B. W. I. STUDY CIRCLE

SCRAPBOOK

VOL. 6

PT II - DOMINICA.

THE PHILATELIST, July, 1963

The Plantation Papers: XII—
Dominica

By COLIN MAYCOCK

(Continued from page 205)

More than 200 entire letters of the period 1815 to 1850 were recorded in the Dominica correspondence of the *Plantation Papers* but two hand-stamps only were used: type [PG] without date and type [PJ].

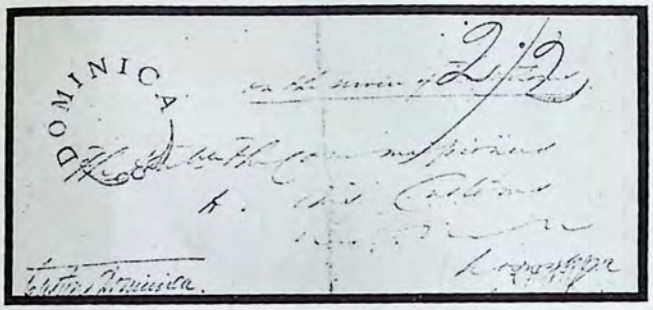


Fig. 1

DOMINICA large fleuron, type [PG] without date, 37 mm. vertical diameter.

A continuous run of 54 copies of type [PG] were recorded on packet letters dated from May, 1815, to November, 1832. The majority of them are struck across the flap and very few are clearly legible (See Fig. 1). Two vessels are mentioned in superscriptions—"Surinam Packet" and "*Lady Louisa* packet" both in 1816. Surinam in this context may not necessarily be the name of the vessel; it probably refers to the packet from Surinam calling at Dominica on its homeward voyage.

DOMINICA serif capitals c.d.s., type [PJ], 26 mm. diameter.

The [PJ] strikes, 148 in all, begin with AU 1/1834 and continue to 9 JU/1850 (See Fig. 2). The month precedes the day in the date line in every copy recorded between 1834 and 1845. Thereafter, the day occasionally appears before the month, e.g. 26 FE/1846 and 9 AP/1848. A large number of misplaced date plugs were noted e.g. DE 19 inverted (1838); AU 23/1834 for AU 23/1843; DE 62/1845; MY 26 inverted (1846), etc.



Fig. 2

Ship Letters

Three ship letters from Dominica were noted: two with London S.18 combined with the Dominica [PG] (1815—per *Shannon*) and one with Gravesend S.4 of 1818.

[To be continued]

DOMINICA

The

LONDON PHILATELIST

The Journal of

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON

All communications should be addressed to

THE EDITOR, ARNOLD M. STRANGE, PLUM TREE COTTAGE

APSLEY END, NR. HITCHIN, HERTS.

VOLUME 74 OCTOBER 1965 NUMBER 874

DOMINICA 1886 ONE PENNY ON SIXPENCE GREEN

ONE OF THE WORLD'S RAREST STAMPS

MAJOR ADRIAN HOPKINS, M.C., F.R.P.S.L.

THE actors in this investigation are all long dead except one, and I think it most desirable that the story should be published before I have joined them. I first gave a display before The Royal Philatelic Society of London forty-seven years ago, in the Autumn of 1918. I was then a Fellow, but have broken service. My display was of British West Indies, the earlier issues of the Leeward Islands group when all the islands had separate stamps. Included in the display was a copy of this Dominica stamp, which was the only one not my own property. It had been lent to me by my uncle, the late Colonel Sir James Clark, Bart., C.B., C.M.G., the father of the present Q.C., who is also a Fellow of the Society carrying on the family tradition. My uncle's collection was very extensive and was in fact one of the last of the great Whole World collections. It was afterwards sold to Stanley Gibbons Ltd. The stamp in question was the normal S.G.18 (1965) and had the thin bar cancelling as illustrated in the catalogue. It was used.

The Island Colonies of the Leeward group was then my chief interest and I longed to acquire a copy of the Dominica rarity for myself. A few years afterwards I had the opportunity of purchasing through the late Mr Frank Godden a copy on part cover which I understood had at one time belonged to the Earl of Crawford, but this was not substantiated. In 1926 I submitted it to the Expert Committee who, to my amazement, declared it to be a forgery because the bar cancelling the old value sixpence was thick and was not a thin bar as on the then known copies. It created so much interest that the late W. Dorning Beckton, who was then Vice-President of The Royal Philatelic Society, London and a senior member of the Expert Committee, took the unprecedented (and I believe unrepeated) step of writing a five page article in THE LONDON PHILATELIST explaining why the Expert Committee turned it down. This appeared in issue No. 425 (Vol. XXXVI) for May 1927, page 98. It should be read by anyone following my story. My treasure was then relegated to my Forgery Collection and Mr Godden very kindly met me by easing the purchase price.

Mr Dorning Beckton's finding was largely based on the fact that he possessed a full pane of the ordinary ONE PENNY on ONE SHILLING stamp and he could not find what he described as the 'patient' in the setting. Incidentally, and this becomes a major factor, I

was out in Dominica in 1919 and took the opportunity of meeting the late Mr W. H. Porter, who was Treasurer of the Island when these stamps were issued.

In 1933 the Manus Collection was being sold by Messrs Plumridge & Co., and this contained a copy of the stamp with the broad bar cancelling, identical with my own forgery. They very kindly lent it to me for examination. This started the ball rolling.

I made a meticulous examination of both stamps. In the first place the part cover to which my own adhered had been addressed to A. Churchill Emerson, the first Secretary of The Royal Philatelic Society, and who had at one time been a dealer (see illustration). On the back of this part cover or piece he had written 'Only 60 copies were printed and I guarantee this specimen one of them. A Churchill Emerson, Leytonstone, Essex, Aug. 3/92.' There is also a pencil annotation 'W.T.W. £75' (see illustration). This was Mr W. T. Wilson, the famous old-time dealer. I found that the texture of the paper of this part cover or piece was very characteristic and most unusually diagonally laid. Turning then to the small piece (not much larger than the stamp itself) to which the Manus copy adhered I found to my delight that this was also diagonally laid and exactly fitted the dog-legged gap in my own piece. Moreover, it had on the back the handstamp PEMBERTON WILSON & CO. There are also pencil initials A.C. and X.E. which I was unable to interpret (see illustration). This Manus copy had been certified as genuine by the Expert Committee in 1910, carrying with it Certificate No. 3937 of the Committee. They wrote to Messrs Plumridge under date 20th October, 1932, withdrawing this Certificate 'because further information had come to light which condemned the Manus example'.

Around this time that great American professional, the late Warren H. Colson, visited England and was with me at my home Ormonde House, Bath. We were sitting on the lawn one glorious summer afternoon (which seems a thing of the past nowadays!) and I was showing him various stamps, among them was the controversial Dominica. He examined it carefully and I explained that the Expert Committee had put forward the suggestion (which is on page 100 of Mr Dorning Beckton's article) that a genuine specimen had been removed from the part cover or piece and the present stamp substituted. After long and deliberate examination his characteristically American reply was 'Believe me, that stamp GREW there!'

This encouraged me to re-open the whole question and the hunt was on. My examination of the two stamps produced the startling result that the type letters of the two examples did not correspond. Here is the analysis:

	CRAWFORD	*MANUS*
O	Irregularity at top	Thickening bottom left
n	Curved shoulder	Humped shoulder
e	Clean top and cross bar	Irregularity on both
	Both P's slope slightly to right	
P	Loop perfect	Nick in top of loop
e	Perfect outline	Irregular outline
n	Perfect top. Thin bottom serifs	Break in top. Thick bottom serifs.
n	Thin top. Bottom right serif represented by dot.	Thick top. Bottom right serif perfect.
y	Tail slopes 45°	Tail slopes 20°

It is a matter for comment that the 1910 Certificate for the Manus was signed by Mr E. D. Bacon and the stamp was submitted by Mr W. H. Peckitt, both no mean authorities.

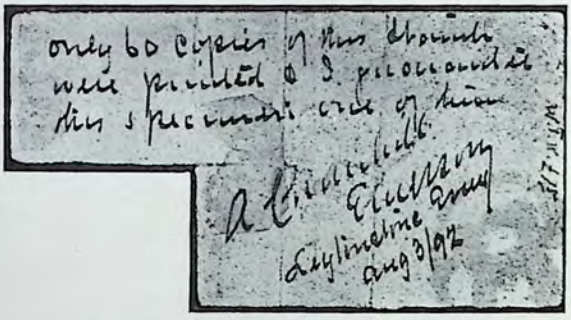


The Manus copy *The Crawford copy*

Both with thick bars.



Part cover addressed to A. Churchill Emerson, the first secretary of The Royal Philatelic Society.



Inscription on the reverse of the part cover.



Reverse of the Manus copy with handstamp and pencil initials.

A further point which my investigation disclosed is that the blue pencil 'tie' was obviously done with the same blue pencil which scored the registration mark on the (indisputably genuine) envelope. On page 100, line 26, Mr Dorning Beckton omitted to state this and it would appear that he was so confident in his personal condemnation that he did not trouble to look up the record of other specimens of this stamp which had been previously submitted to the Committee. On page 100, line 8 he states that no specimen (of S.G.18) with thick bar is known to Mr Bacon, and yet Mr Bacon signed the 1910 Certificate!

Mr W. H. Porter, the former Treasurer, stated in a letter to Mr Emerson that he had secured twelve copies of the ONE PENNY on SIXPENCE stamp. This letter is quoted on page 101. In it Mr Porter states that a sheet of the Sixpence Green was surcharged 'One Penny' in error. In this I think he was wrong, because in my conversation with him in 1919 he was quite unable to recollect what had happened to the other forty-eight copies.

I submit that the twelve copies which Mr Porter secured (and which he afterwards sent to Mr Emerson) would account for all the copies of this stamp now known. Ten of them were used on one envelope to Mr Emerson as stated in Mr Porter's letter; the other two would account for the surviving unused copies, this being one of the world's rarest rarities. If in fact there ever was a full sheet of sixty printed in error, as Mr Porter suggests (and the error was evidently known at the time it was made, to the officials of the Island) what has become of the other forty eight?

I submit that there is no evidence to show that Dominica S.G.18 was not a trial printing similar to Niger Coast S.G.60 and 61 (1965). If this were in fact the case, there is no reason why any of the printed copies should correspond with the setting of S.G.19 which Mr Dorning Beckton describes. Nor would there be any reason why thick and thin bars should not both be genuine.

Another interesting point is that there is a slight blue 'tie' on the Manus copy inside the left lower corner. This is identical in colour and strength of impression with the blue pencil mark which ties the Crawford copy to its piece. I submit that there is no question but that both these marks were produced by the same pencil. The whole argument in the article is based on the assumption that the original and unquestionably genuine stamp which was on the large piece of the Emerson envelope was removed at some time and the present example substituted. If this is so, it would be necessary to suggest that exactly the same procedure had been adopted in the case of the Manus copy. This, as Euclid said, is absurd. The reiteration of the substitution suggestion concludes Mr Dorning Beckton's article.

The outcome of all this is that I re-submitted the contentious specimen to the Expert Committee, who issued another certificate which stated: "That it is genuine, but the Committee cannot account for its having a thicker bar than usual over the original value." This is Certificate No. 17,368 of 18th December, 1933.

It is obvious that no proof of the circumstances of origin of these stamps will ever be forthcoming, but I suggest that my theory will hold as much water as most. My view is that a few rows, possibly two only, were used for experimenting before the whole setting of sixty was made. No one suggests that the Niger Coast varieties S.G.60, 61 (1965) were other than from a trial setting on a portion of a sheet, and I suggest that these Dominica stamps are an exact analogy, and that thick and thin bars both occurred in the trials. Call them, if one likes, essays used for postage, but definitely not forgeries. Moreover it was most likely that all the examples made were retained by Mr W. H. Porter who as Island Treasurer was the most obvious man to hold them.

It would be interesting to know whether anyone can cite any example of a forged surcharge being done with meticulous accuracy from a multiple *setting* of loose type.

DOMINICA

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, Oct. 9, 1953.

THE

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

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

FOUNDED BY THE LATE ALBERT H. HARRIS

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

Published on ALTERNATE THURSDAYS (FOR FRIDAYS)

HARRIS PUBLICATIONS LTD., 29, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Managing Director: H. GORDON HARRIS.

Editor: TOM MORGAN. Telephone: TRAfalgar 4477-8.

General Manager: Miss VERA TRINDER. Telegrams: PHILPRESS-RAND, LONDON

Opinions expressed in "The Philatelic Magazine" are not necessarily those of the Publishers

VOL. 61. No. 21 (WHOLE NUMBER 998) OCTOBER 9, 1953 POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION 15/- FOR 26 NUMBERS

TRACING THE EARLY POSTS OF DOMINICA

★ **Colonial teething troubles were as acute in Dominica as elsewhere and somebody got his knuckles rapped for spending twenty-five shillings on advertising the mail!**

By

PETER JAFFE

DOMINICA, the British Leeward Island sandwiched between the French islands of Guadaloupe and Martinique, instituted an inland post in 1875 to serve some 27,000 people, many of whom in spite of the efforts of its recently reorganised schools could neither read nor write, even in the "odious patois."

Thomas W. Doyle was appointed Colonial postmaster on November 6th, 1868, at a salary of £100 a year. The Blue books of the presidency show that his first official appointment had been on January 13th, 1819, and that Charles Humphreys and James M. Stedman had made a joint surety of £500 for his performance of duties.

He appears to have secured £1 a month for rent of part of his home used as an office. We do not know whether he influenced the casting vote in favour of spending £400 a year to secure a telegraph link in 1870 or whether he was disappointed when the Colonial Office in September 1873 expressed disapproval of a subsidy or guarantee for a coastal steamer service.

Roseau was the only legal port of entry, until Portsmouth, long a base for smuggling, was added in 1875. In 1876 the nationality of the ships entering Dominica, under sail or steam, was British 265, French 136, Dutch 8, Danish 3, Swedish 7, Spanish 1 and American (U.S.) 15. At this time the U.S. was the only one of these countries not to have Caribbean island possessions. The sale of St. Bartholemew by Sweden to France was still to come.

The island was largely Roman Catholic. The only Anglican church served some 500 people in the parish of St. George's at Roseau (population 8,114). The Roman Catholic churches were at Roseau, Mahaut in the parish of St. Paul (population 1,902), St. Joseph in the same parish (2,719), Colihaut and Coulibistrie in St. Peter and Portsmouth in St. John (combined 3,757), Vieille Case and Wesley in St. Andrew (3,392), Grand Marigot, Rosalie and Salybia in St. David (1,245), Grand Bay, La Plaine and Victoria in St. Patrick (3,284) and Soufriere and Pointe Michel in St. Mark and St. Luke (2,765). Rohase and Castle Bruce, in St. David, dau Wesleyan chapels. Nearly all these places subsequently had post offices.

The lowest agricultural labourer received 1/- a day and a household servant some £10 a year. Some schools secured a 1d. or 2d. a week per child. Most children were born out of wedlock. The stocks were a standard punishment for men. Apparently the habitual criminal was a problem, for in one year four individuals received 104 punishments between them.



The mysterious D.P. (left) could have been a police mark. On the right is a Portsmouth manuscript cancellation.

Agriculture was a problem. Sugar exports in the early '70s were worth some £50,000 a year, but coffee exports fell in value from £989 in 1870 to £395 in 1874. An expert from Trinidad reported in October, 1875 and drew attention to the fact that to cultivate 20,000 acres out of 186,000, even if a quarter of the whole area was kept under timber for climatic reasons, was poor, particularly as some 30,000 acres had fallen back to nature.



Fiscally used.

Squatting and the abolition of slavery were recognised as two of the causes of low production which was soon to damage the economy of the island.

The G.P.O. London handed over the Dominica Post Office to the colony on May 1st, 1860. Like Grenada, Dominica had a woman postmistress, Mrs. Dawbiney.

In the first eight months, revenue from the post office was £20 9s. 11d. and expenditure excluding establishment £1 10s. 3d. Total colonial revenue in 1860 was £14,462 and expenditure £13,752. When these figures were presented to the legislative assembly the members were warned that the transfer of the post office would be a source of expenditure, not revenue, for the colony.

In the last quarter of 1860 there

(CONTINUED UNDER)

Paging You

Here and There... 801
Stamp Market 802
Between Our Shelves ... 802
Touring Around the World 803
The Australian Angle ... 805
New Issues 807
The Publishers Say 809
Quiz 811
Auction Diary 811
Latest Commonwealth Printings 811
Letters to the Editor ... 813
Active Philatelic Societies... 813

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, June 28, 1957

THERE'S MONEY IN POSTMARKS

DOMINICA VILLAGE POST OFFICES

By

PETER SCOTT

POSTAL markings found on the adhesives of Dominica are many and various and, if also tracked down upon the Leeward Islands general issues, can become quite complicated. In this article I propose to deal *only* with the type of mark illustrated though others are equally worthy.

It is worth mentioning, however, that pen-cancellations on the earlier issues do not always denote fiscal use —many were postal in character (usually town name and date) and some are rare.

The mark we are discussing was introduced for the various villages from 1900 onwards. I am ignoring altogether, the Portsmouth (capital of the island) marks. It should also be mentioned that some of these markings (Marigot is one) bear a code letter "C." The majority, however, have an asterisk.

Almost Illegible

An irritating feature of the marks is that so many are found almost illegible through under-inking. Whether there was a shortage of ink on Dominica or whether the West Indian heat dried up the pads we shall probably never know! It is, however, particularly infuriating to possess a scarce mark identifiable only by two or three letters of the name.

There does not seem to have been much cancelling-to-order in these early days. A notable exception must be made in the case of Pointe-Michel. I have come across several specimens which, by their unusual clarity and the beautiful precision of the strike bear all the earmarks of a complaisant postal official.

At Vieille-Case and Grand Bay, on the other hand, the clerks seemed to take a pride in making their handiwork as illegible as possible.

For the valuations which follow I have assumed the stamps on which they appear to be the various penny denominations (View of Dominica) issued between 1903 and 1921. The Gibbons numbers are: 28, 38, 48, 48a and 63.



Type 1.

These, in my experience, are the stamps most easily obtainable with these village P.O. markings and my valuations represent the premium worth paying for the postmark. On high values and on the scarcer stamps of the Leeward Islands higher premiums would be payable.

DOMINICA (Village P.O.s)

Type		Loose Stamp	Cover or Card
1.	Colihaut	8/–	VS
1.	Coulibistrie	£2	R
1.	Delices	4/–	S
1.	Dublanc	8/–	VS
1.	Grand Bay	4/–	S
1.	La Plaine	6/–	S
1.	Mahaut	10/–	VS
1.	Marigot	4/–	S
1.	Pointe Michel	4/–	S
1.	Rosalie	10/–	VS
1.	St. Joseph	4/–	S
1.	Soufriere	6/–	S
1.	Vieille-Case	4/–	S
1.	Wesley	30/–	VS

Apart from Portsmouth, other P.O.s exist at San Sauveur, Salisbury, Petite Savanne, Calibishie, and Castle Bruce but, so far as I can trace, these were all opened in more recent times.

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE.
(Cl'wealth Review) 6 Dec 1968

Postmark to article.

DOMINICA.

Since preparing the article on Dominica postmarks (see PHILATELIC MAGAZINE December 6th), I have learnt of the existence of three further post offices which should have been included in the listing. They are Castle Bruce, Giraudel and Petite Soufriere. Giraudel was opened on September 1st, 1967, and Petite Soufriere on April 1st, 1967.

Mention is also made in the article of Postal Agencies – it should be noted that these also have their individual postmarks but details are not at present available.

S.G.B.

The Current Postmarks of Dominica

By S.G.B.



THIS is the first of a series of short articles relating to the various postmarks of Islands within the Commonwealth. They are not intended as a complete background to the history and geography of the places dealt with but are intended solely to give collectors an idea of the number of post offices and the types of postmarks in current use.

Many collectors of current Q.E. II material get tired of merely mounting the multitude of new issues which seem to come off the presses daily and perhaps this article and the others which will follow will stimulate an interest in the collecting of postmarks which can be quite absorbing if one has sufficient patience.

The majority of my specimens have been obtained by means for forwarding S.A.E.s to each individual postmaster. Some of the covers have been returned within a matter of a fortnight, others have taken months and have arrived when all hope of seeing them again has been abandoned! Some postmasters have been very enthusiastic in the application of postmarks (as many as 12 have been applied to one cover) while others have been a little shy with the ink – this all adds to the excitement of the chase.

The main purpose behind these articles is to illustrate as many of the postmarks as space will permit and also to provide a small map suitable for mounting in the album showing the location of as many places as possible.

Dominica is the first to be dealt with and has a General Post Office at Roseau and two main offices at Portsmouth and Marigot together with 27 district post offices in the principal villages. In addition, there are 24 postal agencies but these are not dealt with here as they exist merely for the sale of stamps, etc.

Roseau itself has a regular daily house delivery but mail to the out districts in the north are conveyed by bus twice weekly.

Airmails are received daily and despatches made four times a week – letters taking only three days to reach me from Roseau to Cardiff. Banana ships also provide a reasonable speedy seamail service to the U.K. (about 12 days either way).

Readers will note the predominantly French flavour of the place-names which are the result of French colonisation and occupation and even today a French patois is the principal medium of conversation but English is also widely spoken and understood by the population which is mainly negro and mixed negro and white stock. A small Carib population live in a reservation area and have their own elected Chief who welcomes visitors and will pose for photographs in his regalia. The Caribs have still retained their skill in making baskets and mats and the 1957 3c. and 48c. stamps showed a young girl, Cynthia Thomas, engaged in this work.

To return to the place-names – always a fascinating part of any postmark study – Calibishie comes from a Carib word as does Coulibistrie, while Dos D'Ane is from the French "Donkey's back" reputedly alluding to the steepness of the hill as being able to break a donkey's back! Massacre serves as a grim reminder of the slaughter of a number of French settlers by Caribs many years ago. Scotts Head is a narrow peninsula which was originally a fortified retreat (see 12c. value of current series) and Graham Norton writing in a recent edition of the *Sunday Times* gives a reference to the struggle for possession in former days by stating that "at Scotts Head you can pick up cannon balls and shot, eaten with rust" from the spot where landings took place two centuries ago.

Wesley was probably named after the founder of Methodism as the negro settlers in Dominica were originally Methodists from Antigua. English place-names are few – Portsmouth, Salisbury and Woodford Hill, Atkinson and St. Joseph – and I have been unable to find any information on Atkinson which is obviously named after a person – can any reader help?

The postmarks which are illustrated are those which are in general use on day to day mail and do not represent the entire holding of each post office as the larger offices have several types. They may be divided into four types: Single Circle, Double Circle (old type with two thick arcs), Double Circle (modern type with two thin arcs) and Double Circle (without arcs). The latter are interesting and I have found similar examples amongst other West Indian Islands. The only one of this type in use in Great Britain for a while was at Kirkcaldy and was eventually withdrawn, the postmaster there explained that it was incorrectly made.

List of Dominica Post Offices

Single Circle - counter type handstamp
- G.P.O. Roseau (also used on F.D.C.)
- Anse-de-Mai
- Atkinson
- Colihaut
- Dos d'Ane
- Grand Fond
- Marigot
- St. Joseph
- Wesley (Note the large lettering)
- Woodford Hill

Double Circle (Old type)
- Coulibistrie
- Dublanc
- Grand Bay
- La Plaine
- La Haut
- Point Michel
- Portsmouth
- Salisbury
- San Sauveur
- Soufriere (Note large lettering)
- Vielle Case

Double Circle - thin arcs (Modern type)
- Calibishie
- Fond St. Jean
- Massacre
- Pichelin
- Riviere Cyrique
- Scotts Head

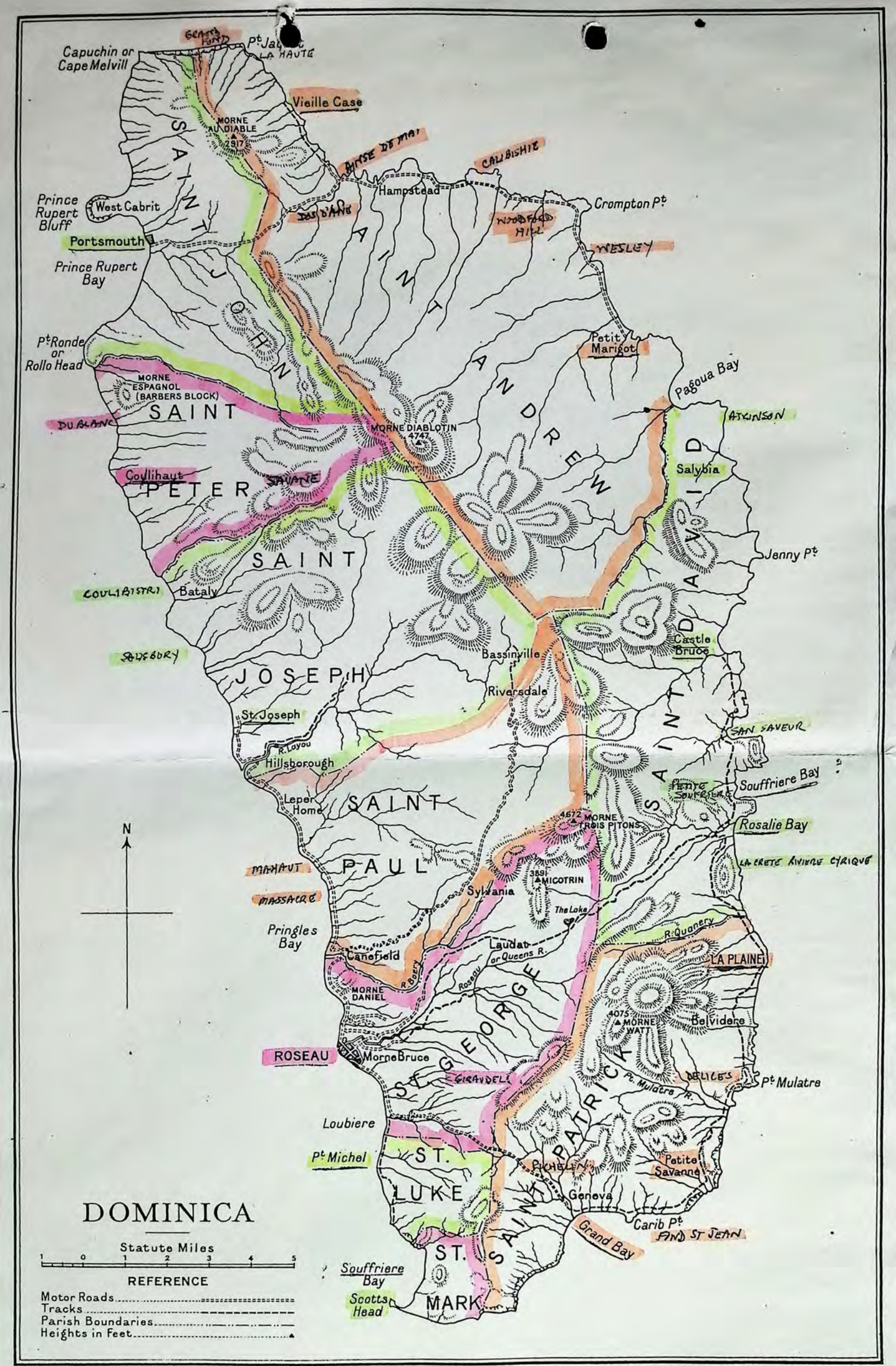
Double Circle - no arcs
- Delices
- Petite Savanne
- Salybia



Rows 1 and 2, single circles.

Rows 3, 4 and 5, Double Circles, (old style).

Rows 6, 7 and 8, Double Circles, (new style).



Drawn by Directorate of Colonial Surveys 1949. D.C.S. 30/4.
4,000/12/50 S.P.C., R.E.

BACKGROUND TO THE STAMPS OF DOMINICA



By James A. Mackay

DOMINICA, the largest of the West Indian islands in the Leeward group and the third in size of the Caribbean countries of the Commonwealth, with a total area of 291 square miles and a population of 60,000, was comparatively late in issuing its own stamps. The first issue did not appear until 1874 and in the ensuing 90 years or so the territory issued a mere 200, few of which (apart from some of the 19th century provisional surcharges) are likely to present the determined collector with many problems.

Named Dominica, on account of its discovery by Columbus on a Sunday (*Dies Dominica*), November 3rd, 1493, the island was originally inhabited by Caribs, a few of whom still reside in the interior. One of their primitive dug-out canoes was shown on the 8c. stamp of the 1963–65 definitive series. Dominica is probably the most mountainous of the islands of the Lesser Antilles and Morne Diablotin (4,550 ft.) is the highest peak in the Caribbean chain, which is an extension of the Andes of South America. The climate is extremely healthy, the heat being tempered by a comparatively high rainfall which varies from about 80 in. in some parts to over 250 in. in others.

It is said that the island has 365 rivers, one for every day of the year, and this explains the importance of dug-out canoes as a rough and ready means of communication in the less-accessible areas of the interior. Along with mountains and rivers, one associates with Dominica the majesty of its almost impenetrable forests and the lushness of its vegetation.

This former colony became an Associated State of the British Commonwealth in 1968, an event celebrated by overprinting the entire definitive series "Associated Statehood" and the change from an extremely conservative policy with regard to new stamp issues. The number of new stamps is still comparatively moderate, but the stamps of the island and the designs have become more colourful and interesting in the past two or three years. In November 1969 a new definitive series, replacing the set which had been in use since 1963, featured the novel use of the capital letter "D" as a frame for each of the stamp designs.

Among the many gorgeous flowers of Dominica one of the most dramatic is the poinsettia, featured in full natural colour on the current 2c. definitive stamp. The forests of Dominica are noted for the variety and interest of their wild life. Humming birds are a notable feature and the 1c. stamp of the new definitive series shows the purple-throated humming bird (*Enlampis jugularis*) hovering over a brilliant scarlet flower. A ramier pigeon (*Columba squamosa*), featured on the 3c. stamp, is typical of the numerous species of pigeons found in the island, whose coast can be seen in the background of the design. Probably the most famous bird associated with Dominica is the Sisserou parrot, an attractive bird which is a common sight. It is shown on the 4c. stamp and, appropriately enough, a pair of them are shown as supporters on the Dominican coat-of-arms featured on the $2.40c. stamp. Indigenous butterflies are the subject of two definitive stamps, the green-and-yellow swallow tail on the 5c. and the golden-brown Julia on the 6c.



Since World War II, the tourist industry of Dominica has developed enormously. Despite its mountainous appearance the island can boast some of the finest sandy beaches in the West Indies and these, combined with the healthy climate and an increasing number of first-class hotels, have made Dominica a holiday playground for the United States, Canada and even Britain. Some idea of the fine beaches of the island may be gained from the 1963–65 definitive series, which showed the beach at Rosalie (1c.) and the coast at Scott's Head (12c.). The 10c. value pictures the pleasant expanse of beach at Portsmouth Harbour, named in memory of the well-known British seaport, and aptly named since it boasts the finest natural harbour in Dominica. The harbour was, however, officially named Prince Rupert Bay, after the famous cavalry commander on the Cavalier side during the Civil War who later became equally renowned as a brilliant naval tactician. The nearby Prince Rupert's bluff was a British military outpost in the latter half of the 17th century and it was near here that the famous Battle of the Saints was fought in 1782 when the British Admiral Rodney defeated the French Admiral de Grasse.

The island's economy is essentially agricultural but in recent years there has been a great diversification in this industry. The foremost export nowadays is bananas, which are shipped to the United States, Canada and Britain. Banana shipments to Britain alone in 1968 totalled more than four million stems valued at 7,500,000 Caribbean dollars. A farm worker carrying a stem of bananas is shown on an

(*Continued on page* 975)

½



Bananas—a staple industry



Straw-work—a tourist attraction.



Cricket—a staple recreation.

Background to Dominica (*continued from page* 973)

8c. stamp with a background scene of banana boats and a cruise liner.

There are also extensive coconut plantations on the island. The coconut palm appeared on the top value ($4.80c.) of the 1963 series. Not only are coconuts exported intact but there is a lucrative industry in the island connected with processing them for palm oil and copra, a processing plant for the latter appearing on the current 12c. stamp. With the valuable forests of the island it is hardly surprising that timber plays an important part in the island's industry. A recent development has been the establishment of a timber processing plant at Check Hall, not far from Roseau, which aims at producing about 20 million board feet of timber annually. This plant is owned by Dom-Can Timbers Ltd., a local company financed largely by Canadian capital. The main type of commercial timber exported from Dominica is the tropical species known locally as gommier (*Dacryodes excelsa*). The 25c. stamp shows the timber plant with a tractor and logs in the foreground.

By contrast, one of the age-old cottage industries of Dominica is straw work, and this has appeared on several stamps of the island. Straw mat weaving was the subject of the 3c. stamp of 1957 and in the current definitive series the 15c. stamp shows two ladies engaged in selling straw hats.

Another recent development has been the mining of pumice stone by the Dominican Mining Company. Extensive deposits of this volcanic rock have been found and used mainly as a base for lightweight aggregates in modern construction design. The 30c. stamp of the present definitive series shows a mining rig. The volcanic origin of Dominica is obvious from a study of its geology and although the ancient volcanoes of the island are long extinct it is interesting to note that they have left a legacy in the form of the famous sulphur springs and the curious boiling lake shown on the stamps of the 1938, 1951 and 1963 definitive series. This lake, situated halfway up a mountain side, is a small geyser of boiling sulphur. Its banks are steep and its depth unknown, but the curious thing about it is its cauldron-like appearance. The waters are often forced three feet above normal level by the pressure of escaping gases which are highly dangerous. At least one English tourist succumbed to a lethal dose while inspecting it.

Important public buildings form the subject of four stamps of the present series. At the grammar school, completed in 1962 and shown on the 38c. stamp, there are approximately 470 boys in attendance with a staff of 23. The school provides education up to university entrance level and sporting activities are not overlooked, as is evident from the spirited cricket match in progress in the foreground of the stamp design.

The religious aspect of Dominica is represented by the 50c. stamp, which shows the Roman Catholic cathedral in Roseau. The present building, dating from 1839, was built on the site of an earlier chapel erected in 1730. The 60c. stamp features the Government headquarters building commenced on October 9th, 1967, and formally inaugurated on June 4th, 1969. The stamp shows a large expanse of lawn in the foreground with the imposing office blocks in the background. The Government headquarters contains not only the House of Assembly but the various Government ministry offices. Of great importance to the tourist and commercial development of Dominica is Melville Hall airport, shown on the $1.20c. A temporary landing strip was first used in September 1958 and the present airport was officially opened some three years later. During the past decade it has been enormously extended and is now capable of taking all but the very largest airliners and freighters. The remaining values of the new definitive series feature a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen (½c. and $4.80c.).

DOMINICA

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE. Sept. 22, 1961

STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY OF DOMINICA

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

THE popularity of the stamps of the various Colonies of the British West Indies is exceptional, and present indications are that it is likely to grow. These are all small island-units, with backgrounds rich in colour and history, well designed stamps, plenty of early postal history, and no shortage, either of philatelic material, in the form of "bisects" and surcharge varieties.

The publication, in 1960, by the British West Indies Study Circle, of a fairly comprehensive "Introduction to the Postal History of the British West Indies," has directed more attention to these interesting islands, set in a tropical climate and bathed in the blue waters of the Caribbean Sea. Many of these Colonies, such as Barbados, Antigua, and Trinidad, are too familiar to need further emphasis here; but the island of Dominica is, perhaps, more readily overlooked, if only because of its position, wedged between the two French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique.

The first obvious remark to make is that Dominica, the British Colony, must not be confused with the Dominican Republic, which consists of the eastern two-thirds of the large island of Hispaniola, in the Greater Antilles, between Puerto Rico and Cuba. Dominica is a single, compact island, 29 miles long and 16 miles wide, the largest of the Windward Islands, to which it was transferred, from the Leeward Islands, in 1940. It has a total population of nearly 70,000, of whom approximately 15,000 live in the capital, Roseau, on the S.W. coast of the island. It is one of the few islands in the West Indies still to contain a Carib settlement, there being a reservation of about 400, most of them now of mixed negro and Carib blood, near the village of Salybia, on the N.E. coast. There the Caribs live in some autonomy, under their own "King."

Although they are now a dwindling race, they maintain a traditional skill in basket-making, as is illustrated by the 2 cents stamp of the 1951 set, and in mat-making, depicted in the 3 cents stamp of 1957. These are often displayed in the colourful market of Roseau, and although they are made of rushes, the baskets are so closely woven that they are usually water-tight.



For the menfolk, amongst the Caribs, the chief craft is canoe-making, as is shown in the 5 cents stamp of the 1957 set. These canoes are made from the trunks of local trees, which are hollowed out, and then the cavity is enlarged by the insertion of large blocks of stone. Boat-building is, of course, a very necessary occupation in the very maritime setting of the West Indies.



Dominica is of volcanic formation, with a mountainous backbone running from North to South. This mountainous interior has made communications difficult in Dominica, so that the roads are still confined to the North and West coast; but it has, also, given the island the most beautiful scenery of any in the British West Indies—rugged, forested, unsophisticated, and picturesque. There are ravines, waterfalls, craters and thermal springs, such as the famous "Boiling Lake," which appears more than once amongst the stamps. This curious phenomenon, last relic of the ancient volcanic activity, is a lake whose surface constantly bubbles and seethes. Its depth is unknown, but native legend attributes the incessant ferment to the wrath of a god, a factor which has further increased the sense of enveloping mystery.

Further south, near the source of the Roseau River, is the Fresh Water Lake, which is, also, often shown in the stamps. Encircled by mountains, with the mist perpetually eddying down to the very surface of the lake, the Fresh Water Lake is one of the many beauty spots of Dominica, although it is too inaccessible for its natural peace to be much disturbed. Again, its depth is not known, although there is a tradition that a man bathing in it once found himself in the Martinique Channel, which separates Dominica, on the South, from the French island of Martinique.

Dominica has a fertile soil, and a healthy climate; but only the coastline has been settled, and thoroughly cultivated, because of the mountainous core. In the days of the French settlement, the chief crop was coffee, but that has now entirely disappeared, to be replaced by limes, a plantation of which, in typically undulating scenery, appears in the 3 cents value of the 1951 set. Limes now account for about 80 per cent. of the island's agricultural output; but also grown are bananas, cocoa, and oranges, all of which are pictured very graphically amongst the various stamps.

Fruit-juices, bananas, cocoa, copra, and rum are exported—but not through the capital, Roseau, which resembles Takoradi, in Ghana, in having no deep-water harbour. Instead, the island's outlet is Portsmouth, on Prince Rupert Bay, in the

(Continued overleaf)

North, near which there is, also, the only airport. Air communications with the United Kingdom are usually by way of Bridgetown, in Barbados, however.

The tropical profusion of Dominica is, perhaps, most evident in the Botanical Gardens, one of the best in the world, which are to be found near Roseau, and which are shown in the 6 cents value of the 1951 set. Another extraordinary feature of Dominica is the number of its rivers, mostly swift-flowing mountain torrents, which on all sides radiate from the rugged interior to the coasts and the sea. There are said to be 365 of them,





one for each day of the year, although only some 30 are of any size.

Roseau, the capital, itself stands on a very pleasant river, of the same name, the old town being on the south side and the modern residential suburb, with so many trim lawns resembling those of England, on the north side. Further north is the Layou River, which before it was bridged was a considerable barrier for the postal service beyond the village of Hillsborough up to Barroui and Portsmouth. In fact, forty years ago, it was more practicable to convey the mail by sea from Roseau to Portsmouth, even though this voyage took several days and could be distinctly unpleasant, in bad weather.

It is remarkable that no sugar is now grown in Dominica. Sugar-cane used to be grown there, even as it is in Jamaica; but labour troubles, arising out of the abolition of slavery, in 1833, and the later competition of beet-sugar, from temperate latitudes, have brought about its disappearance and its replacement by limes.

The lime-industry, too, has suffered much from disease, hurricanes, and low prices, within the last forty years; so the present economy of Dominica is still precarious. It is fortunate, perhaps, that the acute social problems of the British West Indies need not concern either the tourist or the stamp collector.

A crop which is now tending to replace limes, in Dominica, is vanilla, shown in the 8 cents stamp of the 1951 set. Perhaps some day vanilla will be as important in Dominica as arrowroot is in the neighbouring island of St. Vincent.

Dominica owes its name to the fact that it was discovered by Columbus on a Sunday ("Dies Dominica," "the Day of the Lord") —the date being November 3rd, 1493. Early efforts at settlement were retarded by the resistance of the Caribs, which was exceptionally fierce on Dominica. The island was granted to the Earl of Carlisle by Charles I, of England, in 1627; but this was an empty concession, since the Caribs were still hostile, and in any case, England's claim to Dominica was not, then, internationally accepted in Europe.

The first Europeans to gain a foothold were the French, in the first half of the 18th century, and it was they who began the slow subjugation of the Caribs. By the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, in 1748, at the end of the War of the Austrian Succession, Dominica was declared neutral, as between Britain and France. Despite that, however, French settlement continued, so that it is probable that Dominica would now be a French possession, like its encircling neighbours, Guadeloupe and Martinique, had it not been captured by the British, in 1759, during the memorable "Year of Victories," in the Seven Years' War. It became legally British by the Treaty of Paris, of 1763; but on two later occasions it was, again, in French hands. The first was in 1778, during the American Revolution; but the island was restored to Britain, in 1783. The second occasion was in 1795, when a French force, of some 15,000 men, took Roseau, but could not hold their conquest, and had to withdraw, after extracting a large ransom as the price of no further pillage. Not until 1805 did the Battle of Trafalgar ensure that Dominica would remain, indisputably, British.

The strong French influence has survived more than a century and a half of British occupation. The religion is still Roman Catholic, and most of the working classes still speak a French "patois," or dialect. Moreover, many of the place-names in Dominica are French: the peculiar word "Morne," for a mountain, also occurs in both Martinique and Guadeloupe, and there is, even, a "Soufrière Bay," in the far south of Dominica, although this should not be confused with the "Soufrière" volcano, in the island of Guadeloupe.

Early, stampless letters, from Dominica, have survived from as early as 1761, although they are not common until the 19th century. It was not until 1845 that the first post office was opened at Roseau, under the general supervision of the London G.P.O. At first, simple handstruck stamps were used, reading "Dominica Paid," in two lines, within a circle and usually in red. From 1856, however, certain of the then current British adhesives—the 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d. and 1/- values—were made available in Dominica, and they replaced the previous handstruck expedients. These stamps were not overprinted, so that they can only be collected used and recognised by the "AO7" postmark, which was applied.

This use of British stamps ceased in 1860, when the control of the post office in Dominica passed into the hands of the local authorities. The former handstruck stamps were reverted to, more often in black now, until the first definitives for Dominica were issued on May 4th, 1874. These were in a very dignified Queen Victoria design, and in the three values of 1d., 6d. and 1/-. The handstruck postmark continued to be used in conjunction with the new adhesives, until at least as late as 1880. It was, also, sometimes used as a surcharge during temporary shortages of certain values, as in Nevis in 1885 and 1886, when 1d. stamps were so converted into 6d. stamps.

The early issues of Dominica—between 1874 and 1890—include a wide range of bisects, tête-bêche pairs, inverted surcharges, and other philatelic varieties.

Dominica was grouped with the Leeward Islands—the Northern division, administered from Antigua—in 1871, so it ceased to have its own stamps on October 31st, 1890, when it adopted the new general issue for the Leeward Islands. Stamps of the Leeward Islands, used in Dominica, should certainly be represented in any collection, especially if cover material can be located.

Leeward Islands stamps continued to be issued, concurrently with those



of the individual Colonies, Antigua, St. Kitts, Montserrat, and Virgin Islands, until July 1st, 1956; although in the first stage, between 1890 and 1903, the general issues were the only adhesives which were

(Continued on page 671)

STAMPS OF DOMINICA

CONCLUSION ~~(Continued from page 807)~~

By E. Glasgow

available. Like the rest of the group, however, Dominica found that the loss of its own individual stamps was too expensive, in both prestige and revenue, so it resumed its own issues with the pictorial set of 1903, showing the rugged profile of Dominica from the sea. Leeward Islands stamps remained valid in Dominica until December 31st, 1939, when the island came under the administration of the Windward Islands, the southern division, a less compact federation, for which no common stamps have ever been issued.

The later issues of Dominica include some interesting War Tax varieties of 1916–1919, as well as the attractive pictorial set of 1923. Not until the King George VI set of 1938, however, did justice begin to be done to the remarkable scenic beauties of Dominica. The revelation of Dominica's geographical setting was made even clearer by the second pictorial set of 1951, with its many vivid glimpses of life, work and scenery in this enchanting island. This process, of presenting Dominica historically to collectors in the stamp album, has been further and most impressively continued, by means of the most recent sets of 1954 and 1957.

The first postal service was organised in Dominica in circumstances of adventurous difficulty. The first post office, at Roseau, the capital, was so close to the turbulent Caribbean that spray from its waves often beat into its windows. The initial inland service was very erratic, because of the exceptional geographical difficulties of travelling over the mountains and rivers in the interior. Even to-day, the only surfaced roads run from Roseau up the west coast to Hillsborough and Barroui; and from Portsmouth in the North, to the coastal villages of Hampstead and Petit Marigot.

Dominica's Stamp History

by L. N. and M. Williams

DOMINICA, largest of the Leeward Islands, was so named by Christopher Columbus because he discovered it on Sunday, November 3rd, 1893. The island, which has an area of 291 square miles, is noted for its beautiful countryside, dominated in the north by Morne Diablotin, which reaches a height of 5,300 feet, while in the south the picturesque Boiling Lake (shown on three values of the 1938 set and the 24 cents of 1951) is perched at a height of 2,300 feet above sea level and has unfathomable depths.

The French settled in Dominica in 1632, but during the next 170 years it was the subject of frequent contention between the French and the British. A final French assault in 1805 resulted in failure even though the island was pillaged, and since then it remained in British hands, being declared one of the five presidencies of the Leeward Islands in 1872.

In 1858 the British Post Office opened a branch at Roseau, the capital, and postage stamps of Great Britain were on sale there. Their use in Dominica can be recognised by the cancellation, A 07 in an oval of bars, and stamps bearing that postmark are rare.

It was not until May 4th, 1874 that Dominica's first distinctive stamps were issued. They are in a prosaic key-type showing the diademed head of Queen Victoria, and there were only three denominations: 1d., 6d. and 1/-, but five years later ½d., 2½d. and 4d. values were added.

A shortage of halfpenny stamps occurred in 1882, when the one penny was bisected and each half surcharged with "½" in small type in black. The surcharging was done by hand and is found in various positions, including inverted. Pairs have been found with one stamp showing the surcharge upright and its neighbour with the surcharge inverted; needless to say, such errors are very rare. Another surcharge in much larger type was applied in red to bisects of the 1d. stamp, and errors can be found on that issue as well. Finally, in March 1883 the words "HALF PENNY" were overprinted vertically on halves of the 1d. value.

Dominica's stamp supplies were very uncertain and inadequate during the eighteen-eighties, and in March 1886 further provisionals were needed. This time there was a shortage of both ½d. and 1d. stamps, but there were good stocks of the 6d. and 1/-, so the two higher values were surcharged respectively with the required deominations: "Half Penny" on 6d. green and "One Penny" on 1/- magenta, with a bar obliterating the original value at the foot of each stamp.

In the course of the printing two errors occurred, one on the 1/-, which exists with the overprint double; examples are of great rarity. The other error, however, is even rarer and is certainly Dominica's rarest stamp, indeed it is one of the world's greatest rarities. One pane (60 stamps) of the 6d. was surcharged "One Penny", and of this small number only about a dozen have survived to the present day, most of them in used condition. Ten reached London on one letter, sent by a philatelist in Dominica on June 11th, 1886, to a dealer. Cannily the philatelist asked the recipient to keep one of the errors and return the other nine on the original envelope, and this was done. Since those days the stamps have been removed from the envelope one by one but a few with pieces of it still attached, and found their way back to British collections at increasing prices. Gibbons now list the stamp used at £1,750, while Scott puts a tag of $3,650 on it.

Dominica's first pictorial stamps appeared modestly in 1903, when the lowest nine values in a series issued that year all showed a view of the island from the sea. The same type remained in use for the next 20 years, and even the 1923 series gave no relief from the conventional designs of the King's head beside a semi-pictorial subject – an old sailing-ship adapted from part of the Dominican arms.

It was not until 1938 that the first true pictorials were issued, when four designs were used for the King George VI set: views of Fresh Water Lake, which is said to be the haunt of a legendary monster, a serpent with a jewel on its head, Layou River, one of only two rivers on the island, Boiling Lake, which has already been mentioned, and the lime harvest, Dominica's most important product.

In 1951 came a more ambitious series containing 11 pictorial designs, among them a few used in the previous issue, but the new stamps were devoted mainly to depicting the island's crops and industries, such as bananas, cocoa, oranges and vanilla beans. Basket-making figured on the 2c. stamp, and a view of the Botanical Gardens at Roseau on the 6c.

The accession to the British throne of Queen Elizabeth II in 1952 resulted in new stamps two years later, but the old designs were retained and it was not until 1957 that three new types were introduced, one depicting the making of mats, another showing canoe making and the third banana picking.



A clean sweep was made in 1963 when Dominica's longest and most colourful series of stamps appeared. There were 16 designs, all printed in multicolour photogravure and showing beauty spots, industries, local fauna and, on the 14c., a Dominican wearing traditional costume. The Queen's head figures on each stamp and the 5c. is devoted entirely to the Annigoni portrait of her.

Apart from the various definitive sets Dominica has participated in commemorating such events as the Silver Jubilee of King George V (1935), the Coronations of King George VI (1937) and Queen Elizabeth II (1953), Inauguration of the British Caribbean Federation (1958), Freedom from Hunger Campaign (1963), International Co-operation Year (1965) and other events of general importance.

With the more liberal stamp-issuing policy now in force collectors can look forward to the commemoration of further anniversaries and events as they occur. One of the occasions being celebrated by an interesting issue is International Human Rights Year, which is having a distinctive series of five stamps portraying personalities noted for their efforts in securing recognition of Human Rights.

The 1c. depicts John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the President whose untimely assassination in 1963 struck a cruel blow at the determination to obtain equal rights for all U.S. citizens. Cecil E. A. Rawle, shown on the 10c., was born at Dominica in 1891 and devoted much of his life to furthering Human Rights and securing political independence for the Caribbean islands. After his death, at the age of 47, an enormous and impressive funeral procession for him took place on the island, and a statue in his honour has been erected at Roseau.

Pope John XXIII who appears on the 12c. stamp, although holding the pontificate for little more than four years (1959-63) gained world fame for his efforts for peace and co-operation among people of every race and creed. On the 48c. is a picture of Florence Nightingale, the "Lady of the Lamp", who tended soldiers wounded in the disastrous Crimean War and forced the indifferent authorities in England to improve conditions in hospitals both for patients and nurses. Her work had much in common with that of Dr. Albert Schweitzer, portrayed on the 60c. This self-denying physician and man of many talents earned the respect and gratitude of innumerable Africans whom he treated in his hospital at Lambaréné.

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE. (Church Row) 20 Dec. 1967

Some Notes on Cancellations found on Adhesives of Dominica

By PETER JAFFÉ

THE following notes do not pretend to completeness. The sources used are the proof books of colonial postmarks in the Record Room of the G.P.O., London, and items in the writer's collection or seen by him.

The island of Dominica, now the most primitive of the four Windward Islands, was until the end of 1939 one of the Leeward Islands. Its postal history reflects the earlier connection.

As an island its economic history is depressing. Its sugar industry never recovered from the competition of European grown beet sugar and what appears to be primeval forest is often dense secondary growth. In brief, the jungle has come back, and the ruins of the estate buildings are swallowed. Some restoration of exports was achieved with vanilla, but synthetic substitutes are now prepared. At present bananas are being exported to Eire.

The island appears like a hump rising from the sea. It does not possess the multitude of bathing beaches admired in the other islands. The forests are denser and perhaps greener. The scenery, a selection of which is shown on the current pictorials, is probably the finest in the West Indies. The road systems at Roseau and Portsmouth were for many years unconnected, and a journey across the island could be undertaken mounted, but remained an adventure.

In spite of the small literate population, there are beside the G.P.O. at Roseau numerous post offices.

From the 1880's, although there was no regular internal post, there was a carrier service, and adhesives are known with manuscript cancellations with a date and the name of the village abbreviated or in full. This practice continued after the Colonial Postmaster provided regular services in the 1890's, for the first outstation date stamp was not provided until 1893 when " Portsmouth " was despatched.

On July 13th, 1900, thirteen circular date stamps were sent out from London to the colony. All had an asterisk instead of a code letter and the word " Dominica " at the foot. The following is the list : Colihaut, Coulibistrie, Delices, Dublanc, Grand Bay, Laplaine, Mahaut, Pointe-Michel, Rosalie, St. Joseph, Soufriere, Vielle-Case, Wesley.

The Coulibistrie mark is scarce because the office was closed owing to lack of business.

The " proof books " show that on March 8th, 1870, a circular date stamp inscribed " DOMINICA / PAID " with code letter "A" was sent from London. This mark was normally struck in black on covers, before the issue of adhesives.

Adhesives are normally cancelled AO7, though occasionally the circular date stamp " Dominica " was used. In the 1880's and subsequently the G.P.O. at Roseau used two types of the AO7 killer, one of small horizontal type, the other of heavier design and vertical. A duplex mark, consisting of the heavy AO7 killer and a Dominica date stamp was sent from London on September 26th, 1893.

On April 9th, 1894, the G.P.O. proof books show that two circular date stamps inscribed " Dominica ", with asterisks instead of code letter above the date, were sent to Roseau. The date stamps differ slightly in size.

The two circle and space bar " Gen. Post. Office / Dominica " date stamp was despatched from London on January 18th, 1906. Other marks used at Roseau include the " Roseau Dominica " date stamp and the " G.P.O. / Dominica " date stamp.

The writer has seen the bi-coloured 1 penny Dominica postmarked outside the island as follows :—

Castries, St. Lucia Cols. ; Barbados A Cols. ; six concentric circles ; framed " Posted on Board " (Barbados).

On later stamps the following are recorded (all with Dominica at foot) : Portsmouth, Marigot and Castle Bruce; and Dominica stamps with Paris, London, New York, Trinidad and Antigua marks are known, off " Ship " letters.

One mark known to collectors of S.G. Type 1, Dominica, is the crowned circle " Paid at Dominica " which occurs on the ½ penny olive-yellow and 1 penny lilac watermarked Crown CA. It is possible that when overprinted with the crowned circle the lower value was used as a 6 penny and the 1 penny as a 1 shilling provisional ; something similar was done in Nevis, where the 1 penny was overprinted as a 6 pence, in 1885/86. The rarity of covers makes proof difficult.

DOMINICA

GIBBONS' STAMP MONTHLY,
Feb, 1948.

DOMINICA

Re-entries are generally more abundant in the old classics, when more primitive machinery was used, than in modern issues, and it is therefore good to be reminded that they still occasionally occur in the latter.



Re-entry

Mr. A. W. Morley has kindly shown us a small one found on the current 6d. Dominica printed by Waterlow's. It is visible as a duplication of the horizontal lines on the right-hand side of the stamp: below the value tablet; in the two white lines between "LAKE" and the value, and very faintly in the background lines down the right-hand side. It occurs on No. 20 in the sheet which is the second stamp down from the top right-hand corner, and as the same plate has been in use throughout the life of this stamp, one collector in sixty must have it.

DOMINICA BISECT UNAUTHORISED

Earlier in this volume (September 28th, front page and October 5th, page 69) we described and illustrated a bisected Dominica ½d. stamp cancelled with the Crowned Circle "PAID AT DOMINICA" mark and bearing on the cover the Roseau date stamp of February 12th, 1940. At the time we promised to give readers any information obtainable from the postmaster as to its status. The postmaster was unable to help us, as he was not in office in 1940, so we wrote to the Administrator, who sent the letter quoted below. How the three wrappers concerned came to receive the "PAID AT DOMINICA" and Roseau postmarks is not known, but it is clear that this procedure was quite unauthorised although the wrappers appear to have been accepted and delivered in the normal way :

"SIR,—I have the honour to refer to your letter of November 1st, 1951 on the subject of a bisected copy of the ½d. Dominica stamp which was apparently used in substitution for a ½d. stamp in 1940.



"I have been very carefully into this matter and at no time was any official sanction given for the use of a bisected ½d. stamp. How the bisected stamp you mention came to be post-marked at Roseau I do not know, but it was done entirely without sanction and in direct contravention of instructions.

"The transfer of Dominica from the Leeward Islands to the Windward Islands became effective on January 1st, 1940. When the transfer took place no ½d. stamps, which are used as postage within the Island on newspapers, were available. A proposal that the 2d. Leeward Island stamp should be surcharged as ½d. stamps was turned down. A supply of ½d. stamps was ordered, and pending their arrival the Postmaster was instructed to accept newspapers for postage, collect the value of the postage, and *to put no mark whatsoever* on the newspaper. This procedure was carried out until supplies of the ½d. stamp arrived.

"I hope this information will be of use to you and I would emphasise again that no official sanction was ever given for the use of a bisected ½d. stamp.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
E. P. ARROWSMITH, Administrator."

Dup.

DOMINICA BISECT UNAUTHORISED

Earlier in this volume (September 28th, front page and October 5th, page 69) we described and illustrated a bisected Dominica ½d. stamp cancelled with the Crowned Circle "PAID AT DOMINICA" mark and bearing on the cover the Roseau date stamp of February 12th, 1940. At the time we promised to give readers any information obtainable from the postmaster as to its status. The postmaster was unable to help us, as he was not in office in 1940, so we wrote to the Administrator, who sent the letter quoted below. How the three wrappers concerned came to receive the "PAID AT DOMINICA" and Roseau postmarks is not known, but it is clear that this procedure was quite unauthorised although the wrappers appear to have been accepted and delivered in the normal way:

"SIR,—I have the honour to refer to your letter of November 1st, 1951 on the subject of a bisected copy of the ½d. Dominica stamp which was apparently used in substitution for a ½d. stamp in 1940.



Cash.

"I have been very carefully into this matter and at no time was any official sanction given for the use of a bisected ½d. stamp. How the bisected stamp you mention came to be post-marked at Roseau I do not know, but it was done entirely without sanction and in direct contravention of instructions.

"The transfer of Dominica from the Leeward Islands to the Windward Islands became effective on January 1st, 1940. When the transfer took place no ½d. stamps, which are used as postage within the Island on newspapers, were available. A proposal that the 2d. Leeward Island stamp should be surcharged as ½d. stamps was turned down. A supply of ½d. stamps was ordered, and pending their arrival the Postmaster was instructed to accept newspapers for postage, collect the value of the postage, and *to put no mark whatsoever* on the newspaper. This procedure was carried out until supplies of the ½d stamp arrived.

"I hope this information will be of use to you and I would emphasise again that no official sanction was ever given for the use of a bisected ½d. stamp.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

E. P. ARROWSMITH, Administrator."

DOMINICA

GIBBONS' STAMP MONTHLY, July & Aug. 1963.

AN ISSUE IS BORN

DOMINICA, 1963

TOURIST publicity is not the least of the various functions of the modern postage stamp, and Dominica's great natural beauty—picturesque mountain scenery, forests, streams and beaches, even a waterfall or two—provides several interesting designs for these new stamps. Dominica is the most northerly of the four Windward Islands; it was the first island discovered by Columbus on his second voyage to the New World and owes its name to having been sighted by him on Sunday, November 3rd, 1493. It is sandwiched between the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and has a French atmosphere of its own. Roseau is the capital, the area is approximately 305 square miles, and the population about 60,000.

Photographs and a colour plate (of the Arms), mostly furnished by the Dominican Government, and shown to us by courtesy of the Crown Agents, comprise the design material; Mr. V. Whiteley executed the artwork and the stamps, as is usual with the photogravure printing process, are miniature reproductions of his watercolours. The Arms of Dominica, specifically the supporters (Sisserou parrots) and the four quarters of the shield—coconut tree, crapaud (toad), sailing canoe and banana tree—are the artist's inspiration for five of the designs (or six including the Arms) and these values—3 c., 10 c., 15 c., 24 c., $1.20 and $4.80—will be reviewed collectively in the final instalment of this series. The Queen's portrait—2 c. and 5 c.—is, of course, based on Annigoni's celebrated painting. It is most attractively reproduced, with the St. Edward's Crown surprisingly unobtrusive.



2. First-class photograph used for the 4 cents.





1. Typical of Dominica's coastline.





3. Carving out a new road





4. "Caterpillar" close-up



5. Carib canoe-builder completing his task

1 c. Seashore at Rosalie. This seascape (*Fig.* 1), described as typical of the eastern or Atlantic coast of Dominica, is strongly reminiscent of the Devon coast near Dartmouth. Stunted trees indicate the strength of the prevailing easterly winds. The photograph is reproduced in its entirety; the breakers are effectively suggested in tones of blue and white, and the hazy, summer sky is shown to perfection. The Queen's portrait, uniform throughout the series (except for the 2 c. and 5 c.), is the ultra-small Wilding type, surmounted by the Crown, which fits very neatly and inconspicuously into all the designs.

4 c. Sulphur Springs. Dominica is of volcanic origin—the mountains are extinct volcanoes, and the "Boiling Lake" stamp of previous issues is the largest of the sulphur pools which are found in many parts of Dominica. The photograph (*Fig.* 2) is typical of the smaller fissures. The greyish liquid-mud bubbles and seethes constantly with a deep gurgling sound, and steam issues in puffs. The edges of the springs are tainted yellow and pink from sulphur deposits, but the stamp is primarily in the muddy grey-blue colour of the boiling sulphur, enhanced by the green foliage around the rim. The picture, beautifully exposed and illuminated, is first-class.



6 c. Road Making. The development of Dominica, now proceeding, entails extensive road construction in very rugged terrain, and this photograph (*Fig.* 3) illustrates the kind of work that is going on—carving a new road out of the mountainside, along the course of a river. Lorries of the Public Works Department are removing debris "bull-dozed" from the mountain by a "caterpillar" tractor machine, perched several feet above the roadway. Another picture (*Fig.* 4) shows a close-up of the "caterpillar". The stamp is strangely blurred, as though painted on a rough canvas, but not unpleasing. The lorries are mere daubs of violet, which also is the unlikely colour of the languid stream.

8 c. Dugout Canoe. Dominica is one of the few places in the Caribbean where the Caribs still live and practise their traditional handicrafts such as basket-making and canoe-building. The population includes about 400 Caribs,

of whom a tenth are of pure blood. The picture (*Fig.* 5) shows one of them putting the finishing touches to a canoe constructed from a trunk of the gommier tree. The trunk is hollowed by the use of an adze and by burning. Planks are usually added on the sides to give more free-board, and the rocks in the canoe form an effective ballast during construction. A delightful stamp picture.

12 c. Scotts Head. This is the name of the forested peninsula jutting into the Martinique Passage at the extreme south-west tip of Dominica, a few miles south of Roseau. The source of the design is a coloured picture post-card (*Fig.* 6) inscribed on the back "Fishing Canoes and Nets, Scotts Head, Dominica" and published by Robinson's Photo Service. The post-card is also endorsed "Made by Dexter, West Nyack, N.Y." and numbered "38545–B". The artist has extended the shore and sea to the right in order to accommodate the Queen's portrait, otherwise the stamp is a fair copy of the original, and in the same natural colours.

14 c. Traditional Costume. This charming photograph (*Fig.* 7) brought a concerted "Ah!" of appreciation from this magazine's editorial staff. "It's fashionable", admitted the advertising manager with his mind on the recurrent theme. This local costume, with its broad silk cape and flowered skirt, is of obscure origin, but owes much to that of the neighbouring French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique. The head-dress with its three points is popularly supposed to indicate the wearer's marital status and, if unmarried, her willingness, or otherwise, to consider suitable proposals! Mr. Whiteley has, understandably, removed the tree and, with it, some of the charm of the original picture. The colouring, however, is exquisite. The photograph is captioned "D 107751 Edith Bellot wearing the traditional costume of Dominica. January, 1961. British Official Photograph issued by the Central Office of Information, London".

(~~To be~~ *Continued*)



The ever-beautiful Annigoni portrait used on the 2 cents and 5 cents



6. Postcard view used for 12 cents





7. Note tree, removed from stamp



AN ISSUE IS BORN

DOMINICA, 1963

(*Continued from July number*)

Last month we attributed these designs to Mr. V. Whiteley, but we were misinformed; Mr. S. Scott designed them. Apologies to both artists and to our readers.

48 c. Goodwill. Roseau is on the warm west coast of Dominica, facing the blue Caribbean Sea, and Goodwill (which sounds like a pleasant place to live in), photographed from the sea in this illustration (*Fig.* 8), is the town's main residential area. The picture is very similar to that of Dominica's first pictorial issues of 1903 and later years. It's a dull photograph but the stamp has an equable distribution of green and blue which transforms the scene. The population of Roseau is about 15,000.



8. Goodwill-by-the-Sea.





9. The plant called "Theobroma".

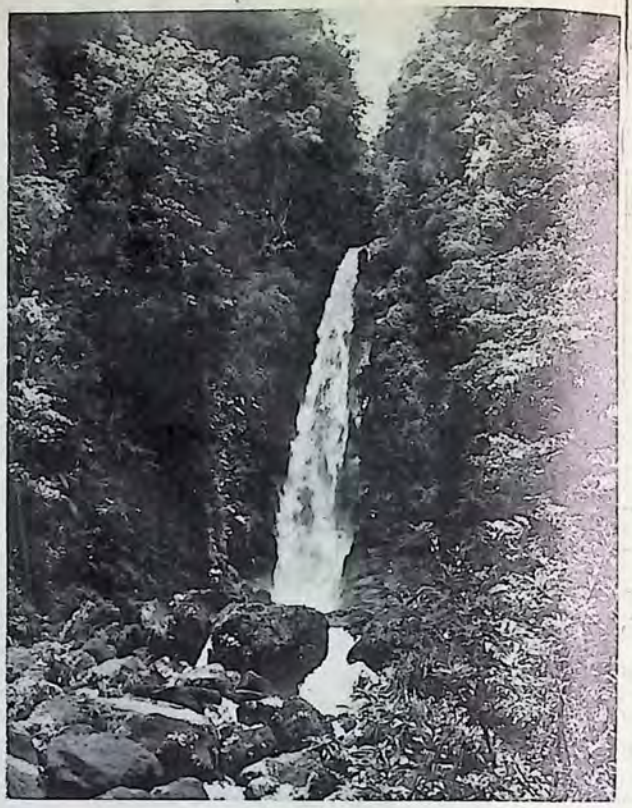
60 c. Cocoa Tree. Agriculture is the basis of Dominica's economy, with citrus fruits, especially limes, bananas and cocoa the main crops. The cocoa, or more strictly, cacao, plant, which Linnaeus called *Theobroma*, the food of the Gods, is an evergreen. The photograph (*Fig.* 9) shows how the flowers and fruit grow on the trunk and thickest branches of the tree. The fruit is bright yellow to red (the stamp has just the right colours) and the pods each contain about one and a half ounces of beans (dried weight). " Drying cocoa " was the theme of the earlier 1 c. stamps. Cocoa is one of the principal exports. Again, the stamp is enhanced by the blend of colour and attention to detail such as the inclusion of the ferns around the tree.



$2.40 Trafalgar Falls. The memory of Nelson persists in the British West Indies—on stamps Barbados has his statue, Antigua, his *Victory* and the dockyard at English Harbour. Jamaica and St. Kitts-Nevis have other associations. Dominica's contribution is this superb waterfall, more than 150 feet high, which provides a source of hydro-electric power for Roseau and some of the villages. The photograph (*Fig.* 10) was an excellent whole-plate; the stamp, however, is a disappointment—the falls having a very solid appearance and the foliage wishy-washy green.







10. Trafalgar Falls.

11. The Arms.



$1.20 Coat-of-Arms. As mentioned in our introduction to this series (July, 1963, *G.S.M.*), the Arms of Dominica were the source of design for six of the new stamps, five of them taken from the supporters and the quarters of the shield. Our illustration of the Arms was a coloured plate (*Fig.* 11), adequately reproduced on the stamp. The coat-of-arms was granted by Royal Warrant dated July 21st, 1961, and the official description reads:

" Quarterly Or and Azure a Crossfillet counterchanged in the first quarter on a Rocky Mount Sable a Coconut Tree fructed proper in the second a Dominican Crapaud also proper in the third on Water Barry wavy in base a Carib Canoe with sail set all likewise proper and in the fourth quarter on a Rocky Mount also Sable a Banana Tree fructed also proper And for the Crest: On a Wreath Argent and Azure A Rocky Mount Sable thereon a Lion passant guardant Or And for the Supporters: On either side a Sisserou Parrot (*Psittacus imperialis*) proper beaked and membered Or together with this Motto ' APRES BONDIE C'EST LA TER ' ". Freely translated—" After God comes the Good Earth ".









3 c. Sailing Canoe. This is the dugout canoe of the 8 c. stamp but with the addition of a simple square sail. The artist has slightly elaborated the Arms version by adding a lone sailor, two puffy clouds, and waves rather than wavy lines. These canoes are easily launched and beached through the surf, and are used mainly for fishing. Larger ones carry passengers and merchandise along the coast.

10 c. Crapaud. Here the artist has produced a more lifelike specimen of the Dominican crapaud or toad than that depicted on the Arms. The genus, *Bufo*, has about 80 species in various parts of the world, most of them olive-brown in colour, amphibious and with warty skins, and sans teeth. The crapaud is found all over the Island and is regarded as a greater delicacy than chicken. Soups made from it are recommended during convalescence after illness. Crapauds are easily caught at night-time when they are in search of food: they are hunted by lighted torches, the light attracting them to their doom.

12. Bananas. . . .





13. . . . for export.

15 c. Bananas. Rather a sparse tree with just one " hand " of fruit, but it makes a nice stamp picture, not, of course, so formal as the Arms version. The photograph (*Fig.* 12) was rather over-exposed. An additional illustration (*Fig.* 13) shows the bananas being cut down for export. Once the most important crop, trade suffered with the loss of refrigeration ships during the War, but the industry is rapidly building-up and bananas now form two-thirds of the total exports, mostly to the United Kingdom.

24 c. Sisserou Parrot. *Psittacus imperialis* is found only on Dominica, mainly in the mountain forests. It is one of the largest and most beautiful parrots in the world and extremely rare. It is not a bird one finds even in the most comprehensive bird books, but the artist has made a credibly lifelike picture from the Arms supporters. It has the characteristic large head and short neck, and strongly down-curved, hooked bill. Parrot eggs are round, white and glossy, and one or two eggs are laid. That well-known mimic, the African Grey Parrot, is a close relative. The Sisserou, however, is all greens and purplish-blues, with a distinctive red flank.

$4.80 Coconut Tree. The fourth quarter (first in the shield) shows a stylized palm with just five coconuts, but the artist had an additional choice of three photographs, the one illustrated (*Fig.* 14) evidently being the model, although its " angle of lean " has been reversed, and no fruit is visible. But he managed to level the horizon! The coconut tree is grown all over Dominica and there are several large, well-tended plantations. The coconut is mainly converted into copra for inter-island trading; fats and oils are manufactured from it. One supposes that its choice for the highest-value stamp, rather than the Arms, is a tribute to its value to the community of Dominica.



14. Coconut Tree.



DOMINICA

GIBBONS' STAMP MONTHLY, June, 1965



Above: The new printing—Eyes left!
Below: The first printing—Eyes front!



Through the Magnifying Glass

Conducted by Russell Bennett

Dominica 14 cents

When the current 14 c. stamp was first issued on May 16th, 1963, we featured it in "An Issue is Born" and showed the original photograph from which the design was developed. What we did not comment on at the time was the fact that the expression of the eyes had been altered so that on the stamp they gazed straight forward, whilst on the photo they looked to the left.

Now a new printing of this stamp, released in London on April 1st, 1965, has the eyes as in the original photo, looking left (*see illustration*), a new, listable variety. The first printing was from cylinders 1B (red), 1B (brown), 1B (yellow), 1B (blue); the April 1965 printing is from new cylinders 2B (red), 2B (yellow), 2B (brown), 2B (blue)—what the changed colour sequence of the numbers signifies, I do not know, unless they were applied in a different order.

There are two points about the colours of the new stamp which are of particular interest. The blue is slightly deeper than in the first printing and this has caused the green leaves and trees (printed by a combination of blue and yellow) to change from yellow-green to blue-green. The other colour variation is a minor one, but may be of interest to the specialist. It occurs on the hills in the background, where a red tint over blue gives the appearance of heather. Looking at a complete sheet of the new printing, this tint varies in intensity from stamp to stamp, and on some stamps in rows 2 and 3 (sheets 10 × 5) particularly stamp No. 8, is almost entirely absent.

STAMP MAIL JULY 1990

STANLEY GIBBONS

A Postal History of the World auction on 25 May achieved an overall total of £52,500 plus. Among 'Poets' autographs were two efforts from Robert Burns, one somewhat bawdy and salacious — one entitled 'song Tune, prepare my dear brethen to the tavern let's fly' realised £3,400 and the more bawdy group of songs and poems acheived £2,500 against estimate of £1,500.

In the section devoted to British Post Offices abroad an 1859 wrapper from Dominica to St Lucia with 1855-57 4d rose and good strike of the A07 obliterator — part Dominica c.d.s. and St Lucia double-ring receiver for SP 4 1859 was certainly a scarce item which fetched £1,800 — some 4½ times estimate!

STAMP COLLECTING [ ] 1969 or 1970

The Story Behind the Stamp

Stamping Out Cricket in Dominica

By A. G. K. Leonard



THE 38c. stamp in the recent definitive series from Dominica presents an attractive scene, a colourful view of the impressive modern buildings of Dominica Grammar School with a cricket match in progress on playing fields in the foreground.

The school is a stronghold of the game, which is widely played among the 70,000 inhabitants of the island, but boys playing cricket in front of the buildings, as the artist shows them, would get into trouble for breaking a strict school rule intended to prevent windows getting broken! The artist's impression, in fact, conflicts with the physical layout of the school site, for the playing fields are situated behind, not in front of, the buildings shown on the stamp.

Opened in 1893, Dominica Grammar School moved in 1962 to its new buildings, erected with the aid of a $460,000 Colonial Development and Welfare grant on land donated by L. Rose and Company—prominent in the island's lime industry since 1875—in a fine position opposite the Botanical Gardens at Roseau, the capital and chief port of Dominica.

The name derives from discovery by Columbus during his second voyage on Sunday, November 3rd, 1493. It was left to its original warlike Carib native inhabitants until the mid-18th century when France and England disputed its settlement. Each held it in turn, but after the defeat of the last French attack in 1805 it has remained firmly British, with the status of "associated statehood" since 1967, although among themselves many Dominicans still speak a French patois.

Most northerly of the Windward group, the island is perhaps the most ruggedly beautiful of all in the Caribbean, much of its 289 square miles being mountain and forest —but there is more than enough flat land for the islanders to indulge their passion for cricket, in the promotion of which the grammar school has been a major factor over the years.

The three-storey building seen on the left of the stamp is the main school block, comprising 14 classrooms, three laboratories and library. To the right are the kitchen, assembly and dining area, with the school hostel completing the arm of the "L". In front of this is a hard playground and grassed area where boys can play at break times, but ball games are banned owing to the nearness of windows Cricket is confined to the playing fields, which—along with the Technical Wing—lie behind the main school block, off the stamp scene to the left.

Dominica Grammar School has some 500 boys pursuing a full programme of studies from first to upper sixth forms, taking Cambridge Ordinary and Advanced level G.C.E. examinations, and a staff of 25, mainly West Indians but including two masters and three V.S.O. assistants from the United Kingdom and two Peace Corps volunteers from the United States. The headmaster, Mr. C. A. Goodridge, is a Barbadian and a cricket enthusiast who can often be heard on the island radio sharing in commentaries on local matches.

In the Windwards, senior interest centres on the "Goodwill Tournament" between Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent—Dominica was host and winner in 1968—and on participation in the regional "Shell Shield" series of a combined team representing the Windward and Leeward Islands. Captained by T. M. Findlay, the current side includes five Dominicans, among them the cousins Grayson and Irving Shillingford—a name well to the fore in many aspects of island life.

Both are old boys of "D.G.S.", which is particularly proud of Grayson, who left in 1966 and last year showed his promise as a fast bowler when he toured England with the West Indies party and played in two Tests.

The school usually fields a strong side, but in their matches with other island teams they often face old boys striving for the defeat of their old school in the service of their new clubs. Most villages run a cricket team and there are many others taking part in various competitions which include major and intermediate leagues, a schools competition, a knock-out contest for village teams sponsored by the Marquis of Bristol, and a "Gillette Cup" introduced this year.

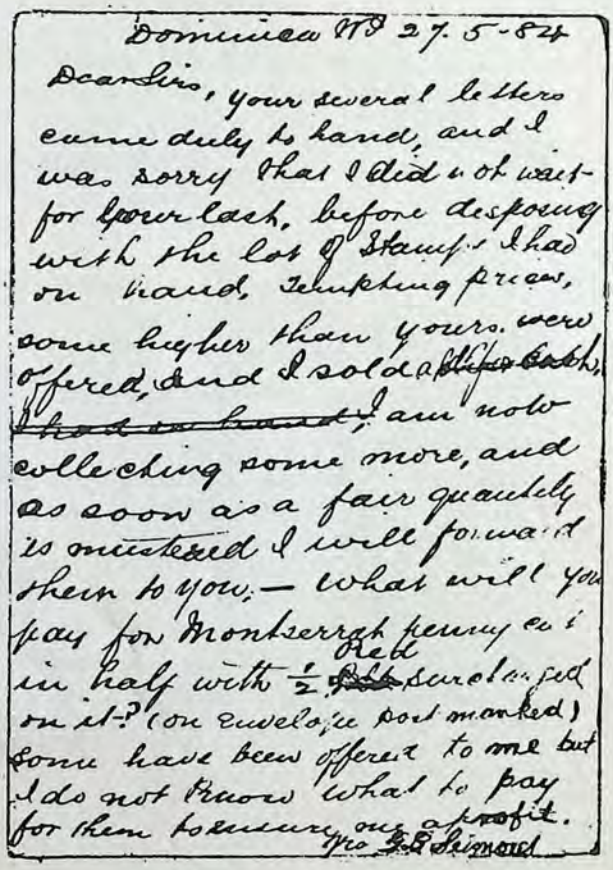
Altogether, cricket in Dominica well deserves the "stamp of approval" which it has now received in the appropriate —if not entirely accurate—setting of Dominica Grammar School.

A TALE of DUBIOUS DEALS IN DOMINICA

by FRED F. SEIFERT

For many years a few used Post Cards of Dominica have rested undisturbed in my collection of that Island. Recently, I took a close look at these cards and found that their messages are of considerable philatelic interest. Since all were written nearly eighty years ago, and the writer and recipients have long departed this Earth, I consider it proper to pass the contents along to my fellow philatelists.

All three cards were written by Griffith B. Seignoret who apparently was a clerk in the Dominica Post Office at Roseau at that time. In the paragraphs which follow, I shall illustrate each card and then discuss its message.



The card shown to the right has the postmark DOMINICA with the date of 27 MAY 1884. It is addressed to a stamp dealer in London. I consider the most significant portion of its message is the final query, "What will you pay for Montserrat penny cut in half with 1/2 Red surcharged on it-? (on envelope postmarked) Some have been offered to me but I do not know what to pay for them to ensure me a profit."

Dominica WI 27.5-84

Dear Sirs, your several letters came duly to hand, and I was sorry that I did not wait for your last, before disposing with the lot of Stamps I had on hand, Tempting prices, some higher than yours, were offered, and I sold a ~~[illegible]~~ ~~I had on hand~~; I am now collecting some more, and as soon as a fair quantity is mustered I will forward them to you. — What will you pay for Montserrat penny cut in half with ½ Red surcharged on it-? (on envelope post marked) Some have been offered to me but I do not know what to pay for them to ensure me a profit.

Yrs G.B. Seignoret

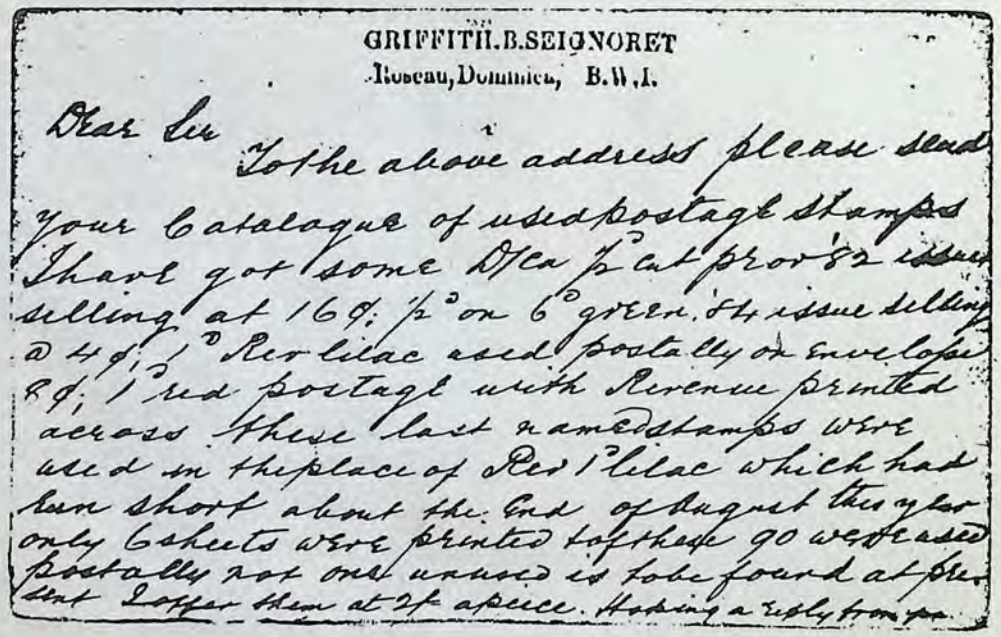
Consulting the most recent Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue on hand, that of 1963, I found a notation in the Montserrat listing "No. 1 was bisected and used for a 1/2d. in 1883. This bisected stamp is found with a small "1/2" in black. This is bogus." We found the same note in the 1968 Gibbons-Whitman Catalogue, but here the editor appears to have had a change of mind, for the statement "This is bogus" has been deleted.

Next, I looked in the Handbook of the B.W.I. which was published by the Philatelic Society, London in 1891. Here I discovered a note: "In the month of March, 1883, the then current 1d. stamps divided vertically, and each half surcharged "1/2d" in small block type, were seen upon envelopes which apparently had passed through the post between Montserrat and Dominica, but the authenticity of such a provisional issue was doubted at the time, and it has since been repudiated by the Postal Authorities."

Finally I consulted Leonard Britnor's 1965 Montserrat Handbook in which the major part of a page is devoted to discussion of this overprint. Britnor has

studied a number of covers bearing this item. He concludes that the bisects are genuine and were validly used between Montserrat and Dominica. However, he notes that the "1/2" in black is similar, if not identical, to the small 1/2 used to surcharge Dominica bisects of the same period, and that the surcharge was probably added after the covers had reached Dominica. He considers that the surcharge is an unnecessary embellishment, but states that it would certainly not seem to be bogus.

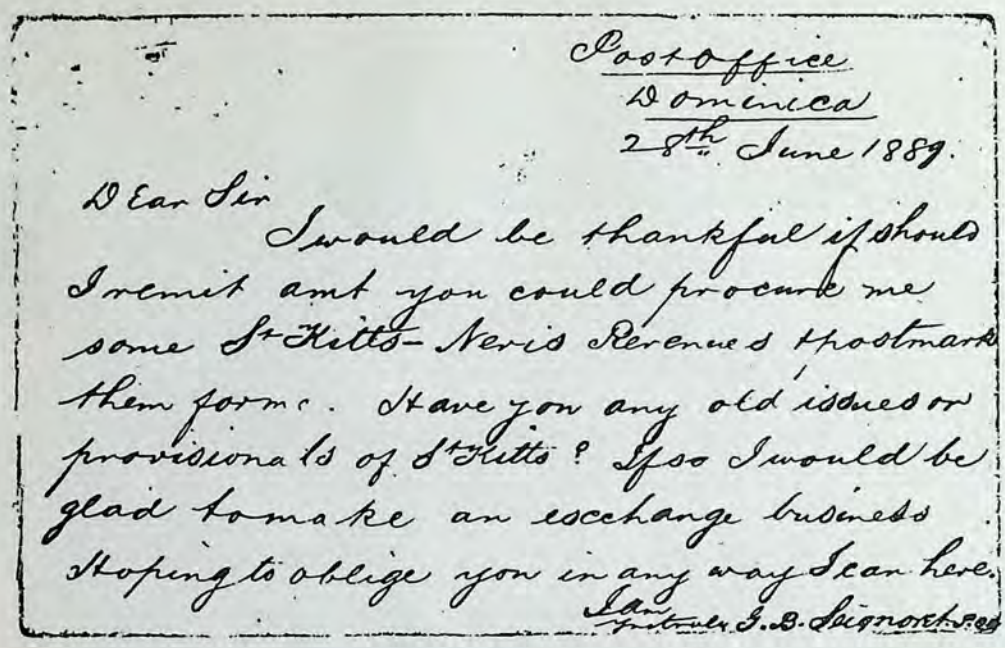
The evidence of our findings suggests that covers bearing genuine Montserrat bisects were doctored after arrival in Dominica by addition of an overprint of the "1/2" handstamp which was conveniently at hand in the Dominica Post Office. Since when these were offered for sale it was at least implied by failure to mention their Dominican origin, that the overprint had been applied by or for the Montserrat P.O., we cannot share the charitable view of Mr. Britnor that the "1/2" is not bogus. Here we define bogus as "Not proceeding from the true source" in this case the Montserrat Post Office. As for Seignoret's proposal to provide this item with "1/2 Red surcharged", since no examples in red have been reported, we must assume that this was an error on the part of Seignoret, or perhaps the "designer" of this item had planned to use red ink but subsequently discovered that a black overprint would offer better contrast on a red stamp.


GRIFFITH.B.SEIGNORET
Roseau, Dominica, B.W.I.

Dear Sir
To the above address please send your Catalogue of used postage stamps I have got some D/ca ½ cut prov '82 issue selling at 16¢; ½ on 6 green '84 issue selling @ 4¢; 1 Rev lilac used postally on envelope 8¢; 1 red postage with Revenue printed across these last named stamps were used in the place of Rev 1 lilac which had run short about the end of August this year only 6 sheets were printed to of these 90 were used postally not one unused is to be found at present I offer them at 2¢ apiece. Hoping a reply from you

My second card, shown above, is addressed to a dealer in Baltimore and is postmarked Dominica, 18 DEC 1888. Here Seignoret offers to sell copies of the 1882 and 1884 Dominica provisionals at prices which would be bargains today, but which represented a large profit to one who had obtained them at face value. It was probably not considered unethical at that time for a Post Office employee to make a personal profit on the philatelic sale of the stamps of his country, but now most governments take a dim view of such activities by their civil servants. As for the Revenue stamps "used postally on envelope", the Philatelic Record for October 1879 states that the mail from Dominica which reached England on the 13th of that month contained many letters and circulars franked with the 1d (lilac) Revenue stamps. While no authorizing document has been found, it would appear that this use was allowed during a temporary shortage of the 1d postage adhesive. It is difficult to find a similar excuse for the 1d red

Revenue which Seignoret offers. There seems to be no doubt that this Revenue was prepared to serve a valid revenue use as replacement for the 1d lilac. In the 17 July 1909 issue of The Postage Stamp, Bertram W.H. Poole states "A number of these were used for postage though there could have been no necessity for this as there were evidently plenty of the ordinary postage stamps in stock." Thus, Seignoret's precise statement that "90 were used postally" would lead one to suspect that he might have had something to do with their "postal use."



Post office
Dominica
28th June 1889.

Dear Sir
I would be thankful if should I remit amt you could procure me some St Kitts-Nevis Revenues & postmark them for me. Have you any old issues or provisionals of St Kitts? If so I would be glad to make an exchange business Hoping to oblige you in any way I can here.
I am
Yrs truly J.B. Seignoret

My third and final card, shown above, is addressed to W.P. Pearce, Clerk in Charge, Post Office, St. Kitts and postmarked Dominica, 28 JUN 1889. From it we learn only that Seignoret attempted to buy St. Kitts-Nevis Revenues from Pearce and asked to have them postmarked. Whether or not he was successful, I cannot say. However, the mere fact that he tried to obtain postmarks on St. Kitts-Nevis Revenues which would have never seen postal use, makes me all the more suspicious of his earlier offers of "postally used Revenues of Dominica."

There is very serious doubt that any St. Kitts-Nevis Revenues ever saw authorised postal use, despite the fact that Gibbons lists them as "Revenue Stamps Used For Postage." In the 1891 Philatelic Society, London, B.W.I. Handbook, E.D. Bacon tells of a letter from St. Kitts: "Mr. W.P. Pearce, the clerk in charge of the Post Office at Basseterre, St. Kitts, writes to me under date December 9th, 1890, saying * * * *. He further states that Revenue stamps have never been authorised to prepay postage, and that they have never been used for that purpose." In the 17 July 1909 issue of The Postage Stamp, Bertram W.H. Poole reported that the remainders of the revenue issues of the individual islands were recalled by the Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands in 1896, and in 1897 were sold to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. Being a reputable firm, Gibbons were no doubt unaware of the purely fiscal status of the St. Kitts-Nevis Revenues when they listed them in their catalogue, but once such an error has been made it seems to live on forever.

Thanks to Philip Saunders, I have learned a bit more about Seignoret. Philip has been in correspondence with a resident of Dominica bearing the same surname, who has advised: "I refer to your letter of the 9th February (1967)

about Griffith Berry Seignoret who was my uncle. According to the Leeward Islands Blue Book he was appointed to the post of Postmaster, General Post Office, Roseau on the 1st October 1925. He died on the 26th July 1933 according to an obituary notice in the Dominica Official Gazette. If my memory serves me right he was still in the post when he was take sick shortly before his death."

One cannot really be too critical of Seignoret and his contemporaries for succumbing to the temptation to profit at the expense of the philatelists of the 1880's. The salary of a post office clerk was (and still is) exceedingly small, and dealers were constantly asking them to provide the valid provisionals in quantities far in excess of the available supply. The clerks could easily rationalize that any profits they realized would not be at the expense of their post office, but would, in fact, bring in additional revenue for the government by the sale of additional stamps. The personal profit they made provided a welcome supplement to their official earnings. When their supply of local items was exhausted, it was but natural for them to write to their counterparts in other colonies seeking further material to sell, or as a last resort to devise their own "Unofficial Provisionals."

****

TO ALL POSTMASTERS.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
9th OCTOBER, 1826,

FOR the future an *additional Mail* for JAMAICA will be made up in London, on the *third Wednesday* in every Month, to be conveyed by Packet from Falmouth, which will also take out the mail for MEXICO, *which has hitherto gone by the Jamaica Mail of the first Wednesday in every Month.* Letters for St. DOMINGO (HAYTI), and for CUBA (HAVANNAH), will be forwarded by this Packet—those for St. DOMINGO to be charged as Letters for JAMAICA, and those for CUBA as Letters for MEXICO.

The Postage upon such Letters *must be paid in this Country.*

No Letters for the other British West India Islands, or for Colombia, can be forwarded by this Mail.

The first Mail under this regulation will be made up on *Wednesday the 18th Instant.*

By Command,

F. FREELING,
Secretary.

The above notice is copied from an original in the private collection of C. Angus Parker. We thank him for providing us with a print of it.

****

Tel. 0295 50083

128 Sinclair Avenue,
Banbury,
Oxon,
OX16 7BL

23rd March 1990

Dear Victor,

On my last visit to the NPM I was shown a suitcase containing photo copies of what appear to be a DLR history of their involvement in the various stages of stamp production, from initial design through to the final issued stamp, for various countries. Lionel Jones considered them junk and offered me any that interested me. I naturally said thank you and took all the BWI copies, which include Antigua, Bahamas, Caymans, Dominica, Leewards, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts and Virgins.

Each one appears to have been compiled by the DLR archivist, and they certainly contain copies of material subsequently cut up and sold. I have enclosed the Domica section for your perusal and I would welcome your opinion on their origins and value as research material. The BWISC library seems the best place for them in my opinion but I'd be interested to hear your views.

I would prefer that the source of this material is not revealed for the moment as I still have a few more visits to the NPM planned.

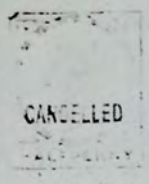
Yours sincerely,

Peter Tenbank.

60xf

DOMINICA

CANCELLED or SPECIMEN stamps from the initial issue of the 4th May, 1874 (1d. 6d. and 1/- perf. 12½ where shown) supplemented by the ½d, 2½d, and 4d of the 1877-79 issue. the ½d and 4d of the 1886 issue, and the 1d 2½d and 6d of the 1887-88 issue with dates of printing.



D7

1877-79



D12

1886



D4



D12

1887-88



D7

1877-79



D12

1887-88



D7

1877-79



D12

1886



D4



D12

1887-88



D4

Same.

0000021

POSTAL FISCALS

1879
Wmk Crown C.C







FILE COPIES



D7



D7



D7



D7



D7



D7

9000564

July 31 83.

Dominica Postage Stamps.

Existing and proposed Schemes of Colours.

Existing Colours





½d.





1d.

Proposed colours, being those established by the International Postal Convention for these three duties.





2½d.

Existing Colours





4d.

Proposed Colours.





6d.



This colour cannot be improved upon

On the 31st July 1883, this scheme of proposed colours to conform with the requirements of the International Postal Convention was submitted to the Crown Agents and approved in the following October, subject to stocks of existing colours first being exhausted. All perforations are 14, except the 1d, 6d, and 1/- of the existing colours which are perforation 12½.

D O M I N I C A

1877-79

Typo. Perf.14. Wmk.Crown CC.

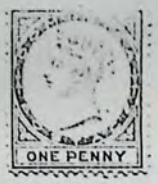
FILE COPIES

D7





imperforate
D7













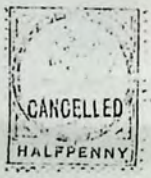






1883-84
Wmk. Crown C.A.





D7

1886
Wmk. Crown C.A.







1887 - 88









0003885

D O M I N I C A

This essay was submitted to the Crown Agents on September 13, 1901, following notification by the Colonial Secretary, Antigua, that it was proposed to issue separate stamps for Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat and St. Kitts, and calling for designs embodying the instructions they forwarded on July 15th.

The Crown Agents approved this design for all denominations except 5/-, the design of which should follow that approved for the Antigua 5/-.

This was not a suitable design for reproduction by letterpress

---

Sept. 13th 01.



Dupl.

Border
Centre Black

0000666

8th April 1903.
Dominica
Reqn 68/01

Appendix A

1/2d 

6d 

This Colour Scheme, with substitutes on Appendix B, was submitted on 8 April 1903, "A" being approved on April 15th with the substitution of the magenta and green on "B" for our selection of grey-black & sage-green.

1d 



1/- 

2d 

2/- 

2½d 

2/6 

3d 

5/- 

Approved
MAM 15.4.03

8th April 1903.

0000667

Dominica
Regn. 68/01.

Appendix B.

Doubly-fugitive centres; singly-fugitive borders.









Singly-fugitive centres; Doubly-fugitive borders







Doubly-fugitive heads; singly-fugitive borders.





1903
Letterpress. Perf. 14
Wmk: Crown C.C.

The original blank duty die proof



Vignette die proof approved 19.3.1903



Proof of the Working die

















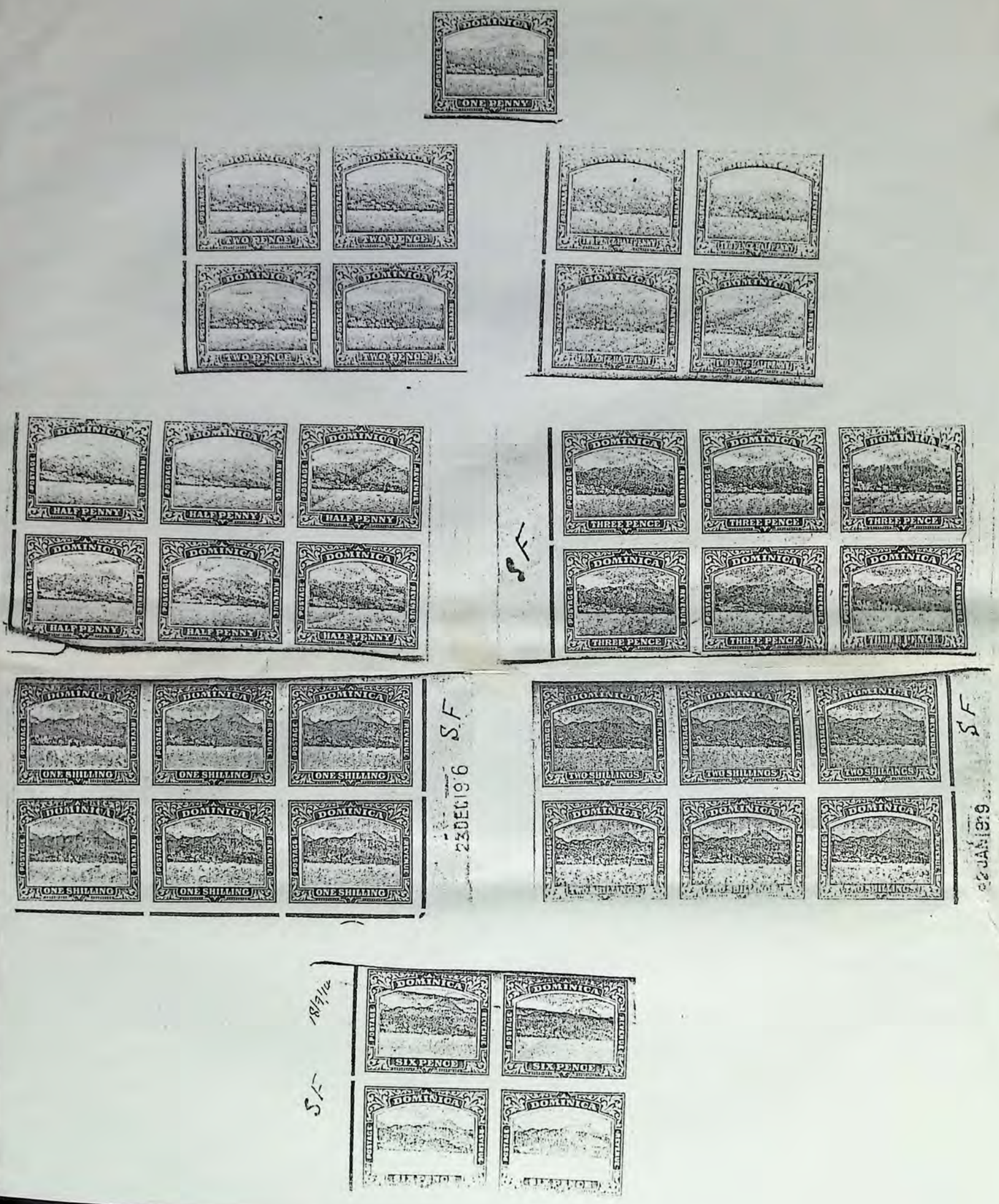






0000673

COLOUR PROOFS
1908-19
Wmk. Mult. Crown C.A.



1908-19
Letterpress. Perf. 14
Mult. Crown C.A.

0000672



continued

1908 - 1919
- continued -

0000676





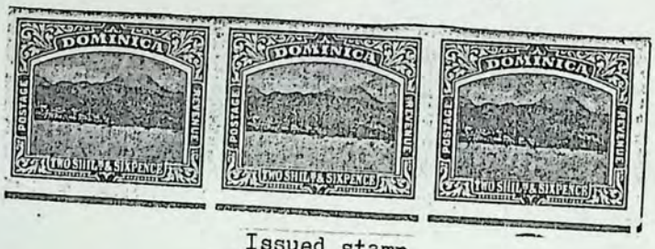




1914
Letterpress. Perf. 14
Mult. Crown C.A.



1921
Colour proof on watermark paper



Issued stamp





Either Centre or Border in D.F colour

D.7
S.7.





S7

June 08





Aug 1921



June 09





April 1920





S7.

March 1914





S7.

June 08





SPECIMEN copies of the issues of 1903 and 1908-19 and the 5/- King George V of 1914, showing the progressive stages in the colours of the letter-press pictorial issue with dates and annotations regarding the use of singly and doubly fugitive inks.

June 09

SF Feb 12







6th June 1921



Approved
8.6.21

June 09

SF







DOMINICA.

On June 2, 1921 we were asked to supply a new 1½d duty of the "VIEW" design printed orange in singly-fugitive ink. This design was submitted on June 6th, and duly approved by the Crown Agents 2 days later. It was printed in August 1921 and differs from the others in the series, inasmuch that it bears no ornamentation below the words of value and substitutes figures of value in the lower corners.

June 10

SF June 12







G002871

DOMINICA
1916



A War Tax Stamp Over-printed in red as shown was requisitioned April 5 1916. This blank-duty original die proof of January 10 1908 BEFORE HARDENING was submitted with a tissue over-lay of our proposal, and approved by Sir William Mercer on April 10th.

We also show a four-set plate proof



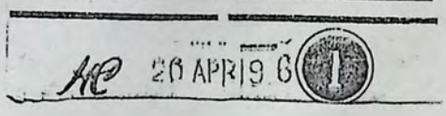
<20 JAN. 03

BEFORE HARDENING



Approved
Crom 10.4





1919 Issue

The Governor of the Leeward Islands ordered 1½ & 3d stamps over-printed WAR TAX in red on August 31,1918. No 1½d. over-print plate being in existence a new proposed 1½d border die sketch was forwarded on Sept.6 together with alternative over-prints of which the one shown was approved on September 28th.



WAR TAX
1½D.

Approved

WAR TAX
ONE PENNY HALFPENNY

WAR TAX
1½D.

WAR TAX
ONE PENNY HALFPENNY

June 1916 Issue

Approved for over-printing of ½d.& 3d of 1908-19 issue

WAR TAX

WAR TAX

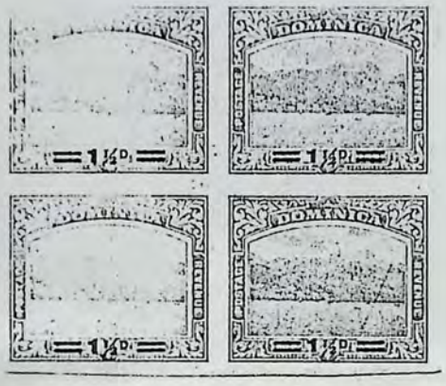
Approved
W.M.M.
26.2.18

DOMINICA
COLOUR PROOFS

1914
Wmk. Mult. Crown C. A.



1920



June 1918





Skinner Dec 5-18

1919



HC 27 NOV 1918

3008677

D O M I N I C A

On June 21, 1922 we were asked to submit a design for a new issue of stamps in two medallions, one containing the head of the King and the other the Arms on the Public Seal, an impression of which was sent to us. Our submission of June 28th was however replaced by the one of July 11th following a telephonic request from the Crown Agents, who advised us on October 11th that "B" had been approved for printing letterpress in 2 colours, the medallions in black for all values. The original design, forwarded at the same time, was returned for transmission to His Majesty the King when no longer required. A Colour Scheme in due course was requested.

28th June 1922



Dupl. Border green, Medals blue in Design.

11 July 22 B



0006673

Colour proof

1921
Mult. Script C.A.





Issued stamp





Feb. 1923-1927
Letterpress. Wmk. Mult. Script C.A. Perf.14.
Chalk surfaced paper.

Border Die Proof



D16





D16







D16





continued overleaf

GB1679

1923-27
continued













1
D16



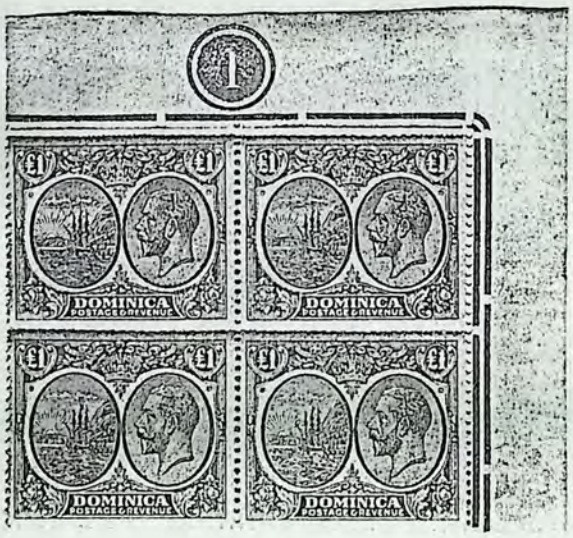
1
D16













D16





D16
15·5 x 1·75mm





D16

8th Dec 1922
Dominica
Reg^n 875

approved as altered
Walter V. Smith
14.12.22

Appendix A

approved as altered
Walter V. Smith
14.12.22

Appendix B.



Appendices A & B were submitted on 8 Dec. 1922 as a complete Colour Scheme, which was returned on Dec. 13th because it did not follow sufficiently closely the colour scheme of the current issue. We resubmitted it on December 14th with the 1d stamp in black and bright violet and the 4d in black and brown stuck over the original submissions. This amended colour scheme was returned approved on Dec. 14th, 1922.

3092658

1927 - 33
Letterpress Perf 14.
Mult Script C.A.
Colour Changes

Approved Colour Proofs



15/7/33



3d

Approved for colour
H.B.

Appd for colour,
H.B.
7/7/33.



Approved for Colour
S. H.W.
29/11











2nd June, 1953
Coronation Issue
Engraved by Bradbury Wilkinson
Recess. Wmk. Mult. Script C.A. Perf 13½ x 13



6 May 1935
Silver Jubilee
2-col.Recess. Perf.13½ x 14.
Wmk. Multiple Script C.A.

0000000

APPROVED

Die proofs of the frames

Requisition No.2001 .

DOMINICA

APPENDIX 29th December, 1934



affd for Die
H
31/12













