CAYMAN ISLANDS

PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF G. BRITAIN. July/Sept. 1952

Cayman Islands

(Being notes of a display given by Mr. A. Linton Ashcroft before the Manchester Philatelic Society on 25th April, 1952.)

The Cayman Islands, three in number, are situated in the Caribbean Sea, the larger Island, Grand Cayman, being 100 miles N.W. of Jamaica. This island is about the size of the Wirral Peninsula, some 17 miles long by about 7 miles across, the other two together being about two-thirds that size. Not very big but full of Philatelic interest.

In 1845 Grand Cayman asked that the Royal Mail might call and start a regular postal system with a P.O. at Georgetown. This was refused because there was too much danger from reefs around the coast, and the Royal Mail could not brook delay. In 1854 a further application was made, but again refused. In 1889, however, temporary arrangements were made for exchange of mails between Kingston and Georgetown by schooners plying at regular intervals. Previous to this, letters from the outside world were addressed to friends in Jamaica and handed by them to a Cayman Island Agent in Kingston who sent them on when and how he could. So, in 1889/90 a P.O. was opened at Georgetown, and Jamaican stamps were used over a period of 11/12 years, but all the revenue was for Jamaica. Then in 1901 the Cayman Islands received their own stamps, an issue bearing the head of Queen Victoria and were put on sale some four weeks after the death of Her Majesty. Thus the Caymans had the last Queen Victoria stamps, and except for one (King Edward VII £1 Australia) got the first King Edward VII stamps, actually the very first from the Key-plate for those stamps.

The Jamaican/Cayman stamps are difficult to acquire. When the late Mr. A. J. Watkin died and his collection sold in 1946 he had 139 such specimens and it was reckoned then that in the whole of the British Isles it was doubtful if there were another 50 to be found in all the various collections. They are only distinguishable by their cancellations of which three different types are known to have been used at Georgetown and two at Cayman Brac, the larger of the two smaller islands.

In 1909 a 1d. Jamaican stamp was discovered from the 1889 issue overprinted Cayman Islands in what appeared to be the same type as used on the Official overprint on the ½d. Jamaica. Enquiries by specialists brought light on this discovery and it was found that when it was decided that Cayman should have their own stamps and run their own P.O. and receive the revenue therefrom, Jamaican stamps should be so overprinted. As an experiment some £10 worth of Jamaican stamps were so overprinted but in the meanwhile it was further decided that they should have their own Queen Victoria stamps from the normal Key-plate. Two copies from this £10 worth of stamps are in existence, owned by Mr. Meredith, one mint and one used, which apparently avoided destruction though the Kingston Colonial Secretary's Office says they were all destroyed. One of the Jamaican/Cayman stamps, the 4d. red-brown is interesting. This was the then postal charge to America and only four copies are known to exist.

Cayman 15. (Continued)

One with Mr. Meredith, two in America and one other recently discovered in an old Jamaican collection and acquired by myself.

Tonight I am showing my Mint Collection, fairly complete, in which there is nothing very much to talk about. Mention might be made of the 1917 War Stamp 1½d. on 2½d. deep blue with the rare London overprint. This overprint—that was subsequently used on the ½d. War Stamp—was found to be insufficiently clear on the deep blue, so a heavier type was prepared and used. A few sheets with the trial first print apparently went with the first consignment from London which was put on sale in Georgetown, 4th September 1917, but the variety was not discovered till May 1918. Then there is the 2½d. on 4d. Zenaida provisional with a B.P.A. Certificate. I do not like a stamp that has to be verified.

In passing, it might be stated that some credit is due to Cayman Islands for their lovely change from drab colours to their bi-coloured 1907 issue, and for their very pleasing Pictorial sets.

Now I must say something about the various Provisionals and Manuscript frankings that play some part in Cayman history. Much abuse was levelled at the Postal authorities regarding these issues. On 29th July, 1907, the Commissioner wrote to Jamaica saying that his ½d. and 1d. stamps would be exhausted by the end of the year and requested further supplies to be put on order. He further requested that they be Postage and Revenue and not as in the past Postage/Postage plates. For some reason this order never left Jamaica till 13th September, and what with further correspondence with the Crown Agents, the new stamps did not come to the Islands till the end of December. The Commissioner's estimate that his present supplies would last till the end of the year was beaten by one month. He ran short at the end of November—not a bad guess.

I would like to say one other thing about Provisionals. To a great extent it is philatelists who create them by making a market that could not at first be estimated. When the Cayman Provisionals started, the Island had only had its own stamps for six years, and no doubt there was a growing demand beyond normal estimated requirements. Let me put it this way. In the midst of my Cayman display I am showing two covers from Kenya, where until a week or so ago when she moved to Uganda, my daughter was living. On the 1st February this year, two stamps were issued to commemorate the Royal Visit. I asked her to send me First Day covers and to continue sending the Royal Visit stamps until the 9th when they were to be withdrawn. On 6th February she posted me a letter with the old 20 cent stamp and not two R.V. 10 cent stamps. Her letter said she was sorry but the 10 cent R.V. were sold out at Nanyuki and no more would be available. I will say no more about Provisionals except that a full enquiry exonerated all concerned and the world's greatest Cayman specialists agreed that under circumstances that existed, there was no blame to attach. Anyway, what British Colonies are there that are free from numbers of Provisionals?

In addition to the Provisionals, there are the interesting Manuscript cancellations, two of which really took the place of further possible Provisionals. On 12th May, 1908, the ½d. and 1d. Postage/Revenue stamps were exhausted—they had arrived on December 27th 1907. The 1d. on 4d. Fiscal stamp was not permitted to be used for postal purposes, so mail that called for low denominations was handed in with cash and the Postmistress wrote on the envelope "Postage Paid G.A.P." (Miss Parsons) and handstamped it.

Then the first printing of the ½d. stamp for local use, which was on sale 30th June 1908, ran out on August 29th and the new Postmaster W. G. McCausland had to manuscript "Pd. ½d. WGMcC". Now it is unlikely that the new Postmaster would resort to this practice if it had not been absolutely necessary. The third manuscript cancella- was from Cayman Brac, when on the night of 9/10th November, 1932, the obliterator and the entire stock of stamps was lost in a hurricane. Then a stamp "Postage Paid" in a rectangle frame was put on letters and signed ASR, Mr. A. S. Rutty, who is still to this day Postmaster at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac. Some 300 such letters were so franked before the obliterator was discovered amongst the debris. The fourth was a manuscript cancellation at Boddentown, when "Cancelled-Boddentown" was written in red ink across the stamp in lieu of an obliterator which had not arrived.

source, that the Coronation set for the Colonies will be limited to one low value from each, and it is to be hoped that the Colonial Office have profited by their experience of the Silver Wedding fiasco to make this a fact. The minor boom in George VI issues since the death of the sovereign has been noticeable also in the 1937 Coronation series and many dealers tell me that they are experiencing a keen demand for these. Oddly enough, it is not the complete set which has hardened, since the majority of collectors have already certain colonies in their collections, and it is the "oddments" which are in the keenest demand. Some of the scarce Crown Colonies sets such as Aden, Malta and British Somaliland are amongst the hardest to find and the long set of Newfoundland is also becoming difficult to pick up at its old price. I wonder how many Geo. VI collections have this Coronation set with the variety "No watermark" (S.G. "a" numbers) From time to time, one sees odd values offered, but the complete set is indeed elusive and extremely good property.

Barbados.

As my "Best Thing of the Quarter", I am taking this time, the very finely executed Postal Centenary set from this colony, and I have every confidence that it will eventually turn out well. There is a keen and growing demand not only for sets commemorating the first issues, but also for "Stamps on Stamps" which seems to be one of the latest types of thematic collecting, and this little set with such a low face value, should prove very popular.

Current Post Offices and Postmarks of the Cayman Islands

By S. G. Balley

IN 1962, the late E. F. Aguilar, together with P. T. Saunders, published a very fine handbook on the Cayman Islands*, but since that date certain new facts have come to light on the postal history of the group. The following is a brief summary based on the latest information received direct from George Town during July 1968.

The following is a list of the names of the post offices and postal agencies holding individual, named date-stamps for the purpose of franking mail:—

GRAND CAYMAN	CAYMAN BRAC
George Town	Creek
West Bay	Stake Bay
Savannah	Spot Bay
Bodden Town	West End
East End	
North Side	LITTLE CAYMAN
South Sound	Little Cayman
Hell	

In addition to these there are postal agencies (with no individual date-stamps) located at:—

GRAND CAYMAN	CAYMAN BRAC
Breakers	Watering Place
Old Man Bay	
Gun Bay	

With regard to the postal services, the current report on the Cayman Islands issued by the Commonwealth Office notes that the volume of incoming and outgoing mail handled by the G.P.O. at George Town has increased by over 500 per cent. The cause of this increase is attributed to the general development of the territory and the business derived from the tourist industry.

Post boxes were introduced in 1960 and the demand has increased annually for these. A policy statement issued by the Caymans Government is a commendable one if adhered to, i.e. "*The Government has no intention of flooding the market with stamps with a view to increasing its revenues. From time to time, local commemorative issues will be made when appropriate and the one-farthing stamp will be retained in memory of a little coin no longer in use in Britain!*"

As to the actual postmarks, I have illustrated those in current use in *Figs.* 1 to 8. The interesting part about these is that they are *all held at the G.P.O. in George Town* for the purpose of dealing with the large number of requests from collectors for specimens from the individual post offices. In fact, when new commemorative issues appear, one or the other of these sub-post office markings are used to cancel first day covers—Hell, on Grand Cayman, is frequently used in this connection. However, this does not mean to say that duplicate date-stamps are not in use at the sub-post offices themselves, but these show minor differences and in



Figs. 1 to 8

* "THE CAYMAN ISLANDS—Their Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks", by E. F. Aguilar and P. T. Saunders. (Obtainable from P. T. Saunders, Little Caymans, Kingsthorne, Hereford.)

(*Continued on page* 1623)



Type used at G.P.O. Georgetown.

Fig. 9

Different Spacing



Type used at Sub Post Office. HELL

Fig. 10



Georgetown Rubber Registration (PURPLE)

Fig. 11

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Fig. 12



Fig. 13

Cayman Is. Post Offices (*continued from page* 1621)

Figs. 9 and 10 I have chosen the HELL date-stamp to illustrate this point.

Mr. Roy Botwright, who has assisted me considerably with this survey, states that the " SP 10 63 " postmark was applied to a letter actually handed in at Hell Post Office.

An oval rubber registration stamp is in use (usually impressed in purple ink) and manuscript figures are added (*Fig.* 11). A series of rubber rectangular registration stamps are also held. The " Special Delivery " type (*Fig.* 12) is new to me and arrived impressed on a letter dated June 29th, 1968.

The oval rubber date-stamp shown in *Fig.* 13 has been in use for some time and is applied as a " cachet " to mail emanating directly from the G.P.O.

Regarding Cayman Brac, the SPOT BAY is, of course, a fairly recent post office and was opened, I believe, in 1964. Stake Bay and West End are similar to Saunders' types VI and I, but Creek differs considerably from the specimen illustrated in the handbook.

Little Cayman is also unchanged, but all my requests for postmarking have been ignored during the last year; the population is only 23 according to the latest statistics.

Any additional information with regard to the foregoing will be gratefully received by the author.











Above: The four current postmarks for Caymans Brac.

At left: The single cancellation in use in Little Cayman.

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the commonwealth review
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Cayman Islands

3—Some Aspects of Postal History

By DAVID POTTER

THERE was some communication between the Cayman Islands and the outside world earlier, but it was not until the opening of the post office at Georgetown in 1889 that distinctive postal markings were used. At the outset Jamaican stamps were available with values between ½d. and 4d., plus the official ½d., 1d. and 2d. being known. Much was made in the philatelic press in the 1900's that Jamaican stamps, and in particular the 3d. had been used on letters containing the first Cayman's Queen Victoria stamps sent to dealers. Strange to relate the first copy of this value was only discovered in 1960, and it is likely that many dealers soaked off their stamps making them unidentifiable.

Jamaican stamps, overprinted Cayman Islands in two lines are recorded. It would be more accurate to state that two stamps are known, both 1d.'s, and it is generally accepted that they are in the nature of a trial. The overprint fount appears to be from the same stable as that used for the Jamaican official overprints.

Isolation was always a problem in the early 1900's; the local overprints are a permanent testimony to the difficulties of communication. But the frequent provisionals became unacceptable, and so for two short periods the Grand Cayman post office resorted to manuscript endorsements. In May 1908, with the low values exhausted yet again, the postage was recorded with a manuscript "Postage paid G.A.P." (Mrs. G. A. Parsons was the Postmistress). The ½d. stamp was issued on June 30th, 1908 and despite the official ban on the sale to dealers abroad, it was off sale by October. Not bad for a small colony, with little genuine mail traffic, to sell over the counter the 72,000 of the first printing in three months. In the event, further covers are noted "Pd ½d." with the addition of initials "GAP" or "WMcC" (W. G. McCausland had become Postmaster, although Mrs. Parsons remained on as an assistant).

A further manuscript provisional was applied at Cayman Brac following the temporary disappearance of the handstamp in the hurricane which in November 1932 killed 69 and injured hundreds, making it the most disasterous ever to strike the Cayman Islands. The manuscript endorsement "A.S.R." applied by A. S. Rutty, the Postmaster, was used between November 7th and 9th, and is invariably accompanied on foreign mail by the Kingston Jamaica machine cancel, with the slogan portion reading "Postage Paid".

Georgetown is separated from the next sizeable community, Boddentown, by eight miles or so of road, and along this track as it was at the turn of the century, a mailcart plied. Later on the route was extended a further ten miles to East End. This mailcart had its own cancel "Rural Post Collection Grand Cayman", and later on East End also had a cancel of its own. From 1909 to 1913 West Bay had a similar service, and cancellation, linking it with Georgetown seven

The Edwardian Era was responsible for some of the most elusive definitive postal stationery of the Commonwealth. Certainly when compared with the run of the adhesives, the numbers printed are minuscule, and it calls for persistence to flush them out. But they do turn up, and in fact two I had been searching for appeared on show at the stand of my favourite dealer at Stampex this year.

Small ½d. postcards were placed on sale from June 30th, 1908, as an added inducement to build up the local service. The printed stamp followed the design of the adhesive, but with only the oval portion retained. However, the size was not considered to be satisfactory, and the first printing of 1,000 was not repeated. Instead a larger format card appeared on December 28th, 1908, but size apart, was similar in all respects.

In the following year on June 23rd, 1909, a ½d. newspaper wrapper followed with an impressed stamp in the design of the ½d., but now with the corners replaced, and the inscription a plain "Cayman Islands". 5,000 were printed. Late in that year on December 28th,



Die proof of 1d stationery stamp.

5,000 each of postcards and envelopes with a printed 1d. were issued, the stamp following the design of the ½d. wrapper. This era was completed when on November 13th, 1911 2,500 2½d. envelopes were released, the inscription on the stamp reverting to "Cayman Islands Postage". How long they remained on sale is unknown. Certainly the impressions were being cut out to meet the shortage of low values in Cayman Brac in 1921, and there are a number of philatelic covers used in the 1930's.

We have to wait until 37 years later for the next instalment. On June 2nd, 1958 the designs of the then current adhesives were adapted to make impressed stamps for a set of three attractive airletters. They were sold at face value, and were valid as follows: 2½d. to Jamaica only, 6d. for Great Britain and Commonwealth countries in the Western Hemisphere, and 9d. for the rest of the world. These airletters remained on sale after the issue of a revised definitive set, but in June 1968, I became aware of a new 9d. bearing the latest 9d. stamp design, impressed. Such is the apathy of the postal administration to anything established collectors wants, that not could they fail to give me the date of issu also they assured me that there was no int to replace the other two values. According November 1968, I found that a 6d. in th revised design was also on sale. At this time in writing, there is no news of the 2½d., but it will no doubt come along. The main mail of course goes to the U.S.A., which explains why the 9d. was the first to run out, followed by the 6d. which covers Canada and Great Britain. Relatively speaking, the 2½d. is little used.

No other official stationery has been issued, although airletters are known with adhesive stamps in the later King George VI period, and with the Queen's Coronation stamp.

The first airmail left Georgetown for Jamaica on July 30th, 1935. It was expensive with charges varying between 6½d. per ½ ounce to the United Kingdom to as much as 1/5d. per ½ ounce to the comparatively nearby Bahamas, and the service was short-lived. A Douglas seaplane called at Georgetown and took a number of letters to Miami, Florida on February 13th, 1940. Captained by William Cleveland, the mail is postmarked either 13th or both 12th and 13th, and no cachets were used. Only 52 registered letters and 294 ordinary pieces were carried, nearly all destined for the U.S.A.

In anticipation of the first flight Cayman Brac to Jamaica, a large ma prepared, franked with the current 2½d. stamps, and postmarked October 18th. However, the plane from Georgetown to Jamaica never called, and so a second mail was prepared, this time dated November 3rd, and the first mail retained. Yet again the plane failed to arrive, so it all went off by sea to Georgetown in the usual way. Not until the following year, on June 4th, 1948, did the first flight actually take place.

Wing Commander Owen Roberts who did much to establish an airmail service lost his life as a passenger on the first flight by Cayman Island Airways from Georgetown to Jamaica on April 10th, 1953. Mail on the plane was recovered and dried out and bears the endorsement "Found in Bad Condition". His name is commemorated at the new Owen Roberts airport, with its jet landing strip and services by 707's and 727's.

The current air outlets at the time of writing are to Kingston, Jamaica, 40 minutes away, three flights per week, to San Jose, Costa Rica, 90 minutes off twice weekly, and to Miami, Florida, 55 minutes away and seven flights each week. Airmail rates, apart from airletters already covered, are for the first ½ ounce: Jamaica 4d., British Caribbean 9d., remainder

(Continued overleaf)

Cayman Islands *Revisited*

by DAVID POTTER

FOLLOWING on the articles I wrote in the PHILATELIC MAGAZINE last year, I thought that the story was told. But events move swiftly, and in the last eighteen months, much has happened. The story continues quietly enough with a three value series for the Olympic Games, that were held just across the water in Mexico. Perkin's Bacon Ltd., well known to classics collectors as printers of postage stamps, and now a subsidiary of Metal Box, produced three items that show that they have lost none of their know-how, and that their technical competence is second to none.

Then Caymans joined in the Christmas stamp session, with a planned set of six stamps, including the worthless ¼d. This lowest value was part of their avowed policy to commemorate the obsolete British coin. Not surprisingly, there was a fantastic demand, especially from the packet makers, who were presented with the opportunity of buying a Commonwealth mint pictorial, with an old master into the bargain, at less than a guinea per thousand. The stamp sold out. Not content to leave it at that, they decided to reprint. Not an ordinary reprint, but in a new colour, purple in place of brown, and on unwatermarked paper. So all the packet makers put in their orders again, for a brand new face different stamp, at the same bargain basement price. And soon the new one was sold out too. I wrote to the island for some copies, only to find that they had no purple beauties left. But the brown ones were still on sale. Bureau in London, and Post Office at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, were not synchronised. And in all the thousands of sheets on sale, there was one solitary sixty with missing colour. Without the gold, the stamp was without country. Most of the mint came to Great Britain, and were offered for sale, as was one copy that joined a first day cover, and uniquely so, was sold by auction for £340, the proceeds going to Dr. Barnado's homes.

June 5th, 1969, and a new definitive set, total value about 2 guineas. Unusual, different, and not to everyone's liking, but the £1 had the Machin head, for Great Britain collectors wanting to branch out. Fair enough perhaps for the last set had lasted seven years. But three months later, the currency changed. Decimalisation meant new stamps, and of course, there was no time to prepare new designs. So a surcharged set, at roughly the same cost. In the last few days before the sterling stamps vanished, a reprint became necessary to meet the standing orders for the ¼d. Probably those packet makers again. I am all in favour of these large purchasers spreading the word about Caymans as wide as possible, but surely the Crown Agents can advise their governments as to potential demand. Anyway, they decided to do the reprint on watermarked paper, after the swing to unwatermarked. Another variety, and the poor old trade found to their horror, that they could not simply buy a ¼d. stamp, but had to buy short sets. To get the ¼d.'s they wanted, they had to spend shillings. And it was no good writing to Georgetown, as I did, for there was no shortage there, and my ¼d. was completely unwatermarked. Now the surcharges will have to be replaced in due course. Another two pounds, when a little foresight could have reduced three sets to one. But maybe that isn't a commercial proposition.

Christmas 1969, and another Christmas set. No problems as far as I know, but strangely the ¼d. comes in four separate colours, once again for the packet maker. At this rate 100 different Caymans will cost less than 10 shillings very soon. And at first sight there would seem to be danger of confusion between the lower and higher values, in identical colours and design.

A series of decimal definitives will be issued on September 8th.

Caymans is a delightful country, and despite the outlay this year I will continue to collect it. But surely just a little more planning, and a little more thought would have made the collector's life that little bit easier.

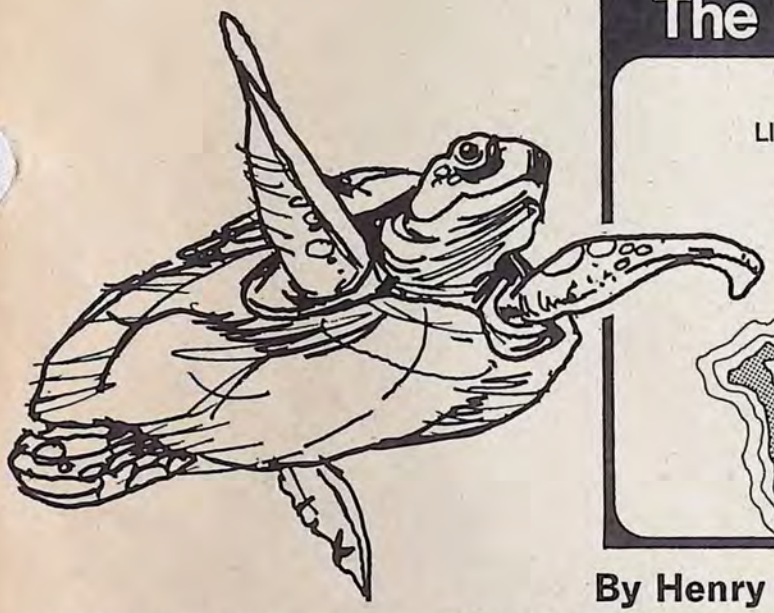
Cayman Islands Stamp Designs

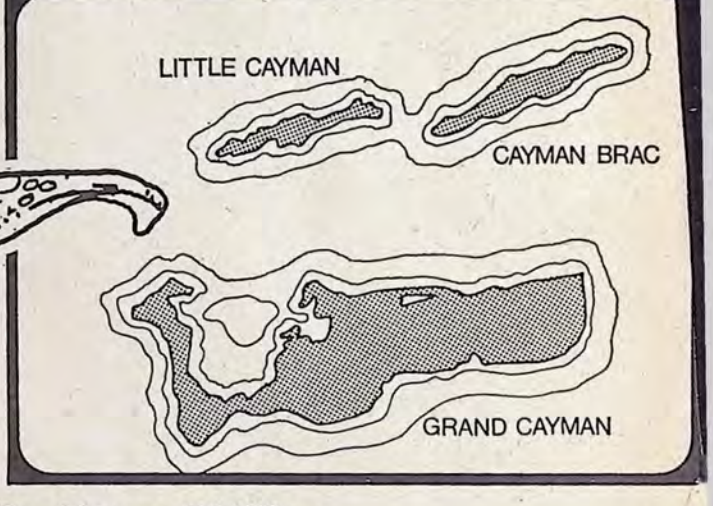
Many of the designs produced for Cayman Islands stamps originate from photographs supplied by Mr. Bernard St. Aubyn a resident of Grand Cayman, who has also assisted the Government of Cayman Islands with research into the subjects concerned. Mr. St. Aubyn's photographs form the basis of the designs of the International Human Rights Year stamps and most of those of the latest definitive series.

STAMP MAGAZINE Dec. 1971

Cayman Islands

The 1938 definitives





By Henry Phillips

ALTHOUGH A RELATIVELY SHORT STAMP SERIES, much of interest is available in the Cayman Islands 1938-48 stamps for the keen philatelist who wishes to roam from the straightforward catalogue listings.

Two printers combined to produce the pictorial set. Although both De La Rue and Waterlow employed the recess process, the respective printings show quite different styles and appearances.

Technical details are as follows: all stamps were 60-set; Waterlow printings appeared in sheets of twelve rows of five stamps; De La Rue vertical designs were arranged in six rows of ten and horizontal designs, ten rows of six stamps.

The imprint appeared in the centre of the bottom margin. De La Rue plate numbers were beneath the ninth stamp of the bottom row (vertical designs) and the fifth stamp of the bottom row on sheets of horizontal designs.

The original printings appeared on a thick cream paper, the gum of which was easily affected by the climate and in many cases created stamps of unusual shade far removed from their original appearance—and it is important to remember this. From 1942 onwards a thinner, whiter paper with clear gum was employed, making printing separation quite easy.

Drawing of turtle from Crown Agents' publicity leaflet.

WATERLOW PRINTINGS

The 1938 ½d was a fine pictorial for such a low value; it was followed in 1943 by the only perforation variety of the Waterlow series, which otherwise closely resembled the first release in appearance. Line-perforated 13½ x 12½, used copies are not easy to find. A December 1945 printing contrasted well as pale red-orange. When placed side by side the three stamps justify inclusion in the collection.

Printings of the 1d are not very exciting and three stamps can be identified: the 1938 deep scarlet; 1943 deep red; and, for want of a better description, the scarlet-red of 1945.

The 1938 1½d black usually identifies itself when in company with later printings which do not have the same appearance. Little of serious importance can be found in the releases of the 2½d; if you prefer to describe the 1938 printing as light blue, I suppose that it is reasonable to label later releases as ultramarine; in 1947 a colour change was made to orange.

The 3d deep orange of 1938 is a good stamp and in years to come will become more difficult to find. A release of December 1945 can be identified as reddish-orange. In view of the June 1942 release, best described as reddish-orange, I consider that from the point of view of relative shade description the December 1945 printing is better noted as pale reddish-orange; when placed together, the three printings are of considerable interest. In 1947 the 3d became light blue.

Next I draw attention to the popular 2/- yellow-green. There is little doubt that this most popular 'original' is in very short supply. Copies brought back from the Dependency (when first on sale) differ considerably from those imported at a later date: their bright appearance when viewed against gum-affected copies is outstanding.

Reference to the *Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth* catalogue shows 'S.G.124 2/- yellow-green (shades)'. No doubt many collectors will ask how it is possible to have shades of a shade! Upon reflection, I think that possibly this interpretation is a little unfair. By 'shades' the catalogue Editor intends to convey that stamps belonging to this group can be found with different appearances; surely a reasonable attitude?

The release of July 1943 introduced a distinct green and a later printing of August 1948 showed a relatively deep green needing no description. Gibbons lists deep green (July 1943), but I cannot agree. When placed together the three stamps display obvious shade differences. If deep green is accepted as the proper description of the July 1943 printing, how can the release of August be described?

At this stage I introduce to shade enthusiasts a word of warning concerning the original yellow-green: in many cases stamps offered

Commenting further Brunel says 'one can
ıd also B53 with the figure 3 flat-headed
round-headed. Finally, there is also a B53
ith squared figures, as one can see at the
ttom of the annexed plate'. That con-
udes Brunel's remarks; remarks which are
r too succinct, as well as definitely in-
mplete. A glance, however casual, at a
mprehensive collection of B53 cancella-
on of—such as any postal historian should
rely have before him when attempting
Brunel did to write on the postal history
a country—amply demonstrates that:

(i) the ovals which Brunel called 'losanges'
e of four types: the almost circular ellipse
ith four bars, by far the commonest; the
assic horizontal oval with three bars; the
assic vertical oval with four bars, and the
orizontal oval, smaller than the classic type,
ith two bars only—very rare, it would
em; and

(ii) the types of the 'B', '5' and '3' are so
aried that they can be classified in no less
an eight different groups.

In determining these groups, my criterion
as been the height of the letter 'B' and
gures '5' and '3', as this is perhaps the
haracteristic which strikes the student first
nd most obviously. The best classification
vould undoubtedly have been chronological,
ut sufficient material evidence in the form
f entries would be very difficult to obtain.
Such a proposed course of classification in
fact proved impossible of achievement. The
presentation offered here has, therefore, the
weakness of intermingling the ages of the
various B53 handstamps illustrated, but as
my primary aim has been to draw up, as far
as possible, an inventory of the different
types, it was more practical and convenient
to group them by height. This grouping also
has the advantage of making comparison
much easier.

In my illustrations, the cancellations
grouped in each row all have the same height.
The differences between the types included
in each particular row are sometimes very
slight, but close examination shows that they
do exist, though it must remain to be deter-
mined whether such *slight* differences are
real or are due to wear and tear of the hand-
stamp or to the spread of ink. However,
until they can be discarded as arising from
one or other of these causes, they are better
included.

I come now to notes on the eight groups illustrated; each group is captioned in the illustrations.

Group I—height of 'B' and '53': 5½mm.
The first three cancellations in this group belong definitely to the late period, as proved by the c.d.s. strike near the first stamp showing the year 1890 and by the fact that the second stamp was issued only in 1891. In these three strikes there are noticeable differences among the figure '5s'; while the fourth cancellation—unless the handstamp is badly worn, indeed almost worn-out—shows a differently-shaped '5' and a '3' raised slightly above the line of the 'B' and '5'.

Group II—height of 'B' and '53': 6¼mm.
The first two show the square-type letter and figures; the first has but two bars above and below, the second three. Both strikes seem to belong to an early period, though these two copies are the only two found (one is on SG 110, the second on SG 62). The first seems a rare type; so does the second, though Brunel mentions it and reproduces an illustration. The fifth in the group, on SG 70, is very different from the third (on SG 102) and is far less commonly seen. The sixth and seventh in the group appear to belong to the same period as the fifth—they cancel SG 63 and 62 respectively—but have a different number of bars. The fourth is clearly very different from the others in the row; it cancels SG 111 and is of the late period: I have it on entries dated 1888 and 1889.

Group III—height of 'B' and '53': 6½mm.
All the cancelled adhesives are imperforate Britannias, so the cancellation is doubtless of the very first period: the classic horizontal oval with three bars above and below.

Group IV—height of 'B' and '53': 7½mm.
The differences between the shape of the '5' are obvious at first glance. As to the date of the handstamp, it is difficult to say, the only guide being the date of issue of the cancelled stamps illustrated (SG 97, 111, 60, 87 and 50). On this basis, the order of 'age' would appear to be the fifth (the least common), third, fourth, first, second (thinly drawn and quite attractive; and not particularly common).

Group V—height of 'B' and '53': 8mm.
There are differences, slight admittedly but none the less real, among the various '5's. The first, on SG 65, is the only one I have come across; the second is comparatively common; the third, on a postally used fiscal approved for postage (SG R2), is again uncommon.

Group VI—height of 'B' and '53': 8¼mm.
An attractive handstamp with the digits nicely drawn, this appears to be dimensionally unique. On SG 110 it appears to belong to the late period and is not at all common.

Group VII—height of 'B' and '53': 8½mm.
Although the first strike is a poor impression, it can readily be appreciated as differing from the second in its figures. Both are presumably from the middle period; they are here shown on SG 107 and 94.

Group VIII—height of 'B' and '53': 8¾mm.
Despite the faintness of some of the strikes, once again it can readily be appreciated that differences do exist, especially among the various '5's. Of the five here shown, the first (on SG 113) is the commonest; it is found on covers in my collection dated 1891 and 1892, that is, in the last months of the life of the B53 cancellation—though when the Floreal Postal Agency was opened 2 February 1934, the datestamp was not ready and an old B53 was withdrawn from the archives and put into service for two or three days pending completion of the named c.d.s. (I am indebted to Mr James Ruffle of Salisbury, England, for this information.) The second, on SG 60, appears to belong to the early period; the others to the middle.

I hasten to add that the validity of my allocation of various strikes to the early, middle or late period of the B53's life depends on one's acceptance of the suggestion that several handstamps existed and were replaced from time to time as they wore out—though the replacement was not necessarily identical. How else, in fact, could one account for the different types of ovals, different numbers of bars, and different shapes of figures?



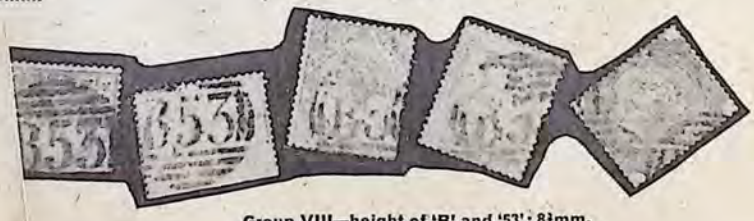
Group V—height of 'B' and '53': 8mm.



Group VII—height of 'B' and '53': 8½mm.



Group VI—height of 'B' and '53': 8¼mm.



Group VIII—height of 'B' and '53': 8¾mm.



1938 definitive designs:
Beach View (½d, 1½d); Dolphin fish (½d, 1s); Map of islands (1d, 3d); Cayman Schooner (2½d); Hawksbill Turtles (2d, 6d).

Not illustrated:
2s Beach View; 5s Cayman Schooner; 10s Hawksbill Turtles.

as this scarce shade are merely Dependency copies of the 1943 release, which in some [illegible] (due to the effects of the climate) [illegible]ble the much sought after original. [illegible]or browned gum is not necessarily [illegible] distinguishing feature of the first [illegible], and in order to ensure positive identification a copy should be taken up of the original printing entirely free from Dependency gum-deterioration.

I have a marginal block of four unaffected by any gum changes; when placed side by side with gum-browned copies the stamps appear quite different.

The interesting 5/- lake of 1938 is far from easy to find. When placed in company with later crimson-lake printings (the first release of this shade is noted by *BK Commonwealth* as July 1943) the original shows to real advantage.

DE LA RUE PRINTINGS

An effective contrast is provided by the two-design series, which has plenty of varieties of shade and perforation. The originals of 1938 comb-perforated 11¾ x 13 (2d, 6d and 10/-) and 13 x 11¾ (½d and 1/-) are easy to identify. A 'toned' appearance (with attendant gum deterioration) is a reliable means of identification.

Both catalogues realise the comparative scarcity of the 6d. Their prices display little difference. I have always found used copies harder to find; this is also true of the contemporary 10/- chocolate.

An appreciable change of appearance was introduced by the June 1942 printings of the four lower values on a white paper. The ½d and 2d were brighter and to a certain extent this condition holds good for the 6d and 1/-. Unfortunately the 'white paper' 6d creates much confusion. Although it has the same perforation as the 'original' the complete absence of either 'toning' or brown gum in many cases leads to its rejection as SG122—or BK *Commonwealth* 12. Yet without doubt it is an established member of this group and must be included in any representative collection—if you can find a copy!

A release of July 1943 showed a perforation change. The line-perforated 14 printings provided two shade changes described as 1/- red-brown and 10/- chocolate-brown.

Considerable disappointment was created by a single-value release during March 1945. To the dismay of all collectors the 'obsolete' 10/- (which had rapidly appreciated in value) appeared in the original comb-perforation!

Although not recognised as a separate shade variety by Gibbons, it is listed as sepia by the BK *Commonwealth* catalogue. I endorse most strongly this recognition, since in no way does it resemble the original and should find a place in every collection. The 'darker' appearance of the Royal Portrait is an interesting feature, but it is not of any real philatelic importance.

A release during December 1945 provided a mixed bag: the ½d and 1/- were comb-perforated 13 x 11¾, whereas the 6d and 10/- were line-perforated 14. Two shade changes can be recorded as 1/- red-brown and 10/- sepia-brown.

There is no doubt that the four releases of the 10/- are quite different and deserve catalogue recognition. Before leaving these high values, I draw attention to a printing released during 1948: although reverting to comb-perforation 11¾ x 13, the shade does not merit a separate listing.

Our final variety (this time both shade and perforation) was released July 1947. It is worth recording that both catalogues provide an almost identical shade description of the 6d, but although in agreement on shading, their pricing is quite different! Gibbons rates twice the BK valuation for mint and nearly three times as much for used. I think that Gibbons are probably quite near the mark. Apart from initial supplies of CTO for New Issue services, how many normal postally used copies are available? Not many!

Always keep a good look out for this elusive stamp; its merits have yet to receive appropriate catalogue recognition.

This completes the 1938 issue. With the assistance of the foregoing information it should be possible to complete a worthwhile representative collection of King George VI 1938-48.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

PHILATELY. Apr-1975.

FROM THE EXPERT COMMITTEE REGISTER

No. 5. Caymans "Postmaster Provisional"

The story of the notorious surcharges of 1907–08 must be well known to most collectors, and examples of the three hand-stamped provisionals are quite often seen. Equally interesting, but perhaps less well known, is the postmaster's franking illustrated below:

75182



Early in 1908 a local mail rate of ½d. for letters and ¼d. for Printed Matter and postcards was established. New ¼d. stamps, with a first printing of 72,000 copies, were issued on June 30th. (S.G.38); but, prior to their arrival, local mail was franked in manuscript "Postage Paid" or "Pd. ¼d." and initialled "GAP" by the Postmistress (Miss G. A. Parsons).

(*concluded at foot of next column*)

Large orders from dealers for the ¼d. and other stamps led to shortages; and, in October, local mail was again franked in manuscript and initialled "WGMcC" (W. G. McCausland, who had succeeded as Postmaster in June) until the second printing of 60,000 copies of the ¼d. stamp was received.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

STAMP COLLECTING, Nov. 27, 1964

CAYMAN IS. POST OFFICES

Acting on the information given by S. G. Balley in STAMP COLLECTING on January 10th, 1964*, J. A. C. Herbert, of Bury, St. Edmunds, Suffolk, reports regarding the Cayman Islands that on March 7th he sent to Cayman Brac and Little Cayman for the Shakespeare stamps, and also sent a separate letter to the Postmaster of each island asking for covers to be posted with the new stamp on April 23rd.

The Cayman Brac covers all arrived on the same day, June 23rd, with the four postmarks carefully applied, once to the stamp and with a further clear cancellation on the face of the cover. At the foot of each envelope a violet hand-stamp had been impressed reading " First Day of Issue " and " Cayman Islands " and with the Coat-of-Arms in the centre.

The Little Cayman covers arrived on November 3rd. The postmark, from a rather worn date-stamp, clearly postmarks the stamp. The covers had been passed to Cayman Brac, where the violet registration hand-stamp had been impressed with the serial numbers inserted by " biro ". There is no back-stamp and no blue registration lines had been added at any stage.

New Office. In addition to the three offices on Cayman Brac mentioned by Mr. Balley, there is now an office at Spot Bay. The postmark, within a double circle, reads: SPOT BAY CAYMAN BRAC C.I.". The central detail comprises three lines consisting of a star, the abbreviated month followed by the date, and the third line is the year, again abbreviated, " 64 ".

There is a new, or possibly additional, postmark now employed at Creek, which, on the postmarks Mr. Herbert has up to 1953, was designated as THE CREEK.

* " The Postmaster Begs to Reply "

CAYMAN ISLANDS

STAMP COLLECTING (? date.)

BLACK POSTMARKS SOMETIMES MAKE RED FACES

SIR,—In an article in STAMP COLLECTING (October 25th, 1957), entitled, " Early Cayman Brac Postmark ", I wrote in error as follows :—

> Thus this is the earliest known strike of the first Cayman Brac obliterator (September 26th, 1899), not January 12th, 1900, as had been heretofore assumed.

The date, January 12th, 1900, was taken from the *British West Indian Philatelist*, Vol. 7, No. 3, March 1956, p. 48.

There are, however, two known strikes of a date earlier than September 26th, 1899. The Watkin Collection contained one cover, No. 164, backstamped, KINGSTON–JAMAICA–SP 6 99. This cover was also in the Meredith Collection, No. 71, in addition to another one, No. 72, which was backstamped KINGSTON–JAMAICA–SP 16 99.

Thus the strike mentioned by me was not the earliest known, but follows the earliest by some 20 days. My sincerest apologies.

It should also be noted that the distance from Cayman Brac to Kingston is about 220 miles, not 12 as previously reported.

Cleveland, Ohio. JERROLD M. HOLMES, Ph.D.

to an exchange club and receive a bulky parcel of booklets every month? How many times have you skimmed through it, found nothing of interest and begrudged the two or three shillings registered postage necessary to pass it on to the next man? But those packets often contain treasure too—when you know how to look for it.

Let me give you an example. A friend once showed me his schoolboy collection, housed in a printed album of the type which sold for a few shillings before the war. "Nothing of interest there," he said, "just a lot of junk, mostly used. I collect only mint Colonials these days."

He was right. Anyone glancing through that morass of cheap Austrian Franz-Josefs, German inflations and British Colonials of the farthing apiece variety would have thought five bob a high price for the lot. I looked at Jamaica. He had a couple of tatty old Queen Victorias, a "War Contingent Embarking," a penny Llandovery Falls and half a dozen other bits and pieces.

"I'll give you a pound for this page," I said, without hesitation. He looked at me, then at the stamps, and back at me again with a slightly alarmed air. "Look at the stamps again," I said.

The Wrong Shilling

He frowned at his horrid Q.V.s. The shilling was creased right across and it wasn't the $ for shilling variety!

"Old man, you must be balmy," he muttered. Then he glanced hastily back to make sure that his 1920 shilling (which had six perfs. missing and a neat tear) wasn't the inverted frame variety. "Done!" he said.

"It's robbing you," I told him. "Look, I'll give you a pound for the Llandovery Falls alone. Have another glance before you decide."

He took it from the page, scrutinised the watermark, measured the perforations (heaven alone knows why!) and went over it centimetre by centimetre with his magnifier.

"A ha'penny would be dear," was his final word.

"You've looked at everything else. Now look at the postmark."

"Postmark . . . ?" he queried. "I'm not interested in postmarks. I only collect mint. What does it say? Grand Ca . . . something."

"It isn't a terribly clear specimen," I agreed, "but it is clear

By

PETER SCOTT

enough to identify it as Grand Cayman at the top and it was thus used in the Cayman Islands. You see, between April 1889 and February 1901 Jamaican stamps were used there. The first Cayman issues didn't appear until 19th February, 1901. The stamp you have there would be very desirable property for a man interested in the Cayman Islands and if he wanted to buy a nice one at auction it would probably cost between £4 and £6. So you see I was quite safe in offering you a quid!"

Ignoring Postmarks

A simple story isn't it, but the implications are tremendous. Collectors of mint only do tend to ignore postmarks—they just don't seem to see them—and they thus pass by many opportunities. Even if they do not wish to keep a scarce postmark once they have found it, such marks have a ready market and the proceeds can go towards building up that mint collection!

There are few countries in the world whose stamps do not have some sort of postmark interest. I have spent more than ten years in getting together my collection and I have found the pursuit of specimens both pleasurable and profitable. Indeed, year by year, more enthusiasts are joining in the postmark hunt and the prices asked—and obtained—for rare marks are little short of amazing.

I'm afraid the days are long past when really rare stamps can be bought for coppers—collectors' knowledge has increased so much over the years. But the humble postmark can still lift a common stamp from coppers to pounds, if you know what to look for.

First of all, forget what the beginners' textbooks tell you about discarding heavily postmarked or penmarked specimens. At least, before you throw them in the fire make sure that you are not burning money. Many pen-cancels were used legitimately and are feverishly sought after by collectors—but be careful about early Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

As for heavy postmarks—well, if the postmark is a rare one the collector will welcome it. His bane is the lightly postmarked specimen which looks as if it might be a rare specimen but which is almost impossible to decipher!

What to Look For

Commencing with this issue I am going to tell you just what to look for. We will skip about the countries of the world together, and if you are wise you will clip my remarks from this magazine and keep them for reference.

Sometimes a rare postmark is rare because the post office concerned was open for a short period only; sometimes because it shows an aspect of postal history.

Long before the Germans issued regular stamps for their colonies, for

(Continued on page 657)

CAYMAN ISLANDS—Part I

Jamaican stamps used in the islands between 1889 and 1901. Watch for the following postmarks on Jamaican stamps of approximately this period.

Type		Loose Stamp	Cover or Card
1.	Oval rubber date-stamp reading "Grand Cayman" (top) "Post Office" (bottom) usually struck in violet	VS	£15
2.	Single circle steel date-stamp reading "Grand Cayman—P.O." Violet or black	VS	£15
3.	Double circle steel date-stamp reading "Grand Cayman—Cayman Islands." Black	£4–£6	£9–£15
4.	Small oblong box-type rubber stamp (no date) reading "Cayman Brac" (top) and "Cayman Islands" (bottom, smaller type). Violet	VS	£15
5.	Double circle steel date-stamp (similar to No. 3 reading "Cayman Brac—Cayman Islands." Black	VS	£14–£20
6.	E. F. Aguilar (P.O. Box 406, Kingston) has recorded the existence of a ½d. green CA with a mark reading "Sma . . . Cay . . . Isl . . ."	—	—

TYPOGH. LLANDILLO. CARM.

LOOKING FOR POSTMARKS (Continued ~~from page 987~~)

example, mail sent from Togoland, the Cameroons and other outposts was franked with the stamps of the old German Empire. The stamp itself might be worth only a fraction of a penny, but with the Colonial postmark it is quite another matter. We will cover this kind of thing in these articles.

Another point to remember is that the rarest postmarks often appear on the commonest stamps. A postmark collector hasn't much use for £1 Colonials cancelled-to-order. But show him a miserable Indian Queen Victoria one anna with the "F.F." in diamond of bars and he will jump through hoops for you. That was the mark used by the Abyssinian Field Force of 1867.

Well, this is a rough outline of what I shall be trying to do over the next few months. I will try to explain what postmarks to look out for and to give some idea of their scarcity. There should be something for everyone and it might make a hunt through those old duplicates, that discarded album, a trifle profitable.

My valuations will be based on prices realised at auction, the lists of "postmark-conscious" dealers and on my own experience and collection. I shall often be wrong and if so will welcome correcting letters. It may be that the lists will eventually be published in booklet form, corrected and amplified as other collectors weigh in with their views.

It is not always possible to quote definite prices and I shall thus be using the abbreviations D (desirable, worth 6d. to 1/– premium above the normal price of the stamp), M (medium scarce, worth 1/– to 5/– premium), S (scarce, 5/– to £1), VS (very scarce, £1 to £5), R (£5 to £15) and VR (£15 upwards). Uncommon stamps, or unusual denominations, often command a far higher premium.

Warning.—Forgeries exist of the Caymans cancellations. On the other hand the coloured marks have been taken, by the ignorant, for fiscal cancels.

Note.—The Rural cancellations on the regular Cayman Islands stamps are extremely interesting and often scarce. They will be dealt with in a later issue.

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, Feb. 22, 1957.



Type 1. Type 2. Type 3.

Type 3 is shown as an actual specimen on piece to demonstrate how rarely the real thing achieves the clarity of a text-book illustration !

THERE'S MONEY IN POSTMARKS

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Part 2

By

PETER SCOTT

IN my opening article of the present series (issue dated 5th October, 1956) I summed up and priced Jamaican stamps, the postmarks on which showed that they had been used in the Cayman Islands.

I now propose to deal with the Rural cancellations which can be found—if you are lucky—on the ordinary issues of the Cayman Islands (King Edward VII and King George V issues only). These rectangular marks often come in violet ink and can be dreadfully blurred owing to wear. No doubt many stamps bearing them have been tossed aside as spoiled or as fiscals by those who take the "how to collect stamps" books seriously !

These marks are to be found on stamps current between 1908 and 1930. Stampless covers are also known bearing such marks and with "On His Majesty's Service" endorsements.

First on the scene was Type 1. The handstamp was put into the charge of a postman whose job it was to travel weekly between the capital (Georgetown) and Boddentown. He sold stamps and collected letters, cancelling the adhesives with this handstamp.

When the service was extended beyond Boddentown to the village of East End, Type 1 remained in use, but by about 1911 a new handstamp for East End was being applied (Type 2).

Also round about 1911 a third mark was in use (Type 3). This was applied in the West Bay area by a postman working under similar conditions to those already described.

From what we know of the small population, it is obvious that these marks are far from common, even on loose stamps. On cover they never fail to attract keen bidding in the auction rooms while specialist dealers never seem to lack customers for them.

I do not propose to deal with the ordinary metal cancellation devices used in the Cayman Islands, though here again the collector will find much to interest him.

I will, however, mention that a *manuscript* cancellation in *red ink* has been reported from Boddentown prior to the use of Type 1. I have never seen one but a properly authenticated copy would be very rare indeed.

Two further points. During an alleged shortage of farthing stamps, in 1908 the postmaster, Mr. W. G. McCausland, adopted the method of endorsing covers with "Pd ½d." and his initials "W.G.McC" in ink or pencil, the ordinary metal Georgetown postmark also being applied. Such covers are frequently offered at auction and the average realisation is about 27/6.

Again, in 1932, covers are known bearing an undated Cayman Brac postmark and manuscript initials "A.S.R." These have fetched a fiver or more.

CAYMAN ISLANDS—Part 2

Rural Cancellations

Type		Loose Stamp	Cover or Card
1.	Rectangular framed mark reading "Rural Post / Collection / Grand Cayman." Normally struck in violet. Also in black (rare)	30/–	£3
1.	On stampless cover with O.H.M.S. endorsement ...	—	£10
2.	Much smaller rectangular framed mark reading "East End / Grand Cayman / Rural / Post Collection." (This mis-spelling of "Collection" was never amended.) Violet or black	30/–	£3
2.	On stampless cover with O.H.M.S. endorsement ...	—	£8
3.	Similar to (2) but reading "West Bay / Grand Cayman / Rural / Post Collection." Violet or black	40/–	£4

Note.—As these marks (especially figure 1) are larger than the stamps upon which they appear, a pair of stamps or a single on piece is required to show the complete mark. Such specimens, or marks of unusual clarity, would command a premium.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

WEST-END PHILATELIST, July-Aug. 1962.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

An Introduction to the King George VI Pictorials 1938-48

By PHILIP HALWARD



THE handsome and well-executed stamps of large format, representing this very popular Jamaican Dependency, although receiving little philatelic "write-up", provide an interesting series well within the means of the average collector.

With one possible exception, nearly all varieties of shade and perforation can be obtained relatively easily. With a comparatively small outlay satisfactory completion can be achieved.

To produce the recess-printed series of twelve denominations, two printers combined. Messrs. Waterlow & Sons were responsible for the ¼d., 1d., 1½d., 2½d., 3d., 2/- and 5/-, and Messrs. De La Rue & Co., for the remainder (½d., 2d., 6d., 1/- and 10/-).

The ½d. and 1/- were printed in sheets of 60 (10 × 6) with Plate number in the bottom margin below the fifth stamp; the 2d., 6d. and 10/- in sheets of 60 (6 × 10) with Plate number beneath the ninth stamp. Other values in sheets of 60 (12 × 5). Both printers show their imprint in the centre of the bottom margin.

Five designs serve to draw attention to the Dependency "background":—

Beach View, Grand Cayman (¼d., 1½d. and 2/-).

A typical example of local scenery; an Almond Tree is shown on the left with Spider Lillies in the centre. Sand, coral and sea form the background.

In the event that a multi-coloured stamp showing the true colours was employed, we should have bright green, white, brown and bottle-green in the vignette. No doubt a very attractive colour-combination.

Caribbean Dolphin (½d. and 1/-).

Widely distributed and plentiful throughout local waters, this fish provides excellent sport. In natural surroundings (before capture) the vivid green of its body is outstanding.

Map of the Dependency (1d. and 3d.).

The three islands of the Dependency (Grand Cayman, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac) are shown in their relative positions. Situated in the Carribbean, they are south of Cuba and almost 180 miles to the west of Jamaica. Total land area is just over 100 square miles. The population (nearly all resident on Grand Cayman) is some 7,000.

A Conch shell is shown in the bottom right-hand corner of the design. These very attractive shells are numerous in the coastal lagoons.

Hawksbill Turtles, Grand Cayman (2d., 6d. and 10/-).

The west coast of Grand Cayman provides material for this lovely scene, which is set between Georgetown and West Bay. In the foreground appear Hawksbill Turtles which, formerly present in great numbers on the beaches, at the present time are considerably less plentiful.

A chief occupation of local fishermen is the catching of sea turtles. In the past always exported alive, in recent years they have been processed locally and exported in the form of turtle soup.

Growing on the beach are Thatch palms, an important local provider. Many varied products are obtained, of which the most in demand is Thatch rope. Suitable recognition is accorded this product of local industry by its employment in framing some vignette portraits of the series. In addition, it encloses the map-vignette of the 1d. and 3d.

(Continued under)

yellow-green. Little doubt exists that the majority of stamps offered as this scarce shade are in fact merely Dependency copies of the 1943 release which in some respects (due to the effects of the climate) do resemble the much sought after original.

Yellow or browned-gum is not necessarily the sole distinguishing feature of the first printing, and in order to ensure positive identification a copy should (whenever possible!) be taken up of the original printing entirely free from Dependency gum-deterioration.

The interesting 5/- lake of 1938 is far from easy to find. When placed in company with later printings in crimson-lake (the first release in this shade is noted by Commonwealth as July 1943) the original shows to real advantage.

For obvious reasons, I have not mentioned the colour changes of August 1947 (noted as S.G.120a, 121a, C.W.5, 7) since nothing of real interest is present.

So much for the "Waterlow" printings which, during very difficult times, maintained a high standard of shade constancy.

The "De La Rue" Printings.

Now for examination we have the excellent two-design series of plentiful varieties of shade and perforation. The "originals" of 1938 comb-perforated $11\frac{3}{4} \times 13$ (2d., 6d. and 10/-) and $13 \times 11\frac{3}{4}$ ($\frac{1}{2}$d. and 1/-) are easy to identify. A "toned" appearance (with attendant gum deterioration) is a reliable means of identification.

Both catalogues realize the comparative scarcity of the 6d. (S.G.122, C.W.12). Their prices display little difference. I have always found used copies harder to find. This is also true of the 10/- chocolate.

An appreciable change in appearance came with the June 1942 printings of the four lower values on a white paper. The $\frac{1}{2}$d. and 2d. were brighter and to a certain extent this condition holds good for the 6d. and 1/-. Unfortunately, the "white paper" 6d. creates much confusion. Although it has the same perforation as the "original" the complete absence of either "toning" or brown gum in many cases leads to its rejection as S.G.122, C.W.12. Yet without any doubt it is an established member of this group, and must be included in any representative collection. If you can find a copy!

A release of July 1943 showed a perforation change. The line-perforated 14 printings provided two shade changes noted as 1/- red-brown (C.W. 19) and 10/- chocolate-brown (C.W.20).

Considerable disappointment was created by a single-value release during March 1945. To the surprise of all collectors the "obsolete" 10/- (which had rapidly appreciated in value) appeared in the original comb-perforation!

Although not recognized as a separate shade variety by Stanley Gibbons, it is listed as Sepia (C.W.14a). I endorse most strongly this recognition, since in no way does it resemble the original and should find a place in every collection. The "darker" appearance of the Royal Portrait is an interesting feature. But it is not of any real philatelic importance.

A release during December 1945 provided a mixed "bag"; the $\frac{1}{2}$d. and 1/- were comb-perforated $13 \times 11\frac{3}{4}$ whereas the 6d. and 10/- were line-perforated 14. Two shade changes are noted as 1/- red-brown and 10/- sepia-brown (C.W.13a, 20a).

No doubts can exist that the four 10/- are quite different and thoroughly deserve catalogue recognition. Before leaving these high values, I draw attention to a printing released during 1948. Although reverting to comb-perforation $11\frac{3}{4} \times 13$, the shade does not merit a separate listing. (N.B. Specialist "Tables" give the 10/- comb-perforation gauge as 13×12. Please do not write and tell me that I am wrong!).

Our final "variety" (this time both shade and perforation) was released July 1947. It is worth recording that both catalogues provide an almost identical shade description! Stanley Gibbons lists brownish-olive, S.G.122b; Commonwealth notes brown-olive, C.W.12a.

Although both catalogues are in shade agreement, their pricing is quite different. Stanley Gibbons rates three times the Commonwealth valuation! I think that Stanley Gibbons are probably quite near the mark. Apart from initial supplies of "C.T.O." for New Issues services, how many normal postally used copies are available? Not many!

In the background is a "cat-boat", a local fishing vessel some 12-20 ft. in length. Chief characteristics are the employment of a single sail and the blue-painted hull.

Cayman Schooner (2½d. and 5/-).

This attractive scene shows a locally built vessel under full sail off the west coast of Grand Cayman. North-West Point is in the background. Boat building is a very important industry and all types up to 100 tons are turned out by local labour. Their sailing qualities are well-known and a sturdy construction provides a satisfactory margin of safety in almost all weathers.

The Definitives.

The original issues of both printers appeared on a relatively thick cream paper with a gum usually affected by the climate. In many cases the gum "change" causes the original printed colours to assume a deeper tone.

From 1942 onwards the paper became thinner and whiter (with clear gum). This obvious characteristic enables later printings to be easily identified.

The "Waterlow" Printings.

To commence, we record with the ¼d. orange of 1938 (first introduced during 1908, this value was used for postcards and printed matter within the Dependency) and pass to the release of July 1943, which provided the only perforation variety of the Waterlow series. Closely resembling the original in shade, and line-perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, this stamp is not easy to find in genuine postally used condition. December 1945 brought a noticeable shade. Listed as pale red-orange (C.W.1a) it shows up well against the original orange.

When dealing with the 1d., the many slightly differing shades create confusion, and I consider that apart from the 1938 deep scarlet and the 1943 deep red, the only other printing worthy of attention came from the release of December 1945. This shade is difficult to describe. It is listed as C.W.2a scarlet-red. Although this shade description is not strictly accurate, it serves as a useful guide for shade comparison.

When seen in company with later grey-blacks, the 1½d. black of 1938 is always outstanding; it is well worth a place in the collection.

Little variation of importance can be found among the 2½d. values, although later printings appear brighter than the original release.

The 3d. deep orange of 1938 is a good stamp, and in years to come will become more difficult to find. A release of December 1945 gave us a nice shade listed as reddish-orange (C.W.6a). In view of the June 1942 release (which is best described as reddish-orange), I consider that from the point of view of relative shade description, the December 1945 printing is better noted as **pale** reddish-orange. When placed together, the three printings are of considerable interest.

Next we deal with the well-known and much in demand 2/- yellow-green (S.G.124, C.W.8). In the first instance this obvious shade did not appear in Specialist "Tables". But later, when accorded belated catalogue recognition, it was included in amended "Tables" and became "the outstanding shade of the set"!

Little doubt exists that this most popular "original" is in very short supply. Copies brought back from the Dependency (when first on sale) differ considerably from those imported at a later date. Their bright appearance, when viewed against gum-affected Dependency copies, is outstanding.

Reference to the "Two Reigns" catalogue shows "S.G.124 2/- yellow-green (shades)". No doubt many collectors will ask how it is possible to have "shades" of a shade! Upon reflection, I think that possibly this interpretation is a little unfair. By "shades" I am sure the catalogue editor intends to convey that stamps belonging to this group can be found with different shade appearances. Surely this attitude is reasonable?

The release of July 1943 gave us a distinctive green (C.W.8a) and a later printing of August 1948 showed a relatively deep green (C.W.8b) needing no description. Stanley Gibbons lists 124a deep green (July 1943). I cannot agree. When placed together the three stamps display obvious shade differences.

If we accept deep green as the proper description of the July 1943 printing how can we describe the release of August 1948?

At this stage I introduce to shade-variety enthusiasts a word of warning concerning the original

CAYMAN ISLANDS

STAMP COLLECTING 18/9/69

Cayman ¼d. Reprinted on Block CA paper

The last ¼d. Cayman Is. definitive was reprinted on Block CA paper to provide for the provisional ¼c. decimal surcharge stamp. (The entire set was reprinted on Block CA paper for decimal surcharging.) However, the Crown Agents also requested stocks of this watermarked ¼d. stamp *without the surcharge* in order to balance stocks of the unwatermarked obsolescent sterling issue and be in a position to offer the trade short and complete sets.

The unsurcharged watermarked ¼d. stamp, therefore, was not available singly to the trade but had to be purchased with sets to, at least, the 1s. value.

STAMP COLLECTING 12/2/70

Caymans 1969 Christmas Missing Gold

One complete sheet (25 stamps) of the 1969 Cayman Islands Christmas ¼c. emerald green has just been discovered with the gold omitted. Derek Worboys, of London, S.W.20, has bought the whole sheet. The 1968 ¼d. stamp with gold omitted (printed in a sheet of 60) now sells for £150 per stamp. Once the four corner blocks of the latest find are sold this will leave only nine singles available.

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, April 1973

Cayman Is. Inverted Watermark

The Cayman Islands new currency miniature sheet has been found with watermark sideways inverted.

P. Magazine Oct. 1971

Cayman Islands Olympic Error

A complete sheet of the Cayman Islands 1/3d. Olympic Games stamp has been discovered imperforate. Most of it has been purchased by David Field Ltd., who will be offering it at £125 a pair on their stand at Philympia.

JAMAICA USED IN CAYMANS

In J. H. Byl's article, "Jamaica used in Caymans" (*p. 2285, 3rd August*) the list of the known total for Georgetown Type III (a) should read 6 and not 9.

27

CAYMAN ISLANDS

GIBBONS' STAMP MONTHLY, Mar., April & May, 1963

AN ISSUE IS BORN

CAYMAN ISLANDS, 1962

"TOURISM," declares the Crown Agents leaflet on these new stamps, "is fast becoming an important factor in the Islands' economy. The Islands have many miles of beautiful white coral sand beaches which are an important attraction for visitors." So we cannot really be surprised—though perhaps a little disappointed—to find that the original design material, shown to us by courtesy of the Crown Agents, consists mainly of "holiday snapshots", some of them small Kodacolor prints, the others half-plate or whole-plate black-and-white prints. It follows that some of the designs, despite all the well-meaning efforts of Bradbury, Wilkinson's engravers, are commonplace and dull. One wonders why small administrations like that of the Cayman Islands do not enlist the services of professional photographers and artists to invigorate the subjects they wish to depict. To "take a leaf", in fact, from the travel agent's brochure.



1. The Kodacolor print—source of the ¼d. design. From a photograph by Mrs. Juanita J. Bigler.

¼d. Cayman Parrot. The model for this predominantly green little parrot is a Kodacolor print dated May, 1960 (*Fig.* 1). which, however, failed to show up the bright green plumage. Probably due to faulty exposure, the bird has a muddy, greenish blue coat, but to guide the printers in this matter of colour a "splash" of the appropriate green was included in the design material. The stamp bird has become emerald rather than the yellow-green of the chart, but we don't suppose our friend *Psittacidae chrysotis caymanensis Cory* will take offence at that. The red colour might well have been used for his pole or perch, though. The posture of the bird, for which there were three additional black-and-white prints as a guide, fits well into Bradbury's elaborate frame which is characteristic of the whole issue.





2. The art of balance on a cat boat—subject of the 1d. stamp.

1d. Cat Boat. The source of this design, which has been copied exactly, is one of the larger photographs (*Fig.* 2) and came from the Institute of Jamaica. It is presumed that the sail has just been hoisted and that the crew member standing precariously on the gunwale is now posing for the photographer. Another member of the crew appears to be contemplating a dive into the sea for crayfish or, perhaps, conch. Cat-boats are simple craft—the timbers are cut from trees which are naturally shaped by the prevailing trade winds. The stamp itself has a length of Cayman rope to enhance the nautical aspect.



1½d. Orchid. Flowering plants are, of course, always an attractive subject for stamps and *Schomburgkia thomsoniana* has charm though sparsely bloomed. The source is a very small Kodacolor print (*Fig.* 3) which has been reversed to suit the horizontal format of the stamp. Judging by its surroundings it is a cultivated plant and the flowers consist of orange-yellow " fingers " with small crimson cups. The latter are not clearly depicted on the stamp, where the plant, at first glance, appears to belong to the edelweiss family!



4. Cayman map stamp of 1953, and . . .



. . . the latest version.

2d. Map. The design material included a folding map of the Cayman Islands drawn by the Directorate of Overseas Surveys (1957) to the scale of roughly 3½ miles to the inch. It could have done little more than provide the broad outline of each of the three islands, but comparison with the previous map stamps of the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (1953) (*Fig.* 4) issues shows some startling differences, not only in the shape of Grand Cayman, but also in the relative positions of Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. These were formerly positioned horizontally east to west, but are now shown in their true position on a diagonal line running approximately east-north-east to west-south-west.

2½d. Fisherman casting Net. This stamp is very similar to the current 6 cents stamp of Barbados, but its source is in fact a quarter-plate Kodacolor print (*Fig.* 5)



5. The simple life—another Kodacolor photo (2½d.).



3. The Kodacolor print of " Schomburgkia thomsoniana " (1½d.) photographed by Mrs. Juanita J. Bigler.



which has been reproduced in a very simple line engraving. The horizon has been lowered to close-up the perspective, giving the effect that would have been obtained with a telephoto lens. Casting a round net into the edge of the surf is an effective method of catching " sprats " for bait. The Kodacolor was taken by Mr. Ronald Beck in June, 1960.



(Continued)

AN ISSUE IS BORN

CAYMAN ISLANDS, 1962

(*Continued ~~from March number~~*)

3d. West Bay Beach. This, of course, is the cliché of all holiday snaps—the typical "Butlin's" family group on the Kodacolor beach (*Fig.* 6, dated May, 1960), a pastel pink and blue print in which the pink of the ladies' bathing costumes has spread all over the surrounding water. But the engraver has eliminated all but two of the reclining figures (the others have gone to fetch the ice-cream). Again the engraving is barely adequate; the Bahamas 8d. made rather a better job of Paradise Beach with a more lively and animated scene—*they* had beach umbrellas, too. This was another photo by Mrs. Juanita J. Bigler, a former resident of Grand Cayman.





6. Lazing on a Kodacolor beach (3d.).



7. Another Kodacolor—the source of the 4d. design.

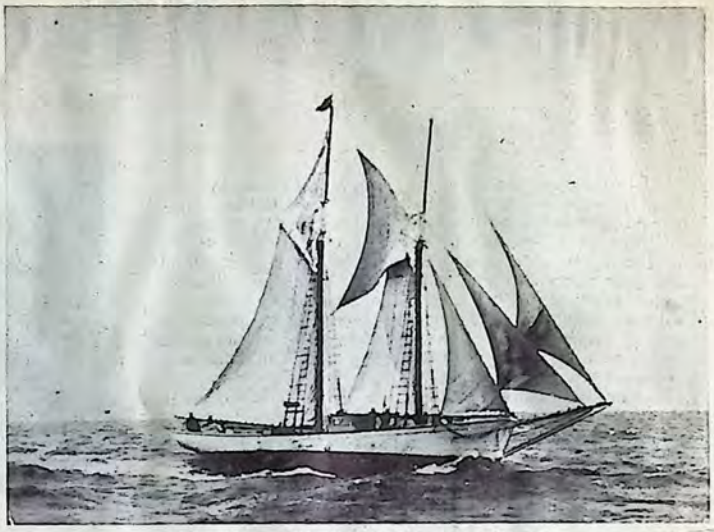


4d. Green Turtle. Another Kodacolor quarter-plate print (*Fig.* 7) and one that shows the deep grey-green to black tone of the turtle's enormous shell and something of its glossy, metallic texture. And he looks as puzzled as we are by those size 10 footprints in the sand. The engraving is a fairly accurate copy of the turtle—all but the head which has a rounded appearance, rather than the "hammer-head" of the original photograph. And the absence of any indication of the creature wallowing in the sand (as it is) gives the impression that its body is several inches above the ground. The photographer was Mr. I. A. McTaggart, a U.S. resident in Grand Cayman.

6d. Cayman Schooner. Perhaps the engraver is a man of the sea for this stamp is a nicely engraved miniature of the photograph (*Fig.* 8) of the *Lydia Wilson*, last of the Cayman-built vessels still operating under sail in the turtle-catching industry. The picture has all the charm of a sailing ship at sea in a moderate breeze. A slight disconcertion is the absence of the horizon on the left of the vessel on the stamp, presumably omitted to give prominence to the stern. This photo comes from the archives of the Institute of Jamaica.



9d. Angler with Kingfish. As can be seen, the black-and-white snapshot of the angler (*Fig.* 9) has been copied in simple outline, only the "trimmings"—the boat and the other, recumbent fish, having been removed. Visiting fishing enthusiasts, usually from the United States, claim that certain types of fishing off the Cayman Islands are unsurpassed. The "king" fisherman depicted is U.S. citizen Dr. George A. Ford, father of James Ford, owner and Commodore of the Cayman Yacht Club. We suppose it would be caddish to enquire whether Dr. Ford himself caught the fish?



8. The photo. of the "Lydia Wilson" for the 6d.

1s. Iguana. The design material included some half-tone plates of iguanas, extracted from Chapman Grant's *The Herpetology of the Cayman Islands*, published by the Institute of Jamaica. Among them was this picture (*Fig.* 10), source of the design of the 1s. stamp, with the following caption: "Adult female of *Cyclura macleayi caymanensis* from Cayman Brac, in captivity. Photo by W. N. Paton, Oxford University Cayman Islands Biological Expedition." The engraving is accurate (note the minute dorsal spines on the lizard's back—barely discernible in the photograph), but the tail seems disproportionately shortened.





9. Dr. Ford with the Kingfish (9d.).





10. Posing for Mr. Paton—the iguana (1s.).

(Continued)

AN ISSUE IS BORN

CAYMAN ISLANDS, 1962

(*Continued ~~from April number~~*)

1s. 3d. Swimming Pool, Cayman Brac. This Kodacolor print (dated June, 1960, was " taken for the Government " by Captain E. S. Sherwood, formerly Chief of Police, Cayman Islands. It's a pretty lurid photo, the pool itself being a riot of " Reckitt's blue". There wasn't much scope here for the engraver and, as we can see on the stamp, he just didn't bother! The engraving, which must have taken all of an hour to prepare, is a very poor piece of work—a bare rectangle for the pool, a few skimpy palms and two " Mr. Chad "-like cartoon figures in the water. We cannot imagine this stamp attracting tourists to the Buccaneers Inn on Cayman Brac. (*Fig.* 11.)



11. Capt. Sherwood's picture of the pool at the Buccaneers Inn (1s. 3d.).







12. " The blonde on the beach "—source of the 1s. 9d. design.

1s. 9d. Water Sports. We thought this large black-and-white print (*Fig.* 12) was just one of the usual " model on the beach " photos which agencies keep filed away under classified headings—" Blondes ", " Beachwear ", " Water Sports ", etc. So it was with tongue firmly in cheek that we asked the Crown Agents who " the blonde on the beach " was. The answer was briskly informative: she is Mrs. Jacqueline Gregory, a visitor from London, and the photographer (as for the 2½d. reviewed last month) was Mr. Ronald Beck, formerly staff photographer, Hannau Colour Productions Inc., U.S.A. The stamp is a fair reproduction; the water-skier has been moved clear of the bather's upraised hand. But sailing enthusiasts wouldn't regard a 6-foot pram dinghy as a source of much sport!

5s. Fort George. There were several photographs of the fort ruins, including one from the archives of the Institute of Jamaica, but the model for the stamp design was a large water-colour (*Fig.* 13) executed by the Institute's staff artist, whose name is not revealed. This may be just as well for we feel bound to criticize his interpretation of the crumbling, weed-covered, tumble-down walls and cannon embrasures clearly shown in the photograph (*Fig.* 14). His bricks are altogether too new and neat and tidy, and unfortunately the engraver has emphasized this aspect of the "ruined fort"! The overall effect is ludicrous.



13. The painting and . . .





14. . . . the ruins of Fort George as they really are (5s.).

£1 Queen Elizabeth. This is a very fine stamp indeed, the Annigoni portrait beautifully placed in relation to the bold, "chunky" frame, and embellishments. The "£1" is a good, solid piece of engraving placed bang in the (lower) centre of the stamp, while the Cayman rope and conch shells have been "borrowed" from previous Cayman issues.

10s. Arms of the Cayman Islands. Little can be said of the Arms. The heraldic description was given in *Stamps of the Month*, February, 1963, *G.S.M.*, and this design was taken from the issue of July, 1959, commemorating the New Constitution. Bradbury, Wilkinson's recess work gives a sharper, finer impression than De La Rue's photogravure, of course.





GIBBONS' STAMP MONTHLY, June, 1963

CAYMAN ISLANDS

To the Editor, G.S.M.

Dear Sir,

I have been reading with interest your series "An Issue is Born" relating to the Cayman Islands, 1962. In the first instalment of this series, appearing in the March number, a photograph of the cat-boat used for the design of the 1d. stamp is quoted as being from the collection of the Institute of Jamaica. Now, in the April issue I observe similar acknowledgment for the photograph of the schooner *Lydia Wilson*.

These two photographs and the one of Fort George, which was used not too successfully, I must add, in the preparation of the 5s. stamp, are from my personal collection and are not in the files of the Institute of Jamaica. As questions might be raised as to why they cannot be found at the Institute of Jamaica, perhaps you can make a suitable correction.

Yours faithfully,

C. BERNARD LEWIS

Director, The Institute of Jamaica, Kingston, Jamaica.

the commonwealth review
VOL. 2 No. 14
14 MAR. 1969

Cayman Islands

1—The Adhesives

By DAVID POTTER

IN 1962 appeared a masterly handbook, *The Cayman Islands*, by E. F. Aguilar and P. T. Saunders. There is little point in going over the ground covered by that book, and I strongly recommend readers that are interested, to get a copy while it is still in print. I refer to this work as A. S. This first article is confined to the adhesive stamps, and will be followed by an account of the Cayman Islands Scandal, and finally by a review of the postal history.

There are three islands in the group: Grand Cayman, 150 miles south of Cuba and 180 miles west of Jamaica, with Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, some five miles apart, 70 miles to the north east of Grand Cayman.



Jamaican stamps used in Cayman Islands.

The first post offices were opened at Georgetown, Grand Cayman in 1889 and at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac in 1898. They functioned as branch offices of the Jamaican postal service, with Jamaica stamps in use. Irregular as postal communications were, it was nevertheless much appreciated, and the inhabitants requested an extension to other parts of the islands as well as permission "to issue their own stamps, and derive the revenue therefrom".

Eventually after approval by the Jamaican Assembly, and the Justices and Vestry of Cayman Islands, designs were prepared in the universal key plate pattern. The initial supply of about 50,000 of each of two values, ½d. and 1d., was shipped on August 7th, 1900. Their safe receipt was acknowledged on November 20th, 1900, and the earliest mention is in *The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* of October 27th, 1900. Although the official date of issue is given as February 19th, 1901, it would seem that they were in use prior to that day. A further supply brought the total number up to around 100,000 of each, although 33,449 of the 1d. were subsequently withdrawn.

The first consignments of these stamps to dealers, were despatched in envelopes franked by Jamaican 3d. values, giving rise to the suggestion that the Cayman Islands stamps were of only local status pending entry to the U.P.U. This supposition is quite untrue, for the admission of Jamaica to the U.P.U. in 1877 included the Cayman Islands dependency.

Further denominations were ordered and, due to the accession of King Edward VII, bear his portrait. Once again the date of issue is problematical. The first shipment arrived in Jamaica on January 24th, 1902, and was put on sale in Georgetown a few days later. The catalogues have yet to recognise this important amendment which comes from A.S. The first shipment contained only 2½d., 6d. and 1s. values, to be joined by the ½d., when the Queen Victoria value became exhausted on September 15th, 1902, and by the 1d. on March 6th, 1903, when the earlier 1d. was withdrawn. There appears to be some conflict of opinion, as to the number actually printed. A.S. quotes for the first issue 2½d. (13,560), 6d. (5,000) and 1s. (2,000), but these are apparently obtained by totalling the first two consignments, and it is probable that further orders followed. D. B. Armstrong in his Stamp Lover booklet agrees on the 2½d. figure, but gives 5,400 for the 6d. and 3,240 for the 1s.

The introduction of the allover watermark, meant that collectable varieties appeared, and were actually put on sale in March, 1905, with the exception of the 1d. which had to wait until October 18th that year. Once again there is some difficulty over printing figures. A.S. base their information on the totals of the first two printings, and give for instance 6d. (2,594), and 1d. (2,435). Yet the remainders sold by the Crown Agents in 1908 were 4,881 of the 6d. and 5,473 of the 1s. alone.

The Cayman Islands Vestry passed a law on November 8th, 1906, to impose new duties on the various classes of documents, to be paid for by adhesive postage stamps. To this end, the bicoloured issue of March 13th, 1907 appeared, and it is thought that the inscription "Postage-Postage", was a mistake. Armstrong quotes the number printed for the 5s. as 6,000 and of these 3,960 are known to have been surcharged.

The provisionals deserve an article to themselves, but once the dust had settled the "Postage-Revenue" series materialised. The 1s. and 10s. came out on residual stocks of the old single watermark paper, no doubt because a supply of the special green paper was still on hand. Other denominations and eventually the 1s. were realeased on the multiple CA paper. Three values in this series are particularly scarce, and their quantities are known. They are 1s. single watermark (6,000), 10s. (3,000) and 4d. (2,400). Incidentally 396 copies of the 4d. were subsequently surcharged for fiscal use, and the resulting net figure of 2,004, explains its high price tag. More than one printing was made of the others, for they were off sale in mid-1908, are not unduly un common, and Melville records in 1912 that the stocks of most denominations were sufficient for the time being.

The Georgian era opened on April 24th, 1912, with ½d., 2d., 2s. and 3s. stamps, the last three being new denominations. It was not until 1914 that the simplified set was completed with the 2½d. and 5s., and paper variations continued even later. They arose from the closure in 1912 of the mills producing special tinted paper. Interim measures produced the





"whitebacks", the ordinary chalk surface being coloured before application. Further experiments followed in an attempt to match the original tints of the fully coloured papers.

World War I, and a demand for revenue, saw the imposition of a war tax, every post letter addressed to the Commonwealth incurring a ½d. surtax. Sensibly steps were taken to cover the postage and tax in one go, and a 1½d. value was ordered. 24,000 2½d. stamps were sent to Kingston for overprinting and surcharge, but the dealers got wind of the operation, and orders flooded in to exceed the total printing. With no further 2½d. stamps on hand, further supplies had to come from London. When they in turn were sent for treatment, they received a different type of overprint. The first consignment sold out on the day of issue, and the second, one month later.

This state of affairs had been anticipated, and a large London overprint was on order, and they arrived in September 1917. This particular despatch was responsible for the first of the Cayman Islands abnormals, with some seven sheets receiving the rare overprint. Later still large supplies of the 2½d. printed in orange, and surcharged 1½d., together with the ½d. with only a war tax overprint were put on sale. This complicated method of surcharging, obviated the need to lay down a special duty plate with a 1½d. value. Finally the 2d. grey, chosen to use up large existing stocks, appeared on March 20th, 1920. By some oversight the tax law had lapsed in the previous November, so the stamps were not really needed. They were however sold until supplies ran out, but a second overprint, this time in red which had been ordered, was destroyed with the single exception of a corner copy that leaked out.

A break away from the key plate tradition came about in 1921, when a design similar to that used by New Zealand was introduced. Once again a few sheets of Cayman Islands abnormals were issued, the 3d. on pale yellow and the 5s. on blue green. And once again too, the set suffered a change in watermark, this time from multiple CA to script CA, with the 3d., 1s., 5s. and 10s. existing on both papers. The 4d. was not reprinted, but instead a 4½d. value covering the combined foreign postage and registration fee took its place. Perforations come in either comb or line, but not all denominations exist in both forms.

In 1935 the Caymans went pictorial with a bicoloured series. The monarch's head was framed with thatch rope, which was and still is appropriate with exports of around £16,000

1/2

(*Continued overleaf*)

CAYMAN ISLANDS (*Cont. from page 1*)



annually, about half the total figure. The other main item in the export economy is turtles, and products like turtle skin, shell and meat. They account for most of the remainder reaching about £14,000, and are to be seen on the 2½d. and 5s. values. Yet again, the catalogues are incorrect in their date of issue. Although the majority did appear on May 1st, 1935, the four values in the Silver Jubilee set took precedence so that the ½d., 2½d., 6d. and 1s. were not released until January 1st, 1936.

The King George VI issue followed in a pictorial format, but in monochrome. Once again turtles, rope and combinations thereof, predominate. The Commonwealth catalogue listing is followed faithfully by A.S. Further pictorial series in 1950, 1953-1959, and 1962 carry the story up to the present day. The range of designs has been extended, but rope and turtles are still very much in evidence.



The commemorative policy has been restrained in the extreme. Apart from participation in omnibus issues, there have been only four special series. The self government of the Cayman Islands dates back to 1832, and so the centenary in 1932 was commemorated, following the custom at that time, by a long set from ½d. to 10s. The Assembly of Justices and Vestry consisted of the Governor, Justices of the Peace and locally elected vestrymen. The title "Custos" was later substituted for Governor, and the governor of the islands by custom was filled by the Governor of Jamaica Not until July 4th, 1959, did a second local commemorative set appear this time marking the grant of a new constitution. The islands which had been a dependency of Jamaica, now severed this relationship although for the time being the Governor of Jamaica held the governorship of the Cayman Islands in plurality. Jamaica withdrew from the Federation of the



West Indies although the Caymans remained inside. When Jamaica became independent in 1962, the Administrator was upgraded, and the legislative assembly now consists of the Administrator as president, between 4 and 6 official or nominated members and 12 elected members.



Not until December 5th, 1966 did another special set appear, commemorating the international telephone link, installed by Cable and Wireless, and at the same time providing radio telephones on Grand Cayman and between the islands. Twelve days later another two values marked the opening of an air jet service Internal flights are operated by Cayman Brac Airways Limited, with three services weekly in winter and two in summer, and an annual subsidy of £4,000.

The future of the stamp issuing policy has been officially stated. "The Government has no intention of flooding the market with a view to increasing its revenue. From time to time local commemoratives issues will be made when appropriate. The ½d. stamp will be retained in memory of a little coin no longer in use in Britain."

(*Illustrations by courtesy of Robson Lowe Ltd.*)

Cayman Islands

2—The Scandal

By DAVID POTTER

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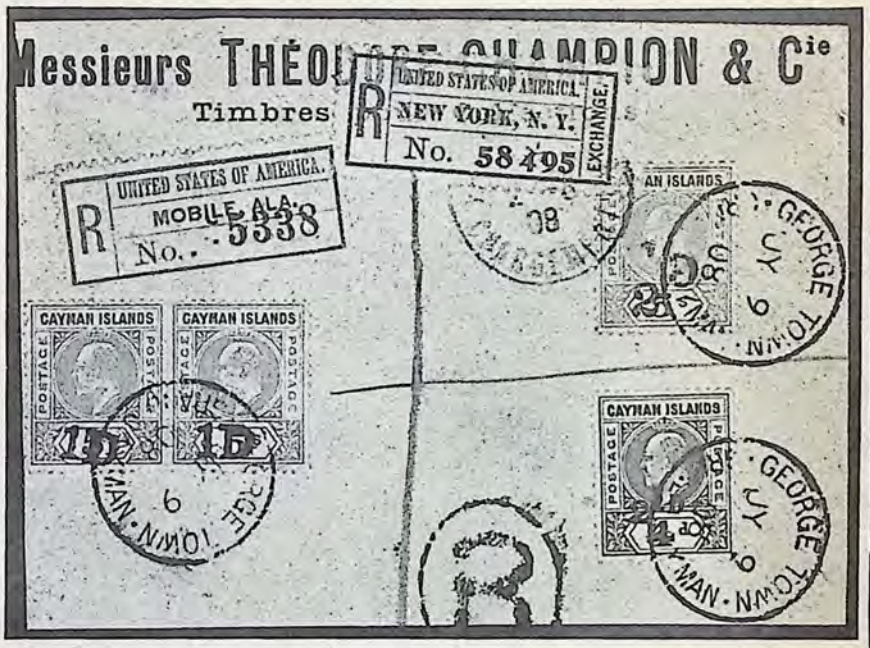
IT is hard to realise now, that sixty years ago, in 1908, the Cayman Islands were considered to be one of the most speculative countries in the world. Scarcely a week passed without some sort of comment in the philatelic press.

In the space of one year no less than five provisionals were issued, all in small numbers, although one of these was expressly designated as valid only for fiscal use. Isolation, speculation, maladministration and incompetence have all played their part in the story of "The Great Cayman Islands Scandal".

Major Evans writing in *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* in September 1908, summed up the feelings of most collectors at that time. He was writing on the subject of unavoidable provisional issues. "Of course opportunities have been afforded by the actions of higher authorities in allowing little places like Cayman Islands to have separate stamps of their own. If there were no stamps at all on hand for a week or two, very little inconvenience would be caused in these insignificant little places. If stamps run out, postage could be paid in cash, and letters marked paid . . . The remedy for the Cayman Islands disease is to withdraw altogether the privilege of having special stamps which has been so disgracefully abused. Let the inhabitants revert to the stamps of Jamaica, which I suppose they used down to 1900, if indeed they required stamps at all".

The story begins in May 1907, when thanks to a large order from abroad, it was stated by the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands that the stock of ½d. stamps had been reduced to some 2,000. He asked permission from the Jamaican Colonial Secretary to have 4,800 1d. stamps surcharged ½d. Permission was granted, but he was told to refuse large orders in future, unless his stock was sufficient. An example of the leisurely nature of those times, or perhaps indicative of the extraordinary lack of administration, the Commissioner mentioned in passing that he would be running short of other denominations, and that *when* that happened he would submit the question of a new issue to the Governor. In brief, once he had run short, he would think about new supplies.

The ½d./1d. was issued on August 30th, 1907. With a total face value of £10, it is not surprising that they were in great demand, and by November they were exhausted. So, unfortunately, were the 1d. stamps, injudiciously reduced in numbers by the provisional issue. There was no time to write to Jamaica, or perhaps after the previous instructions the Commissioner did not wish to be called to account for his stewardship. He therefore authorised the local surcharging of a stamp in little demand, the 5/- value. 2,160 were surcharged 1d. and issued on November 23rd, 1907 and 1,800 were surcharged ½d., to appear three days later on November 26th, 1907. They proved sufficient for local use, and in fact several of the islanders purchased supplies in bulk for stamp dealers. The long awaited ½d. and 1d. definitives, in the new postage revenue key plate design were put on sale on December 27th, 1907.



Ewens' Colonial Stamp Market purchased nearly half of the local surcharges. They record that two correspondents sent as many as 720. In their weekly magazine it is wryly stated that some of these arrived as a result of a fortunate accident. They had cabled for supplies of ½d./1d. to a local resident, but he was away. He returned when the ½d./5/- were on sale, and thought that these were required. He did not, however, fail to deduce that 7 guineas spent on a cable indicated that the stamps were badly needed. He charged Ewens £150 for his visit to the post office, but nevertheless it was the cheapest of their purchases. Some eight months after issue they were selling ½d./5/- for 10/-, 1d./5/- for 15/- and offering to pay 2/6d. for the ½d./1d. to get stocks for their new issue service.

The size of the definitive supply received on December 27th, 1907 is not known. By the end of January 1908, just one month later stocks were already running low. When the ship *Zenaida* called at Georgetown on February 12th, 1908 offering to take away foreign mail, via Cuba, it was thought dangerous to allow the ½d. and 1d. to be used up. So back to the local surcharges, and 480 were issued, 2½d. on the 4d. bicoloured value. They lasted two days, before they too became exhausted.

In March 1908, the 2½d. value arrived together with 3d., 4d., 1/-, 5/- and 10/-. It is suspected that the lower values were also included in the shipment. Nevertheless, by May 1908, the ½d. and 1d. were once again completely exhausted. No more provisionals was now the firm rule and covers were endorsed paid, providing an interesting postal history item without further upsetting the collector. One resident, however, insisted on 1d. stamps for use on receipts, so on May 12th a 1d./4d. appeared, strictly for fiscal use. 396 surcharged stamps were made in all. Efforts by collectors to get these accepted on cover by the post office met with failure. Sometime towards the end of May it appears likely that ½d. and 1d. stamps were again available.

Meanwhile in February 1908, in an attempt to revive the local mail service, a letter rate of ½d., and a postcard or 2 ounce printed matter rate of ½d. was established. A special ½d. stamp appeared on June 30th, 1908, with a first printing of 72,000. Miss G. A. Parsons, the Postmistress, issued a notice stating "½d. stamps and ½d. postcards, being solely for internal postage in the Cayman Islands Dependencies, will only be sold across the counter at a post office in the Cayman Islands". Since the Colonial Stamp Market had ordered 72,000 equivalent to the entire first printing, and another dealer had ordered 36,000, the notice can be accepted as reasonable enough. The Postmistress is quoted on August 24th 1908 "Only ½d., 1d., 5/- and 10/- stamps at present in stock". Already the intermediate values had gone, so that a packet requiring postage in shillings would have been well daubed with low values, and another letter a few days later showed that the 5/- was exhausted too.

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Cayman Islands

1—The Adhesives

By DAVID POTTER

The Commonwealth Review
VOL. 2 No. 14
14 MAR. 1969

IN 1962 appeared a masterly handbook, *The Cayman Islands*, by E. F. Aguilar and P. T. Saunders. There is little point in going over the ground covered by that book, and I strongly recommend readers that are interested, to get a copy while it is still in print. I refer to this work as A. S. This first article is confined to adhesive stamps, and will be followed by account of the Cayman Islands Scandal, and finally by a review of the postal history.

There are three islands in the group: Grand Cayman, 150 miles south of Cuba and 180 miles west of Jamaica, with Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, some five miles apart, 70 miles to the north east of Grand Cayman.



Jamaican stamps used in Cayman Islands.

The first post offices were opened at Georgetown, Grand Cayman in 1889 and at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac in 1898. They functioned as branch offices of the Jamaican postal service, with Jamaica stamps in use. Irregular as postal communications were, it was nevertheless much appreciated, and the inhabitants requested an extension to other parts of the islands as well as permission "to issue their own stamps, and derive the revenue therefrom".

Eventually after approval by the Jamaican Assembly, and the Justices and Vestry of Cayman Islands, designs were prepared in the universal key plate pattern. The initial supply of about 50,000 of each of two values, ½d. and 1d., was shipped on August 7th, 1900. Their safe receipt was acknowledged on November 20th, 1900, and the earliest mention is in *The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* of October 27th, 1900. Although the official date of issue is given as February 19th, 1901, it would seem that they were in use prior to that day. A further supply brought the total number up to around 100,000 of each, although 33,449 of the 1d. were subsequently withdrawn.

The first consignments of these stamps to dealers, were despatched in envelopes franked by Jamaican 3d. values, giving rise to the suggestion that the Cayman Islands stamps were of only local status pending entry to the U.P.U. This supposition is quite untrue, for the admission of Jamaica to the U.P.U. in 1877 included the Cayman Islands dependency.

Further denominations were ordered and, due to the accession of King Edward VII, bear his portrait. Once again the date of issue is problematical. The first shipment arrived in Jamaica on January 24th, 1902, and was put on sale in Georgetown a few days later. The catalogues have yet to recognise this important amendment which comes from A.S. The first shipment contained only 2½d., 6d. and 1s. values, to be joined by the ½d., when the Queen Victoria value became exhausted on September 15th, 1902, and by the 1d. on March 6th, 1903, when the earlier 1d. was withdrawn. There appears to be some conflict of opinion, as to the number actually printed. A.S. quotes for the first issue 2½d. (13,560), 6d. (5,000) and 1s. (2,000), but these are apparently obtained by totalling the first two consignments, and it is probable that further orders followed. D. B. Armstrong in his Stamp Lover booklet agrees on the 2½d: figure, but gives 5,400 for the 6d. and 3,240 for the 1s.

The introduction of the allover watermark, meant that collectable varieties appeared, and were actually put on sale in March, 1905, with the exception of the 1d. which had to wait until October 18th that year. Once again there is some difficulty over printing figures. A.S. base their information on the totals of the first two printings, and give for instance 6d. (2,594), and ½d. (2,435). Yet the remainders sold by the Crown Agents in 1908 were 4,881 of the 6d. and 5,473 of the 1s. alone.

The Cayman Islands Vestry passed a law on November 8th, 1906, to impose new duties on the various classes of documents, to be paid for by adhesive postage stamps. To this end, the bicoloured issue of March 13th, 1907 appeared, and it is thought that the inscription "Postage-Postage", was a mistake. Armstrong quotes the number printed for the 5s. as 6,000 and of these 3,960 are known to have been surcharged.

The provisionals deserve an article to themselves, but once the dust had settled the "Postage-Revenue" series materialised. The 1s. and 10s. came out on residual stocks of the old single watermark paper, no doubt because a supply of the special green paper was still on hand. Other denominations and eventually the 1s. were realeased on the multiple CA paper. Three values in this series are particularly scarce, and their quantities are known. They are 1s. single watermark (6,000), 10s. (3,000) and 4d. (2,400). Incidentally 396 copies of the 4d. were subsequently surcharged for fiscal use, and the resulting net figure of 2,004, explains its high price tag. More than one printing was made of the others, for they were off sale in mid-1908, are not unduly un common, and Melville records in 1912 that the stocks of most denominations were sufficient for the time being.

The Georgian era opened on April 24th, 1912, with ½d., 2d., 2s. and 3s. stamps, the last three being new denominations. It was not until 1914 that the simplified set was completed with the 2½d. and 5s., and paper variations continued even later. They arose from the closure in 1912 of the mills producing special tinted paper. Interim measures produced the





"whitebacks", the ordinary chalk surface being coloured before application. Further experiments followed in an attempt to match the original tints of the fully coloured papers.

World War I, and a demand for revenue, saw the imposition of a war tax, every post letter addressed to the Commonwealth incurring a ½d. surtax. Sensibly steps were taken to cover the postage and tax in one go, and a 1½d. value was ordered. 24,000 2½d. stamps were sent to Kingston for overprinting and surcharge, but the dealers got wind of the operation, and orders flooded in to exceed the total printing. With no further 2½d. stamps on hand, further supplies had to come from London. When they in turn were sent for treatment, they received a different type of overprint. The first consignment sold out on the day of issue, and the second, one month later.

This state of affairs had been anticipated, and a large London overprint was on order, and they arrived in September 1917. This particular despatch was responsible for the first of the Cayman Islands abnormals, with some seven sheets receiving the rare overprint. Later still large supplies of the 2½d. printed in orange, and surcharged 1½d., together with the ½d. with only a war tax overprint were put on sale. This complicated method of surcharging, obviated the need to lay down a special duty plate with a 1½d. value. Finally the 2d. grey, chosen to use up large existing stocks, appeared on March 20th, 1920. By some oversight the tax law had lapsed in the previous November, so the stamps were not really needed. They were however sold until supplies ran out, but a second overprint, this time in red which had been ordered, was destroyed with the single exception of a corner copy that leaked out.

A break away from the key plate tradition came about in 1921, when a design similar to that used by New Zealand was introduced. Once again a few sheets of Cayman Islands abnormals were issued, the 3d. on pale yellow and the 5s. on blue green. And once again too, the set suffered a change in watermark, this time from multiple CA to script CA, with the 3d., 1s., 5s. and 10s. existing on both papers. The 4d. was not reprinted, but instead a 4½d. value covering the combined foreign postage and registration fee took its place. Perforations come in either comb or line, but not all denominations exist in both forms.

In 1935 the Caymans went pictorial with a bicoloured series. The monarch's head was framed with thatch rope, which was and still is appropriate with exports of around £16,000

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(Continued from page 1)



annually, about half the total figure. The other main item in the export economy is turtles, and products like turtle skin, shell and meat. They account for most of the remainder reaching about £14,000, and are to be seen on the 2½d. and 5s. values. Yet again, the catalogues are incorrect in their date of issue. Although the majority did appear on May 1st, 1935, the f[illegible] values in the Silver Jubilee set took pre[illegible]ce so that the ½d., 2½d., 6d. and 1s. were not released until January 1st, 1936.

The King George VI issue followed in a pictorial format, but in monochrome. Once again turtles, rope and combinations thereof, [illegible]ominate. The Commonwealth catalogue [illegible] is followed faithfully by A.S. Further pictorial series in 1950, 1953-1959, and 1962 carry the story up to the present day. The range of designs has been extended, but rope and turtles are still very much in evidence.



The commemorative policy has been restrained in the extreme. Apart from participation in omnibus issues, there have been only four special series. The self government of the Cayman Islands dates back to 1832, [illegible]so the centenary in 1932 was commemor[illegible]d, following the custom at that time, by a long set from ½d. to 10s. The Assembly of Justices and Vestry consisted of the Governor, Justices of the Peace and locally elected vestrymen. The title "Custos" was later substituted [illegible]Governor, and the governor of the islands [illegible]stom was filled by the Governor of Jamaica Not until July 4th, 1959, did a second local commemorative set appear this time marking the grant of a new constitution. The islands which had been a dependency of Jamaica, now severed this relationship although for the time being the Governor of Jamaica held the governorship of the Cayman Islands in plurality. Jamaica withdrew from the Federation of the



West Indies although the Caymans remained inside. When Jamaica became independent in 1962, the Administrator was upgraded, and the legislative assembly now consists of the Administrator as president, between 4 and 6 official or nominated members and 12 elected members.



Not until December 5th, 1966 did another special set appear, commemorating the international telephone link, installed by Cable and Wireless, and at the same time providing radio telephones on Grand Cayman and between the islands. Twelve days later another two values marked the opening of an air jet service Internal flights are operated by Cayman Brac Airways Limited, with three services weekly in winter and two in summer, and an annual subsidy of £4,000.

The future of the stamp issuing policy has been officially stated. "The Government has no intention of flooding the market with a view to increasing its revenue. From time to time local commemoratives issues will be made when appropriate. The ¼d. stamp will be retained in memory of a little coin no longer in use in Britain."

(Illustrations by courtesy of Robson Lowe Ltd.)

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Cayman Islands

2nd copy

2—The Scandal

By DAVID POTTER

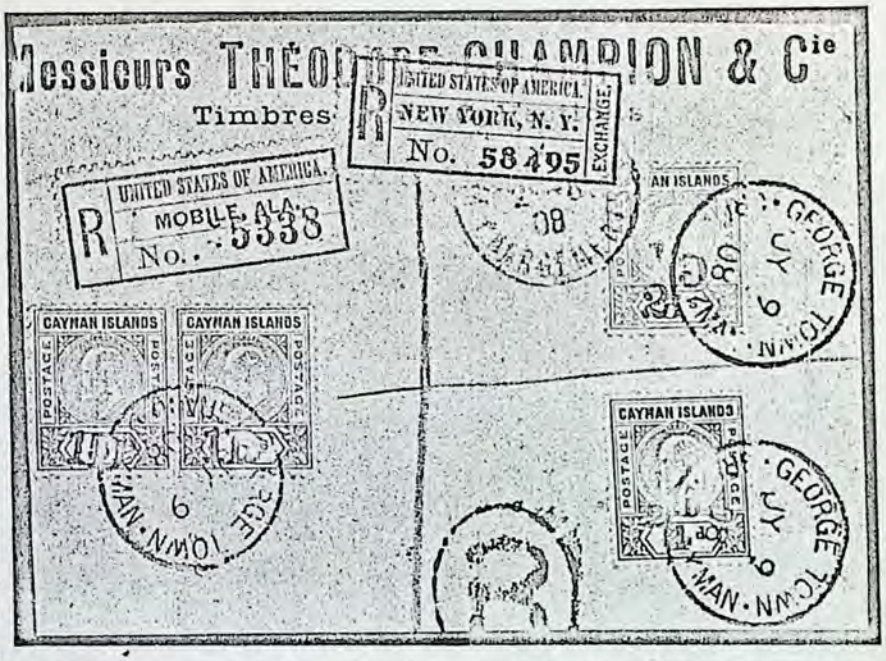
IT is hard to realise now, that sixty years ago, in 1908, the Cayman Islands were considered to be one of the most speculative countries in the world. Scarcely a week passed without some sort of comment in the philatelic press.

In the space of one year no less than five provisionals were issued, all in small numbers, although one of these was expressly designated as valid only for fiscal use. Isolation, speculation, maladministration and incompetence have all played their part in the story of "The Great Cayman Islands Scandal".

Major Evans writing in *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* in September 1908, summed up the feelings of most collectors at that time. He was writing on the subject of unavoidable provisional issues. "Of course opportunities have been afforded by the actions of higher authorities in allowing little places like Cayman Islands to have separate stamps of their own. If there were no stamps at all on hand for a week or two, very little inconvenience would be caused in these insignificant little places. If stamps run out, postage could be paid in cash, and letters marked paid . . . The remedy for the Cayman Islands disease is to withdraw altogether the privilege of having special stamps which has been so disgracefully abused. Let the inhabitants revert to the stamps of Jamaica, which I suppose they used down to 1900, if indeed they required stamps at all".

The story begins in May 1907, when thanks to a large order from abroad, it was stated by the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands that the stock of ½d. stamps had been reduced to some 2,000. He asked permission from the Jamaican Colonial Secretary to have 4,800 1d. stamps surcharged ½d. Permission was granted, but he was told to refuse large orders in future, unless his stock was sufficient. An example of the leisurely nature of those times, or perhaps indicative of the extraordinary lack of administration, the Commissioner mentioned in passing that he would be running short of other denominations, and that *when* that happened he would submit the question of a new issue to the Governor. In brief, once he had run short, he would think about new supplies.

The ½d./1d. was issued on August 30th, 1907. With a total face value of £10, it is not surprising that they were in great demand, and by November they were exhausted. So, unfortunately, were the 1d. stamps, injudiciously reduced in numbers by the provisional issue. There was no time to write to Jamaica, or perhaps after the previous instructions the Commissioner did not wish to be called to account for his stewardship. He therefore authorised the local surcharging of a stamp in little demand, the 5/- value. 2,160 were surcharged 1d. and issued on November 23rd, 1907 and 1,800 were surcharged ½d., to appear three days later on November 26th, 1907. They proved sufficient for local use, and in fact several of the islanders purchased supplies in bulk for stamp dealers. The long awaited ½d. and 1d. definitives, in the new postage revenue key plate design were put on sale on December 27th, 1907.



Ewens' Colonial Stamp Market purchased nearly half of the local surcharges. They record that two correspondents sent as many as 720. In their weekly magazine it is wryly stated that some of these arrived as a result of a fortunate accident. They had cabled for supplies of ½d./1d. to a local resident, but he was away. He returned when the ½d./5/- were on sale, and thought that these were required. He did not, however, fail to deduce that 7 guineas spent on a cable indicated that the stamps were badly needed. He charged Ewens £150 for his visit to the post office, but nevertheless it was the cheapest of their purchases. Some eight months after issue they were selling ½d./5/- for 10/-, 1d./5/- for 15/- and offering to pay 2/6d. for the ½d./1d. to get stocks for their new issue service.

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In March 1908, the 2½d. value arrived together with 3d., 4d., 1/-, 5/- and 10/-. It is suspected that the lower values were also included in the shipment. Nevertheless, by May 1908, the ½d. and 1d. were once again completely exhausted. No more provisionals was now the firm rule and covers were endorsed paid, providing an interesting postal history item without further unsetting the collector. One resident, however, insisted on 1d. stamps for use on receipts, so on May 12th a 1d./4d. appeared, strictly for fiscal use. 396 surcharged stamps were made in all. Efforts by collectors to get these accepted on cover by the post office met with failure. Sometime towards the end of May it appears likely that ½d. and 1d. stamps were again available.

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Problems, problems and with yet another shortage of low values, the ½d. was allowed to be used on foreign mail. By November, supplies were arriving in quantity in the United Kingdom, and a second printing of 60,000 was put on sale in the Caymans, although as late as January 1909, a notice appeared ". . . ½d. stamps are primarily for internal use, and can only be purchased at a post office in the dependency".

It is clear enough, from the facts of the case, that there was little local demand for stamps, and that one shortage after another was created by philatelic demand.

Such is the story, set in train by one large purchase from abroad in May 1907. So far, the only accusation can be incompetence. One salient factor remains. Throughout the ½d./5/- and 1d./5/- period there were large stocks of ½d. and 1d. stamps available in the Caymans. [redacted] 9,600 ½d. and 2,000 1d. King Edward VII postage-postage were in stock together with 33,600 1d. Queen Victoria. At the height of the surcharging they were offered for sale as [redacted]'ers, a common practice at that time, by [redacted]ochran at Grand Cayman on Decem- 907. They had been withdrawn when [redacted]oured stamps appeared, and it is [redacted]ed by some writers that this was done in error. Also some 10,000 2½d. stamps were in the stock, and by the following March they were being offered by the Crown Agents in England. They were eventually sold, and are presumed to have found their way into collectors' hands.

The scandal caused by these issues reached such proportions that an official inquiry was made, bringing the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands to account. The Inquiry cleared him, the Governor of Jamaica and the Earl of Crewe, Secretary of State for the Colonies, concurring with the findings. It would be pointless to pursue the detailed correspondence which is given in full, together with acid editorial comment in "The Postage Stamp", Volume 3, pages 222-225 and 235. In an attempt to whitewash the characters of all concerned, various "propositions" to the Post- [redacted]ress from writers in the U.S.A. are given in [redacted] It has been established that large quan- [redacted]ti.s of the provisionals were purchased by a c. se relative of the Postmistress, and then [redacted]d for sale to dealers.

[redacted] final word in this turbulent storm, I Edward J. Nankivell, Editor of "The Stamp" at that time. He writes on [redacted]y 13th, 1909: "It is no secret that [redacted] Winston Churchill was personally inquiring into this Cayman Islands business when he was shifted to the Board of Trade, and Lord Crewe made Colonial Secretary in his place. In this instance 'Dear Winston' has been an irreparable loss. It would have taken the local firm all their time to throw him off the scent".

GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY. May 1947

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Gems of the Caribbean

STAMPS AND POSTS OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

By HAROLD G. D. GISBURN

TO Christopher Columbus, on his return voyage from Porto Bello to Haiti, is attributed the discovery of the three small islands set in the translucent waters of the Caribbean which he named "Las Tortugas," and doubtless "The Turtles," both figuratively and in fact, were a welcome sight to the mariners of those early days. Generations later "Las Tortugas" became variously "Los Caimanos," or "Kiemanos," and so gradually to their present designation of "Caymans," although the origin of the latter name (apart from a fancied resemblance in shape of Grand Cayman to the species of alligators known as "Caiman") is now lost in the mists of antiquity. Despite the prevalence of turtles in the locality there is no record that the Spaniards ever made use of their discovery; in later years the "Scourge of the Caribbean"—the buccaneers—were more enterprising, frequently making a rendezvous there for the purpose of "boucanning" the turtle meat. Buried treasure left by these sea-rovers has always been a tradition in the islands, in this case with some foundation in fact, as various "finds" have been made at intervals.



The three islands, Grand Cayman, Little Cayman, and Cayman Brac, eventually became a dependency of Jamaica, a position which they still occupy. The first recorded settlement after the extermination of piracy was in 1734, when three residents of Jamaica, Daniel and Mary Campbell, and John Middleton, were granted a patent to colonise the north side of Grand Cayman. Other settlers arrived subsequently, many by way of shipwrecks, for which the group was notorious, and in this way the small colony gradually progressed. Grand Cayman is a low-lying island composed wholly of coral and coral limestone, with all the delicate beauty associated with this formation; dazzling white beaches by a sea whose hues vary like a kaleidoscope, pellucent waters with a wonderland of coral and sea-fans and fish of all descriptions. The principal modes of livelihood of the islanders are shipbuilding, rope manufacture, fishing for sponges and turtle, and in modern times the provision of tourist facilities.



Early postal history of the group is obscure, but it is certain that prior to the latter years of the nineteenth century there were no recognised postal facilities. Any correspondence was addressed by the islanders to friends in Jamaica by whom they were transmitted onwards.

Conversely, letters to the islands were addressed to Jamaican residents who had them conveyed to the Caymans as opportunity offered. Such methods apparently sufficed for many years, because when the Jamaican administration opened a Post Office at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, in 1889, many of the inhabitants grumbled at what they considered an unnecessary luxury! Nine years later, however, postal business had so far expanded that an additional office was established at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac. Jamaican postage stamps were on sale at these offices, cancelled at Georgetown with a postmark in the form of a double oval inscribed "Grand Cayman Post Office". In 1900 the first distinctive issue of stamps was approved for the Islands—in the first instance for purely local postage, but extended for international use in the following year.



The premier issue comprised the denominations of ½d. and 1d., produced by De La Rue & Co. in their standard "tablet" key-type. The same design, with appropriate change of Sovereign's head and various additional denominations, also sufficed for the Edwardian era, the only variation being the change of watermark from single to multiple Crown & C A in 1905, and the provision of a ¼d. stamp in a plain "numeral" type in 1908. During this reign, however, there occurred periodic shortages of the lower values and local surcharging was resorted to on occasion, a practice which aroused much controversy and no little condemnation among philatelists of the time. Without delving into the pros and cons here it may be noted that communications with the outside world were apt to be irregular at times and this undoubtedly had some influence on the non-arrival of expected supplies of stamps. In any case the surcharging was only of short duration and these issues consequently provide some of the rarities among Caymanian stamps. Dangerous forgeries, however, exist, and the usual warning as to source of purchase applies.

No change of design occurred in the earlier Georgian era apart from the substitution of the head by that of the new Sovereign, but in 1921 a new and improved motif was adopted; the key-type giving place to a recess printed series on the lines of the 1915 issue of New Zealand, which in itself was an attempt to revive the old-time Perkins, Bacon era. The earliest values were on the existing "Block C A" paper, but a full series was issued with the new Script watermark later in the same year. This design met with general approval and was continued in use until the "Pictorial Age" among Colonial stamps dawned in the early 1930's. It may be noted that several denominations of the earlier (key-type) Georgian stamps were printed on toned papers, a feature of some philatelic interest in what is otherwise a rather monotonous series.



A legislative body peculiar to the Cayman Islands is styled the "Justices and Vestry," consisting of fifteen nominated and twenty-eight elected members, a relic of a bygone era which in other Colonies has long since disappeared. The first Assembly of this authority occurred in 1832, and one hundred years later the centenary of the event was celebrated by a special series of stamps, the first occasion on which a commemorative issue had been adopted by the Islands. Denominations ranging from ½d. to 10s. were in a design portraying the heads of the contemporary Sovereigns of the two periods—William IV and George V, the work of engraving and printing being carried out by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons. The same printers were responsible for the first pictorial set issued in 1935, a handsome series in double colours, with five designs depicting various island characteristics. These were:—

½d. and 3d. Map of the group—inset portrait of the King flanked by oval of rope—one of the staple industries.

½d., 2d., and 1s. A "Cat Boat"—a light type of craft used extensively in turtle fishing off the reefs and cays.

1d. and 2s. "Booby-Birds"—a type indigenous to the group,



once used by mariners as a guide before the days of scientific navigation.



1½d. and 10s. Head of the King, with rope, coco-nut palms and conch shells—typical products of the islands.

2½d., 6d. and 5s. Hawksbill turtles —mainly found on the "Southern Reefs" and highly prized for their valuable shell.

The Silver Jubilee series of 1935 and Coronation issue of 1937, produced by Bradbury, Wilkinson, and De la Rue respectively were in the conventional Crown Colony design, but in 1938 the neo-Georgian era was ushered in by another pictorial series emanating from De La Rue and Waterlow & Sons. This series was on much the same lines as that of 1935 with the addition of a beach scene near Rum Point, Grand Cayman (½d., 1½d. and 2s.), a Caribbean dolphin (½d. and 1s.) and one of the locally-constructed schooners in the building of which the islanders are renowned (2½d. and 5s.). The stamp history of the group is brought up to date by the recent "Peace" issue in the standard design by De La Rue as adopted for the other Crown Colonies.

The postal cancellations of British island possessions have a fascination for many collectors and those of the Cayman Islands are no exception. As modern examples are naturally easier to acquire in the first instance a note may be made of the Post Offices at present functioning. They are: Georgetown, West Bay, East Side, North Side, and Bodden Town (all on Grand Cayman); The Creek, and Stake Bay (on Cayman Brac), and Little Cayman. Going back through the years we find these offices with cancellations of various types, includ-



ing the former local "Rural Posts" of Grand Cayman, East End, and West Bay. Authentic examples of the latter on original covers are naturally rare and some unfortunately have received the attention of the forger; nevertheless they add a picturesque touch to the collection when acquired.

Jamaica still acts as forwarding station for overseas mails leaving the islands, and for this purpose a mail steamer connects with the parent island about once a fortnight. This service was inaugurated by the M.V. *Cimboca* (113 tons) in 1927, but the latter has recently been superseded by a new and larger ship—the S.S. *Black Bear*, with a tonnage of 750, belonging to the Cayman Islands Motor Boat Co., Ltd. Correspondence is also conveyed to Jamaica when opportunity offers by other vessels which may call at Georgetown. Inter-insular mails are carried by the *Black Bear* which calls at the lesser islands *en route*, and also by any convenient motor-boat or schooner which happens to be voyaging locally.

Stamps, covers, postmarks, and the ever-absorbing story of the sea mails; all have contributed their quota to the interest of this tiny group on which several famous collections have been built up in past years. Much has of necessity been omitted from this brief outline, but the collector of vision might do worse than explore the possibilities of "Las Tortugas." I wish him (or her) "Good hunting."

Stamp News in Brief

IMPORTANT NOTICE. As we do not separate the minor Colonial varieties of paper, shade, etc., in our stock and, owing to the lack of staff are unable to make any provision for doing so, we beg to inform readers of these notes that we cannot execute orders for such varieties as are mentioned in this column from time to time, nor for plate numbers, imprints, etc., unless advertised. ONLY VARIETIES LISTED IN OUR CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENTS CAN BE SUPPLIED, and then only when they are priced.

BRITISH EMPIRE

Basutoland.—The Royal Visit stamps for Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland are in sheets of 60, the 1d. value being 10×6 and the remainder 6×10. All values are line perforated and have the printer's imprint centrally placed in the bottom margin and plate-number "1" below the 59th stamp.

We hear that Royal Visit first-day covers were still being postmarked on March 14th—nearly four weeks after the day of issue! Each Protectorate received about 100,000 orders and Swaziland was out of stock of the 1s. value, but further supplies were expected.

Canada.—The 4 c. Graham Bell stamps are in sheets of 50 (10×5) and are line perforated. The Canadian Bank Note imprint appears in the right-hand margin opposite stamps 40 and 50.

We apologise to our readers for mis-spelling last month the name of the town where Graham Bell lived which should have read Brantford.

Mr. H. J. Hobbins has kindly shown us a block of the 5 c. of 1942 (S.G. 381) in a paler shade of blue than the normal. It might almost be described as milky blue and shows no sign of having faded.

Ceylon.—The 2 r. colour change comes in sheets of 60 (10×6) and is comb perforated with the printer's imprint centrally placed in the bottom margin. No plate-numbers are shown.

Falkland Islands.—Mr. B. S. H. Grant tells us that he has a cover with the new 1s. 3d. stamp postmarked "Stanley 11 Dec 1946", which is almost four weeks before they were placed on sale in London.

Fiji.—In the latest printing of the current 5s. stamp which was made available by the Crown Agents on March 12th, the centre is in a slightly deeper green than before.

Gambia.—Mr. T. W. Boulter tells us that he has a cover with the Victory stamps postmarked August 6th, 1946, which is thirteen days earlier than we reported last February.

Hong Kong.—From Mr. W. E. Jones we hear that the 30 c. olive (S.G. 147a) rendered obsolete by the 30 c. blue has been withdrawn and the stock, some 6,500 sheets, has been surcharged "RECEIPT 10 CTS. STAMP" for fiscal use.

India. *Cochin.*—We are obliged to Mr. Jal Cooper for news of a pictorial set to be issued shortly. Details as follows:—

6 p. Secretariat building.
9 p. Cochin harbour.
1¼ a. Cochin backwaters.
1¾ a. Tramway.
2 a. Chinese net.
2¼ a. Dutch palace
3 a. Ram Mohan palace.
3 a. 4 p. Coco-nut palms.
6 a. 8 p. Synagogue
10 a. Hill Palace.

The 2 p., 3 p., and 4 p. stamps showing portrait of Maharaja Sir Bala Rama Varma will remain on sale.

Hyderabad.—Mr. Jal Cooper sends interesting details of a new stamp issued on February 17th. It is a 1 a. slate to commemorate the Inauguration of the New Legislative Assembly at the Town Hall, Hyderabad, Deccan. The design shows a view of the Town Hall and the four corner value tablets are inscribed in English, Mahratti, Telegu and Urdu. Printed in sheets of 100 (10×10) at H.E.H. The Nizam's Government Central Jail Press, this stamp will remain on sale for three months.

Jamaica.—New printings of the current 2d., 1s. and 2s. stamps were released by the Crown Agents on February 26th. The 2d. value is more emerald-green than before and is from plate No. 6 (frame). The vertical perforation of the 2s. stamp is a little coarser than before, but is still within the 12½ range.

New Zealand.—The Post Office bulletin dated January 23rd, 1947, gives the following information:—

Victory stamps. Plates 7 and 8 have been used for the 2d. value.

Portrait type. The ½d. postage printed from Plate 38 appeared in May 1946, and the 1d. official from Plates 77, 78, 84 and 85 was issued in January 1947.

Postage due. The 2d. value printed on multiple watermarked paper became available in December 1946.

Nigeria.—New printings of the current 1½d., 6d. and 2s. 6d. stamps have been received from the Crown Agents. The 1½d. value was produced during the currency of the Victory stamp of the same value and was not available until supplies of the Victory stamps were exhausted. The other values were released on March 5th. The 2s. 6d. stamp which seems to be reprinted quite frequently has now returned to its original shade, and it will be interesting to see if the November 1946 printing in black and deep blue was an isolated case. Plate-number "2" (frame) is in use for the first time and appears below the 56th stamp with centre plate-number "1" beneath the 59th. The 1½d. and 6d. values do not differ from previous supplies.

Norfolk Island.—We have received official notification that the first issue of Norfolk Island will appear on June 10th. The island is noted for its pine trees, several of which are shown in a view of Ball Bay. This design is common to all twelve values, which are as follows:—

½d. orange.
1d. blue-purple.
1½d. emerald.
2d. mauve-lake.
2½d. red.
3d. brown.
4d. claret.
5½d. indigo.
6d. reddish brown.
9d. rosine.
1s. deep green.
2s. sienna.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

THE EARLY POSTS AND FIRST POSTAGE STAMPS

James Kyle

Seventy-five years ago the Cayman Islands issued their first pair of postage stamps, but the postal history of the islands began at least a century earlier. Lying somewhat off the beaten track the three islands are situated approximately 180 miles west of Jamaica and 150 miles south of Cuba. The most westerly island, Grand Cayman, is the largest with an area of 76 square miles. Little Cayman is located 75 miles to the east, with the third wedge-shaped island, Cayman Brac, a few miles further north-east. The lesser islands were probably discovered by early Spanish explorers and Columbus sighted them on his fourth voyage on 10 May, 1503. Spanish, French and English sailors including Sir Francis Drake, called at the Caymans for water and to catch fresh turtles. Admiral Penn who helped conquer Jamaica revictualled his fleet at Little Cayman in 1655.

About 1658 two soldiers disbanded from Cromwell's army in Jamaica settled in the Cayman Islands. Their names were Walter and Bodden (or Bowden), later to become well-known in the islands. They only stayed a few years and thereafter the islands became the haunt of privateers and pirates such as Sir Henry Morgan and Blackbeard. (S.G. 392).

Formal settlement of the islands began in 1734 and in 1742 Mary Bodden received 1,000 acres on Grand Cayman – the lesser islands were neglected at this time and were not settled until 1833. In the previous year a system of representative government, the Assembly of Justices and Vestry, had been established on the main island. The chief administrative officer was known as the Custos. The title was changed to Commissioner in 1898, to Administrator in 1962 and finally to Governor in 1972.



When the first census was carried out in 1802 there was a W. Parsons living at Georgetown, a village formerly called Hogstyes, which had been renamed after George III a few years earlier. A descendant, Edmund Parsons, was to become Custos and first postaster towards the end of the nineteenth century. J. C. Panton came as a teacher to the islands in 1862 and W. H. Rutty, a Baptist missionary, arrived in 1886. These surnames were to appear on many postal covers in later years. A descendant of Mr Parsons, Miss Gwendolyn A. Parsons, Postmistress, took part in 'The Scandal' of surcharging, 1907-8 (30 cent 75th Anniversary stamp). Mr Rutty's Post Office on Cayman Brac, depicted on the 10 cent stamp of 1976 (S.G. 399) was swept away by the hurricane in 1932.

Early Letters

The first recorded letter from the vicinity of the Cayman Islands was penned on the sailing ship *Aeolus* lying off Grand Cayman in September 1803. It informs a patron back home of 'the release from this world after a few days illness' of his protégé on the ship. Occasional letters were sent from Georgetown to the Governor of Jamaica early last century. Shipping was very irregular. Local boats made occasional voyages to Jamaica, the journey lasting about five days. During the first decades of the last century sailing ships carrying mail between England and Jamaica used the Windward Passage, and some of these ships touched at Cayman Brac or Little Cayman. When steam replaced sail about 1850 even this uncertain method of communication ceased. Attempts were made in 1848-54 to induce ships of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. to call periodically at Grand Cayman when they were sailing each month from Kingston to Belize. However the Company evidently considered that such a detour would be too long, and that the volume of traffic would not justify the inevitable lengthening of the passage time between Jamaica and Central America.

The Wesleyan (Methodist) Mission had been established on Grand Cayman in 1840, and over the next few years its missionaries sent reports back to their headquarters in Bishopsgate, London. One such letter took over six weeks to get to Kingston and a further five weeks to reach London in 1842. Probably incoming mail from the islands was held at the GPO in Kingston until it was either collected or forwarded in the next packet steamer to England. By 1859 there was a Caymanian trader in Kingston, Mr G. Orritt, who acted as an agent, collecting any letters destined for the islands and sending them on by the first suitable vessel. Spanish Town was the capital of Jamaica until 1872.

Jamaica used in Caymans

It was not until 12 April 1889 that the postal arrangements for the Cayman Islands were established on a regular basis. The Custos of the Caymans, Mr E. Parsons, agreed with the Head Postmaster in Kingston that all letters coming from the islands should be treated as if they had

originated in Jamaica itself. It was suggested that a Postage Paid handstamp could be used for local mail. If such was ever provided, no example has been seen. Current stamps of Jamaica were sent to the new post office in Georgetown, to be used on overseas mail. These stamps were the ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d and 4d Queen's Head design, and later (May 1900) the red 1d Llandovery Falls. Although 4d was the foreign letter rate only one consignment of 2d and 4d stamps was sent to the islands. Three of the Official stamps, ½d, 1d and 2d were also supplied.

The Jamaican stamps used in the Cayman Islands can be recognised by their postmarks. At first the Georgetown office had a rubber oval canceller with moveable date plugs in the centre (*fig. 1*). The cancellation was in violet; often the details appeared blurred, especially the outer oval which measured 42 mm. by 25 mm. The inner oval, 30 mm. by 15 mm., tended to be finer and sharper. Grand Cayman in seriffed capitals appeared between the lines at the top, and Post Office in thick sans-serif letters at the bottom; there were large dots at each end. Several different sizes of plain letters and numbers made up the date in the centre, the year always appearing in full. This canceller was replaced at the beginning of 1895 by a single circle type, 27 mm. in diameter, with Post Office abbreviated to PO at the bottom. Impressions of this second canceller are usually in a dark red-violet ink and are clear, but the canceller lasted less than three years. The first type may have been used concurrently. A third canceller, with double outer circles 26 mm. in diameter was introduced early in 1899 and remained in service for seven years. It had Grand Cayman at the top and the words Cayman Islands at the bottom; the year was reduced to two digits. In 1898 a post office had been opened at Stake Bay on Cayman Brac. It was given a small undated rubber rectangular canceller (*fig.* 2) similar to that used at some Jamaican offices. The words 'Cayman Brac' at the top were in seriffed letters while 'Cayman Islands' at the bottom were in small sans-serif capitals. This little canceller only lasted for two years. When neatly applied to a stamp, collectors at first thought that it was an overprint. It was replaced in 1900 by a metal double circle type which was to remain in use for over 30 years.

The Overprints

As early as 1891 Sir Henry Blake, the Governor proposed, and either he or Mr Pearce, the Kingston postmaster, apparently authorised the overprinting of Jamaica stamps with the words 'Cayman Islands' in fine, upright capital letters (*fig. 3*). The printer's type was similar to that used for the first Official overprint on the ½d stamp of Jamaica. The first 'A' of the word Cayman had an everted foot deformity on its left leg while the lower part of the right leg of the 'N' in Islands tended to be defective. Only the ½d and 1d values of Jamaica were so treated. It may have been a trial overprint because only one or two copies are known to exist. However the total face value of stamps overprinted is said to have been £10. It has been suggested that they were intended for use on letters bearing no stamps that reached Jamaica from the islands. The overprinted stamps were never issued. Towards the end of last century stamps of St Vincent may have been suitably overprinted but the Commissioner, F. S. Sanguinnetti, is said to have destroyed the batch. He must have performed this task with the efficiency that characterised his other good works in the Cayman Islands because not a single St Vincent overprint has survived.

Queen's Head Issue

Although the postal requirements of the 5,000 inhabitants of the Cayman Islands were very modest, the position was clearly unsatisfactory. Consequently on 27 April, 1900 the Crown Agents, with the approval of the West Indian authorities, decided to prepare a separate issue of postage stamps for the Caymans. The first Commissioner seems to have played a major role in the production of the first Cayman stamps, in deciding on their colour and in securing the recognition of the islands as a separate postal member within the UPU on 22 January 1901. The standard 'key and duty' design, already in use in other colonies such as the Straits Settlements was selected, and an order was placed with Messrs De La Rue Ltd for ½d and 1d postage stamps. Experience with the Jamaica stamps may well have shown that these were the only values for which there was any demand – the stamps were not intended for revenue purposes. An alternative explanation is that the two stamps

Fig. 1 The first Grand Cayman postmark used on stamps of Jamaica 1889-1895; Fig. 2 The first undated Cayman Brac postmark, 1898-1900; Fig. 3 The abortive overprint applied to Jamaica stamps 1891; Fig. 4 Corner block of Queen Victoria stamps showing Jubilee line and Plate No. 3

Fig.1



Fig. 2

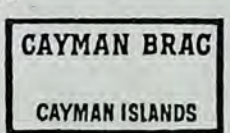


Fig.3

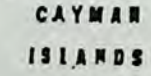


Fig. 4



were only intended for internal use – the Caymanians were fond of writing to each other. Most of the external mail went to Central America and the United States, but there never seems to have been any suggestion of providing higher denominations in the Queen's Head series.

The new stamps portrayed Queen Victoria as she had been when she ascended the Throne in 1837. The left side-face was on a lined background and there was no crown above it, the diadem in her hair being sufficient. The stamps were surface printed from Plate 3 in sheets of 120, subdivided into two panes of 60. The colony's name and the value were printed at a second operation on the basic key plate design. This was the first time that Messrs De La Rue had used Plate 3, earlier productions in their Type II key and duty design such as those for Seychelles and Gambia being from Plate 2. The colours of the stamps were those recommended by Article VI of the Universal Postal Union regulations – green for the ½d and red for the 1d. The first consignment consisted of pale green and rose-carmine colours respectively, but stamps of the second printing ordered in March 1901 were in deeper shades. Each pane was surrounded by a continuous Jubilee line in the same colour, while the plate number appeared as a white '3' on a solid circle of colour at each of the four corners of the sheet (*fig. 4*). The paper was a white wove of medum texture. All the stamps were comb perforated 14. The paper watermark was the standard Crown CA in use at that time. In the selvedge on the left appeared the words 'Crown Agents For' and on the right the two words 'The Colonies'. Sometimes the positions are reversed as the sheets were originally meant for 240 stamps and had been subdivided.

There is considerable doubt about when exactly the stamps were first put on sale in Georgetown. According to the *Gibbons Catalogue* the date of issue was 19 February 1901, that is after the death of Queen Victoria. This may have been the official date of first release, but there seems little doubt that the stamps were available in the Cayman Islands during the last six weeks of 1900. The author has one of the stamps clearly postmarked 7 January 1901, and a cover is known dated 12 December 1900. Furthermore there are few Jamaican stamps postmarked in the Cayman Islands during the last months of 1900. The Georgetown postmaster may have feared that stocks of these stamps were rapidly going to be exhausted and consequently sanctioned the premature release of the new definitives. A note in *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* dated 2 February 1901 stated: 'The new ½d and 1d stamps issued here are intended for local postage. The supply received lately by our Colonial Market was franked with Jamaican stamps at Grand Cayman and travelled via Jamaica'. The last sentence, written in the past tense, makes it clear that the first pair of definitives were being sold in Georgetown at the end of 1900 or very early in 1901, although Jamaican stamps continued in use for a short period. The Cayman pair had reached London by way of the West Indies before their official date of issue! Strangely enough the previous number of Ewen's journal which appeared four days after the death of Queen Victoria on 22 January 1901, did not include the Cayman Islands in its list of colonies which had produced stamps bearing the Queen's head design.

Altogether about 97,000 copies of each of the Queen Victoria stamps were printed, but only one-third of the 1d value were sold, the remainder being withdrawn in 1903. Single stamps used on covers in 1901-2 are becoming scarce and are worth about £20 each. Covers with both values or multiples are rare (*fig. 5*), only one such cover being offered on the British market in the last five years. Nine hundred copies of the two stamps were overprinted 'Specimen' and sent to the UPU headquarters in Berne. No Official stamps for the Cayman Islands were prepared although official On Her Majesty's Service envelopes were available.

The first pair of Cayman Island postage stamps had a comparatively short life. The supply of the ½d value was nearly exhausted in the late summer of 1902, there being only £6 worth left when it was superseded by the corresponding value of the King Edward VII series in September of that year. There were adequate supplies of the 1d value but it was replaced in March 1903. The Queen's head stamps were withdrawn, but five years later 280 sheets were offered for sale by the Crown Agents. Incidentally the Cayman Islands was the first colony to issue low value stamps of the new monarch, King Edward VII.

Fig. 5 The first Cayman Island definitives used on cover from Georgetown, 1901



THE CAYMAN ISLANDS 'SCANDAL':

The Provisional Issues of 1907-08

James Kyle

Provisional stamps tend to arouse suspicion among stamp collectors. There may be genuine doubts about the necessity for such an issue. Frequently the production of the overprint or surcharge by inexperienced personnel is faulty, giving rise to numerous varieties. Finally there is a deep-seated and occasionally justified suspicion that somewhere somebody is making a fat profit at the collectors' expense.

Between 1880-1900 several British colonies, such as Ceylon and Grenada, resorted to surcharging new values on old stamps on numerous occasions. The worst offender probably was Turks Islands, which group, like the Caymans, was a dependency of Jamaica. In the years up to 1900 it issued twice as many types of surcharges as of definitive stamps. It should be remembered that this was the time when stamp collecting was emerging as a major hobby and stamp dealers in Europe and America were beginning to send orders to small colonial post offices which were not accustomed to the new trade. The production locally of provisional issues, often not authorised from London, was clearly undesirable. On 18 August 1893 Lord Ripon, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, was compelled to issue a Circular to colonial postmasters. He pointed out the temptations to which surcharging exposed public servants, and then went on to state:

'If proper care is taken to maintain a sufficient supply of stamps, the practice of surcharging is unnecessary and it should never be resorted to unless absolutely required for the convenience of the public, and in every case the officer responsible for keeping up the supply of stamps should be liable to be fined.'

That clear instruction, with its warning, was issued in an age when those holding high office spoke with authority and expected to be obeyed.

The Cayman Islands had not even joined the ranks of potential sinners when Lord Ripon's Circular was sent out. It was not until almost eight years later that their first modest series of two stamps was officially released, on 19 February 1901. During the first six years of the Colony's stamp-issuing career its postal authorities seemed firmly set on the path of philatelic rectitude. But then they stumbled, and in the short period of fourteen months, from the end of August 1907 until October 1908, they produced no fewer than eight provisionals—four surcharged postage stamps, a surcharged fiscal stamp and three manuscript endorsements on cards and envelopes of 'Postage Paid'. Uproar ensued. The postage stamps were in short supply so that most dealers and collectors could not get copies. The philatelic press, led by *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* and *Ewens Weekly Stamp News* denounced the incompetence and the motives of the island authorities. Inevitably the whole sad episode became known as 'The Scandal'.

Seventy years later it is possible to take a more dispassionate view of those events which took place in the high noon of the Edwardian era. The background and attitudes of the two principal groups of people involved were in marked contrast to each other. On the one hand there was a relatively simple tropical island community, not time-conscious and whose postal officers lacked experience in predicting future stamp requirements and in supplying stamps to dealers—the Crown Agents did not offer the latter service at that time. On the other hand there were in the temperate zones of Europe and America an increasing number of knowledgeable, hard-working and enthusiastic collectors; supplying their needs had become big business. However even in an unsophisticated community of a few thousand people it may be possible to find one or two rogues who are willing to manipulate an unsuspecting postmistress in order to extract a few pounds from some over-enthusiastic collector. 'The Scandal' shows in a philatelic context how easy it is once having innocently set foot on the top of a slippery slope then to slide rapidly downwards to disreputable depths.

The naivety of the postal officials in Georgetown, Grand Cayman, coupled with the rapidly increasing demands from dealers overseas, probably rendered local shortages of stamps inevitable. However, the precipitating factor, surprisingly, was a decision taken by the Assembly of the Justices and Vestry. On 8 November 1906 that island law-making body passed a Law No. 9 which required certain receipts and other documents to pay a revenue tax of from 1d to £2:2:0. Payment was to be made by affixing postage stamps. There were no stamps with a face value greater than one shilling, so an order had to be sent at once to Messrs. T. De La Rue in London. Seventeen weeks after the passing of the law the new bicoloured 4d., 6d., 1/- and 5/- stamps reached Georgetown, and were put on sale the next day, 13 March 1907. The speed with which they reached the Colony does not substantiate the excuse made in regard to the provisionals that communications and shipping were slow. In fact someone had acted with so much speed that he had forgotten to alter the 'Postage-Postage' inscription on the first Edwardian stamps to 'Postage-Revenue' which would have been the appropriate wording after the November Stamp Duty Law. The oversight had to be corrected a year later.

The new bicoloured stamps were accompanied by fresh consignments of the monocoloured ½d., 1d., and 2½d. stamps on multiple Crown CA watermarked paper which had first appeared two years earlier. The postmistress, Miss Gwendolyn A. Parsons, seems to have regarded them as an integral part of the new bicoloured series. Three weeks after their arrival the Governor of Jamaica ordered that all older stamps should be withdrawn from sale. Miss Parsons took his words literally, and the main stock of ½d., 1d. and 2½d. stamps was removed from the Georgetown head office, leaving only the supplementary supply of these values which had arrived in mid-March.

At some time during April or May an order was received from an overseas dealer for 17 sheets of the ½d. value (all sheets contained 120 stamps). Despite the precarious state of the supplies of this value following the earlier mistaken withdrawal, the order was executed, and its execution at once precipitated an acute shortage of ½d. stamps. On 11 June 1907 the Commissioner for the Cayman Islands, Mr G. S. S. Hirst, was obliged to write to the Governor of Jamaica asking him to authorise a provisional issue and to surcharge the forty sheets of 1d. stamps enclosed with the words 'One Halfpenny'. The Governor was not pleased. His Colonial Secretary, H. C. Bourne, sent a sharp note back to Georgetown on 26 July. He reminded the Commissioner of Lord Ripon's Circular and for good measure sent him a copy. However, he went on:

'As the surcharge in this case may be regarded as necessary for the convenience of the public the Superintendent of the Government Printing Office has been instructed to surcharge the stamps as requested; and I am to request that you will not



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

sell any of these surcharged stamps except across the counter.' He concluded by telling the Caymanians to indent for fresh supplies in good time, advice which was given too late to prevent the development of the tragi-comedy.

The surcharge 'One Halfpenny' in two lines of long primer type (*Fig.1*) was applied with great accuracy by the Government Printer in Kingston. A half-sheet (60 stamps) of the 1d. red was surcharged at a time, and there are no major errors or varieties. The provisional was put on sale in Georgetown on 30 August 1907 and met the needs of the local populace until late November. But its appearance meant that Lord Ripon's virtual ban on provisionals had been breached. Furthermore in providing relief for the ½d. stamp the Commissioner had cannibalised his small stock of 1d stamps, and the 1d value was required for both fiscal and postal purposes.

The second stage in the surcharging saga was now unavoidable. The supply of 1d. stamps in Georgetown was exhausted by mid-November. The Commissioner was now aware that the production of a provisional issue was a quick way out of a temporary difficulty. He either did not foresee the consequences of reducing the islands' stock of 1d. stamps in June or else he no longer felt it necessary to obtain permission from Jamaica for a new provisional. On his own initiative on 22 November he ordered Miss Parsons to surcharge 15 sheets (1800 stamps) of the 5/- bicoloured stamp with the figures '1d.'. There was little public demand for the 5/- value. The local carpenter made a surcharging device for Miss Parsons by inserting two pieces of metal type into the end of a short wooden handle, possibly securing the type in position with sealing wax. The diligent postmistress set about her new task at once and had the 1800 stamps each surcharged '1d.' (*Fig.2*) ready for sale the next morning, 23 November. In most cases the new value was imprinted over the old one, but there are variations in the precise position, as would be expected with hand-stamping. Frequently part of the figure or number failed to print clearly; a double surcharge variety probably resulted from Miss Parsons attempting to correct a faulty strike. A further 360 stamps were surcharged on 9 December 1907, apparently because the populace suddenly wanted to stamp legal documents and also because a shortage was feared on nearby Cayman Brac, which in fact always had some 1d. stamps on hand.

The third stage of the surcharging sequence actually overlapped the later days of the second stage. By late November the post office stock of the July provisional 'One Halfpenny' stamps produced in Kingston was finished. Clearly Mr Hirst now regarded home-made surcharges as the automatic answer to all his postage stamp problems. He ordered Miss Parsons to surcharge 15 sheets of the 5/- stamps with '½d.'. The same carpenter made up a similar crude stamping device as had been used three days earlier for the '1d.' surcharge, but he had no fraction bar to insert between the '1' and the '2' (*Fig.3*). The enthusiasm of the postmistress may have begun to wane about this time or perhaps she was suffering from surcharger's cramp, because numerous errors and varieties occurred in the '½d.' surcharge—double impression, inverted and surcharge omitted (in pair with normal surcharge). These errors are very rare; in 1976 an example of the double surcharge fetched £850 and an inverted impression sold for £1,800.

Before criticising the lady too severely, some of the physical difficulties with which Miss Parsons may have had to contend should be appreciated. In the tropics sheets of gummed postage stamps stick together in the high humidity if there is no interleaving. A single sheet is liable to arch and curl up in the high environmental temperature. Miss Parsons may have had to place heavy books or strips of wood on the top and bottom edges of the sheets to keep them flat. This cannot have made it easy to apply each surcharge accurately. She seems to have re-inked her simple stamping implement on the office ink pad before making each impression, because in large blocks there is no evidence of irregular re-inking. If she ever relaxed her grip on the handle Miss Parsons would have had no idea whether the type was vertical or askew. The light may have been poor: the '1d.' surcharge apparently was made at night when the only light would have been that from an oil lamp. Finally, it would have been difficult (not impossible) to have removed any faulty copies of the surcharge from the centre of a sheet and destruction of any such copies would have made the post office's stamp accounts very complicated.

A fresh consignment of ½d. and 1d. arrived in Georgetown on 27 December, and it must have seemed that the irritating shortages were at an end. It is noteworthy that no reprimand was delivered from Jamaica to the officials in the Cayman Islands. News of the surcharges did not reach London dealers till January 1908. The colonial authorities in Kingston for a time may have been unaware of their existence. Mr Hirst may have misconstrued their silence as tacit approval of his emergency action.

Peace on the postal front was to be short-lived. On 12 February 1908 a luxury steam yacht the *Zenaida*, unexpectedly called at Georgetown and Sir Frederick Johnston offered to carry the island's mail to Cuba—the next regular despatch of mail was not due till the end of the month. There seems to have been a sudden outburst of writing letters to the United States of America, and such letters needed 2½d. stamps. It will be remembered that this had been one of the values affected by withdrawal of main stocks ten months earlier. No 2½d. stamps were left in Georgetown and if the letters were to go north on the *Zenaida*, new ones had to be manufactured quickly. So the Commissioner told the Inspector of Police, J. H. O'Sullivan, to surcharge four sheets of the bicoloured 4d. stamps with the new value of '2½d.' (*Fig.4*). The type used for this surcharge was smaller than for the November provisionals, but the method of

production was the same, and again there is no fraction bar. The only known varieties are a double surcharge and a double impression with one being inverted. No person was to be allowed to purchase more than six copies of the provisional but it seems clear that two entire sheets were obtained by a local speculator. A plate block of twelve was in the Adult Collection a few years later. Between 1941 and 1976 the catalogue value of the 2½d. on 4d. provisional (S.G.24) increased from £12 to £600. It might be asked why did the postal officials not make up the American letter rate by using two 1d. stamps plus one ½d. stamp. The answer may be that they had learned their lesson in respect of those two values and were trying to conserve stocks.

There is some confirmation of this conservation theory in the fourth provisional which appeared in mid-May. It was purely for fiscal purposes. Supplies of 1d. stamps were again exhausted and a persuasive American demanded that the postmistress should make a provisional for use on receipts and other documents. Between 12 and 14 May a total of 396 copies of the new 'Postage and Revenue' 4d. stamp, which had been released on 30 March, was surcharged '1d.' in the same font as the '2½d.' *Zenaida* provisional. Although intended solely for fiscal use, about twelve copies exist with postmarks, probably cancelled by favour.

At this time, May 1908, letters handed in at Georgetown were simply being marked 'Postage Paid' by Miss Parsons. Envelopes with this manuscript endorsement constitute the first type of postal stationery provisional. It is generally reckoned that this marking covered the ½d. and 1d. postal rates, but some letters went to the U.S.A. (2½d. rate). Five months later another shortage developed, this time of the new farthing stamp used for local delivery. The new postmaster, Mr W. G. McCausland, who had taken up office on 1 October, marked cards and envelopes 'Paid ¼d.' (*Fig.5*). Miss Parsons continued to assist in the post office and her initials, G.A.P., are also found on this provisional.

The outcry in the philatelic press which the provisional stamps caused forced the Government in London to demand an inquiry in the West Indies. In due course the Earl of Crewe who was Colonial Secretary received a report from the Governor of Jamaica which cleared the Georgetown officials of charges that they had manipulated the production and sale of the stamps for their own personal profit. Indeed there is no evidence that Messrs. Hirst, O'Sullivan, McCausland or Miss Parsons made any money out of the whole unhappy affair. Unfortunately an element of scandal began to emerge when it was learned that a Mr W. M. Cochran of Georgetown on 9 December 1907 had offered to sell to an English firm a number of sheets of some of the provisional stamps along with the residual Victorian and first Edwardian issues which had mistakenly been withdrawn from sale in April 1907. Nothing is known about Mr Cochran; the firm concerned was Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., a highly reputable East Anglian firm of stamp dealers, now sadly defunct. Shortly before receiving this unexpected offer Messrs. Whitfield King had written to the Cayman Commissioner asking what had happened to the earlier definitive stamps. In his reply to this letter Mr Hirst on 29 January 1908 stated that he had in his hands more than £676 worth of withdrawn stamps including no fewer than 81 sheets of ½d. stamps, 295 sheets of 1d. values and 88 sheets of the 2½d. value inscribed 'Postage-Postage', and he invited offers for same. He did not mention the surcharges which presumably remained in the hands of Mr Cochran. Four months later the Crown Agents in London were trying to dispose 'at not less than face value' of the definitives held earlier in Georgetown by Mr Hirst. It is just possible that Mr Hirst had sent his 88 sheets of the 2½d. value to the Crown Agents in the same mail despatch that took his letter to Messrs. Whitfield King and before the arrival of the *Zenaida*. But in June and November 1907, someone, presumably Mr Hirst, had large stocks of ½d. and 1d. stamps on Grand Cayman. Even if they were considered obsolete issues they should have been released when temporary shortages of later issues developed. Their retention in the circumstances is inexplicable.

Eventually Mr Cochran succeeded in unloading his sheets of surcharged stamps. At one time the Adult Collection had a complete sheet of the November 1907 ½d. and of the 1d. provisionals. This clearly did not conform to Lord Ripon's injunction that surcharging 'should never be resorted to unless absolutely required for the convenience of the public'. Fortunately the vigilance of the philatelic press and the inquiry which followed the protests of philatelists ensured that the Cayman Islands never again indulged in the malpractice.



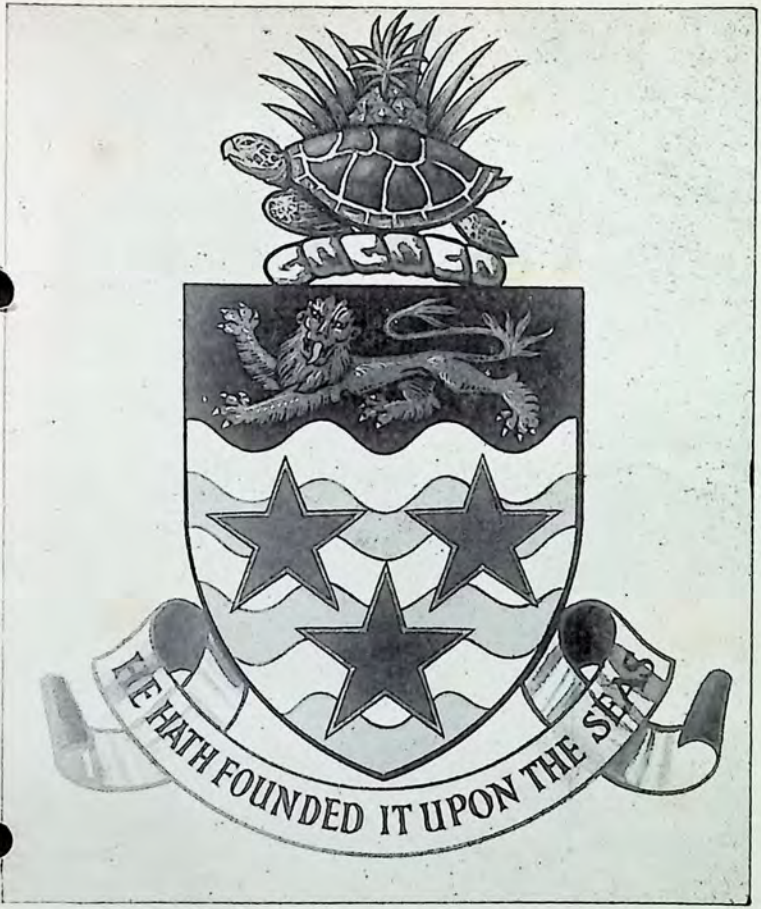
Fig. 3

Fig. 4



Fig. 5 Provisional 'Paid ¼d' endorsement on envelope, 16 Oct. 1908





The Coat of Arms of the Cayman Islands.

Reproduced from Cayman Islands Report, 1957-58, by permission of The Controller of H.M. Stationery Office



Sidelights on the Cayman Islands

JACK L. GRUMBRIDGE, B.Sc. (Econ.)

THE Caymans are one of the most popular small groups in the catalogue, and those who have succumbed to this Colony's fascinations may appreciate a few notes on the islands themselves and the postal service generally, derived from the Colonial Office's Annual Reports.

Actually they are not a colony in their own right, but a dependency of Jamaica, being distant from that island about 200 miles. The islands are three in number, the westernmost being Grand Cayman (approximately 20 miles long from east to west with a maximum breadth of 8 miles). Little Cayman and Cayman Brac lie close together some 60 miles north-east of Grand Cayman, the former being about 10 miles by 2 and Cayman Brac a trifle larger. Estimates of the land area of the group vary from 92 to 140 square miles.

Grand Cayman is low-lying, rising to a maximum height of 130 feet at the easternmost end, and in many places is little better than a mangrove swamp. Cayman Brac has a gradually rising plateau formation from west to east, with precipitous flanks and narrow beaches. The vegetation is mainly a dense bush of mangroves, logwood, mahogany, thatch palm, etc., but all the islands have valuable pastures, though little land suitable for tillage.



Historically, the first account of the Caymans is found in the report of Columbus' first voyage; on the return from Porto Bello to Hispaniola the islands were sighted on 10th May, 1503, and it was noted that they were swarming with turtles. Thereafter vessels frequently called for the purpose of catching these creatures, the flesh of which, dried and salted, made an excellent ship's ration.

An interesting account is given by Capt. William Jackson of a visit to Grand Cayman in 1643, in the course of an abortive attempt on Jamaica: "This place is low land and all rockye, and there are other 2 Islands of ye same name and quallities, being by ye Spanyards called Chimanos, from ye multitude of alligators here found which are Serpents, if not resembling ye Crocodiles of Egypt. Hither doe infinitt numbers of Sea Tortoises yearly resorte to lay their Eggs upon ye Sandy Bay, which at this time (June) swarm so thick. The Island is much frequented by Englishe, Dutch and French ships, that come purposely to salt up ye flesh of these Tortoises."

Actually there is no evidence beyond that of Capt. Jackson that "Cayman" is derived from the Carib name for alligator (actually large iguanas). Some hold that the name comes from the Spanish word for hand (mano) because of the shape of Grand Cayman. The earliest mention is a Wolfenbüttel map of 1527 showing the "Caymanos." A manuscript map of Diego Ravero calls them Tortugas (*las tortugas*—turtles), whilst Grand Cayman is shown under its present name in a 1542 map by Alonzo de Santa Cruz.

In 1655 Jamaica was taken by the English, and the Caymans became a regular source of food for the Caribbean fleet. In 1670, by the Treaty of Madrid, both Jamaica and the Caymans were ceded to England. The first serious settlement took place during the eighteenth century, the earliest recorded land grant being in 1734. Progress since then is shown by the following table:—

	Population.			
	White.	*Coloured.*	*Black.*	*Total.*
1774	—	—	—	176
1802	309	73	551	933
1891	—	—	—	4,322
1934	2,368	2,797	844	6,009







As some sort of guide to postal use, the following analysis of the population in 1934 is interesting :—

Grand Cayman	
Georgetown . . .	1,321
West Bay . . .	1,444
Prospect . . .	425
Boddentown . . .	625
East End . . .	437
Northside . . .	340
	4,592
Cayman Brac	
West End . . .	226
Stake Bay . . .	172
Creek	420
Spot Bay . . .	499
	1,317
Little Cayman . . .	72
Shipping	28

The people are fishermen and agriculturists. The islands grow easily almost every crop within the tropic zone, but the folk are essentially fishers and seamen. From 1884 to 1890 some phosphates were mined, but the workings are abandoned to-day.

Government is of rather an unusual kind, being by Justices of the Peace. The Governor of Jamaica establishes a General Commission of the Peace, presided over by his appointed Commissioner. In the parishes affairs are in the hands of the vestries. The following table gives an idea of the constitution of this unique system :—

Parish.	*Justices.*	*Vestrymen.*
Georgetown . .	9	5
West Bay . .	4	4
Boddentown. .	1	5
Northside . .	1	2
East End . .	1	3
Prospect . .	–	3
Lesser Islands .	8	4

Perhaps this brief note on the government will help to explain the stamp issue of 1932, since the "Centenary of the Assembly of Justices and Vestry" is not a self-evident occasion worthy of commemoration.

Turning now to matters a little more closely connected with the posts, the Report for 1935 comments on the increased mileage of motorable road. Little Cayman still has only paths, which are all that is necessary "to link up the houses of members of the same family"; apparently a community that keeps itself to itself! In the other islands all the districts are now joined with each other, though communications are not good, since the roads are narrow and do not go in a direct line from point to point. The first car appeared in 1914, and by 1935 there were 41 cars, 7 lorries and 5 motor cycles.

The postal service has been maintained since 1890, and to-day there are post offices in every district, with deliveries daily in Georgetown and thrice weekly elsewhere. Until 1927 external services depended on trading schooners, but in that year a specially built motor vessel was put into commission, with the idea of providing fifteen services per annum with Jamaica plus three to a Gulf port in the U.S.A.

The vessel was built by local capital and enterprise, a fact which the Commissioner considers worthy of special mention in his Report for the year in question. It enjoys a mail subsidy and gives an even better service than that originally contemplated, connecting with Jamaica once every 17 days each way, and with Cuba and U.S.A. (Tampico) about nine times a year. In the intervals, however, use is still made of schooners where this is possible and advantageous. The contract subsidising the mail service was renewed in February, 1932, for 5 years at a figure of £600, of which the Dependency pays half, but I have no knowledge of whether it was again renewed in 1937.





Gems of the Caribbean

STAMPS AND POSTS OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

By HAROLD G. D. GISBURN

TO Christopher Columbus, on his return voyage from Porto Bello to Haiti, is attributed the discovery of the three small islands set in the translucent waters of the Caribbean which he named "Las Tortugas," and doubtless "The Turtles," both figuratively and in fact, were a welcome sight to the mariners of those early days. Generations later "Las Tortugas" became variously "Los Caimanos," or "Kiemanos," and so gradually to their present designation of "Caymans," although the origin of the latter name (apart from a fancied resemblance in shape of Grand Cayman to the species of alligators known as "Caiman") is now lost in the mists of antiquity. Despite the prevalence of turtles in the locality there is no record that the Spaniards ever made use of their discovery; in later years the "Scourge of the Caribbean"—the buccaneers—were more enterprising, frequently making a rendezvous there for the purpose of "boucanning" the turtle meat. Buried treasure left by these sea-rovers has always been a tradition in the islands, in this case with some foundation in fact, as various "finds" have been made at intervals.



The three islands, Grand Cayman, Little Cayman, and Cayman Brac, eventually became a dependency of Jamaica, a position which they still occupy. The first recorded settlement after the extermination of piracy was in 1734, when three residents of Jamaica, Daniel and Mary Campbell, and John Middleton, were granted a patent to colonise the north side of Grand Cayman. Other settlers arrived subsequently, many by way of shipwrecks, for which the group was notorious, and in this way the small colony gradually progressed. Grand Cayman is a low-lying island composed wholly of coral and coral limestone, with all the delicate beauty associated with this formation; dazzling white beaches by a sea whose hues vary like a kaleidoscope, pellucent waters with a wonderland of coral and sea-fans and fish of all descriptions. The principal modes of livelihood of the islanders are shipbuilding, rope manufacture, fishing for sponges and turtle, and in modern times the provision of tourist facilities.



Early postal history of the group is obscure, but it is certain that prior to the latter years of the nineteenth century there were no recognised postal facilities. Any correspondence was addressed by the islanders to friends in Jamaica by whom they were transmitted onwards.

Conversely, letters to the islands were addressed to Jamaican residents who had them conveyed to the Caymans as opportunity offered. Such methods apparently sufficed for many years, because when the Jamaican administration opened a Post Office at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, in 1889, many of the inhabitants grumbled at what they considered an unnecessary luxury! Nine years later, however, postal business had so far expanded that an additional office was established at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac. Jamaican postage stamps were on sale at these offices, cancelled at Georgetown with a postmark in the form of a double oval inscribed "Grand Cayman Post Office". In 1900 the first distinctive issue of stamps was approved for the Islands—in the first instance for purely local postage, but extended for international use in the following year.



The premier issue comprised the denominations of ½d. and 1d., produced by De La Rue & Co. in their standard "tablet" key-type. The same design, with appropriate change of Sovereign's head and various additional denominations, also sufficed for the Edwardian era, the only variation being the change of watermark from single to multiple Crown & C A in 1905, and the provision of a ¼d. stamp in a plain "numeral" type in 1908. During this reign, however, there occurred periodic shortages of the lower values and local surcharging was resorted to on occasion, a practice which aroused much controversy and no little condemnation among philatelists of the time. Without delving into the pros and cons here it may be noted that communications with the outside world were apt to be irregular at times and this undoubtedly had some influence on the non-arrival of expected supplies of stamps. In any case the surcharging was only of short duration and these issues consequently provide some of the rarities among Caymanian stamps. Dangerous forgeries, however, exist, and the usual warning as to source of purchase applies.

No change of design occurred in the earlier Georgian era apart from the substitution of the head by that of the new Sovereign, but in 1921 a new and improved motif was adopted; the key-type giving place to a recess printed series on the lines of the 1915 issue of New Zealand, which in itself was an attempt to revive the old-time Perkins, Bacon era. The earliest values were on the existing "Block C A" paper, but a full series was issued with the new Script watermark later in the same year. This design met with general approval and was continued in use until the "Pictorial Age" among Colonial stamps dawned in the early 1930's. It may be noted that several denominations of the earlier (key-type) Georgian stamps were printed on toned papers, a feature of some philatelic interest in what is otherwise a rather monotonous series.



A legislative body peculiar to the Cayman Islands is styled the "Justices and Vestry," consisting of fifteen nominated and twenty-eight elected members, a relic of a bygone era which in other Colonies has long since disappeared. The first Assembly of this authority occurred in 1832, and one hundred years later the centenary of the event was celebrated by a special series of stamps, the first occasion on which a commemorative issue had been adopted by the Islands. Denominations ranging from ½d. to 10s. were in a design portraying the heads of the contemporary Sovereigns of the two periods—William IV and George V, the work of engraving and printing being carried out by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons. The same printers were responsible for the first pictorial set issued in 1935, a handsome series in double colours, with five designs depicting various island characteristics. These were :—

½d. and 3d. Map of the group—inset portrait of the King flanked by oval of rope—one of the staple industries.

½d., 2d., and 1s. A "Cat Boat"—a light type of craft used extensively in turtle fishing off the reefs and cays.

1d. and 2s. "Booby-Birds"—a type indigenous to the group,



once used by mariners as a guide before the days of scientific navigation.

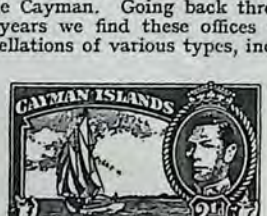


1½d. and 10s. Head of the King, with rope, coco-nut palms and conch shells—typical products of the islands.

2½d., 6d. and 5s. Hawksbill turtles —mainly found on the "Southern Reefs" and highly prized for their valuable shell.

The Silver Jubilee series of 1935 and Coronation issue of 1937, produced by Bradbury, Wilkinson, and De la Rue respectively were in the conventional Crown Colony design, but in 1938 the neo-Georgian era was ushered in by another pictorial series emanating from De La Rue and Waterlow & Sons. This series was on much the same lines as that of 1935 with the addition of a beach scene near Rum Point, Grand Cayman (¼d., 1½d. and 2s.), a Caribbean dolphin (½d. and 1s.) and one of the locally-constructed schooners in the building of which the islanders are renowned (2½d. and 5s.). The stamp history of the group is brought up to date by the recent "Peace" issue in the standard design by De La Rue as adopted for the other Crown Colonies.

The postal cancellations of British island possessions have a fascination for many collectors and those of the Cayman Islands are no exception. As modern examples are naturally easier to acquire in the first instance a note may be made of the Post Offices at present functioning. They are: Georgetown, West Bay, East Side, North Side, and Bodden Town (all on Grand Cayman); The Creek, and Stake Bay (on Cayman Brac), and Little Cayman. Going back through the years we find these offices with cancellations of various types, includ-



ing the former local "Rural Posts" of Grand Cayman, East End, and West Bay. Authentic examples of the latter on original covers are naturally rare and some unfortunately have received the attention of the forger; nevertheless, they add a picturesque touch to the collection when acquired.

Jamaica still acts as forwarding station for overseas mails leaving the islands, and for this purpose a mail steamer connects with the parent island about once a fortnight. This service was inaugurated by the M.V. *Cimboca* (113 tons) in 1927, but the latter has recently been superseded by a new and larger ship—the S.S. *Black Bear*, with a tonnage of 750, belonging to the Cayman Islands Motor Boat Co., Ltd. Correspondence is also conveyed to Jamaica when opportunity offers by other vessels which may call at Georgetown. Inter-insular mails are carried by the *Black Bear* which calls at the lesser islands *en route*, and also by any convenient motor-boat or schooner which happens to be voyaging locally.

Stamps, covers, postmarks, and the ever-absorbing story of the sea mails; all have contributed their quota to the interest of this tiny group on which several famous collections have been built up in past years. Much has of necessity been omitted from this brief outline, but the collector of vision might do worse than explore the possibilities of "Las Tortugas." I wish him (or her) "Good hunting."

Stamp News in Brief

IMPORTANT NOTICE. As we do not separate the minor Colonial varieties of paper, shade, etc., in our stock and, owing to the lack of staff are unable to make any provision for doing so, we beg to inform readers of these notes that we cannot execute orders for such varieties as are mentioned in this column from time to time, nor for plate numbers, imprints, etc., unless advertised. ONLY VARIETIES LISTED IN OUR CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENTS CAN BE SUPPLIED, and then only when they are priced.

BRITISH EMPIRE

Basutoland.—The Royal Visit stamps for Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland are in sheets of 60, the 1d. value being 10×6 and the remainder 6×10. All values are line perforated and have the printer's imprint centrally placed in the bottom margin and plate-number "1" below the 59th stamp.

We hear that Royal Visit first-day covers were still being postmarked on March 14th—nearly four weeks after the day of issue! Each Protectorate received about 100,000 orders and Swaziland was out of stock of the 1s. value, but further supplies were expected.

Canada.—The 4 c. Graham Bell stamps are in sheets of 50 (10×5) and are line perforated. The Canadian Bank Note imprint appears in the right-hand margin opposite stamps 40 and 50.

We apologise to our readers for mis-spelling last month the name of the town where Graham Bell lived which should have read Brantford.

Mr. H. J. Hobbins has kindly shown us a block of the 5 c. of 1942 (S.G. 381) in a paler shade of blue than the normal. It might almost be described as milky blue and shows no sign of having faded.

Ceylon.—The 2 r. colour change comes in sheets of 60 (10×6) and is comb perforated with the printer's imprint centrally placed in the bottom margin. No plate-numbers are shown.

Falkland Islands.—Mr. B. S. H. Grant tells us that he has a cover with the new 1s. 3d. stamp postmarked "Stanley 11 Dec 1946", which is almost four weeks before they were placed on sale in London.

Fiji.—In the latest printing of the current 5s. stamp which was made available by the Crown Agents on March 12th, the centre is in a slightly deeper green than before.

Gambia.—Mr. T. W. Boulter tells us that he has a cover with the Victory stamps postmarked August 6th, 1946, which is thirteen days earlier than we reported last February.

Hong Kong.—From Mr. W. E. Jones we hear that the 30 c. olive (S.G. 147a) rendered obsolete by the 30 c. blue has been withdrawn and the stock, some 6,500 sheets, has been surcharged "RECEIPT 10 cts. STAMP" for fiscal use.

India. *Cochin.*—We are obliged to Mr. Jal Cooper for news of a pictorial set to be issued shortly. Details as follows:—

6 p. Secretariat building.
9 p. Cochin harbour.
1¼ a. Cochin backwaters.
1½ a. Tramway.
2 a. Chinese net.
2½ a. Dutch palace
3 a. Ram Mohan palace.
3 a. 4 p. Coco-nut palms.
6 a. 8 p. Synagogue
10 a. Hill Palace.

The 2 p., 3 p., and 4 p. stamps showing portr[illegible] of Maharaja Sir Bala Rama Varma will remain on sale.

Hyderabad.—Mr. Jal Cooper sends interesting details of a new stamp issued on February 17th. It is a 1 a. slate to commemorate the Inauguration of the New Legislative Assembly at the Town Hall, Hyderabad, Deccan. The design shows a view of the Town Hall and the four corner value tablets are inscribed in English, Mahratti, Telegu and Urdu. Printed in sheets of 100 (10×10) at H.E.H. The Nizam's Government Central Jail Press, this stamp will remain on sale for three months.

Jamaica.—New printings of the current 2d., 1s. and 2s. stamps were released by the Crown Agents on February 26th. The 2d. value is more emerald-green than before and is from plate No. 6 (frame). The vertical perforation of the 2s. stamp is a little coarser than before, but is still within the 12½ range.

New Zealand.—The Post Office bulletin dated January 23rd, 1947, gives the following information:—

Victory stamps. Plates 7 and 8 have been used for the 2d. value.
Portrait type. The ½d. postage printed from Plate 38 appeared in May 1946, and the 1d. official from Plates 77, 78, 84 and 85 was issued in January 1947.
Postage due. The 2d. value printed on multiple watermarked paper became available in December 1946.

Nigeria.—New printings of the current 1½d., [illegible] and 2s. 6d. stamps have been received from the Crown Agents. The 1½d. value was produ[illegible] during the currency of the Victory stamp of the same value and was not available until supplies of the Victory stamps were exhausted. The other values were released on March 5th. The 2s. 6d. stamp which seems to be reprinted quite frequently has now returned to its original shade, and it will be interesting to see if the November 1946 printing in black and deep blue was an isolated case. Plate-number "2" (frame) is in use for the first time and appears below the 56th stamp with centre plate-number "1" beneath the 59th. The 1½d. and 6d. values do not differ from previous supplies.

Norfolk Island.—We have received official notification that the first issue of Norfolk Island will appear on June 10th. The Island is noted for its pine trees, several of which are shown in a view of Ball Bay. This design is common to all twelve values, which are as follows:—

½d. orange.
1d. blue-purple.
1½d. emerald.
2d. mauve-lake.
2½d. red.
3d. brown.
4d. claret.
5½d. indigo.
6d. reddish brown.
9d. rosine.
1s. deep green.
2s. sienna.

Up-dating Caymans Postmarks and Post Offices

By Peter P. McCann, Ph.D.
British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group



Fig. 1. Note the damaged c.d.s. of the machine cancellation.

An excellent outline about the then current postmarks of the Cayman Islands was published in this magazine[1] in 1969 by S. G. Balley who, in turn, had updated the still standard handbook[2] about the Cayman Islands published in 1962 by E. F. Aguilar and P. T. Saunders. On a recent trip in June 1976 to all the Cayman Island post offices, I found that the Cayman Brac datestamps had been replaced in April–May 1976 and also that the G.P.O. in Georgetown and the post office on Little Cayman had new datestamps of the same type. Of further interest was the fact that the postal agency of Watering Place on Cayman Brac had been upgraded to post office status and for the first time, in May 1976, has had its own datestamp.

There are no "philatelic" duplicate sets of these new datestamps at the G.P.O. as has been the case for the still current Grand Cayman branch post office cancellers. However, postmarks from all the Cayman Island branch offices (including the, until recently, dormant Little Cayman office) may be obtained through the newly-reorganised Philatelic Bureau at the G.P.O. which will send information as to their various services upon request. Overall, I was much impressed with the efficiency and helpfulness of all the Cayman Islands postal workers from both a postal and philatelic point of view.

Fig. 1 illustrates the datestamp in use in conjunction with a machine slogan canceller at the Georgetown G.P.O. This has deteriorated seriously over the years and is now somewhat misshapen. This device is used on most outgoing mail. The handstamps in current use are also shown.

Fig. 2 shows the other previously described[1] single-ring datestamps in use at the branch offices on Grand Cayman although, technically, Hell is not a branch office and is still only a postal agency, and, therefore, cannot register outgoing mail.

Fig. 3 shows the current type of rubber registration stamps

(*Continued on page 1337*)



Fig. 2. Grand Cayman branch offices. Note inverted date of Savannah

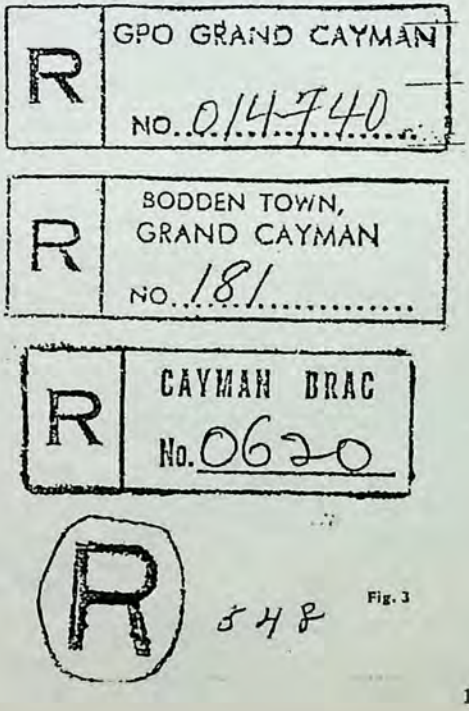


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Up-dating Cayman Is. Postmarks (*continued from page 1335*)

in use except, for unexplained reasons, at South Sound and East End on Grand Cayman. These two offices still use the metal type " R " stamp also illustrated.

Fig. 4 illustrates the new Cayman Brac and Little Cayman datestamps. They are of a similar size and type to the new Georgetown datestamp seen in Fig. 1, all being ordered at the same time. All registered mail from Cayman Brac and Little Cayman offices bears a Cayman Brac registration stamp applied in Stake Bay as all out-island mail must pass through this office for trans-shipment to the G.P.O.



Fig. 5

Fig. 5 shows one of the round rubber datestamps used as cachets on all mail from post office or other government departments. The stamp for the District Office on Cayman Brac (illustrated) has varied uses as the District Commissioner, who heads the office, serves in many functions including that of Head Postmaster for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Similar rubber datestamps are inscribed: POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPT. GRAND CAYMAN C.I.; OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Cayman Islands; DEPT. OF BROADCASTING, CAYMAN ISLANDS and CAYMAN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM. *(See footnotes adjoining column.)*

Europage (*continued from page 1333*)

between Denmark and Greenland by the M.S.s *Disko* and *Kununguak* (which appears on the 1976 Mail Transport 100ø.). Each ship has a post office on board and its own handstamp canceller. Covers bearing *Greenland* stamps only will be serviced on request to M.S. *Disko*, DK 3991 Copenhagen or M.S. *Kununguak*, DK 3990 Copenhagen.

The helicopter carrier *Jeanne d'Arc* is using a special slogan cancellation from November 23rd 1976 to May 9th 1977; the French guided missile destroyers *Du Chayla* and *E. E. Kersaint* will also furnish strikes of their cachets. In each case write to M. l'Agent Postale, (*name of ship*) par Bureau Central Naval, 75200 Paris Naval. For cachets of the West German guided missile destroyers *Lutjens*, *Rommel* and *Molders* write to the vessel at Tirpitzhafen, 2300 Kiel.

The Swedish State Railways ferry *Gotaland* plies between Trelleborg (Sweden) and Sassnitz (East Germany). For her martime mark, apply to the ship at either port.

Readers who understand German will find the regular ships' marks feature in the fortnightly *Sammlerdienst* (DM44 p.a. from Postfach 683, 8630 Coburg, West Germany) or the monthly *Schweizer Brifmarken-Zeitung* (Sw.fr. 36 p.a. from Buri Druck AG, Eigerstrasse 71, 3001 Bern, Switzerland) of inestimable help. A German correspondent writes that a prominent dealer in ships' mail items is Hermann Sieger, Postfach 1160, 7073 Lorch/Wurttemberg; his advertisements appear on the semi-transparent bags which are available in West German post offices when you buy commemorative stamps.

Swiss Mystery?

The 1936 Landscapes 5c. blue-green of Switzerland (S.G.372) is listed in the Zumstein Special Catalogue as No. 202z, with a printing of 120 million. The same catalogue lists, with an illustration, as plate flaw (*Plattenfehler*) No. 9, the stamp with an interrupted line over the group of houses (*unterbrochene Linie über der Häusergruppe*). The listing of this plate flaw implies that the basic stamp exists without it.

A contributor to the September issue of *SBZ*, the bilingual monthly official organ of the Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies, points out that every stamp on every complete sheet of Zumstein 202z that he has examined (including those in the Post Office Archives) reveals the flaw. What evidently happened was that the engraved die was damaged before being used to lay down the engraved plate or cylinder.

In other words, the stamp with the flaw (listed as *Plattenfehler nr. 9*) is really the basic stamp so that Zumstein 202z does not, strictly speaking, exist.

France: Overseas Departments

Guadeloupe in the West Indies, French Guiana (now Guyane) in South America and Réunion in the Indian Ocean all became overseas *départements* of France on March 19th, 1946. Martinique, in the West Indies, assumed the same status on January 1st, 1947. On June 2nd, 1947, Guadeloupe, Guyane and Martinique issued sets of definitives and postage dues, but when these were exhausted they were replaced by the stamps of metropolitan France. Réunion, which used CFA currency and, therefore, French stamps surcharged or expressed in CFA, did not start to use the stamps of metropolitan France until January 1st, 1975, after the abolition of the CFA currency. All French stamps can be found with postmarks of these overseas *départements*. Since August 2nd, 1976, Mayotte has been added to the list of overseas *départements* using French stamps.

[1] " Current Post Offices and Postmarks of the Cayman Islands ", by S. G. Bailey, STAMP COLLECTING, February 20th, 1969.
[2] " The Cayman Islands—Their Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks ", by E. F. Aguilar and P. T. Saunders, 1962.

Philatelic Newsreel

(Continued from page 835)

Cayman Islands in Gibbons Gallery

A display of "Stamps and Postal History of the Cayman Islands" formed by John Byl, an Oxfordshire schoolmaster, begins the new 1982 season of award winning exhibitions in the Stanley Gibbons Gallery, 399 Strand, London WC2. It is on show throughout January, admission free.

This exhibit illustrates the philately of the Cayman Islands from the time of opening of the first post office at Georgetown, Grand Cayman in April, 1889, [illegible] the present time. There is special emphasis on the earlier postal history. For the first twelve years, the Caymans had no stamps of their own, and they had to use Jamaican stamps. "Jamaica used in Caymans" are rare, and among the highlights of the exhibit are eight covers bearing Jamaican stamps. These include the earliest recorded cover franked with Jamaican adhesives, as well as the only one cancelled by Cayman Brac, Type II. During the latter part of this period, Caymans stamps were used concurrently with Jamaican stamps, and the earliest known cover bearing Caymans stamps is also displayed.

In May 1907, it was discovered that owing to a large order from abroad, there was a shortage of ½d stamps. The Commissioner therefore, applied to have the 1d stamps overprinted "½" so they could be used for the lower value. At that time the Islands' stamps were becoming increasingly popular with collectors, and these "surcharged provisional" issues were much sought after. A series of other shortages followed, necessitating other stamps to be overprinted in 1907 and 1908. In the exhibition are the only known used examples of the ½d on 5s with a double surcharge, examples of the 2½d on 4d and mint copies of the ½d and 1d on 5s with double surcharge. The ½d on 1d surcharge is also represented by two fine covers, one showing the 2½d rate to the USA and the other, the 3d registered rate to England.

Some of the Manuscript Provisionals of the Cayman Islands are also of great rarity, and the display contains at least one example of each of the six types, including the unique MP3.

Included in the section on the first ¼d stamp is the only known block from the single pane that was printed imperforate between the right-hand stamps and the margin, this block showing two of these stamps.

Later sections show the various Rural Post covers and the early airmails, with the rarely seen first type of 30th July, 1935. Near the end of the display are examples of some of the modern errors.

THE CAYMAN ISLANDS PROVISIONALS

JOHN H. BYL

DURING the years 1907-8 the postal authorities of the Cayman Islands found it expedient to issue no less than five surcharge provisional stamps. At the time much was written in the philatelic press about the necessity or otherwise for these stamps, and this short account attempts to re-examine the reasons that led to their issue.

The 'One Halfpenny' on 1d carmine

By early June, 1907, the stock of halfpenny stamps stood at only 17 sheets of 120 stamps each – enough to last some two months. This shortage had been caused, at least partly, by fulfilling a large order from a foreign dealer. Therefore on 11th June the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, the Hon. G.S.S. Hirst, wrote to the Colonial Secretary of Jamaica enclosing 40 sheets of the 1d carmine (S.G.9) with the request that they should be overprinted 'One Halfpenny'. The Governor of Jamaica approved this request, and the surcharging was carried out at the Government Printing Office in Kingston. However, agreement to do this was given with some degree of reluctance, and was carried out only as it was necessary for the convenience of the public. A reproof was sent to the Commissioner for allowing the stocks to fall so low, and he was requested to ensure that none was sold to dealers. No formal notice was given of this issue, but the stamps were put on sale on 30th August, and the supply lasted about three months.

On the whole, the overprinting was done carefully and well, and only two minor varieties are known.

1. On some stamps, the full stop, and occasionally the 'y' of 'Halfpenny.', falls on the next stamp.
2. On some panes, the sixth stamp of row two has the 'penny' of 'Halfpenny' slightly dropped.

In spite of the instructions given to the postal authorities, a large proportion of these stamps were not used for strictly commercial purposes. Certainly mint copies are more plentiful than used ones, and of the small number of covers that bear this surcharged stamp, very few are entirely non-philatelic.

The '1d' and '½d' on 5s salmon and green

On 29th July, 1907, the Commissioner wrote again to Jamaica to the effect that even allowing for the advent of the 'One Halfpenny' on 1d described above, his stocks of ½d and 1d stamps would not last to the end of the year. He repeated a previous request that a new issue inscribed 'Postage – Revenue' should be supplied. This request was not forwarded from Jamaica to the Crown Agents until 13th September. Still further delay then occurred owing to correspondence with the Crown Agents, with the result that the new ½d and 1d stamps were not to arrive until the end of December.

The stock of 1d stamps had meanwhile been severely diminished by surcharging

(Continued on page 1227)



Right: ½d on 1d. commercial cover to England bearing 6 copies to prepay registered rate.

Below (left to right): ½d on 5s (on cover); ½d on 5s; 1d on 5s – all surcharges double.







THE CAYMAN ISLAND PROVISIONALS

(Continued from page 1225)

4,800 of them as already described, and the supply was exhausted by 22nd November. There was no time to send stamps to Jamaica for overprinting, as had been done before, and the Commissioner instructed the Postmistress, Miss Gwendolyn A. Parsons, to meet the immediate requirements by surcharging 15 sheets of the 5s salmon and green (S.G. 16) with the overprint '1D'. The 5s stamp was selected for surcharging as there was a reasonable supply available, and, moreover, as it was used mainly for fiscal purposes, it was thought advisable to reduce the numbers in hand prior to the arrival of the new 'Postage-Revenue' series.

Miss Parsons engaged the services of the local carpenter to fix two pieces of metal type to a wooden handle, the type being the figure '1' and a capital 'D'. Using this crude handstamp and the post office pad, she surcharged each stamp separately, thus providing 1,800 stamps. These provisionals were placed on sale the following day, 23rd November.

Quite often one or other of the characters is faint, or sometimes entirely missing. On a few occasions, probably when the first strike appeared faint, Miss Parsons applied a second surcharge, and this gave rise to the double surcharge variety. Three mint copies are known in addition to the one, se-tenant with a normal surcharge, which is in the Royal Collection. Also two used copies exist, both rather faded and cancelled late, one being on a philatelic cover with other stamps. Incidentally, many of the used copies derive from unused ones sent back to the Islands on self-addressed envelopes. Such copies are usually cancelled by the double circle obliterator, Georgetown, Type V, which was not brought into use until March, 1909.

The supply of 1D surcharges was sufficient to meet demands until December 9th when a large number were required to stamp receipts. Three more sheets were therefore surcharged, bringing the total to 18 sheets or 2,160 stamps. A small supply of this second printing was sent to Cayman Brac as it was thought they would be needed for fiscal requirements similar to those at Georgetown. It seems, however, that there never was a shortage of stamps at the Cayman Brac Post Office during this period.

Almost simultaneously with the exhaustion of the stock of 1d stamps, the supply of ½d stamps, eked out by the 'One Halfpenny' on 1d surcharge, was reduced to one sheet. Once again the local handyman was called in, this time to prepare a '½d' handstamp. He used the same '1' and 'D' as for the 1D surcharge and did not include a fraction bar. Miss Parsons then surcharged 15 sheets of the 5s salmon and green with the overprint '½D'. It is believed that she carried out this operation on 22nd November, although the stamps were not placed on sale until the 26th, presumably the day the supply of 'One Halfpenny' on 1d surcharges ran out.

It seems that the Postmistress carried out this overprinting with less care than before. The surcharge may be found applied vertically, or leaning to the right or left. Copies with a complete and even imprint are an exception. Also a greater number of varieties were produced.

1. *Surcharge inverted* (S.G. 18a) It is believed that two examples exist. One, se-tenant with a normal, is in the Royal Collection. The other is separated from a normal by the interpane margin.

2. *Surcharge double* (S.G. 18b) Nine, possibly ten, mint examples exist, and again one, in pair with normal, is in the Royal Collection. Only one used example (on piece) is known.

3. *Surcharge double, one inverted* (S.G. 18c) One example is believed to exist.

4. *Surcharge omitted, in pair with normal* (S.G. 18d) Two examples exist. One is the middle stamp in a strip of three and resides in the Royal Collection. The other is the fourth stamp of the bottom row in a block comprising the two bottom rows complete with margins.

Instructions were again issued that the surcharges on the 5s stamp were to be sold only over the Post Office counter. However this may be, Leon Adutt, an early Caymans specialist, had a complete pane of each surcharge in his collection. These have since been broken up, and the largest blocks now thought to exist comprise 24 stamps in each case.

The '2½d' on brown and blue.

By the end of January, 1908, the supply of 2½d stamps was low. This did not give rise to any immediate concern as it was anticipated that the new 2½d 'Postage-Revenue' stamps would arrive by steamer at the end of February. When this same steamer departed, it would take with it the next batch of overseas mail. Such calculations were unfortunately upset by the arrival on February 12th of the steam yacht *Zenaida*. Its owner, Sir Frederick Johnson, offered to carry mail to his next port of call, Cienfugos in Cuba. This offer was promptly accepted, but as much of the mail was to the U.S.A., it required franking at the 2½d rate. However, the stock of 2½d stamps was by now exhausted, and there were too few stamps of lower denomination in hand to allow them to be used for making up the rate. The Commissioner therefore instructed the Inspector of Police, Mr J.H. O'Sullivan, to surcharge four sheets (480 stamps) of the 4d brown and blue (S.G. 13) with the overprint '2½d'. This was done with a metal handstamp using rather smaller type than was the case for the surcharges on the 5s value. These new provisionals were placed on sale the same day – 12th February – and the handstamp immediately destroyed.

(Continued on page 1229)

Left: ½d on 5s and pair 1d on 5s to prepay foreign overseas rate. Right: 1d on 4d revenue, surcharge inverted.





THE CAYMAN ISLANDS PROVISIONALS

(Continued from page 1227)

Strict instructions were given to the Postmistress that no more than six stamps were to be sold to any individual and none was to be supplied to foreign dealers. In spite of these orders, it seems that only two sheets were used for postal purposes, the remaining two sheets being sold to a local speculator. There seems every likelihood that the top two rows, complete with margins, that once graced the collection of Mr Adutt may have originated from this source. The Post Office supply was sold out by 14th February.

Two major varieties exist. Of the double surcharge, two mint and one used copy have been recorded. Of the mint copies, one, in pair with normal, is in the Royal Collection. It is evident that Mr O'Sullivan endeavoured to place the second strike over the first, for the separation of the overprints is small. The second variety is the double surcharge with one inverted. The copy once possessed by Mr Adutt is believed to be the only one extant.

Quite dangerous forgeries of this surcharge were produced in Paris, and unless one is certain that a copy is genuine, it is best to buy these stamps with a good certificate. As with the "½D' AND '1D' on 5s, mint copies are more plentiful than used ones (considerably so in this case), and many of the used stamps are cancelled too late to have been in the *Zenaida* batch.

The '1' on 4d black and red.

By the middle of May, 1908, the supply of low-value stamps was once more exhausted, and the Postmistress resorted to the manuscript franking of envelopes as described in an article in the issue of this magazine dated 19th May, 1977. As a fresh stock of stamps was expected to arrive by the mail steamer on 1st June, the postal authorities hoped that they could avoid the manufacture of yet another surcharge. However, during this period an American resident asked for a sheet of 1d stamps for use on receipts. On being informed that none were available, he complained to the Commissioner, who consequently felt obliged to authorise the overprinting of a small number of 4d stamps (S.G. 29).

A crude handstamp was again put together using metal type set into sealing wax and a wooden handle. Three complete sheets and 36 odd copies, a total of 396 stamps, were surcharged '1D'. The printing was carried out by the Postmistress at Georgetown Post Office on two days, 12th and 14th May.

One sheet was sold to the American and the rest singly, unless proof was provided of a need for more. Very strict instructions were issued that these surcharges were for fiscal purposes only, and that in no circumstances were they to be used for franking mail. Some months later attempts were made to pass some of these stamps through the post and a few of these succeeded. The surcharges escaped detection by being mixed with other stamps on the same cover. When they were detected, letters franked solely with the '1D' on 4d were charged double the rate on delivery. It is also believed that about a dozen copies were later cancelled by favour. A well known variety is the inverted surcharge. Much rarer is the double surcharge and also a variety with the '1' inked in by hand.

The '1D' on 4d proved to be the last of the surcharge provisionals. During the period of their issue, and immediately afterwards, the postal authorities came under great criticism, and indeed actual accusations of dishonesty were made. So insistent were the complaints, that the Colonial Office asked the Governor of Jamaica, Sir Sidney Oliver, to instigate an enquiry into the affair. In the event, Mr Hirst's reasons for issuing the surcharges were upheld.

There can be little doubt that the poor communications that existed between the Caymans and the outside world, coupled with the time taken for any request for fresh supplies of stamps to filter, via Jamaica, to the Crown Agents, was in large measure the cause that led to their issue. However, one can perhaps still be excused for thinking that if the officials concerned had possessed more foresight, the necessity for at least some of the surcharges might have been avoided; but then we should not have the pleasure today of collecting and studying the stamps and covers of one of the most interesting periods of the postal history of the Cayman Islands.



2½d or 4d – pair used on cover, 2nd stamp with missing '1' of '½'.

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Cayman Islands Stamps

By Colonel D. G. N. LLOYD-LOWLES

(A paper read before the Royal Philatelic Society, London on 21st January, 1971)

I BELIEVE the last and only time the Society has been addressed on the subject of Cayman Islands stamps was about sixty years ago, by the late Mr Leon Adutt. Since then, many items that were unknown to him have been unearthed, and much information too.

I would first like to say how greatly I appreciate the honour of presenting a paper on my small collection. I am a very new member of the Society, and not a very long standing serious philatelist, so even in the narrow field in which I specialise, I have much to learn.

Before I go on to the description of individual items, there are some general observations I should like to make.

First I must at once warn you that I am not going into great details of perforations, papers, re-entries and so on, as I am not in any way equipped to do so.

Second however, I make no apology for making available to those of you who wish to see it, a map showing the Cayman Islands Group, and its position relative to Jamaica and Cuba.

I expect there may even be some people in this room who have no very clear idea where or what these islands are, and certainly not many of you will have been there.

I went there, about a year ago, with the idea of looking at the home-ground of my collection, if one can put it that way. I must confess that there was little of interest philatelically.

Of the three islands, Grand Cayman is only twenty-two miles long and about seven miles wide at its maximum. Its highest point might be 65 ft. above sea level, but on Cayman Brac, twelve miles long by only one mile wide, there is a positive mountain, no less than 140 ft. high. Little Cayman boasts no such protruberance.

The group lies about mid-way on the 'hi-jack' route between Jamaica and Cuba, which explains why a large percentage of its mail passes, or used to pass, through one or other of these two countries and is back-stamped accordingly.

The islands were discovered (presumably uninhabited) by Columbus in 1503. He apparently made no landing nor indeed were the islands ever colonised by the Spaniards.

They were called by Columbus 'Las Tortugas', from the abundance of turtles that were at that time, and indeed up to the end of the last century, to be found in those waters.

The name 'Cayman', used as far back as 1530, is said by some to have been given because of the alleged similarity of the Grand Cayman to an alligator or 'Caiman'. I do not see the likeness myself and a more probable explanation might be a derivation from Cay – an island – and Manos – a hand. Cayman Brac might therefore mean 'Hand and Arm'.

The first occupants of the islands were probably buccaneers who, in the 16th and 17th centuries, infested the 'Spanish Main', but probably owing to the increasingly frequent visits of men-of-war and other legitimate vessels to the islands and the waters round them to pick up turtle meat (this being one of the last places where fresh meat could be found, on the voyage back to Europe) they abandoned the islands and the first real settlers were in fact deserters from the forces of Cromwell, which captured Jamaica in 1655.

Two at least of these deserters, named Bodden and Walter or Watler, were the forbears of families still frequently found on the islands.

The Caymans remained a dependancy of Jamaica until the latter gained its independence in 1959 and then they became part of the short-lived Federation of West Indies. On the demise of the Federation, Caymans became a Crown Colony directly answerable to Whitehall, through a Commissioner and an Assembly.

The people are friendly, not very energetic, mostly white, and dependent now on the tourist trade. Formerly, when turtle abounded in local waters, turtle fishing was the main industry, together with building their own schooners. A trade in tortoiseshell was carried on, as witness three pieces of parcel wrappings included in my exhibit.

Now to turn to the philatelic history of the islands.

1. PRE-ADHESIVES

Pre-adhesive material is virtually unknown. I have been through quantities of the extremely interesting material of the 19th century in the library of the Methodist Missionary Society and seen a number of letters written by missionaries from the Caymans to the H.Q. in London. I have also been through some of the boxes of manuscript in the Jamaican Library in Kingston and have included a photograph of one of the early entires. The only one I have come across in private hands is in my own collection and is dated 10 September, 1805 'Off the Caymans'. This letter, having been kept in its original folds for 165 years, I have now had expertly mounted by Mr New of the Public Records Office and it is being handed round together with a transcript of the contents.

Until about 1889, all mail from the Caymans was despatched by any vessel that happened to be convenient, but it will be appreciated that there was little mail at that period outside the Jamaica-Cayman area. Delivery must have been very irregular and the few inhabitants

who needed to correspond with more reliability petitioned the Colonial secretary in London that the R.M.S.P. should make a regular call at Georgetown. This was in 1848 and again in 1854.

Both times were without success, the Company claiming that the consequent delay would be so costly and in any case the reefs surrounding the islands made approach too dangerous.

2. 'JAM-CAYS' (Jamaican stamps used in Caymans)

It seems however that some consideration *was* given to the possibility of setting up a regular postal service and even of providing separate stamps, some years before it was actually done. Indeed it is said that the Caymanians opened a post office of their own, presumably at Georgetown, which was very smartly closed by the Jamaican authorities.

However, in 1889, an official post office was opened and mail from the Caymans was franked with Jamaican stamps, cancelled by a number of different obliterators. The Jamaican stamps sent over for this purpose comprised:

½d. Green (S.G.16)
1d. Purple and Mauve (S.G.27)
2d. Green (S.G.28)
2½d. Dull Purple and Blue (S.G.29)
4d. Red Orange (S.G.22)

There is said to exist one copy of the Jamaica 3d. Green (S.G.21) used in Cayman but I do not know its present whereabouts.

The postage rates in force were those of Jamaica, 4d. being the rate for foreign letters. The example of the 4d. I am showing bears certainly one of the earliest dates known.

In addition to these, for a short while from May, 1900 the 1d. Llandovery Falls carmine (S.G.31) was used, of which I am showing a strip of four, and also a single copy bearing the Cayman Brac cancellation.

There were also the ½d. green overprinted OFFICIAL in thin (S.G.01) or thick (S.G.02) sans serif type, and the 1d. rose (S.G.03) and 2d. grey (S.G.04) overprinted in thick type only. The ½d. block of four in my collection is the only one recorded.

The official card I am exhibiting is interesting in that it shows the same ½d. green with the thick overprint, used in Jamaica but it also bears the Georgetown Type 1 cancellation used as an arrival mark.

Two copies are known to exist (and were in the Bostwick, Adutt, Watkin and Meredith collections successively) of the Jamaican 1d. overprinted 'Cayman Islands', but it seems quite clear from statements made to Mr Bostwick (who discovered them in 1909) by the Kingston Postmaster at the time that they were supposed to be printed, that they were never issued for general use. The sole used copy, postmarked Richmond (Jamaica), can only have been so cancelled by favour or by mistake.

You will notice that the Type II cancellations on the single stamps are all dated 1895 and it was for long believed that it was only used in that year, but the cover on display clearly shows its use in 1898.

I have been unable to find out how many Jamaican stamps were issued for use in Caymans, as they were simply sold for cash. The number must have been small, however, as

very few indeed have come to light. Indeed, even in 1904–5 the total number of letters despatched from the Caymans was only 6678, of which only forty-two were foreign mails.

The population in 1891, by the way, was only 4,322.

The Jamaica Llandovery Falls black and red (S.G.32) has been seen bearing a Cayman postmark, but this probably has not been postally used, as it was not issued in Jamaica until 25th September, 1901, some seven or eight months after the first definitive Cayman stamps had made their appearance.

3. Q.V. ISSUE 1901

It having been decided, on the advice of Sir Henry Blake, a former Governor of Jamaica, that the Caymans should have their own stamps, a requisition for ½d. and 1d. stamps was forwarded to Messrs De La Rue by the Crown Agents on 27th April, 1900, calling for 48,000 of each duty, printed on the Jamaican keyplate.

The firm pointed out that this keyplate had the word 'Jamaica' on it and proposed the Universal keyplate. Specimens were submitted on 30th April, approved on 23rd May (the Queen's birthday) and 13,600 stamps and 750 specimens of each duty were 'charged' i.e. shipped, on 7th August. (See *De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps.*)

In spite of the dispatch with which the order was fulfilled, the stamps do not appear to have reached Grand Cayman until November, 1900 and they were not officially on sale until 19th February, 1901, though copies exist franked with earlier dates. Unfortunately, the Queen had died on 22nd January, 1901 so no stamps of other denominations were issued, although they had in fact been ordered. A further supply of the ½d. and 1d. was however sent out on 11th June.

Incidentally, none of these, nor any Cayman Islands, stamps seems to have been demonetised.

These keyplate stamps were the last of the Queen's reign and bear the plate number '3' in white on a coloured ground.

The only recorded variety is a slightly larger gap between the 'S' and the 'L' of ISLANDS in about 70% of the stamps, the remainder being normal.

4. K.E. VII FIRST SERIES 1902

Throughout this paper and in mounting my collection, I have followed the designations used in the definitive book on the Cayman Islands by Aguilar and Saunders, which I shall refer to at the end of my talk.*

Amongst the first keyplate stamps issued in the new reign were those of the Cayman Islands and the sheets of the first series (in two panes of sixty stamps), printed on Single Crown CA paper by De La Rue, carry the plate number 1.

This first issue comprised ½d., 1d., 2½d., 6d. and 1s. and were similar to the Q.V. stamps, with the substitution of the new sovereign's head on a solid colour ground, instead of a lined ground, and the addition of a small crown over it.

**The Cayman Islands. Their Postal History Postage Stamps and Postmarks* by P. T. Saunders and E. F. Aguilar, 1962. Published by the authors.

5. K.E. VII SECOND SERIES 1905–06

A couple of years later, De La Rue introduced their Multiple Crown CA paper and in 1905 a further batch of stamps, with the new watermark, was sent out, in the same colours and denominations.

There are numerous shades found, but the only varieties of consequence are the shortened left leg of the 'M' of 'Caymans' in the twenty-seventh stamp of each sheet, and a small semi-circular dent under the first 'A' of Caymans in the sixth stamp of the top row of the left pane. Both of these I am showing.

6. K.E. VII THIRD SERIES 1907

In November, 1906 a number of duties were imposed by 'The Stamp Duty Law' on legal and other documents, which gave rise to a demand for different and higher value stamps. As a result, four further values were issued in March, 1907, namely the 4d. brown and blue, the 6d. olive and rose, the 1s. violet and green, and the 5s. salmon and green.

Although required mainly for revenue purposes, they were still inscribed 'Postage-Postage', probably owing to an oversight, and they should have been inscribed 'Postage & Revenue'. It has not been discovered who made this error, nor why these rather charming bi-colours were chosen.

7. K.E. VII FOURTH SERIES 1907–09

In July, 1907, the Commissioner of the islands intimated his intention to 'Submit the question of a new issue of all denominations' to the Governor and in September of that year a requisition was duly sent to the Crown Agents.

The ½d. and 1d. of the new issue were sent out in December, 1907 and the remaining denominations in the following year (though the 1s. did not come until 1909). The new design differed in being inscribed 'Postage & Revenue' and in the frame surrounding the King's head being octangular instead of circular.

The main issue was printed on Multiple Crown CA paper, but the 10s. was done on single CA paper and the 1s. on both single and multiple. All values above the 2½d. were on chalky paper.

8. K.G. V FIRST SERIES 1912–20

King Edward died on 10th May, 1910 and a new issue of stamps with the new monarch's head immediately became necessary. These went on sale at Georgetown P.O. on 24th April, 1912, and comprised the ½d., 2d., 2s. and 3s. values, the three latter being new.

The design was virtually identical with the previous issue, except for the change of heads, that of K.G.V being taken from the design of Bertram Mackennal – it is said without his knowledge or consent.

This series was of course current for the whole of the period of the First World War and the difficulties experienced in maintaining continuity of supplies of colour and paper

for colonial issues generally, resulted in a large number of variations of colour particularly in the 3d. value. In this case, the colour ranges from a white back through lemon and pale yellow to orange-buff and the spectrum is further complicated by the action of heat and damp on the coloured paper and the inconsistency of the method used by the manufacturers in colouring the paper itself, to say nothing of the closure of the principal mill supplying it.

There are twenty-one stamps catalogued in this issue, all of which are shown as specimens, singles, blocks of four, mint and used, the latter showing all the different cancellations used in the various Post Offices then in existence.

9. K.G. V SECOND SERIES 1921–26

In 1920–21 an entirely new design was produced, bearing a strong overall resemblance to the New Zealand design 1915–25, though the actual decoration of the frame is different and the head is slightly smaller. The head was designed by a local New Zealand artist, Linley Richardson, and it is not known whether his consent was also not asked for. I am showing a die proof in blue on a white card, with a New Zealand stamp for comparison.

In this issue twenty-three stamps are catalogued, recess printed partly on Multiple Crown CA paper and partly on Multiple Script CA. The perforation was in some cases comb and in others, line, or both.

Specimens, mint singles and block of four of all values and shades and a fairly complete collection of different cancellations are being shown.

I have also included three pieces of parcel wrapping for tortoiseshell, to which I have referred.

The only variety recorded is the inverted watermark on the ½d. and 3d. two mint singles and a used block of four of the latter are shown.

10. K.G. V THIRD SERIES 1935

On 5th December, 1932, a Centenary Commemorative Series was issued, which I shall refer to later, and on its withdrawal, the K.G. V. Second series I have already described came on sale again.

This in turn was superseded, in May, 1935, by the third K.G. series, a very attractive set of pictures showing aspects of island life. These were recess printed by Waterlow & Sons, the first Cayman stamps not printed by De La Rue.

They are on Multiple Script paper and perforated 12½.

The only variety known in this issue is shown, with an offset impression of the King's head on the back of the 1½d.

11. THE COMMEMORATIVES

1 ST SERIES. CENTENARY OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE JUSTICES AND VESTRY.

These twelve large and handsome stamps were also recess printed by Waterlows and appeared on 5th December, 1932, to celebrate 100 years of quasi self-government.

In addition to the two proofs shown, there is only one other known, the 5s. value, printed in black and carmine. This also appears in the Queen's collection, but is in fact an artist's sketch, so beautifully executed that it is almost indistinguishable from the printed proofs.

2ND SERIES. SILVER JUBILEE.

These four stamps followed the standard design, but being recess printed, this time once again by De La Rue, there are no 'Flagstaffs' or other of the usual varieties.

12. THE FARTHING STAMP 1908–1909

The inland post between Boddentown and Georgetown had been established in the early 1900s but the exact date of opening the Boddentown office is not known. The postage rates of 1d. per letter or ½d. per postcard were considered excessive and the service discontinued in 1907.

However, in 1908, a new scheme was approved under which the rate for internal letters was reduced to ½d. and for cards to ¼d.

There were no ¼d. stamps available at the date the scheme was introduced but by 30th June they were on sale. It was strictly enjoined that they were only for internal use, but unfortunately this rule had to be abrogated, much to the discomfort of the authorities, as within a month, the whole stock of ½d. stamps had run out and the new ¼d. had to be authorised for external use.

The design of the new stamp was somewhat Germanic in appearance and a complete departure from others in the Empire. They were lithographed by De La Rue, of poor quality execution, with several flaws and in a variety of shades, in each of four printings. The varieties principally noted are a white flaw obliterating some of the leaves to the right of the crown and a white dot under the 'N' of Cayman. There was also one sheet unperforated down the extreme right hand side in the fourth printing, of which I am showing a part.

(To be concluded)

Cayman Islands Stamps

By Colonel D. G. N. LLOYD-LOWLES

(A paper read before the Royal Philatelic Society, London on 21st January, 1971)

(Continued from Vol. 80, No. 939, page 80)

13. THE PROVISIONALS

I have dealt briefly with most of the standard issues up to the end of K.G. V and I can now turn to the more exciting stamps which make this small country a worthwhile field for the specialist collector.

There is no doubt that the Caymans, not alone amongst overseas territories, gained a thoroughly bad name in philatelic circles at one time, and accusations were levied that officials deliberately created shortages of certain denominations, thus necessitating provisional issues, to say nothing of virtually manufacturing varieties for re-sale.

In the case of the Caymans, on the one hand I should point out that it was a poor community, with little opportunity for its officials to earn even reasonable salaries in their jobs unless they could duplicate them or increase their salaries in some other way. For instance, A. E. Panton was not only No. 2 District Marriage Officer (not a very arduous job) but also Receiver of Wrecks. So it might be difficult to resist the temptation to earn a little extra by 'obliging' an insistent dealer or collector. This was clearly known to Lord Ripon who, in a circular from Downing Street dated 18th August, 1893, referred to this very practice and the 'temptation which it affords'.

As against this however, when, as a result of the major scandal which blew up over the Cayman surcharges of 1907–08, an official enquiry was held, the Colonial Secretary (Lord Crewe) wrote that he was 'of the opinion that Mr Hirst (the Commissioner) has successfully replied to the allegations made by the dealers'. So that was that.

It must be remembered that not only was communication between Jamaica and the Caymans always intermittent, the only regular service having been discontinued in 1905 owing to what was considered unnecessarily high charges, but communication with England was even more chancy, and it could be many weeks or months after a requisition for stamps left the Commissioner in Georgetown for the Governor in Kingston, and by him transmitted to the Crown Agents in London, who in turn had to place an order with the printers.

So it may not have been entirely carelessness and certainly not knavery that caused a shortage from time to time of stamps of popular values.

The first of such shortages, caused by an unprecedented demand from overseas dealers, was of the ½d. K.E. VII (2nd series).

So in June, 1907 the Commissioner sent forty sheets of the 1d. carmine (S.G.4) to Kingston asking for them to be surcharged. With a somewhat bad grace, this was agreed to, and the words 'one halfpenny' were duly surcharged in black. This was well executed, no real varieties or errors existing, unless a slight off-centering can be considered as such.

The appearance of this provisional created a world wide demand, as a result of which not only was there a shortage of the ½d. but also by reason of the surcharging of part of the 1d. stock, of that value also.

Poor Miss Parsons, Postmistress at Georgetown, pathetically complained that she had between 3,000 and 4,000 letters lying in the office unopened, because there were no stamps to put on the replies. The Commissioner, therefore, without consulting or even informing Kingston, authorised 1d. to be surcharged, this time on the 5s. salmon and green, a value for which there was comparatively little demand.

This surcharge was effected by Miss Parsons herself, using a handstamp made of metal figures stuck in a wooden frame. Within twenty-four hours of getting permission, Miss Parsons had surcharged no less than 1,800 stamps which she put on sale on 23rd November, 1907. This supply only lasted about a fortnight, after which she surcharged another three sheets, making 2,160 stamps in all. These however, sufficed until the arrival of the new Postage and Revenue series on 27th December, 1907.

However, although supplies of the 1d. value were now adequate, the ½d.'s began to run low, so Miss Parsons had to surcharge another fifteen sheets of the 5s., with ½d., similar to the 1d. in style. These were on sale on 26th November (three days after the 1d. surcharge) and also lasted until the new Fourth Series arrived.

Both these amusing and intriguing stamps now fetch very high prices and as a consequence have attracted the forger. The very amateur nature of the surcharge might lend itself to all manner of varieties. In fact it is surprising that more do not exist.

The most important are 1d./5s. a double surcharge (on view)
½d./5s. surcharge inverted (also shown)

It might have been thought that these three essays into the realm of surcharges would have satisfied the little community's requirements, but owing to the late arrival of the new 2½d. stamps and the fortuitous offer of a visiting yacht (the *Zenaida*) to take mails off with them, instead of waiting for the normal monthly boat to Kingston, it became necessary to create yet another provisional. This time it was the little used 4d. brown and blue which was surcharged 2½d. this being the rate for letters to U.S.A. whither the *Zenaida* was to carry them. Only four sheets (480 stamps) were surcharged, in black, by the Inspector of Police. To be strictly correct all used copies should bear the date of the *Zenaida's* sailing, i.e. the 14th February, by which date all the sheets had been sold. Sale of stamps was rationed to six per applicant but two whole sheets were sold entire to one speculator.

Forgeries of this stamp exist, but there are only two genuine varieties, namely a double overprint and an inverted overprint.

This 2½d./4d. surcharge did not exhaust the attraction of provisionals for the Caymanians, and in May, 1900 recourse was again had to this method of obtaining a low value stamp.

Once more Miss Parsons wielded her somewhat home-made stamp and surcharged 396 of the 4d. red and black on yellow (K.E. VII Fourth Series) with 1d. This was however, strictly for fiscal use and came into being as the result of an American Law Agent, Mr Lambert, demanding a large number of 1d. stamps for receipt purposes, and complaining to the Commissioner when he didn't get them. Whether he knew of the shortage and the likelihood of another surcharge in consequence, is open to surmise.

Although strictly for fiscal use, attempts were made to pass this stamp through the post in conjuction with legitimate stamps but I think they were all detected and so marked.

There remain two other cases which might come under the heading of this section, namely the Manuscript Provisionals. The first of these resulted from the fact that the inland postal rates for cards was reduced at the beginning of May, 1908 to ½d., whereas no ½d. stamps or postcards were issued until 30th June. The method employed was for the card to be placed in a white envelope and addressed on the outside, and the Postmaster, Mr McCausland, (or sometimes the Assistant Postmistress, Miss Parsons, as she had by then become on her retirement) would write his or her initials on the top right hand corner of the envelope, which was then postmarked as if an adhesive stamp were there.

A somewhat similar example was when, in the great hurricane of 1932, the Cayman Brac canceller was lost, Mr A. S. Rutty, the then Postmaster, similarly initialled mail to the number of about 300. I am showing a photograph of this interesting item, but I have not been able to secure an original, nor has Mr Rutty one.

14. THE WAR STAMPS

On 26th February, 1917, following what was already quite a popular trend, a 1½d. war tax was introduced, and as there were no 1½d. stamps, the whole stock of 24,000 2½d. stamps had been sent to Kingston to be surcharged. Before they could be issued, however, the news leaked out and orders from dealers far exceeded the numbers available. Consequently it was decided to hold up the issue until a further batch of 2½d. had arrived and been surcharged. These two surcharges, known as types 14 and 15 were put on sale on 28th February, 1917.

An order for 1½d. stamps had been sent to London but on grounds of economy the Crown Agents decided to issue a further batch of 2½d. stamps of which seven panes only (420 stamps) were received in Georgetown, printed with the 1½d. surcharge type 16.

Further printings of surcharged stamps were made: 'War Stamp' only on the ½d. green and 'War Stamp 1½d.' on the 2½d. orange in February, 1919, and 'War Stamp 1½d.' on the 2d. grey as late as March, 1920. Of the latter there were two printings, one in black, the other in red. All except one copy of the red surcharge were destroyed, and this stamp might well be the rarest of all Cayman Islands stamps today. It formed part of the Watkin and Meredith collections and was offered by Mr Watkin to 'Bro. Ainger' a fellow collector in 1933 at £25. 'I cannot take it myself' he wrote, but evidently Bro. Ainger couldn't either. The stamp fetched £33 in the Watkin sale in 1946 and only £24 in the Meredith sale in 1955. A photograph of this stamp, together with Mr Watkin's original letter, is on view.

There are a number of errors and varieties in the War Stamps, the principal being the omission of the fraction bar in types 14 and 15, stamp no. 34 of the sheet.

15. POSTAL STATIONERY

There is very little that need be said about this, a full range of ½d. postcards (two sizes), ½d. wrapper, 1d. postcard and envelope and 2½d. envelope being issued between 1908 and 1911.

The use of embossed stamps as adhesives, and adhesives added to postal stationery was not unknown though few have survived and some examples are included in my exhibit.

16. THE RURAL POSTS

The Rural and Inland posts were operated up to 1913 between various points on Grand Cayman namely Georgetown, Boddentown, West Bay and East End. There were three 'obliterators' used, one with the words 'Rural Post Collection, Grand Cayman' and two smaller ones 'West Bay Grand Cayman Rural Post Collection' and 'East End Grand Cayman Rural Post Gollection'. The misspelling on the latter appears never to have been corrected.

I believe these Rural Post cancellations are unique in postal history. Because there was (except for a short period) only one Post Office on Grand Cayman, namely Georgetown, some method had to be devised to enable the public to get their letters there.

The practice which evolved was for the waggoner, as he was called (i.e. the driver of the carrier's cart plying between Boddentown and Georgetown) to collect letters from outlying places (including a sort of hut or depot at Frank Sound, at the junction of the Boddentown road and the road to North Side) stamp them and apply his 'obliterator'. A similar practice was followed by horsemen who operated the other extremities of the Island, West Bay and East End.

At first all mail was 'obliterated' in this way but latterly foreign mail was cancelled at Georgetown. Examples of all types are shown.

17. COVERS

I would like to say a word about covers, philatelic and otherwise. Before, say, 1905, at any rate so far as the Caymans were concerned, the philatelic cover was unknown.

Any one looking at my collection however might well think some of the covers exhibited are suspect. So far as I know there are only very few, which I have purposely included so as to show certain cancellations.

In a small country like the Caymans there was inevitably a very limited amount of correspondence internal or external, and certain names occur with some frequency.

For instance, the Bodden family, one of the very earliest to settle in Grand Cayman, who gave their name to Boddentown, naturally initiated a good deal of the internal correspondence, just as the Panton family did.

Mr Lambert, who was a Law Agent practising in Georgetown, was the recipient of a considerable amount of inland mail and the sender of a good deal to his parent firm, Messrs Moody of Chicago, or his London correspondents, Baring Bros.

However, I suspect that Mr Lambert was the 'American gentleman' who caused the run on the 1d. stamps for receipt purposes and thus necessitated the 1d./5s. surcharge.

Even serious collectors such as the late Leon Adutt were not above including philatelic and self-addressed covers in their collections.

There is one other offender in this class. I refer to the sender of numerous covers addressed to himself but understamped, from neighbouring islands and even from England, so as to have them marked 'T' (indicating Postage Due) and the underpayment satisfied by Cayman stamps to the required value. (There were no postage due stamps as such.) I have a number of these and I am told that some 1,500 were found in this gentleman's home at his death.

I am showing one similar cover, addressed to the Commissioner, Mr Hutchings, from Jamaica. I am afraid that even he was not above indulging in this mild racket.

18. CONCLUSION

Finally, I would like to acknowledge my indebtedness to the facilities for study afforded by our library here, including the help given by Mr Butler and by Miss Brown in finding various publications.

There is however, no doubt that the Cayman 'bible' is the book published in 1962 by the late Mr E. F. Aguilar (of Jamaica) and by Mr P. T. Saunders, which is not only comprehensive but highly accurate and I have drawn on it freely in preparing this paper.

THE CAYMAN ISLANDS PROVISIONALS

JOHN H. BYL

DURING the years 1907-8 the postal authorities of the Cayman Islands found it expedient to issue no less than five surcharge provisional stamps. At the time much was written in the philatelic press about the necessity or otherwise for these stamps, and this short account attempts to re-examine the reasons that led to their issue.

The 'One Halfpenny' on 1d carmine

By early June, 1907, the stock of halfpenny stamps stood at only 17 sheets of 120 stamps each – enough to last some two months. This shortage had been caused, at least partly, by fulfilling a large order from a foreign dealer. Therefore on 11th June the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, the Hon. G.S.S. Hirst, wrote to the Colonial Secretary of Jamaica enclosing 40 sheets of the 1d carmine (S.G.9) with the request that they should be overprinted 'One Halfpenny'. The Governor of Jamaica approved this request, and the surcharging was carried out at the Government Printing Office in Kingston. However, agreement to do this was given with some degree of reluctance, and was carried out only as it was necessary for the convenience of the public. A reproof was sent to the Commissioner for allowing the stocks to fall so low, and he was requested to ensure that none was sold to dealers. No formal notice was given of this issue, but the stamps were put on sale on 30th August, and the supply lasted about three months.

On the whole, the overprinting was done carefully and well, and only two minor varieties are known.

1. On some stamps, the full stop, and occasionally the 'y' of 'Halfpenny.', falls on the next stamp.
2. On some panes, the sixth stamp of row two has the 'penny' of 'Halfpenny' slightly dropped.

In spite of the instructions given to the postal authorities, a large proportion of these stamps were not used for strictly commercial purposes. Certainly mint copies are more plentiful than used ones, and of the small number of covers that bear this surcharged stamp, very few are entirely non-philatelic.

The '1d' and '½d' on 5s salmon and green

On 29th July, 1907, the Commissioner wrote again to Jamaica to the effect that even allowing for the advent of the 'One Halfpenny' on 1d described above, his stocks of ½d and 1d stamps would not last to the end of the year. He repeated a previous request that a new issue inscribed 'Postage – Revenue' should be supplied. This request was not forwarded from Jamaica to the Crown Agents until 13th September. Still further delay then occurred owing to correspondence with the Crown Agents, with the result that the new ½d and 1d stamps were not to arrive until the end of December.

The stock of 1d stamps had meanwhile been severely diminished by surcharging

(Continued on page 1227)



Right: ½d on 1d. commercial cover to England bearing 6 copies to prepay registered rate.

Below (left to right): ½d on 5s (on cover); ½d on 5s; 1d on 5s – all surcharges double.







THE CAYMAN ISLAND PROVISIONALS

(Continued from page 1225)

4,800 of them as already described, and the supply was exhausted by 22nd November. There was no time to send stamps to Jamaica for overprinting, as had been done before, and the Commissioner instructed the Postmistress, Miss Gwendolyn A. Parsons, to meet the immediate requirements by surcharging 15 sheets of the 5s salmon and green (S.G. 16) with the overprint '1D'. The 5s stamp was selected for surcharging as there was a reasonable supply available, and, moreover, as it was used mainly for fiscal purposes, it was thought advisable to reduce the numbers in hand prior to the arrival of the new 'Postage-Revenue' series.

Miss Parsons engaged the services of the local carpenter to fix two pieces of metal type to a wooden handle, the type being the figure '1' and a capital 'D'. Using this crude handstamp and the post office pad, she surcharged each stamp separately, thus providing 1,800 stamps. These provisionals were placed on sale the following day, 23rd November.

Quite often one or other of the characters is faint, or sometimes entirely missing. On a few occasions, probably when the first strike appeared faint, Miss Parsons applied a second surcharge, and this gave rise to the double surcharge variety. Three mint copies are known in addition to the one, se-tenant with a normal surcharge, which is in the Royal Collection. Also two used copies exist, both rather faded and cancelled late, one being on a philatelic cover with other stamps. Incidentally, many of the used copies derive from unused ones sent back to the Islands on self-addressed envelopes. Such copies are usually cancelled by the double circle obliterator, Georgetown, Type V, which was not brought into use until March, 1909.

The supply of 1D surcharges was sufficient to meet demands until December 9th when a large number were required to stamp receipts. Three more sheets were therefore surcharged, bringing the total to 18 sheets or 2,160 stamps. A small supply of this second printing was sent to Cayman Brac as it was thought they would be needed for fiscal requirements similar to those at Georgetown. It seems, however, that there never was a shortage of stamps at the Cayman Brac Post Office during this period.

Almost simultaneously with the exhaustion of the stock of 1d stamps, the supply of ½d stamps, eked out by the 'One Halfpenny' on 1d surcharge, was reduced to one sheet. Once again the local handyman was called in, this time to prepare a '½d' handstamp. He used the same '1' and 'D' as for the 1D surcharge and did not include a fraction bar. Miss Parsons then surcharged 15 sheets of the 5s salmon and green with the overprint '½D'. It is believed that she carried out this operation on 22nd November, although the stamps were not placed on sale until the 26th, presumably the day the supply of 'One Halfpenny' on 1d surcharges ran out.

It seems that the Postmistress carried out this overprinting with less care than before. The surcharge may be found applied vertically, or leaning to the right or left. Copies with a complete and even imprint are an exception. Also a greater number of varieties were produced.

1. *Surcharge inverted* (S.G. 18a) It is believed that two examples exist. One, se-tenant with a normal, is in the Royal Collection. The other is separated from a normal by the interpane margin.

2. *Surcharge double* (S.G. 18b) Nine, possibly ten, mint examples exist, and again one, in pair with normal, is in the Royal Collection. Only one used example (on piece) is known.

3. *Surcharge double, one inverted* (S.G. 18c) One example is believed to exist.

4. *Surcharge omitted, in pair with normal* (S.G. 18d) Two examples exist. One is the middle stamp in a strip of three and resides in the Royal Collection. The other is the fourth stamp of the bottom row in a block comprising the two bottom rows complete with margins.

Instructions were again issued that the surcharges on the 5s stamp were to be sold only over the Post Office counter. However this may be, Leon Adutt, an early Caymans specialist, had a complete pane of each surcharge in his collection. These have since been broken up, and the largest blocks now thought to exist comprise 24 stamps in each case.

The '2½d' on brown and blue.

By the end of January, 1908, the supply of 2½d stamps was low. This did not give rise to any immediate concern as it was anticipated that the new 2½d 'Postage-Revenue' stamps would arrive by steamer at the end of February. When this same steamer departed, it would take with it the next batch of overseas mail. Such calculations were unfortunately upset by the arrival on February 12th of the steam yacht *Zenaida*. Its owner, Sir Frederick Johnson, offered to carry mail to his next port of call, Cienfugos in Cuba. This offer was promptly accepted, but as much of the mail was to the U.S.A., it required franking at the 2½d rate. However, the stock of 2½d stamps was by now exhausted, and there were too few stamps of lower denomination in hand to allow them to be used for making up the rate. The Commissioner therefore instructed the Inspector of Police, Mr J.H. O'Sullivan, to surcharge four sheets (480 stamps) of the 4d brown and blue (S.G. 13) with the overprint '2½d'. This was done with a metal handstamp using rather smaller type than was the case for the surcharges on the 5s value. These new provisionals were placed on sale the same day – 12th February – and the handstamp immediately destroyed.

(Continued on page 1229)

Left: ½d on 5s and pair 1d on 5s to prepay foreign overseas rate. Right: 1d on 4d revenue, surcharge inverted.





THE CAYMAN ISLANDS PROVISIONALS

(Continued from page 1227)

Strict instructions were given to the Postmistress that no more than six stamps were to be sold to any individual and none was to be supplied to foreign dealers. In spite of these orders, it seems that only two sheets were used for postal purposes, the remaining two sheets being sold to a local speculator. There seems every likelihood that the top two rows, complete with margins, that once graced the collection of Mr Adutt may have originated from this source. The Post Office supply was sold out by 14th February.

Two major varieties exist. Of the double surcharge, two mint and one used copy have been recorded. Of the mint copies, one, in pair with normal, is in the Royal Collection. It is evident that Mr O'Sullivan endeavoured to place the second strike over the first, for the separation of the overprints is small. The second variety is the double surcharge with one inverted. The copy once possessed by Mr Adutt is believed to be the only one extant.

Quite dangerous forgeries of this surcharge were produced in Paris, and unless one is certain that a copy is genuine, it is best to buy these stamps with a good certificate. As with the '½D' AND '1D' on 5s, mint copies are more plentiful than used ones (considerably so in this case), and many of the used stamps are cancelled too late to have been in the *Zenaida* batch.

The '1' on 4d black and red.

By the middle of May, 1908, the supply of low-value stamps was once more exhausted, and the Postmistress resorted to the manuscript franking of envelopes as described in an article in the issue of this magazine dated 19th May, 1977. As a fresh stock of stamps was expected to arrive by the mail steamer on 1st June, the postal authorities hoped that they could avoid the manufacture of yet another surcharge. However, during this period an American resident asked for a sheet of 1d stamps for use on receipts. On being informed that none were available, he complained to the Commissioner, who consequently felt obliged to authorise the overprinting of a small number of 4d stamps (S.G. 29).

A crude handstamp was again put together using metal type set into sealing wax and a wooden handle. Three complete sheets and 36 odd copies, a total of 396 stamps, were surcharged '1D'. The printing was carried out by the Postmistress at Georgetown Post Office on two days, 12th and 14th May.

One sheet was sold to the American and the rest singly, unless proof was provided of a need for more. Very strict instructions were issued that these surcharges were for fiscal purposes only, and that in no circumstances were they to be used for franking mail. Some months later attempts were made to pass some of these stamps through the post and a few of these succeeded. The surcharges escaped detection by being mixed with other stamps on the same cover. When they were detected, letters franked solely with the '1D' on 4d were charged double the rate on delivery. It is also believed that about a dozen copies were later cancelled by favour. A well known variety is the inverted surcharge. Much rarer is the double surcharge and also a variety with the '1' inked in by hand.

The '1D' on 4d proved to be the last of the surcharge provisionals. During the period of their issue, and immediately afterwards, the postal authorities came under great criticism, and indeed actual accusations of dishonesty were made. So insistent were the complaints, that the Colonial Office asked the Governor of Jamaica, Sir Sidney Oliver, to instigate an enquiry into the affair. In the event, Mr Hirst's reasons for issuing the surcharges were upheld.

There can be little doubt that the poor communications that existed between the Caymans and the outside world, coupled with the time taken for any request for fresh supplies of stamps to filter, via Jamaica, to the Crown Agents, was in large measure the cause that led to their issue. However, one can perhaps still be excused for thinking that if the officials concerned had possessed more foresight, the necessity for at least some of the surcharges might have been avoided; but then we should not have the pleasure today of collecting and studying the stamps and covers of one of the most interesting periods of the postal history of the Cayman Islands.



2½d or 4d – pair used on cover, 2nd stamp with missing '1' of '½'.

CAYMAN ISLANDS EXPRESS MAIL

THOMAS E. GIRALDI

SOMETIME around the beginning of 1978 the Cayman Islands began using the standard "express" labels for this class of mail as used by the other UPU member British Colonies. The G.P.O. at Georgetown prior to this had considered this class of mail as special delivery. This was changed over to conform with UPU regulations.

The G.P.O. and SPO's Boddentown, Savannah and West Bay; and Stake Bay on Cayman Brac used a handstamp (Type II) on mail while the other SPO's merely wrote it in manuscript.

Two types of special delivery handstamps have been seen. Type I used only at the G.P.O. with the earliest date of usage being 29th June 1968; and Type II which has an earliest day known of 30th September 1969.

West Bay and Stake Bay are currently still using their special delivery handstamps while the G.P.O., Boddentown, Savannah, Northside and East End are now using the labels.

Two types of labels have been seen in use. Type I seen at the G.P.O. and SPO's; and Type II seen only at the SPO's.

In January-March 1979, a shortage of labels at the G.P.O. resulted when a new shipment of labels was found to be the wrong type. Postmaster Johnson had the temporary "express" handstamp made locally, and this was used until late 1979/early 1980 when the express labels were resumed.

Type I labels are brown coloured, and Type II are a reddish brown.

West Bay could very well be using labels but a letter received 19th August 1980 had the special delivery handstamp on it.



Top: Cover of 1977 from Northside, Grand Cayman with "Special Delivery" in manuscript; Bottom: cover of 1979 with local "Express" handstamp. Left and below: handstamp and label types.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Handstamp Type 1



Handstamp Type 2



Handstamp Type 1



Handstamp Type 2

CAYMAN IS. MANUSCRIPT PROVISIONALS

J.H. BYL

DURING the last two or three years several new facts have emerged about the Manuscript Provisionals of the Cayman Islands. Briefly, these Provisionals were made by the Postmistress at Georgetown, Miss G.A. Parsons, in May 1908, and subsequently in October of that year by her successor, Mr W.G. McCausland, and herself as his assistant. In each case they were rendered necessary by a shortage of certain low value stamps. Full details may be found in my article in STAMP COLLECTING of 19th May, 1977, and the purpose of this short account is to update that article.

This year Gibbons have listed and priced these Provisionals for the first time, and there is no doubt that this will do much towards helping Caymans collectors appreciate the true significance and place of these interesting covers in the Postal History of the Islands.

With a little patience, it is easy for any collector to acquire an example of MP2 (Gibbons listing). This is the Type with '*Pd ½d / W.G. McC*' written in two lines in pinkish red ink. Hitherto it was believed that this Type was issued between the 4th and 16th October, 1908. However, the latest known date must now be recorded as 27th October, an example with this date having recently appeared on the market. Also two examples, both dated 6th October, have been seen in which the manuscript is in one line and is written in distinctively mauve-coloured ink. When seen alongside an ordinary example the difference is most marked.

However, the most important discovery is shown in the photograph. MP1 has (*Postage Paid / G.A.P.*) endorsed on the cover in red ink. This new Type has, in addition, the amount paid written outside the brackets. In the example illustrated the ½(d) prepaid the local or inter-island letter rate on this cover from Grand Cayman to Cayman Brac. So far, this is the only recorded example, and I would be glad to hear of any similar cover. Incidentally, the earliest known date for MP1 itself is now 12th May, and a total of five examples of this Type are known.

Examples of the last three Types of Manuscript Provisional are among the great rarities of the Cayman Islands, and recorded numbers are very low. They are: MP3 – 1, MP4 – 2, and MP5 – 2. It is quite possible, however, that further examples exist, and I would be very grateful if any collector who possesses one would send me details of the cover with, if possible, a photocopy of it.



John Lea of Manchester Dies

John A. Lea, Managing Director of J.E. Lea (Manchester) Ltd., died suddenly on 12th October, following a heart attack while on holiday with friends. He was 99 years of age.

The business was founded in Manchester by John Edward Lea and quickly became known as "The Gibbons of the North". On the death of the founder, his sons John A. and William E. Lea jointly inherited. Within a few years the brothers re-vamped the business. John stayed in Manchester and managed with skill the business based on the shop and dealing in everything from new issues to classic rarities – and all the impedimenta beloved of collectors. He was essentially an over-the-counter salesman with a bluff manner appreciated by his basically Lancastrian clientele.

William ("Bill") Lea set up in London and soon established W.E. Lea (Philatelists) Ltd., as dealers in classic issues and rare postal history. Beautifully appointed offices replaced the rough and tumble of shop premises. Deals for thousands of pounds were conducted in an atmosphere similar to that of an exclusive Bond Street jewellery business.

When Bill died, "young Bill" and his brother Michael (with their mother, and sister) maintained their father's flair and style. Now a third generation, "young John" takes over in Manchester. In fact, John Lea has been with his father John A. for many years and, doubtless, he will maintain the tradition which has kept the Manchester business in the forefront of philately in the north for very nearly a century.

K.F.C.

Malta Marks Chess Olympiads

On 20th November, the Malta Postal Administration issued a set of three stamps to mark the holding of the 1980 F.I.D.E. Congress and Chess Olympiads in Malta,



from 20th November to 8th December. Designed by Harry Borg, these stamps are printed by Printex Limited in offset, with Maltese Crosses watermark, in sheets of 50, perf. 13.6 x 14. The values are 2c5, 8c and 30c.



The Rural Posts of the Cayman Islands

By John H. Byl

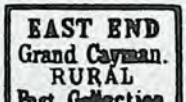
ON February 3rd, 1908, the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands had to stop the bi-weekly mail service between Georgetown, the capital, and Boddentown because of its expense. On March 1st of the same year the Post Office at East End was closed, probably due to insufficient business.

These two events left the postal arrangements on Grand Cayman in a quite inadequate state comprising, in effect, two post offices, one in the capital and one at Boddentown. Doubtless, it was to ease this situation that the Rural Posts were instituted.

From March 31st, 1908, a weekly mail waggon started to ply between Georgetown and Boddentown (approximately 8 miles) from where a messenger on horseback extended the service to East End (a further 10 miles). Both the driver of the mailcart and the messenger collected and delivered letters and also sold stamps. Inhabitants living in the remoter parts of the Island travelled up to the main road to meet the mailcart, which also carried freight. Others living close to the home of the waggoner were in the habit of calling there for their mail.



Type I



Type II



Type III

Rural Post Cancellations

Type I. For this service the waggoner was issued with a special obliterator. At first it was used on all the mail he collected, but later seems to have been used only for local letters, those for abroad being cancelled on arrival at Georgetown. The handstamp, which is believed to have been lost in a hurricane in 1917, measures 51 × 24 mm and reads, "RURAL POST—COLLECTION.—GRAND CAYMAN." in three lines. Impressions are generally in violet but are also known in black.

Type II. This obliterator was issued to the waggoner and used by him on mail collected between East End and Boddentown. Mail forwarded via Boddentown was usually cancelled there both on arrival and despatch, while mail destined for abroad received, in addition, the c.d.s. of Georgetown. The handstamp measures 25½ × 16½ mm and reads "EAST END—Grand Cayman.—RURAL—Post Collection." in four lines.

The last word is spelt with a "G" instead of a "C" and this was never corrected. The handstamp was made of rubber and it rapidly deteriorated: so much so, that later examples are almost illegible. Impressions are generally in violet. In 1913, however, the East End Post Office was re-opened and the handstamp was kept there and used concurrently with the East End c.d.s., the impressions then being in black. Examples of Type II are known on covers dated from 1911 to 1916.

Type III. A local mail between Georgetown and West Bay (six miles due north) was probably started sometime during 1909, but the handstamp seems to have been issued at the same time as that for East End, i.e., during 1911, and it was used under similar conditions. It was also of rubber and measures 25 × 18 mm. It reads: "WEST BAY—GRAND CAYMAN—RURAL—Post Collection" in four lines, impressions being in violet and later in black. It was in use for a shorter time, 1911 to 1913, than the East End handstamp and most examples are quite legible. It appears to have passed out of use with the opening of the West Bay Post Office in 1913.

To give some idea of the numbers of surviving examples, I have noted a total of 14 envelopes and cards bearing Rural Post cancellations of all types that have appeared at auction during the last seven years. The last example to come up realised £130 in 1976. Roughly the same number of each type exist, and of the 14 mentioned above, four were examples of Type I, five of Type II and five of Type III. Most West Bay examples, and some of the East End ones, are struck on postal stationery envelopes and cards.

INTERNATIONAL THEMATIC EXHIBITION IN PORTUGAL

Styled PORTUCALE 77, the 2nd World Exhibition of Thematic Philately will be held in Oporto, Portugal from October 29th to November 6th. The exhibition will be under the patronage of the Portuguese Post Office and F.I.P., the venue being the Palacio dos Desportos where 3,000 frames of thematic exhibits will be on view. All enquiries should be addressed to PORTUCALE 77, Avenida Rodrigues de Freitas 11, Oporto, Portugal.

The first thematic international exhibition under F.I.P. patronage was held in Brussels in December 1975.

NOTE. Cale was the old Portuguese town which, together with the old harbour area of Portus Cale, has become the modern town of Oporto.

Up-dating Caymans Postmarks and Post Offices

By Peter P. McCann, Ph.D.
British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group



Fig. 1. Note the damaged c.d.s. of the machine cancellation.

An excellent outline about the then current postmarks of the Cayman Islands was published in this magazine[1] in 1969 by S. G. Balley who, in turn, had updated the still standard handbook[2] about the Cayman Islands published in 1962 by E. F. Aguilar and P. T. Saunders. On a recent trip in June 1976 to all the Cayman Island post offices, I found that the Cayman Brac datestamps had been replaced in April–May 1976 and also that the G.P.O. in Georgetown and the post office on Little Cayman had new datestamps of the same type. Of further interest was the fact that the postal agency of Watering Place on Cayman Brac had been upgraded to post office status and for the first time, in May 1976, has had its own datestamp.

There are no "philatelic" duplicate sets of these new datestamps at the G.P.O. as has been the case for the still current Grand Cayman branch post office cancellers. However, postmarks from all the Cayman Island branch offices (including the, until recently, dormant Little Cayman office) may be obtained through the newly-reorganised Philatelic Bureau at the G.P.O. which will send information as to their various services upon request. Overall, I was much impressed with the efficiency and helpfulness of all the Cayman Islands postal workers from both a postal and philatelic point of view.

Fig. 1 illustrates the datestamp in use in conjunction with a machine slogan canceller at the Georgetown G.P.O. This has deteriorated seriously over the years and is now somewhat misshapen. This device is used on most outgoing mail. The handstamps in current use are also shown.

Fig. 2 shows the other previously described[1] single-ring datestamps in use at the branch offices on Grand Cayman although, technically, Hell is not a branch office and is still only a postal agency, and, therefore, cannot register outgoing mail.

Fig. 3 shows the current type of rubber registration stamps

(*Continued on page 1337*)



Fig. 2. Grand Cayman branch offices. Note inverted date of Savannah

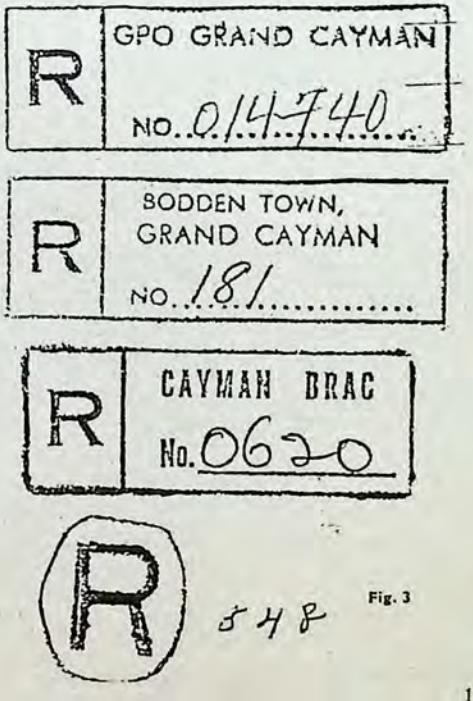


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Up-dating Cayman Is. Postmarks (*continued from page 1335*)

in use except, for unexplained reasons, at South Sound and East End on Grand Cayman. These two offices still use the metal type " R " stamp also illustrated.

Fig. 4 illustrates the new Cayman Brac and Little Cayman datestamps. They are of a similar size and type to the new Georgetown datestamp seen in Fig. 1, all being ordered at the same time. All registered mail from Cayman Brac and Little Cayman offices bears a Cayman Brac registration stamp applied in Stake Bay as all out-island mail must pass through this office for trans-shipment to the G.P.O.



Fig. 5

Fig. 5 shows one of the round rubber datestamps used as cachets on all mail from post office or other government departments. The stamp for the District Office on Cayman Brac (illustrated) has varied uses as the District Commissioner, who heads the office, serves in many functions including that of Head Postmaster for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Similar rubber datestamps are inscribed: POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPT. GRAND CAYMAN C.I.; OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Cayman Islands; DEPT. OF BROADCASTING, CAYMAN ISLANDS and CAYMAN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM. *(See footnotes adjoining column.)*

Europage (*continued from page 1333*)

between Denmark and Greenland by the M.S.s *Disko* and *Kununguak* (which appears on the 1976 Mail Transport 100ø.). Each ship has a post office on board and its own handstamp canceller. Covers bearing *Greenland* stamps only will be serviced on request to M.S. *Disko*, DK 3991 Copenhagen or M.S. *Kununguak*, DK 3990 Copenhagen.

The helicopter carrier *Jeanne d'Arc* is using a special slogan cancellation from November 23rd 1976 to May 9th 1977; the French guided missile destroyers *Du Chayla* and *E. E. Kersaint* will also furnish strikes of their cachets. In each case write to M. l'Agent Postale, (*name of ship*) par Bureau Central Naval, 75200 Paris Naval. For cachets of the West German guided missile destroyers *Lutjens*, *Rommel* and *Molders* write to the vessel at Tirpitzhafen, 2300 Kiel.

The Swedish State Railways ferry *Gotaland* plies between Trelleborg (Sweden) and Sassnitz (East Germany). For her martime mark, apply to the ship at either port.

Readers who understand German will find the regular ships' marks feature in the fortnightly *Sammlerdienst* (DM44 p.a. from Postfach 683, 8630 Coburg, West Germany) or the monthly *Schweizer Brifmarken-Zeitung* (Sw.fr. 36 p.a. from Buri Druck AG, Eigerstrasse 71, 3001 Bern, Switzerland) of inestimable help. A German correspondent writes that a prominent dealer in ships' mail items is Hermann Sieger, Postfach 1160, 7073 Lorch/Wurttemberg; his advertisements appear on the semi-transparent bags which are available in West German post offices when you buy commemorative stamps.

Swiss Mystery?

The 1936 Landscapes 5c. blue-green of Switzerland (S.G.372) is listed in the Zumstein Special Catalogue as No. 202z, with a printing of 120 million. The same catalogue lists, with an illustration, as plate flaw (*Plattenfehler*) No. 9, the stamp with an interrupted line over the group of houses (*unterbrochene Linie über der Häusergruppe*). The listing of this plate flaw implies that the basic stamp exists without it.

A contributor to the September issue of *SBZ*, the bilingual monthly official organ of the Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies, points out that every stamp on every complete sheet of Zumstein 202z that he has examined (including those in the Post Office Archives) reveals the flaw. What evidently happened was that the engraved die was damaged before being used to lay down the engraved plate or cylinder.

In other words, the stamp with the flaw (listed as *Plattenfehler nr. 9*) is really the basic stamp so that Zumstein 202z does not, strictly speaking, exist.

France: Overseas Departments

Guadeloupe in the West Indies, French Guiana (now Guyane) in South America and Réunion in the Indian Ocean all became overseas *départements* of France on March 19th, 1946. Martinique, in the West Indies, assumed the same status on January 1st, 1947. On June 2nd, 1947, Guadeloupe, Guyane and Martinique issued sets of definitives and postage dues, but when these were exhausted they were replaced by the stamps of metropolitan France. Réunion, which used CFA currency and, therefore, French stamps surcharged or expressed in CFA, did not start to use the stamps of metropolitan France until January 1st, 1975, after the abolition of the CFA currency. All French stamps can be found with postmarks of these overseas *départements*. Since August 2nd, 1976, Mayotte has been added to the list of overseas *départements* using French stamps.

[1] " Current Post Offices and Postmarks of the Cayman Islands ", by S. G. Bailey, STAMP COLLECTING, February 20th, 1969.
[2] " The Cayman Islands—Their Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks ", by E. F. Aguilar and P. T. Saunders, 1962.

THE FIRST CAYMAN STAMPS

By John H. Byl



The first Cayman Islands stamps were officially issued on February 19th, 1901, and consisted of the ½d. green and the 1d. carmine values. The stamps were dispatched from England on August 17th, 1900, and the receipt of the stamps was acknowledged on November 20th of that year. The three months delay between their receipt and official date of issue seems to have been due, in part, to the Colonial Office being unaware that " Specimen " copies had already been distributed to members of the U.P.U., and they had, therefore, delayed giving instructions for their issue to the Governor of Jamaica. (Jamaica was, at that time, responsible for the postal administration of the Cayman Islands.)

It is believed that official sanction for the international use of the stamps was taken by the Governor of Jamaica, who arrived at Georgetown, the capital of the Caymans, on February 19th, 1901, to proclaim the accession of King Edward VII. It was stated by a Naval Postmaster that a supply of stamps was carried on the voyage, and he was present at their issue on that day.

Some examples were, however, placed on sale before this date and copies are known dated January, 1901. This cover, dated November 15th, 1900, shows their use even before the date on which their receipt in the Caymans was confirmed. This is perhaps not too surprising as it will be seen from the above dates that another three-month period occurred between the departure of the stamps from England, and the date upon which their receipt was acknowledged. Therefore, it seems certain that they reached the Caymans before the latter date, and that some were used as " locals " during the period when Jamaican stamps were still valid for use in the Islands.

The pair of Cayman Island stamps are cancelled " 15 NO 00 " by the Georgetown Type IIIa obliterator on the outward journey, and on reaching Jamaica the cover was re-addressed to Grand Cayman, where it was again cancelled by the Georgetown c.d.s., this time as a receiving mark, and dated " 12 DE 00 ".

The Manuscript Provisionals of the Cayman Islands

By John H. Byl



A STUDY of the relevant pages of any catalogue fails to give the reader any information on some of the most fascinating aspects of the philately of the Cayman Islands. No mention will be found of the pre-adhesives, the Jamaican stamps used in Caymans, the Rural Posts, or of other facets of the Islands' postal history such as the occurrence of the very scarce first cancellations from some of the village post offices. Although the provisional surcharges of 1907–8 are documented, and much has been written about them, the manuscript provisionals which appeared in 1908 are much less well known, but are of equal interest.

On or before May 12th, 1908, the stocks of ½d. and 1d. stamps were exhausted and strict instructions were given that the 1d. on 4d. surcharged stamps, created at this time for fiscal purposes, were not to be used for postage. Mail which necessitated either of these denominations was handed across the post office counter, together with the payment to Miss G. A. Parsons, the postmistress. She then marked the mail to the effect that the postage had been paid, initialled and handstamped it.

That same summer, the inland postal rates for postcards and for each 2 oz. of printed matter was reduced to ½d. However, the first printing of the ½d. stamp, placed on sale on June 30th, was used up by August 29th, partly due to large orders from foreign dealers. Thus, by the beginning of October the postmaster, Mr. W. G. McCausland, had again to adopt the practice of provisional franking. The card was usually enclosed in a white envelope, a supply of which, complete with manuscript franking, was probably prepared beforehand. Although this was the general procedure, there were postcards to which the franking was applied direct, and one or two still exist. It is also probable that newspapers and printed matter were treated in the same way, although no copies seem to have survived.

The practice of manuscript franking ended when the second printing of the ½d. stamp was placed on sale on November 3rd.

In understanding the initials in the summary below, it should be realised that Miss Parsons gave up her appointment as postmistress sometime in June 1908, and then assisted her successor, Mr. McCausland.

Summary of Types

In the Aguilar and Saunders handbook, four types of franking are recorded, although a fifth has recently come to light:

Type I	(*Postage Paid* / *G.A.P.*")	Applied in red ink. Known examples are dated May 18th and 23rd, 1908.
Type II	*Paid*	Applied in blue pencil. One example is recorded on a picture postcard dated October 7th, 1908.
Type III	*Pd ½d*	In blue pencil. Two examples are known dated October 8th, 1908.
Type IV	*Pd ½d* *W.J.McC.*	In red ink. This is the least scarce of the types and examples are known dated from October 4th to 16th.
Type V	(*Paid ½* / *GAP* / *asst.*)	In red ink. Two examples are known dated October 15th, 1908. (*See illustration*)

Although these frankings were intended exclusively for certain inland rates, one letter to the U.S.A. is known franked by Type 1. There were ample stocks of the 2½d. stamp available to pay the foreign rate, and it is assumed that Miss Parsons franked this letter in error.

Cayman Islands: Owen Roberts Airfield

25th ANNIVERSARY OF OPENING

ON 5th February 1979 the Cayman Islands Postal Authority issued a set of six postage stamps to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the opening of Owen Roberts airfield. The values, 3c, 5c, 10c, 15c, 20c and 30c were designed by Anthony Theobald and printed in lithography by Format International Security Printers Ltd in sheets of fifty.

The first scheduled airline service to the Cayman Islands was operated by Caribbean International Airways Limited, spearheaded by Wing Commander Owen G E Roberts, using a PBY flying boat. It commenced in 1949 between Grand Cayman, Jamaica and Tampa in Florida. As a result of this pioneering venture, the Cayman Islands Government built the first landing field for conventional aircraft, since flying boats were becoming obsolescent.

Work on the airfield began in 1952 near the capital Georgetown. It was finished in August 1953 and formally opened early 1954. As soon as the runway was capable of accepting aircraft, Caribbean International Airways began operating a Lockheed Lodestar. Tragically, this aircraft crashed 9th April 1953 killing, amongst others, Wing Commander oberts.

When Caribbean International Airways was dissolved, British West Indian Airways began to sue Grand Cayman as part of its Jamaica-Belize and Jamaica-Miami routes using Vickers Viking aircraft. This aircraft was soon replaced by the larger turbo-prop Vickers Viscount, which necessitated the resurfacing and extension of the runway. In 1966, BWIA replaced their Viscount with a Boeing 727, and this aircraft served the Grand Cayman for many years, until the company decided to replace it with the larger and longer-range Boeing 707. Since the airfield's runway could not accommodate a fully loaded 707, BWIA services to the Cayman Islands were terminated.

Soon after the 727 service began operating, the National Airline of Costa Rica (LACSA) introduced the BAC 1-11. This service still operates, providing links with the mainland. In 1968, a local company was formed, leasing an aircraft from LACSA, and consequently, Cayman Airways Limited operated weekly scheduled flights to Jamaica.

In 1977, on the expiration of the lease, the Government of the Cayman Islands leased a Douglas DC9 from Air Florida Limited until the following year, when the inaugural flight of the National Carrier took place. The National Carrier is a BAC 1-11, and the inaugural flight was from Grand Cayman to Miami on 29th June 1978. This service has since been extended to operate direct flights to Houston, Texas.

In 1974, an American airline, Southern Airways Limited began services between Grand Cayman and Miami, and has since commenced direct flights to and from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Today many different aircraft use the Owen Roberts Airfield, varying in size from light aircraft such as the Cessna 150 to scheduled and charter jets including the Boeing 707 and DC9.

Based on information supplied by the Crown Agents

What is a First Day Cover?

By J. Lea, F.R.P.S.L.

PHILATELISTS all have their favourite definitions of what is fine used for example or when is a penny black superb used rather than just fine used but I wonder how many would like to define a First Day Cover . . . ?

I am tempted to explore this topic after reading for some time advertisements in various philatelic magazines and journals offering first day covers. When one reads "Penny Black used on first day cover" at £x00 or Great Britain Silver Jubilee (plain cover) at £y or Cook Island Easter at z pence on first day cover there is obviously a wide range of definitions of what is a first day cover beyond the fact that all the above three items presumably bear a postmark dated the first day of issue of the stamp/s. One would be almost certainly correct if one said that the Penny Black dated May 6th, 1840 was not sent as a first day cover just to get the correctly dated cancellation; the second item might have been sent as a philatelic item but the last item probably has never gone through the mails and been delivered by the fair hand of a postman through someone's letter-box; in fact, I would hazard a guess that the postmark was not applied on the actual day but perhaps before or after the first day.

Does one define a first day cover as the first day that the actual cover issued by a Post Office or a philatelic supplier could be used no matter what stamps are on it? Or are we only concerned with the stamps? If so does it really matter if a printed cover is used or just plain envelope—collectors seem all too ready to pay extra for a printed cover without sometimes pausing to think if the item in question was not a plain envelope which has had printing added to it at a later date to enhance its value.

A few years ago we had the example of the British Post Office cancelling first day covers long after the first day of issue of the actual stamps (when a strike by postal workers occurred as the decimal definitives were issued). Many covers had a cachet added to state the cause for delay but some escaped this and are now priced much higher than those cancelled later—I am not confusing these with those very few covers which did actually get used on the true first day of issue in the odd Post Offices that remained open during the strike, and can claim to be the genuine article.

What purpose does a first day cover serve in one's collection? Perhaps to record the colours, flaws (if any), type of paper used and date of issue of the first issue of that set of stamps so that if they are reprinted or printed by a different printer one has a standard on which one can fall back to check by. Very often a first day cover is adorned by a special cancellation only used for that one day so one gets that for the collection in addition to the stamps.

To my mind a first day cover must bear a complete set of stamps; used on an officially issued envelope; cancelled by a first day postmark, special or otherwise, and have been handled in the mails—a cover that travelled inside another wrapper is merely a set of stamps cancelled-to-order. So this rules out a penny black on a first day cover—this can only be a penny black used on the first day of issue. To be a first day cover the item should also have the two penny blue. Having said this does such an item exist? Yes, I know this is splitting hairs but so is the problem of what is a mint stamp? does a hinge prevent it from being a mint stamp? And before all readers rush into print why does everyone willingly pay a higher price for a first day cover than for one posted on the second day of use—at a guess the latter are 1000% rarer!

Now I have many first day covers in my collection that do not fall into the definition that I have made and so why do I keep them? In some cases it is almost impossible to get a first day cover that has travelled through the mails. In the case of older covers, printed envelopes for the first day of issue just did not exist. Of course there is a slight problem if one wanted to collect first day covers of Postage Due labels. How would one have set about getting the £5 Postage Due G.B. used on a first day cover that needed £5 of postage due? Also what about a cover which bears a certain censor mark of the Boer War used on its first day of use—is that not a first day cover of that mark?

Perhaps there is no complete definition of what is a first day cover as far as philatelists as a whole go—each one of us can decide ourselves just as the collector of mint or used stamps has to do.

A New Caymans Discovery?

By John H. Byl

IT is known that a shortage of low value stamps occurred at the Stake Bay Post Office on Cayman Brac in the Cayman Islands during April 1921. This was caused by an unexpected delay in the receipt of a new series of King George V definitives (1921–26 series), a requisition for which had been made in August of the previous year.

It is probable that the authorities had no wish to resort to surcharging such stamps as they had in stock, for they must have had in mind the spate of surcharges and provisionals of the 1907–8 era, and the criticism of the postal authorities that the necessity for their issue aroused. However, they knew that the shortage was likely to be very brief, and therefore stamps cut out from postal stationery and used as adhesives were used to ease the situation. This practice soon ceased with the arrival on 26th, April 1921 of a supply of the new stamps direct from Jamaica. It is stated by Aguilar and Saunders in their standard handbook that there is no record of a cut-out so used having survived.



The cover illustrated was posted at Georgetown on Grand Cayman and the cancellation is dated 8th November, 1920. The 1d. postal stationery envelope bears an additional 1d. adhesive and also a ½d. cut out from a wrapper making the correct rate of 2½d. to the U.S.A. The cover appears to be commercial and non-philatelic. Could this mean that there had also been a temporary shortage of ½d. stamps at Georgetown during this period? I have also heard of, but not seen, a single cut-out on piece,

I would be most interested to hear of any similar covers that still survive, and indeed of any information about these postal stationery cut-outs. *Readers can write to the author c/o* STAMP COLLECTING.

Jamaica Used in Caymans



Stake Bay Type I

Type I
1898-1900



Georgetown Type II

Type II
1894-1898

By

John H. Byl

AS late as 1888 there were no regular postal arrangements in the Cayman Islands and when, in that year, the Hon. Edmund Parsons was appointed Custos of the Islands, he soon opened negotiations with the Postmaster in Jamaica. As a result, a notice was issued on April 12th, 1889 to the effect that mail from the Caymans would be treated as though it had originated in Jamaica, and also that Jamaican stamps had been supplied to the Custos on Grand Cayman in order that such correspondence could be prepaid. It seems, therefore, that the post office was in being at this date. It was situated at Georgetown, the capital, and sometime in 1898 a second post office was opened at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac, one of the lesser islands.

Jamaican stamps remained in use until February 19th, 1901, when the first Caymans stamps were officially issued. Early records of the postal arrangements are very sparse and the quantity of stamps sent to the Islands is unknown, but it seems that the authorities decided that it was not necessary to supply stamps above the value of 4d., the foreign letter rate.

In the 12 years during which Jamaican stamps were valid, five types of cancellations were used, three at Georgetown and two at Stake Bay, and it is by these postmarks that Jamaican stamps used in the Caymans may be recognised. This article reviews the use of these cancellations and attempts, in particular, to estimate the numbers of surviving covers bearing the various postmarks. These attempts are based on my own observations, in which there are almost certainly gaps, and I would be very glad to hear of any amendments or additional information, especially that bearing on any covers not included in this account.



Georgetown Type I

Type I
1889-1894

Georgetown, Type I

Brought into use when the post office opened on April 12th(?), 1889. This handstamp was made of rubber and has "GRAND CAYMAN POST OFFICE" inscribed in a large double oval (42 mm × 25 mm) with the date in the centre. It was impressed in violet ink of varying intensity and has a tendency to fade. Owing to its size, only a portion appears on a single stamp and may be mistaken for a fiscal cancellation.

The earliest recorded date is in 1889 on a 2d. single, and the last known date is December 12th, 1894, also on a single. Incidentally, on the 20c. value of the Caymans set issued this year to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Islands' first stamps, the date of this obliterator is given as 1890–1894 whereas it should read 1889–1894.

The following Jamaican stamps are known postally used and cancelled by Type 1: S.G.16, 22 (four copies recorded), 27, 28, 29, O1, O3, O4, O5. All known copies of the 2d., 4d. and the "OFFICIAL" stamps bear relatively early dates and when the first consignment was exhausted it is thought that the stock was not replenished.

Three covers have been recorded, all addressed to Jamaica:

1. Bears a pair of S.G.16 with a fine strike dated April 8th, 1891.
2. Also bears a pair of S.G.16 with a clear, but rather oily, strike dated December 28th, 1891.
3. Has an S.G.27 with a fine strike dated April 8th, 1893.

N.B. One copy of S.G.16 exists cancelled with a part horizontal oval containing the words "SMA(?)" "CAY(MAN)" "ISL(ANDS)" in three lines. No other copy has ever been recorded.

Georgetown, Type II

The earliest known use is February 8th, 1895; late use, February 8th, 1898. The handstamp has "GRAND CAYMAN P.O." in a single circle (27 mm). It is impressed in varying shades of purple each of which is associated, possibly, with a definite period: i.e., (*a*) deep purple to black; (*b*) bright purple; (*c*) dull purple. However, so few examples can be correctly dated that this theory can be little more than surmise. Until recently, all known usages were dated "1895", although the "95" does not form an integral part of the changing date information, being found at a higher level with respect to the "18". In consequence, the year of impression can only be determined if it occurs on cover with another backstamp. Sometime, however, between the dates on covers two and three listed below, this mistake was rectified, for cover number three bears the date plug "1898".

The following Jamaican stamps are known postally used with this obliterator: S.G.16, 21 (only one known),27, 29, O3. In all recorded cases the impression is incomplete and often faint, so much so that the date can, in any case, be read only with difficulty or not at all.

Three covers have been recorded:—

1. Has a pair S.G.27 and a single S.G.16 cancelled by two impressions dated May 11th, 1895.

(*Continued on page 605*)



A pair of the Jamaica "OFFICIAL" with Grand Cayman (Georgetown) cancellation Type II

'STAMPS'
Spring
1988

R J Edmondson's Cayman Islands fetches £63,340

Before the 'Rajah' sale, the morning session on 10 May saw the dispersal of this award-winning collection for a total of £63,340, far exceeding the pre-sale expectation. Collectors had a field day and carried away the majority of the lots.

Forerunners were much in demand, with an 1897 cover to Jamaica franked with two Jamaica ½d yellow-green and bearing Kingston arrival datestamp on reverse going to a collector at £2,530. The same buyer took ½d and 1d essays in the 1900 issued design and colours with hand-painted name and value tablets to double estimate at £3,250.

Pride of the Edmondson collection was clearly the 1907 cover to the USA franked with three examples of the ½d on 5s surcharge in company with a single 1d on 5s. This lovely envelope attracted spirited bidding before falling to a British collector for £4,400 — more than twice the estimate and the top price for the Caymans collection.

A rare provisional — the 1932 Cayman Brac handstamp on cover, once in the Watkin and Meredith collections — quadrupled estimate to fall in the room at £2,420. Rural post covers sold well, while a postal stationery essay and proofs brought staggering prices to conclude an exceptionally successful sale. Owner Mr R J Edmondson attended the auction and was well pleased with the result.

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Cayman Islands

In 'Cinderella Corner' last September I passed on a request for information about a 'War Fund' label issued in the Cayman Islands during World War II.

The request had come from Charles Freeland, a collector with special interest in issues of the British West Indies. He knew no more about the label or the particular circumstances surrounding its issue than that its frame and lettering were printed in blue-black and the aircraft in red on white paper, imperforate. It had been used on an envelope sent from the Cayman Islands by post to an address in Ireland.

Thanks are due to Michael Forand, a reader in Ottawa, who has added a scrap of information to the overall picture of World War II 'War Fund' labels in general and of the Cayman Islands in particular.

He referred me to an article titled 'British Caribbean Charity Stamps' by Charles E. Cwiakala in the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* (volume 15, pages 81–86, June 1975). The article was concerned with labels of World War I as well as those of World War II.



The sole reference to a label from the Cayman Islands was to one which differed somewhat from the label which set the inquiry in train. The label illustrated in that article was referred to as 'Fig. 9' and the accompanying text stated:

'The Cayman Islands issued a War Fund seal sometime during WWII (Fig. 9); the illustrated seal is the only copy that I can record. The frame and "CAYMAN ISLANDS / WAR FUND" are in dark blue, while the "Flying Boat" is in red. No further information is available on this issue.'

The design and printing differences between the labels can be seen from the illustrations. Whereas the frame of Mr Freeland's label measures 38 millimetres horizontally and 29mm vertically, the frame in the picture of the label referred to by Mr Cwiakala is square, with its sides measuring 39mm.

Is any reader able to add to the information about WWII Cayman Islands 'War Fund' labels? I shall be glad to learn of it. Sheet size? Variations in the sheet? Different issues? Different colours? Dates of use? Organisation responsible for issue? Printers? Anything else?

NORMAN WILLIAMS

The Manuscript Provisionals of the Cayman Islands

John Byl

In the period between the end of August 1907 and the second week of May 1908, the postal authorities at Georgetown, the capital of the Caymans, found it expedient to issue no less than five different surcharge provisional stamps. This had resulted in a great deal of criticism. Charges ranging from ineptitude and lack of foresight to official manipulation of existing stocks for dubious reasons, were levelled by the philatelic press at the local officials. The net result was an official enquiry instituted by the Colonial Office. Although the postal authorities were exonerated, there were many who thought they were fortunate in this verdict. Therefore when the stock of ½d. and 1d. stamps ran out at the beginning of May 1908, these same officials were loath to manufacture yet another surcharge. Pending the expected arrival of the mail steamer on 1 June bearing a fresh consignment of low value stamps, they decided to accept payment over the post office counter and endorse the envelope to the effect that postage had been paid. Thus they succeeded in creating another type of provisional—the Manuscript Provisional.

The First Manuscript Provisional (MP1)

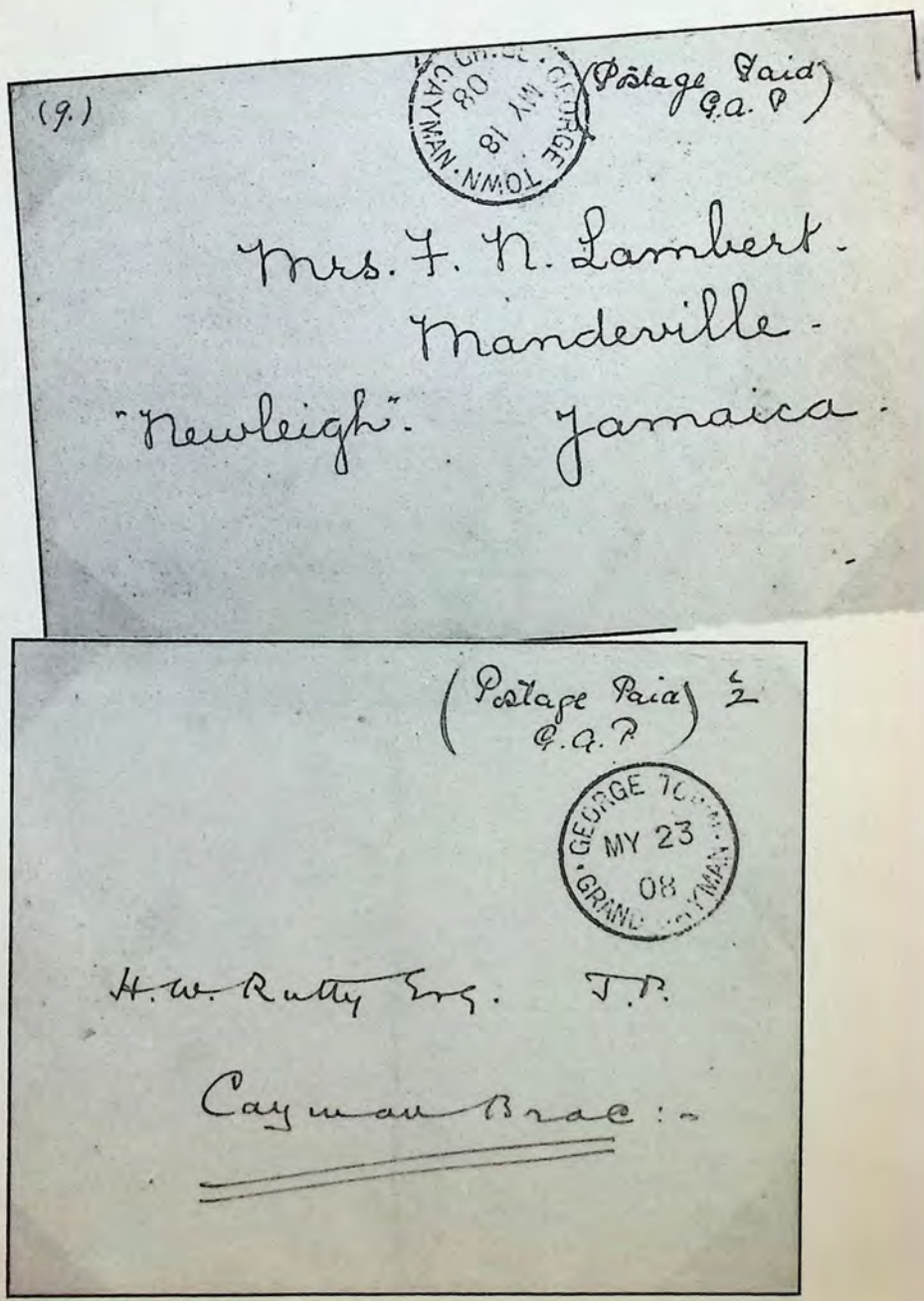
During approximately the last three weeks of May, money for letters to be franked at the ½d. or 1d. rate was handed to the Postmistress, Miss G.A. Parsons, who wrote on the top right of the cover in red ink 'Postage Paid/G.A.P.' in two lines and within brackets. She then postmarked the cover alongside the endorsement with the normal Georgetown (Type V) obliterator *(fig. 1)*. Although the post office had a supply of 2½d. stamps to prepay the foreign rate, one cover to the USA is known franked in manuscript by Miss Parsons and it is assumed that this was done in error. She occasionally added the amount paid to the endorsement, writing it just outside and to the right of the brackets *(fig. 2)*. The very few recorded examples so treated constitute a sub-type listed as *MP1a* and are dated 23 May. The earliest known date of MP1 is 12 May and the latest 1 June.

The Second Manuscript Provisional (MP2)

By the beginning of June an adequate supply of stamps was in stock at the Georgetown post office and no doubt Miss Parsons was looking forward to a more tranquil period in her postal duties. However, any such hope was short lived, for reasons we shall now discuss.

That summer a new local rate of ½d. was introduced for postcards and each 2oz of

Fig. 1 (top): First provisional (MP1), written in red ink, five examples recorded; Fig. 2 (bottom): sub-type (MP 1a) showing amount paid at right, two examples known



printed matter. This necessitated the production of a ¼d. stamp, the first supply of which was placed on sale on 30 June. Great interest was shown by overseas dealers in this stamp from islands already in philatelic prominence caused by the recent surcharges. Indeed, one dealer requested 72,000, exactly the number of the first printing. The local officials at Georgetown appeared to have learnt little from the previous shortages and, in spite of a post office notice dated 10 July 1908 stating that the stamp '...being provided solely for internal postage in the Cayman Islands Dependency, will be only sold across the counter at a Post Office in the Cayman Islands', there is no doubt that large numbers found their way to dealers abroad. This drain on the stock of ¼d. stamps was compounded when, a month later, the supply of ½d. stamps was again exhausted and permission was granted for the ¼d. stamp to be used on overseas mail.

Miss Parsons resigned late that summer, perhaps because she no longer wished to cope with the situation at the Post Office, or perhaps because she had been given a hint that it would be better to let someone else have a go. That someone else was Mr W.G. McCausland, an Englishman, who found he had inherited both Miss Parsons as his assistant and a shortage of ¼d. stamps.

Mr McCausland did not make an auspicious start. On succeeding Miss Parsons he was given explicit instructions 'to refrain from provisionals generally'. However, after a short time the supply of ¼d. stamps ran out and he therefore had no option but to resort to manuscript franking. It seems that a stock of envlopes was prepared both by him and by Miss Parsons with the endorsement 'Pd ¼d/W.G.McC' in two lines and in red ink. When a postcard was handed in together with payment, the Postmaster or his assistant put the card into one of the prepared envelopes, wrote the address on it and cancelled the endorsement with the normal obliterator (*figs. 3 & 4*). It is quite easy to distinguish between Mr McCausland's handwriting and the smaller, neater hand of Miss Parsons, and hence the specialist can attempt to find an example of each of the four possible permutations of MP2:

endorsement by Mr McCausland, address by Mr McCausland
endorsement by Mr McCausland, address by Miss Parsons
endorsement by Miss Parsons, address by Miss Parsons
endorsement by Miss Parsons, address by Mr McCausland

The collector who tries this will find that a cover written completely by Mr McCausland is the easiest to find, while one completed by Miss Parsons is the most difficult.

Examples of MP2 are recorded dated between 4 October and 27 October. This provisional is not scarce and most good dealers will be able to show an example. Almost all are open to the suspicion of being philatelic and this accounts for the numbers of surviving examples. The numbers dating from the middle of the period—14 to 16 October—suggest that the Postmaster and his assistant were kept quite busy, and occasionally by mischance endorsed a cover '¼d Pd/W.G.McC' instead of the usual 'Pd ¼d/W.G.McC'.

There is a sub-type of MP2, unlisted by Gibbons, but recognised by a note in the catalogue stating 'No. MP2 exists in different inks and formats'. In this sub-type the endorsement is written in one line and in a distinctive mauve ink as opposed to the pink-red of the normal. These certainly are scarce and are well worth looking for. The few examples seen by the author are dated 6 October (*fig. 5*).



Fig. 3: (MP2) red ink, 14 Oct 08 *Fig. 4: (MP2) red ink, 16 Oct 08* *Fig. 5: mauve ink, one line*

MPs 3, 4 and 5

During October 1908 three other types of manuscript provisional were produced and these rank among the great rarities of the Cayman Islands. They are:

MP3 'Paid' applied in blue pencil on a picture postcard and dated 7 October 1908 (*fig. 6*)
MP4 'Pd ¼d' in blue pencil and dated 8 October 1908 (*fig. 7*)
MP5 'Paid ¼/G.A.P./asst.', in three lines in red ink, and dated 15 Oct 1908 (*fig. 8*)

Although the endorsements on MP4 and MP5 are in the writing of Mr McCausland and Miss Parsons respectively, in none of these three provisionals has the address been written by either of the officials. All three appear to be non-philatelic accounting for their rarity.

On 3 November the second printing of the ¼d. stamp arrived at Georgetown and was immediately put on sale. This finally brought to an end the spate of provisionals that had so plagued the postal arrangements in the capital during the years 1907–8.

The 'A.S.R.' Provisional

For twenty-four years from 1908 no provisional was to be issued by the Cayman Islands and when, in November 1932, one again became necessary, it was not caused by the machinations of man, but by the weather. On 9–10 November 1932 a hurricane destroyed the Post Office at Stake Bay on Cayman Brac together with its stock of stamps. The obliterator was also lost. The Postmaster, Mr A.S.Rutty, initialled covers 'A.S.R.' in blue-black ink as endorsement that postage had been paid. Local letters received the Georgetown cancellation on arrival at the capital, although this was done on the reverse and could therefore be construed as a receiving mark. Letters for abroad were handstamped 'Postage Paid' in Jamaica and also received the Kingston cancellation, both in red (*fig. 9*). There was a report that the 'Postage Paid' handstamp was sometimes applied in black and if any reader has seen such a strike, the author would be pleased to hear of it. The very few surviving examples that have been recorded are in red.

A letter from the Postmaster for Jamaica stated that '...the date stamp of the Cayman Brac Post Office which was lost as a result of the Hurricane of November, 1932, was reported in a letter dated 4th December, 1932 to have been found'. It was not, however, put back into use until 20 December when a fresh supply of stamps arrived from Georgetown.

In a letter dated 13 January 1934 from Mr Rutty, he says 'Only about 300 letters were thus sent off, and these to practically all parts of the earth.' That so few survive can only be accounted for by the fact that bearing no stamps, they were discarded by stamp collectors as being of little interest.

This handstruck provisional by Mr Rutty proved to be the last from the Cayman Islands to date.

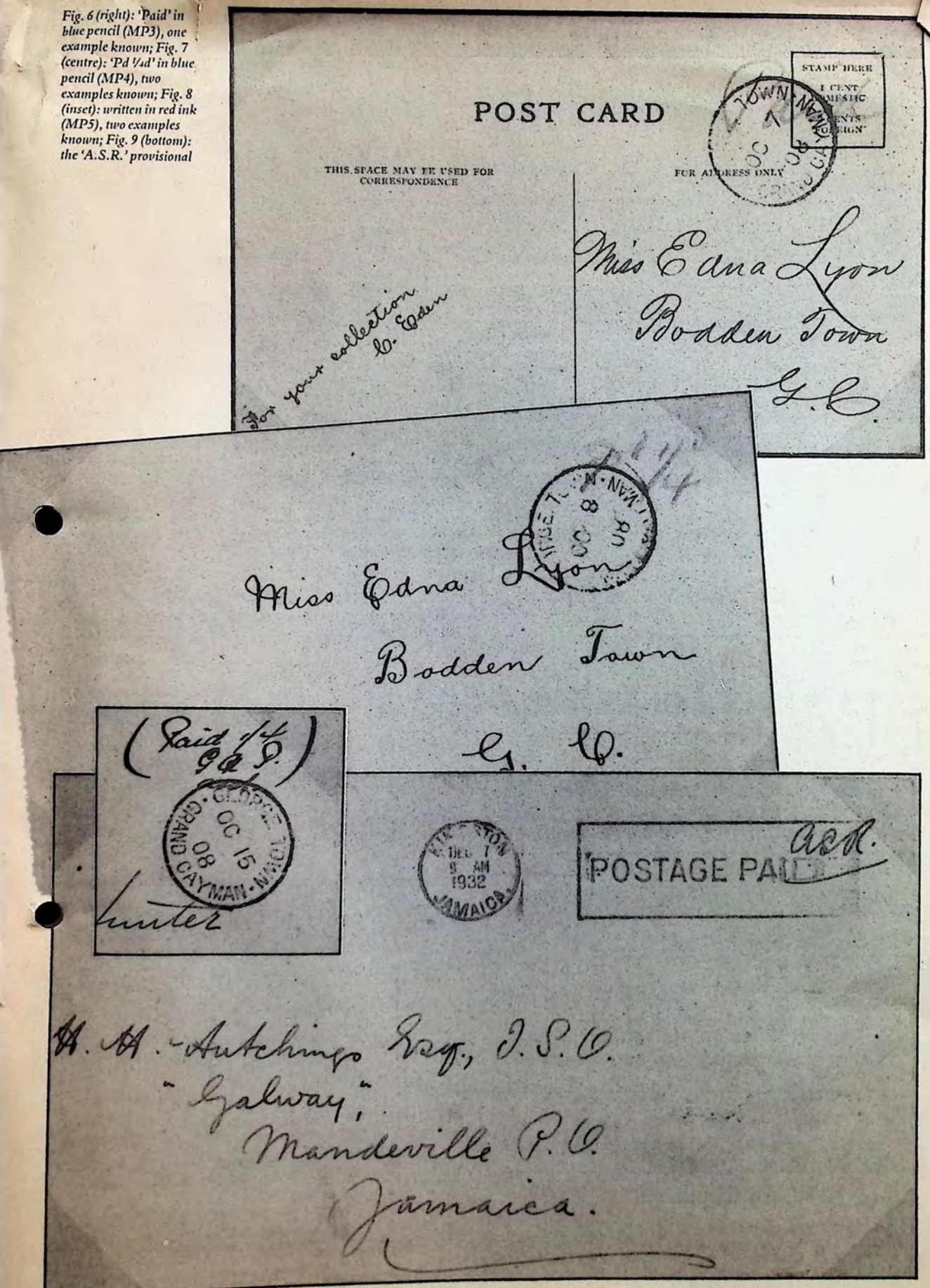
References

1. D.B. Armstrong, *The Cayman Islands: Their stamps and Post Office*
2. Fred Melville, *Cayman Islands*
3. Aguilar and Saunders, *The Cayman Islands: Their Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks*
4. J. Byl, 'The Manuscript Provisionals of the Cayman Islands', *Stamp Collecting*, 19.5.77

Summary

S.G. No.	*Description*	*Cancellation*	*Dates of known examples*
MP1	'(Paid/G.A.P.)' in red ink	Georgetown V	12 May–1 June 1908
MP1a	As above but with '½' or '1' outside brackets	Georgetown V	23 May 1908
MP2	'Paid ¼d/W.G.McC' in pinkish red ink	Georgetown V	4–27 Oct. 1908
—	As above but with '¼d Pd' instead of 'Pd ¼d'	Georgetown V	14–16 Oct?
—	As MP2 but in one line and in mauve ink	Georgetown V	6 Oct. 1908
MP3	'Paid' in blue pencil	Georgetown V	7 Oct. 1908
MP4	'Pd ¼d' in blue pencil	Georgetown V	8 Oct. 1908
MP5	'(Paid ¼d/G.A.P./asst.)' in red ink	Georgetown V	15 Oct. 1908
—	'A.S.R.' in blue-black ink	Backstamped Georgetown V	27 Nov. 1932
—	'A.S.R.' in blue-black ink and 'Postage Paid' in red	Kingston in red	7 Dec. 1932
—	As above but with 'Postage Paid' in black?	Kingston	Not seen

Fig. 6 (right): 'Paid' in blue pencil (MP3), one example known; Fig. 7 (centre): 'Pd ½d' in blue pencil (MP4), two examples known; Fig. 8 (inset): written in red ink (MP5), two examples known; Fig. 9 (bottom): the 'A.S.R.' provisional



Island profiles and survey ships — Cayman Islands

THE origin of maps is lost in history. There is evidence of their use from the earliest times, in the Pacific, China, Central America, the Antarctic and the Middle East.

It's likely that the Babylonians devised the first world map. Many of the significant developments in the understanding of the world did come from around the Mediterranean region. It was Aristotle who suggested that the earth might be a sphere, rather than cylinder, rectangle or disc, as expressed by his contemporaries.

Claudius Ptolemy is perhaps the figure who influenced early cartography more than any other, laying down a number of basic principles — although he did reject one theory that the earth went round the sun! Even today though, Ptolemaic astronomy is used at sea and the rising and setting of the sun — rather than the turning of earth — is an expression universally prevalent. Ptolemy's place of work, the Alexandrian Museum, a sort of leading early think-tank, was destroyed by a mob in the 4th century and for a thousand years or so, cartography was reduced to a sort of science-fiction or fantasy!

A plagiarising and exceedingly fanciful writer, Solinus, nicknamed 'Pliny's Ape', promoted such strange notions as horse-footed men with ears like cloaks, Indian monopods who used their feet for sunshades, luminous German birds, giant Italian pythons partial to cows' milk and West African ants as big as mastiffs that patrolled the boiling River Niger!

Another figure from the Dark Ages, Cosmas, based his theories on the Bible: that the earth was a flat parallelogram with Jerusalem in the centre and that there were no Antipodes because the Apostles, commanded to reach the whole world with the Gospels, had never gone there!

St Brendan, the Irish mystic, searched for an earthly Paradise. Conversely, the regions of Gog and Magog, mysterious powers who would come from the north to promote the Battle of Armageddon, were considered with great dread through the medieval world.

The great (and mythical) King Prester John, possibly a descendant of the Magi, situated in remote Asia, or was it Africa? would take on Gog and Magog in a great cosmic battle. A letter from him to the Emperor of Byzantium was commonly known throughout medieval Europe and described a hidden kingdom with an abundance of precious stones: a sure incentive to start voyages of discovery!

Marco Polo and other travellers were to report a very different reality, however. Some of the first vaguely accurate maps do date from the beginning of the Renaissance; the Portolan charts of such figures as Abraham Cresques.

By the start of the nineteenth century, hydrographic mapping, although an ancient craft, was woefully neglected. The British Admiral Richards maintained there was scarcely a correct chart — not without justification — for in the Napoleonic wars, British losses by shipwreck were eight times as many as those caused by enemy action! One reason for this was that maritime survey was never the sole purpose of a voyage. Another was that map making was on a commercial basis, so only charts of frequented areas were readily available.

The greatest hydrographer of the nineteenth century was Thomas Beaufort, born in 1774, the son of an Irish vicar — also a cartographer! As a youngster in the navy he was shipwrecked himself and consequently was convinced of the need for accurate charts.

Hydrography in those days was a risky business and Beaufort was involved full-time from 1810 onwards. He survived being shot in the groin by Turks in the Gulf of Iskendernun and went on to take charge of the Admirality Hydrography section from 1829. Amongst the twenty ships under his command was HMS Beagle. Other ships were not so fortunate and there were several losses.

Today hydrography has developed amazingly and the remotest hidden depths are being discovered. The Cayman Islands' latest issue concentrates on island profiles and survey ships and was released on November 15.

Designed by Nick Shewring of The Garden Studio and printed in lithography by Walsall Security Printers Limited, the stamps show the following subjects:

5c — Island surveyed by George Gauld 1773, 25c — Island surveyed by HMS Vidal 1956, 50c — The Mutine 1914 and $1 — HMS Vidal.









The Story Behind the Cover

John Byl

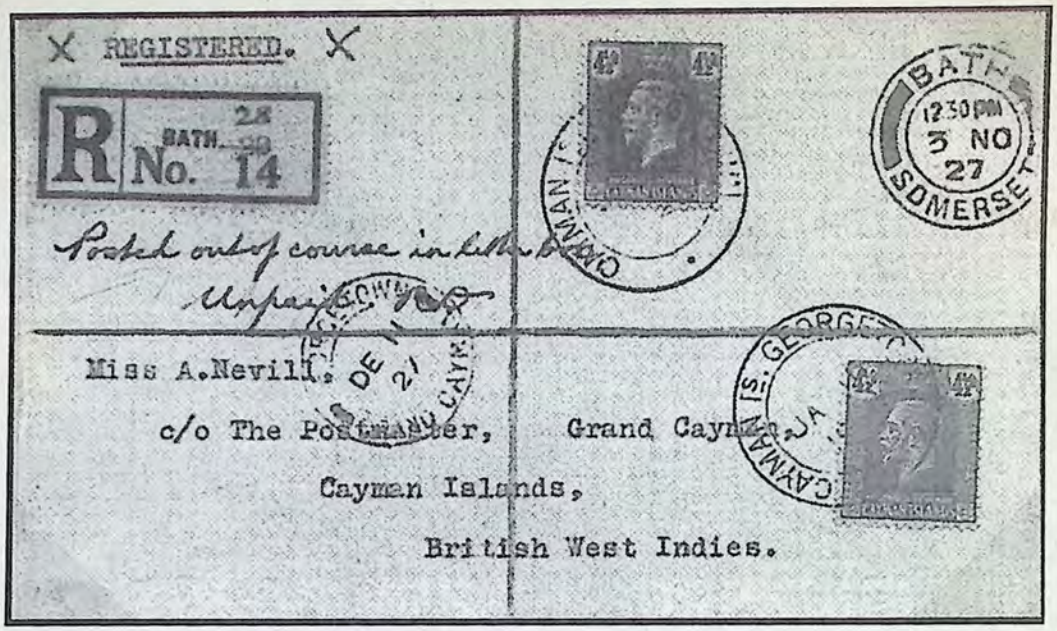


Fig 1 Unpaid registered cover from Bath to the Cayman Islands

The Cayman Islands have never issued postage due stamps, ordinary postage stamps being used instead. Underpaid covers to the Caymans with postage stamps used as dues are not too difficult to find. This is because so many philatelically inspired ones have been produced, and these make up the great majority of such covers. Ernest Panton, a resident of Georgetown, the capital of the Caymans, was responsible for the production of most of these philatelic examples. During the years 1932–34 he arranged for large numbers of typed underpaid covers to be sent to him from many of the British Colonies then in existence. When the covers reached the Georgetown Post Office 'TAX' or 'T' was either handstamped or written on on the front and the amount due, double the defficiency, usually written next to it. This amount was then made up by using stamps of either the 1932 Centenary issue or 1921–26 issue. These 'Panton' covers became so notorious that the name was sometimes erased. Unfortunately this fooled few collectors and did little to enhance the appearance of what were otherwise attractive covers. Underpaid covers to other well known names are also not above suspicion.

The incoming unpaid cover illustrated here (*Fig 1*) bears no tax marking and is unusual in several other respects. The addressee is not well known and the cover is probably commercial. I cannot recall having seen another unpaid registered cover to the Caymans and wonder whether any reader has come across one.

This cover was posted from Bath on 3 November 1927. It was probably handed in to a sub-post office by the sender to be dealt with in the usual way. Due to oversight on the part of the postmaster (or postmistress) no stamps were added and it became mixed up with other covers, the whole batch then being posted in a letter box. When the cover reached the Register Office an official wrote on the front 'Posted out of course in letter box/Unpaid RO', the 'RO' standing for Register Office. The cover was also postmarked by the Bath c.d.s. dated '3 NO 27' on the front and reverse.

On arrival in Jamaica it was backstamped by the oval Kingston registration mark dated 'NO 18 27'. When it reached the post office at Georgetown on Grand Cayman it was struck with the Georgetown Type V c.d.s. (*Fig 2*) as receiving mark. This was dated '11 DE 27.' the last known date of this postmark. Miss Nevill was either in no hurry to collect her correspondence or, more probably, was not aware of its presence for some time, as she did not go to the post office to collect it until 17 January 1928. She was then charged 9d. by the postmaster, double the registered rate from England, and two 4½d. sage-green stamps of the 1921–26 Multiple Script CA issue were affixed to the cover. By then, however, a new c.d.s., Georgetown Type VI (*Fig 3*), had come into use and it was this that was used to cancel the stamps. This resulted in a cover legitimately bearing impressions of two different date stamps.

The circular date stamp numbers and their illustrations are those given in the handbook by Aguilar and Saunders; *The Cayman Islands/Their Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks*, printed in 1962.

Finally I should like to place on record my thanks to Malcolm Lacey for kindly providing information about the Register Office.



Fig 2 Georgetown Type V c.d.s.



Fig 3 Georgetown Type VI c.d.s.