office with *one* of the R stamps for registered letters referred to therein charging the cost 1/3 to this office.

I should further feel obliged if it is convenient for you to do so, by your ordering, at the same time, a dated stamp and box of type for this Office and a stamp for insufficiently paid letters thus:

" Value of stamps "
sum to be collected

An impression of the dated stamp is made in the margin and also on a slip of paper which I enclose,

I am Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
W. Trimmingham,
Colonial Postmaster.

14 September, 1882.

Attached to the letter were sundry notes from the store-keeper, etc., and the invoice, dated October 26th, 1882, covering the hand-stamps ordered for Barbados, illustrated above. There is also the receipt signed by the Postmaster, dated November 23rd, 1882, for the hand-stamps.

The invoice clearly states " 1 steel *double* stamp . . .", which I feel conclusively proves the existence of a " duplex " date-stamp.

However, the discovery of this piece of evidence now poses further questions: was the " dated stamp " (an impression of which was struck on the letter from the Colonial Postmaster to the G.P.O.) a duplex hand-stamp, or was this stamp two separate ones tied together ? Was there a duplex mark already in use when this (the second) hand-stamp was ordered ?

There are definitely two types of " duplex " hand-stamps:

Type 1.—The space between the c.d.s. and " boot-heel " measures 1 mm. approx. The strike often appears as though the two are joined. The base of the date line appears below the B and S of BARBADOS. Earliest recorded date, 9.8.1883. Latest recorded date, 21.2.1902.



Type 2

Type 2.—The space between the c.d.s. and " boot-heel "

Barbados Duplex (*continued from page* 143)

I have been unable as yet to trace a proof impression of Type 1, but I conclude that *this* was the hand-stamp sent out by the mail of November 2nd, 1882, as the strike on the letter to the G.P.O. is identical to Type 2. Any additional information on these marks would be appreciated.

Further information on the Barbados " duplex " hand-stamps can be found in " The Postal Markings of Barbados ", by Basil B. Benwell and L. E. Britnor, published by the British West Indies Study Circle in 1961. Paper No. 2 and Supplement No. 1, April 1962.

STAMP COLLECTING, *September 12th*, 1968

14.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43, SEKFORD STREET, CLERKENWELL, LONDON. PRIZE AWARD, EXHIBITION 1862.

Oct. 26 1882

Messrs. De George & De Lacy & Son

Sole Engravers & Stamp Cutters to Her Majesty's Post Office.

Ornamental Brass & Steel Ornaments &c.

1 brass stamp — 1 3

1 " " "Value of stamps sum to be collected" — 5 1½

1 steel double stamp. "Barbados" fitted with two sets of type and 1 year slide 82 to 91 in duplicate. the whole enclosed in a Mahogany box — 1 9 10

£ 1 16 2 ½

G.P.O. 27 Oct 82

Corrected. J. Forster Secretary

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By Basil B. Benwell



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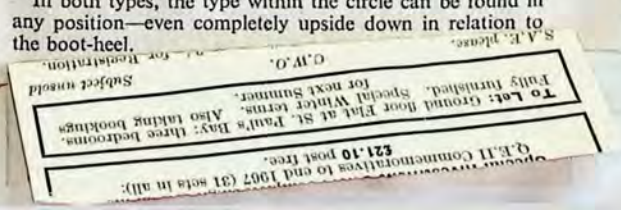
Type 2

Type 2.—The space between the c.d.s. and " boot-heel " measures 4 mm. approx. (as the strike made in the letter from Barbados to the P.M.G.). The base of the date line is almost level with the B and S of BARBADOS. Earliest recorded date, 28.?.1883. Latest recorded date, 4.3.1899.

In both types, the type within the circle can be found in any position—even completely upside down in relation to the boot-heel.



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STAMP COLLECTING, *September* 12*th*, 1968

THE
PHILATELIC MAGAZINE
Incorporating "The Philatelic Circular," "The Collectors' Magazine," "The Collectors' Monthly," "The Junior Stamp Magazine," "The Record of Philately," and "Alfred Smith's Monthly Circular."

Established at Bath in 1875

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Will postal subscribers please note that the postal subscription is 10/- for 26 issues and a charge of 3d. will be made each time an address is changed during the currency of a subscription, to cover the cost of a new address plate for the Addressograph Machine. If 3d. is not enclosed, the period of the subscription will be reduced by one issue.

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VOL. 58. No. 21 (WHOLE NUMBER 920) OCTOBER 13, 1950 POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION 10/- FOR 26 NUMBERS

POSTAL RATES AND POSTMARKS OF BARBADOS

In 1852 it cost a shilling to send a letter from Barbados to Great Britain but when the Colony joined the U.P.U. in 1881 the rate was dropped to 4d. and then to 2½d. A brief story of the posts on the island is told here.

By
HAROLD D. G. GISBURN

THE postal history of Barbados can be traced back to very early days in the life of the colony. About the year 1663 a Packet Agency was established at the capital, Bridgetown, by the Imperial Post Office, and this remained in being until 1858 although it was incorporated with the Barbados Inland Post Office in 1854.

During this period of nearly two centuries this acted as Receiving Office for letters brought to the island by the Packet ships and, later (from 1841 onwards) by the vessels of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company which obtained the contract for the carriage of the West Indian mails in the latter year. No inland postal service existed during this period and addressees had to make their own arrangements for the collection of correspondence from the Post Office at Bridgetown.

The first inland service was authorised by local enactment in 1851 and brought into operation in April, 1852, when a Barbadian G.P.O. was opened at Bridgetown and the first definitive postage stamps were placed on sale. Concurrently, sub-offices were opened in the ten rural parishes, and thirty Receiving Houses were established at convenient points, the duty of receiving the mail being undertaken by suitable local residents.

The work of conveying the mails between the G.P.O. and the country areas was carried on by mounted constabulary, and local delivery was effected by letter-carriers appointed for this purpose. In 1881 the first wall-boxes were erected, and gradually these superseded the Receiving Houses although the last seven of the latter were not finally abolished until as late as 1932.



In 1870 the transmission of mails by mounted police was abandoned in favour of a contract system by horse and mule carts, which in its turn gave way to motor mail vans in 1925.

The year 1841 saw the termination of the old Packet system for overseas mails, and a contract entered into with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. This continued in force until 1920 although, as early as 1885, the Barbados Government acquired powers to dispatch mails (at prescribed "Ship Letter" rates) by any other vessel which might offer facilities for conveyance, the sole criterion being the speediest and most convenient route available at a given time.



When the inland postal service was inaugurated in 1852 the postage rate on letters to the United Kingdom was 1/- per ½ oz. inclusive of the inland rate; the fee to the other West Indian islands was 8d. per ½ oz. including a double inland rate of 2d. collected from both the sender and addressee. This latter fee was reduced in 1874 to 7d. inclusive; the United Kingdom rate having meanwhile been lowered to 6d. in 1854, but again raised to 1/- in 1858.

In 1861 prepayment of postal fees by means of adhesive stamps was made compulsory for the first time, any deficiency thereafter being collected at double rate from the addressee. Barbados joined the Universal Postal Union in 1881, when the United Kingdom rate was reduced from 1/- to 4d., and to 2½d. ten years later.

As from 1898 the rate to both the United Kingdom and the other British West Indian islands (except Jamaica where it operated from 1899) was brought down to 1d. and this was extended to include the whole Empire in 1907. This rate remained in force until 1931 when financial stringency compelled upper adjustment.

The inland rate for letters was fixed at 1d. per ½ oz. from 1852 to 1909 after which the initial weight was increased to 1 oz. The rate was subsequently increased to 1½d., at which figure it still remains.

As previously mentioned, inland mails are now distributed from the G.P.O. to each of the parish post

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offices by motor mail vans, operated under contract by a local firm. In contrast to the position ruling in many other British colonies there is an efficient daily house-to-house delivery of mail throughout the island, carried on by bicycle postmen. Private boxes are also available at the G.P.O. and in addition, the Private Bag system is also in operation.

By this latter method the integrity of outward and inward correspondence is assured, letters for posting being placed in the bags and the latter taken to the post office for unlocking and abstraction of the contents. Conversely, letters for delivery are placed in the bag by the postal officials and the locked bag is retained until collected by the renter or his agent.

Since the late war, the shipping position to and from Barbados has been somewhat irregular. Mails between the island and the United Kingdom are conveyed principally by the freighters of the Harrison Line which carry general merchandise to the island and return with cargoes of sugar and its by-products.

During the " off " season for these commodities this service is infrequent and use has to be made of any available vessel, including occasional services of the French Line (C.G.T.), e.g., the *S.S. Katoomba*. Surface correspondence for the U.S.A. and Canada is mainly conveyed by the *Lady* ships of the Canadian National Steamship Co., i.e., the *Lady Nelson* and *Lady Rodney*, calling at Barbados about every three weeks on the route from Canada via Boston, Bermuda, the Leeward and Windward Islands, Trinidad, and British Guiana.

Since 1943 air mails have been transmitted by aircraft of the British West Indian Airways; at present these are dispatched twice weekly to Jamaica by this line, to connect with the British South American Airways route to Great Britain. Air mails for countries other than those in direct contact with the service provided by B.W.I. Airways are sent to Trinidad for onward conveyance.

The postal markings emanating from Barbados are of much interest. Covers (folded letters) exist from the 17th century onwards, with applied handstamps " BARBADOES," or " BARBADOES SHIP LETTER," although many appear to have been dispatched without any markings at all.

From about 1849 the " Crowned Circle " type of handstamp was applied to letters handed in at the Post Office, to indicate that postage had been prepaid, and this was again employed for a short period in 1893 when a temporary shortage of adhesive stamps occurred.

Early postal cancellations consisted of an oblong of bars enclosing a number which indicate its use at the respective post offices. Subsequent cancellations had the name " Barbados" included and later still offices were supplied with distinctive postmarks of their own containing the parish names.



The following is the list of the sub-offices: St. Andrew, St. Peter, St. Joseph, St. George, St. James, St. Philip, St. Thomas, St. John, St. Lucy, Christchurch St. Lawrence.

A new office, Black Rock, St. Michael's (situated about 1½ miles from the G.P.O. at Bridgetown) has lately been opened.

Illustrated here are examples of the current postmarks, including departments of the G.P.O., i.e., Air Mail section and Registered Letter Office (R.L.O.).

BETWEEN OUR SHELVES

Priced catalogue of Boy Scout stamps. Published by Thill Raymond, 11, Rue Michel Rodange, Luxembourg. Obtainable from Harris Publications, Ltd. Price 2/1 post free.

How many Boy Scout stamps are there? The number may surprise you. This unusual little book lists 87 ranging from the 1900 Cape of Good Hope Baden-Powell to this year's U.S.A. Jamboree commemorative. Siam, Roumania and Hungary have issued quite a few stamps with a Boy Scout or Girl Guide theme. Thematic collectors looking for new subjects have a narrow field here with every prospect of completion.

The second half of the book provides a different subject in that it lists various stamp centenary issues. Naturally it starts off with the 1940 Great Britain set and carries right through to this year's German stamp commemorating the first issue of Saxony. This list runs to 123 stamps.

The catalogue is priced in Belgian francs.

* * *

India Used Abroad. By Jal Cooper. Over 300 illustrations. Cloth bound. Companion volume to " Early Indian Cancellations." Published by Jal Cooper, Bombay.

As I write, this book is not yet off the press, but Mr. Cooper sends advanced detailed information of its contents. The book is a general survey of Indian stamps used abroad but the following items come in for special treatment.

India used in Africa, particularly Abyssinia, Somaliland, Sudan and Mombasa. India used in the Mekran Coast, Arabia, Iraq and Persia. India used in Danish, French and Portuguese Settlements touching various sub-post offices. Indian stamps used in Nepal and Tibet. Indian stamps used in Straits Settlements, Batavia, Labuan and Sarawak. Indian stamps used with various Expeditionary Forces with a complete list of all the identified post offices.

The book will include maps showing all these places and the illustrations are of the actual cancellations. Incidentally, the illustrations will be full plates and will face the appropriate reading matter.

From all this, it seems obvious that the book will prove invaluable to those collectors who search for unusual postmarks from strange places.

Will be obtainable from Harris Publications, Ltd. Price 25/–.

T. M.

* * *

Catalogue de Timbres-Poste. Vol. I France and Colonies. 328 pages. Vol. II—Rest of the World. 1,694 pages. Published by Yvert and Tellier 37, Rue des Jacobins, Amiens, France. Price 1,250frs. for the two volumes.

It is something of a feat these days to cram the entire world into two volumes of a catalogue. The Yvert still manages to do so but there will surely come a time when they will have to plan their world famous work on a different footing. The Rest of the World section is a ponderous tome and one dare not handle it other than carefully in case it falls to pieces.

This Gibbons of the Continent is, as usual, liberally besprinkled with illustrations; in fact there can hardly be a stamp design not represented.

BARBADOS

STAMP MIRROR Mar. 31, 1951



Type 1



Type 2



Type 4



Type 5



Type 6



Type 8



Type 13



Type 14



Type 3



Type 11

CURRENT POSTMARKS OF BARBADOS

by

P. W. HOSKING

(Min. of Works P.S.)

(The illustrations, which have been made from actual date stamp impressions, are by courtesy of the Head Postmaster, Barbados).



Type 12



Type 7



Type 9



Type 10



Type 15



Type 24



Type 16



Type 17

IT is my impression that collectors today are tending to become more postmark conscious. When this fascinating side of the hobby is taken up, it is rather surprising how many varieties it is possible to find even among the current impressions of the smaller colonies.

Barbados is quite a good example, despite the fact that there are only 10 Parish offices in addition to the G.P.O. at Bridgetown and its two sub-offices.

At the present time it is possible to find 14 distinctive postmarks emanating from the G.P.O. including four devoted to the parcel post. The two Bridgetown sub offices are located at Black Rock, St. Michael and Christchurch, St. Lawrence, 1¼ and 3½ miles respectively from the G.P.O. The former is the latest addition to the post offices of Barbados having been opened quite recently. Its date stamp and the two in use at Christchurch take the form shown by types 15, 16 and 17.

The postmarks for the ten parish offices can be divided into four main groups :

a. The type illustrated by 18, 20, and 23.
b. Type 19 and sub-type 21.
c. Type 22.
d. Type 24.

The offices of St. Peter, St. Philip, and St. Thomas use more than one type concurrently.

Type 19 is used also at St. James, St. John, St. Peter, St. Philip, St. Thomas and St. Lawrence. In the case of the latter, two forms are used i.e. St. Lawrence B.O. and St. Lawrence S.O. One of these is illustrated to show the smaller type of lettering used. Type 22 is peculiar to St. Lucy, and Type 24 is also used as St. Thomas.



Type 18



Type 19



Type 20



Type 21



Type 22



Type 23

Whilst the foregoing covers all the types of postmark at present in use in the Island it is not without interest to record that until quite recently Type 4 was also used at St. Peter and St. Lucy. This I know from copies in my possession but it is possible that other offices have also used this type of cancellation in the past.

Although the site for another sub-office about 1½ miles east of the G.P.O. has been purchased by the Government, the erection of the post-office has been postponed and collectors will therefore have to wait before they can add yet another postmark to their collection.

April 1952 will see the Centenary of the G.P.O. at Bridgetown and not unnaturally the local Philatelic Society is already endeavouring to persuade the Government to issue a special stamp or stamps to commemorate this important date in the Island's postal history.

15.

BARBADOS
-a trip to the tropics

JOHN WOOLFORD continues his philatelic A-Z trip through the commonwealth countries. This month he visits Barbados.

MOST of the West Indian Islands have had dramatic or bloodthirsty histories and Barbados is no exception. At one time its possession was disputed by rival sets of Englishmen. However, it's name has a slightly humorous origin. It is said that Portuguese explorers early in the 16th century named it after its bearded fig trees - Los Barbados.

Not until 1627 was it settled permanently by the English and then there was an almighty row that sprang from ignorance of geography back in London. The English ship Olive Blossom had called at Barbados in 1605 and had raised the English Standard. The Earl of Marlborough started a settlement in 1625, but then Charles I decided to give all the "Caribbees" to the Earl of Carlisle while Barbados should be given to the Earl of Pembroke. What Charles didn't realise was that Barbados was part of the Caribbees; so Carlisle and Pembroke were immediately at loggerheads.

Pembroke supported Marlborough's settlement which had been allowed by James I. In 1627, Carlisle's men founded Bridgetown and in 1629 they defeated Pembroke's men, who must have thought the world had suddenly become a very strange place. The Olive Blossom was shown on a stamp issued to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the annexation: S.G. 152. The tercentenary of the founding of Bridgetown was celebrated by the issue of a 1d stamp of February 1927, S.G. 240, showing Charles I and George V side by side.

Barbados remained loyal to the Stuarts and after the Civil War had ended in Britain it was still a Royalist stronghold. Not until 1652 did the islands acknowledge the Commonwealth in London, and one imagines it was much happier with the Restoration of 1660.

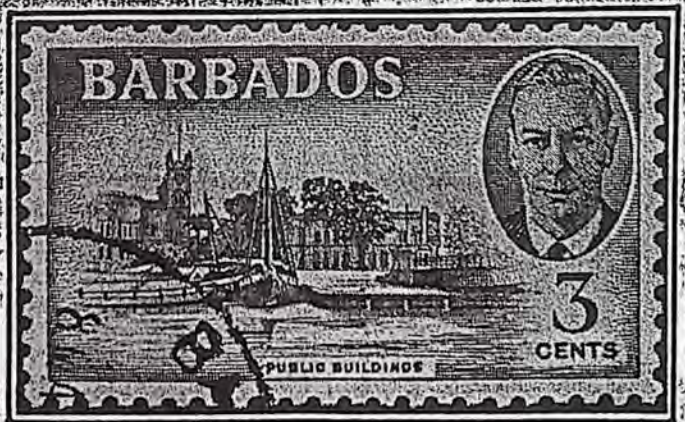
Not until the 1760's was the first Barbados postmark introduced although letters addressed to Britain are known from the 17th century. The early postmarks, either in one line or two, had the spelling BARBADOES, which was retained on some guises for almost a century. Letters to England in the 18th century were often backstamped on arrival with Bishop marks and although they are expensive if fetching well in three figures, any advanced collecton should have one or two.

In 1851, just before the first stamps were issued, postage rates were established at 1d per ½ oz internal letters and 1s for ½ oz ters to England. On August 1, Charles Tinling was appoin postmaster at Bridgetown a Barbados was given control o internal postage. ½d, 1d and stamps were ordered fr Perkins, Bacon & Co., who h recently produced stamps Trinidad that had no figures value and that showed Britan sitting amongst bags of sugar w a sailing ship in the backgrou The engine-turning in the des and the stars in the top corn showed how closely the pen black was still influencing sta design in the 1850's.

Not surprisingly, Perki Bacon used the same design Barbados with the name of country (as with the Trinid stamps) across the bottom. T green stamps were supposed to ½d values and the blue stam were 1d. To the illiterate pos clerks on the island the differ colours were the only indicat of value, that was necessa Come to think of it it proba worked quite well for the liter people as well. Before the end 1851, these stamps were on th way, but on December 30 the s carrying them, the S.S. Amaz was lost at sea with all the stam It says much for the efficie of the Victorians that by Ap 1852 another lot of stamps h arrived and they were put on s on the 15th. There were 130,(of the ½d (used mainly for new pers) and 350,000 of the 1d. had been intended to issue a 2d well, 7 and 10,000 had be ordered. However, the colour the 2d was found to be too cl to that of the 1d - it should h been purple, but it veered towa blue. Thus the 2d was not iss until August 1854, and then so were bisected and used on cov as 1d stamps.

The stamps lost on the Amaz were 50,000 of the 1d and 10,(





of the 2d. It is surprising that there were no 1/2d stamps on the ship and they must have been ordered only when replacements were called for. In later years remainders of these first stamps came on the market, which is why the catalogue prices of mint stamps are much less than used.

In 1858 Barbados was given control of external mails, and 82,500 6d stamps plus 55,000 1s



stamps (S.G. 11-12a) were added to the set. As these two values were to be used on letters sent abroad the values were expressed and the name of the country was shifted to the top of the stamps.

In 1860 Barbados stamps began to be perforated, at first with a most unsatisfactory pin machine. The usual thing happened: the pins made very small holes and they soon became clogged with paper from other sheets so that often the pins failed to punch through properly.

From 1861 to 1870 a long set of ½d, 1d, 4d, 6d and 1s stamps was issued, S.G. 20-35, rough perf [illegible]6. Rough is the operative [illegible]d. Values to 4d were still not expressed. This is the easiest set of Britannias to collect and the many different shades ensure that there is plenty of interest. If you break them down into their different printings you will soon find they are not all as common as they seem: for example there were 50,000 of the 1861 4d, 24,200 of the 1865 4d, 11,000 of the 1868 4d and 22,000 of the 1869 4d. An odd thing about all these early Barbados stamps was that they were printed in sheets of 110 - eleven across and ten down. Thus you will find figures such as 24,200 which are divisible by eleven.

In 1863 a new 1s stamp was ordered, but it was printed in a blue shade that was almost the same colour as the 1d - this is the stamp listed by Gibbons as 34a - and it was never issued although there are one or two unused copies known. It is hard to say why this mistake kept being made - had nobody learnt from the story of the 1852 2d? Later in 1863 a 1s brown-black was issued instead, S.G.34. There were 50,000 of this stamp; and there had been 50,000 of the abortive S.G. 34a.

Large star watermarks were introduced in 1870 on S.G.43-47, changed to small star for S.G. 48-57 and back to large star for S.G. 58-61. It is easy enough to follow these changes and the different times of perforations, by reading the catalogue lists.

Postmarks of Barbados make an interesting study and from the 1880s onwards are worth looking for, quite apart from the scarce early types. It should be noted that from February 17 to March 15 1893 and again from January 24 to April 28 1896 the crowned-circle handstamp was used when there was a shortage of low value stamps.

The most common postmark for many years was the "bootheel" an arrangement of 16 large thick dots that was used in combination with a circular date stamp. More interesting are parish names such at St. Peter, St. Lucy and others that give the searcher the thrill of making a small "find" in approval books or perhaps even in dealers' stock-books. These parish postmarks can be found well into the 20th century and here is one of St Lucy dated 1918.

In 1873 the era of unexpressed values came to an end with the issue of a 3d, S.G.63. This is quite a scarce stamp as only 20,000 were printed and this time the sheets were a more orthodox 120.

On February 18 1873 (according to Bridger & Kay) the 5s Britannia was issued S.G.64. This is a fine looking stamp, if a little ornate, and it is none too common as only 10,000 were printed. In March 1878 during another shortgage, this time of 1d stamps, the value tablets of these 5s stamps were cut off and the remaining top portion of the stamps were overprinted 1d. One overprint was applied to the left of the stamp and one to the right and then the whole thing was perforated down





the middle. The overprint was applied 24 times in a row of 12 of the 5s stamps and it is possible (and damned expensive) to "plate" the over print.

There is a story that a dealer in England sent money to the postmaster at Bridgetown with a letter asking for some of these 1d stamps - meaning the surcharges



on the 5s stamps. After a long time a reply turned up from Bridgetown, containing a small stock of 1d blue stamps, probably S.G.73. The postmaster had put a note in with the stamps explaining that he was sending some new 1d stamps that had just arrived from London and that were not as ugly as the surcharges. What the dealer said is not recorded, but can be guessed. Today these surcharges would not be scarce at all, because to start with there would be enough for several dealers let alone the general public.

Perkins, Bacon has now lost the contract for printing Barbados stamps and De La Rue took over the plates and printed the set S.G.67-84. Colours of many of the values were changed and there were interesting 1s stamps in aniline violet, S.G.71 and 82. The watermark was now Crown CC, sideways on the 6d and 1s. The 4d deep red, S.G. 68, was printed from a new plate that Perkins, Bacon had just made. Perkins, Bacon never printed sheets from it, but die proofs and plate proofs, struck by Perkins, Bacon are known. In 1882 De La Rue abandoned the Britannias and started to produce cheaper surface-printed stamps, S.G.89-103.

Joubert's Diadem VI was used for Queen Victoria's head on this issue as it was for other colonies such as Bahamas and Gibraltar. Compared with his earlier Diadem V, the crown was much more prominent and definite and not just a glorified head-band. One of the most elusive stamps of the set in fine mint condition is the 4d



grey, S.G.97, which was used for the registration fee. It was replaced in 1885 by a brown stamp when the rate was reduced to 2d. The 4d grey is quite common used - although on registered covers it is uncommon - but fine mint copies are scarce. The 5s is also difficult as only 2,400 were printed according to Bridger & Kay. Master die proofs of issue are known with blank value tablets, both before and after hardening, dated respectively January 30 1882 and February 2 1882. In 1892 during yet another shortage of stamps the 4d brown was surcharged Half-Penny, and the mandatory varieties of double surcharge occurred. Look for the missing hyphen variety if you can't afford the more glamorous ones.

A ¼d stamp was added to the 1892 definitives in 1896 for the reduced newspaper rate. Yes, there was a time when postage rates were reduced, and when a farthing was worth something. Queen Victoria's sea chariot for this and following sets was based on a Seal of Admiralty dating from 1663; and she continued to

to a likeness of George V.

The Diamond Jubilee issue, inscribed 1897 but issued in 1897 and 1898 (S.G. 116-124 and also 125-33) would have been better if it had been recess printed. Printing figures show it is not plentiful: half a million of each of the low values up to 2½d, then 18,400 of the 5d, 15,280 of the 6d, 20,000 of the 8d, 12,160 of the 10d and 10,000 of the 2s 6d. Those are for the white paper stamps: figures for the blue paper stamps are not known to me.

There are many attractive but expensive plate proofs of the late 19th century and early 20th century stamps, including a series in different colours of the 1892 issue called essay plate proofs. The designs are slightly different from the issued stamps, so they are partly essays. The different colours give them the characteristics of colour trials. There was a selection on the Robson Lowe auction of October 24 1989.

The Nelson commemorative set of 1906 must have taken up a lot of time on the part of the officials in both Barbados and London. To start with there was a pair of pen and ink sketches of a Nelson Statue, probably done by the wife of the Governor. Then the same lady, Lady Gilbert Carter, and Mrs G.W. Goodman produced other drawings, culminating in a sketch in pencil by Mrs Goodman of Nelson's statue in Bridgetown flanked by palm trees. This design was accepted. Composite essays by De La Rue were approved in August 1905 and die proofs (very rare) are known dated September.

It is often claimed that the Nelson statue on Barbados, which was put up in 1813, was the world's first monument to the



in 1813 and that is also claimed to be the world's first. I don't know which one was really the first: can anybody out there clear this up?

The 1906 Nelson set was printed on Crown CC paper, but in 1907 the ½d, 2d and 2½d were issued on Mult Crown CA paper. The latter issue included a rare shade of 2½d black and indigo instead of the usual black and bright blue. This stamp is listed at S.G.162a. Bridger & Kay in their Five Reigns Catalogue dismiss it as "believed to be the result of climatic effect", but the Robson Lowe sale of October 24 1989 offered one at an estimate of £400. The ¼d, 1d and 2½d S.G.145, 147 and 149 are known with inverted watermarks and there may be others.

The 1912 George V definitives, although they were typographed by De La Rue instead of being recess printed in the manner of the Nelson set, have some claim to being the most attractive of the Georgian definitives. Essays by De La Rue of the approved design were dated 1911, but master die proofs for the pence values were not dated until May 1912. A master proof for the shilling values, S.G.178-80, was not dated until June 13 1912. There are also a few rare sets of imperf plate proofs of each value. The ½d and 1d are known from 2s booklets issued in 1913. The top values of this set fine used are quite difficult, and there are those who say they are underpriced. Only four years later they were replaced by the 1916 definitives, which were recess printed.

At last in 1916 Queen Victoria was replaced by George V in her sea chariot. The set is an attractive one, although it lacks the charm of the 1912 stamps; possi-

from a re-engraved die that has no border line immediately around the central design. The beaded outer frame was still there. There are proofs and colour trials of the 1916 and 1918 issues and the larger auctions should be scanned for them.

On September 9th 1920 Barbados issued rather belated Victory stamps. They were on Mult Crown CA paper and on August 22 1921 the 1d was reissued on Mult Script CA paper. The designs of the 1/4d to 6d are said to be based on the statue of Peace in her chariot on Constitution Hill in London, and the 1s, 2s and 3s design is supposed to represent the winged goddess on the Victoria Memorial outside Buckingham Palace.

Again, there are proofs of this issue, including some of the 3s that are not in the issued colours, but that are imperf and overprinted Specimen. They have been variously described as colour trials and printer's samples. They are most attractive and are not as expensive (because they are not as rare) as die proofs. Some values are known with inverted and reversed watermarks.

De La Rue continue to print sea chariot stamps for Barbados through the 1920s and the 1930s and with the accession of George VI they were at it again. The 1938 definitives are full of interest and they include a number of constant varieties such as the striking "flying mane" on the 4d, on the first stamp of the fourth row. These varieties are listed and priced by Stanley Gibbons - unfortunately mint only. Try to memorise their appearance and look for them among used stamps in dealers' stock-books. They used as obviously many of them will exist. Bridger & Kay's Five Reigns and George VI Catalogues do price them used.

Commemorative stamps of Barbados include the 1927 1d already mentioned, and the 1939 Tercentenary of General Assembly issue. Colour trials of the former are known and there is at least one die proof of the head of Charles I in deep claret that was used for the latter.

The 1946 Victory stamps were the last ones to have Specimen perforations for distribution by the U.P.U., but a set of the 1950 definitives (S.G. 271-282) is known from the Bradbury, Wilkinson archives with SPECIMEN perforated in a semi-circle.

On April 15 1952 the centenary of Barbados stamps was commemorated with a set of "stamps on stamps". Try and find plate blocks of these and similar stamps, they are surprisingly difficult. The 1950 definitive designs were retained for the Queen Elizabeth definitives of 1953, and there was great excitement when the Block CA watermarked stamps (S.G. 312-19) were issued in 1964-65. There was more excitement when the $5 issued in 1969, S.G. 355a, had such a short life.

Some more recent Barbados stamps are scarcer than you would expect, partly because as countries issue more stamps so they become the victims of the law of diminishing returns. There were only 12,993 miniature sheets of the December 1969 Scouts isue S.G. MS397. There is no question that the authorities issue far too many Barbados stamps, but at least they seem to be confined to occasions that are of some importance. The history of the island and its marine life have been well treated on stamps, and at least we have been spared stamps shaped like coconuts or with the adhesive qualities of fish scales. I don't know what the future of Barbados stamps will be, but their past has been quite interesting.

Recently a book titled "The Stamps of Barbados" by Edmund A Bayley has been published. Anyone who wishes to specialise in any Barbados stamps up to the end of the reign of George VI will need this book. Collectors wishing to study the more recent stamps will find the information much more easily in the Elizabethan Catalogue, which is still invaluable despite getting more and more out of date.

BARBADOS

One Hundred Years : : Surveyed : :

By S. G. BALLEY



WHAT finer way could there be of celebrating a stamp centenary than by depicting a "stamp on a stamp"? This method has been increasingly used of late with very popular and attractive results. The Barbados Centenary issue is no exception to the rule. (Illus. at right).

The Crown Agents' original announcement stated that this issue would "Feature a replica of one of the four values of the original 1852 issue in its *true* colour." Surely a fine piece of optimism considering the originals were printed by Perkins Bacon & Co., on blued paper giving rise to numerous shades.

Simplicity is the keynote of the original Britannias, only the word BARBADOS is used, the value being indicated by the colour. The original model for Britannia was Frances Teresa Stewart, Duchess of Richmond and Lennox, who was born in 1647 and died in 1702. She was educated in France and came to England as maid of honour to Catherine of Braganza. Although she was a noted beauty it is difficult to find evidence of this on the stamps.

The first attempt at perforation took place in 1860 when the ½d. and 1d. values appeared in a pin perforation in two gauges, 14 and 12½. These are difficult to find in a reasonably good condition due to the fact that most of the original users employed more direct methods to detach them than tearing along the dotted line.

In 1861 the basic design was modified when a sixpenny value was added to the series. The word "Barbados" was transferred from the foot to the top of the stamp and is replaced by the value in words. A shilling value in a similar design was added to the series in 1863. The catalogue description is "Brown Black", which is a rather ambiguous term. A shilling stamp in brown is mentioned in correspondence from Barbados in 1863. Perhaps they had "gum and shade" trouble in those days!

Prior to 1870 all issues were on unwatermarked paper, but in that year all values from ½d. to 1s. appeared on paper watermarked "large star". In 1871 the "Small star" watermarked paper made its appearance. One of the mysteries of Barbados stamps is the disappearance of the majority of the 50,000 copies of the rare colour error 1s. in blue instead of black.

An additional value 5s. was added in 1873. This very handsome and large-sized stamp has increased in popularity during recent years and is much sought after. It remained in use for a period of 15 years and some 10,000 copies in all were issued.

In 1875 the printing of the Britannias was taken over by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. The paper used for this printing has the "Crown over C.C." watermark. With the introduction of the typographed Queen's Head of 1882 the Britannias came to an end after holding sway for thirty years. The typographed issue presents very few points of interest except perhaps the fact that the 5s. value should be more highly priced in comparison with the 5s. of 1873 since there were some 6,000 less copies issued.

THE GREAT SEAL

From 1892 to 1950 the majority of designs have employed in some form or other the Great Seal of Barbados. This Great Seal was granted by King Charles II in 1663 and was adapted originally from a design which depicted Neptune on a chariot of shell drawn by sea-horses. From that date onwards the head of the reigning monarch has been substituted for that of Neptune. The motto "ET PENITUS TOTO REGNANTES ORBE BRITANNOS" is adapted from Virgil's "Elogues" I.i.66. In the original the word "DIVISOS" is substituted for "REGNANTES", the translation then reading "Where the Briton dwells utterly estranged from all the world".

To return to the chronology, the first set adopting the central motif of the seal was issued in 1892. This set in a small format was followed by the rather ugly Jubilee issue of 1897. Throughout the reign of Edward VII the small seal type of 1892 was used, the watermark being the distinguishing feature.

Of the K.G.V issues the 1912 typographed set had a very attractive design which depicted the King's portrait in an oval frame beneath which the chariot and sea-horses are driven by Queen Victoria. This would appear to be a break in the tradition that the seal should depict the reigning monarch as charioteer.



The large seal issue of 1916 must rank as one of the finest of all Georgian designs. Recess printed by De La Rue, it is an outstanding example of balanced design. The 1921 small seal issue reproduced this design (with the exception of the motto) in miniature and although not quite so striking as the 1916 set it is infinitely superior to the 1925 issue. The balance of the latter design is spoiled by overcrowding due to the reintroduction of the motto and addition of the words "Postage and Revenue".

The first K.G.VI issue employed a similar design with the words "Postage and Revenue" omitted which restored the balance to some degree. This issue has attracted great interest owing to its many perforation varieties, and to some extent, its non-pictorial nature. The 1950 pictorial set in decimal currency includes a very handsome design in the $2.40 value. The original Great Seal of Barbados with King Charles II as charioteer is depicted in an admirably balanced design. The other values are poorly designed and a great tradition seems to have been broken.



THE COMMEMORATIVES

The remaining issues, mostly of a commemorative nature, show various aspects of the history of Barbados. The first in this category is the "Olive Blossom" stamp of 1905. The *Olive Blossom* was the ship in which Captain Cataline, driven out of his course on a voyage to Guiana in 1605, landed on the coast of Barbados on the site of the present-day Holetown, and took possession of the Island in the name of King James of

(*Continued on page* 167)

Barbados (*Continued from page* 165)



England. This stamp is closely linked with the 1d. value of 1927 issued in commemoration of the tercentenary of the settlement of Barbados. On February 20th, 1627, the ship *William & John*, under the command of Henry Powell, with the patronage of the Duke of Marlborough, landed a small band of 80 settlers at the Holetown site and founded Jamestown. Both these stamps were recess printed, the latter by Bradbury Wiliknson & Co., the first break in over fifty years of De La Rue printings for Barbados.

In 1906 the centenary of the defence of Barbados by the British fleet against the French and Spanish fleets was commemorated by an issue of seven stamps. In gratitude to Nelson, who led the British fleet in the flagship *Victory*, the inhabitants of the island erected a bronze statue in Trafalgar Square overlooking the careenage at Bridgetown. The stamps bear the words "First monument erected to Nelson's Memory 1813". I believe, however, that a statue in honour of Nelson was erected in Montreal a few years previously, in 1806.

In commemoration of the tercentenary of the Barbados General Assembly a set of five stamps was issued on June 27th, 1939. The design showed the interior of the House of Assembly, the mace, and portraits of King Charles I and King George VI. The Assembly consists of 24 members (two for each parish and two for the city of Bridgetown) who are elected for a period of two years. The House was constituted in 1639 and apart from the Bermuda House of Assembly is the oldest colonial legislative body.



To conclude, the first hundred years of Barbados stamps have given us interest, variety and admirable scope for study. Let us hope that the four new stamps will prove a stepping-stone to another century of pleasure for all collectors.

CAN YOU HELP ?

Has any collector of Railway Parcel stamps a copy of the 1d. brown on green "Parcel Ticket" issued by the Guernsey Electric Railway in 1905 for disposal ? If so will he please write to O.W.N., c/o The Editor.

Another G.B. Variety is reported on the stamp mentioned on January 11th. In addition to the missing "spike", a copy of this stamp shown us by Wm. Heywood (Haworth, York) shows the "RE" of "REVENUE" firmly joined at the foot of the letters.

Next Week's Stamps

By PATRICK HAMILTON



April 28th, Austrian Military Post, 1915, First Issue. **29th,** Danzig, 1939, Anti-cancer issue. **30th,** New Caledonia, 1928, Pictorials. **May 1st,** Baden, 1851, No. 1. **2nd,** South Africa, 1949, Natal Settlers. **3rd,** U.S.A., 1907, Pocahontas. **4th,** Denmark, 1947, Liberation issue.

The portraits of two celebrated French seamen are seen on the franc values of the 1928 New Caledonia series, both of whom spent part of their lives in England.

Louis Antoine de Bougainville, whose likeness appears on the left of the New Caledonia stamps was the first French circumnavigator. Born in Paris in 1729, he joined the army and in 1755 was appointed secretary of the French Embassy in London. While in England he was elected a member of the Royal Society. In 1756 he became A.D.C. to Montcalm in Canada and later evolved a scheme for annexing the Falkland Islands to France, a move which his government disallowed. In 1766 he set out on his voyage round the world and returned to France in 1769. In 1768, while on this voyage, he visited New Caledonia. A projected voyage to the North Pole was vetoed by the French Government, but he saw distinguished service, becoming a Vice-Admiral in 1791. Bougainville escaped the Terror, and in his old age was created a Senator, Count of the Empire and a member of the Legion of Honour by Napoleon. He died in Paris in 1814.

Jean Francois Galup de La Perouse visited England in quite another way. Born near Albi on August 2nd, 1741, he went to sea at an early age, and was taken prisoner by Admiral Hawke when he took the *Formidable* in 1759. He was subsequently exchanged and saw distinguished service, particularly in Canada. His fame rests chiefly on his expedition of exploration, ostensibly to find the North West Passage, which left Brest on August 1st, 1785. After reaching Alaska and finding no way through, La Perouse sailed south, and rounding South America entered the Pacific, which he crossed and made many discoveries in north-east Asia. He visited many Pacific islands, and came eventually to Botany Bay in 1788. He left there on his last voyage, sailing to New Caledonia and thence to the New Hebrides. Nothing more was heard of him till 1825 when the wrecks of his two vessels were found by Captain Dillon on the reef of Vanikoro in the northern New Hebrides.

Altogether eighteen stamps of New Caledonia bear the portraits of these two intrepid navigators, printed in gay colours. They make an attractive page in the album, and in postally used state are by no means so easy to find as the catalogue prices would seem to indicate.

Five pages

Barbados

Dickon Pollard turns to Barbados in his King George VI survey.

On casual inspection, the 1938 Barbados set is dull and unprepossessing. Just an interval in your collection between King George V and Queen Elizabeth II. The design barely altered from the previous reign and, generally, the stamps of the reign seem dull and uninspired. However, this apparent dullness hides a very interesting set, with lots of interest for those who like plate varieties or printings; and it is possible to form a really complex collection without necessarily incurring a huge outlay.

The design has a classical simplicity, and represents the final appearance of a concept which began in Queen Victoria's reign; a likeness of the reigning monarch in a conch shell, drawn by seahorses — ultimately derived from Britannia. George V was particularly recognisable. On his death, preparations were made to arrange an issue of four low values showing King Edward VIII, but he abdicated before these could be got off the ground. The King George VI issue showed a younger, beardless figure in the conch shell and the original values were released on January 3, 1938.

To understand the varieties which occur on these stamps I am afraid it is necessary to get technical for a while. (If you can't stand technicalities, skip this paragraph! I am an unreconstructed technophobe, and had to spend a good long time with my nose in *Fundamentals of Philately* before sufficient went in to enable me to waffle convincingly.) The first step in creating the series was to produce a master die. This reproduced the whole of the design except for the values. From this master die, transfer rollers were prepared, one for each value, with figures of value engraved on each. It follows that any fault on the master die would be reproduced on the transfer rollers which would, in turn, faithfully continue such faults onto the printing plates and from there onto the printed stamps. There have been arguments that a secondary die may have been manufactured from the master die, but this does not seem to affect the principles involved.

There are four master die defects, which appeared initially on every impression of every value; these were identified in an article by Frank Saunders in *Geosix*, the newsletter of the King George VI Collectors' Society, in 1975. The first consists of a scratch between the two left framelines, which may have been an attempt to strengthen the left frame; this is accompanied by a stronger scratch inside the inner frame. If you look at the design adjacent to the horse's raised hoof, these should be easily apparent (but look at values other than the 2d, 8d and 5s, because some remedial work was carried out on these plates). The third flaw is an apparent splitting of the middle horizontal line above 'Barbados'; ie, the line below the medallion, which has short vertical lines upwards from it. The fourth defect is the 'weak entry' which shows up on a number of values. The curl that cuts the top frame at the top right of the stamp lacks shading immediately to its left, between the second and third framelines. C. P. Rang first described this on the ½d value in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in 1950, from Row 9/2. Subsequently, it was noted on other values and positions. This led him to the conclusion that this was a master die defect and that it must have, initially, been present on every impression of each value, having been recut by hand on every position save for a few on which it was missed, or only partially carried out. This is a good example of plate varieties teaching us about printing methods.

Over the years since 1950, many of the most distinguished observers of plate varieties on recess-printed stamps have written about this series. Bentley Kettle, writing in *Stamp Collecting* in 1952, carried out a survey including observations on different states of the 'joined scroll' flaw on the 4d; the Bayleys (Barbadians themselves) have always been enthusiasts for the issue; Philip Halward (1969, in *The London Philatelist*) and Richard Lockyer (1986, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*) have produced scholarly articles. Add this to Frank Saunders' Study Paper for the King George VI Collectors' Society in 1981, and Roy Botwright's studies of the flaws, and we can see that the issue has indeed been well served by writers over the years. I like Philip Halward's quote. He always believed that, when it came to learning about philately, 'book-learning' was no substitute for the actual study of stamps. 'In the main', he said, 'recess-printed flaws can be fully investigated, primary and later states annotated and eventual correction put on record... the relatively inexpensive stamps of (this) series provide near-complete, practical pictorial representation of accepted printing flaws.' So, if you want to educate yourself in the technical side of philately, this is a good set to study.

Sheet make-up for values to 4d was 120 stamps, 12 rows of 10. De La Rue's imprint appeared centrally in the bottom margin, and plate numbers appeared under R12/2 or 12/9. The values 6d and above were printed in sheets of 60 (6 rows of 10).

Starting with the ½d value, whose printing history is the matter of some debate, we can find a perforation change, a colour change, booklet and coil stamps, and plenty of plate varieties. I will run through the printings of the ½d, which may be taken as an example for the other values. The original printing was large and, from it, 50,000 stamps were ordered for booklets and 20,000 for coils (not that you would know... examples of either are hard to find). The gum can easily become discoloured. The second printing also had 20,000 stamps for coils. These were made up from sheets. The third printing was solely for coils, 30,000 stamps this time; Saunders describes it as 'richer and deeper', and 'very difficult to find'. The fourth reprint of 480,000 stamps was completely destroyed in the fire at De La Rue in December, 1940. A further printing in 1941, this time listed by the Commonwealth catalogue as 'sage green' and on thinner, whiter paper (although this, too, could become discoloured by climate). A decision having been made to change the colour of the stamp, the bistre stamp was printed and despatched to the colony in 1941 and 1942, but not released until October 1942; in the meantime, more ½ds were required, and this release (in sheets and coils) appeared in the original green colour from about August. This was the line perforation 14.1 printing, which is now an elusive stamp. There were then six further printings in the new colour, including various coils, and a yellow-buff shade (listed by Commonwealth) in 1948. All these are rather difficult to separate, but, if you work with dated used to back up your mint examples, you can achieve some semblance of the proper sequence without much expense.

Apart from the weak entry on R9/2, the ½d has a nice variety on Rl/10. This consists of a hook projecting from the top frameline just to the right of centre, on the printings in green. On the bistre printings,



1942 ½d perforation 14 block of 4. (Shown actual size; all other illustrations shown enlarged.)



1942-47 ½d bistre with R9/2 weak entry.

bolder. R11/1 also has a minor re-entry at lower left, which makes a plate block a useful item. R8/8 has a short diagonal line on the King's shoulder, running below and parallel to the two lines of the collar. R9/6 of the green stamp has a line across the King, similar to the ½d at R2/4 but slightly flatter and also going through the sky (this is on the green stamp only). It was constant from day 1 of the colour change, since I have seen it on a first day cover, but it was partially corrected at some point, leaving a line

1942-47 1d blue-green perforation 14 comb with plate block number, R11/2 retouched sky and 'TES'.



the flaw was removed, and the top frameline subsequently retouched as is often the case, the cure proving as bad as the malady. R2/4 shows a strong scratch through the figure of the King, almost vertical. R8/10 has a good re-entry, doubling of the right frameline at the bottom, which appeared on the bistre stamp only. Gibbons list the recut top frame on R10/6. If you are lucky, you may find a large imprint block with this flaw — it is not at all easy to find in green.

The ld originally appeared perforated 14. The authorities differ about the perforations of the early printings; suffice it to say that the stamp in red may be found 13¼ x 13 comb perforated, and also 13¼ x 14 and 14.1 line-perforated. The former appears to have emanated from the 1941 printing to replace an earlier printing, also destroyed totally in the De La Rue fire. It appears that a machine which perforated in this gauge was one of the few to survive the destruction. Although 36,000 stamps were retained for the trade, it is hard to find unmounted mint, particularly in multiples. Although Saunders says that he 'lacks definite proof' of the existence of perforation 13¼ x 13 stamps in coil form, I have seen coil join pairs, even a used pair. The line-perforated stamps are easier to find in coil form. When the green stamp appeared, it was in two perforations, 13½ x 13 comb and 14 line.

Below: 1942-47 1d perforation 14 line with plate block 1, R11/2 retouched sky and 'TES'



There are a number of good plate varieties. The weak entry at top right is to be found on R3/7, and partial states on 3/2, 4/1, 7/8, 9/2 and 9/7. There is an excellent re-entry on R11/2, where the shading at the top of the sky and the letters 'TES' of 'REGNANTES' appear from just under the King's chin to his arm. I do not know the date of this remedial work. The next door stamp, R9/7, has a partial state of the weak entry, and a re-entry affecting the right frameline. The right frame is doubled, but this does not illustrate well, since the horizontal lines of shading protrude beyond it. R9/10 appears darker at the top than its neighbours, when seen in a pair. It has a re-entry which mainly affects the top frameline. R11/5 provided another example of a weakness being repaired at some stage of the life of the plate. The shading is extremely weak most of the way along the top, but especially at right. The retouch is patchy and the top frame is thicker. These, of course, come in the imprint block and make a nice pair of items for display — if you can find them!

The 1½d has the weak entry on R1/1, 1/2 and 10/3, with a partial state on R10/10. Otherwise I do not think there is much to observe.



1946 1½d Victory with R5/2 'two flags'.

The 2d has a very good flaw, which is listed by Gibbons. R11/9 developed (I am not sure when) a strong line outside the right frame; I think this is a plate scratch, although it is so long and straight it is difficult to be sure. Blocks may be found with the line, without it, and with a faint line, so we may assume that it received attention at some stage. Similarly, R12/1 (the bottom left stamp in the sheet) has a weak frame at the left of the left value tablet. This also was reworked at some stage so that the defect can be matched with its rectification always a plus when displaying. You will need the weakness in a positional block, because some other stamps from the first column display similar weaknesses, although not so pronounced.

The 2½d has a peculiar defect on Rl/3, 2/3 and 3/3, known as a transfer flaw. A mark affects the ornament above the 'NA' of 'REGNANTE'. This appears to have been due to a piece of matter adhering to the transfer roller. The size of the mark reduces from the top, showing that the adhesion disintegrated gradually and disappeared by R4/3 (possibly because it was noticed and the remnants removed). Incidentally, a block with this flaw enables us to deduce the order of the laying-down of the plate; it started at R1/1, then to 2/1 to 12/1, 1/2 to 12/2, 3/3 to 12/3, etc. Also to be found is a fine re-entry on R12/6, showing as doubling at the lower left corner.



1947 1d on 2d R2/8 broken 'N's.

The 3d value has one of the classic KGVI plate flaws, a vertical mark over the lower horse's head on R4/10. It is quite difficult on the blue stamp. One reason for this is that the second (and final) printing has had the flaw removed, contrary to various observations that the flaw was never remedied. This printing is in a distinct shade of ultramarine, and I reckon a positional block without the flaw is at least as good as a block with it. Examination of such a block disproves Saunders *et al.* who seem to have assumed that the correction was done by working on the existing cliche, but the entire impression must have been replaced; the stamp stands out from its neighbours, being darker and sharper in impression. R1/1 shows (for much of the reign, but I wouldn't like to put definite dates on it) a mark which obscures the top right of the '3' and part of the 'd' in the right value tablet. R11/3 shows a minor recut to the top right corner, which is evident in that the right frame extends up above the top frame. A variety was widely reported, not least by Philip Halward, as existing on R3/10 of the 1947 printing. It consists of a break in the trident held by the King just above the hand. I have never seen an



1944 2d plate block 1 with R11/9 extra weight.



1950 2d plate block 1 showing no variety.



1938-44 2½d R1-3/3 mark in ornament.

example. He described it as a progressive flaw, ie, one that became more prominent as printing progressed. I beg leave to suggest that it may have been due to oil, or something similar, on the surface of the plate not permitting the trident to print properly. I would welcome any readers' comments on this.

The 4d value has, again, a couple of classic plate varieties. The 'joined scroll' on R7/8 is recorded as existing in several states. It was evidently caused by a curved sliver of metal which lodged on the plate. I suggest that the states are caused by the sliver 'bedding in' to the surface of the plate; at some times it would have stood 'proud', causing the surrounds not to print properly. I have a feeling that it may have moved about a good bit in the early stages, due to the stresses on the plate, and it seems to have been fully retouched by December 1947. R4/1 has a splendid variety, the 'flying mane', which had been corrected by the final printing. For some reason it is difficult in multiples, and scarcer than the 'joined scroll'. Barry Moerke of Milwaukee lent me a positional block from the 1948 printing which, like R4/10 of the 3d, appears to have had the entire cliche replaced. R6/10 has a diagonal crack through the right value tablet, which continues upwards across the sheet margin. This is also scarce in a mint multiple. If you are really lucky, you can find a block with this, the 'joined scroll', and also an instance of a weak entry affecting the shading at the bottom right. The shading between the two bottom frames is almost entirely missing. I believe that, although this can be found in both perforations, this latter is scarce.

There is not much to report on the higher values, save to note that the 1s can be found with the weak entry at top right on R5/6 and partially on other positions. The 8d can be found printed with fluorescent and non-fluorescent inks. Some very good shades are to be found, detailed by the Commonwealth catalogue, on all the top values. The first printings always have brownish gum — this is certainly the case with every example of the first 1s I have seen, and this is a difficult stamp unmounted, often misidentified.



1941-47 3d R4/10 'line over horses head'.

There are lots of other things to be found on this set. Apart from the normal perforated specimens, there are locally-handstamped specimens to be found, but I am not going to go into details of these. Saunders expressed some reservations about them, but they are described and listed by the Bayleys, and I regard them as fully legitimate. The postal history provides a huge field for study. Although the parish postmarks are dull (mostly Saints' names), collecting the censor marks and the flight covers is a real challenge. Saunders recorded 115 printings, and doubtless there are others, as yet undocumented. Small wonder it provides such a fertile field for the student. Even casual purchases of stamps which are obviously different, either from the front or the back, could get you hooked — so beware! Collecting the series can lead you into looking for such scarce items as the 1938 2s booklet. 5,000 were issued; the majority were used, and a small quantity



1947 3d ultramarine showing R4/10 flaw removed.

destroyed. Not many survived intact for collectors, and panes are rarely met with. It exists stapled both left and right.

There was a temporary shortage of ld stamps in 1947, and the ½ds were being rapidly exhausted, partly due to speculation by locals but also due to a General Election, for which all the political parties seem to have sent out a good deal of propaganda. A 'ONE/PENNY' surcharge on 2d stamps was authorised and was carried out by the Advocate Company Ltd. They did a pretty good job, in that no double or inverted surcharges are known — at least, no genuine ones are known to have escaped. Forgeries are known. There is no doubt that speculation was rife, too, especially since both perforations were overprinted, with the perforation 13¼ x 13 being scarcer. But the main interest stems from the type used.

This was inclined to break up, and most of the many varieties known are more-or-less progressive. R7/4 and 11/4 show a distinctive short middle bar to the 'E' of 'PENNY'. But better are the 'short Y' on R6/2, and the broken 'N's on R2/8. I have looked at many multiples searching for these varieties, but they are rarely found — the conclusion must be that they developed as the printings (there were 3) progressed. Also to be taken into consideration are the R12/1 weak entry and 11/9 extra line outside the right frame. For years, all these varieties were plentiful, but since the catalogues have listed them they have disappeared like snow in sun; the lesson is, buy varieties before they are listed!

The 1937 Coronation issue was printed in three batches, partly due to underestimating the public demand. The 1d exists with plate numbers 1 A and B 1, the 1½d and 2½d with Plate 1. The 1939 Tercentenary of the General Assembly set celebrates the Parliament of Barbados, the third oldest in the Commonwealth after Great Britain and Bermuda; its foundation date is unknown, but it was during the summer of 1639. The stamps are not uncommon, but not if you are looking for plate blocks (all plates were numbered '1').

The Victory pair have one plate variety each; the 1½d having the well-established R5/2 'double flag' (at the stern of the launch), and the 3d the 'kite' variety at R10/4. The former is always found, the latter is on some sheets only. The Silver Wedding, UPU and BWI University, and Stamp Centenary sets have little to collect apart from plate blocks.

The 1950 definitive set, to coincide with the change to a decimal currency, is more interesting than meets the eye. There were several printings of most of the lower values, and two of the $1.20. These would be a worthwhile project to complete. Commonwealth lists a good shade for the 12c, 'grey-green and olive-green' as opposed to the original 'blue-green and olive-grey'. This was one of those issues which was around in sheets for many years, but is now less plentiful.

The Postage Dues follow the usual pattern, with rough papers appearing after the war to replace the earlier smooth papers. Again, I would like to hear of postmark dates earlier than 1947. *The Stamps of Barbados* by Edmund Bayley lists 15 printings of the 1d! The 3d has always been a good stamp in used condition, and despite appearing for the first time in 1947, also exists on smooth paper. The currency change in 1950 saw decimal-denominated stamps appear, soon to be replaced by chalk-surfaced stamps — all are useful in used condition, too. I have noted a thick 'c' in the value of the lc on R10/6, and I expect that there is much else to be noted. The decimal Dues can be found with the 'Crown Missing' and the 'St Edward's Crown' errors in the watermark.

Additional acknowledgements: *Global Stamp News*; Bob Hill.

BARBADOS

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, Jan. 19, 1951:

That 8 Cent Barbados Schooner

By

J. Horton Barrett

IT was in 1948, not long after I came to reside in this lovely isle of Barbados, that I conceived the idea of writing about the harbour and its many unique and interesting characteristics. Perforce the West Indian schooners had to be given a prominent place. These are mainly responsible for carrying on the inter-island trade and passenger service. Our harbour would look unnatural and somehow naked without its permanent quota of schooners of various types and sizes ever embracing the dock sides.

Strange that from all the schooners frequenting the harbour I should alight on the *Frances W. Smith* as my particular choice. She is typical and representative, and becomes part of the story of our harbour.

It was soon emphasised to me that my choice was sound. Captain Frank Hassell, the doughty skipper, informed me at the time that a little earlier a Government official had also chosen the *Frances* for another purpose. She had been sailed around the Carlisle Bay (from whence the immortals Rodney and Hood sailed in April of 1782, with their thirty ships-of-the-line to smash the French fleet under de Grasse) with a Government appointed photographer in an accompanying motor launch. The best of a certain number of pictures was to be used in connection with a new issue of Barbadian stamps which it was intended to print in the not far distant future.

On A Stamp

And when the new stamps appeared, lo and behold, the *Frances* herself was there proudly riding the seas on the 8 cent value.



The "Frances" in Barbados harbour with Captain Frank Hassell eyeing the cameraman.



Yes, the *Frances* had that little more than the others. She just gave the impression of being "cared" (not "cared for" in the Barbadian vernacular) and she was just that little more trim, neat, fresh and bright than the best of the others. Hand the bouquet to Captain Hassell if you like.

The *Frances* was named after a relative of the original owner, and was built in Nova Scotia way back in 1915. She was then known as a Lunenburg Fishing Schooner. She may be getting on in years but is not giving up for a long time yet.

For many years now Skipper Hassell has been taking her to and from Demarara, mainly bringing the essential rice from British Guiana to Barbados. Her dimensions are approximately: 125 ft. long; 27 ft. broad; 11 ft. deep, with main-mast towering 77 ft. above deck level. She carries a crew of nine, including the Captain, the cook and the inevitable cabin boy. Her value is around $30,000, or £6,000.

A Dutch West Indian

Captain Hassell is a Saban from the Dutch West Indian isle of Saba, famed for its sewing and seamen. It is very small and, apart from its narrow and rocky shores, is all hills and precipitous steeps of volcanic origin. They have to be tough on Saba. After climbing, or running up, 400 steps, they reach a point they fondly, and illogically, name "The Bottom." One assumes they then commence to climb! No wonder they prefer sail to steam. Running up and down riggings no doubt keeps them in training for the constant ups and down of Saban life.

The *Frances* has a sister ship, or as near as doesn't matter, by name the *Marion Belle Wolfe*. They are all ladies these schooners. She also is skippered by a Saban stalwart, a first cousin of Capt. Hassell's. Both boats can readily be mistaken, at a distance, for each other. They have both been on the Demerara run for a long time. In the vast sea areas between here and British Guiana, with its countless alternative tracks across the ocean from port to port, they pass each other time and again and well out of sight of each other. Yet the impossible happened.

One moonlight night, Captain Hassell retired for forty winks and left an experienced hand at the wheel. Perhaps over-confidence and the moon conspired to bring about the contretemps. Fortunately there was only a light breeze blowing, otherwise the *Frances W. Smith* would not be featuring on that 8 cent stamp. No one will ever know what happened, or why or how, but these sister schooners, captained by cousins from Saba, sailed slap into each other in that wide ocean, somewhere between Demerara and Barbados.

Collision at Sea

Marion came at sister *Frances* on the starboard, and struck her obliquely at a point midway between bow and midships, splitting poor *Frances* from side to forehold. The healed wound is still visible. Had *Marion* struck her sister some twenty feet further aft, she would also have carved Captain Hassell and his bunk in twain.

Fortunately, the sea held moderate and the cleft finished high enough to keep the water out until the *Frances* made port. Readers can, if they choose, try to work out the odds against such a thing happening, but perhaps the ciphers involved would require too much austerity paper.

Postscript.—I was later destined to meet professionally the person who owns most of the *Frances*, and who is now the best friend I ever had (parents apart) or ever will have. Coincidence!

BARBADOS

STAMP COLLECTING, 20. July, 1951.

GREEN AIR LETTER SHEETS

SIR,—The following information about the green air letter sheets mentioned by Mr. Bulger (page 500, S.C.) may be of interest to other collectors.

They have been sold by the P.O. in Barbados from about 1947 onwards at ½d. each, but as these and other locally printed sheets bore no gum on the flaps, many complaints were received by the Postmaster, Mr. Armstrong (who was a very helpful gentleman), as a result of which he ordered the current sheets bearing impressed 6d. stamps.

The green sheets bear the number " P.O. 876 ", and two printings of them (at least) have been made, easily distinguishable by differences in the fount of type, and particularly in the shape of the stamp space and the lettering on it.

The writer has examples of these sheets used in several of the Caribbean islands during the last three years. An interesting variety occurs on some sheets where the wording on the flap reads " Stick this flag down " (instead of " stick this flap down ").

Liverpool. F. HILLARD.

STAMP COLLECTING 4 Sept. 1965

The Barbados "Scadta" Issue–1921

SCADTA (Sociedad Colombo-Alemana de Transportes Aereos) was the acronym for an airline having exclusive rights to operate in the interior of Colombia. The airline issued stamps under authority of the Colombian Government.

To provide countries outside Colombia the opportunity to post letters to the Colombian interior, stamps were forwarded to the Colombian Consulates in 22 countries including, among others, the United States, Canada, France, Great Britain, Spain and Sweden.

Prior to shipping to the above consulates, the stamps were locally overprinted with the Spanish abbreviation of the country for which intended. Thus those for the United States had the overprint " E.U." in black.

Mail destined for the Colombian interior, from without the country, was delivered to the agent or Colombian Consulate in the sending country. The letters would be franked with both stamps of the sending country and SCADTA stamps, the latter bearing the overprint mentioned above.

SCADTA stamps were also forwarded to other countries where Colombia maintained consulates. However, they did not bear an overprint to distinguish them from domestic mail. Thus they can only be identified on cover where their use with stamps of the sending country establishes the point of origin.

Barbados was one such place. A recently-discovered postal history item substantiates the use of SCADTA services. The Sanabria catalogue has listed this item as GMA 1. They describe the stamp as being a manuscript overprint on the Colombia, Sanabria No. 46—30c. rose.

Sanabria goes on to explain that the stamp was issued in November 1921. The use from Barbados was authorised by the handwritten (manuscript) overprint by the Colombian Consul in Bridgetown, Mr. G. M. Alleyn. This seems to be a reasonable explanation as to how the use from Barbados was verified. Barbados has always been an important trade centre and gateway to trade from the British West Indiesto South America. All in all, this cover must be an outstanding piece of British Caribbean postal history.

A full report on the Barbados SCADTA issue appeared in the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal. This authoritative bi-monthly is the official publication of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group (Unit 27 of the American Philatelic Society).

For membership particulars, interested readers are invited to send to: B.C.P.S.G. Membership Chairman, A. N. Johnson, 2610 Virginia Street, Baytown, Texas 77520, U.S.A. If a sample copy of the journal is desired, 50c. in unused U.S. postage stamps will cover mailing.

If more convenient, inquiries may be forwarded to the G.B. representative: Alfred J. Branston, 144 The Avenue, Highams Park, London, E.4, England.

BARBADOS.

STAMP COLLECTING. DEC. 28, 1967

The Story Behind the Stamp

Sir Winston Scott

Doctor, and Governor-General of Barbados



BARBADOS became an independent nation on November 30th, 1966, and, to celebrate the first anniversary of nationhood, issued this month a special set of stamps which included on the 4c. value the portrait of its Governor-General, Sir Winston Scott, in ceremonial dress.

It is the first time in the history of the Caribbean nations that the portrait of the head of the state, other than the Queen, has appeared on a stamp and is, of course, the first occasion on which a native Governor-General's portrait has been so used.

The Scott stamp symbolises a new era in the constitutional history of Barbados, now a member of the United Nations and a member of the Organisation of American States.

Previous to becoming an independent nation last year, it was the prerogative of the Sovereign to appoint the Governor of the island, according to the Colonial tradition. On achieving Independence, the nation's constitution now provides for the appointment of the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The recommendation is then submitted to the Sovereign for approval.

With nationhood for the four Caribbean nations of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Barbados, there developed the concept that the Governor-General in each nation should be a son of the soil, a native.

This pattern was followed by Barbados. On the achievement of nationhood, the then Governor, Sir John Stow, who had been in office for over seven years, was appointed Governor-General. He was succeeded shortly afterwards by Sir Winston Scott, who was sworn in as the first native Governor-General on May 18th of this year.

Sir Winston Scott is a medical practitioner with B.Sc. and M.D. degrees (Howard University, U.S.A.), L.R.C.P. and L.R.C.S. (Edinburgh), and L.R.F.P.& S. (Glasgow).

The announcement of his appointment was made at Buckingham Palace on February 1st, and he was knighted soon afterwards. In October he visited Britain and attended Buckingham Palace, where he received the accolade of his knighthood. He was accompanied by Lady Scott on this visit.

Sir Winston Scott was a member of the Barbados Senate, and as a member of the General Council of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association represented Barbados at C.P.A. meetings in New Zealand in 1965 and in Canada in 1966.

Prior to the achievement of nationhood, Barbados was one of the 10 territories forming part of the West Indies Federation, which collapsed in 1962, and the island decided to seek nationhood after the negotiations for the Eastern Caribbean Federation fell through.

J. M. HEWITT.

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BARBADOS

STAMP COLLECTING, Nov. 23, 1967

POLICEMEN WITH THE NELSON TOUCH

By J. M. Hewitt, and The Barbados Tourist Board

IN the collection of tourists visiting the tiny 166-square-mile Caribbean island of Barbados, which became independent last November and is a member of the United Nations and the Organisation of American States, are snaps of Lord Nelson, in Trafalgar Square, and members of the Barbados Harbour Police Force wearing a uniform of the Nelson vintage.

The centenary of the formation of the Barbados Harbour Police Force falls this year, and on October 16th the Barbados Government issued four new postage stamps to commemorate the occasion. The 4c., 25c., 35c. and 50c. stamps were designed by Victor Whiteley and printed by Thomas De La Rue.

Barbados was the first island in the British West Indies to establish a police force. It was formed in 1835. In 1867 the Harbour Police Force was established, and in 1882 the two forces were amalgamated.

Since 1917, the Barbados Harbour Police have worn one of the most distinctive uniforms in the world, being an exact replica of those worn by the naval ratings of Nelson's day, complete with bell-bottoms and straw hats (imported from Hong Kong!). Besides being a most highly-disciplined and smart force, they add to the already colourful Bridgetown waterfront scene. Prior to 1917, the Harbour Police wore straw hats with bands, white shirts, high collars and ties, blue serge double-breasted coats and trousers and black boots. Each coat carried two rows of five buttons each on the front.

The island has many connections with Nelson. The focal point of the capital, Bridgetown, is Trafalgar Square, with a statue of the great admiral, erected in 1813, 27 years before that in Trafalgar Square, London, by the planters of Barbados in gratitude to, and in honour of, the man who saved their island from the French.

None better than Corporal Best

The **4 cents** and **25 cents** stamps depict an individual member of the force—Corporal Lorenzo Best, a well known and popular personality in the island. Apart from his patrol duties, he is swimming and life-saving instructor to the police force. He is a member of the Royal Life Saving Society, and the society's representative and official examiner in Barbados.

Corporal Best is a fine figure of a man, 6 ft. 2 in. tall, with a massive shoulder span, a wide engaging smile, and an equally generous endowment of good nature. Small wonder that he inspires such confidence, and is so popular with the schoolchildren of Barbados, whom he also instructs in swimming and life-saving.

He is not unknown in London also, for he has attended both the Royal Life Saving Society's Commonwealth Conferences: in 1961, when he was presented to the Queen Mother, and attended a reception at Buckingham Palace; and last year, when he was presented to Princess Margaret, and was again a guest of Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip at the Palace.





Two portraits of 6 ft. 2 in. Corporal Best

Over the years, the duties of the Harbour Police have become increasingly arduous. Their sphere of operation still takes in the old Careenage—an inlet of the sea which runs right into Bridgetown—a hive of activity where ships may still be seen " careened " in age-old fashion, heeled over to be scraped, recaulked and repainted; and where the inter-island trading schooners tie up alongside the busy waterfront to load and unload their exotic cargoes. Carlisle Bay, where the large ships used to have to anchor offshore and disembark their passengers and cargo by launch and lighter and, now, the fine new Deep Water Harbour to the north of Bridgetown, constructed on 87 acres of reclaimed land, and opened in 1961, are also under the surveillance of the Harbour Police. The new harbour can accommodate eight ocean-going vessels at one time, and provides important bunkering facilities for hundreds of vessels a year sailing between North and South America and Europe.

On the **35 cents** is depicted one of the Harbour Police launches outside Carlisle Bay. Prior to 1937, the Harbour Police Force patrolled Carlisle Bay in six-oared boats, on assignments to prevent smuggling, protect property in the bay and to enforce quarantine regulations and revenue laws.

Now, in addition to the oar boats, they operate in launches with a speed of 12–14 knots. The launches are equipped with radio to maintain communications with police headquarters.

The island's chief source of income, its sugar output, is exported from a huge wharfside storehouse of 80,000 tons capacity. A scheduled inter-island shipping service, and a fleet of American shrimping vessels operate from Bridgetown Harbour.

(*Continued on page* 645)

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Policemen with the Nelson Touch (*continued from page* 643)

With Barbados becoming yearly more popular as a holiday resort, the revenue from tourism is running close on the heels of that derived from the sugar industry, and it has become the second most important contributor to the economy of the island. A total of 158 cruise ships called at Barbados last year. The total number of visitors amounted to some 80,000.

The harbour policeman, three of whom are shown on the 50 cents stamp standing guard in front of the entrance to the Harbour Police Station, is now the symbol of the Barbados Tourist Board, and is used on their stationery and literature throughout the Caribbean, Canada, U.S.A. and Britain, that is, the island's principal tourist markets.





Above: Replacement for the six-oared boats. At right: Entrance to the police station.

BARBADOS

STAMP COLLECTING · 25 July 1968

The Story behind the Stamps

Barbados Weather Watch

THE latest issue of three commemorative stamps from Barbados goes scientific. One depicts the space age and the other meteorological studies. These stamps mark the 18th anniversary of the World Meteorological Organisation and the issue was delayed for two months because of their non-arrival in Bridgetown.

The 3c. stamp carries the picture of the radar antenna at the Meteorological Institute in Barbados, the 25c. includes a picture of the building itself and the 50c. stamp carries a picture of the High Altitude Research Project at Paragon, in Christ Church, Barbados.

The World Meteorological Organisation has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and was founded in 1950 to facilitate world-wide co-operation in establishing a network of stations making observations relating to meteorological services.

Barbados, in the Caribbean, is in the hurricane belt, and the Caribbean Meteorological Institute established here is of special importance in assisting in forecasting hurricanes. The Caribbean Meteorological Institute is a joint project of the Caribbean Meteorological Council and the United Nations Development Programme through the World Meteorological Office. The building cost U.S. $167,000, and the land on which it is sited is a contribution from the Government of Barbados. It was constructed out of funds contributed by the participating Caribbean countries in the Caribbean Meteorological Services.

The High Altitude Research Project, of which the gun is featured on the 50c. stamp is connected with the space programme. The project, known as HARP, is Canadian-backed and is affiliated with the University of Norwich, U.S.A.



The HARP Gun

The 16-in., 120-ft.-long gun launches probes into the Earth's upper atmosphere. These missiles, each of which has a 900 lb. solid fuel charge, are propelled into the sky from the gun to a height of 90 miles at a speed of more than 5,500 miles per hour. The barium particles released from the vehicles become ionised and form into a tiny pink-tinged cloud, clearly visible to watchers in Barbados. Cameras and a spectrograph at the firing site record the appearance and the drift of the barium cloud. Similar cameras in Grenada, St. Vincent and Tobago also watch the drift and these results are later correlated.

The missiles are built to specifications of the Plasma Physics Group of Sussex University, under the direction of the Italian scientist, Dr. Guiseppe Martelli, who explains: "We are investigating the dynamics of the ionosphere. As the cloud dissipates we are able to measure the ionospheric electric fields and the strength of the ion drag."

The University of Sussex and the University of Southampton are jointly engaged in this High Altitude Research Project. Apart from the scientists from overseas, there are several Barbadians, who have been specially trained, employed with HARP. The firing of the gun rocks houses within a three-mile radius, but the Government has given the project immunity against damages.

J. M. HEWITT.

17

BARBADOS

COMMONWEALTH COMMENTS

BY RICHARD WEST

Great Britain

As promised last month, here is a list of postal stationery generally currently available. Not all the items may be obtained from the Philatelic Bureau, and some searching around post offices may be necessary. Those items available from the Bureau at the time of compiling this list are marked with a *. A search around the post offices might even produce items not on this list. Possibly the item is a new addition to the range of postal stationery (in which case I would be pleased to receive details of it), or it might be an old item no longer in general use. It is often quite amazing the stocks some post offices maintain.

Postcards, reply-paid postcards and lettercards.

These items have an impressed stamp, with a stamp design based on the Machin portrait.

1. Single postcard with 4d stamp in sepia.*
2. Reply paid postcard with both 4d stamps in sepia.*
3. Reply paid postcard with both 4d stamps in red.*
4. Lettercard with 4d stamp in sepia and no phosphor bands.
5. Lettercard with 4d stamp in sepia with one phosphor band.*
6. Lettercard with 4d stamp in red with one phosphor band.*
7. Lettercard with 5d stamp in blue with two phosphor bands.*

It is possible still to find the old style lettercard with a blue 4d stamp at some post offices. It seems to be fairly common for the phosphor to be missing on the 5d lettercard (although care is needed here—sometimes the phosphor is very faint), but the item has never been issued officially without phosphor bands.

Envelopes

(a) With an embossed stamp based on the 'Cecil Thomas' head.

8. Envelope size 'A' with 4d stamp in sepia and no phosphor bands.
9. Envelope size 'A' with 4d stamp in sepia with one phosphor band.
10. Envelope size 'A' with 4d stamp in red with one phosphor band.*
11. Envelope size 'A' with 4d stamp and '1d Postage Extra' in sepia, with two phosphor bands.
12. Envelope size 'A' with 4d stamp and '1d Postage Extra' in blue, with two phosphor bands.*
13. Envelope size 'B' with 4d stamp in sepia.*
14. Envelope size 'B' with 4d stamp and '1d Postage Extra' in sepia, with two phosphor bands.*
15. Registered envelopes (sizes 'G', 'H' and 'K') with 3s 4d stamp and '1d Postage Extra' in grey.*

(b) With an embossed stamp based on the Machin head.

16. Envelope size 'A' with 5d stamp in blue, and two phosphor bands.*

The 1969 Christmas stamps were released on 26th November. The technical details follow the normal pattern of GB stamps printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd. At the time of writing no varieties have been reported. Cylinder numbers so far seen are:

4d—1A 1B 2C 1D 1E 1F 1G 1H, dot and no dot;
1A 1B 2C 1D 1E 2F 1G 1H, dot and no dot;
5d—1A 1C 1D 1E 1F 1G 1H, no dot only;
1s 6d—3A 1C 1D 1E 1F 1G 1H 1J, no dot only.

Ireland

A new booklet has been issued, selling at 6/-, containing two panes of six of the new 6d definitive series. These booklets have sideways or sideways inverted watermark.

Barbados

Here are some of the better varieties to be found on the ONE CENT provisional surcharge on the 4c Harbour Police commemorative stamp. Remember that no variety exists over the entire printing, although those mentioned have been confirmed over a large part of the printing.

Remember also that the sheets of 100 stamps were overprinted in four sections of 25. Thus a variety occurring in row or column 1, will be repeated in row or column 6 respectively. Only one sheet position will be given for each variety; by adding a '5' first to the row position, second to the column position, and third to both, this will give the three other sheet positions.

Row 1, column 1: The 'O' and 'C' are slightly irregular, this variety taking different forms, including the appearance of blobs of excess ink.
1, 4: 'C' and 'E' of 'CENT' are broken.
2, 1: Word 'CENT' appears slightly thinner, 'T' is broken near its base.
3, 2: A line across the 'O' appears on part of the printing.
4, 1: The 'C' is damaged.
5, 1: Break in the 'C'(this variety occurs to different degrees).
5, 3: 'C' badly damaged.
5, 5: Letters CENT are all damaged.

The varieties along the fifth row are without question the best on the sheets, and these are illustrated on this page. Also illustrated are stamps from the same sheet position which do not display these varieties, presumably coming from the early stages of the printing.



◀ From initial stages of printing, Row 5, showing no varieties.

◀ Row 5 from a later stage of printing showing varieties recorded above.

Barbados Definitives since 1950

Philatelic Magazine 28 Aug. 1970

the commonwealth review

by David Potter









MAY 1st, 1950, and Barbados issued its first pictorial set. It was also the first series to appear in decimal currency. The views were typical of the time, a bit of this, a bit of that. Buildings old, a fort and a garrison, and buildings new, the public centre and a wireless mast. Fishing, from the beachcomber casting his net, to the schooner and a flying fish itself, give some idea of the scope of the designs. It was, after all, a change from the long uniform groups showing the badge of the colony. This set was notable too, for the first high values, equivalent to 10/–. In 1953 the designs were used again with the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, and slowly the set took shape. Not until February 1957 was the set complete, and on the way it gained a new 5 cent value.

Strange things happened when the new watermark stamps were released. For in some cases they were on sale in London, by the Crown Agents, long before. This despite the protestations of the Agents, that they never sell anything not also available in the territory. Perhaps they can be excused that the difficulties in sorting out watermarks is more than any self respecting general agent should ever have to put up with. Nevertheless, it seems that the 12 cents was never available in the island at all. If I had been a collector of Barbados, living in the island, I would have been somwhat upset to find that the only way I could buy one of my own stamps, was to write off to London for it. Luckily, the stamp trade was well aware of the situation, bought the watermarks sideways stamps heavily, and in due course they became freely available.



The fundamental reason behind this watermark mix-up was the planned release of a new set on July 15th, 1965. Naturally, dealers' orders increased just before the old set went off sale. New stamps, all featuring fish, and other living things that skulk in the underwater deeps, were a distinct improvement. All in photogravure, the fish is the thing, with Queen's head, and value tucked away discreetly to one side.

This set too suffered watermark changes. No sooner issued it seems, than the watermark sideways crept in, in fits and starts. First noted in March 1966, it took twenty months to collect the set complete. At least the new watermark was here to stay, but not the gum. No sooner was all settled, than PVA gum was used. At least collectors of used do not have that problem. They do have one of their own, because the glossy paper surface is easily damaged by heavy postmarks.

Inflation again, and in January 1969 a 5 dollar matching design was added to the series. Just in time some will say, for the cynics noted that a new set was already at the drawing board stage.

It is a moot point deciding if a provisional is a definitive. Old harbour police 4 cents were used up, by surcharging locally with the words "One cent", in late 1969, to bridge the gap while new supplies arrived. Surcharges are part of the way of life in the island, the last appearing in 1947.

Barbados forsook the sea in May 1970, with its new definitive series. It's back to a tour of the islands, and more buildings. As the values get higher the buildings seem to become more modern. A statue of a lion, carved in 1868, features on the 1 cent and the Trafalgar Fountain, commemorating the introduction of piped water in 1864, contrast with the new Queen Elizabeth Hospital completed in 1964, on $1 and the International Airport on $5. Thematic collectors are well catered for. A windmill on the 8 cents and a lighthouse on the 10 cents, George Washington House on the 25 cents and a drinking fountain on 3 cents, are typical of the type of buildings the island seemingly has to offer. The George Washington House, by they way, is noteworthy, for Barbados was the only foreign part ever visited by the President. And the drinking fountain, is a fine piece of Victoriana, looking for all the world that it had strayed away from its natural ho[illegible] outside St. Pancras Station.

Barbados definitives are easy to complete, but there is enough interest in the watermarks to make them worthwhile. Four and a half sets in twenty years is much easier on the pocket, than floods of commemoratives from here and there.

BARBADOS

SANDERS PHILATELIC JOURNAL, June, 1963

History and stamps in Barbados



by

ERIC GLASGOW

BARBADOS is a detached but very picturesque member of the Windward group. Like the other British West Indies, it is a small and compact island, 166 square miles in extent and with a population of nearly a quarter of a million. Its interior is mountainous, rising to 1,115 feet in Mount Hillaby, but unlike the other islands, such as Dominica, St. Lucia and Antigua, Barbados has few rivers, except for a short one which flows to the north-east coast from Mount Hillaby.

Most of the water supply has to be pumped from subterranean basins. The rainfall is heavy, especially during the hot season, and the average annual temperature is high. The island has become a popular tourist resort, for which purpose its attractive scenery and long history are added assets.

As the 2 cents value of the 1950 set indicates, Barbados is important for the cultivation of sugar-cane. In 1961, nearly 50,000 acres, or over two-thirds of the total area under arable cultivation, grew sugar-cane, and there is a large export of sugar, molasses, and rum. Efforts have, however, been made to reduce the island's dangerous dependence on a single crop, and now a good deal of cotton is also produced, the famous "sea-island" long-stapled variety.

Other products include a certain amount of arrow-root—derived from the neighbouring island of St. Vincent—spices, and vegetables. The stamps also suggest that Barbados is peculiarly dependent upon the encircling sea, and coastal and off-shore fishing are important occupations. Fishing fleets are stationed at Speightstown and Oistins to capture the abundant flying fish.

The Only Harbour

The capital and chief port of Barbados is Bridgetown, in the south-west of the island. It has a population of over 11,000, and some of its public buildings are illustrated on the stamps. Apart from Bridgetown, with Carlisle Bay as its sheltered harbour, the island has no good anchorage, since elsewhere it is fringed by coral reefs.

Bridgetown is a typical "British Colonial" settlement, its little cottages and gardens, tumbling down towards the harbour, being reminiscent of those of Somerset or Warwickshire. Bicycles predominate in its busy traffic. Inland, the roads radiate up into the mountains—to Warrens, Blackmans, St. John's and Codrington College, whilst beyond the harbour is the blue expanse of the Caribbean, stretching eventually to St. Vincent and Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago.

The capital dominates Barbados, but there are other significant settlements, of some interest for postmark enthusiasts, such as Speightstown, Fairfield, Bruce, St. Lawrence, and Worthing: how many of the place-names in Barbados evoke English associations! There is a good system of over 600 miles of surfaced roads, with Bridgetown as their focus, and a first-class international airport at Seawell, near Christ Church, in the south, with regular services to Canada, Trinidad, Venezuela, and Europe.

Barbados was the earliest of the West Indian Islands to be acquired by Britain, although it was probably the Portuguese who named the island "Los Barbados," from the fig trees which they found there. The English first arrived in 1605, landing at Holetown, about 10 miles from the present Bridgetown, on the west coast. There was no permanent settlement until 1624, however, and the island was not formally annexed until 1627, when it was included in a grant of land made by Charles I to the Earl of Carlisle.

Perhaps because of its position as a spearhead of the Windward Islands, Barbados received much

(Continued overleaf)

English attention, and even in the earliest stages it had fairly constant traffic with Europe. An overseas mail service, operated by fast sailing-ships, began from Bridgetown in the seventeenth century, and it had regular schedules from 1740 onwards.

Mail from Barbados exists from as early as 1650, and handstruck stamps become increasingly abundant after 1766, when the end of the Seven Years' War (1756-63) had consolidated the British position in Barbados. In this postal material, the island's name is spent in a bewildering confusion of ways—"Bernados," "Berbardoes," "Barbadoes."

This last spelling survived in the handstruck marks until as late as the middle of the last century. It is noteworthy, however, that the first stamps of the island, when they appeared in 1852, were lettered "Barbados"; although a history of the island, published as recently as 1926, spelt the name with the additional "e."

First Mail Contract

Much interesting handstruck material for Barbados arose out of the granting of the first mail contract to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in 1842. Previously Barbados had a traditional link with the West Country, and especially with Bristol; its sugar-plantations enriched many families in this part of England, especially the Codringtons, founders of the famous Codrington College, the island's only institution of advanced education.

It was largely in the heat and dust of Barbados that Bristol had its beginnings as a West Indian port. For years the island continued to be dependent alike on sugar as a crop and negro slaves for labour, until the latter were emancipated by Wilberforce in 1833.

Otherwise Barbados developed on the customary West Indian lines, with the exciting interlude of the enforced exile there of rebels captured in the West Country after the defeat of Monmouth's rebellion in 1685. That episode provided colourful material for Rafael Sabatini's romance, *Captain Blood*, with its graphic description of the sugar-plantations, the heat, and the hazards of piracy.

Such are the historical associations of Barbados, the most persistently Anglo-Saxon of all the British West Indies, since even during the wars of the eighteenth century, it never passed into French hands. This background of romance and excitement, in a tropical setting, is part of the appeal of both stamps and postal history material.

Stamps Lost at Sea

Barbados never had any stamps of Great Britain "used abroad," as so many of the other British West Indies did between 1856 and 1860. That was because, under an Act of 1851, the inland postal service in Barbados passed into local control, followed in 1858 by the overseas mail also.

The issue of the first definitive stamps for Barbados was somewhat delayed, when the first shipment was lost at sea in the R.M.S. *Amazon* in 1851, but further supplies, in the dignified Britannia design, reached the island early the next year, and they were issued on April 15, 1852.

Possibly in order to save printing costs, these stamps were inscribed with no value, the value being determined by the different colours—green, blue, or grey. Because they were something of a pioneer venture, the stamps, and their reprintings up to 1870, contain a profusion of varieties, chiefly of shade and perforation, which despite their cost are of outstanding interest for the philatelic student.

The stamps of Barbados became more regularised after the island joined the Universal Postal Union in 1881. The next year, 1882 the very colourful Queen Victoria portrait set began to appear. This was followed in 1892 by the first of the "seal" stamps, which we now always associate with Barbados. Thereafter, Barbados produced a long succession of collectable items, all remarkable for their vivid colours and decorative designs.

There have been great social and educational advances in Barbados in recent years, although the chronic pressure of population has caused much emigration, especially to Britain. English is the language universally spoken, and I have had many postal students both of English and of history, from Bridgetown, Speightstown, Worthing, and other places in Barbados, in the course of my duties as a tutor for a well-known correspondence college in Britain. The quality of their work is apt to vary enormously; but its receipt, through the years, has helped to keep me in touch with their colourful, congested tropical island, and so has added to the interest of the Barbados stamps and covers in my collection.

$1.10 — Lent tree, Erythrina variegata.

Erythrina variegata is pollinated by humming birds.



$5 — Cowitch Mucuna preneus.

Related to Centrosema, this tall twining plant has large fat pods covered with sting g hairs.

$2.50 — Rodwood, Myrcia citrifolia.

$10 — Maypole, Agave barbadensis.

From the Agaves is produced sisal hemp, the tough fibre of which comes from spine-edged leaves at least three years old.

Sometimes known as the century plant, it may flower once in a lifetime, (perhaps ten or fifteen years). The Agave may grow to as much as 25ft in height. The Mexicans make an intoxicating drink, pulque, from the sap.

Barbadian Anniversaries

BARBARA LAST

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Barbados was named by the Portuguese after the bearded fig trees of the island. At that time it was the home of Arawak Indians, but in 1518 Spaniards landed looking for slaves for Hispaniola. About 50 years later no Indians remained and the island was uninhabited and unwanted by Spain.

There is a persistent legend that an English ship variously known as *Olive Blossom*, *Branch* or *Plant* took possession of the island in 1605, landing men near Holetown who set up a wooden cross marked " James K of E and of this island ". Certainly an *Olive Plant* commanded by Charles Leigh, brother of Sir Oliph Leigh of Kent, carried 46 men to the West Indies in 1604, and the following year the *Olive Branch* sailed from London on 12th April with 67 English passengers "intended as a reinforcement for the Colony planted by Charles Leigh in the preceding year, on the River Wiapoco, in Guiana." The *Olive Branch* was driven to St. Lucia by contrary winds, and may have called at Barbados, but there is no proof.

Some 15 years later Thomas Warner from Suffolk who was employed on an expedition to Suriname, had the sudden thought that the smaller uninhabited West Indian islands could be colonised without upsetting Spanish sensibilities, and he inspected the islands with this in mind. Barbados was dismissed "for the great want of water", and in 1623 he landed in St. Kitts with his wife, son and 14 men, mostly from Suffolk, and they proved that it was possible to grow tobacco successfully. He returned to London in search of further settlers and supplies, and as he had previously been a captain of the King's personal bodyguard he had the King's ear and was commissioned in 1625 by Letters Patent as the King's Lieutenant of the four islands of St. Kitts, Nevis, Barbados and Montserrat. Warner was later to found colonies on Montserrat, Antigua and St. Lucia for which he was knighted, but it was fortunate that he did not exercise his rights in Barbados, as the ownership of that island became the subject of some dispute.

Sir William Courteen, a very wealthy City merchant, had built up a fleet of ships which traded into the Spanish West Indies. It is said that Barbados was claimed again for James in 1624 by English sailors. Perhaps this was the formal act of possession, and possibly the men came from Courteen's ship commanded by Captain John Powell which visited Barbados at this time, for Courteen received encouraging reports of the island. Both King James and his son Charles borrowed large sums of money from Sir William which neither repaid, but in partial compensation Courteen was allowed to colonise Barbados under the patronage of James Ley, first Earl of Marlborough, to whom the King had granted the island. Courteen's vessel *William & John* with 100 settlers arrived at Holetown in February 1627, thus making Barbados the third West Indian island to be colonised by the English. By the end of the following year over 1,000

(*Continued on page 1205*)















Illustrated here are some of the issues concerned with Barbadian anniversaries: $1, Capt. John Powell; 25c Growing Tobacco; 40c. Warner's Commission as first Governor, 1625; 25c. Ogilvy's 17th century map; 12c. Carlisle's Charter; 25c. Charles I giving Charter to Carlisle, and 50c. 'Oliph Blossom









The Barbados issue of 21st February, 1978 for the 350th Anniversary of the founding of Bridgetown. 12c shows map, 1766, 25c. view of 1695; 45c. Trafalgar Square; and $1 Bridgetown today

Barbadian Anniversaries *(continued from page 1203)*

settlers were industriously cultivating crops of tobacco, indigo and cotton with indentured English workers.

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Marlborough, who already held rights there, objected to the granting of the charter to Carlisle, and I believe the Earl of Pembroke also laid claim to the island. A compromise was soon reached and Carlisle's agents threw out Courteen's colonists by force, and the land was offered to speculators. Sugar was introduced as the main industry, and small planters found it impossible to compete in the scramble for land, and could not afford the outlay for a crop which needed expensive machinery and plenty of labour.

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Carlisle's son passed on his interests to Francis, Lord Willoughby, who prudently had his position regularised by Act of Parliament. When the Commonwealth became firmly established, so many Royalists fled to the West Indies that Cromwell despatched a fleet which forced Willoughby to surrender. Eight years later at the Restoration Charles II reverted to the Stuart habit of handing out parcels of land, regardless of ownership, as rewards to supporters, and Willoughby had to fight for the restoration of his rights. The matter was finally resolved by raising a duty on exports which was divided between Willoughby and the heirs of both Marlborough and Carlisle. This duty was not repealed until 1838.

Bridgetown prospered. The 25c. stamp commemorating the 350th anniversary of the town shows the seaport in 1695 from an engraving by S. Copens, and the 45c. illustrates Trafalgar Square as drawn by J. M. Carter of the Royal Regiment nearly a century and a half later. This square is the civic centre of Barbados with the cathedral and parliament buildings, and the stamp shows the statue of Nelson which is claimed as the first in the Commonwealth to be erected in memory of his victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. Certainly it pre-dates London's famous column.

The old inner harbour, the Careenage, is used for yachts and inter-island boats, while the new deepwater harbour which was opened in 1961 caters for ships sailing to and from Britain, and the cruise liners that stop by every winter. Gibson's Map 1766 on 12c. value shows the bridge which gave its name to the town, and $1 stamp depicts the modern bridges in 1978.

The traditional industries of sugar, rum and molasses for which Barbados is famous are giving way to the new Caribbean tourist bonanza, but the ownership of the land remains much the same. Wooden houses which are privately owned but built on rented land, are gathered in groups on the edges of estates, but are constructed so that they can be moved. For almost all the farmland still remains in the hands of property combines or big landowners, as they did in Stuart times 350 years ago.

Acknowledgments: E. W. Argyle in *Sea Breezes*

CHALON PORTRAIT AT CAPEX

In 1837, on the occasion of Queen Victoria's first visit to the House of Lords after her succession to the Throne, she stood at the front of the grand staircase while the artist painted a sketch of the young Queen in her robes of State. From this sketch Chalon made three copies of the portrait which was to become the most famous royal portrait in the world. At the time of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Exhibition at the Royal Academy in 1897, the original portrait was on view but since that time all record of the whereabouts has been lost. The two other copies painted by Chalon were given by Queen Victoria to the King of Prussia and to the King of Portugal. It is believed that the first of these was destroyed by the R.A.F. during the last war, but the King of Portugal's copy came to Great Britain when his successor, King Manuel, abdicated in 1910, and is now in the collection of Robson Lowe of London, England.

The American engravers, Rawdon, Wright and Hatch (later Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson, and subsequently the American Bank Note Company) produced a small engraving after the Chalon portrait for the Royal Wedding celebrations in 1840. The portrait also appeared on several bank notes in North America from 1849–1870 and the first adhesive postage stamp to bear the portrait was the famous Canadian 12d. black which was issued on the 14th June, 1851, having been engraved by Alfred Jones for Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson of New York.

In all, the design of the Queen's head after Chalon appeared on some three hundred different postage stamps issued in 11 British Dominions and Colonies, 87 being issued by Queensland, 56 by New Zealand and 46 by Tasmania.

It is announced that with the kind permission of Robson Lowe, the original painting will be on display in the Court of Honour at CAPEX. This is the first opportunity for North Americans to view the picture which was the inspiration for the design of so many postage stamps.

Vol 130 No 13(3364)

Barbadian Anniversaries

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Bridgetown prospered. The 25c. stamp commemorating the 350th anniversary of the town shows the seaport in 1695 from an engraving by S. Copens, and the 45c. illustrates Trafalgar Square as drawn by J. M. Carter of the Royal Regiment nearly a century and a half later. This square is the civic centre of Barbados with the cathedral and parliament buildings, and the stamp shows the statue of Nelson which is claimed as the first in the Commonwealth to be erected in memory of his victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. Certainly it pre-dates London's famous column.



The Barbados issue of 21st February, 1978 for the 350th Anniversary of the founding of Bridgetown. 12c shows map, 1766, 25c. view of 1695; 45c. Trafalgar Square; and $1 Bridgetown today

The old inner harbour, the Careenage, is used for yachts and inter-island boats, while the new deepwater harbour which was opened in 1961 caters for ships sailing to and from Britain, and the cruise liners that stop by every winter. Gibson's Map 1766 on 12c. value shows the bridge which gave its name to the town, and $1 stamp depicts the modern bridges in 1978.

The traditional industries of sugar, rum and molasses for which Barbados is famous are giving way to the new Caribbean tourist bonanza, but the ownership of the land remains much the same. Wooden houses which are privately owned but built on rented land, are gathered in groups on the edges of estates, but are constructed so that they can be moved. For almost all the farmland still remains in the hands of property combines or big landowners, as they did in Stuart times 350 years ago.

Acknowledgments: E. W. Argyle in *Sea Breezes*

CHALON PORTRAIT AT CAPEX

In 1837, on the occasion of Queen Victoria's first visit to the House of Lords after her succession to the Throne, she stood at the front of the grand staircase while the artist painted a sketch of the young Queen in her robes of State. From this sketch Chalon made three copies of the portrait which was to become the most famous royal portrait in the world. At the time of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Exhibition at the Royal Academy in 1897, the original portrait was on view but since that time all record of the whereabouts has been lost. The two other copies painted by Chalon were given by Queen Victoria to the King of Prussia and to the King of Portugal. It is believed that the first of these was destroyed by the R.A.F. during the last war, but the King of Portugal's copy came to Great Britain when his successor, King Manuel, abdicated in 1910, and is now in the collection of Robson Lowe of London, England.

The American engravers, Rawdon, Wright and Hatch (later Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson, and subsequently the American Bank Note Company) produced a small engraving after the Chalon portrait for the Royal Wedding celebrations in 1840. The portrait also appeared on several bank notes in North America from 1849–1870 and the first adhesive postage stamp to bear the portrait was the famous Canadian 12d. black which was issued on the 14th June, 1851, having been engraved by Alfred Jones for Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson of New York.

In all, the design of the Queen's head after Chalon appeared on some three hundred different postage stamps issued in 11 British Dominions and Colonies, 87 being issued by Queensland, 56 by New Zealand and 46 by Tasmania.

It is announced that with the kind permission of Robson Lowe, the original painting will be on display in the Court of Honour at CAPEX. This is the first opportunity for North Americans to view the picture which was the inspiration for the design of so many postage stamps.

BARBADOS PERF. ERROR

The 25c. value of the 1972 Scouts' Diamond Jubilee issue of Barbados is reported by Edmund Bayley of Bridgetown imperf. between the bottom row of five stamps and the sheet margin. Three of the five stamps were used commercially before the nature of the error was realised leaving a mint joined pair (with plate numbers) which Mr. Bayley has acquired.



The Gilbert & Ellice Is. Christmas stamps ingeniously use the outline of a chambered Nautilus shell to frame the scenes on the four values: 3c. Ellice girl dancer; 10c. Lagoon scene; 35c. Evening lagoon scene; 50c. Map of Christmas Is. Issue date: September 24th; printing by Questa in lithography. Designs adapted by Jennifer Toombs from the work of Sister M. Juliet (3c.) and R. P. Turner (10c. and 35c.): panes of 25 on Block CA wmk., perf. 15.

The "Golden Hinde II" hand-stamp was withdrawn on September 26th and not on September 29th as originally announced.

"GERMANIA POSTA V"

The Germany & Colonies P.S. are staging a one-day Exhibition and Convention on **Saturday, October 20th,** at the Broughty Ferry Hotel, Sea Road, Boscome, **Bournemouth.** Some of the finest German material in this country will be on display, and visitors from the USA and Germany are expected. The exhibition will be opened by the President of the Bournemouth & District P.S. and the Mayor of Bournemouth will be attending the official luncheon. Six dealers will be taking stands and will offer material to suit all tastes. Members of the public are invited to attend. Further information on the Society and its activities can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary Oskar Winter, 24 Tennyson Road, London NW7 4AS (S.A.E. please).

SUCCESSFUL BISHOP'S STORTFORD SHOW

Despite heavy competition from other events, some 200 visitors attended the exhibition staged by the Bishop's Stortford & District P.S. on September 15th.

Having "Wings Day" as the theme, a display of East Anglian R.A.F. station postmarks, special R.A.F. covers and R.A.F. propaganda leaflets dropped over Europe during the war was the main attraction. The "twin" town of Villiers contributed a display and films dealing with the production of stamps and the history of the letter post were loaned by the Post Office were shown.

STAMP NEWS

from the

GOVERNMENT

of

BARBADOS

REVISED SPELLING OF SCIENTIFIC NAME ON THE 3 CENT VALUE OF THE CURRENT DEFINITIVE ISSUE



The scientific name of the Sea Horse depicted on the 3 cents value of the current definitive issue is wrongly spelt and to rectify this error the stamp will be reprinted showing the correct scientific name of "HIPPOCAMPUS".

The current definitive issue of Barbados, comprising 14 values, was released on the 15th July 1965. Designed by Victor Whiteley based on drawings by Mrs. Jill Walker the stamps were printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd., using the photogravure process on CA Block watermarked paper. They are in the horizontal format, size 1·035 × 1·575 perforation to perforation, 100 stamps to the sheet, and are being released on the 4th December, 1967.

Illustrated here is the revised 3 cents value

A CROWN AGENTS STAMP BUREAU ANNOUNCEMENT

Collectors may obtain these stamps from their usual dealers

THE WANDERING WAINWRIGHTS

'The Wandering Wainwrights' prepared their own illustrated cover, the one being used in Barbados in 1956. The fact that a 'family' apparently took the trouble to print such an envelope is intriguing, or was it a Souvenir cover prepared at the Maresol Beach Club to commemorate a family holiday stay.

One of our readers is baffled and so are we. Does anyone have the answer, or even better, more such covers, which might give an explanation. It does seem possible that the main illustration was in regular use and only the 'heads' and names of the couple concerned were added. Information if you please.



BARBADOS

STAMP COLLECTING 18/9/69

Surprise Barbados Provisional 1c.

Following the increase of the letter rate from 4c. to 5c., Barbados ran out of 1c. stamps to supplement the 4c. and a hurried local surcharge "ONE CENT" was applied to remainders of the 4c. Harbour Police issue and placed on sale on August 30th. The surcharging was by a forme of 25 applied twice to half-sheets (50) of the 4c. Harbour Police stamp. The ONE is in bold caps and the CENT in light sans caps. Varieties are numerous, the most notable being constant blotches on the "o" and "c" (R1/1 and R1/6) and a broken "c" (R5/1 and R5/6). The repetition of the major constant flaws disclosed the setting of the forme.

STAMP MAGAZINE NOV. 1969

Barbados

Because of a shortage of 1 cent definitive stamps in Barbados remaining stocks of the 4 cents Harbour Police issue were surcharged locally with a 1 cent value and were placed on sale locally on the 30th August 1969. The Crown Agents were hoping to have supplies of this provisional available to offer to dealers; rumours are also circulating of a reprint of the basic stamp to take the surcharge, but at present this is not confirmed.

STAMP COLLECTING 26/3/70

New Barbados 4c. on 5c. Provisional

The Barbados inland postage rates were increased from 3c. to 4c. for Printed and Commercial Papers (unsealed) and from 4c. to 5c. for Letters (sealed) in last year's Budget. The Post Office carried large stocks of the 4c. denomination, but not of the 5c., and this sudden increase in sales of the 5c. denomination completely depleted all stocks of the 5c. and lower denominations (except 4c.), and necessitated the One Cent Provisional (Harbour Police) which was released on August 30th, 1969.

The Post Office reasonably assumed that the sales of the 4c. denomination would now correspond with the former sales of the 3c. and similarly the 5c. with former sales of the 4c. This has been true to some extent, but towards the end of last year (with the approaching Christmas Season) sales of the 4c. have spiralled due to the fact that the Bridgetown merchants have been using the 4c. denomination mainly and the 5c. where it was absolutely necessary. This, added to the fact that the 4c. denomination is still the revenue stamp to be affixed to Receipts and Cash Bills over $10, has completely exhausted all stock of the 4c. Since the new definitive set is due for release on May 4th, 1970, the Crown Agents have been unable to obtain a reprint in time to meet the local demand and a provisional 4c. on 5c. surcharge became necessary.

This new provisional has been created by overprinting the 5c. denomination with the number and letter "4 X", of which the letter "X" is intended to obliterate the "5". The printing has been done by the Government Printery under strict security and supervision. According to information, a fair quantity of these stamps have been printed, and the stamp was placed on sale in the existing sheets of 100 on March 11th. There appears to be a constant flaw of a broken "X" (the top right serif is missing) in Row 5, Nos. 4 and 9, and Row 10, Nos. 4 and 9, suggesting that the stamps were overprinted in two panes of 50, an assumption yet to be confirmed. —*Edmund A. Bayley.*

~~S~~ P-M. 13/3/70

Barbados Last Printing, January 12th, 1970

Sample supplies received from the Crown Agents showed the 50c. value from this last batch of Barbados reprints as being gum arabic. At the time, in my News Letter, I suggested this was suspiciously similar to the penultimate gum arabic sideways watermark printing.

Main supplies now received from the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau confirm this. Contrary to the information published in the *Philatelic Magazine*, this 50c. printing is now with P.V.A. gum, and shows a good specialist shade of a lighter apple-green in comparison to the previous sideways watermark gum arabic.

I suspect this is another case where the samples delivered for publicity purposes by the Crown Agents prior to release date are not taken from main stocks, and are erroneous.

Liverpool H. N. SINCLAIR-BROWN

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE
(Extract from Bridger & Kay, Ltd.
Adv. text) 24 Apr. 1970

BARBADOS

BARBADOS PROVISIONAL
MARCH 11th, 1970

This surprise surcharge consists of an "X" intended to obliterate the figure "5", with a large figure "4" alongside and to the left of the "X". The printing office obviously had difficulty in positioning the sheets, for the surcharge can be found so misplaced upwards that the "X" falls on the Queen's portrait, or misplaced a full inch to the left.

Much more interesting, however, are the major varieties – omitted in pair with normal, and double in pair with normal – both of which arose from the same basic cause. These varieties come from vertical strips from the top of the sheet, the top stamp in each case not being illustrated, as it is the same as its neighbour below (the upper stamp in each illustration). Turn the strips over, and there is the proof that when these sheets went into the press the top horizontal row of stamps was folded down





facing the second row – and received, on the gummed side (inverted and at the top), the impression intended for the second row.

The "double" variety arose from an effort to correct the "omitted" variety – but, in attempting to apply the surcharge to the top two rows only, the printers forgot that the rows below had already been surcharged! The position of the inverted impression on the gummed side of the top stamp of the strip, when the stamp is folded down, corresponds to the lower impression on the stamp with the double surcharge.

Not all the varieties arose from the same cause, as similar strips from the top of another sheet do not have the impression on the gummed side of the top stamp.

We can offer, subject unsold, single stamp double overprint £25; and pair with and without overprint £35, as illustrations.

MAJOR ERRORS OF THE 4c./5c. BARBADOS PROVISIONAL OF 1970



DEALING with the 4c./5c. Barbados provisional issued on March 11th, 1970, the Commonwealth Catalogue (1971 edition) says:—"The printer guillotined the top selvedge of sheets of 100 stamps but as the printing machines could only overprint 25 stamps at a time four runs were required. Varieties, therefore, occur four times on every sheet."

A careful study of this stamp supports the Commonwealth note to some extent but not all the known varieties and errors occur on every sheet. Only one major constant variety is illustrated, the boken N.E. serif on the "X" which is found on Row 4, Stamp 5; Row 4, Stamp 10; Row 9, Stamp 5 and Row 9, Stamp 10.

Of the non-constant varieties and errors several have been offered in good faith by reputable dealers but on-the-spot enquiries prompt a serious question as to their status, even although they may have come from apparently official sources.

To put the matter into perspective it is helpful to consider the history of the immediately previous Barbados provisional. This was 4c. of the Harbour Police centenary commemoratives of October 1967 which appeared on August 30th, 1969, surcharged "ONE CENT". Of this stamp, no major errors have come to light, only minor positional faults. These 1c. provisionals were on sale for only a very short time but they highlighted the possibility of making small sums of money out of provisional stamps and many people, hitherto unaware of stamp collecting, took an interest in them. It is important, however, to realise that the Barbados Harbour Police stamps were out of issue when they were overprinted. The surcharge was applied to old stock held by the G.P.O. in Bridgetown. They were the first Barbados provisionals since 1947.

However, at the time the 5 cent Staghorn Coral definitive was surcharged "4" it was still on sale at all Post Offices. This provided the opportunity for someone working in the Government Printing Office to purchase sheets of the normal 5 cent and overprint them as he wished.

It might be reasonable to assume that the security arrangements in the Printing Office would not allow this to happen. However, in February, 1970, a Member of the Barbados House of Assembly, whilst in the House (and, therefore, not subject to libel) publicly accused members of the Government Printing Office of printing literature in the Printing Office during Government time, on Government paper for their own personal profit, whilst Government work was being ignored. No man would make such an accusation without reasonable evidence and his accusation brought major headlines in the *Barbados Advocate* of February 13th, 1970, just about the time the 4c./5c. provisionals would be in preparation for release on March 11th.

Against this background there are a number of questions that need to be answered:—

(*a*) Why did the G.P.O. overprint stamps still currently on issue?

(*b*) Why were there no major errors in 1969 when in 1970, there are:—(1) Double overprints next to a single overprint; (2) Single overprints next to a blank stamp; (3) Treble overprints; (4) Diagonal overprints on the gummed side?

(*c*) What is the history of these overprint errors and from whom were they obtained in the first case?

A suggestion put forward by a knowledgeable philatelist is that a member, or members, of the Government Printing Office, after completing the official surcharging for the G.P.O., and remembering the 1969 1 cent overprint and realising the opportunity now presented, went out and purchased some sheets of the 5 cent and, in his own time, surcharged them doubly and across the gum, before selling them for profit on the stamp market. It is difficult to believe, if there were no major errors in 1969, that there should be such a variety of genuine errors in 1970, even taking into account the extra number of stamps overprinted.

Those interested in the welfare of the philately of Barbados feel that the subject is worth investigating further. The evidence is, of course, only circumstantial at present, and must be treated with caution in view of its nature, but perhaps some discreet local inquiries could produce a conclusion one way or the other, preferably to the effect that the known errors are genuine in every way.

THE 4c/5c BARBADOS PROVISIONAL

By Edmund A. Bayley

DUE to my recent involvement in the hotel industry in Barbados I did not see, until quite recently, the article appearing in the January 21st, 1971 issue of STAMP COLLECTING in connection with the 4c./5c. Barbados Provisional of 1970. Let me say that I do not recall reading a more completely distorted article. I would like to clear up the discrepancies and distortions and give the facts as I know them.

The Commonwealth Catalogue Editor is quite wrong in saying that these stamps were printed in four runs of 25 stamps. These stamps were printed by the offset process and were printed in one run of 100 stamps. The printing plate was made from a block of 25, hence the reason for the constant broken serif on the " X " in each pane of 25. The first run of the overprinted stamps was done with the sheet completely intact with all four selvedges showing the Sheet Number, but it apparently caused problems as the sheet was a little too wide for the press, and the printer subsequently guillotined the top selvedge to make the sheet fit properly.

To compare this with the 1c. on the 4c. Harbour Police is not putting matters into perspective at all. This latter overprint was done by letterpress on half sheets of 50 in two panes of 25, i.e., two runs of 25 stamps each. There are double overprints existing in this issue as well and the writer should check his facts before making statements such as, " Of this stamp, no major errors have come to light, only minor positional faults."

I am informed by the Postal Authorities that the printing of the 4c./5c. Provisional was done under the strictest security by the Post Office staff and that the printing plates were used only in their presence. To take the statements made by a politician, especially with the general election imminent, and twist them to give the impression that these Provisional 4c. stamps were " forged " is malicious and totally unwarranted.

I shall be glad to tackle those questions which the writer wants answered:—

(*a*) The sale of the 4c. stamp is quite phenomenal compared to the other values, since it is used for local postage, cheques and all receipts and cash bills over $10. The Post Office was completely sold out of all the denominations under 5c. and this is the only stamp (whether current or obsolete) that was in stock in sufficient quantities to meet the demand for 4c. stamps until the new definitive was placed on sale.

(*b*) In the printing process used in the 1969 overprint (letterpress) there was less margin for errors compared to the method for the 1970 overprint (offset). It must also be borne in mind that they were only 200,000 of the 1969 overprint and these were rationed by the Postmaster General, compared to over 1,000,000 of the 1970 which were always freely available.



(*c*) The reason for these varieties is very plain and simple if one pauses to consider the facts. The printing, or overprinting, of stamps is a specialised job for which a printery must be properly equipped. The Government Printing Office is not equipped with the technical machinery to carry out this job satisfactorily: one has only to look at the efforts they made in printing envelopes for some of the First Day Covers which were produced locally. Why, then, should they suddenly become expert in the overprinting of stamps?

The Government Printery experienced great difficulty in carrying out this overprint and the varieties arose as follows:—

Joined Pair with and without Overprint. It appears that on the sheet passing through the press, the top row or rows folded over thus giving a normal overprint on the bottom rows of the sheet, a row of a joined pair with and without overprint, and the top row or rows with no overprint on the face but an inverted overprint on the back.

Double Overprint and Joined Double and Single Overprint. It is easy to see that, in the circumstances given above, if the printer, in order to make sure that the whole sheet of stamps has an overprint on its face, passes the sheet through the press again, then this will give the top row or rows overprinted normally on the face and inverted on the back, a row of single and double overprint and the bottom rows of double overprint.

I know for a fact that the persons who were fortunate enough to obtain these errors bought them legitimately over the Post Office counter and I am sure that, in view of the strict security measures which were taken by the Postal Authorities, there has been absolutely no tampering with these at the Government Printing Office, and the allegations made in the article published on January 21st, are completely false and misleading.

FLOWERS IN THE LAND OF THE FLYING FISH — BARBADOS

LONG before the discovery of Barbados by the English in 1625, the island was inhabited by Amerindians; the Arawaks and the Caribs who conquered them. Its name Barbados, is Portugese for 'double bearded' and possibly refers to the hairy tendrils of the banyan trees that once abounded.

Today Barbados is much more thickly populated. The size of the Isle of Wight it is extensively cultivated — 620,000 acres — whilst 10,000 are in pasture and 34,000 are built on or unused. Eighty per cent of the agricultural land is owned by 180 or so plantations the rest in small holdings. Barbados is indeed given over to the cultivation of Sugar, the only crop really suitable to the pleasant climate.

In the Scotland area the soil has been badly eroded since before the end of the seventeenth century. It is the best of all on the highest areas where the rainfall is heaviest, supporting the best cane. Mixed with the soil is a certain amount of volcanic dust believed to have been carried from the eruptions of Soufriere on St Vincent, greatly adding to its fertility.

Today Barbados lacks the dense forests which once covered it. Many trees were lost as a result of the hurricane 1955, but long before then much land was cleared for tobacco, cotton and finally sugar. The Mastick Tree, once common, had such excellent wood for building that it was felled to extinction. Mahogany was introduced after about 1750 and has largely been used for furniture making. Many other species of trees and plants have been introduced since the earliest times. The Arawaks introduced species from Guyana; pawpaws, water melons, pomegranates and figs, were all on the island by 1631. Coconuts, tomatos, breadfruit, casuarina and bamboo all followed.

For its new definitive, release date November 1, Barbados has chosen to depict wild plants. Designed by Rosanne Saunders of The Garden Studio, the stamps have been printed in lithography at The House of Questa.

2c — Bread 'n' Cheese, Pithecellobium unguis — cati.

'Bajun' is a colourful, vigorous dialect and many plants have marvellous names: not only 'Bread 'n' Cheese,' but 'Bellyache-bush' . . . 'Forbidden Fruit' . . . 'Hug me Close' . . . 'Fat Pork' . . .and 'Soap-Berry.'

5c — Scarlet Cordia, Cordia sebestena.

The Scarlet Cordia, sometimes known as the 'Anaconda' or Geiger Tree is a small tree; indigenous to the Caribbean. It can withstand salt air and grows well on arid islands. Orange-red flowers grow in clusters and there are plum — like edible fruits.

▶▶



CAPHCO NEWS

10c — Columnar cactus, Cephalocereus barbadensis.





50c — Whitewood, Tabebuia heterophylla.

From the Tabebuia family come the magnificent pink and yellow Poui trees of which the wood is used commercially for building. These flowering trees are sometimes also grown to provide shade for other species.

20c — Spiderlily, Hymenocallis caribaea.

This plant with its highly unusual flower is a member of the Amaryllis family. The bloom has six, thin (usually white) petals and six reddish-brown stamens which are pendulous. The leaves reach three or four feet in length. It is often grown as a border specimen and originates from Tropical America.





55c — Bluebell, Centrosema virginianium.

The papilionaceae are a food producing family of the first order: peas, beans, groundnuts and soya are all included. Centrosema is remarkable for its showy flowers.

25c — Rock balsam, Clusia pluckenetii.

Many Clusias are epiphytic tree stranglers. They possess orange or yellow gum resin which oozes out. Oil glands are found on the leaves.





65c — Prickly Sage, Lantana camara var aculeata.

This plant is common on many Caribbean islands, growing along the roadsides. Individual flowers are about 1/10 of an inch in diameter opening yellow and changing to bright pink. The plants grow to 5ft or so in height, and are strongly aromatic.

30c — Hollyhock, Argemone mexicana.

This plant is, in fact, usually known as the prickly poppy, an exotic variety of a plant famed for its narcotic qualities. It is found in waste places all over the tropics.





70c — Seaside Samphire, Sesuvium portulacastrum.

This is a plant of salt marshes and other salty areas, a p[illegible] on settled mudflats. [illegible] seeds are carried by the sea and although the leaves and stems contain much salt, they can be used as a pot-herb.

45c — Yellow shak-shak, Crotalaria retusa.

The Crotalaria family is famous for the production of Bombay Hemp usually from Crotalaria juncea. The fruits of the showy C. retusa and many seeded legumes which become inflated as they mature, giving the 'shak-shak' its name.





80c — Flat-hand dildo, Opuntia dillenii.

The Opuntia or Prickly Pears are popular cacti, often grown as ornamentals. The tiny bristles have hooked tips which pierce the skin, and cannot be easily removed. Opuntia has become a pernicious weed in parts of the tropics.

Barbados Philatelic Society Centenary

On 30 January the Barbados Post Office issued a set of stamps celebrating the 100th anniversary of the country's Philatelic Society. Considering the importance of stamp collectors to postal administrations, it is a shame that more of them have not recognised the fact by issuing sets of stamps dedicated to philatelic societies.

Admittedly, the obvious time to do this would be in celebration of the centenary of the society and, perhaps, it is merely because the majority of national philatelic societies have not yet achieved this venerable age that we have not seen more such issues.

Supplied by Stanley Gibbons

The Barbados Philatelic Society has, however, recently celebrated its 100th birthday and the Barbados Post Office has recorded the event by issuing a set of four stamps depicting earlier issues of the territory, the originals of which were supplied by Stanley Gibbons Ltd.

The Society was formed in 1895 and held its first quarterly meeting at Planters Hall, Broad Street, Bridgetown on 7 December, the first secretary was Mr J E Mayers.

The Society obviously got of to a very strong start for less than four months later it held its first exhibition. The event was reported in *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* of 30 April 1896 thus:

'BARBADOS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
We are very glad to learn from *The Barbados Herald* of March 30th, that a most successful exhibition was arranged by three of the members of this Society, which we understand was formed some six months ago. The most prominent feature of the exhibition seems to have been a very fine collection of Swiss stamps, shown by Major McCracken; the sight of this so affected the reporter of the *Herald* that he confesses to having been tempted to "a breach of the 9th commandment".'

'Extremely rare' Mulreadys

The 31 July issue of the *SGMJ* reported a second exhibition, the piece being repeated from the *Barbados Advocate* of 22 June:

'THE BARBADOS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
There was an exhibition of several fine collections of stamps by the members of the above Society, at the Planters' Hall, on Saturday. Numbers of ardent philatelists of both sexes visited the hall during the day, and up to 5.30 p.m. visitors were still arriving. Among the early arrivals we noticed Lady Hay, who seemed much pleased and interested with the rare specimens shown her. The exhibits were as follows: Gambia, Mr J E Mayers; Grenada, Mr Laborde; Great Britain, *Mulready's*, Major McCracken; Haiti, Mr H W Cox; Jamaica, Mr H W Cox; Sarawak, Mrs Gardner; Dominica, Mr Laborde. The two pair of Mulready's, which, for the benefit of those not learned in philatelic lore, we may say are postage envelopes with an engraving representing Britannia sending forth her messengers to the ends of the earth, were the feature of the exhibits. The date of the issue is 1841, and we understand that they are extremely rare. The Grenada and Dominica collection comprised several rare and beautiful specimens. At catalogue rates they are valued at £24 each.'

Fifty years on

Little is recorded of the Society after that until it was revived on 10 May 1945 with Col H G Reid CMG, CBE, DSO as President, R K Wright as Secretary and Herbert Bayley as Treasurer.

The Society was very active in the 1950s and included among its membership keen collectors such as the late Prime Minister J M G M Tom Adams and wife of the then Governor, Sir Alfred Savage. Although the Society had periods of inactivity, it has always remained intact as a body.

Past Presidents include Mr Edmund Bayley, Mr Louis de Vertueil, Mr Charles Maynard and Mr Peter Simpson.

The present officers are Mr Anthony Fields—President, Mr Peter Simpson—Vice President, Mr Keith Bayley—Secretary, Ronald Watson—Assistant Secretary, Mr Robin Gittens—Treasurer. The Patron of the Society is Mr Edmund Bayley.

The Society meets every second Wednesday of every month except August and December at the Barbados Museum at 7.30 p.m. and visitors and interested stamp collectors from Barbados or abroad are welcome.

Hugh Jefferies

The stamps

The four stamps each depict a single adhesive against the background of an album page with a magnifying glass and a pair of tweezers alongside. It has to be said that the tweezers, in particular, are rather too small to be of any philatelic use and are probably 'eyebrow' rather than stamp tweezers.

The 10c. shows the ¼d. stamp issued in May 1896 to cover the recently introduced newspaper rate. Barbados was the first country to issue a stamp of this denomination.

The 55c. carries the 1d. Olive Blossom stamp issued in 1906 to commemorate the tercentenary of annexation and the $1.10 value shows the 1s. value in the 1920 set issued to celebrate the end of World War I. The $1.40 top value features the 2½d. Coronation stamp of 1937. An illustration of Broad Street, where the Society's first meeting was held, decorates the official first day cover.

The stamps, designed by Derek Miller and litho printed by the COT Printery Ltd of Barbados on CA Spiral Watermarked paper, provide four handsome additions to the popular stamps on stamps theme and, hopefully, will be followed by others celebrating local philatelic societies around the world.









AURITIUS

Lot Type Grading Description Est A$



Lot 479

479 E A 1885 New Design stamp-size hand-painted essay in chestnut touched-up with China white having a blank value tablet, the '16 CENTS' value tablet being drawn below, the whole on tracing paper with '2JUL83' h/s in blue at upper-right. Affixed at upper-left is a Barbados perforated plate proof of the 1882 design with blank value tablet & overprinted 'CANCELLED' (thinned at left) alongside which is the endorsement "for colour". Unique. {Page 97.1} 8000 T

EXICO