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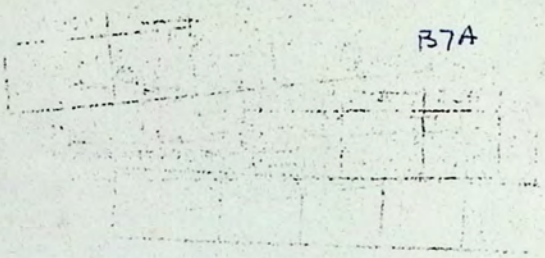

SCRAPBOOK - N° 6

BRITISH GUIANA

GUYANA

The British Guiana 1856 one-cent Black on M

By Lennox J Hernandez

Tuesday, April 4, 2006 will mark t he 150th anniver sary of the famo us British Guian a 1856 one-cent Black on Magenta postage stamp being postmarked and used. The survival of the only known copy, which bears the cancellation date of April 4, 1856, is rather fortuitous. Since its discovery in 1873, the stamp has passed from one famous stamp collector to another, whilst eluding the collections of many others, including that of the British Royal Family.

Once the premier rare stamp, being out of circulation since 1980 has caused the one-cent Black on Magenta to lose its standing as the 'World's Most Valuable Stamp.' In 1996, an 1855 Swedish stamp was sold for US$2.3 million, surpassing the Black on Magenta's 1980 value of US$935,000. In January this year, our philatelic prize slipped another rung in the rankings when an 1867 United States Franklin Z-Grill stamp was effectively valued at nearly US$3 million!

The popularity of the one-cent Black on Magenta, however, is clearly seen in it being frequently on exhibition (never in Guyana, unfortunately) and James Mackay, an eminent philatelic writer, tells us in *Stamp Magazine* of November 1992, of the reverence he felt at actually viewing the "little more than a square inch of paper." He was remembering that day in 1965 when he was in a long line of stamp enthusiasts to view the stamp at the Royal Festival Hall in London, and confesses: "For the only time in my life I began to understand what it must have felt like to be a mediaeval pilgrim visiting a shrine containing the relics of some saint."

Because of a shortage of the regular postage stamps in 1856, provisional issues were requested from the local firm of Baum and Dallas, printers and publishers of the *Official Gazette* of British Guiana. (I am happy to say that the rather ornate hand-press that was used to print this famous stamp is still with us - proudly on exhibition in our National Museum.) The stamps produced were very simple, and were so poor in quality that in order to make them safe from forgery, the Postmaster had postal officials initial each stamp before selling it: the unique one-cent Black on Magenta was initialled by Mr E D Wight.

Townsend and Howe in their authoritative ***The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana*** (1970) note that early information on the issue was not available and that "no reference seems to have been made in the *Official Gazette* of the period to the date of the issue." This was not unusual as they were provisional stamps. Importantly too, there is no information on whether or not both one-cent and four-cent stamps were ordered.

Accepted by most of the philatelic world as genuine, there is still the question of why only one copy of the Black on Magenta exists. Writing in the Gibbons *Stamp Monthly* of October 2004, Derek M Nathan put forward a theory on how the stamp may have been issued. Basing his argument on an April 3, 1852 Post Office notice suspending the one-cent postage for newspapers, he theorized that there was thus no longer a need for a one-cent stamp and that the issuing of the 1856 one-cent Black on Magenta was purely accidental.

The biography of the stamp begins with L Vernon Vaughn, a 12-year old boy who had just started collecting stamps; he found the one-cent 1856 Magenta, with other Guiana stamps, among some old family letters. He was not impressed with the stamp, because of both its ordinary looks and its poor condition, but he kept it. That same year he decided to sell the stamp and took it to an older collector, Mr Neil R McKinnon, who, after some debate, bought the stamp for $1.44 (six shillings).

McKinnon, it is said, expressed a risk at the price he was paying young Vaughn for the stamp, but five years later he sold his collection through the agency of Wylie Hill to a Liverpool dealer, Thomas Ridpath for 120 pounds sterling. That same year (1878) Philippe von Ferrari, of Paris, one of the greatest stamp collectors of all time, bought the Black on Magenta for about 150 pounds sterling. Ferrari, who was of Italian noble descent with German nationality, fled from Paris to Switzerland after the outbreak of World War I, leaving most of his philatelic collection behind - he died in Switzerland in 1917.

Though he had willed his entire collection to the Reichspost Museum in Berlin, Germany, the French government auctioned the collection in Paris between June 1921 and November 1925. By this time the British Guiana 1856 one-cent Black on Magenta was definitely known to be unique, and according to *Stamps of Fame* (1949) the sale of the stamp on April 6, 1922, "aroused tremendous interest among philatelists." Bidding was slow at first, but gradually gathered momen-



The ornate hand press (above) used in printing the 1856 one-cent stamp was the property of Messrs Baum and Dallas. Later owned by the *Daily Chronicle*, it now belongs to the Guyana National Museum and is proudly on exhibition.



The British Guiana 1856 Black on Magenta. This pi stamp is faded and less clear.



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tum. At 200,000 francs the agent of King George V, and some other bidders dropped out. *Stamps of Fame* describes the lively proceeding at the auction as a duel developed between M Maurice Burrus, a tobacco magnate, and Hugo Griebert, a London stamp dealer, on behalf of a Mr Arthur Hind: "A hush settled over the room, interspersed with murmurs of wonder and gasps of amazement from the onlookers as, by leaps and bounds, the bidding rose to heights previously unknown in a stamp auction: 200,000 francs... 250,000... 275,000... 300,000."

The legend had begun. This world record price established the British Guiana one-cent Black on Magenta as Rare Stamp No 1. With taxes, Mr Arthur Hind, a British-born American millionaire, paid 351,000 francs (US$30,000) for the Black on Magenta. After Arthur Hind's death in March 1933, there was a legal battle between Hind's widow and the executors of his estate about ownership of the stamp; eventually, the stamp was awarded to Mrs Hind in a lawsuit in 1933.

The next owner of the stamp was a Mr Frederick Small of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, who bought it for US$40,000, in 1940. (At this point, the exhibit in our museum differs, stating that a Mr Leo Otto Krumbach bought the stamp from Mrs Hind.) In 1970 the Black on Magenta was on the auction block again. At a Robert Siegel auction in New York, USA, on March 24, 1970, the rarity dealer, Irvin Weinberg, acting on behalf of a syndicate, bought the one-cent Black on Magenta for US$280,000. Otto Hornung, writing in the *Stamp Magazine* of February 2000, notes that the stamp was sold within 90 seconds of bidding opening, and that "Weinberg travelled the world with it in a briefcase handcuffed to his wrist." The stamp had broken its own record again.

Ten years later, on April 5, 1980, at another Robert Siegel auction, millionaire John E du Pont bought the stamp for a phenomenal record-breaking US$935,000 (G$2,384,250 at that time). The exact whereabouts of the stamp is not presently known, but it is assumed that Mr du Pont, convicted for the murder of an Olympic wrestler in 1997, and placed in a hospital for the criminally insane, is still the owner.

Much has been written about the one-cent Black on Magenta: there are, for example, stories of the stamp being a fake, even though it was approved by prominent philatelists. As early as the late 19th century doubts about its authenticity emerged, although in 1878 a Mr E L Pemberton inspected it and stated: "1 cent red 1856 as genuine as anything ever was" while Sir Edward Bacon declared it a genuine specimen in 1891. In the twentieth century it was M Burrus who lost the bid duel in 1922 who was most vociferous in the view that the stamp was a fake.

The stamp was submitted to an expert committee in 1937 and accepted as genuine, but Burrus again attacked the authenticity of the stamp in 1951. ***The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana*** devotes much space to discussing the queries of

Turn to page 17A



ure is enhanced; the original



The Guyana 25 cents stamp of 1967 celebrating the Black on Magenta (a 5 cents stamp was also issued). The handpress was celebrated on a 1979 $3.00 Guyana stamp.

Sunday Stabroek, April 2, 2006 p. 17A

The British Guiana 1856 one-cent Black ...

From centre pages

Burrus as well as the acceptance and approval of the stamp by many philatelic experts, including Sir Edward Bacon and Sir John Wilson, as well as a photographic expert, Colonel W R Mansfield. Burrus's contention was that the stamp was a four cents stamp altered to become a one-cent stamp. Sir Wilson, in 1951, pointed out that the paper used would have made such action impossible without causing heavy abrasion that could easily be seen by experts. Colonel Mansfield was definite that there was no alteration, and that the paper was completely un-rubbed.

There are also stories of other black on magentas: ***Stamps of Fame*** features a letter published in a stamp magazine in October 1938, describing a situation whereby the writer of the letter had offered Mr Hind another copy of the 1856 one-cent; Hind bought the stamp and burnt it in the presence of the shocked seller. Mr Hind is reputed to have said: "there is only one magenta One Cent Guiana." In January 1999 there was much excitement in the stamp world when another British Guiana 1856 one-cent Black on Magenta appeared.

The stamp was actually seen by an expert body in 1987 and turned down, but the owner was not happy with the decision. Thus the expertizing Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, looked at the stamp again in January 1999. Otto Hornung in an article entitled *The Great Pretender?* which appeared in ***Stamp Magazine*** of February 2000, published the new verdict of the committee dated January 20, 1999: "1c Black on magenta - imperf - used is NOT SG23 but it is a 4 cent stamp faked to resemble a 1 cent, extensively repaired and mounted on backing paper."

Mr Hornung's article makes fascinating reading. He gives the history of the stamp, beginning with two 19th century Russian noblemen (including a Grand Duke) followed by a Roumanian dancer who had inherited the stamp in a collection from her grandfather, to the current owner, Peter Winter. Hornung notes that Mr Peter Winter has a poor reputation in Germany. He is alledged "to have produced a large number of copies of stamps and philatelic material," and he has been dubbed "the friendly forger" in the US by Linn's ***Stamp News***, says Hornung.

Thus, there is still only one genuine British Guiana 1856 one-cent Black on Magenta; or is there? Let us celebrate the one-cent Black on Magenta in this its 150th anniversary year.

(The writer sincerely thanks Mr David Beech, Head of Philatelic Collections, The British Library, UK, and Mr Ian Jakes, Honorary Librarian of the British West Indies Study Circle, UK, for the material they so kindly supplied him; Ms Tamika Boatswain, Director of the Guyana National Museum for allowing the photographing of the museum's stamp exhibits; and Mr Jerome Benn of the GPO's Philatelic Service for the loan of the Guyana 1967 five-cents and 25 cents stamps.)



L Vernon Vaughn (above) discovered the stamp in 1873 when 12 years old, while searching in a relative's house in Berbice for old stamps.



Neil McKinnon (above) was a stamp collector who bought the stamp from Vaughn, later introducing it to the world by selling it to a British stamp dealer.

BRITISH GUIANA

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, Oct. 28, 1938.

FAMOUS GUIANA AGAIN ON THE MARKET

PRICE REDUCED TO £7,500

From *Weekly Philatelic Gossip* we learn that the famous 1 cent British Guiana stamp, which has received more publicity than any other stamp in the world, is again on offer, this time through Ernest Jarvis, of the Kenmore Stamp Co. Great efforts were made to sell it in London, when it is understood that Mrs. Scala (who was formerly Mrs. Arthur Hind) placed a reserve of £10,000 upon it, which nobody was prepared to pay, and the stamp consequently went back to the United States.

Now the price has been reduced to $37,500—approximately £7,500, which most people consider Mrs. Scala was very unwise to refuse when it was bid at Harmer Rooke's in 1935, and compared very favourably with the 300,000 French francs (£7,343 at that time), which her late millionaire husband paid for it in a boom period, when Arthur Burrus, the Alsace tobacco millionaire, was in competition with him to get it.

But such is the fall in the franc that 300,000 to-day are only the equivalent of £1,666, and we understand that Mr. Burrus has expressed himself as no longer interested. With one millionaire dead, the other out of the market, and the London bid withdrawn, the chance of realising the new price fixed seems problematical. There is no record of



(*Photo by Harmer Rooke & Co.*)

any other single stamp in the world ever having changed hands at anything like the figure now asked, nor has the Guiana itself achieved a high price except on that one famous occasion when Mr. Hind determined to possess it regardless of expense. Count Ferrary only paid £155 for it in 1878!

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, Apr. 25, 1941

British Guiana 2 Cents Rose

"New Discovery" is a Fake

Lately a score of journals, including *The Times* have given publicity, without enquiry, to what purported to be a newly discovered copy of the rare 2c. rose stamp of British Guiana.

Mindful of previous "discoveries" of the sort, the *Philatelic Magazine* did not fall into the trap, but awaited the evidence. This has now arrived in the shape of a photograph, which has been submitted to Mr. H. R. Harmer who has pronounced the copy from which it was taken to be a forgery.



The forgery can be recognised at once by the shape of the figure "2" and the word "Cents." It is of particular interest, and perhaps of some significance, to note that the initials and postmark have been copied from the specimen in the Reichspost Museum in Berlin. This suggests the possibility that the fake is of recent, and probably German, origin, and that it has lately been "planted" in British Guiana in order to raise funds for enemy propaganda.

As the forgery is by no means badly executed, and might deceive an unsuspecting collector who did not submit it to expert examination before purchase, we are glad to give an enlargement of it so that *P.M.* readers, as usual, may be best informed.

Gibbons Price Guiana 1c.

Stanley Gibbons have priced the most valuable stamp in the world, the British Guiana one cent black on magenta of 1856, for the first time. It appears at £120,000 in the 1973 Part I.

The stamp has been listed since its discovery in 1873, but a price has never been put on it before. However, the need to provide the world with some idea of its value has induced Gibbons to list it at £3,400 more than the £116,600 paid for it in 1970 by Irving Weinberg of Pennsylvania.

P. Mag. 22 Oct. 1972

R. LOWE, LTD BURRUS SALE



Although eight other examples of the British Guiana 2c. rose cotton reel are known, this pair on cover is by far and away the finest item. It was the most expensive piece ever bought by Maurice Burrus and realised £25,500 at Pall Mall on 26th November 1964.

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE 6 Jan. 1970

British Guiana 1c. for Auction

Robson Lowe Ltd. and Robert Siegel Auction Galleries Inc. are combining to sell the world famous British Guiana collection which contains the 1856 1c. black on magenta, the world's most valuable stamp.

Robert Siegel will offer the 1856 1c. at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York, on Tuesday March 24th, when it is expected to realise between £100,000 and £200,000. Robson Lowe will offer the rest of the collection, valued at £200,000, at Christie's on March 26th.

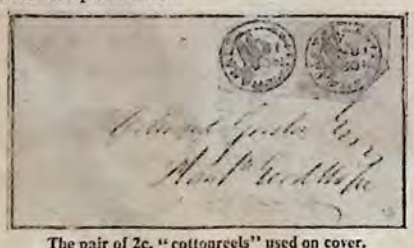
The 1c. was first discovered in 1873 by L. Vernon Vaughan, a local schoolboy, who sold it to another local collector, N. R. McKinnon, for 6/–. In 1878 it came to Britain when the McKinnon collection was sold. The 1c. shortly afterwards passed into the Ferrary collection for, it is believed, £150.

In 1922, when Ferrary's collection was being sold by the French Government, the stamp was knocked down to Hugo Griebert, the London dealer, who was bidding on behalf of the American millionaire Arthur Hind.

In 1935 the stamp was auctioned in London by Harmer, Rooke and Co. Ltd., but was withdrawn at £7,500. It was sold by Hind's widow in 1940 to the present anonymous owner for, it is believed, £9,000.

The stamp was last seen in London at the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Centenary Exhibition in the Royal Festival Hall in February 1965.

Among the material to be sold by Robson Lowe is the rarest British Guiana letter in existence, which realised £25,000 in the Burrus sale in 1963. and the unused block of 31 of the 1859 4c. pale blue.



The pair of 2c. "cottonreels" used on cover. Sold by Robson Lowe in 1963 for £25,000.

STAMP COLLECTING 2 April 1970

£116,660 for the Unique British Guiana

The unique British Guiana 1c. black on magenta of 1856 made £116,660 ($280,000) when auctioned in New York on March 24th by Robert A. Siegal Auction Galleries Inc., at their Annual Rarity Sale. It is a record price for a single stamp.

Bidding opened at $100,000 and very quickly rose to $250,000 before Mr. Irwin Weinberg, an American stamp dealer acting on behalf of a syndicate, made the final, and successful, bid of $280,000. Mr. Weinberg said after the sale that the stamp had been bought as an investment. This means that at a modest 5 per cent per annum the new owners anticipate an investment increment of £5,833 in the value of the stamp within 12 months and the longer that capital is tied up in the stamp, the greater the need for a solid increase in the market value of the stamp.

The original schoolboy owner, L. Vernon Vaughan, of British Guiana, found the stamp in 1873 and promptly floated it off the cover to which it was still attached. Fortunately, the date-stamp, " DEMERARA AP 4 1856 ", fell completely on the stamp which also carried the manuscript initials " W.D.W." of the postal official (W. D. Wight) who accepted the original letter. Vaughan sold the stamp for 6s. It next changed hands for a sum thought to be £150 when a Liverpool dealer, Thomas Redpath, sold it to the Austrian-born Count Philipp la Renotière von Ferrary of Paris. Following the sequestration of Ferrary's collection by the French Government as part of the German World War I reparations (Ferrary had died in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1917, directing that his entire collection should pass to the Reichpost Museum in Berlin), the Ferrary collection was auctioned in Paris in 1921–25. Maurice Burrus, of France, and Hugo Griebert, a London dealer acting for Arthur Hind, of the U.S.A., pushed the bidding up to 300,000 francs which, with an obligatory tax of 17½ per cent brought the cost to £7,343, Hind being the buyer. This world record price for a single stamp established the British Guiana 1c. black on magenta as Rare Stamp No. 1.

Following Hind's death in 1933, the stamp failed to reach the reserve of £10,000 when it was offered in London by Harmer, Rooke & Co. Ltd. Its subsequent history has been shrouded in mystery, the only certainty being that the R. H. Macy Co., of New York, sold it in 1940 to an undisclosed buyer at approximately $45,000. Last week's seller is understood to be an Australian living in the United States and it is expected that his identity will be revealed shortly.

The British Guiana collection of which the 1c. was the star item was being sold by Robson Lowe Ltd., at Christie's in London, after this issue of STAMP COLLECTING closed for press early on the account of the Easter holiday. A selection of the realisations will be published next week.

The
LONDON PHILATELIST

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All communications should be addressed to
THE EDITOR, H. R. HOLMES, c/o R.P.S.L., 41 DEVONSHIRE PLACE, LONDON, W.1

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BRITISH GUIANA: THE ONE CENT OF 1856

By SIR JOHN WILSON, BT., C.V.O.

MONSIEUR L. MIRO is so courteous as to send me examples of his publication called *Selection*, and I have recently received No. 3 of the series. The publication starts with very beautiful photographs of material which M. Miro has to offer and continues with interesting articles on various subjects. For instance, he is running as a serial a Catalogue of imperforate stamps, in alphabetical order, which has much of interest and is particularly intriguing to us when it deals with stamps of the British Commonwealth, as it treats them from the Continental angle, and shows us how they simplify our lists so that they pick what they consider of greatest interest to collect and omit non-essentials. This catalogue of imperforate stamps contains some errors and as an example the description of the make-up of the first 4d. stamp of Western Australia could hardly be more mis-stated, but for the moment I wish to concentrate upon an article in this magazine under the title "La Tiare de Saitapharnes de la Philatélie," which is signed by that very good friend of British philately, M. Maurice Burrus, of the Académie de Philatélie. M. Burrus recounts a very interesting story of the famous one cent British Guiana of 1856, the unique octagonally cut example which appeared in the third Ferrari Sale, and suggests that it should be omitted from the catalogue, as in his opinion it is not genuine. M. Burrus states that he called at M. Gilbert's office to view this stamp and inspected it, and that he then consulted the late M. Gilbert to find out what his opinion was of the item: he reports M. Gilbert as saying that he did not regard the stamp as a "timbre type," which in French means a standard issued stamp. M. Gilbert's reason for this was stated to be that in the Gazette or other authorisation announcing the issue of 1856, there was no indication of a one cent value, and therefore if a stamp existed it could only be an error and not an intentionally issued value. M. Gilbert had given an enlarged illustration of the stamp in his catalogue to give an intending buyer the best possible information on the subject, and he was selling it, in the American expression, "as is."

Before I go any further I should clear up this point of M. Gilbert's regarding the intention to issue a one cent value of 1856. If one consults the introductory portion on British Guiana in the Society's publication on the stamps of the "West Indies," by Sir Edward Bacon, one finds that in spite of the most careful research into all the Gazettes, notices, or other contemporary printed information, in British Guiana journals of the time, there is no official notice at all authorising or advising people about any stamps of 1856. The stamps, of course, were provisionals, awaiting the arrival of a further consignment from Waterlow's from London, and, presumably, it would have been difficult to give

advice of what the Post Office in British Guiana purposed issuing as there were three, if not four, different types of paper used for the stamps, and two different primary colours, and the authorities did not know at that time how long they would have to go on printing provisionals or what values they would have to print. M. Gilbert's point, therefore, on express authorisation of a one cent value is totally invalid, as one might as well state that neither the four cents on magenta-coated paper or on rose-carmine, or on blue-coated paper, or on sugar paper, were ever authorised for use.

M. Burrus then proceeds to recount a most interesting history about the sale of the one cent stamp. He states, and of course I believe him, that he had a luncheon appointment with a friend, and was reading his paper, awaiting the latter's arrival, when two people took a seat adjacent to him. They spoke in German, but M. Burrus, of course, understands that language fluently; one of them was Mr. Hugo Griebert, but he was facing in an opposite direction to M. Burrus. They started discussing the famous stamp and M. Burrus relates that Mr. Griebert stated that he did not believe in it, but that he had a nearly unlimited bid from an American client (the late Mr. Arthur Hind, as later transpired), to buy the stamp. Mr. Griebert is quoted by M. Burrus as stating that he had written an article doubting the stamp, but this is not the fact, because although Mr. Griebert had written articles expressing his doubts on the famous 2 reales blue Spain of 1851 and also intending to condemn the 180c. red, block letters, of Uruguay, he had surely created enough bloomers with these two and he never, to my knowledge, published any criticism of the one cent British Guiana.

M. Burrus states that he knew from overhearing this conversation the limit to which Mr. Hind (or Mr. Griebert's client) was liable to go for the stamp, and although he was disinterested in it and did not believe in it, decided to give him a run for his money.

The merits of the case are not the subject of this article, but it is an interesting history of a remarkable result, as far as records are concerned, in the sale of a postage stamp. It is certainly a matter of history that Mr. Griebert bought the stamp at his limit figure, or rather the limit which he had suggested in the conversation, against M. Burrus.

What is really important is that M. Burrus suggests the stamp is a fake. He does not say that it is altogether a forgery, but he does say that the "ONE CENT" label has been altered by removing a letter "F," by changing the letters "UR" to "NE" and by taking away the letter "S" at the end of "CENTS." I think it is right that I should place on record that this was certainly never done. In 1935 this particular stamp was submitted to the Expert Committee of this Society. I knew from Mr. T. Allen, who had a long-standing friendship with M. Burrus, what M. Burrus's views were about the stamp, and I took extreme precautions in vetting the specimen. Nobody who has ever seen this stamp will pretend that it is a very handsome example of the series; apart from being cut at the corners it has been a bit stained and gone more black on the surface than most fresh examples on the magenta-surface paper. None the less, the magenta-surface paper of British Guiana is material extremely difficult to handle from the faker's point of view, and it is quite impossible to take out a letter, alter two more, take out another letter, and, what M. Burrus seems to have forgotten, the full point after it, without creating tremendous abrasion of the surface which should readily be observed by any trained eye. moreover, M. Burrus has forgotten the history of this stamp. These enormously skilful repairs are suggested to have been done in 1873, in British Guiana, by a schoolboy to create a unique stamp hitherto unknown, which he then proceeded to sell for the sum of six shillings.

I once wrote a Leader in THE LONDON PHILATELIST on the subject of the history of particular stamps as proving their validity,* and this was shortly after I had inspected this 1c. stamp of British Guiana. However good or bad the argument, the stamp speaks

* Vol. XLIV, November 1935, at p. 242.

for itself. I find that I dictated a note for the records of the Expert Committee on the specimen submitted. At that time Colonel W. R. Mansfield, a well-known photographic expert who was frequently an expert-witness in courts in cases where documents had been altered, used to assist the Expert Committee by photographing stamps submitted, where it was felt that photography could assist the Committee's investigations. I attended Colonel Mansfield's studio over an extended period, when photographs were taken at all different angles and under all the screens and rays relevant to the enquiry, and in addition direct enlargements were available on a large plate. I warned Colonel Mansfield of the suggestion that the "FOUR CENTS" label could have been altered, and he was very definitely of the opinion that no such thing had been done.

As I think it is about time that this matter should be finally settled I have, with the approval of my colleagues, arranged to illustrate on a plate the enlarged photograph of the whole stamp and the special direct enlargement of the value tablet, and I can also add that this tablet was examined letter for letter under a high-power microscope when it was seen that the paper was completely unrubbed and had its original glazed surface in this area.

I had promised Mr. E. W. Mann that I would try to deal with this issue to complete the Ferguson book on British Guiana which he was editing and which appeared serially in THE LONDON PHILATELIST. Pressure of other work has delayed my efforts on this behalf, but it is worth while setting down the problems which are unsolved in connection with these stamps. As long ago as the publication of the Society's work on the *Stamps of the British West Indies*, which contained a chapter on British Guiana, Sir Edward Bacon had described and illustrated eight types of the four cents stamps. Most of the examples which he used for this purpose, and I believe all those illustrated, are in the Tapling Collection; the material, however, fine as that collection is, is not sufficient to prove that the original small type-set plate from which the stamps were printed contained eight different varieties. With the break up of the large holding in the Ferrari collection, the fine specimens in the Duveen collection and others which are now in the Royal Collection, and having regard to the fact that, at any rate in recent years, any examples of these stamps offered at auction would almost certainly be illustrated, there is now much more to go upon: it is true that one must largely work from photographs and some of them may not be particularly good, but it is possible to gather together a biggish number of illustrations.

It does not take very long to discover that the eight types of Bacon's are not evenly represented throughout: in fact, of one type I have never seen another example than the one illustrated from the Tapling collection and this can only mean that because of loosening of the forme or alteration of the setting, some types were represented for a very short time only. It is, of course, impossible to ignore the one cent altogether, because if a small printing was made of this value it would have been necessary to open up the forme in order to put in the "ONE CENT" labels and subsequently to alter it again if another printing of the 4c. were required. It is not a very easy matter to separate the types without regarding the position of the value tablets, as the small figures of the Ship, and the relative positions of the "Damus Petimusque Vicissim" motto do not vary very much, and the framing lines round the central design have a habit of printing indistinctly, which makes things particularly difficult. The first point to discover is as to whether two of Bacon's types are absolutely identical in detail except for the value label, and might, therefore, be the same position in the forme, but of different dates; this might immediately alter our view as to the size of the original sheet and we would have to continue research to discover if certain types came only with early dates, and possibly others only with late dates. It is, for instance, a very curious fact that the rarest of Bacon's types is photographed from a blue stamp and that no example of it can be found in the much-commoner red colours. I do not know of any horizontal pairs of these stamps, but there are, at any rate, three vertical pairs in

the red colour, one of which, however, has been repaired and to a certain extent painted, with the result that it is a rather shaky guide for such detailed research examination. There are a certain number of examples with such large margins that they can only come from the corner of the settings, and these again need to be very carefully viewed, because it may be found that there are two types, or what up to now are known to be types, from one corner which would, obviously, prove that the forme at one stage had been re-set. There is a further difficulty in the work, which is that the dated postmarks are by no means always legible, though, fortunately, they generally have both month and day, and legible dates are most necessary for the enquiry.

Finally, there is the chance that with a provisional issue of this description one is liable to find late dates for what may be quite an early printing, as an individual makes his stamps last as long as possible when they are in such short supply.

It will be seen that the subject is a very difficult one and possibly with the exception of one or two United States, or even Confederate States, Postmasters, there are no rarer stamps with which to attempt plating reconstruction, and no worse stamps to examine either in the original state or from photographs. This article, therefore, serves two purposes; the first, at any rate to satisfy collectors that the famous 1c. stamp, whatever else it may be, is not a fake, and the second to state the nature of the problem regarding the entire issue and ask any friends who have good photographs of single examples, pairs, or corner copies, to be so kind as to let me see them. I cannot promise any early results, but hope that one day the matter can be carried further.

BRITISH GUIANA: THE ONE CENT OF 1856



One cent black on magenta.
(Enlarged)



The right of the stamp showing the value.

BRITISH GUIANA: THE ONE CENT OF 1856

By SIR JOHN WILSON, Bt., C.V.O., F.R.P.S.L.

[In the October 1951 number of M. Miro's journal *Selection*, M. Burrus returns to his attack on the bona fides of the one cent of 1856 of British Guiana. M. Burrus writes in French and we have not sufficient space to present a translation of his comments, but in the article below Sir John Wilson replies to the points raised by M. Burrus.

Sir John Wilson's previous article appeared in THE LONDON PHILATELIST for May of last year.—EDITOR.]

IT appears to me that if two philatelists of some experience happen to differ in opinion upon a given point anybody reading their expressed views should be absolutely clear over their respective attitudes. I should make it clear that I am extremely obliged to M. Burrus for the frankness and accuracy of his statements, that I appreciate that his main purpose is to ensure that other collectors with less experience than his own should not accept material which is open to criticism or even condemnation. M. Burrus is absolutely correct in stating that the great Ferrari was as capable of being deceived as any other amateur, and possibly more so as he insisted upon having every conceivable variety in an age when criticism was not always sufficiently accurate, either technically or historically.

The only point upon which I differ from M. Burrus is that in taking an example of Ferrari's frailties, he should have selected as his first example the one cent British Guiana of 1856, whose defences I regard as impregnable.

M. Burrus returns to the attack upon this stamp on two main avenues of approach. His first point, though possibly not his main point, is that there may occur in stamp printing on highly surfaced paper varieties of impression where a portion of the design may be missing, and he evidences the stamps of the Roman States or States of the Church in support. There is a very great difference between the method of production of the stamps of the Roman States on glazed paper and the provisional issue of 1856 of British Guiana. The stamps of the Roman States were printed from plates by what is generally known as the letterpress method; the provisional issue of 1856 of British Guiana was printed by a hand-press from type-set units. The main distinction is, of course, in the relative pressure between printing plates and the paper surface. I agree with M. Burrus that it is possible to get light impressions from the plates of the Roman States, where parts of the design either do not appear or are removed by the least friction, but I have never yet seen an impression of any of the values or colours of the 1856 Guiana stamps where the surface of the paper has not been strongly bitten, even if it was not uniformly inked.

M. Burrus's second criticism is a technical one on type-set printing. He suggests that a printing establishment must necessarily have fount of the same type and complete uniformity in shape in any given size of letters. He goes on to compare the exact shape of the letters "N" and "E" of the word "ONE" with other "N's" and "E's" used by the printers in the same design. His criticism would in most cases be sound, but in my view it does not apply in the case of an ill-equipped Gazette office of 100 years ago in such an out-of-the-way part of the world as Georgetown or as it is often known, Demerara. At the time of the Exhibition held in the Society's home to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of King George V's reign, many philatelists from all over the world lent their finest material. Among the stamps then on view was one of the 4c. of 1856 on the magenta surface paper, which, though it had some defects at the back in the extreme north-east and south-east corners, was a remarkably clear impression of the design; it was unused and I selected it for illustration on plate IV of the Third Section of the plates illustrating the catalogue of this exhibition.

I have asked the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST if he would be kind enough to

arrange for an enlargement of this stamp to be published to illustrate the point which I propose to make.



The Gazette Office at Georgetown far from being equipped with first-class type, had a very polyglot selection. The letters did not all come from the same fount, and if by any chance they had originated from the same fount many of them were so battered that they were unrecognisable as having a common origin. If this stamp is examined it will be seen that the "R" of "BRITISH" has very little in common with the "R" of "FOUR," that the "S" of "BRITISH" does not correspond with the "S" of "CENTS," and that the "N" of "CENTS" and "N" of "GUIANA" have serifs sloping in different directions. Further, the "A" of "POSTAGE" is a different fount to either of the "A"s of "GUIANA." If the lower case type is examined the same criticisms apply. There are a good many "i"s and a good many "s"s and they could all be suggested as being dissimilar if M. Burrus's criterion was absolute. It is hardly possible to select any example of any value of this issue where the letters in capitals and in lower case are completely uniform. After further examination I do not personally take any objection to the shape or striking of the letters "N" and "E" in "ONE" or to the size of the stop after "CENTS" which I do not condemn as being in any way untypical of other similar letters and period which I have observed on other stamps of the issue.

M. Burrus does not consider that the history of the discovery of this variety is relevant to the question of its authenticity, and he challenges me to give some more details of the hands which held the stamp before it came into Ferrari's possession. I should have thought that this was reasonably common knowledge. Vaughan 1873, Mackinnon 1873, Ridpath 1878 and Ferrari the same year, but before passing to Ferrari the great E. L. Pemberton had seen the stamp and accepted it without cavil after the most careful examination. This was not a stamp which had been picked up by Ferrari on his wanderings without consultation, and the Mahes, father and son, accepted it and approved it, as did also Sir Edward Bacon in the early days on one of his visits to Ferrari in Paris. In most cases, discoveries of rare stamps, in schoolboy collections, have to be very carefully scrutinised, but Vaughan stood the test of time—he started as a schoolboy collector in British Guiana, he never lost his interest or love for stamps, rose to the top of the British Guiana Philatelic Society and lived until 1949, leaving behind him many notes in the journal of his British Guiana Society which do not vary in their accuracy.

Nobody of experience in judging stamps regards their own opinion as necessarily correct. The advance in the development of mechanical aids to the judging of the faking of stamps is always progressive, and I have not examined this stamp with possibly the very latest of inventions, but I would readily accept today the opinion of any other qualified expert or Expert Committee, suitably equipped, on the possibilities of the alteration of the label on this stamp. The Philatelic Foundation in New York have the necessary apparatus, or if it were shown to Mr. Bill Homan I would not care whether he had spent one minute on the study of the stamps of this issue for every hour that I have given to it, because I am quite confident that his apparatus would convince. I should say one other word: I have explained the difficulty of deciding whether it is an *intended* variety or an error, but I do not agree with M. Burrus that it could conceivably be considered an essay issued by inadvertence.

San Francisco appearance of British Guiana 1c.?



It has been reported in the American philatelic press that there is a possibility that the unique 1856 British Guiana 1c. black on magenta may make an appearance at Pacific '97 in San Francisco.

This fabled stamp last appeared on public view in 1986 when its owner, John E duPont, exhibited it at Ameripex '86. It was last sold in 1980 when Mr duPont acquired it for $935,000, which in today's terms probably makes it the world's most valuable stamp.

Mr duPont will not accompany his treasure to Pacific '97 however, as he is currently in prison after being found guilty of the murder of Olympic wrestler David Schulz in 1996. A friend stated that Mr duPont had been unable to pursue his philatelic hobby whilst in custody.

Victor Krievins, a stamp dealer and friend of Mr duPont, said that the stamp will not be shown in the court of honour at Pacific '97, but he qualified this by stating, 'but that could change between now and the end of May, and if it does I'll be bringing it out there.' There is also speculation that the stamp may be shown in an unofficial capacity on a dealer's stand.

Pacific '97 takes place from 29 May until 8 June at the Moscone Centre in San Francisco.

GSM June 1997

Most Valuable

More than a quarter of a century has elapsed since I saw the British Guiana one cent black on magenta, but I remember it as vividly as if it were only yesterday. In a long line of pilgrims I shuffled slowly past a glass showcase, roped off and under the unflinching gaze of burly security guards, at the Royal Festival Hall in London.

This was undoubtedly the highlight of the Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue Centenary Exhibition of 1965. The late Mick Michael, Chairman of the company, was a superb showman at the best of times, a larger-than-life character, but in securing this famous rarity for the exhibition he really surpassed himself.

As we shuffled forward in line like so many penitents performing the *Haj*, the level of anticipation rose perceptibly. Even now, after this remove in time, I can recall the *frisson* of excitement at seeing this stamp. Little more than a square inch of paper, rubbed, corners clipped and rather heavily postmarked, it was — and still is — the most valuable object on Earth in proportion to its size and weight.

Years later I heard a rumour that the genuine article had only been on show on the first day of the exhibition, and that in subsequent days it was replaced by an exact replica. Whether that is true I know not; all I can say is that the atmosphere was positively electric. Even the sharpest-eyed could not have told whether the stamp was genuine or not. The point was that we truly *believed* it was, and our faith was rewarded by the sense of moral uplift we experienced. For the only time in my life I began to understand what it must have felt like to be a medieval pilgrim visiting a shrine containing the relics of some saint.

Such is the power and the charisma of the British Guiana one cent black on magenta of 1856, the world's most valuable stamp. It is not, as often stated, the world's rarest stamp (as described in a footnote in the red Gibbons catalogue, for example). It is no rarer than any other stamp which is unique — and there is a surprising number which qualify for that overworked epithet; in fact I can think of three stamps which are actually rarer in that only half of them are in existence.



The Most Valuable Stamp in the World
BRITISH GUIANA 1856 one cent black on magenta

Yes !—the world's greatest single stamp treasure is here on show. This is the stamp that everyone has heard about—but so far few have seen. The stamp that today has a valuation of £200,000 (56 million times its original cost !) which makes it the most valuable object for its size and weight in the world !

Announcing the display of the British Guiana in the catalogue of the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Centenary exhibition.

It is also something of a mystery to me that, of all the world's unique stamps, the British Guiana one cent should have been invested with so much mystique and ballyhoo. The fact remains, though, that it has; and those superlatives — world's rarest or world's most valuable — have stuck with it ever since it came up at public auction for the first time 70 years ago. For the first time something as humble as a used postage stamp was big news. The newpapers vied with each other in seeking sensational headlines to describe the extraordinary auction which took place in the Hotel Drouot in Paris on April 5, 1922.

Although this unique stamp was the *pièce de résistance* in the series of Ferrary sales held in 1921-5, bidding was strangely slow at first, as the cream of the world's dealers, millionaire collectors and the rich and famous gathered in one crowded room. Gradually the bids gathered momentum: 100,000 francs, 150,000 francs, 200,000 francs. At that level a hush fell across the room. The agent of King George V, among other bidders, dropped out. After a slight lull, bidding continued between the dealer Hugo Griebert and the Alsatian tobacco magnate Maurice Burrus, who bid in person.

At 300,000 francs the bidding stopped. Incredibly, there was some doubt as to which of the bidders had been succesful. In such rare instances the auctioneer should have re-offered the lot and it might well have fetched a much larger sum; but Maurice Burrus had had enough. With a slight smile he courteously gave way, leaving Griebert in undisputed possession. The sum realised, plus French government sales tax of 17½ per cent, at the then exchange rate of 48 francs to the pound sterling, represented a total of £7,343. At the Ferrari sale the previous October, Burrus had paid the equivalent of £2,172 for the pair of 1d and 2d Mauritius 'Post Office' stamps which had originally been on an envelope found by Madame Borchard of Bordeaux in 1864. That was a world record price for a single lot at auction, but it was handsomely eclipsed by the sum realised by the British Guiana one cent.

The record stood for 13 years; ironically it was broken in 1935 when the same stamp came up at a Harmer Rooke sale in London. On that occasion Percy Loines Pemberton bid £7,500 but as this failed to reach the reserve of £10,000 put on the stamp by the vendor it was bought in. Five years later, however, a sum adjacent to that figure ($40,000) was paid in a private treaty sale which was kept so secret at the time that neither then, nor for very many years thereafter, was the name of the purchaser made known.

The aura surrounding the British Guiana one cent, therefore, was a combination of sensational prices when it made fleeting appearances in the saleroom, and mystery surrounding its reticent owners.

The stamps of British Guiana (now Guyana) were usually lithographed in London by Waterlow and Sons but long distances and poor communications forced the postal authorites in Georgetown to fall back on their own resources on a number of occasions, as late as 1882, when the London printings temporarily ran out. One of these occasions occured early in 1856, when the Postmaster had recourse to Joseph Baum and William Dallas, printers and publishers of the *Official Gazette*, who were instructed to produce 4 cent stamps following the design of the Waterlow lithographs as far as possible.

In fact Waterlow's first issue for the colony, in January 1852, had been a rather crude affair, with the colonial heraldic device, a sailing ship set in a shield, in an upright format with BRITISH and GUIANA at the sides, the value at the top and the motto DAMUS PATIMUS QUE VICISSIM

across the first. Incidentally this motto, a quotation from Horace, contained a spelling error. Instead of signifying 'We give and we seek in turn', the motto now signified 'We give and we suffer'!

The stamps were typeset and letterpress-printed on a Columbia press which has been preserved to this day. The layout of the sheet is not known, but so far as the 4c stamps are concerned, four distinct types differing in minor details are recorded.

In the Baum and Dallas provisional issue a horizontal format was adopted. A rectangle of printer's rule contained a ship motif, one of the standard 'cuts' used in the heading of shipping advertisements in the newspaper, with the motto in upper and lower case lettering — 'Damus Petimus' across the top and 'Que Vicissim' below the ship. Outside the frame were four lines of text in small capitals: BRITISH and GUIANA at the top and bottom respectively, and POSTAGE and the value in words at the sides.

The stamps were printed in black ink on glazed, surface-coloured paper. Magenta was used for a printing of 4c stamps in February 1856, followed by rose-carmine (September) and blue (October). There was also a printing on deep blue paper coloured right through, in August. These printings were small and the resultant stamps are major rarities by any standard, the blue stamps being much rarer than the magenta or rose examples. Because of their crude appearance it was decided that each stamp should be initialled by one or other of four postal officials before being sold over the post office counter, as a guarantee of genuineness.

For some inexplicable reason, 1c stamps were apparently produced along with the initial printing. Even more surprisingly, they were printed on the very same colour of paper as was used for the 4c. In the absence of documentation authorising the issue this curious fact has given rise to some extraordinary speculation over the years. One theory is that Baum and Dallas accidentally included a one cent in a sheet of four cent stamps, but that hardly merits serious consideration for it was not merely a case of inserting a numeral by mistake, but a deliberate line of text.

The other theory, which is less well known, suggests that the celebrated one cent stamp is a fake. It is said that Burrus had the opportunity not only to examine the stamp prior to the sale, but also to have it checked by philatelic experts. Burrus is alleged to have spotted some disturbance on the surface of the paper on the right-hand side, and evidence of over-painting in the same magenta colour. He therefore concluded that someone had gone to immense trouble to alter FOUR CENTS to ONE CENT.

Otto Hornung, who subscribes to this theory, draws attention to the fact that the letters N and E in ONE are different from those in CENT. However, it should be noted that marked differences occur in the letters G, S and T in other words, suggesting that Baum and Dallas did not possess uniform fonts of lettering and used whatever came to hand. I am very sceptical regarding the notion that the stamp was faked. Otto, however, considers that Burrus (having discovered that Griebert had an unlimited 'buy' bid from an American client) merely bid him up to the magic 300,000 francs.

The solitary specimen of the one cent stamp was initialled by E.D. Wight and bore the Demerara datestamp of April 4, 1856. It was discovered in 1873 by L. Vernon Vaughan, a 12 year-old who had only recently taken up stamp collecting and who had been going through some old family correspondence in the search for stamps. Hornung casts further doubts on the authenticity of the stamp by pointing out that 1c represented the newspaper rate at that time, and that newspaper wrappers would have been discarded. Vaughan, however, stated in his memoirs that he took the stamp off an envelope. This is perfectly possible, for 1c in fact represented the printed matter rate, and it is quite likely that the envelope contained a circular.

The stamp was rather dirty, rubbed and faded, and its corners had been cut across, so that it presented an octagonal appearance instead of being cut square. Fortunately Master Vaughan was not too discriminating and decided to keep the grubby specimen until such time as a better one turned up.

Not long afterwards, however, he received some attractive foreign stamps on approval from a British dealer. As his modest pocket money would not run to the sum demanded Vernon decided to sell some Guianese stamps, and approached N.R. McKinnon, a prominent local philatelist. Vernon decided to let the 1c stamp go, optimistic that a better copy would eventually turn up. McKinnon, on the other hand, was reluctant to purchase it on account of its poor condition. On hearing the reason why the lad needed some cash, he relented and offered him six shillings, adding with Scottish canniness that he hoped the boy appreciated that he was taking an awful risk in paying so much for it.

In 1878 McKinnon gave up philately and sent his collection to a Glasgow friend, Wylie Hill, for disposal. Hill offered five stamps from the collection to Edward Loines Pemberton for £110 but 'Pem' was apparently ill at the time and failed to close the deal. Hill then offered the collection to Thomas Ridpath, a Liverpool dealer. Ridpath was having cash-flow problems, but was bailed out by one of his customers, James Botteley of Birmingham. With the borrowed money Ridpath went to Glasgow and bought the entire McKinnon collection for £120.

In the meantime Pemberton belatedly sent a cheque for £110 for the selection but was too late. We may appreciate Pemberton's chagrin at being pipped at the post. Later he was to tell Judge Philbrick that the collection had contained a 'One cent red, 1856!!! as genuine as anything ever was'. Interestingly, Pemberton's catalogue, *The Stamp Collector's Handbook*, did not list this stamp in its editions of 1874 snd 1878. He, incidentally, was the father of the disappointed bidder in the 1935 auction.

Botteley, naturally, got first pick of the collection, though Ridpath expressly excluded the 1c stamp, arguing reasonably enough that it would fetch far more in Paris than he could dare ask Botteley. The latter was not interested in such a tawdry specimen anyway.

The customer Ridpath had in mind was Philipp la Renotiere, Count von Ferrary, a wealthy eccentric collector who lived in Paris. The sum paid by Ferrary is not known for certain, but the price of £50 has been suggested. The stamp disappeared into the Ferrary collection, not to see the light of day again for more than four decades. Its existence was well known, and it was listed (though not priced) in catalogues from Moens (1882) onwards. 'Once in Ferrary's collection' wrote the late Maurice Williams in 1940, 'the stamp became almost a legend', but I have checked through early philatelic literature and have found remarkably little reference to it.

The best evidence in support of the stamp's legendary status occurs in *The Stamp Collector* by E. D. Bacon (1898). In a passage discussing recent increases in the market value of Guianese stamps. Bacon commented: 'we may mention in passing that one of these stamps is probably the most valuable piece of paper of its size in existence; we refer to the One Cent of the provisional issue of 1856. Only a single specimen is known, and that is in the collection of Herr P. von Ferrary of Paris, who obtained it many years ago for what would at present be considered a ridiculously low price; what sum it would now fetch it is, of course, quite impossible to surmise.'

Ferrary, scion of an ancient Italian noble family, was resident in France but had acquired German nationality. On the outbreak of the First World War he prudently withdrew to Lausanne in neutral Switzerland where he died in 1917. Unfortunately his will stipulated that his incomparable collection was to be given to the Reichspost Museum in Berlin for permanent display. The French authorities consequently confiscated it as the property of the enemy and between June 1921 and November 1925 it was put up for auction in a series of 14 sales, realising over £400,000, which was treated as part of the German war reparations.

The client on whose behalf Griebert purchased the stamp in 1922 was the American million-



The world's most valuable stamp.



Reproduced on other stamps: appropriately from Guyana, and also from Ajman.

aire Arthur Hind. Assuming that Hind gave Griebert commission on the sale price, he paid well in excess of £7,500 for the privilege of owning such a famous stamp. At 5 per cent per annum, then a good average on investments, it has been reckoned that mere possession of the stamp cost Hind more than a pound a day. He made it available for display at several of the great international exhibitions of the 20s and early 30s and basked in the celebrity which possession of such a famous stamp conferred on him.

In 1928, however, he was contacted by a man who had acquired a second copy at Georgetown, British Guiana, some years earlier. The man drove to the Hind residence in Utica and allegedly offered to buy the millionaire's copy. Hind countered by doubling the sum and offering to purchase the second example instead. A bargain was struck and the visitor returned to Hind's home the following evening to pick up the cash. Hind offered him a cigar and, lighting his own, coolly put the match to the second and inferior copy. 'There's only one magenta One Cent Guiana', he said.

This account appeared anonymously in August Dietz's *Stamp and Cover Collector's Review* in October 1938. There was no way of verifying its claims, as Hind had died five years earlier. In his will Hind directed that his collection be sold for the benefit of his estate, but his widow asserted that he had given her the stamp. The situation was complicated by the fact that the stamp had disappeared in the interim. A lawsuit between the widow and the executors of the estate resulted in a verdict in favour of Mrs Hind. Meanwhile, the stamp itself was eventually discovered — inside a registered envelope in which it had been returned from a European philatelic exhibition. Hind had tossed it carelessly into the safe and forgot to return the stamp to its customary space in the stamp album.

Mrs Hind had now remarried and, as Mrs Scala, instructed Harmer Rooke of London to sell the stamp. On October 30, 1935 it came under the hammer, but was bought in at £7,500. Five years later Frederick T. Small, an Australian living in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, purchased the stamp for $40,000.

In 1970, 30 years later, the stamp was put up for auction and fetched $280,000. Although this was a record sum for a single stamp it was rather disappointing in some respects. The Weill brothers of New Orleans, who had purchased the 'Post Office' Mauritius cover bearing two 1d stamps the previous year for $380,000, dropped out of the bidding, contrary to expectation. Although the record for a single item was broken only a year later, when an Alexandria 'Blue Boy' on cover was sold for $1 million, the price for the 1c black and magenta is still the record for a single stamp. Given the depreciation of money in the intervening 22 years, however, it is debatable whether the record still stands.

Of course, the stamp's position as the world's most valuable is unassailed, and there is no doubt that were it to come on the market today it would fetch a very large sum indeed. It was purchased by Irving Weinberg of Pennsylvania, acting for a syndicate of eight investors in the hope that their outlay would double within ten years. It remains to be seen whether their hunch was right.

JAMES MACKAY

GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY, Dec. 1951

The "One Cent" British Guiana Again

IN our issue for July last, we referred to an article on this famous stamp by Sir John Wilson, in which he disagreed with doubts cast on it by M. Maurice Burrus and gave it as his opinion that it is quite genuine. In the October number of *Selection*, the French magazine in which his original comments were made, M. Burrus returns to the charge and maintains that part of the original value was removed and that in this way the "FOUR" became "ONE". To translate his own words "careful removal, with a metallic instrument covered with wool (in order not to damage the surfacing too much) of the two letters and of the fragments of letters destined to disappear, then correction, or rather transformation of the letters 'U' into 'N' and 'R' into 'E'."

We have no space to give the very detailed commentary of M. Burrus, but he compares minutely the letters "N" and "E" of what he regards as the faked "ONE" with the same letters in the word "CENT" and draws attention to certain differences, some of which are clearly visible in the microphotograph which we published in July, but which, we feel, may not be altogether conclusive.

At any rate the discussion poses a most fascinating problem and it is regrettable that more philatelic students cannot join in, owing to the impossibility of examining the "patient" and because few can have the necessary Four Cent stamps for comparison.

Meanwhile, it might be worth while for someone to follow up our suggestion of July and turn to a microscopic investigation of the alleged history of the stamp up to the time when it appeared in the Ferrary sale. As we said, we have no reason to doubt the good faith of the reputed original owner, but if the story is to be adduced as evidence it must be examined as carefully as the stamp and, in view of the time which has elapsed, this will not be easy.

My own prosaic order for a set of the current stamps was an anti-climax. Gallic rectitude again in command would, I felt, have clapped me into the Bastille rather than cancel to order stamps on blank envelopes for me.

I often wonder what album in Brooklyn, N. Y., Wilmington, Del., or Philadelphia, Pa., now houses those strange unphilatelic items. I have no doubt that the American and Algerian stamps have been joined by Italian, Austrian and German issues, all carefully cancelled to order by some protesting post office clerk in Rome, Vienna and Berlin. Nor do I doubt that, while as a philatelist I would not give album room to such monstrosities, the cheerful and sturdy independence which produced them is a quality we all need desperately in this troubled world.

GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY
July 1951



The right tablet of the 1 c. British Guiana stamp showing the value.

Cavendish
9 April: General 1988
To the great disappointment of many of my friends, this sale clashed with the conference of the Society of Postal Historians—and so a few regulars were missing. This is an extremely popular sale, and many of

Lot 165 British Guiana 1886 De La Rue Postal Stationery Composite Essay of the 1c. postcard with 1c. grey stamp stuck on. The central badge vignette with hand-painted motto surround. On thick card dated 1 Feb 86 (small stains and writing offset): £270 (est. £125).
Lot 232 Canada 1859

19 May 1988 S. G. Brooks

Lot 480 British Guiana 1853–9 second printing 1c. dull red vert. strip of three consisting of types D (top stamp) and C (S.G. 16 & 17). Large to very large margins and each canc. by Demerara c.d.s. for AP 17 60 (slight creasing down part of right margin, well clear of design): £4180 (£3000).
Lot 527 Falkland Is. 1912 - 20 1/2d.



The right tablet of the 1 c. British Guiana stamp showing the value.

SGM Dec 88



BRITISH GUIANA 'MISS ROSE' COVER FOR SALE

One of the world's rarest postal history items, the famous British Guiana 'Miss Rose of Blankenburg' cover, is being offered for sale by Stanley Gibbons.

Acting on a private treaty basis on behalf of one of their clients, Stanley Gibbons are invited offers in excess of £150,000 for the cover which is amongst the top ten of the world's most famous philatelic rarities.

The cover (shown above) bears a pair of 2 cent 'cottonreels', the first stamps to be issued by British Guiana in 1850 and so called because their primitive appearance resembles the tops of cotton reels. Only three other pair of the 2 cent 'cottonreels' on individual covers are known to exist, one of which is in the Royal Philatelic Collection.

The 'Miss Rose' cover was acquired from the estate of the late Claude Cartier in 1976. At one time it was owned by Stanley Gibbons, who paid £600 for it in 1896. This will be the tenth time the cover has changed hands since Miss Rose donated it to Christ Church, Demerara in 1896.

STAMPS - Sept 1990

MISS ROSE/ BLANKENBURG COVER: £140,000

One of the great philatelic classics, the 'Miss Rose/ Blankenburg' British Guiana cover was sold by Stanley Gibbons Auctions at their 'Rarities of the World' sale on 11 May (during Stamp World London 90).

The 'Miss Rose' cover was posted on 5 August 1857 and was franked with a vertical pair of the 2c rose 'Cottonreel' stamps, so-called because of their resemblance to the paper labels used on the ends of the wooden reels on which cotton thread was sold.

Only ten examples of this rare stamp are known, four singles off cover and three pairs on individual covers, one of which is in the collection of Her Majesty The Queen.

The hammer price for this philatelic gem was £140,000, to which was added the buyer's premium of 15% and VAT on the premium, so that the successful bidder (from the Far East) had to find £164,150.

A 5s. stamp is on its way here, insured for £10,000 . . . .

BRITISH GUIANA POSTAGE ONE CENT Damus Petimus Que Viciasim

TOMORROW Mr. Gordon Harmer, stamp auctioneer, will arrive in England with one of the most valuable stamps in the world. It is insured for £10,000.

The stamp was one of a provisional issue made in British Guiana in February 1856. Originally it was in the "schoolboy collection" of a Mr. Vaughan, but he sold it in 1873 for 5s. Twenty-five years later it was sold in London for £25. In 1922 it was sold in France for £7,343.

The King wished to buy it, but he was outbid by Mr. Arthur Hind, of Utica, U.S.

Mr. Hind is dead. His widow is selling the stamp once more. It is believed that the King will again bid for it.

A cutting from the "Daily Express" 27th February 1935.

BRITISH GUIANA

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, Aug. 6, 1937.

POSTAL HISTORY.

New Light on the BRITISH GUIANA PROVISIONALS *of* 1882

DISCOVERY OF ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE

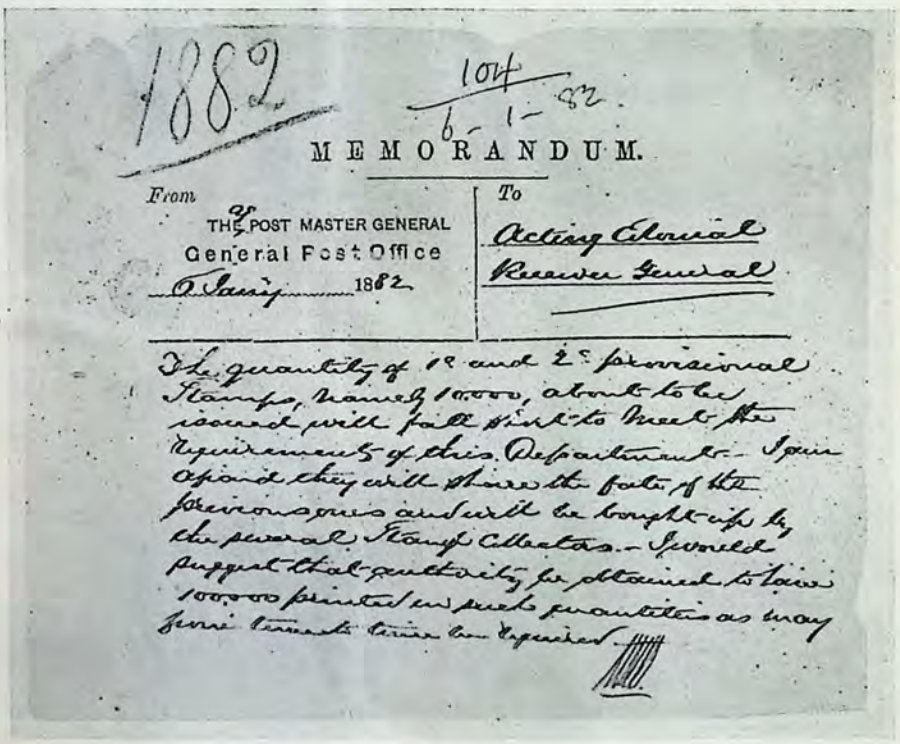
Trouble with Stamp Speculators fifty-five years ago

By Albert H. Harris

The general history of the 1882 type-set provisional stamps of British Guiana is known to students, and it is on record for those who are not already familiar with it. The settings are dealt with in the London Philatelic Society's monograph on the British West Indies. This was supplemented by a paper read by the late Baron A. De Reuterskiold before that society on November 11, 1892, and published in the London Philatelist of November, 1892 (Vol. 1, No. 11, pp. 291–292). The late Mr. A. D. Ferguson, of British Guiana, also wrote an informative paper, which was read on his behalf by Mr. —. Mills, of Greenock, before the Glasgow Philatelic Congress of 1924. This paper is on record in the Congress Handbook of that year, and in the British Guiana Philatelic Journal of December, 1924 (No. 37, pp. 4–8).

It is no reflection on the work of earlier students to say that the work of Mr. Ferguson is the most thorough and complete, for he had access to, and embodied, their studies, supplementing them by original research in British Guiana in a most valuable manner with the advantage of being able to delve into official archives on the spot. If philately had only had a "man on the spot" of the calibre of Mr. Ferguson in many other colonies, how much more detailed and authoritative the public records of many other intricate stamp issues might have been!

By a piece of good fortune, there has lately come into my possession a small *dossier* of official correspondence which evidently at one time reposed in Government House. This fully substantiates, as might be expected, the statements made by Mr. Ferguson, who must have been allowed to consult it, for he quotes certain of the letters, while others contain statements Mr. Ferguson made, but for which he gave no precise authority. But history cannot afford to depend upon statements; for however reliable may be the individual making them, they are always liable to be questioned, or upset, unless and until they are proved by documentary evidence. Philatelic records are littered with statements which are accepted *faute de mieux*, but of which the accuracy is most difficult to prove, as every postal history student knows.


1882

104

6-1-82.

MEMORANDUM.

From THE POST MASTER GENERAL General Post Office 6 January 1882

To Acting Colonial Revenue General

The quantity of 1c and 2c provisional Stamps, namely 100,000, about to be issued will fall short to meet the requirements of this Department. Upon which they will share the fate of the previous issues and will be bought up by the several Stamp Collectors. I would suggest that authority be obtained to have 100,000 printed as such quantities as may from time to time be required.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ORIGINAL OF MEMORANDUM No. 8

(CONTINUED next page)

In all probability Mr. Ferguson, while allowed access to the official files, and to make extracts from them, was not permitted to make complete copies; and it strengthens the reputation of a philatelist, now dead, to be able to prove that he did, in fact, succeed in extracting all the salient particulars with great accuracy.

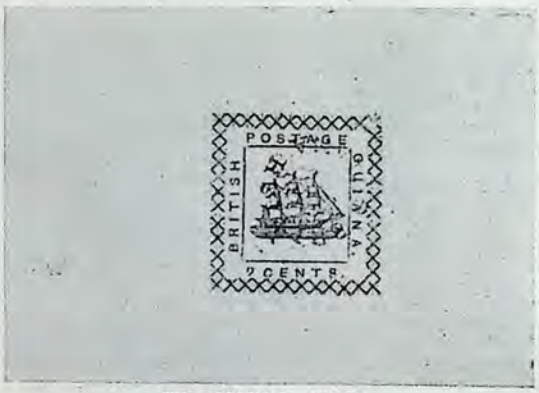
The correspondence under notice consists of the original letters and minutes from January 3, 1882, to January 10, 1882, seven vital days during which seventeen communications passed to and fro in Government departmental fashion. They are still joined with the thin green official string on which they were threaded, and are so perished and brittle that they are almost falling to pieces.

They are not numbered, but in transcribing them for reproduction below, I have numbered them for convenience of reference.

To Item No. 5 is still attached the proof in black, referred to in the text as the "sample submitted." Mr. Ferguson evidently saw this, for in his paper he states:

"*In the Government records there is an imperforate proof on white paper, measuring* 76 × 49mm. *of a '2 cent' stamp. The type of this is similar to No.* 1 *of the* 4×3 *setting, except the value '2' is small instead of large.*"

But there was one other very important difference which Mr. Ferguson overlooked entirely. That is the *entire absence of the corner figures*, "1—8—8—2," which are to be found on all the issued stamps. Also he does not mention — and probably did not observe, as it is only clearly discernible under a glass—that the proof bears two impressions of the circular unframed postmark: "BRITISH" in the upper arc and "GUIANA" in the lower arc, apparently without any middle date. One of the impressions is tolerably clear, but the other—probably the first—is half albino. There is hardly any question as to it being the proof mentioned by Mr. Ferguson, as it is firmly pasted to the top of the document, and the paste has become brown with age.



THE ORIGNAL PROOF

The Acting Postmaster General was Mr. E. D. Wright. The Acting Colonial Receiver General was Mr. Denis M. Gallagher, who was also Custodian of Stamps. The other principal parties to the correspondence were the Acting Government Secretary, and the Lieutenant Governor.

For the rest, let the correspondence speak for itself.

THE CORRESPONDENCE.

G.P.O. 3 Jany. 1882.

Sir,—As our stock of 1ct. stamps is exhausted, and our stock of 2cts. nearly so, it will be requisite to have some printed *at once*. I think the specimen I showed you on Saturday will do very well.

Your obedt. Servt.
(signature illegible)
A.P.M.G.

D. M. Gallagher Esquire,
Ag. Cl. Recr. General.

2.

Unfortunately these *extra* issues are very eagerly sought after, and bought up as curiosities, so that a large issue is necessary or the object in view—the convenience of the public for postal purposes—is likely to be defeated. I will not of course avail myself of the authority now sought for should the mail bring a supply.

D. M. GALLAGHER,
Actg. C. R. G.
3rd. Jany. 1882.

3.

I hope this authority will not be required.

G. M.
3.1.82.

4.

I think we had better have 60,000 one cent, and 40,000 two cent stamps struck off if none come by the mail; they will have to be authenticated by initialling but it cannot be helped, however great the labour.

(signed) D. M. GALLAGHER,
Act. C. R. G.
3rd Jany. 1882.

The Honble.
The Actg. Govt. Secty.

5.

Government Secretary.

The Postmaster General has just called here to represent that he is wholly out of 1 cent stamps and nearly out of 2 cents stamps. None have arrived by the mail and the only course open appears to be to let Baldwins print off a few thousand as per sample submitted.

Yes.

Yes. Mr. Wright suggests red paper for one cent and yellow paper for two cent stamps. These stamps should be initialled in the Receiver General's before being issued from time to time as may be requisitioned for.

No Security.

C. T. G.
4.1.81.

This date is clearly an error for 1882—A.H.H.

6.

This is submitted with Reference to Mr. Gallagher's Minute of yesterday.

G. M.
4.1.82.

7.

This course must be adopted, there is no help for it, but initialling will be no Security. A real Security will be found, I think, in perforating each stamp with the perforating stamp "Specimen" in Govt. Secty. Office. It can be lent to the Rec. General, and used under proper restrictions.

N. M.
4.1.82.

8.

MEMORANDUM from the Ag. Postmaster General,
To Acting Colonial Receiver General.

6 Jany. 1882.

The quantity of 1c. and 2c. provisional stamps, namely 10,000, about to be issued, will fall short to

(CONCLUDED UNDER)

meet the requirements of this Department. I am afraid they will share the fate of the previous ones, and will be bought up by the several stamp collectors. I would suggest that authority be obtained to have 100,000 printed in such quantities as may from time to time be required.

(Signature illegible)

9.

But surely the Acting Postmaster General can exercise some discretion in the matter and stop these *ad libitum* sales. The purchases are not made for legitimate purposes. When I read the statement in the papers that some 19,000 stamps had been sold to one individual I never for one moment thought such a transaction could be possible.

W. N.
6.1.82.

10.

Refer to Mr. Wright for his information and guidance.

G. M.
6.1.82.

11.

I think it would be convenient to be authorised to go on with the printing &c. of these Postage Stamps *as may be required* until the total of 100,000 is reached. We may not require to have all of that number printed off ; but we may on the other hand be compelled to make a further such *extra* issue. The requirements are of a nature demanding prompt supply.

DENIS M. GALLAGHER,
Actg. C. R. G.
6th Jany. 1882.

12.

Mr. Wright can have as large a supply printed off by Baldwins as he likes, but the stamps themselves should only be perforated with the word " Specimen " in lots as from time to time may be requisitioned for. (So that when the proper stamps arrive the remainder of these may be burnt.)

C. T. G. 6.1.82. G. M. 6.1.82.

13.

The Honble. the Ag. Govt. Secy.

No one regrets more than I do the large sale of Stamps as noted by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and due care will be taken that such an occurrence will not again happen. I am keeping a vigilant supervision on the sale of the present issue.

(Signature illegible).
9/1/82.

14.

The Lt. Governor,

The Receiver General asks to be authorized to have 60,000 1 cent stamps and 40,000 2 cent stamps printed—as may be required.

G. M.
9.1.82.

15.

The quantity may be printed off : all proper precautions being taken. Only such number need at first be perforated and issued as may be estimated from time to time to be required.

W. M.
9.1.82.

16.

Refer to Receiver General.
(To be returned).

C. T. C.
10.1.82.

17.

Noted.

D. M. GALLAGHER,
Act. C. R. G.
10th Jany. 1882.

QUANTITIES AND REMAINDERS.

That is all the correspondence so far discovered. Whether the addition of the corner figures was an idea of the printers, or the Postmaster-General who probably passed the proofs, has not so far been discovered. It may have been regarded as one of the " proper precautions " referred to in Minute No. 15.

That later communications passed is evident from Mr. Ferguson's article. The new stock of regular stamps arrived from England, and were placed on sale on January 27. On that date the printers made up a statement, which was submitted to the Government Secretary through the Receiver General, showing that they had made the following deliveries of the provisionals :—

1 Cent.	2 Cents.
6,072	4,080
12,324	8,052
24,000	12,000
42,396	24,132

Out of these quantities 12,000 of each value remained on hand, and (to quote Mr. Ferguson) a Government minute of January 28 suggested that the remainders be destroyed at once. This would have been in accordance with the intention of Minute No. 12 (set out above), but this was stopped by the Governor, who wrote on January 30 :—

" I do not see the necessity of destroying them, they may possibly be of use hereafter. If not required, they can be destroyed at a later date."

Mr. Ferguson states that " there is nothing on record when they were destroyed," but it may be safely assumed that if they had not been destroyed some time before 1924, when Mr. Ferguson made his investigations, he would have discovered them at that time.

As the stamps were only to be perforated " SPECIMEN " as requisitioned (Minute 12) it is clear that the remainders would not be so perforated. Both values are catalogued by Gibbons, unused and used, without the "SPECIMEN " perforation, and these may have been stamps which missed the perforation by error, or they may have leaked out of the remainders, although the latter seems unlikely.

However that may be, it is clear that speculators were not allowed to buy the stamps in any quantity, for the total issue only came to 30,396 of the 1 cent, and 12,132 of the 2 cents, whereas there is the evidence of Minute No. 9 to show that of a previous unspecified issue—very possibly the " 1 " on 96 cents provisional of 1881—19,000 had been bought by one individual.

The number of early stamps preserved is always an unknown factor in the philatelic market, but so far back as 1882, I should think that one-third would be a generous estimate, particularly when steps were taken to confine their use to legitimate postal purposes, as in this case.

To-day's current " catalogue " prices are :—

			Gibbons		Whitfield King	
			Unused.	Used.	Unused.	Used.
1 cent	...	...	12/6	10/-	8/-	7/-
2 cents	...	...	15/-	12/6	10/-	8/-

I think it is abundantly clear from the official figures quoted that both these stamps are under-catalogued. They can be " plated," and there were three settings of each value, each of twelve varieties.

But what dealer has any ?

THE TRAVELLING POST OFFICES AND AGENCIES OF BRITISH GUIANA

By P. W. HOSKING

INTRODUCTION

WHEN one considers that British Guiana, with an area practically the same as Great Britain, possesses only 80 miles of Government-controlled railway and about 500 miles of roads, the quality of which does not measure up to our accepted standards, it is not surprising that it is necessary to make the fullest use of the many rivers in order to provide postal facilities for the sparsely populated inland areas. This use started at least 77 years ago, and today there are 18 Travelling P[illegible] Offices or Agencies operating in the colony. Of these, only [illegible]s not have a distinctive cancellation. Additionally, there [illegible]o early T.P.O.s which are not now operating, so it will [illegible]eciated that there is plenty of scope for research into the [illegible] of cancellations used over the years.

The set-up of the T.P.O. is much the same as in other colonies, consisting of a special compartment on the train or steamer under the charge of a postal official or the boat captain. Letters and parcels are delivered and collected en route and money order and postal order business is transacted in addition to the sale of stamps and registration.

The T.P.A.s, which for the most part operate on the smaller rivers, are more limited in the services performed. The steamers tie up wherever possible at the wharves or stellings en route, and if these do not exist the inhabitants come out in the native boats, or corials, to collect and despatch mails and generally transact their postal business. Telegrams are also accepted, and are handed in by the steamer captain at the nearest telegraph office en route.

The list below details the 30 variations into which I have classified the various cancellations used since 1880.

It will be seen that the list takes into account the different sizes of date-stamps used. A more simplified classification would be as follows :—

Type 1. Double Ring and B. GUIANA at foot.
Type 2. Double Ring with no indication of colony.
Type 3. Double Ring and fleuron at foot.
Type 4. Single Ring with name of T.P.O. and B.G. in continuous wording.
Type 5. Single Ring with B.G. at foot.
Type 6. Single Ring with B. GUIANA at foot.
Type 7. Single Ring with BR. GUIANA at foot.
Type 8. Single Ring with BRITISH GUIANA at foot.
Type 9. Double Ring with BR. GUIANA and spacing bars.
Type 10. Single Ring current type with varying "colony" wording.

The illustrations are of the types used according to the simplified classification, whereas the reference numbers in the text are those shown in the first column of the full list (below). In making use of the illustrations, readers should remember that the actual description of the T.P.O. or T.P.A. and the size of the date-stamp differs as indicated in columns 3 and 5 of the list.

Ref. No.	*Double or single ring*	*Size in mm.*	*Description of colony*	*Description of T.P.O.*
1	D Type 1	23	B.GUIANA	T.P.O. ESSEQUIBO STEAMER
1a	D do.	23	do.	T.P.O. ESSEQUIBO STEAMER
2	D do.	23½	do.	T.P.O. DEMERARA RIVER DEMERARA RAILWAY T.P.O. BERBICE RIVER
2a	D do.	23½	do.	T.P.O. BERBICE RIVER
3	D Type 2	24	—	T.P.O. MASSARUNI STEAMER (two types)
	D	24	—	MAIL BOAT DEMERARA RIVER
4	D Type 3	26	Fleuron	T.P.O. NORTH WEST STR
5	S Type 4	22	—	T.P.O. BARTICA STR, B.G. T.P.O. RAILWAY W.C., B.G.
5a	S do.	22	—	T.P.O. RAILWAY W.C., B.G.
5b	S do.	22	—	T.P.O. RAILWAY W.C., B.G.
6	S do.	23	—	T.P.O. ESSE STR, B.G. T.P.O. DEM RIV, B.G.
6a	S do.	23	—	T.P.O. DEM RIV, B.G.
7	S do.	25	—	T.P.O. BERBICE STR, B.G.
7a	S do.	25	—	T.P.O. BERBICE STR, B.G.
8	S Type 5	23	B.G.	T.P.O. ESSE STR T.P.O. BARTICA STR
8a	S do.	23	do.	T.P.O. ESSE STR T.P.O. BARTICA STR
9	S do.	29½	do.	T.P.O. E.C. RLY
9a	S do.	29½	do.	T.P.O. E.C. RLY
9b	S do.	29½	do.	T.P.O. E.C. RLY
10	S Type 6	23½	B.GUIANA	E.C. RAILWAY T.P.O. BERBICE STEAMER
11	S do.	24	do.	T.P.O. BARTICA STEAMER
12	S do.	26	do.	T.P.O. DEMERARA
13	S do.	27	do.	T.P.O. RAILWAY W.C. T.P.O. POMEROON T.P.O. SUDDIE STEAMER
13a	S do.	27	do.	BERBICE RAILWAY T.P.O. POMEROON T.P.O. SUDDIE STEAMER
14	S do.	27½	do.	T.P.O. RAILWAY E.C. EAST COAST RAILWAY
14a	S do.	27½	do.	T.P.O. RAILWAY W.C. T.P.O. RAILWAY E.C. EAST COAST RAILWAY
15	S do.	28	do.	BERBICE RAILWAY SUDDIE STEAMER T.P.O. BARTICA STR T.P.O. POMEROON
15a	S do.	28	do.	SUDDIE STEAMER T.P.O. BARTICA STR
16	S do.	28½	do.	MAIL BOAT
16a	S do.	29	do.	T.P.O. RAILWAY E.C.
17	S Type 7	23½	BR.GUIANA	T.P.O. DEM RIV STR B'CE RIVER STMR
18	S do.	24	do.	CANJE LAUNCH
19	S do.	26½	do.	BERBICE RAILWAY
20	S Type 8	23½	BRITISH GUIANA	T.P.O. POMEROON EAST COAST RAILWAY T.P.O. BERBICE RIVER CANJE LAUNCH T.P.O. MAZARUNI
21	S do.	24	do.	T.P.O. SUDDIE STEAMER BERBICE RAILWAY
22	S do.	24½	do.	W.C. RAILWAY DEM RIVER STEAMER
23	S do.	25	do.	ESSEQUEBO STEAMER T.P.O. MAZARUNI
24	D Type 9	26½	BR GUIANA and spacing bars	BERBICE RAILWAY E.C. RAILWAY T.P.O. BERBICE STEAMER T.P.A. POMEROON T.P.O. BARTICA STEAMER
25	S do.	29½	—	CUYUNI RIVER P.A.
26	S do.	30½	—	MOBILE N.W.D. AGENCY T.P.O. W.C. RAILWAY T.P.A. MO CREEK P.A. CORTYNE RIVER P.A. CORENTYNE RIVER COURTYNE RIVER CORENTYNE RIVER
27	S Type 10	30½	B.G.	BARTICA STEAMER MAHAICA CREEK
			B.G. (inverted)	T.P.A. BONASIKA CREEK
28	S do.	30½	BR GUIANA	T.P.A. POMEROON T.P.O. W.C. RAILWAY (two types) ESSEQUIBO STR
29	S do.	30½	BRT GUIANA	T.P.A. MAZARUNI
30	S do.	30½	BR GU	T.P.O. UPPER DEM RIV

The periods of use of the various types quoted are in all cases taken from copies in my possession, and may very well not cover the complete life of the cancellation.

(To be continued)

Back number wanted. Can any reader help Mr. Ben Zimmerman, 615 Darien Way, San Francisco 27, California, U.S.A., by providing him with a copy of STAMP COLLECTING for February 26th, 1954? If so will they please send it to him direct.

THE TRAVELLING POST OFFICES AND AGENCIES OF BRITISH GUIANA

By P. W. HOSKING (*Continued from page* 613, *January* 24*th*)

(NOTE: *A map of British Guiana and illustrations of cancellations in Types* 1 *to* 5 *appeared on January* 24*th, together with a check list referring to the cancellation numbers quoted in the text below.*)

Essequibo Steamer T.P.O.

With the possible exception of what is now known as the East Coast Railway T.P.O., which we will consider later, the first T.P.O. in the colony was established on July 1st, 1880, on the steamer plying across the 14 miles of the Essequibo Estuary between Georgetown and Onderneeming, a suburb of Suddie, on the Arabian Coast, and just north of the present terminus of the service at Adventure. On arrival at Onderneeming mails were conveyed by horse-drawn vehicles to the Arabian Coast offices as far west as Sparta. Calls were made by the steamer at Leguan Island and Wakenaam Island the latter allowing for distribution of mail from the Post Office at Good Success to Fredericksburg and Mariabba, the other two offices on the island.

The present service operates from Parika, where it connects with the West Coast Demerara Railway T.P.O., calling at Leguan and Wakenaam Islands terminating, as stated above, at Adventure on the Essequibo Coast.

This T.P.O. has used the following types of cancellation: No. 1 (1881–83), No. 1a (1885–93)—the difference between these two types is that in No. 1a the lettering is smaller. At the close of the century No. 13 (1899–1904) was introduced, and it will be noticed that the designation of the T.P.O. was changed to SUDDIE STEAMER. No. 13a, with year abbreviated, is found between 1902–03. Nos. 15 and 15a were used between 1908–10. No. 6 (1910–12) once again described the T.P.O. as ESSEQUIBO STEAMER, and this wording in varying forms was maintained in No. 8 (1912–16) and No. 8a (1917–29). SUDDIE STEAMER was used in No. 21 (1919–27), showing the concurrent use of two differently worded cancellations during the period 1919–27 at least. No. 23 (1930–51) was introduced using the original description of ESSEQUEBO STEAMER. The current type (No. 28) was first introduced early in 1952.

Demerara River T.P.O.

The year 1881 saw the establishment of two more T.P.O.s, those on the Berbice and Demerara Rivers. The T.P.O. on the Demerara River—strictly the Lower Demerara River, to distinguish it from the launch service on the Upper Demerara River, which we will consider later—was established on March 1st, 1881. The service originally ran from Georgetown to Lucky Spot, on the Upper Demerara River just above Wismar, the present terminus, to which point it ran from 1901, and where a post office had been opened on May 4th, 1897. The Post Office Guide for 1884 records that the steamer left Georgetown at 7.30 a.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays, arriving at Lucky Spot about 5.30 p.m., and mails for Mallali and places above Lucky Spot were conveyed by special mail boat on Wednesdays. The steamer stopped en route to take up and deliver letters "to persons sending out batteaux".

Cancellations have been used as follows:—No. 2 (1883–89). During 1885 the year is invariably found inverted. No. 12 (1895–1904): the year can be found abbreviated during 1899 and 1905. Nos. 6 and 6a (1911–20 and 1921), No. 22 (1925–42), and No. 17 (1943 to date). This latter cancellation can be found without year and also year inverted.

Upper Demerara River T.P.A.

The mail boat service on the Upper Demerara River was established on an experimental basis on July 1st, 1881, between Lucky Spot and Mallali, on which day a post office was opened at the latter settlement. The launch service was discontinued from April 1st, 1882, as the contractor was not able to perform the service at the rates agreed. Postal matter for places above Lucky Spot was retained in the custody of the Mail Officer on board the river steamer, from whom it could be obtained on application. The service was re-established on October 1st, 1883, the mail boat meeting the bi-weekly river steamer on Wednesdays and leaving at 6 a.m. on Thursdays for Mallali, which was reached at 6 p.m. on the following day during the dry season or 10 a.m. on Saturday in the wet season. The first Travelling Postal Agent appears to have been Wm. Forsyth, who conveyed the mails in a canvas collapsible boat.

By July 1st, 1885, the renewed contract for the mail service to Mallali operated from Akaima, which by that time had become the terminus of the Demerara River steamer service. It is interesting to note that one of the places at which the boat called was Heshbon House, where the boat put in for the night before proceeding on its journey the next day. At this time the Travelling Postal Agent was a coloured St. Lucian named Heshbon, who used a similar type of collapsible boat. The designation of the service changed in 1896 from Mail Boat Demerara River to Upper Demerara River Launch, although this is not reflected in the cancellation used.

Owing to lack of transport facilities the mail service between Wismar and Mallali was discontinued from October 1st, 1929, postal business for the district being attended to at Wismar and Mackenzie Post Offices and at the Postal Agency at Seba, about 15 miles from Mallali.

The service between Wismar and Mallali was re-established in February 1941, and Mr. Wreford Allicock was appointed the Travelling Postal Agent, but he does not seem to have been issued with a date-stamp. The service was operating in 1950, as it is included in the then current list of T.P.A.s. The *Gazette* also records that tenders for the service were invited for two

(*Continued overleaf*)



Type 6



Type 7



Type 8



Type 9



Type 10

years from May 1st, 1951. I am informed that immediately prior to August 1952 the T.P.A. did not have its own cancellation.

Three types of cancellation have been used on this T.P.A.: No. 3 (1888–1901), No. 16 (1902–22) and No. 30 (August 1952 to date).

Berbice River T.P.O.

The T.P.O. on the Berbice River was also established on March 1st, 1881, and originally ran bi-weekly on Tuesdays and Saturdays from New Amsterdam to Coomacka, which should not be confused with Coomacka on the Upper Demerara River where a postal agency exists today. The present terminus is Paradise, the northern end of the colony's famous cattle trail to the interior and the Rupununi District in the extreme south. Originally the service was intended for residents living beyond the village of Sisters, which received its mail via a separate road service. So far as I have been able to ascertain, the T.P.O. has run without interruption since the date of its establishment, and in consequence calls for no special comment.

The cancellations used on this T.P.O. are: No. 2 (1882–88) —between 1889 and 1898 approximately, the year is not included; No. 2a, with year abbreviated (1903–12); No. 7 (1916–20); No. 7a, also with year abbreviated (1918–26); No. 10 (1925–34 and 1941–45); No. 24 (1940); No. 20 (1947–55); and No. 17 (1956 to date).

Massaruni Steamer T.P.O.

The T.P.O. cancellations used on the steamers operating on the Essequibo River are rather confusing. A bi-weekly steamer service had been in existence since 1876 between Georgetown—Bartica Grove and the Penal Settlement (Massaruni) on the banks of the Cuyuni River where it joins the Essequibo, but no recorded T.P.O. existed at that time. There is no reference to a T.P.O. on the Essequibo River in the Post Office Guide for 1884, but the *Gazette* records that from February 16th, 1886, a travelling sorter was appointed on the steamer (known as the Massaruni Steamer) plying between Georgetown and the Settlement for the purpose of delivering letters to persons at places between Tuschen and the Settlement, of receiving correspondence for despatch and performing the usual postal duties. So much for the facts as unearthed from official records, but as my earliest recorded strike for this T.P.O. is March 1885, it rather looks as if the T.P.O. may have been established a year earlier than recorded.

There are two forms of the T.P.O. Massaruni cancellation. The first (1885–99) reads T.P.O. MASSARUNI STEAMER continuously in the double ring. In earlier specimens of this mark the year is in smaller figures than in later copies. Running concurrently with this cancellation between 1892–97 there is the second type (also No. 3), which is so different in form as to make it difficult to believe that it was used on the same route. In this type T.P.O. is directly above the date with MASSARUNI STEAMER grouped at the bottom, where in modern cancellations the words BRITISH GUIANA appear.

Bartica Steamer T.P.O.

During the latter part of the life of the Massaruni T.P.O. we find that the Bartica Steamer T.P.O. was established, both T.P.O.s appearing for the first time in the Post Office report for 1891. As it is not until about 1900 that we find the BARTICA STEAMER cancellation in use, it may be that the single ring E.R. cancellation with two-line date was the predecessor of the BARTICA STEAMER T.P.O. cancellation. I think it is fairly certain that this T.P.O. first saw the light of day about 1891, and the E.R. cancellation which is recorded between 1891 and 1899 would account for the period up to about 1900 when the Bartica Steamer cancellation is first recorded. Another pointer is the establishment, in November 1891, of the post office at Naamryck, where the Georgetown—Bartica steamer doubtless called for mails.

The Massaruni Steamer T.P.O. would seem to have disappeared late in 1899, as records of this date show only the Bartica Steamer as in existence.

I do not think that the earlier E.R. mark which is recorded between 1878–80 has any connection with a T.P.O. which ran on the Essequibo River, and I favour the idea that it was used at an early D.P.O., possibly Eagles Rust on Wakenaam Island.

The Bartica Steamer T.P.O. has used a number of cancellations, as follows: No. 15 (1900–09); No. 15a, year abbreviated (1908); No. 5 (1908–12); No. 8 (1912–20); No. 8a, year abbreviated (1915–21); No. 11 (1926–51); No. 24 (1947–52); and No. 27 (1952 to date). From about September 1954 until February 1955 the wording of No. 27 reads ABARTICA STEMRE, and in an incomplete strike of March 6th, 1955, STEAMER reads STEAMR.

North West Steamer T.P.O.

The next Travelling Post Office to be considered is that which operated on the North West Steamer. Cancellations, so far as I am aware, are few and far between, and all my [illegible] copies are dated some time in 1898. The cancellation takes the form of No. 4.

The first official reference to a mail service to the North West District is that contained in a *Gazette* notice of October 29th, 1890, which recorded that mails for the Barima District would in future be made up at the G.P.O. and despatched to the post office at Morawhanna on Thursdays of each week. A further reference to the North West District mail facilities is contained in a *Gazette* notice of September 16th, 1896, calling for tenders for a weekly service between Mount Everard and Arakaka for one year from December 1st, 1896, the contractor "to provide a suitable boat and men necessary to work it, such boat being required to run to a fixed schedule".

The Post Office report for 1896–97 records that a contract had been concluded with a well-known trader for the conveyance of mails between Mount Everard and Arakaka, and it is significant to note that no specific mention is made of the establishment of a T.P.O. (as is the case in the same report when dealing with the Pomeroon River T.P.O.). The *Gazette* notice of September 13th, 1897, called for similar tenders for the year from December 1st, 1897, and a later notice of December 20th, 1897, gives the time-table as leaving Mount Everard upon the arrival of the steamer from Georgetown in order to arrive at Koriabo 12 hours later and at Arakaka by 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

From enquires made in the colony, it appears that on the inauguration of the steamer service from Georgetown to Morawhanna in 1890 a Travelling Postmaster was put in charge of the mails. After a while, the steamer service was extended to Mount Everard, on the Barima River. The Post Office report for 1901–02 quotes both services, Georgetown to Mount Everard, and Mount Everard to Arakaka, but in neither case is a T.P.O. given as operating. It must be remembered that, postally speaking, the North West District was at this period being opened up and that the post offices at Koriabo and Arakaka on the Barima River were established in 1893 and 1894 respectively, necessitating transport of mails from these villages by river to Morawhanna en route to Georgetown.

Whether the North West T.P.O. cancellation was applied by the Travelling Postmaster on the steamer's calls between Morawhanna and Mount Everard, or whether it was used by the launch captain between Mount Everard and Arakaka, is not clear, but on the evidence so far unearthed I think that it was probably applied on the former route. It should be noticed that the cancellation used the word STEAMER, whereas from Mount Everard to Arakaka the route was serviced by launch.

(To be continued)

THE TRAVELLING POST OFFICES AND AGENCIES OF BRITISH GUIANA

By P. W. HOSKING (*Continued from page 676, February 7th*)

(NOTE: *A map of British Guiana and illustrations of cancellations in Types 1 to 5 appeared on January 24th, together with a check list referring to the cancellation numbers quoted in the text below. Illustrations of Types 6 to 10 appeared on February 7th.*)

Pomeroon River T.P.A.

Postal communication in the Pomeroon area was established experimentally on April 2nd, 1882, when post offices were opened at Hackney and Cabacaburi. The Post Office report for the following year states that the service was still in operation, and records an accident on November 29th, 1883, to the mail boat. The boat was upset and the mails lost. These consisted of two registered letters and six ordinary letters, which gives some idea of the small amount of mail carried in those early days.

The Post Office Guide for 1884 records that the Pomeroon mails left Anna Regina at 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays, and Cabacaburi at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays, arriving at Hackney at 6 p.m. on the same days. The *Gazette*, in a notice dated December 24th, 1896, stated that the present bi-weekly service would be discontinued from December 31st, 1896, and that on the following day a tri-weekly service would be started between Anna Regina and Hackney, together with a weekly service between Hackney and Santa Rosa Mission on the Moruca River. A later notice of February 19th, 1897, gave the time-table as leaving Hackney at 6 a.m., arriving at Cabacaburi at 5 p.m., and, after a stay of one hour, leaving for Anna Regina, which was reached the following day. It further recorded that a Travelling Post Office had been established on the mail boats plying between Cabacaburi and Hackney. Boats would not stop en route but persons could go out to transact postal business when the boat was passing.

The Moruca River service left Santa Rosa at 8 a.m. on the Tuesday, arriving at Hackney at 5 p.m. on the same day. An alteration was made in the following year to this latter mail service, as each alternate Saturday, after arrival of the mail boat from Anna Regina, the launch left Hackney for Santa Rosa to journey to Baramanni, in the Waini River, returning after the arrival of the launch from Morawhanna. This route via Baramanni connected with the steamers from Georgetown which conveyed the English mail. This arrangement, however, only lasted for a year, when the service reverted to the Santa Rosa-Hackney route. With the closure of the post office at Cabacaburi on December 1st, 1899, and the opening on that date of an office at Maccasseema, the Pomeroon service was routed Hackney—Maccasseema—Anna Regina.

The notice in the *Gazette* calling for tenders for three years from January 1st, 1903, stated that the Mail Officer in charge of the mails would be required to aid in propelling the boats. Maccasseema Post Office having been closed, the boat reverted to its earlier route via Cabacaburi, which was reopened on October 1st, 1902. By 1909, with the closure of Hackney Post Office on August 16th of that year, the terminus became Marlborough, where a post office had been opened on that date, and the following year the service was amended to Marlborough—Aqucero, later, "Acquero" (opened on April 1st, 1910, on the closure of the post office at Santa Rosa Mission).

For a period between 1915 and 1917, official lists exclude the Pomeroon mail service from the list of T.P.O.s. Against this, however, I have a specimen dated June 6th, 1917.

No further reference is made until we learn that a T.P.O. was established on the Pomeroon launch on February 22nd, 1922. I have been unable to discover the date when the service was closed down prior to what was obviously a re-establishment in 1922. The service was in operation in 1918, but whether this included the facilities of a T.P.O. is not clear.

The present T.P.A. runs once a week from Charity to Cabacaburi and Pickersgill, and fortnightly from Charity via Pomeroon Mouth, the Atlantic Ocean and the Moruca River to Acquero.

The cancellations used on this service are as follows: No. 13 (1898–1909); No. 13a, year abbreviated (1907–17); No. 15 (1924–31); No. 20 (1933–42); No. 24 (1945–52); No. 28 (1952 to date). In the case of No. 24 the code letter A appears above the date in all copies I have seen. This type can be found without year. An interesting specimen of No. 13a has the whole of the date, "16 Apr 7", in manuscript.

Canje Launch T.P.A.

The next T.P.A. to be considered is that on the Canje River, which runs into the Berbice River at Canje Bridge, New Amsterdam.

The Post Office Report for 1884 records an overland mail service running between New Amsterdam and Reliance-Canje, but no further development appears to have taken place until 1897, when tenders were invited for weekly, and also fortnightly, mail services between Reliance and Baracara, and between Reliance and Richmond Hill, some 65 miles up the Canje River, for 10½ months from May 16th, 1897. The journey to Baracara was to be completed in 12 hours, and that to Richmond Hill in 18 hours.

The *Gazette* records that arrangements were made for the performance of a fortnightly service between Reliance and Richmond Hill from May 31st, 1897. A T.P.O. was established on the mail boat which, it is recorded, "will not stop at intermediate stations for transacting Postal business but that persons wishing to avail themselves of the facilities must make their own arrangements by going out to the boat when passing". The service was discontinued from March 24th, 1899, from which date the post office at Richmond Hill was closed.

However, this was only a temporary stoppage, for the next reference to a mail service on the Canje is that arrangements had been made from July 17th, 1899, for a regular weekly boat service on the Canje Creek leaving New Amsterdam each Monday at 8 a.m. and Richmond Hill on the following Thursday. I can find no reference in the *Gazette* to the establishment of a T.P.O. on this mail service, nor do any of the lists of T.P.O.s operating in 1899, 1901 or 1906 include the Canje River; but one must have existed because a T.P.O. CANJE cancellation is recorded for 1901.

The next official reference to this service is found in a *Gazette* notice of February 9th, 1909, which called for tenders for a bi-weekly service to convey mails between New Amsterdam and Baracara for five years from August 1st, 1909. The contractor was to supply a launch capable of carrying four first-class passengers and ten second-class passengers, together with their luggage, and to do the journey in 10 hours, the contractor also being responsible for keeping the Canje Creek free of all grass, tacoubas and other obstructions. Whether, as a result of these tenders, this service was inaugurated with or without a T.P.O. is not made clear. We know, however, that the service was re-established on April 14th, 1915, between New Amsterdam and Baracara, and also have it on record in the Post Office Report for 1920 that the Canje Creek launch service was terminated on August 19th, 1920, and the postal agency at Baracara closed on September 7th, 1920. During this period

(*Continued overleaf, column 2*)

British Guiana T.P.O.s (*continued from previous page*)
stopping places were authorised at Canje Bridge, New Forest, Creeklands, Long Hook, Joanna, Manabissi, Banim, Cabiarri and Baracara. Although the mail service operated for these five years the absence of recorded cancellations suggests that no date-stamp was issued.

The next reference to the Canje launch is that in 1932 it was being operated by the Harbours and Transport Board, and from returns of 1938 and 1939 it would appear that receipts for the carrying of mails amounted to just under $200 per annum.

When the postal agency at Baracara was re-opened is not clear. (My earliest cancellation is one of October 5th, 1923.) Covers of 1941 from this village bear no Canje T.P.A. cancellation, and although I am assured by one using the service at that time that a T.P.A. was in operation, once again it does not follow that the postal agent was issued with a date-stamp. A notice in the *Gazette* under date March 2nd, 1944, refers to alterations made in the running times of the T.P.A., and I have evidence that it was operating in 1945, my earliest cancellation of February 1945 being No. 20 (1945–48). The other cancellation which I can record is No. 18 (1952 to date).

The present service is operated under contract. The Transport and Harbours Department discontinued its service on April 6th, 1948, as unremunerative, and a temporary launch service, subsidised by the Post Office, was instituted until July 6th, 1948, and from the 12th of that month the present arrangements have been in force. The service runs from Canje Bridge, New Amsterdam to Cruah Creek, a distance of 56 miles, with 20 authorised stopping places where postal business is transacted.

(*To be continued*)

THE TRAVELLING POST OFFICES AND AGENCIES OF BRITISH GUIANA

By P. W. HOSKING (*continued from page* 740, *February* 21*st*)

(NOTE: *A map of British Guiana and illustrations of cancellations in Types* 1 *to* 5 *appeared on January* 24*th, together with a check list referring to the cancellation numbers quoted in the text below. Illustrations of Types* 6 *to* 10 *appeared on February* 7*th.*)

Mazaruni T.P.A.

In the first quarter of the present century a considerable expansion took place in the development of the gold and diamond workings in the Mazaruni River districts. Mail facilities were very primitive, and until about 1920 prospectors had to rely on mail being brought by any boat which might be going up the river.

A postal agency was established at Kurupung on February 17th, 1922, and was transferred to Buck Canister on September 16th of the same year. By March 1924 the agency had been transferred to Kamakusa, up to which point, it appears, a mail boat service was then in operation, traders having obtained contracts for the delivery and collection of mail. Increased facilities obviously became necessary, for the Post Office Report of 1924 states that consideration was being given to the establishment of a mail boat service to points above Kamakusa.

This expansion took place on March 20th, 1925, when the mail service was extended to Kurupung Police Station and a T.P.O. established from that date, the service being performed under contract. The first day's run took the mail boat to the Police Station at Perenong and Eping Rivers, and the remainder of the journey was performed on the second day, calls being made at all settlements en route where posting boxes had been erected.

From January 4th, 1926, the Mazaruni mail boat operated from Bartica, leaving every 12 days and proceeding to Kamakusa which was reached after four days travelling. Kurupung was reached on the sixth day. Further postal facilities were afforded the Mazaruni district by the opening of six further postal agencies in 1928.

A *Gazette* notice of September 29th, 1928, calling for tenders for the mail service for 1929, gives some interesting details of the service. It referred to the conveyance by tent boat of all mails from the post office at Bartica to the Police Station at Kurupung, the contractor to supply such number of tent boats as may be required, each boat being not less than 34 ft. long, 5 ft. 6 in. wide and 2 ft. 6 in. deep, and propelled by motor and manned by a competent and sufficient crew, captain and bowman. A proper locked receptacle had to be provided for mails, and passengers were permitted, provided they did not interfere with the proper performance of the Travelling Postmaster's duties. The contract for 1929 was ultimately awarded to Messrs. Krakowsky Bros., and during the following year the service was operated by the cargo boats of J. C. Ginder Ltd.

The *Gazette* notice of October 24th, 1933, calling for tenders for the year from January 1st, 1934, refers to the service as operating between Bartica and Kurupung, and Apaiqua when necessary. Apaiqua, however, is given the following year as the western terminus of the service, boats leaving Bartica on alternate Sundays and arriving at Apaiqua on the following Saturday evening. The 1935 proposals called for an alternative tender limiting the journey from Tiboku to Apaiqua and back in the event of the Tiboku Road being available for motor transport before the end of the year.

The transporting of mails on the lower reaches of the Mazaruni River had always been a hazardous business, and the year 1936 was a particularly disastrous one, for the mail boat was sunk at Camoodie Falls on January 31st, and a similar fate befell it on September 10th as a result of striking a rock at Issano. Matters were, however, eased with the completion that year of the building of the Bartica-Issano road, and from then onwards mails were delivered by lorry to Issano, from which point the Mazaruni mail boat operated, thus avoiding the many falls and rapids on the river.

As a result of an inspection by the Postmaster-General in 1940, the Mazaruni mail service facilities were improved and expanded and, having stood the test of time, are practically the same today. One launch leaves Issano for Enachu via Kamakusa and Oranapai, thence proceeding to Perenong Creek, where mails for Upper and Lower Eping and Perenong are discharged. The second launch travels to Kurupung Creek, Apaiqua and Isseneru.

The Mazaruni T.P.A. being comparatively modern, the types of cancellation used have not been very numerous. They are: No. 23 (1920-31); No. 20 (1933-52); No. 29 (1947 to date). Half of the copies of No. 29 seen do not include the year in the date.

At this point there is another cancellation which, perhaps, should be mentioned, which reads MAZARUNI, BRITISH GUIANA. I have dated copies of this mark between 1925 and late 1937. In my opinion this is not a T.P.O. marking but one probably issued to postal agencies on the Mazaruni River before allocation of a proper date-stamp. A similar position arose about 1947 on the opening of the postal agency at Lethem, in the Rupununi District, which was issued with a date-stamp reading RUPUNUNI, BRITISH GUIANA before being issued with a named date-stamp.

Cuyuni T.P.A.

Although a mail service has operated on the Cuyuni River for over 50 years (arrangements were made as long ago as August 16th, 1898, for a mail service between Bartica and Portage Island where a post office had been opened) it was not until February 1941 that the first travelling postal agency on the river was established. It was a fortnightly service running between Bartica and Aurora, where the Cuyuni Goldfields Company was operating. Calls were made at Matope and Quartz Stone en route, and Mr. R. Persaud was appointed the travelling postal agent.

For how long this T.P.A. operated is not clear. The opening and closure dates of the various agencies on the river provide no clue as to when the T.P.A. ceased to run. I can record nothing definite concerning the form of the 1941 T.P.A. cancellation, if one existed. I think that, as in the case of the Upper Demerara River T.P.A. which was established about the same time, the postal agent was not issued with a date-stamp. I have several covers of the 1942 period sent to and from Aurora which are either solely cancelled or back-stamped POSTAL AGENCY NO. 15. Although it has been suggested to me, as a result of enquiries made locally, that this cancellation was that of the Cuyuni T.P.A., I have a feeling that it is, in fact, the cancellation of the Aurora Landing Postal Agency. It does not necessarily follow that a cover to, or from, Aurora would have also received a T.P.A. cancellation, which would more likely have been applied to mail collected from a settlement not having its own postal agency. The T.P.A.'s present western terminus is Dukwarri, some 119 miles up the Cuyuni River and its cancellation takes

(*Continued on page* 73)

T.P.O.s of Br. Guiana (*cont. from page* 71)

he form of a large single ring with CUYUNI RIVER at the top and P.A. at the bottom and two-line date (No. 25, 1953 to date).

East Coast Railway T.P.O.

The first portion of the East Coast Railway, as far as Plaisance, was opened on November 3rd, 1848. By 1855 the eastern terminus was Belfield, and the railway was extended to Clonbrook on August 1st, 1863. By the following year the line had reached Mahaica. There is no doubt that the fullest use of the railway was made for mail purposes from the earliest days, and in a local Guide of British Guiana dated 1864 it is recorded that mails for Mahaica were despatched from Georgetown P.O. daily from Railway Branch.

The *Almanack* for 1876 refers to the Demerara Railway, giving stations as Georgetown, Bel Air, Plaisance, Beterverwagting, Buxton, Enmore, Belfield, Clonbrook and Mahaica, and the *Almanack* of 1878 to the waggon which left Mahaica for Blairmont with mails and five passengers on arrival of the train from Georgetown.

The first official reference to the existence of a travelling post office on the Demerara Railway occurs in the Post Office Guide for 1884, which records that: "Postal business is transacted on each of the T.P.O.s and persons are able to hand telegrams to the Travelling Mail Officer for despatch from the nearest office at the first opportunity. In the Railway van there is a letter box and letters and other postal articles posted in it by the first train to Mahaica are included in the mails sent to Berbice."

When a T.P.O., as such, first came into existence is not certain. The Blue Book for 1881 gives us a clue, however, in that it states that there were then 47 District Postmasters and four Travelling Clerks, the latter having been appointed on (*a*) July 1st, 1877, (*b*) July 1st, 1880, and (*c*) March 1st, 1881 (two clerks). It is obvious that (*b*) was the Essequibo Estuary T.P.O. and (*c*) the Demerara and Berbice Rivers T.P.O.s, suggesting that (*a*) referred to the Demerara Railway.

In the absence of Post Office Reports prior to 1880, it cannot be said with any certainty that the Demerara Railway T.P.O. was established in July 1877, but everything points to this being the case, and I see no reason to suppose that a distinctive cancellation was not used from the outset. So far, I have not been able to find a mark of the Demerara Railway T.P.O. earlier than July 18th, 1882.

Despite the suggestion made earlier, it is, of course, just possible that the early E.R. cancellation was first used by this T.P.O. This mark is recorded between 1878 and 1880. Personally I think it very improbable that a mark reading E.R. should be used on what was then known as the Demerara Railway and on a strip of the coast which was always known as E(ast) C(oast), as evidenced by the code marks used at the District post offices.

(*To be continued*)

(1) 1899-1905
(1a) 1910-1913
(4) 1912-17
(9a) 1917-18

THE TRAVELLING POST OFFICES AND AGENCIES OF BRITISH GUIANA

By P. W. HOSKING (*continued from page* 73, *March* 21*st*)

(NOTE : *A map of British Guiana and illustrations of cancellations in Types* 1 *to* 5 *appeared on January* 24*th, together with a check list referring to the cancellation numbers quoted in the text below. Illustrations of Types* 6 *to* 10 *appeared on February* 7*th.*)

Berbice Railway T.P.O.

The Post Office Report for 1899–1900 records that on October 12th, 1899, the first trains ran on the Berbice extension to Mahaicony, and that " a separate compartment is fitted up as a T.P.O. which affords the public along the route an opportunity of posting letters up to the last moment to be sorted and made up on the Mail van ". The mail coach service between Mahaica and Mahaicony was discontinued with the coming of the railway.

By the following year the Postmaster-General was able to report that upon the opening of railway communication to Rosignol the coast service between Mahaicony and Blairmont was discontinued.

The Post Office Report for 1901–02 stated that the following mail despatches by rail were made : Georgetown to Mahaica and return three times a day, and Georgetown to Rosignol and return daily, T.P.O.s being maintained on both services.

By 1906 we find the Demerara Railway T.P.O. services are described as (1) Georgetown to Mahaica and back, and (2) Rosignol to Mahaica and back. The only other official reference to these T.P.O.s is that they were discontinued on May 1st, 1914, only to be re-established on January 1st, 1915.

The T.P.O. cancellations of the railways between Georgetown and Rosignol make a very interesting study.

The Demerara and E.C. Railway have used the following types : No. 2 (1881–99) ; No. 9 (1912–17) ; No. 9a (1919–21) ; No. 9b (1917) ; No. 10 (1926–34) ; No. 14, T.P.O. RAILWAY E.C. (1899–1905) ; No. 14, EAST COAST RAILWAY (1906–09) ; ~~No. 14a, T.P.O. RAILWAY E.C. (1901–04)~~ ; No. 14a, EAST COAST RAILWAY (1910–13) ; No. 16a, T.P.O. RAILWAY E.C. (1901–04) No. 20 (1954 to date) ; No. 24 (1936–52). The differences between Nos. 9, 9a and 9b are that in No. 9 the two-line date is at top and bottom with year in full, in No. 9a the year is abbreviated, and in No. 9b the date, with year in full, appears at middle and bottom. Nos. 14a and 16a have the year abbreviated and in the case of No. 16a it has a two-line date.

The extension of the railway from Mahaica to Mahaicony, and subsequently to Rosignol (Berbice Railway), brought into use a separate series of cancellations as follows : No. 13a, with year abbreviated (1910–25) ; No. 15 (1909–09) ; No. 21 (1927–39) ; No. 19 (1938) ; No. 24 (1939 to date).

Additional to the above types Mr. Cyril Kidd has recorded a rectangular form of cancellation reading E.C. RLY. P.O. used in 1899. I think it is quite possible that it was an experimental cancellation which had a very short life.

West Coast Railway T.P.O.

The T.P.O. on the West Coast Railway was established on September 1st, 1899, when the line from Vreed en Hoop to Leonora was opened to public traffic. On October 4th, 1899, the line was extended to Greenwich Park, but it was not until 1914 that it reached Parika, its present terminus and connecting point with the Bartica steamer.

The following types have been used on this T.P.O. : No. 5 (1910–19) ; No. 5a (1909–10) ; No. 5b (1920–24) ; No. 13 (1900–09) ; No. 14a (1902–05) ; No. 22 (1929–52) ; No. 26 (1952) ; No. 28 (1952 to date). No. 5a has time added to date, and in No. 5b the year is abbreviated, as is also the case with No. 14a. No. 22 can be found with year omitted. In No. 26, which I can record for March 24th, 25th and 28th, 1952, only, T.P.O. is at the top with W.C. RAILWAY at the foot, where normally the name of the Colony would appear. In one copy dated March 25th, 1952, the " 25 " is inverted.

There are two types of No. 28 which need a little explanation. The first would seem to have come into use immediately after the limited use of No. 26. All my copies are dated in May 1952. W.C. RAILWAY appears at the foot, BR. GUIANA following on anti-clockwise as far as 11 o'clock. T.P.O. runs in a clockwise direction in the space left in the north-west segment of the circle. In all my copies the first A of GUIANA is inverted. The second type has BR GUIANA at foot and T.P.O. W.C. RAILWAY at top. In later copies of this a star appears in between day and month.

N.W. District Mobile Launch T.P.A.

Possibly one of the most interesting of all the T.P.A.s is that which goes under the style of " North West District Mobile Agency ", established on August 1st, 1951.

It is not unusual in the less densely populated areas of the colony to combine the duties of postal agent with another calling, and several instances have occurred where the Government dispenser in the district has also been the postal agent.

In 1949 the Colonial Government decided to expand its medical services in the North West District to serve the needs of a very sparse and scattered population inhabiting the remoter parts of the District, which has an area of over 8,000 square miles, and in which transport is only possible by river or forest trails. The fact that there are only 12 miles of road in the whole district gives some idea of the undeveloped nature of the area.

On August 1st, 1951, the Government dispenser was additionally appointed travelling postal agent, using the motor launch *Relief*, which carried a boat crew of three. The postal duties of the dispenser include the conveyance and delivery of all mail, parcels, and so on, clearance of all post boxes, maintenance of an adequate stock of inland postal orders and stamps, and giving receipts for registered letters. The launch, which is based at Kumaka, regularly carries out four different journeys each month.

On the first week it travels the Aruka and Koriabo Rivers and their tributaries up to Bonsekai Creek. The next week a distance of 176 miles is covered up the Kaituma and Barima Rivers and their tributaries as far as Eclipse Falls on the Barima, and Anabisci Creek on the Kaituma. The Waini and Barama Rivers and their tributaries are traversed in the third week as far as Quebanna Anglican Mission on the Waini and Ianna Gold Mines on the Barama—a total distance of about 200 miles from base. The fourth week is given over to the 17 miles to the Imbotero Creek on the Barima River, on the Venezuelan frontier.

The cancellation used is No. 26. MOBILE N.W.D. appears at the top and AGENCY at the bottom of the date-stamp. The year can be found in manuscript.

Mahaicony Creek T.P.A.

Another addition to the growing list of T.P.A.s is that operating on the Mahaicony River. This was established on May 1st, 1949. It operates on a passenger boat plying between Mahaicony and Mora—a distance of about 20 miles. The boat

(*Concluded on page* 141)

T.P.O.s and Agencies of British Guiana (*concluded from page* 139)

brings down farmers and milk vendors each day, arriving at Mahaicony Village at 7.30 a.m., and returns to Mora at 11 a.m. together with any mail brought by train to Mahaicony, passengers and mails being landed at the river settlements en route.

The cancellation (No. 26) is rather interesting. It reads T.P.A. MO CREEK, the letters MO (first and seventh in the place name) constituting an abbreviation of " Mahaicony ".

(26) 1948 – to date.

Corentyne River T.P.A.

A recent addition to the T.P.A.s is that on the Corentyne or Courentyne River. It was originally established on July 1st, 1951, but was discontinued after only six months. The service was re-established on January 1st, 1954. The launch leaves Springlands every other Friday and stops at Tiger Creek, Duck Creek, B.G. Industrial Holdings Ltd., Orealla, Hepzibah and Flat Landing.

I am told by Mr. F. G. Howe that the original cancellation, with single-line date, read COURTYNE at the top and RIVER at the bottom. On the re-establishment of the service a date-stamp was issued reading P.A. CORTYNE at the top and RIVER at the bottom (No. 26).

Two further variations in wording have since been used. In one the T.P.A. is described as COREꓵTYNE and in the other as P.A. COREꓵTYNE. In both cases RIVER appears at the bottom. The inverted ꓵ in place of N would seem to be constant.

It is not possible to indicate the period of use of the various types used since 1954 as apart from one copy of P.A. COREꓵTYNE dated October 15th, 1957, I have not found any copies with year included in the date. I imagine P.A. COREꓵTYNE is the current type.

Mahaica Creek T.P.A.

The Mahaica Creek (Joe Hoop) T.P.A. was established early in 1946, but it was not until January 2nd, 1955, that the postal agent was issued with a date-stamp. The service runs from Mahaica Bridge to Joe Hoop via Little Baiboo, and No. 10, where a posting box was erected in 1950.

The cancellation used is No. 27 (1955 to date). It has a single-line date with star *above* the date.

Bonasika Creek T.P.A.

The most recent addition to the T.P.A.s is that which, until August 1957, was operating on the Bonasika Creek. It was established on October 1st, 1955, the postal agent conveying and delivering mails and selling stamps to residents in the Bonasika Creek between Warimia and the mouth of the Bonasika. From September 1st, 1957, however, this service was suspended and a service established between Bonasika and Fort Island P.A. The service runs on Tuesdays and Saturdays, the launch leaving Bonasika at 10 a.m., arriving at Fort Island at 11 a.m., and leaving an hour later with mails for delivery to the residents in the Bonasika Creek.

During the period the T.P.A. was operating to Warimia the cancellation used was No. 27. It read T.P.A. BONASIKA CREEK, B.G., the B.G. and the two-line date being inverted. It is understood that the same date-stamp is being used on the new route.

Tumatumari-Rockstone-Wismar T.P.A.

The Tumatumari-Rockstone-Wismar T.P.A. launch sails every Wednesday, carrying mail from Tumatumari P.O. via the Potaro and Essequibo Rivers, with calls at Omai and Madre Landings, as far as Rockstone, where mail is transferred to the privately-owned light railway running to Wismar. The mail is at this point handed to the Travelling Post Officer on the Demerara River T.P.O. for transmission to Georgetown. Mail from Tumatumari to Georgetown is normally carried by the Government lorry service to Bartica, and such as is carried by the T.P.A., which does not have its own distinctive cancellation, can only be distinguished by the back-stamp applied at Wismar. It has not been possible to ascertain when this T.P.A. was first established, as most Post Office records were destroyed in the two fires at the G.P.O. in 1945 and 1947.

* * * *

There are two mail van services operating on the Essequibo and Corentyne coast roads respectively which, at one time, were officially described as T.P.O.s, but these are no longer so classified. In neither case is mail made up on the vans, and a date-stamp is therefore not necessary. Letters posted in these areas are taken to the nearest post office or agency en route, where they are date-stamped.

Whilst most of the information on which this article has been based has been extracted from official records in London, various officials, postal and otherwise, in the Colony have been most helpful to me, and I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to them for their co-operation.

THE END

LONDON PHILATELIST [circa 1960] BRITISH GUIANA.

BRITISH GUIANA

A STUDY OF THE 1860–75 ISSUES

By W. A. TOWNSEND

(*Paper given before the Royal Philatelic Society, London, on March* 10, 1960)

IN the study of the lithographic stones used in this series, completion has not been reached and one of its fascinations is that it may never be.

In every case I have only been satisfied with absolute proof from the stamps themselves.

There is no need, I know, for me to tell you that in a plating study large blocks are an advantage. To take this to the extreme, complete sheets of each printing would make the work very easy—and very uninteresting.

In the case of the 1860–75 issues of British Guiana, large blocks are almost non-existent and even pairs are not plentiful. Therefore the task of working out the settings becomes more difficult—and more interesting.

The order in which the settings were produced and the length of usage have been determined by dated copies. Here again there is a difficulty because 95 per cent of the stamps are cancelled AO3 or AO4. Dated copies are only those posted at small village post offices with the code mark of the village, or in some cases those with the left half of the Georgetown duplex cancellation.

It is not necessary for me to point out that in studying any issue and its printings the first stages are surmise and conjecture. By positive proof, or, failing this, trial and error, the complete picture is built up.

I must at this stage place on record the great debt we owe to those giants of the past—the late Mr E. L. Pemberton, who in the *Stamp Collectors Magazine* (Vol. IX, p. 29), about 1872, suggested these issues as a fruitful field for study, and the late Mr C. J. Phillips, who in *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* for 1904, p. 15, made the same suggestion.

My personal gratitude goes to the late Mr M. P. Castle who read a paper before this Society in 1912 and wrote at length in the LONDON PHILATELIST, Vol. XXI (1912), pp. 88, etc., giving in detail the results of his studies, and to the late Dr J. Morton Evans who read a paper before this Society in 1953, and who was a personal and valued friend of mine. I spent many hours with him and he was always most helpful.

The value of this continuity of work is that Dr Morton Evans was able to improve on Mr Castle's work and I am sure that Dr Morton Evans himself would have been delighted to know that I have been able to carry the study a stage further. It is only in this way that progress can be achieved.

The stamps were printed by lithography by Waterlow & Sons. There were three types. Type 1 had the wider spaced value in which each stamp was laid down separately and each had its own individual flaws. Type 2 had the value closer together and was laid down in groups of five horizontally, repeated once across the sheet and a varying number of times vertically according to the number of stamps in the sheet which varied as follows:

Sheets of 100—1 cent, 2 cent, 4 cent.
90—6 cent.
50—8 cent, 24 cent, 48 cent.
40—12 cent.

Type 3 differs from types 1 and 2 and is a wider stamp. In the case of the 24 cent it was laid down in pairs five times across the sheet in settings 2, 3 and 4 but was laid down in groups of five twice across the sheet in setting 5.

*****

1—6 ALSO see 8/Front

In the 6 cent first setting there are four types laid down in apparently a rather irregular way. In the remaining settings it is laid down in groups of five twice across the sheet.

All settings of the 48 cent are laid down in pairs five times across the sheet.

These are all proved by blocks in my collection except the following:

Type 1—in all cases.
Type 2—2 cent. 2nd setting.
Type 2—4 cent. 1st and 2nd settings.
Type 3—6 cent. 1st and 2nd settings.
Type 3—48 cent. 1st, 2nd and 3rd settings.

In these cases I am held up by lack of proving blocks and although only catalogued in some cases at a few shillings for singles I find that blocks are almost unobtainable—this is particularly so in the case of the 6 cent and 48 cent values.

ONE CENT

First Setting

Wider Spaced Value

The four colours and five printings are most attractive and spectacular.

First Printing 1860. Rose. Perf. 12. Thick paper. One of the rarest of the straight varieties. Sheets of 100 (10 × 10) with the inscription Waterlow & Sons, London, in the sheet margin at the bottom.

The reprints of the 1862, perf. 12½, thin paper, are in the same sheet format.

Second Printing 1861. Red-brown. Perf. 12. Thin paper. The plate proof is a rare item.

Third Printing 1862. Brown. Perf. 12. Thin paper. This printing is almost as rare as the rose.

Fourth Printing 1862 (Later). Black. Perf. 12. Thin paper. This is not a common stamp.

Fifth Printing 1863. Both thin paper and medium paper. Perf. 12½. Mint are much commoner than used.

All five printings were produced from one stone and each stamp was an individual impression with its own particular flaws. I show a sheet with the same flaw on each of the four colours.

Dated copies are scarce but several are shown of most printings.

Second Setting

Closer Spaced Value

This is the scarcest of the four settings and it is significant that all the dated copies have the year date 1866. Printed in series of five types repeated horizontally and ten times vertically in the sheet of 100.

Type A. Flaw in the left side of 0 of 1860. White line over and to left of ONE.
Type B. White line to left of and below O of ONE. Lower edge of buckle malformed.

TYPE C. White line almost complete over and to left of One Cent. Also below O and C.
TYPE D. The O of One is heavily cut at base. The E of Cents has a flaw at top left corner.
TYPE E. Base of E of One cut away badly. White line to left of O of One. Earliest dated copy is Ja 30 1866. Perf. 12½ and 10.

THIRD SETTING

CLOSER SPACED VALUE

This is the commonest of the four settings and is perforated 12½ or 10. Printed in series of five types repeated horizontally and ten times vertically in the sheet of 100.

TYPE A. On the left side of the buckle a white bar has been added.

TYPE B. A thickening of the lower edge of the buckle. A black spike into the white oval between M and U of PETIMUSQUE.

TYPE C. C of Cents has a bulge on left side. N of Cents has oblique bar prolonged. G of Guiana has a black spot in it. White frame at top has a colour spike between U and I.

TYPE D. 1 of date in top left corner has a black spike in the base.

TYPE E. T of Cent has the horizontal bar extended to the right. White frame at bottom has a coloured spot under the E of Cent.

Dated copies are scarce and range from 1869 to 1873.

FOURTH SETTING

CLOSER SPACED VALUE

This is a fairly common stamp and is perforated 10 and 15. The series of covers shows the perf. 10 used from Mr 16 1875 to Se 7 1875. Followed by the perf. 15 used from Oc 28 1875 to Ja 13 1876 and then (possibly a re-issue) perf. 10 from Ap 8 1876 to Ap 26 1876. There is in the collection a complete sheet of 100 with margins and marginal inscription. Printed in series of five types repeated horizontally and ten times vertically.

TYPE A. Small black spike into the side of the 1 of date. Small black spike into the buckle near the point. Wavy line over EN of CENT broken.

TYPE B. Two small dots in the curves of the O of One. Stroke at lower right angle to left of 0 of date.

TYPE C. White dot on right of 1 of date. White dot on left of S of PETIMUSQUE. Black dot in left side of 6 of date.

TYPE D. One black dot in left curve of O of ONE.

TYPE E. White wavy line on top right ends in a blob of white. White dot between G and E of Postage. Wavy line defective over O of One.

Dated copies range from Mr 16 1875 to My 13 1876.

The Official. 1875.

The Overprinted Official, 1878.

The five series of types are the same as the ordinary stamps and are only found on the perforated 10. There is a plate proof of the Official stamp and both issues are plated.

TWO CENTS

First Setting

Wider Spaced Value

In the sheet of 100, 10 × 10, each stamp was an individual impression each with its own individual flaw. All four issues were printed from one stone.

First Issue. Perf. 12. Thick paper. Deep orange. Dated copy—No 9 1860.

Second Issue. Perf. 12. Thin paper. Deep orange, Dated copy—Fe 27 1863.

Third Issue. Perf. 12½. Thin paper. Deep orange and brown-orange. Dated copies—Ju 10 1863 to Oc 22 1864.

Fourth Issue. Perf. 12½. Medium paper. Deep orange and brown-orange. Dated copy—No 29 1864.

Second Setting

Closer Spaced Value

The sheet of 100 is made up of five types repeated twice horizontally and ten times vertically. It is a scarce setting in the perforated 12½ and an extremely scarce setting in the perforated 10. The shade is a rich orange.

It is impossible to say in which order the five types are printed as I have only seen one pair.

Type A. There is a faint white line over NTS of CENTS. The top of the E of CENTS is malformed. There is a white line over the 6.

Type B. The top of the T of CENTS slopes down from left to right.

Type C. There is a distinct white dot to the right of the buckle. A white line above, below, and to the left of TW of TWO. The left side of the square around the 0 of date is thickened half way up.

Type D. The right top bar of the T of CENTS has a coloured mark across it, and is malformed.

Type E. Wavy line above O of TWO is not continued towards the buckle. The top left of the E of CENTS is crossed by a coloured bar. There is a faint white line above and to the left of T of TWO.

Dated copies are scarce and are from Ja 25 1865 to De 23 1865.

Third Setting

Closer Spaced Value

The sheet of 100 is made up of five types repeated twice horizontally and ten times vertically. A fairly common setting, the perfs. 12½ and 10 being about equal. The shades vary greatly from a pale orange to a chocolate. The type flaws are not easy to discern owing to the colour but show up well on the photograph of the block of 14.

Type A. There is a colour dot in the outside top margin over IA of GUIANA.

Type B. The top of the E of CENTS is malformed and appears to have the top left corner cut off. The 0 of the date has a white dot attached to the inside of the right curve.

TYPE C. The right foot of T of TWO is almost missing.

TYPE D. A coloured bulge below the T of CENTS makes the white margin narrower.

TYPE E. The sloping downstroke of the N of GUIANA is prolonged at the bottom. The base of the S of CENTS is cut into making the curve very thin.

Dated copies are as follows: Perf. 12½ from Ju 24 1867 to Ap 1874. Perf. 10 from Se 15 1868 to Oc 8 1872.

FOURTH SETTING

CLOSER SPACED VALUE

The sheet of 100 is made up of five types repeated twice horizontally and ten times vertically. The perf. 10 is fairly common but the perf. 15 is much scarcer. The shades range from medium to deep orange and in the perf. 15 a deeper shade.

TYPE A. There is a slight bulge on the left side of the G of GUIANA. The T of TWO is near the 6 square.

TYPE B. A coloured dot in the middle of S of CENTS.

TYPE C. The down stroke of the S of CENTS has a bulge on the left side.

TYPE D. There is a coloured blob on the fore sail. The lower horizontal line of the 0 square is continued to the left.

TYPE E. There is a white dote in the centre of the D of DAMUS.

Dated copies are as follows: Perf. 10, Fe 27 1872 to Mr 2 1876. Perf. 15, Se 23 1875 to Fe 3 1876.

The perf. 10 was also overprinted OFFICIAL and dated copies are all 1877.

FOUR CENTS

FIRST SETTING

There are the usual four printings in sheets of 100, 10 × 10, with the inscription Waterlow & Sons, London, in the sheet margin at the bottom. All four printings were produced from one stone and each stamp was an individual impression with its own particular flaws. Each stamp on the sheet has the same flaw and I show a sheet with this flaw on each of the four printings.

FIRST PRINTING 1860. Perf. 12. Thick paper. Bright blue to deep blue. Dated copies—Au 28 1860 to Ap 23 1862.

SECOND PRINTING 1862. Perf. 12. Thin paper. Shades of pale blue. Dated copies—De 16 1862 to Ap 26 1864.

THIRD PRINTING 1863. Perf. 12½. Thin paper. Pale blue. Dated copies—Jl 3 1863 to Se 9 1864.

FOURTH PRINTING 1863. Perf. 12½. Medium paper. Shades of greyish blue. Dated copies—Fe 9 1864 to My 17 1865.

Towards the end of these printings the stone became dirty and the resultant flaws enable one to plate the fourth printing.

SECOND SETTING

This was a limited printing and my dated copies are all 1866. Printed in series of five types repeated horizontally and ten times vertically in the sheet of 100.

TYPE A. White flaw joining M and U of DAMUS.

TYPE B. No apparent flaws.

TYPE C. Colour flaw in outer frame line below second bar of N of CENTS.

TYPE D. White dot below A of Postage.

TYPE E. Colour spur in foot of A and colour spot in top of G of POSTAGE.

Earliest date Mr. 1 1866. Perfs. 12½ and 10.

THIRD SETTING

This is the commonest of the four settings. The perf. 12½ moderately so and the perf. 10 more so. There are four distinct shades in each perforation, namely blue, indigo, pale blue and bright blue. Printed in series of five types repeated horizontally and ten times vertically in the sheet of 100.

TYPE A. Square foot to A of POSTAGE. Colour spur in G of POSTAGE.

TYPE B. Colour line across foot of P of POSTAGE.

TYPE C. White blur between S and T of POSTAGE.

TYPE D. White oblique flaw from C of VICISSIM almost to T of POSTAGE.

TYPE E. Colour dot in G of POSTAGE. Broken bottom frame line.

There are quite a number of dated copies in the collection and the dates run from Fe 22 1867 to My 22 1872.

FOURTH SETTING

There are two perforations, the perf. 10 being in a sky blue and the perf. 15 a deeper shade. These appear to be in about equal quantities. Printed in series of five types repeated horizontally and ten times vertically in the sheet of 100.

TYPE A. The E of CENTS has a pointed tail at lower left.

TYPE B. There is a blur between I and A of GUIANA, and a white spur from right foot of A of GUIANA.

TYPE C. A very faint blur between I and A of GUIANA.

TYPE D. A white dot below the H of BRITISH.

TYPE E. A white dot below the S of BRITISH.

Dated copies are scarce and in the collection are Ap 5 1875 and Se 5 1876.

(To be continued)

[illegible]

P.Oct.1960

BRITISH GUIANA

A STUDY OF THE 1860–75 ISSUES

By W. A. TOWNSEND

(*Continued from No.* 811, *page* 114)

SIX CENTS

First Setting

Larger Type

This setting appears to be the commonest of the settings. There are two distinct shades—a full deep blue and a pale blue. I feel that there are four types in the setting but how these are arranged in the sheet of 90 I do not know. Blocks and dated copies are scarce. My only dated copy is Jl 8 1865 on the pale blue shade.

TYPE A. The 3 in the lower right corner has a white cap to the right and there is a white dot at the end of the lower arm.

TYPE B. There is a coloured dot outside the left margin opposite the A of DAMUS.

TYPE C. There is a coloured dot between the E of PETIMUSQUE and the V of VICISSIM. It is nearer to the latter word.

TYPE D. A very small colour dot above the left end of the ornament at the bottom of the white circle containing the inscription. Perf. 12½.

Second Setting

This is, I surmise, a Quin setting of five types repeated twice horizontally and nine times vertically. Blocks and dated copies are scarce and there is only proof of the first three types.

TYPE A. Coloured mark above the second S of VICISSIM. Coloured dash above the full stop after CENTS.

TYPE B. There is a fine coloured line through V of VICISSIM. A coloured mark above the first S of VICISSIM. A coloured dot above the M of DAMUS.

TYPE C. Numerous coloured marks between the letters of VICISSIM.

TYPE D. There is a coloured dot above the full stop after GUIANA.

TYPE E. The V of VI has a cedilla. There is a coloured dot in the white border to the right of 3. Beneath the 3 there is a white break in the inner frame line.

These flaws may not all be constant and only further material for study will settle this. Dated copies in the collection are from March 1867 to Fe 8 1869. Perfs. 12½ and 10.

Third Setting

This is a Quin setting of five types repeated twice horizontally and nine times vertically.

TYPE A. The 8 square has an ear at the top left corner.

TYPE B. There is a coloured dot between the bases of E and T in PETIMUSQUE.

TYPE C. There is a coloured dot between U and I of GUIANA half-way up.

TYPE D. The lower part of the upper left arabesque is joined to the white inscription circle by a white bar.

TYPE E. The S of CENTS has a colour dot in the top segment.

Dated copies in the collection are from My 1871 to Au 23 1877. Perf. 10.

FOURTH SETTING

This is a Quin setting of five types repeated twice horizontally and nine times vertically in the sheet of 90.

TYPE A. The lower part of the 8 has a white blur to the left.

TYPE B. There is a coloured dot between the E of PETIMUSQUE and the V of VICISSIM.

TYPE C. The V of VICISSIM has a colour dot at its base to the right.

TYPE D. The S of CENTS has three colour dots. Two above and one to the left of the top portion of the letter.

TYPE E. There is a colour spur above the I of GUIANA and a small colour dot below the N of GUIANA.

This fourth setting is found perf. 12½, 10 and 15.

Dated copies are scarce and I have only one Jy 4 1876.

This setting in perf. 10 only was overprinted with a vertical and a horizontal bar for use as a One Cent value.

EIGHT CENTS

FIRST SETTING

WIDER SPACED VALUE

FIRST PRINTING. Perf. 12. Thick paper. There are two shades—rose and brownish rose, of which the former is the more common. Dated copies—Jy 19 1860 to Ja 23 1863.

SECOND PRINTING. Perf. 12. Thin paper. Dull rose. Dated copy—Ja 5 1864.

THIRD PRINTING. Perf. 12½. Thin paper. Slightly brighter shade of rose. Dated copy—Se 23 1863.

FOURTH PRINTING. Perf. 12½. Medium paper. Slightly deeper shade. Dated copies—Se 6 1864 to Ja 22 1866.

All four printings were produced from one stone and each stamp was an individual impression with its own particular flaws. I show a sheet with the same flaw on different printings.

There were 50 stamps to the sheet printed in five horizontal rows of 10.

SECOND SETTING

This is the commonest of the three settings. The perf. 12½ and the perf. 10 appear to be about equal in quantity. There are five shades in the perf. 12½ and four shades in the perf. 10. Printed in series of five types repeated horizontally and five times vertically in the sheet of 50.

TYPE A. Blob on centre arm of E of CENTS.

TYPE B. Dot over N of GUIANA. Dot below and to left of V of VIII.

TYPE C. Dot below and between T and S of CENTS.

TYPE D. Bottom of T of CENTS missing.

TYPE E. Dot below third I of VIII.

Dated copies as usual are scarce but those in the collection range from Ja 12 1868 to No 1875.

THIRD SETTING

This setting appears in three perforations, 10, 12½ and 15. The perf. 10 was also overprinted OFFICIAL and later used as a Provisional. The perf. 12½ and 10 vary in shade from medium rose to rose-carmine. The perf. 15 is in a deep rose-carmine. Printed in series of five types repeated horizontally and five times vertically in the sheet of 50.

TYPE A. The E of CENTS is prolonged upwards to the left.

TYPE B. The wavy line to the left of the buckle is joined to it.

TYPE C. The S of DAMUS has the tail joined to the curve by a white line.

TYPE D. There is a colour dot in the bend of the 6 in the lower left square.

TYPE E. There are colour dashes in the V and sometimes in the first I of VIII.

Dated copies are scarce and the following appear in the collection:

Perf. 12½. 1874 to 1875.
Perf. 10. 1877.
Perf. 15. 1876.
Provisional 1879.

TWELVE CENTS

FIRST SETTING

There are five printings in sheets of 40, 10 × 4, with the inscription Waterlow & Sons. London in the sheet margin at the bottom.

All five printings were produced from one stone and each stamp was an individual impression with its own particular flaw. Two sheets show a constant flaw on each of the five printings.

FIRST PRINTING. Perf. 12. Thick paper. Lilac and grey-lilac. Dated copies—De 6 1860 to Oc 8 1862.

SECOND PRINTING. Perf. 12. Thin paper. Dull purple to lilac. Dated copies—Fe 7 1863 to Fe 7 1866.

THIRD PRINTING. Perf. 12½. Thin paper. Brownish-lilac. Dated copies—No 21 1863 to Fe 7 1865.

FOURTH PRINTING. Perf. 12½. Medium paper. Brownish-lilac. Dated copy—Ju 7 1864. The scarcest of the five printings.

FIFTH PRINTING. Perf. 10. Grey-lilac. Dated copies—No 2 1865 to Mr 5 1867.

SECOND SETTING

This setting is the commonest of the three settings and appears to account for about half of the twelve cents stamps. Printed in series of five types repeated horizontally and

four times vertically in the sheet of 40. There are two perforations—12½ and 10, the 10 being more numerous. There are several shades in the perf. 12½ from lilac to grey and a lovely but rare shade of brown-grey. In the perf. 10 the shades are not so varied.

TYPE A. The X of XII has the upper left arm blunted and thickened. There is a dot in the vertical bar of the T of CENTS.

TYPE B. The top bar of the E of CENTS is defective and curves upward to the left.

TYPE C. The bottom line of the buckle is flat and has a coloured dot near the centre.

TYPE D. The S of CENTS is very near to the figure 0.

TYPE E. There is a definite dot between U and E of PETIMUSQUE. The outer frame line is thickened below the second I of XII.

Dated copies are rare and vary from Jy 8 1867 and My 8 1874 in the 12½, and between Se 4 1867 and Fe 7 1873 in the perf. 10.

THIRD SETTING

This setting is not plentiful. It is printed in series of five types repeated horizontally and four times vertically in the sheet of 40. There are three perforations—12½, 10 and 15. The perf. 12½ is the scarcest. The official stamps appear to be a special printing, being in a different shade from the normal issues.

TYPE A. A broken lower outer line below ENT of CENTS.

TYPE B. Colour dot in white border below bottom left arm of X of XII. Word CENTS set low.

TYPE C. Upper left arm of X of XII elongated. White blob on top of second I of XII.

TYPE D. Colour bulge below and into white border below X of XII.

TYPE E. Prominent white mark after E of POSTAGE. White dot between A and M of DAMUS. Upper curve of S of CENTS defective.

Dated copies are as follows:

Perf. 12½. Aug 26 1874 to My 6 1875.
Perf. 10. Oc 6 1874 to Ju 6 1875.
One Cent provisional. No 6 1881.

TWENTY-FOUR CENTS

FIRST SETTING

WIDER SPACED VALUE

FIRST PRINTING. Perf. 12. Thick paper.

SECOND PRINTING. Perf. 12. Thin paper.

THIRD PRINTING. Perf. 12½. Thin paper.

FOURTH PRINTING. Perf. 12½. Medium paper.

All four printings were apparently produced from one stone. Each stamp was an individual impression with its own particular flaws. Fifty stamps to the sheet in five rows of 10. I show stamps watermarked 63 and 1863 on the third and fourth printings. Dated copies—first and second printings: Ju 1863 to Sept 1864. Third and fourth printings: No 1863 to Oct 1864.

SECOND SETTING

LARGER TYPE

This is a twin setting, the stamps being laid down in pairs on the stone, repeated five times across the sheet and five times vertically. The sheet thus comprised 50 stamps.

TYPE A. There is a break in the outer frame line above I and A of GUIANA. There is a small coloured dot below T of CENTS.

TYPE B. The first S of VICISSIM is malformed.

Dated copies of the perf. 12 are from De 23 1864 to Se 24 1866. The perf. 12½ are from Se 7 1865 to Ap 8 1867. It would appear that the perf. 12 were issued first but after the perf. 12½ was issued they were used concurrently.

THIRD SETTING

LARGER TYPE

This is a twin setting, the stamps being laid down in pairs on the stone and repeated five times across the sheet and five times vertically. In the bottom two rows type B was replaced by type B2 as seen on the vertical strip of five in the collection. I have no evidence to show that type A was replaced likewise.

TYPE A. The T of PETIMUSQUE has a colour bar projecting to the left from the vertical stem. The white border to the right of the 3 of the date has a colour dot.

TYPE B. There is a colour dot between I and M of VICISSIM.

TYPE B2. The final E of PETIMUSQUE is defective at the bottom left corner.

The period of use of this third setting appears to have been very limited as in the perf. 12½ dated copies run from Sept 1867 to Au 7 1868 and in the perf. 10 from Ju 24 1867 to Jan 1868.

FOURTH SETTING

LARGER TYPE

This is a twin setting; the stamps were laid down in pairs on the stone and repeated five times across the sheet and five times vertically.

TYPE A. There is a colour bar in the inner white line between the 6 square and the line to the left. The S of PETIMUSQUE has a colour dot joined to it above.

TYPE B. There is a white semi-circle in the colour ring slightly above the level of the S of DAMUS.

The period of use of this fourth setting appears to have been very limited. The perf. 10 came into use before the perf. 12½ according to my dated copies which are as follows: Perf. 10 from Fe 23 1869 to Ja 7 1874. Perf. 12½ from De 26 1873 to My 26 1874. From 1873 the two perfs. seem to have been used concurrently.

(To be concluded)

It was the intention that the Threehalfpence should be issued in common design to the Halfpenny. A Mackennal sketch is known endorsed '½d. & 1½d.'

It was also the intention that the Twopence Halfpenny should be issued in common design to the One Penny. An engraver's sketch is known of the original One Penny, lion *couchant*, design which was endorsed 'Photo of drawing by J. A. C. Harrison after B. Mackennal' and also '1d. & 2½d.'

Further, it was the intention that the Twopence and Threepence—no mention is yet made of the Fourpence duty, indeed it was not the original intention that this stamp should be produced in this design—should be of common design. A pull of the master die for the unapproved design, that is the one with the Downey head inserted, is known endorsed '1st Proof from Die for design 2d. and 3d. 16.3.11. J.A.C.H.'

(*To be continued*)

(Continued from Page. 184.)

BRITISH GUIANA

A STUDY OF THE 1860–75 ISSUES

By W. A. TOWNSEND

(*Paper given before the Royal Philatelic Society, London, on March* 10, 1960)

FIFTH SETTING

LARGER TYPE

This is a quin setting. It was printed in series of five types repeated horizontally and five times vertically in the sheet of 50.

TYPE A. White break in colour line above the 3 of the date in the square.

TYPE B. Colour dot in the main top sail below flag.

TYPE C. White break in inner circle below QU of PETIMUSUQUE.

TYPE D. Colour dot in the white break of the clouds to the left of flag. Colour dot to left of S of CENTS.

TYPE E. Colour blob on top of bottom main sail to left of rigging.

This setting appears on both perf. 10 and perf. 15. They appear to have been used concurrently.

Dated copies in the collection are perf. 10 from My 8 1874 to Fe 26 1876, and in perf. 15 from 1875 to My 6 1876.

The perf. 10 was overprinted official but I have no dated copies. Remainders of this OFFICIAL stamp were surcharged 2 during a shortage of stamps of the normal issue. Dated copy—Oc 26 1881. There is a stamp in the collection with the bar across XXIV CENTS omitted and this is the only copy I have seen.

FORTY-EIGHT CENTS

FIRST SETTING

This is a twin setting of two types repeated five times horizontally and five times vertically in the sheet of 50. This setting is only found in the pale red shade.

NOV 1960

TYPE A. The left arm of the V of VICISSIM is broken.
TYPE B. There is a colour dot in the white border to the left of 6 of date.
Dated copies are 1863 and Mr 23 1864. Perforations 12½.

SECOND SETTING

This is a twin setting of two types repeated five times horizontally and five times vertically in the sheet of 50. The shade of this setting is slightly deeper than in the first setting.
TYPE A. The first S of VICISSIM has a colour flaw from upper arm of S to the circle.
TYPE B. Below the lower line in the margin below the 6 is a hook flaw which curves to the left.
This is a scarce setting found in both perf. 12½ and 10. The only dated copy in the collection is Mr 10 1867.

(*Continued on opposite page*)

TYPE 1. FIRST SETTING

	Perf. 12 *Thick*	*Perf.* 12 *Thin*	*Perf.* 12½ *Thin*	*Perf.* 12½ *Medium*	*Perf.* 10
1 cent	13. 8.60 22.10.60	22. 7.62 24.10.62	5.12.66	— — 66	XXX
2 cents	9.11.60	27.2.63	10. 6.63 22.10.64	29.11.64	XXX
4 cents	28.8.60 23.4.62	16.12.62 26. 4.64	3.7.63 9.9.64	9.2.64 17.5.65	XXX
8 cents	19.7.60 23.1.63	5.1.64	23.9.63	6.9.64 22.1.66	XXX
12 cents	6.12.60 8.10.62	7.2.63 7.2.66	21.11.63 7. 2.65	7.6.64	2.11.65 5. 3.67
24 cents		26.6.63 23.9.64	23.6.64	9.5.64	XXX

TYPE 2

	Setting 2		*Setting* 3			*Setting* 4	
	Perf. 12½	*Perf.* 10	*Perf.* 12½	*Perf.* 10	*Perf.* 15	*Perf.* 10	*Perf.* 15
1 cent	30. 1.66 —.—.67		—.11.73 —.10.73	21. 6.69 —.10.73	XXX	16.3.75 26.4.76	28.10.75 13. 5.76
2 cents	26. 1.65 23.12.65	XXX	24.6.67 —.4.74	15. 9.68 8.10.72	XXX	27.2.72 2.3.76	23.9.75 3.2.76
4 cents	1.3.66 21.7.66		20.1.69	22.2.67 22.5.72	XXX	5.4.75 5.9.76	
8 cents	12. 1.68 —.11.75	10.5.71 7.2.73	26.8.74 —.5.75	5. 6.77 6.12.77	7. 3.76 4.12.76	XXX	XXX
12 cents	8.7.67 8.5.74	4.9.67 3.2.73	26.8.74 6.5.75	6.10.74 6. 7.75		XXX	XXX

THIRD SETTING

This is a twin setting of two types repeated five times horizontally and five times vertically in the sheet of 50. The shade of red is a fairly full one and is deeper than the previous setting.

TYPE A. There is a colour flaw from the left of the central ornament to the outer circle.

TYPE B. There is an upright flaw to the left of L in the figure XLVIII.

Dated copies in the collection are as follows: Perf. 12½, De 23 1867. Perf. 10, De 23 1869 to Ap 7 1870.

FOURTH SETTING

This is a twin setting of two types repeated five times horizontally and five times vertically in the sheet of 50.

TYPE A. A coloured dot outside the right margin level with the centre of 3 of date.

TYPE B. A coloured dot between P and E of PETIMUSUQUE and also between X and L of XLVIII.

Dated copies are dated between Ja 8 1872 and Se 25 1876. The fourth setting is only found perf. 10. This setting was also used for a provisional 1 cent value by surcharging with the figure 1 and ruling out the original value. By means of fairly large blocks it has been possible to plate this setting.

(Concluded)

TYPE 3

	Setting 1		*Setting* 2		*Setting* 3		*Setting* 4		
	Perf. 12	*Perf.* 12½	*Perf.* 12½	*Perf.* 10	*Perf.* 12½	*Perf.* 10	*Perf.* 12½	*Perf.* 10	*Perf.* 15
6 cents	XXX	8.7.65	23.7.67 8.2.69	—.3.67	XXX	8.5.71 23.8.77			4.7.76
	Setting 2		*Setting* 3		*Setting* 4		*Setting* 5		
	Perf. 12	*Perf.* 12½	*Perf.* 12½	*Perf.* 10	*Perf.* 12½	*Perf.* 10	*Perf.* 12½	*Perf.* 10	*Perf.* 15
24 cents	23.12.64 24. 9.66	7.9.65 8.4.67	–.9.67 7.8.68	24.6.67 —.1.68	26.12.73 26. 5.74	23.2.69 7.1.74	XXX	8.5.74 26.2.76	5.–.75 6.5.76
	Setting 1		*Setting* 2		*Setting* 3		*Setting* 4		
	Perf. 12	*Perf.* 12½	*Perf.* 12½	*Perf.* 10	*Perf.* 12½	*Perf.* 10	*Perf.* 12½	*Perf.* 10	*Perf.* 15
48 cents	XXX	—.—.63 23. 3.64	10.3.67		23.12.67	23.12.69 7. 4.70	XXX	8.1.72 25.9.76	XXX

XXX indicate Not Issued.
Blank squares indicate issued but no dated copies in the collection.

London Philatelist. (circa. 1960 or 1961)

BRITISH GUIANA 1860-75 ISSUES

by W. A. TOWNSEND

IN THE LONDON PHILATELIST, volume LXIX, pages 109, 180, and 207 I placed on record the result of my researches into the 'plating' of the above issue.

I stated, *inter alia*, 'Completion has not been reached and one of its fascinations is that it may never be'.

However, by recent acquisitions, I have now been able to prove Type 2, Two Cents, Second Setting which was previously impossible owing to lack of proving pieces. Therefore in place of the details given on page 112 of this setting it is possible to give the following information in its place – Two Cents. Second Setting.

The sheet of 100 is made up of five types repeated twice horizontally and ten times vertically. It is a scarce setting in the Perf. 12½ and an extremely scarce setting in the Perf. 10. The shade is a rich orange.

Type A. The top of the T of Cents slopes down from left to right.

Type B. There is a distinct white dot to the right of the buckle. A white line above, below, and to the left of TW of Two. The left side of the square around the O of date is thickened half way up.

Type C. The right top bar of the T of Cents has a coloured mark across it and is malformed.

Type D. There is a faint white line over NTS of Cents. The top of the E of Cents is malformed. There is a white line over the 6.

Type E. Wavy line over O of Two is not continued towards the buckle. The top left of the E of Cents is crossed by a coloured bar. There is a faint white line above and to the left of T of Two.

Dated copies are scarce and in the Perf. 12½ are from JA 26 1865 to DE 23 1865, and in the Perf. 10 from FE 19 1866 to AU 29 1866.

LONDON PHILATELIST, May 1965

LP MAY 1965

DISPLAY OF BRITISH GUIANA

by W. A. TOWNSEND

(Given at The Royal Philatelic Society, London on 4th February 1965)

THE display in the frames was a selection from the collection which is contained in thirty volumes.

It was felt that these notes would be of assistance and enable members to follow the method of display which was adopted.

The collection includes Pre-adhesives covers, Stamps, Plating Study, Die Proofs, Specimen Stamps, Cancellations, etc. Condition, it is felt, is of paramount importance and there are items from some of the great collections of the past – Ferrari, Burrus, Chester Beattie, Morton Evans, etc.



4c. Lemon yellow



8c. Pale yellow-green



12c. Dull blue



12c. Light blue

The grouping of the display was as follows:

Frames 1 and 2.	Pre-adhesive covers.
Frames 3 to 21.	The issues of stamps from 1850 to 1944.
Frames 22 to 36.	The Plating Study of the 1860 to 1875 issues.
Frames 37 to 52.	Cancellations of the various types.

The following is a catalogue of the items displayed:

Frame 1. Pre-adhesive covers noting the cover dated *10th September, 1796.* (The official postal service commenced 1st July, 1796) and the Berbice Ship Letter which is believed to be unique.

Frame 2. Pre-adhesive covers with various postal markings.



4c. Rose-carmine. The only recorded pair of this shade



1856 4c. Rose-carmine



8c. Yellow-green

Frame 3. The 1850 issue known as circulars, or 'Cotton Reels'; printed locally pending the arrival of stamps from Waterlow & Sons. There are thirteen examples including the 4 cents lemon-yellow (only in use for three months), 8 cents green, on cover, 12 cents blue, on cover, a pair of the 12 cents (only six pairs are recorded) and probably the finest 12 cents cut square in existence. The 1852 issue is represented by both values including the 4 cents on cover. The 1853 issue of the 1 cent vermilion includes a strip of four on cover.

Frame 4. Comprises 1853–59 1 cent dull red, including a single on cover, 1c. 1853–59

4 cents blue from both stones. The 1856 issue is represented by two perfect examples of the magenta shade, a cover which is the earliest recorded date of use – (8th February, 1856). In the rose-carmine shade, will be seen the *only recorded pair* in existence.

Frame 5. Stamps of Great Britain used in British Guiana including a combination piece with a British Guiana stamp and a Great Britain stamp to pay local postage and overseas postage respectively. 1862 Type Set Issue noting a 2 cents on cover and a mint 4 cents.
1860–63 Issues in mint condition commencing with Plate Proofs. The 1 cent rose is scarce – in really superb condition.

Frame 6. 1860–63 Issue in blocks of the higher values are difficult to acquire. The block of four of the 12 cents perf 10 is believed to be the largest in existence. The block of four of the 24 cents is of particular interest as it proves that there were only two horizontal rows in the sheet of this value, previously unsuspected. From 1863 to 1875 the value tablet shows a closer spacing between the value and the word cents. The die proof of the four cents plus value tablets is probably unique.

Frame 7. The 2 cents photograph shows the value of photography in a plating study.

Frame 8. The bisected 8 cents on cover and the trisected 12 cents on cover are interesting and scarce. A trisected 12 cents on cover one year later was not passed by the Postal Authorities. The 1876 issue Die Proofs and Specimen Stamps are an interesting prelude to the next frame.

Frame 9. The 1876 issue is shown complete in blocks of four, the 96 cents value being a scarce item. The perforation varieties for some reason are difficult to find in really fine condition such as those on show. The Official Stamps are complete and the 2 cents undenominated proof is interesting. The 6 cents and 8 cents are scarce. The 12 cents and 24 cents were unissued and are also scarce.

Frame 10. Provisional issues of 1878–81. The 2 cents on 12 cents surcharge double is particularly interesting in the example where both types of 2 are on one stamp. In the 1881 provisional issue, the original correspondence between the acting head postmaster and the Governor General is shown. On one letter will be seen the original and presumably unique essay die proof.

Frame 11. The seven printings of the 1881 issue.

Frame 12. The 1888-89 surcharged issue with particular interest in the dollar values, particularly the *large 4* which only occurs in one vertical row on each sheet.

Frame 13. The 1889 issue with colour trials, plate proofs, specimen stamps and control numbers.

Frame 14. The die proofs of the centre vignettes and the undenominated duty plates of the 1898 Jubilee issue are believed to be unique.

Frame 15. The 1899 Surcharged Jubilee issue is shown with no stop, inverted surcharge and double surcharge.

Frames 16 to 21. Show the issues from 1905 to 1944 with specimen stamps, plate proofs, First Flight Air Mails, etc.

Frames 22 to 36 Are devoted to the plating study of the 1860–75 issues. Owing to limited space a selection of each value is displayed.

Frame 37. The Accountancy Marks (both duplex and triplex) are peculiar to British Guiana and are a recent discovery. The French Ship Cancellations are of interest.

Frames 38–40. The early 'Code' mark cancellations are a fascinating study. The allocation of code letters and numbers to their respective post offices has been a testing example of detection. Paquebots, Special Handstamps, etc., are also shown.

Frames 41–42. The T.P.O. (Travelling Post Offices) and T.P.A. (Travelling Postal Agencies) cancellations have proved a fascinating study.

Frames 43–45. Are devoted to cancellations. First is shown one stamp used at each post office between 1884 and 1902. This is followed by the different types of cancellation. These types have recently been renumbered, but those seen on these sheets have not yet been corrected. Some villages were only in existence for a very short period, and the cancellations in such cases are therefore extremely scarce.

Frames 46–52. In these frames are shown the method adopted to classify the various types of cancellations, and attempts to obtain a cancellation for every year of every post office. The vastness of this subject only allows the display of three areas, North-West District, Pomeroon and Arabian Coast, and Mazaruni and Cuyuni Rivers.

THE POSTAL AGENCIES of BRITISH GUIANA and the POTARO MILEAGE MARKS

By F. G. HOWE

THE British Guiana Post Office Guide for 1954 gives a list of 49 post offices open in that year, followed by a list of 67 postal agencies. There cannot be many countries where the postal agencies outnumber the post offices. The ratio gives a fair indication of the nature of the country and the difficulties which beset its postal system.

A postal agency, of course, serves a community too small to merit a full post office, and offers more limited postal facilities. A glance down the list of postal agents reveals a clerk, a dispenser, an N.C.O. police officer and a wireless operator.

The vast majority of British Guiana's near-half-a-million people live in the narrow coastal strip. In the interior are only small lumbering camps or mining settlements. Tropical forest occupies 85 per cent of the country's surface, though in the far south are savannahs which have recently been developed as "cattle" country. Since 1939, British Guiana Airways have established air communications between the southern savannahs and the coast, but for the most part the small settlements of the interior depend on travelling post offices and travelling postal agencies for delivery of mail.

The 1954 Guide lists seven T.P.O.s and nine T.P.A.s. Three of these use railways, and the rest use river transport—river steamers on the great rivers and motor launches in the smaller creeks or upper reaches of rivers where the steamers cannot ply. Naturally, many of British Guiana's postal agencies serve the tiny mining settlements which lie along the T.P.O. or T.P.A. routes in the more remote parts of the country.

To take one example: T.P.A. Mazaruni serves KAMAKUSA, ORANAPAI, ENACHU, UPPER EPING, PERENONG, KURUPUNG, APIQUA, ISSENERU, MORABISI and KAMARANG postal agencies. All these are little "gold" or "diamond" settlements along the great river. A traveller of three years ago has described his journey on the Mazaruni "mail boat"—an ancient scow with a still more ancient engine, and its skipper, carrying the mail, along with a bottle of rum, in the hip-pocket of his ragged shorts.

Or consider the postal agencies of the RUPUNUNI district. A few of these is a list of the small "cattle stations" of an area that twenty-five years ago was virtually unexplored: LETHEM, KURUPUKARI, APOTERI, YUPUKARI, ANNAI, BURISANOWA, KARANEMBO, ORINDUIK, WICHABAI PAU, and GOOD HOPE.

To take a third example, the Berbice River Steamer T.P.O. serves postal agencies at SISTERS, SCHEPMOED, TORANI and TACAMA. A bauxite mine at KWAKWANI lies some thirty miles further up-river than the terminus of the T.P.O. service. So a metal company's tug, by special arrangement, carries out despatch of mails once a week.

A postal historian, seeking to illustrate the recent or present working of the postal system in British Guiana needs a collection of the cancellations of these small postal agencies, to supplement those of the post offices proper, and to add detail to his outline of the T.P.O.s.

I can assure the collector who tries to form such a collection that he is in for no easy undertaking. Realising the remoteness and smallness of most of the settlements, one need not be surprised at the scarceness of some of the cancellations. Also, British Guiana, like all mining countries, is a land of "boom-towns". Mines open and close, settlements come and go, and cancellations are apt to become obsolete with embarrassing swiftness.

The types of postmark to be found (see illus.) are roughly the same as for the ordinary post offices, though there are many minor variations on each type. The large (30 mm.) single-ring seems to be gradually replacing the more familiar earlier types.



Typical postal agency cancellations of British Guiana

Agencies considered unlikely to be permanent are often given numbers instead of village-names. "Placing" these numbered agencies is a task of some difficulty, which I am only beginning to work out.

To end, here is a roughly-classified list of postal agencies in 1954 (other than those already mentioned):

Berbice (Corentyne): No. 19, BUSH LOT, No. 50.
Demerara River: AGRICOLA, SOESDYKE, ATKINSON FIELD, JACOBA CONSTANTIA, STANLEYTOWN, CANAL NO. 2, COOMACKA, BOOTOOBA, MALLALI.
Essequibo Estuary: GREAT TROOLIE ISLAND, ZEELANDIA, CARIA CARIA.
Essequibo River: FORT ISLAND, STAMPA, WINEPERU.
Pomeroon River: CABACABURI, WAKAPOA, ACQUERO.
N.W. District: MORAWHANNA, ARAKAKA.
Potaro Road: 72 MILES POTARO, 110 MILES POTARO, GARRAWAY STREAM.
Issano Road: ISSANO LANDING, ISSANO ROAD.
Cuyuni River: DUKWARRI, AIKAWANG.
Various Others: BUSH LOT, CAMPBELVILLE, DARTMOUTH, DE KINDEREN, LODGE, MARA, MAHAICONY-ABARY, NEW DAM CANJE, PRESENT HOPE, UITVLUGT, WARAMURI.

Potaro Mileage Marks

Collectors of British Guiana postmarks who are familiar with the early type of Potaro cancellation may sometimes have been puzzled at finding part-strikes of later types where the name POTARO is obviously not centrally placed at the top. If lucky, they may have found a complete strike such as shown overleaf

(Continued overleaf)

British Guiana *(continued from previous page)*

and still have been at a loss for an explanation of it. Even the modern cancellations which are to be found on King George VI issues are not always interpreted aright. They do *not* indicate places which are 72 or 110 miles from Potaro!

As far as I know, no explanation of these marks has been attempted even by Mr. Alfred Charlton or Mr. Peter Jaffé, whose writings have provided so much interesting information for collectors of British Guiana postmarks. I am deeply indebted to Mr. E. Shields Forshaw (of Wimbledon P.S.) for putting me on the track of what I am convinced is the correct explanation, though I differ from him slightly over details.

The relevant facts are to be found in Lady Clementi's fascinating travel book, "Through British Guiana to the Summit of Roraima" (published in 1920).* Her journey from Georgetown up the Potaro River to Potaro Landing was made thus: Georgetown to Wismar by river-steamer; Wismar to Rockstone by Messrs. Sproston's light mining railway; Rockstone to Tumatumari and on (after a short porterage) by motor-launch, on the Essequibo and Potaro Rivers, to Potaro Landing. (The book is invaluable to British Guiana collectors, for this constitutes a full description of the routes of Nos. 4 and 6 of the present Travelling Post Offices.)





This awkward journey prompted the query whether there was no better way of reaching Potaro, and Lady Clementi goes on to describe "a much-neglected road" (the present Bartica-Potaro Road) which then ran only as far as the Kaburi goldfields, but was in process of completion. She goes on to describe also a 23-mile cart-track which led southwards from Potaro Landing to the Konawaruk River. Along this track, and counting from Potaro Landing, there were various "milestones": at nine miles Mahdia Creek; at ten miles Minnehaha Gold Mining Company Manager's Bungalow; at eleven miles Government Court House, Police Station and Dispensary; at fifteen miles branch-track to a new mine, and so on to Konawaruk River at twenty-three miles.

Clearly, the "Potaro XI Mls" postmark must refer to the eleven-mile mark on this cart-track. Mr. Alfred Charlton, in an article following his address to the Royal Philatelic Society in 1950, reports also a "XV Mile" mark. It is possible that other Potaro mileage marks, not as yet reported, may exist.

I possess a cover of 1923 with Potaro XI Mls mark, and it is back-stamped Tumatumari. I have seen several other such covers with this back-stamp. This suggests that the mail-route up to the early 1920's was not by the Bartica-Potaro Road but was, in fact, via Tumatumari and the Travelling Post Office routes outlined earlier in this article. A branch track from "Ten Miles" went to Tumatumari, thus avoiding part of the Potaro River launch journey and the rapids at Tumatumari itself. Had the mail been carried along the cart-track to Potaro Landing and thence up the Bartica-Potaro Road it would not have touched at Tumatumari at all.

In the late 1920's a motor road was completed from Bartica to Garraway Stream, where the Potaro River was bridged, and then on along the original "cart-track". Lorries of the Transport and Harbours Department now carry mail along this road. The "Seventy-Two Miles" postmark (illustrated above) indicates Potaro Road Postal Agency, which stands at the point where the Issano Road forks from the main road, 72 miles from Bartica. Garraway Stream is 102 miles from Bartica, and "110 Mls Potaro" is thus on the old cart-track. It is, in fact, Potaro Radio Station—a postal agency where the wireless operator is the postal agent.

Potaro Radio Station is part of a growing Post Office telecommunications system for the interior. It was opened in 1933, transferred to Garraway Stream in 1934, and returned to "110 Mls. Potaro" in 1940. It would be interesting to know if this cancellation dates from 1940, or if anyone can report an earlier strike. (If so, presumably it would be from the 1933–34 period.)

It will be noted that in the earlier cancellations the distances quoted were measured from Potaro Landing; now, though the postmarks are still "Potaro", the distances are measured from Bartica.

* The permission of the author and of the publishers, T. Fisher Unwin Ltd., to use information in Lady Clementi's book is gratefully acknowledged.—F. G. H.

How I Started Collecting—No. 4

GEORGE ROBEY REVIVED ME!

My first introduction to stamps was as a very small boy, when my mother made me a present of a "Lincoln" Stamp Album—and how that thrilled me with its gilt-edged leaves! I favoured stamp-edging, rather than gum, as a method of mounting. I also kept a record of the number of stamps. This showed that on January 1st, 1901, there were 558 specimens.

But youth is fickle—my interest waned. Soon the "Lincoln" was completely forgotten.

It was in 1936 that, one evening, I turned on the radio and heard the voice of that "Prime Minister of Mirth", the late Sir George Robey, talking about his hobby—stamp collecting. ("Well—I meant to say!") This seemed to stir all my old interest again. I unearthed the "Lincoln" once more.

I sent for approvals and collected everything I could get hold of. Then I had a piece of luck for I read in the local paper that there was a philatelic society in the district and that anyone interested would be welcomed at the meetings.

I was duly enrolled, and was known among my fellow-members as the "Learner".

Joining that society was a step in the right direction. It put me in touch with other collectors from whom I received sound advice on the niceties of condition, correct method of mounting and writing-up of my collection. Also, last but not by any means least, it taught me the value of reading a good philatelic journal.

After some time the day came when I gave a display to the members of our society—just a few pages of Newfoundland. Afterwards I was told by our President (the late Mr. Harold Wilson) that I could take down my "L" plates.

If I have any advice for young recruits to the hobby it is to join a society, attend the meetings—and read a good stamp journal.

They say we are never too old to learn, and acting on this belief I have recently taken on the study of heraldry—joined the Heraldry Society and subscribed to their magazine. But that is another story.

BERNARD BANKS.

H-BOMB SOUVENIR COVER

What can best be described as a semi-official souvenir cover appears to have been in use at the time of the H-Bomb trial over Christmas Island. A cover bearing a scene of the explosion and the inscription FIRST BRITISH/MEGATON TRIAL/1957 has been received by Mr. Roy Palmer, of Leighton Buzzard, through a friend to whom it was sent by a member of the Royal Navy serving in the area. The cancellation is the normal B.F.P.O.–CHRISTMAS ISLAND mark date-stamped for May 19th, 1957.

BRITISH GUIANA

AUSTRALIAN STAMP MONTHLY, NOV. 6, 1961

BRITISH GUIANA:

COLONY'S COLOURFUL HISTORY RECORDED IN ITS STAMPS

THREE STAMPS issued by British Guiana late in October marked the fourth annual History and Culture Week.

This article outlines the colony's colourful history and gives a brief but interesting resume of its various stamp issues.

BRITISH Guiana lies on the north-eastern coast of the South American continent between parallels 1 deg. and 9 deg. North. The coast line of the country was first traced by Spanish sailors in 1499 and 1500, and during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the search for the fabulous city of Eldorado — forever linked in British minds with the exploits of Sir Walter Raleigh — stimulated exploration of this region.

Little is known of the first European settlements, although they were almost certainly Spanish or Portuguese. The Dutch for a short time established a settlement on the Pomeroon in 1581 and later built a fort in the present county of Essoquibo. The first English attempt at settlement in this area was made in 1604 by Captain Charles Leigh on the Oyapock River, but this met with failure. A fresh attempt was made by Robert Harcourt in 1609, and later Lord Willoughby, famous in the early history of Barbados, also turned his attention to Guiana and founded a settlement in Surinam in 1651. This was captured by the Dutch in 1667, and although later recaptured by the British, it was ceded to the Dutch at the peace of Breda. The Dutch retained their hold on the territory which is now British Guiana, through yielding sometimes to England and at other times to France or Portugal, until 1796 when, during the war of the French Revolution, the country was captured by a British fleet from Barbados. It was restored to the Dutch in 1802, but in the following year was retaken by Great Britain and was finally ceded to her in 1814.

In 1745, colonists from Essoquibo settled on the Demeara River, and in 1773 Demeara was constituted a separate colony. In 1784 it was reunited under one government with Essoquibo, Berbice being under a separate government, an arrangement which continued in force under the British Administration until the year 1831.

The first postage stamps of British Guiana were type-set locally at the Offices of the "Royal Gazette," Georgetown. Known as "cotton-reels," these rare stamps consisted simply of the words "British Guiana" and the value inserted in a circle. Each stamp was separately initialled by the Post Office official before each issue, and specimens bearing the initials of E.T.E.D(alton), E.D.W.(ight), J.B.S.(mith), H.A. K(illikelly) and W.H.L.(ortimer) are all in existence. The first values, the 4, 8 and 12 cents, were printed on unwatermarked medium wove paper, and released on July 1, 1850. A further printing of the 4 cents was on unwatermarked pelure paper, and in 1851 a 2 cents value, again on medium wove paper, was added.

These stamps had a short life as, in the meantime, an order had been placed with Waterlow & Sons Ltd., of London, for a complete new issue. While the die for this first permanent series was being engraved, however, Waterlows printed a lithographed temporary issue of 1 and 4 cents, which was released in January, 1852. This issue was the first produced by this famous firm of security printers and the stamps, which were printed on surface coloured papers, depicted the Colony Badge of a full rigged ship, with the value at the top of the words "British Guiana" at the sides. The motto "Damus Petimus que Vicissim"—("We give and seek in return") appeared at the foot of each stamp. In 1853, this interim issue was replaced by new 1 and 4 cents stamps; these were lithographed by Waterlows from the new die engraved by C. H. Jeens, and although lacking some of the detail that could have been produced by recess printing, are nevertheless an outstanding example of early classic design. The stamps once again featured the Colony Badge, but this time represented by a barque instead of the full rigged ship, which occupied the centre of an oval, with the motto printed round the framework. The value was placed at the bottom, with the word "postage" at the top, and "British Guiana" on the sides as before. This, incidentally, was the first issue to show a Colony's Badge in its entirety; another interesting innovation was the employment of the date of the issue for corner pieces. Various printings of these stamps took place between 1853 and 1860.

In February, 1856, due to the late arrival of a consignment of the Waterlow stamps, another type-set issue was produced locally, this time at the works of Baum & Dallas in Georgetown, printers of the "Official Gazette." They attempted to copy Waterlow's design in printers type, and in the centre placed a little ship normally used for the "Shipping Notes" feature in the newspaper. Two values were again issued, 1 and 4 cents, and these stamps, like those of the first issue, were initialled by the Post Office Officials, E.T.E.D., E.D.W., W.H.L., and C.A.W.(atson). Few of these stamps were printed, and they are now amongst the world's rarities. The 1 cent denomination, in particular, is unique and a recent report in the American press records that the owner of a mint copy has turned down an offer of $100,000.

In 1860, a new issue was released, again lithographed by Waterlows. The design was similar to the previous Waterlow issues, but the ship (once more a barque) was depicted sailing towards the right instead of the left as previously. The issue consisted of six values, 1, 2, 4, 8, 12 and 24 cents, the higher values being shown in Roman numerals. The 12 cents denomination, when used for overseas letters, was surcharged "5d." in red, to denote the proportion of postage repayable by the Colony to Great Britain. The colour of the 1 cent value was changed when a new printing of this stamp was released in 1861, and again when additional printings of all values were placed on sale the following year. When further printings were released in 1863, they introduced two new values, 6 and 48 cents, in a larger format, with the Badge once more depicted as a full rigged ship. The larger format was also used for later printings of the 24 cents denomination. These stamps remained current for the next thirteen years, although, in October, 1862, a further interim issue was produced at the Office of the "Royal Gazette" in Georgetown, by Mr. George Melville. This issue consisted purely of a frame in varying degrees of complexity with "British Guiana" along the left hand side and top, "Postage"

on the right hand side, and the value running along the bottom of the stamp. The centre, normally reserved for the Colony's Badge, was left blank, and was initialled by the Acting Receiver General of the Colony — Robert Mather — before use.

Early in 1875, the responsibility for the control of British Guiana stamps was taken over by the Crown Agents, who pressed for the adoption of surface printing on the grounds of better workmanship as well as security, and advocated the substitution of the Queen's head for the Colony Badge. The Colony agreed to the first suggestion, but insisted that the badge with the motto surrounding it should remain the prominent feature of the design. The work for the new issue was entrusted to Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd., who, working from Waterlows' earlier design, produced a simplified version abandoning much of the extraneous ornamentation, and greatly strengthening the wording. Although lacking some of the beauty of the earlier design, the new stamps, which were produced by letterpress on Crown CC watermarked paper, had a bold simplicity of their own. The issue was released on July 1, 1876, and consisted of nine values, running from 1 cent to 96 cents. In the following years, the higher value stamps of this issue, from 4 cents upwards, appeared with the original duty obliterated in ink and surcharged 1 or 2 cents; this obliteration also appeared, with and without the surcharge, on stamps bearing an "Official" overprint.

In 1882, a further type-set issue, printed locally by Baldwin & Co., came into circulation, but this was again apparently only an interim measure until a new printing of De La Rue's stamps were received. These were on Crown CA watermarked paper, and were released during May, 1882.

De La Rue had also produced a series of overprinted revenue stamps made from a special printing from the postage keyplate in which the value in the tablet at the bottom of the stamp was omitted, and some of these stamps were subsequently surcharged and used for postal purposes during 1888 and 1889, while a new issue was being prepared.

The new keyplate series was introduced in September, 1889, and consisted of ten values in a common design. The stamp once again featured the Colony's Badge, but in a smaller circle, surmounting a large duty panel with the name of the Colony along the side panels and "Postage & Revenue" along the top. The keyplate portion was a dull purple throughout the issue but the duty panel, along with the top panel of lettering, was printed in an attractive range of secondary colours.

This design remained unchanged until the reign of George V, although the second colour of the 2 cents value was changed from orange to red in 1900. This was followed shortly afterwards by the introduction of several other colour changes obtained by the use of various coloured papers, and in 1905, by the change from the old Crown CA watermark to the new Multiple Crown CA. In addition, in 1905, a revenue stamp, produced from the same keyplate but overprinted for postal use, was also brought into circulation.

In the meantime, in 1898, British Guiana had released her first commemorative series to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. This was also the first pictorial issue of British Guiana and the first issue of this territory to be produced by the recess process. Printed by Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd., the series consisted of five values, the 1 cent, 5 and 15 cents featuring Mount Roraima, the highest mountain in the Colony, and the remaining values depicting Kaieteur Falls. The three top values of this issue also appeared the following year surcharged "Two cents."

Mention has been made earlier of the suggestion of the introduction of the Sovereign's head on British Guiana stamps, and the new issue released in 1913 provided a happy compromise by including both the medallion portrait and the Colony's badge. Based on an earlier issue for Barbados, the new British Guiana design was later adapted for similar issues for Montserrat, Antigua, and the Virgin Islands. The British Guiana issue of 1913 was printed by letterpress by Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd., on Multiple Crown CA watermarked paper, and consisted of eleven values. In 1918, the 2 cents duty from this issue was overprinted "War Tax," but, apart from colour changes of the 2 and 6 cents values in 1922, these stamps remained current until 1934.

In 1931, British Guiana celebrated the Centenary of the Union of the counties of Essequibo, Demeara, and Berbice to form the present Colony of British Guiana by the release of a five-value commemorative series. The 4 cents and $1 stamps of this issue reproduced the Kaieteur Falls design from the Diamond Jubilee series, but included the portrait of the Sovereign, while the remaining stamps featured other scenes in the Colony. The 2 cents value, which depicted an Amerindian shooting fish, also included the Royal Portrait, but the remaining two values, depicting ploughing a ricefield and public buildings, were unusual in that they did not include the Sovereign's head nor the Royal Cypher nor Crown. This issue provided a link with the Colony's earlier stamps, by being recess engraved by Waterlow & Sons, a link which was, from then onwards, to be uninterrupted until this firm's security printing interests were absorbed by Messrs. Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd. earlier this year.

1934 brought a completely new permanent series, consisting of twelve pictorial designs. The Kaieteur Falls design and that of the Amerindian shooting fish, were repeated from the Union Commemorative issue (the former appearing on both the 4 cents and 50 cents values of the new issue) as with the ricefield design, but the latter this time incorporated the Royal Portrait. Several of the remaining designs in the issue, however, omitted the Sovereign's head, including what was perhaps the most distinctive stamp, in the set, the 96 cents value, containing a reproduction of an oil painting of Sir Walter Raleigh and his son, the boy who so tragically lost his life up the Orinoco, in the last ill-fated expedition of 1617. It is this fine stamp which is reproduced on the front cover of the "Bulletin"; the artist of the original painting is unknown, but the style suggests one of the Dutch or Flemish artists who frequented the English Court in the early years of the 17th century.

This issue continued in current use until 1938, when, with the ascension of King George VI, the first stamps of the new series were released. This series consisted of many of the designs of the previous issue, but with the portrait changed where necessary to that of the new Sovereign, although some of the values were amended, and colours altered. In addition, a new design, showing a map of British Guiana in relation to the Continent of South America, was introduced on the 4 cents value. In 1945, two high value stamps, $2 and $3 were introduced, the $ were introduced, the latter bringing a further new design, this time featuring Victoria Regia lilies.

British Guiana had joined in the general commemoratives for the Silver Jubilee in 1935 and for the Coronation of King George VI in 1937, and also participated in the

BRIT. GUIANA—(Continued)

issue for Victory, 1946, the 75th Anniversary of the U.P.U., 1949, the University College of the West Indies, 1951, and the Coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II in June, 1953.

The current issue was released on December 1, 1954. Some of the old favourite designs such as the Kaieteur Falls, Mount Roraima, and the Amerindian, were retained, as was the Victoria Regia lilies from the previous issue, but many new designs were introduced. In addition, for the first time the Royal Portrait was included on all stamps throughout the issue.

On October 23, 1961, the fourth annual History and Culture week opened in Georgetown, and to commemorate this event, the Government of British Guiana released a special issue of three postage stamps. The design, which is common to all three values, includes a portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and features hands of different races with the caption "One people — One Nation — One Destiny," symbolising the people's desire to weld themselves into one nation. It was to focus attention to this ideal that History and Culture Week was first introduced in 1958 with the theme expressed as the motto on the new stamps. The theme for 1961, "Creating a new Guiana," emphasises the peoples responsibility to

London Philatelist. Nov. 1958

BRITISH GUIANA.

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.

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THE STAMPS OF BRITISH GUIANA

THE PROVISIONAL ISSUE OF JANUARY, 1882

By W. A. TOWNSEND

IN the LONDON PHILATELIST (Vol. 52, p. 89) A. D. Ferguson gives some details of the above provisional issue.

As I recently acquired the original correspondence regarding this issue the text in full is given below.

This points to the fact that although it was stated in the Official Gazette that the stamps were ready for issue on January 7th, the Lieutenant-Governor did not authorize the printing until January 9th. My earliest dated postmark is January 9th.*

The Officials in British Guiana on January 3rd, 1882, were:—

Lieutenant-Governor Government Secretary	WILLIAM ALEXANDER GEORGE YOUNG, C.M.G.
Receiver-General	CHARLES PERCY AUSTIN
Assistant Receiver-General	DENIS M. GALLAGHER
Postmaster-General	Vacant
Acting Postmaster-General	E. D. WIGHT
Assistant Government Secretary	GEORGE W. MELVILLE

and the correspondence was as follows:—

From E. D. Wight, Acting Postmaster-General to D. M. Gallagher, Assistant Colonial Receiver-General:

'3rd Jan. 1882.

Sir.

As our stock of 1 cent stamps is exhausted and our stock of 2 cent stamps nearly so it will be requisite to have some printed *at once*. I think the specimen I showed you on Saturday will do very well.

Your obedient Servant.

E. D. Wight.'

* (*Author's Note*).—*I can only assume that either the stamps were produced before the official approval and in anticipation of it or they were printed on the ninth and issued on the same day.*

Ark 8/10 of.

1 — 3.

(Note on reverse by D. M. Gallagher.)

'To Asst. Government Secretary. 3rd Jan.

I think we had better have 60,000 One Cent and 40,000 Two Cent stamps struck off if none come by the mail. They will have to be authenticated by initialling but it cannot be helped, however great the labour.'

From D. M. Gallagher, Assistant Colonial Receiver-General to G. W. Melville. Asst. Govt. Secretary.

'Unfortunately these extra issues are very eagerly sought after and bought up as curiosities, so that a large issue is necessary on the object in view—the convenience of the public for postal purposes is likely to be defeated. I will not of course avail myself of the authority now sought for should the Mail bring a supply.

3rd Jan. 1882.'

Note by G. W. Melville, Assistant Government Secretary:

'I hope this authority may not be required.

3.1.82.'

To Government Secretary from C.T.C. 4.1.82.

'The Postmaster-General has just called here to represent that he is wholly out of 1 cent stamps and nearly out of two cent stamps. None have arrived by mail and the only course open appears to be to let Baldwin's print off a few thousand as per sample submitted. Mr Wight suggests red paper for one cent and yellow paper for two cent stamps. These stamps should be initialled in the Receiver-General's before being issued from time to time as may be requisitioned for.'

(Note on reverse.)

'This is submitted with reference to Mr Gallagher's Minute of yesterday.

G. M. 4.1.82.'

'This course must be adopted there is no help for it, but initials will be no security. A real security will be found, I think, in perforating each stamp with the perforating stamp "SPECIMAN" in Govt. Secty. Office. It can be lent to the Rec.-General and used under proper restrictions.

W. Y. (W. A. G. Young.) 4.1.82.
Lieutenant-Governor.'

(There is an Imperforate Proof 72 mm. × 53 mm. attached.)

From Acting Postmaster-General to Acting (Assistant) Colonial Receiver-General. 6 Jan. 1882.

'The quantity of 1c. and 2c. provisional stamps, namely 10,000 about to be issued will fall short to meet the requirements of this Department. I am afraid they will share the fate of the previous ones and will be bought up by the several Stamp Collectors. I would suggest that authority be obtained to have 100,000 printed in such quantities as may from time to time be required.'

Note on reverse by W. Y. (W. A. G. Young, Lieutenant-Governor). 6. 1. 82.

'But surely the Acting Postmaster-General can exercise some discretion in the matter and stop these Ad. Lib. sales. The purchases are not made for legitimate purposes. When

I read the statement in the paper that some 19,000 stamps had been sold to one individual I never for one moment thought that such a transaction could be possible.'

Note by G. M. (George W. Melville, Assistant Government Secretary). 6. 1. 82.
'Refer to Mr Wight for his information and guidance.'

Note by E. D. Wight, 9.1.82, to Acting Government Secretary.
'No one regrets more than I do the large sale of stamps as noted by His Excellency The Lieutenant-Governor and due care will be taken that such an occurrence will not happen again. I am keeping a vigilant supervision on the sale of the present issue.'

'I think it would be convenient to be authorized to go on with the printing etc. of these postage stamps *as may be required* until the total of 100,000 is reached. We may not require to have all that number printed off but we may on the other hand be compelled to make a further such extra issue. The requirements are of a nature demanding prompt supply.

D. M. Gallagher. Acting C.R.G. 6 Jan. 1882.'

'Mr Wight can have as large a supply printed off by Baldwin's as he likes, but the stamps themselves should only be perforated with the word "SPECIMAN" in lots as from time to time may be requisitioned for (so that when the proper stamps arrive the remainder of these may be burnt).

C. T. C. 6.1.82. Noted by G. M. 6.1.82.'

On reverse from G. M. to Lieutenant-Governor. 9.1.82.
'The Receiver-General asks to be authorized to have 60,000 1 cent stamps and 40,000 2 cent stamps printed as may be required.'

From W. Y. (Lieutenant-Governor).
'The quantity may be printed off; all proper precautions being taken only such numbers need be perforated and issued as may be estimated from time to time to be required. 9.1.82.

Refer to Receiver-General. C.T.C. 10.1.82.
Noted. D. M. Gallagher. 10 Jan. 1882.'

The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly.

And International Stamp Advertiser.

LONDON, MARCH 5, 1921.

Between Ourselves

With this *S.C.F.*, we circulate an interesting list of Philatelic Literature and Accessories, any or all of which can be obtained from "Harris Publications," 87, Emmanuel Road, London, S.W.12.

Pour encourager.—Under "Societies and Clubs," we publish the report of the ASSOCIATED BANKS' STAMP EXCHANGE, which shews the excellent results obtained by Mr. Holman during last year.

King Nicholas of Montenegro died at Antibes on Tuesday last.

The "C.L.P.S."—The office of Hon. Packet Superintendent, recently rendered vacant by death, is now carried on by Mr. G. W. Kilner.

No. 38—Comma after CENTS.

No stop. This is due to the stop not being printed, most sheets showing slight traces of a stop.

"TWO CENTS" on 10c.

No. 4—T of TWO with short top.
" 53—No stop and large E.
" 55—G instead of C of Cents.

These are only found on the first printing.

Other minor varieties which are found on some sheets of both printings are—

T of Cents short, thick and raised.
Right limb of T of Cents broken.
S of Cents raised, T of Cents not printed.
N broken. N raised. T.S. raised.
E of Cents defective.
WO CENTS. Two Oents.

"TWO CENTS" on 15c:

No. 14—W broken.
" 20—T broken.
" 23—T large
" 25—Comma after T of Cents.
" 26—TWO | CENTS
" 50—No stop.
" 56—T of TWO raised.
" 57—Comma after N of Cents.

These are all found on the first printing.

Other minor varieties that are not consistently found on all sheets are:

S raised. T short in Cents.
S dropped. TW dropped.
TWO CINTS.

The 15c. is also known on surface-blued paper, and with blued lines across some of the stamps.

The surcharge on all these stamps are found genreally in the middle of the stamp, but this varies considerably.

The Numbers issued are:—

1c.	787,560 (less 30,000 destroyed).		
2c.	884,040.	2c. on 5c.	207,900.
5c.	99,000.	2c. on 10c.	126,600.
10c.	27,000.	2c. on 15c.	130,680.
15c.	24,000.		

British Guiana Jubilee Issue.

A PAPER BY A. D. FERGUSON.
(From the "British Guiana Philatelic Journal.")

IN 1897, the Government decided to order a special set of stamps to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Being rather late in arriving at their decision and ordering them, the stamps did not arrive in the Colony until 1898.

In selecting designs for these stamps, for the first and only time in the postal history of the Colony, the familiar "ship and motto" was set aside and two views of the Colony were depicted, *viz.*, Mt. Roraima and the Kaieteur Falls, the two best known and celebrated points of interest in British Guiana.

Roraima, the most interesting mountain in British Guiana, forms the natural boundary of British Guiana, Brazil and Venezuela, and is 8,600 ft. above the sea-level, and some 5,000 ft. above the surrounding hilly country. It is difficult of ascent, the sides being almost perpendicular sandstone cliffs about 2,000 ft. in height above the sloping sides.

Kaieteur, the highest waterfall in the world, has only a sheer drop of 741 feet and its extreme width is 400 ft. The Kaieteur gorge, through which the Potaro river flows for a distance of upwards of 20 miles, is formed of sandstone cliffs from 800 to 1,000 ft. in height and has been described as the *penetralia* of fairyland.

This issue consisted of five values:—1c., 2c., 5c., 10c. and 15c.

The 1c., 5c. and 15c. values depict Mt. Roraima in a dome-shaped frame, with "British Guiana" in a scrolled tablet at the top. At each bottom corner the value in figures, with the year 1897 in a scrolled tablet in the middle, and "Postage" and "Revenue" on either side; the right and left side being filled with a broad-leaved plant.

The 2c. and 10c. showed the Kaieteur Falls in an upright frame, varying somewhat from the frame of the other three values but having the same inscriptions.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 60, the 1c., 5c. and 15c. in ten rows of six stamps, and the 2c. and 10c. in six rows of ten stamps.

In this series two new values were introduced, the 10c. and 15c., for which there appears to have been little demand for postal or revenue purposes. After being in issue for a year with no appreciable diminution of the stock on hand, the Government decided to surcharge these values "two cents" and later on the remainders of the 5c. were also subjected to the surcharge, and the stock was thereby quickly used up, large numbers being purchased at the time by local speculators.

The first surcharge took place on 3rd February, 1899, when 96,600 of the 10c., and 124,680 of the 15c. were surcharged "Two Cents" in black.

On the 14th March a further over-printing took place when the remainders, 30,000 of the 10c., and 6,000 of the 15c., were surcharged.

On the 30th May, the balance on hand of the 5c. value, numbering 207,900, were subjected to the 2c. surcharge.

A number of minor errors occurs in these surcharged stamps—a list of the more important of these follows:—There was one sheet of the 10c. and one of the 15c. issued with inverted overprint, also one sheet of the 15c. with double overprint. Most of these got into the hands of an official, who spotted the errors and purchased them over the counter. After some time this was brought to the notice of the Government who ordered the official to give up all he had on hand, and they were destroyed by the Government. I have no official information of the number destroyed. Only some 30 to 40 of these three errors got into circulation, and most of them were acquired by local collectors and they now command a high figure.

The errors are as follows.—

"TWO CENTS" on 5 cents:

No. 2—lower part of W broken.
" 9—lower part of T of TWO broken.
" 11—T of TWO large.
" 14—C raised and T of CENTS broken.
" 15—T of CENTS short.
" 19—E defective, like broken B.
" 32—T of TWO broken.

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, Aug. 20, 1937.

POSTAL HISTORY.

BRITISH GUIANA STAMP DESIGNS OF 1883

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS

DE LA RUE'S PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE THE QUEEN'S HEAD REJECTED BY THE COURT OF CLAIMS

BY ALBERT H. HARRIS

Some more documents have come into my possession which throw an interesting sidelight upon stamp matters in British Guiana. These are the letters which passed between the Crown Agents for the Colonies and the Government Secretary, British Guiana, with original drawings attached, and the minutes which passed, in British Guiana, between the various officials and departments concerned, relating to the provision of stamped wrappers in 1883.

In July of that year, British Guiana had ordered a supply of wrappers through the Crown Agents, who had promised dispatch in ten weeks. But they were still not ready in November, and the Crown Agents transmitted a letter from the printers suggesting that if the Queen's head design were adopted, deliveries could in future be speeded up, and the cost would also be much reduced.

The Postmaster-General and other officials expressed their approval of the suggestion, but the Government of British Guiana turned it down for reasons of policy. These documents form a short but interesting chapter in postal history, and I therefore place them on record in full.

Crown Agents for the Colonies,
Downing Street, London.
12th November 1883.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 5th July, No. 2602 and to our reply of the 9th August last, relative to a supply of Newspaper Wrappers which we then informed you would be ready for shipment in about ten weeks from that time, I have now the honour to forward for your information a report from Messrs. De La Rue & Co. explaining the reason for the Wrappers not having been completed in the period specified, and also suggesting an alteration in the mode of producing such wrappers in future.

I have to request that, in the event of the Colonial Government approving of the change proposed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., the designs furnished by them, which are also enclosed herewith may be returned to us.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(signed) E. E. BRADY.

The Honble.
The Government Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.
British Guiana.

(Enclosure)
Messrs. De La Rue & Co. to Crown Agents.
110 Bunhill Row,
8th November 1883.

British Guiana.

Gentlemen,—In reply to your Memo. of the 6th inst., we regret to say that it will still be about three weeks before we can complete the manufacture of the British Guiana Newspaper Wrappers. The work has run into a great deal more detail than we had expected, occupying much time.

The Stamps upon the Wrappers in question are from the Postage Stamp dies, which are so finely engraved that it is impossible to print the wrappers otherwise than by the hand process. If, however, the Colonial authorities would consent to the Queen's head being employed in the Wrapper stamps, we could print the Wrappers by machine, seeing that the head which we should use would be that recently engraved for machine printing, and a great reduction would be brought about in the cost of the Wrappers. We venture, therefore, to suggest the expediency of you submitting the designs which we give on the Appendices A. & B. hereto to the Colonial authorities, with the view of ascertaining whether they would be prepared to adopt the stamps shown therein for future supplies of Wrappers. If that were the case, we would undertake to alter the printing plates free of charge and to supply the Wrappers at the following rates :—

If 100,000 of either duty be ordered at a time ... 5/6 per M.
If 50,000 of either duty be ordered at a time ... 6/6 „ „

the prices of the hand-printed Wrappers under supply being :—

For 100,000 ... ... 8/9 per M.
„ 50,000 ... ... 9/6 „ „

We should remark that the stamps upon the pattern Wrappers herewith enclosed are drawn by hand, and but very roughly represent the effect which would be obtained by printing the stamps from the head die.

We are, &c.

(sd.) THOS. DE LA RUE & CO.

Appendix A.



(CONTINUED OVERLEAF).

Appendix B.



Both the above are hand-painted.

The above communications were received in the Government Secretary's Office, British Guiana, on Dec. 4, 1883, and entered in their files under Reference No. 5556. On the back of the original letter from the Crown Agents, which is before me as I write, are the following written comments :—

Refer for remarks of Postmaster General.

F. W. C.
4.12.83.

"F.W.C." evidently was, or represented, the Government Secretary, to whom the Postmaster General returned the document with the following addition :

I see no objection to the adoption of the Queen's head in place of the Colony's Arms for the stamps on newspaper wrappers, especially as the cost to the Colony will be so much less. No doubt there are persons who will cry out against such a change, but after all any objection could only be the result of sentiment.

(signed) F. M. HODGSON.
P.M.G.
5th Decr. 1883.

Next it seems to have gone to the Governor or his legal adviser :—

The Governor will perhaps wish to consult the Court of Policy in the matter.

F. W. C.
6.12.83.

To which the answer was :—

There seems to be no legal difficulty.

J. V., Dec. 6-83.

But the Court of Policy turned it down, as witness the concluding minute :

Decided in Court of Policy to adhere to design of Ship. Acquaint Cr. Agents that design be adhered to.

F. W. C.

This was done by the following Memorandum :—

5556

G. S. O.
24th Decr. 1883.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies,
Downing Street, London.

Gentlemen,—In reply to your letter of the 12th ult. forwarding a communication from Messrs. De La Rue & Co. suggesting an alteration in the dies required for printing the stamps on the newspaper wrappers to be used in this Colony, I have the honour by direction of the Governor to acquaint you that H. E. is of the opinion that it is not desirable to make any change in the design.

(signed) C. S. W. S.
24.12.83.

Economy Rejected.

It will thus be seen that Ship design wrappers were costing the Post Office :—

£43 15s. for 100,000
or **£23 15s.** for 50,000

Messrs. De La Rue offered the alternative of the Queen's head wrappers at :—

£27 10s. for 100,000
or **£16 5s.** for 50,000

This represented a saving of £16 5s. (37%) per 100,000, or £7 10s. (31%) per 50,000, and the Postmaster General was in favour of this economy. The Court of Policy turned it down. No grounds for the decision are recorded in the correspondence, and it would be interesting to know why it was considered contrary to policy to place the head of the Queen on either the adhesive stamps or the postal stationery of British Guiana at that time.

There was an alternative course which, strangely, seems to have occurred to nobody, and would have effected almost as great an economy. That was to engrave a new "Ship" die so that the wrappers could be printed by machinery. What De La Rue's were proposing, in effect, was that British Guiana should adopt the standard design which De La Rue's were then using for the wrappers of other colonies; and British Guiana, for undisclosed reasons of its own, thought it worth while to pay 37% extra to be different.

1992. These documents in the collection of Derek Nathan.

STAMP LOVER. June - July 1949

BRITISH GUIANA

British Guiana Jubilee Issue, 1898

By J. A. Y.

IT seems strange after more than 50 years that novices like ourselves should attempt a study of this interesting issue and the subsequent 2 cents provisional of 1899, after one would think the last word had been written about them.

Having made a careful examination of the 300 stamps (five denominations in sheets of 60 each) we are now having the temerity to amplify the deliberations of previous writers.

The late A. D. Ferguson dealt with these issues in his series of articles on British Guiana stamps in the *London Philatelist* (Vols. LIII and LIV) and cursorily studied the TWO CENTS surcharges; but we learn little about the stamps or the method by which they were produced, except that they were "engraved and printed from copper plates by the intaglio process by Messrs. De la Rue & Co." We have no means of disproving that the stamps were printed from copper plates but because 750,000 of the 1c. and 900,000 of the 2c. stamps were printed, it is thought possible that copper plates would not produce such a quantity without seriously deteriorating and that the stamps after all were printed from steel plates or steel coated copper plates. We learn that the original duty plate (presumably die) with duties left blank cost £8 and that five working 60 set duty plates, including engraving of duties, cost £20 each. It is not stated how the duties were engraved but we venture to state that these were added by the pantograph process. We further learn that the original landscape plate (presumably die) cost £8 and that one working 60 set landscape plate cost £20. In view of the fact that there are two different landscapes this statement is obviously incorrect and should read "two original landscape plates costing £8 each and two working 60 set landscape plates costing £20 each." The two landscape plates were: a view of Mount Roraima (for the 1, 5 and 15c.) and of the Kaieteur Falls (for the 2 and 10c.). It may be that only the landscape plate was employed for the 2c. and 10c. stamps and one only for the 1c., 5c., and 15c. We do not, however, rule out the possibility that more than one landscape plate of the two types may have been employed but if such were the case then we should say that they were reproduced from master plates as slight variations are constant and common to each value.

"RETOUCHES"

It is stated by the late A. D. Ferguson that the 1c. landscape was retouched, "the lines of shading of the mountain plateau in the background being strengthened, as were the ridges." These so-called retouches show quite plainly on early printings but tend to become faint on stamps printed from worn plates or from duplicated plates less deeply engraved. We are not aiming to prove that more than one of each type of landscape plate was used but if such was the case then such plates must have been produced from master plates as the so-called retouches referred to on the 1c. are identical on the 5c. and 15c. It should be observed that we have referred to "so-called retouches" but we would not rule out the possibility that they may be fresh entries as they consist of partial duplications of some of the more deeply engraved lines. They occur on Nos. 12, 18, 24, 30 and 46 of the 60 set landscape format of all three denominations, and not as stated by the late A. D. Ferguson on the 1c. only.

FRESH ENTRIES

Fresh entries are found on the duty plate of the 5c. and occur on Nos. 14, 20, 25, 26, 31, 32, 38, 44 and 50 and consist mainly of a doubling of the tablet bearing the words "British Guiana." We have several sheets of the 5c. on which No. 26 is the only fresh entry that is apparent, and it is the only fresh entry that is apparent on the many sheets of the 1c. and 15c. that we have examined. This anomaly may be due to wear or it may be due to the probability that a number of working plates (made from a master plate) were employed on which the fine lines of the fresh entries other than No. 26 were lost in the process of duplicating.

It is recorded that five working duty plates were made, one for each value, and there is no doubt that they were duplicated from two master plates, that is one for the 2c. and 10c. and one for the 1c., 5c. and 15c. The fact that the 5c. is found with many fresh entries, as enumerated above, and also in another state showing only the No. 26 fresh entry (more deeply impressed than the others) leads us to consider the possibility of an additional working plate for this value. Against this probability there is the fact that the values (done by pantograph) are identical in both states of the 5c. and a new working plate could therefore only have been made from a master plate with the values completed, which is possible but highly improbable. After this argument with ourselves we shall have to go back to the theory that the two states of the 5c. duty plate were due to wear.

Both the duty plates and the landscape plate or plates for the 2c. and 10c. seem to be free of retouches or fresh entries. On the 15c. stamp No. 25 there is what appears to be a fresh entry in the S.W. corner consisting of a marked doubling of the figures 15. This was no doubt caused by a shift in the process of pantographing, and is therefore, in the nature of a "shift" and not a fresh entry.

A word about the format of the sheets. In the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* (March 5th, 1921) the late A. D. Ferguson stated that the sheets of the 2c. and 10c. were printed in sheets of 60 in six rows of 10 stamps while in the *London Philatelist* (September 1944) the same writer states that the 1c., 5c. and 15c. were printed in sheets of 60 in 5 rows of 12 stamps and the 2c. and 10c. in sheets of 60 in 10 rows of 6 stamps. In point of fact the 1c., 5c. and 15c. were printed in sheets of 60 in 10 rows of 6 stamps and the 2c. and 10c. in five rows of 12 stamps. It is erroneously stated that the watermark Crown CC is upright on the 1c., 5c. and 15c. and sideways on the 2c. and 10c. In point of fact the reverse is the case.

We hope to deal with the TWO CENT surcharges in a continuation of these notes.

BRITISH GUIANA Stamp Lover Oct.-Nov. 1949

The Surcharges on
A Jubilee Issue of Fifty Years Ago
BRITISH GUIANA: THE 1899 PROVISIONALS

By J.A.Y.

WHEN Imperial Penny Post came into operation on 1st January, 1890, there were large stocks of the 5c., 10c. and 15c. stamps of the Jubilee issue on hand and the cheaper rate of postage created a falling off in the sale of the 10c. and 15c. values. According to the late A. D. Ferguson, there were in stock 96,000 of the 10c. and 124,680 of the 15c., and these were overprinted TWO CENTS and issued on 15th February.

We learn that on 28th February the Postmaster-General intimated that he had in stock 39,656 10c. and 12,345 15c. stamps issued to him previous to the overprinting. Of this remainder the Governor sanctioned the overprinting of 30,000 10c. and 6000 15c. stamps and also instructed that a stock of 5c. stamps totalling 207,900 should be dealt with in a similar manner. These were in due course overprinted and issued on 15th June.

It will thus be seen that there were two printings of the 2c. on 10c. and 2c. on 15c. and only one of the 2c. on 5c. stamps, and it is our intention to prove that the second printings were either from corrected settings or entirely new settings of the overprints. No serious study of these overprints has been put on record and, except for a dozen varieties of the 2c. on 15c. listed by Ferguson, no information is available that would help the specialist to identify the sheet position of the many type varieties that occur. Ferguson stated that in subsequent printings the errors were *believed* to have been corrected and so also were the minor varieties.

There is in our opinion some evidence that the so-called corrected settings were nothing more nor less than entirely new settings, in particular the 2c. on 10c., in which there are so many variations between the two printings as to be almost certain that they were from different settings.

We propose to deal first with the 2c. on 10c., of which we have the most material, and to give a list of the type variations on the first and second settings:

TWO CENTS ON 10c., FIRST SETTING
(in five horizontal rows of twelve)

No. 3. T of CENTS is thick and slightly shortened.
No. 4. Left arm of T of TWO is partially broken where it meets upright stroke.
No. 6. N of CENTS is misshapen at right, the right limb being much shorter.
No. 9. Right limb of N of CENTS is thin towards top.
No. 24. Top of T of TWO is short, especially at right; T of CENTS is small and short.
No. 38. Bottom line of E of CENTS is shaved off diagonally upwards at extreme right and the middle stroke is defective at top left.
No. 40. Bottom curve of S is thin.
No. 47. T of TWO raised.
No. 50. T of TWO thin and top bar is wider.
No. 53. No stop after CENTS.
No. 55. GENTS for CENTS.

(cont. under) 1/2

[No. 53 (no stop) may be identified against No. 2 (no stop) of the second setting by the letter C of CENTS, which is thin, and the E, which has the horizontal strokes much longer than the normal E.]

TWO CENTS ON 10c., SECOND SETTING
(in five horizontal rows of twelve)

No. 2. T of TWO slightly raised; C of CENTS raised.
No. 3. T of CENTS has narrow top and very thick upright stroke and is slightly raised.
No. 6. N of CENTS similar to No. 6 of the first setting but T of TWO is short; stop is slightly low.
No. 7. Top and bottom strokes of E of CENTS are short while the middle stroke is longer; T of CENTS is slightly low and short at top right.
No. 14. W of TWO is blunted at bottom left.
No. 17. T of TWO is thinner and not so squarely cut as the normal T.
No. 20. T of TWO thick.
No. 21. No stop after CENTS. [May be identified against No. 53 (no stop) of the first setting by the letter T of TWO, the upright stroke of which is slightly indented at to[p] where it joins the cross bar.]
No. 23. T of TWO narrow and slightly raised; E thick a[nd] narrow.
No. 26. Lower tip of T of TWO is slightly pointed and top bar is defective to right of upright stroke; first V of W of TWO is blunted at bottom.
No. 32. T of TWO slightly short and E of CENTS is pointed at right tip of bottom stroke.
No. 38. Bottom of T and W of TWO defective and T of TWO is shortened.
No. 42. Top of first stroke of W of TWO is defective.
No. 44. Top of left stroke of W of TWO is shortened and first V is pointed at base.
No. 50. Very small stop after CENTS.
No. 54. E of CENTS slightly defective at N.W. corner.
No. 56. T of TWO raised and has long top bar.
No. 60. T of TWO small.

It will be seen from the above lists of descriptions of type that no less than twenty-seven stamps can be readily identified, and it should be stressed that there are many more variations of a minor nature by which one could identify units in each setting. The peculiar N of CENTS on No. 6 is almost identical in both settings, but other differences lead us to believe that they are not the same letters reset. Many stamps can be identified by the spacing of the type, which varies considerably in each setting.

TWO CENTS ON 15c.
(in ten horizontal rows of six)

Although we have a number of sheets and part sheets of this stamp we have not been able to prove that there were two settings. At the same time we suspect that the "no stop" variety on No. 50 was corrected and that the faulty letters TW of TWO were corrected on No. 56. The raised spacing leads on Nos. 25 and 26 were corrected and stamp No. 44 showing defects to TW of TWO is known with these letters no longer defective.

On the evidence before us it may be taken for granted

that there were two printings of this stamp. There is no evidence that there were two settings of the overprint, but the few variations mentioned above are sufficient proof of a corrected setting, which more than likely was used for the second printing of 6000 only. Unfortunately we are unable to compare units Nos. 1—3, 7—9, 50, 51, 56 and 57 as a sheet that we are convinced is from a corrected setting lacks these numbers.

Except on Nos. 25, 26 and 44 (and on the unproved Nos. 3, 50 and 56), the varieties of type listed below are common to both the original and corrected settings:

No. 3. T of CENTS is rounded at bottom.
No. 6. N of CENTS is thick at bottom right and T of TWO and S of CENTS are slightly raised.
No. 14. First V of W of TWO is shorn off at bottom left and is sharply pointed.
No. 17. Right upright stroke of N of CENTS is thin and slightly shorter at top.
No. 19. First stroke of N of CENTS is pointed at bottom.
No. 20. Top of T of TWO is misshapen at right; base of first V of W of TWO is pointed; top bar of E of CENTS is slightly shortened.
No. 23. T of TWO raised; E of CENTS is small and narrow.
No. 25. Λ of W of TWO is slightly defective at top right. In an early state there is a "lead" mark between T and S of CENTS.
No. 26. Upright stroke of T of TWO is thin towards bottom and base of first V of W of TWO is very pointed. In an early state there is a full "lead" mark between the O and C of TWO CENTS, appearing like a letter I.
No. 28. Top bar of T of CENTS is misshapen at top left.
No. 30. S and stop wider spaced.
No. 32. T of TWO tapers towards bottom; O of TWO is thick; base of E of CENTS is pointed at top right tip.
No. 44. T of TWO is slightly thinned at bottom right and first V of W of TWO is shaved off at bottom left.
No. 49. Base of second V of W of TWO is thick and shortened.
No. 50. No stop after CENTS; first V of W of TWO is short at base.
No. 56. T of TWO thin; first V of W has pointed base.

TWO CENTS ON 5c.
(in ten horizontal rows of six)

It has been established that the "no stop" after CENTS variety occurred on No. 53 and the CINTS error on No. 19 in the original setting. These two major varieties were corrected and we have whole sheets showing that these units were reset. For lack of material of the original setting, we are unable to check other variations that may occur, but those that have been compared against the corrected setting appear to be identical, and it may well be that only units 19 and 53 were reset. Our examination of the corrected setting shows many variations in the way of defective type, and a list of the more obvious is given below:

No. 2. Foot of first V of W broken (similar to No. 56).
No. 8. T of TWO short and thins towards bottom; first V of W is slightly indented towards bottom and is pointed at base.
No. 9. Small stop after CENTS (on some prints almost entirely absent and sometimes offered as the "no stop" variety).
No. 11. T of TWO raised.
No. 14. T of TWO and C of CENTS slightly raised.
No. 15. T of CENTS short and raised.
No. 18. T of TWO short; E of CENTS narrow; N is thick and blunt at right.
No. 19. E of CENTS is misshapen and bottom stroke tilts up; T of CENTS is short at top right (wrong fount); right end of T of CENTS is shortened.
No. 25. Tip of Λ of W of TWO is not straight and second V of W is shorn at base.
No. 26. T of TWO leans to left; foot of first V of W is broken.
No. 30. Neck of lower curve of S of CENTS is thin.
No. 32. T of TWO slightly short and bottom stroke of E of CENTS is shorn diagonally at right.
No. 38. Comma for stop after CENTS.
No. 44. T of TWO slightly raised.
No. 54. T of CENTS slightly short.
No. 56. Foot of first V of W is broken (similar to No. 2).

THE INVERTED AND DOUBLE OVERPRINTS

The late A. D. Ferguson gave the numbers issued as follows:

2c. on 10c. with TWO CENTS inverted	-	12 sheets of	60
2c. on 15c. „ „ „ „	-	1 sheet of	60
2c. on 15c. „ „ „ double	-	1 sheet of	60

He further states that of the double overprints four rows of twelve only were double and that one row of twelve had the normal overprint. This is obviously an error as the sheets were in ten horizontal rows of six. He goes on to state that twenty-three copies of the double overprint plus four copies with normal overprint *se-tenant* were recovered and destroyed on 28th August, 1899, and of the other errors three hundred were withheld and destroyed on 19th September, 1899. It is surmised that these last were five sheets of the 2c. on 10c.

We have examined four examples of the double overprinted stamps (two singles and a pair), and we were able to prove their plate positions as Nos. 19 and 25 and the pair (a vertical one) as Nos. 49 and 55. We were also able to identify the overprints and thus prove their genuineness. Stamp No. 19 bears the overprints of Nos. 20 and 19, and stamp No. 25 the overprints of Nos. 26 and 25, and the pair Nos. 49 and 55 the overprints of Nos. 50 and 49 and 56 and 55. It will be seen that by proving the sheet position of the stamps and the setting position of the overprints that the first overprint was applied too far to left, leaving the last vertical row without overprint. The second overprint was applied correctly, so that the first stamp on the sheet would show the overprint of Nos. 2 and 1 of the setting and so on to the last of the doubles, No. 59, which would show overprints of Nos. 60 and 59 of the 60 setting.

No example is known to us of any stamp from the first vertical row with margin attached showing the overprint in margin, neither have we any knowledge of a pair from the fifth and sixth vertical rows showing double and normal overprints *se-tenant*. According to records, six of the latter should exist.

It is interesting to relate that in the case of one example of these doubles stamp No. 25 was shown to an expert, who promptly pronounced it to be a forgery because of the variation of the two overprints, proving once again that a little knowledge is dangerous.

There is no doubt whatever that only thirty-three copies of the doubly overprinted sheet survived, of which six were normal, and probably exist *se-tenant* with the double, of which there were only twenty-seven. Truly a great rarity and a cheap stamp at the S.G. price of £15. The same variety with the "no stop" error, of which only one example exists, would also be a desirable item for the S.G. price of £80. The 2c. on 15c. with inverted overprint, of which one sheet of sixty was printed, is listed at £25, nearly twice the price of the double overprint.

UNLISTED ERRORS

We are of the opinion that the "no stop" variety on No. 21 of the second setting of the 2c. on 10c. and the CINTS error on No. 19 of the original setting of the 2c. on 5c. are worthy of catalogue rank. The "no stop" variety on No. 21 of the second setting of the 2c. on 10c. is far rarer than the same variety on No. 53 of the first setting but should not command a higher price unless in a block showing its sheet position.

BRITISH GUIANA

THE PHILATELIST, Oct. 1962.

British Guiana Accountancy Marks

By W. A. TOWNSEND

In the April 1960 issue of "The Philatelist" I wrote regarding the meagre information had of the very interesting accountancy marks of British Guiana.

Since then I have acquired further material and can amplify my previous article.

In my collection there are two types of the 1d. "A03". One has a vertical "1" measuring 31 mm. in length whereas the other has a sloping "1" measuring 13 mm. in length. Both are on the 2 cents value. From my plating study I find that the former is on the fourth setting in use 1872-76, and the latter on the third setting in use 1867 to 1874.

In the 1½d. "A03" I have two different types. In one the base of the "2" is level with the base of the "A" and in the other it is much lower. Both are on the 6 cents value. The former is on a cover dated DE 8 75 and the latter is on a stamp from the fourth setting in use around 1876, and also I have it on a cover posted DE 22 76.

The "PA4ID" cancellation is of two types. In one word the "PA1D" forms a rather flat curve and the "4" is thick. In the other the letters are irregular but fairly level and the "4" is thin. The former is on a cover dated AU 7 1874 and also I have it on a piece dated AP 7 1873. The latter type is on a 6c. stamp from the fourth setting in use around 1876.

The 5d., always as far as I know found on the 12 cents value, is fairly common on stamps but extremely scarce on cover. I have now acquired one and it is dated No 27 61. I have seven other examples on stamps all from the first printing — thick paper perf. 12.

Tabulated Details

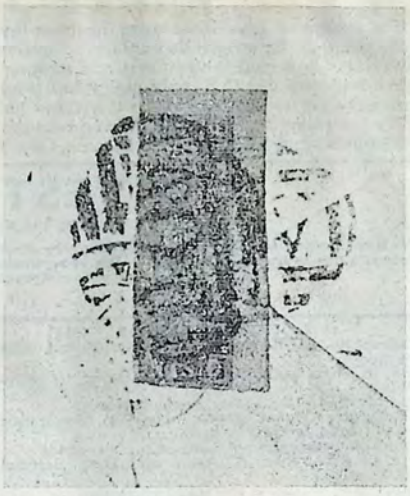
1d.	1872 — 1876.	1867 — 1874.	
1½d.	DE 8 1875 (cover).	Circa 1876.	DE 22 1876 (cover).
4d.	AU 7 1874 (cover).	AP 7 1873 (piece).	Circa 1876.
6d.	No 27 1861 (cover).	Seven examples circa 1861 — 1862.	

From this my deduction is that the 5d. had a very short life around 1861 - 1862 and that the other three values were in use for a short period around 1873 - 1876 and probably until British Guiana joined the U.P.U. in 1877.

Details of any other examples would be very welcome.

STAMP COLLECTING, Dec. 10, 1965

A British Guiana Discovery



The normal British Guiana 1866 4c. is known bisected and used for the 2c. local rate and, as such, is catalogued and priced by Stanley Gibbons. The 6c., 24c. and 48c. are also known imperforate and have always been classed as proofs.

It was, therefore, of great interest when Mrs. Kathleen Willis, of Aldershot, found among a batch of covers an *imperforate* 4c. bisected and used on a local cover sent in 1866 to H. H. Campbell, Georgetown, Demerara. This was submitted to the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and was passed as genuine.

The cover, which may well be unique, is now owned by Mr. G. V. Base, of the Camberley Stamp Centre.

GIBBONS' STAMP MONTHLY, Dec. 1967

British Guiana " Clubbed Foot "

This variety on the 3 c. (S.G. 333) reported in the August *G.S.M.* has been identified as coming from Row 4, Stamp 1. It also exists in the same position on Guyana 380 (the Independence overprint).

On the same two stamps there is another equally interesting variety on Row 3, Stamp 10. It is in the form of a large irregular-shaped dark patch on the Victoria Regia Lily leaf at top left (*see illustration*).



BRITISH GUIANA

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, Dec. 9, 1949

THE

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

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

Established at Bath in 1875

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

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VOL. 57. No. 25 (WHOLE NUMBER 898) DECEMBER 9, 1949 POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION 10/- FOR 26 NUMBERS

THE GRIM LEGEND OF KAIETEUR

By
RONALD WARD

Niagara, Victoria, Kaieteur are names any stamp collector will recognise as those of some of the world's mightiest waterfalls. Kaieteur Falls are illustrated on the stamps of British Guiana, but no picture can truly convey the grandeur of this foam-white cataract.

IN April, 1949, a surprise issue of the low values of British Guiana stamps showed a change in the perforations. This included the 2c. value which has a view of the Kaieteur Falls, known throughout the world by medium of the stamps depicting them, although the Falls were first depicted on stamps included in the Jubilee issue for Her Majesty Queen Victoria in 1898.

There is usually a very good reason why a view is included in a stamp design. The excuse is either geographical, historical or purely commemorative and in the case of the Kaieteur Falls design it falls within the scope of all three.

The Kaieteur Falls are on the River Potaro, which rises in the Pakaraima Mountains, almost the boundary between British Guiana, Venezuela and Brazil. The Falls are in the heart of the country, but whereas a visit by land from



Georgetown usually takes a matter of seven days inclusive, most visitors make the trip by air whence the visit can be cut down to two or three hours, or a longer stay according to the time the plane leaves Georgetown, as the Falls can be reached in two hours' flying time. The planes used (for any intending visitors) are four-seater biplanes which land on the Potaro River, and take-off on the return flight over the brink of the Falls.

Over The Falls by Canoe

The historical or legendary facts regarding the Falls are that an old Amerindian Chieftain saw the famous flight of Kaieteur swifts which make their home in the under shelves of rock behind the curtain of water. He took these birds to be the sign he sought that he should offer himself, for the good of his tribe, as a sacrifice to Makonaima, the Great Spirit. This he did by canoeing himself over the Fall, and, to this day his craft, turned to stone, may be seen at the foot of Kaieteur whenever a drought has reduced the Fall to a mere trickle.

The meaning of "a mere trickle" can be judged from the width, which is 300 feet, and the waters have a sheer drop of 741 feet. The width is small compared with the Victoria Falls of over one mile, but its height is nearly five times that of Niagara.

To see Kaieteur in full flood is an unforgettable experience; it is the crowning spectacle of a tour through the Caribbean. One visitor, who had seen most of the world's natural



wonders, said in a lecture to British Guiana's Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society that it was "awe-inspiring, sublime, terrifying in its grandeur . . . One is filled with quaking unreasonable dread, and yet is fascinated, as by some gigantic

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ORIGINAL STAMP STUDIES ALWAYS WANTED.—The "Philatelic Magazine" needs more stamp studies than other journals because it prints more of them, and aims to cater for the student, not the speculator. We prefer studies that can be illustrated, and we provide the illustrations. We cannot express an opinion as to the suitability of anything until it has been submitted.

savage beast of magnificent form and perfect grace.

"Perhaps the greatest attraction of Kaieteur is that it is never twice the same. Every moment it changes; with every breath of wind, with each variation of light, with every passing cloud it assumes a different aspect, and to reproduce these in photographs is impossible. And then there is the colouring, for Kaieteur is no foam-white cataract, but plunges over the verge of conglomerate in a mass of golden brown and amber which changes to cream and pink and saffron as it falls while the rising vapours veil it in clouds of prismatic hues, or bar it with a glorious rainbow."



"Awe-inspiring . . . terrifying in its grandeur" is a visitor's description of British Guiana's Kaieteur Falls.

As the description given above is quoted in guide books to British Guiana there is no doubt at all what a tremendous influence the sight of the Fall and thunder of the water would mean to the natives. The Chieftain who inspired the legend, and his ancestors, would have held the Fall in veneration for countless centuries.



The Falls come into the commemorative category by reason of their inclusion in the 1898 Jubilee issue to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the accession of Queen Victoria to the Throne, which event took place in 1897, the stamps being dated accordingly. A view of the Falls with quite an appreciable foreground was depicted on the 2c. brown and indigo and 10c. blue-black and orange-red.

In 1899, three values of the 1898 series were surcharged in black "Two Cents" including the 10c. value, view of the Falls. Varieties exist in this issue and the 10 cents is concerned with :—

(*a*) No stop after "Cents." No. 53 on sheet.

(*b*) "Gents" for "Cents." No. 55 on sheet.

(*c*) Surcharge inverted.

The Falls did not appear philatelically again until 21st July, 1931, when five stamps recess printed by Waterlow and Sons Ltd. were issued to commemorate the Centenary of County Union. A closer view of the Falls than on the 1898 issue was incorporated in the design for the 4c. carmine and 1 dollar violet. At the top of the stamp within the frame are the dates 1831–1931, a medallion type portrait of King George V in the centre with British Guiana in scrolls at each side.

In 1934, a further pictorial series was issued and the 2c. value was as the 4c. of the 1931 issue with the dates removed. There was also a 50c. green, in the same design.

The first George VI definitives included a 2c. value again depicting the Falls, the design being almost identical with the exception of the head, but photographic enlargements of the issues of the two reigns show minor differences in the shading of the Falls and background. The 2c. value was issued on 1st February, 1938, and on 7th March, 1938, an additional value to the series, 36 cents, appeared in the Falls design.

It is interesting here to note that the British Guiana Post Office Guide lists the two stamps concerned as follows :—

2 cents Heliotrope-Grey, Kaieteur Fall (1st Design).

36 cents Violet, Kaieteur Falls (2nd Design).

The respective stamps in Gibbons' Catalogue are given as Slate-Violet and Bright Violet.

As mentioned earlier on the 2 cents value was among the perforations changed, and on 28th April, 1949, this stamp was released in perforation 13 × 14 as against the original issue of 12½.

As perforations of modern stamps are constantly changing it is not without possibility that the current stamps included in these notes will be again in the news before long.

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THE ANNUAL

". . . 'Stamp Collectors' Annual' which I consider one of the most interesting and certainly the most useful philatelic publication of the year. May I have three more copies which I want to send to friends in U.S.A. as Christmas gifts."

J. Digby Firth (Leeds).

"It is up to its usual high standard and ought to be in the hands of everyone interested in philately."

Robert S. McMinn (Devizes).

DEFECTIVE PERF. CAUSES SHORTAGE OF IFNI U.P.U.s

WHAT are the scarcest U.P.U. stamps? Writing from Madrid, Mr. Carlos Lenze considers that the Ifni set may well qualify for this distinction.

The official printing of these stamps was 35,000, but owing to defective perforation, the 50 centimos value had two vertical rows which made them unsuitable for collectors. When separating the stamps, the corner perforations produced a bad break. Only the other 45 stamps in each sheet were without this defect. This gives a total of 21,000 sets in good condition, which compares favourably with the numbers issued for Syria.

The 50c. of the Spanish U.P.U. set (the same as overprinted for Ifni) also had this perforation defect. A million of this stamp was printed and distributed over 50 provinces and the value was sold out within a few days.

STAMP COLLECTING, June 20, 1942.

Commemorative Stamps of the Empire V. BRITISH GUIANA

LIKE most of the commemorative stamp issues planned in celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, that for *British Guiana* did not materialise for some time after the anniversary date; in fact, the special stamps were not put on sale until the middle of July, 1898. By coincidence, the issue coincided with another notable anniversary in the history of the Colony, *i.e.*, the bi-centenary of Sir Walter Raleigh's voyage up the Orinoco in search of "El Dorado."

The commemorative stamps, which bore the date "1897," were five in number, recess printed by Thos. De La Rue & Co., Ltd., of Bunhill Row, London, E.C., in two pictorial designs, the first consisting of a panoramic view of Mount Roriama (7,500 ft.), which forms a natural boundary between British Guiana, Brazil and Venezuela, and the second, one of the





famous Kaieteur, or Old Man, Falls of the Potaro River. These figure upon alternate values of the series and are both taken from drawings made by the celebrated traveller, Barrington Brown, now in the collection at the Georgetown Museum.

Sheets comprised sixty stamps, disposed in ten rows of six as to the 1c., 5c. and 15c. denominations, and six rows of ten for those of 2c. and 10c.

Subsequently the vignette plate of Mt. Roriama became damaged and was discarded in favour of a new one, made from a retouched die whereon the outline of the mountain was greatly strengthened, and the whole effect bolder and more distinct. This was used, however, solely for a second printing of the 1 cent stamp, taken into use *circa* June, 1899, and is approximately twice as scarce as the original.

The 15 cents is known with the paper slightly blued.

The total numbers sold of the Diamond Junilee stamps in their pristine form were as follows: 1 cent, 757,560; 2 cents, 884,040; 5 cents, 99,000; 10 cents, 27,000; 15 cents, 24,000.

There being little demand for either the 10 cent or the 15 cent stamps, a considerable surplus remained on hand at the end of the year. Accordingly it was decided to reduce these by overprinting to the face value of "Two Cents," equivalent to the newly adopted Imperial Penny Postage rate, and on February 3rd, 1899, 96,000 copies of the 10 cents and 124,680 of the 15 cents appeared with this surcharge applied in the Government Press at Georgetown, B.G. A further 30,000 copies of the former and 6,000 of the latter were surcharged on March 14th following, whilst on May 30th a balance of 207,900 copies of the 5 cents was also reduced to the same denomination.

Apart from ".broken letters," two major varieties occurred in the overprinting, one sheet each of the 10 and 15 cents receiving the overprint *inverted*, and another of the 15 cents a double impression of the words "Two Cents." Of the last named some twenty copies were recovered from the purchaser and officially destroyed, leaving no more than thirty to forty available to philatelists. In these circumstances the present catalogue valuation of this error seems to err on the side of modesty.

On the fifty-third stamp in each sheet of all values the full-point after "Cents" is normally very faintly impressed and in some cases appears to be missing, although there is usually some slight trace of it. A variety "G" for "C" in CENTS occurring on the fifty-fifth stamp of the sheet is confined to the first printing of the "Two Cents" on 10 cents surcharge.

The Centenary of the Union of the three provinces of Essequibo, Berbice and Demerara constituting the present Crown Colony of British Guiana was the occasion of another philatelic commemoration on July 21st, 1931, when a set of five stamps engraved and recess printed with pictorial representations of characteristic scenes and subjects by Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., of London Wall, E.C., was placed in circulation. Sheets were composed of 120 stamps, with the engraver's imprint at the foot. A single printing only was made of each denomination and was limited to the following quantities, viz.: 1 cent, 420,000; 2 cents, 5,000,000; 4 cents, 600,000; 6 cents, 240,000; $1, 24,000. This supply remained on sale until exhausted and there were no remainders.

Corresponding denominations of the regular postage stamps were temporarily withdrawn from sale during the currency of the "Centenary" stamps.

BRITISH GUIANA

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, June 29, 1962.



JUNGLES AND MOUNTAINS OF BRITISH GUIANA

By

Eric Glasgow, M.A.

THE stamps of British Guiana are remarkable for the fact that the first issue, that of 1850, includes one of the rarest, and most celebrated stamps in the world. That of course, is beyond the reach of all of us, but many of the subsequent issues, especially the later pictorials, are brilliant in their designs, and by no means expensive to acquire. British Guiana stamps are abundant enough to be collected as a separate unit; or, alternatively, it may be grouped with the British West Indies, and especially with the British Colony of



Trinidad and Tobago in the sea at the other side of the estuary of the River Orinoco.

British Guiana is still relatively backward, and it is not often that it attracts notice, whether from stamp collectors or the national press. It is a large territory, some 83,000 square miles in extent and with a total population of over half a million. The chief products are rice, sugar, timber, and gold, all of which are illustrated in the stamps. Politically, it is divided into the three counties of Demerara, Essequibo and Berbice, named after the three principal rivers. The interior is mostly jungle and mountainous country, rugged, undeveloped, and backward; but it includes some splendid scenery, notably the prospect of Mount Roraima, shown in the 1 cent value of the 1898 issue. This peak, over 9,000 feet in height, is close to the meeting place of the borders of British Guiana, Venezuela, and the Rio Branco province of Brazil.

Another celebrated scenic feature of British Guiana is the Kaieteur Falls, on the River Potara, a tributary of the Essequibo. These are majestic enough to rival the better known Victoria Falls, in Africa, and there are several different views of them amongst the stamps.

Economically, the most important part of British Guiana is, of course, the coastal plain, whose marshy nature, besides being conducive to rice-growing, also encourages the draining efforts, now and in the past, of engineers familiar with the dykes of Holland. Communications further inland are difficult, and much use is made of water transport, especially for carrying sugar-cane to the factories. The three rivers, Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice, are navigable by ocean vessels for up to a hundred miles from the coast.

The State controls two railway lines: one from Georgetown to Rosignol, on the opposite bank of the Berbice river from New Amsterdam, the other, which is much shorter, from Georgetown to Parika, on the estuary of the Essequibo. British Guiana has, also, some 300 miles of roads, mostly along the coast, but also extending for some distance inland, up the Essequibo valley.

The capital of British Guiana is Georgetown, on the estuary of the Demerara river. It is, also, an important port, with over 70,000 inhabitants, and a view of its impressive public buildings, and palm-fringed streets, appears in one of the stamps of the 1931 centenary set. In response to modern needs, there is an important airfield at Atkinson, 25 miles south of Georgetown.

The stamps illustrate some of the unique floral beauties of British Guiana, such as the huge "Victoria Regia" lilies, first imported into





England for the Duke of Devonshire's estate at Chatsworth, in the last century. There are also, views of the luxuriant Botanical Gardens in Georgetown, replete with examples of British Guiana's great wealth of rare and beautiful flowers and plants. This is, indeed, a veritable paradise for the exploring botanist.

A typical sample of its primitive native life is the view of the "Indian shooting fish," which forms the design of one stamp of the 1931 centenary set. This particular stamp has for long been a firm favourite, partly because it is so symbolic of British Guiana's geographical basis.

With its mysterious, largely untraversed interior, mostly dense forests and steep mountains, with the interspersing river as often the only

(Continued under)

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, June 29, 1962.

practicable means of communication —as in a large part of the Amazon Basin, further south—British Guiana provides an unusual and highly interesting field for the collector of postmarks. The commonest cancellations will, of course, be those of Georgetown, New Amsterdam, and other sizeable places within the accessible deltan fringe, along the coast. But more remote post offices should be obtainable after a little search, such as those in the middle Essequibo basin; and some of these operate in circumstances of romantic and uncouth isolation, excellent examples of the function of the postal system in promoting the slow spread of civilisation.

According to the latest available figures for 1959, there are some 135 post offices and agencies throughout British Guiana. That is fair game,



even allowing for the many uncontactable ones, and "cover" material would be a welcome addition to any collection.

British Guiana has had a long and eventful history. In early times, the term "Guiana" was used with reference to a large part of the northern coast of South America, from the estuary of the Orinoco to that of the Amazon. This was sighted by Christpher Columbus in 1498; but it was colonised by neither the Spaniards nor the Portuguese, so it remained a semi-legendary country, behind whose coastline was the mysterious "El Dorado," or land of gold. There was gold there, since it has been produced, in diminishing quantities, in the Essequibo valley of British Guiana since 1880; but in nothing like the quantity which tradition suggested in the 16th century.

It was the lure of this gold which brought Sir Walter Raleigh on his famous and fatal last expedition to Guiana, in 1617–18, after which King James I had him executed, because he had found no gold and had molested the Spaniards. A portrait of Sir Walter Raleigh and his son is shown in one of the stamps of the 1934 pictorial set for British Guiana.

The English made many abortive ttempts to settle on the coast of iana, during the 17th century. chief difficulty, apart from rivalry of the more congenial sugar-islands of the West Indies, was the presence of the Dutch who, by 1665, controlled most of the coast of Western Guiana, and had flourishing sugar plantations on the plains of the Essequibo and Berbice rivers. The Dutch position was, thus, predominant in what is now British Guiana, and there is still a very strong Dutch influence there, most externally obvious in such place-names as New Amsterdam, for instance. It was the Dutch too, who, during the 18th century made the labyrinth of dykes and canals, which still exist; this was primarily intended for the production of sugar.

The British first became a controlling factor in Western Guiana in 1781, when the Dutch settlements there were temporarily occupied by the British, during the War of American Independence. The settlements were, however, restored to Holland by the Treaty of Paris in 1783. But during the Napoleonic Wars, they again suffered British occupation, and at the end of that contest in 1815, the three provinces of Essequibo, Demerara, and Berbice were purchased from Holland by Great Britain, the Dutch being left with the territory of Surinam, or Dutch Guiana, the immediate hinterland of the port of Paramaribo.

Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice were united into the Colony of British Guiana in 1831, and its frontiers subsequently fixed by negotiation with both Venezuela, Brazil, and Surinam. Its economic development, since that date, has been somewhat chequered, for it suffered badly from the abolition of slavery in 1833, especially in relation to sugar production. Although its potentialities are high, British Guiana is still in a relatively elementary stage of economic progress. Its constitutional development too, has been retarded by illiteracy and backwardness; only since 1953, when the Radical Progressive Party of Cheddi Jagan secured power, has there been a portentous movement for complete independence for British Guiana.

Fortunately, however, the acute political and economic problems of



British Guiana are no concern of stamp collectors, who have available a lavish range of attractive pictorial stamps, illustrating all the most interesting features of British Guiana's past and present. The subjects range from the modern G.P.O. at Georgetown to Sir Walter Raleigh, from gold mining to the Kaieteur Falls. Truly, therefore, here is a very fruitful field for the designs collector. The postal historian, too, can find much recondite material, in the form of pre-stamp covers, etc., for the first half of the 19th century, leading up to the classic "Cotton Reel" issue, of 1850. In addition, there is abundant scope in British Guiana for postmark enthusiasts.

It cannot be claimed that British Guiana has been a very neglected subject. Some noteworthy specialised collections of it have, in fact, been formed. But, with all its varied aspects, it does deserve to appeal to a wider range of collectors than is the case at present; it should not be the exclusive preserve of the philatelic expert.

(Continued under)

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, Sept. 29, 1950.

TOURING AROUND THE EMPIRE

THE LAND OF THE GOLDEN CITY

BRITISH GUIANA

Land of romance, cataracts and great waterfalls. The old adventurers believed that the fabulous city of Eldorado was hidden among huge forests of this strange colony. One of the kinds of trees that abound is the Bulletwood tree which produces a rubber from which golf balls are made!

FOR the philatelist, the colony of British Guiana stands alone in several respects. Firstly, it is impossible for more than one man in the world to make a complete collection of its issues, as there is only one known example of the one cent black on magenta of 1856 (and I doubt if even its anonymous American owner could produce a complete muster of certain other rarities). Secondly, it issued one of the earliest pictorials—the 1852 issue showing a full-rigged ship standing out to sea with the coast in the background. Thirdly, there can be few other countries which have restricted themselves almost entirely to a single theme on their stamps as has British Guiana.

The famous Badge of the Colony design has been in use from 1852 until 1931, broken only by the emergency issues of 1862 and 1882 and the Jubilee Pictorials of 1898.

To our ancestors, this strip of coast lying between Venezuela and Brazil was a land of alluring romance. Somewhere, they believed, hidden in its fastnesses lay the fabulous city of Eldorado, the Golden One, where even the commonest household utensils were made of the precious metal. Many were the expeditions that set off and disappeared from all human knowledge amid the vast shrouding forests of this strange land.

History shows us that there were once five Guianas, Spanish (now Venezuelan), Portuguese (now Brazilian), French, British and Dutch (now Surinam). The last three still remain as geographical units. The word Guiana is an Amerindian word meaning "the Land of Waters" and to-day the areas of British Guiana known as Rupununi, Mazaruni, Potaro, Cuyuni, Pomeroon and Corentyne take their names from the rivers that flow through them.

Most of these rivers abound with rapids, cataracts and great waterfalls (it is not generally known that Kaieteur Falls, shown on the 1898 issue and on several stamps since, are 822 feet in height; nearly twice as high as the Victoria Falls and five times as high as Niagara). It can thus be understood that navigation presents many problems, and its difficulty was one of the reasons why long years passed before the interior could be opened up to trade.



Amatuk Falls, Potaro River, British Guiana.

Spaniards traced the coastline in 1499 and 1500 but the first record of English exploration was in 1604 when Captain Charles Leigh attempted a settlement on the O'apock River in what is now French Guiana. The Dutch were also active however, and they captured an English settlement in Surinam in 1650. What is now known as British Guiana did not pass finally into our hands until 1814 but as long ago as 1745 colonists from the West Indian islands had settled along the Demerara River.

We can obtain little idea of this area of some 83,000 square miles unless we remember that 86 per cent. of it is covered by forests containing hundreds of different species of trees. Most important to the Colony's trade are Greenheart, a hard heavy durable timber used for construction and sea defences, Wallaba, a durable resinous wood used for roofing, telephone poles, etc., Mora, a hard dark brown



timber used locally for boat building and railway sleepers, Crabwood, a mahogany coloured wood for furniture and cabinet making, and Purpleheart, useful for flooring and ornamental work.

Balata should not be forgotten however. This is a kind of rubber from the Bulletwood tree used for making golf balls!

Much of this timber is brought down from the interior by allowing the swift flowing rivers to carry it to the coast. Occasionally, however, log-jams occur and it is necessary to free the passage. This dangerous work is clearly depicted on the 60c. of the current issue.

Sugar is the most important of the Colony's resources together with the export of rum and molasses, while mining products come second. Bauxite, gold and diamonds are all produced, bauxite at Kwakwani, Berbice, gold at Cuyuni and diamonds on the Ireng River. Gold and diamonds are found in many other places also, mostly along the rivers and many small prospectors are

BRITISH GUIANA.

STAMP COLLECTING. Oct. 30, 1953

BRITISH GUIANA—

"LAND OF THE WATERS"

By RONALD WARD



READERS of the national press at the beginning of October, 1953 would be able to read in every paper of the unrest in the Colony on the South American mainland—British Guiana. To philatelists it is known for one of the rarest stamps in the world, and has figured also in many journals during the past few months in connection with the numerous cancellations which make an absorbing study in themselves—obliterators AO3, etc., double and single ring date stamps, travelling post offices, postal agencies and slogan types. It is my hope that the following will give a background to the colony with appropriate stamps noted.







Lying between the mouths of the Amazon and the Orinoco, on the north-eastern coast of South America are three territories under the administration of European powers — British Guiana, Netherlands Guiana (Surinam) and French Guiana. Guiana is an Amerindian word meaning "Land of the Waters", and the economy of all these countries has been largely influenced by the rivers that water them. British Guiana, the northernmost territory is bordered by Venezuela to the north, Brazil to the west and south, and Netherlands Guiana to the east. (4c., 1938.) It is watered by three great rivers, the Essequibo, the Demerara and the Berbice, which have given their names to the surrounding districts. (Names incorporated on 1c. stamp of 1931.)

In Guiana there are three distinct natural areas. The first a strip of swampy alluvium stretching along the 270 mile seaboard, and some way up the main rivers, comprising only about 4.5 per cent. of the total area of the colony but containing 90 per cent. of the population. The colony's two main crops—sugar cane and rice—are grown in this area. (24c., 1934 and 1938; 1c., 1931, 1934 and 1938.)

The second natural area is the 85 per cent. of the whole and is afforested. (48c., 1934 and 1938). Only about one-fifth is at present really accessible. The third natural area is the grass-covered savannah country covering some 8,000 square miles. One such area is in the Berbice district and another is the Rupununi district. Ranching is now a growing industry.

Gold (3c., 1934), diamonds and bauxite have already been found in the interior; and more recently, manganese and columbite—an ore greatly in demand for the manufacture of jet engines.

The Amerindians (2c., 1931, 1934; 6c., 1938) are descended from the earliest known inhabitants of South America. There are nine tribes the best known being the Caribs and Arawaks, but these Amerindians have so little in common with the coastal population that special measures are necessary to integrate them into the life of the country as a whole.

Spanish sailors first began to trace the coastline of the country between the Amazon and the Orinoco towards the end of the 15th century. Then came other European explorers including Sir Walter Raleigh (96c., 1934). The Dutch were the first to effect permanent settlements on the river banks in what is now British Guiana. The settlements changed hands several times between the Dutch, French, Portuguese and the British, being finally ceded to Britain in 1814. Slaves imported by the Dutch and then the British were freed in 1838 and descendants of these Africans are now to be found in nearly every form of activity in the colony. Indians came into Guiana on a system of indenture, and later Chinese as labourers. Many stayed to enter business or the professions.

Continued ~~on page 221~~ under →







Land of the Waters—*continued from page 219*

The year 1831 saw the unification of the three settlements—Essequibo, Berbice and Demerara—into the Colony of British Guiana. This event was celebrated by the issue of a series of five values on July 21st, 1931.

Georgetown, the capital of British Guiana had been created a municipality with an elected council as early as 1837 and received city status in 1842. Views in Georgetown are shown on the 6c., 1931 ; 12c., 1934 ; $1, 1934 and 1938.

From 1852 to 1890 all issues depicted a fully rigged sailing ship, and this, based on the coat of arms, was again used from 1900 to 1923. The 1898 Jubilee caused the break in this design and then views were depicted of Mount Roraima and the Kaieteur Falls, different views later being used of these two 1934, 1945 and 1931, 1934 and 1938 respectively.

The Victoria Regia Lilies are included in 1934 and 1945. Waterfalls include the Kaieteur already mentioned, but there are many on Mount Roraima which very few white men have seen and have not been individually named. The " Shooting Logs over Falls " 6c., 1934 and 60c., 1938 are actually from a scene on the Cuyuni River.

THE UNPOPULAR 1862 BRITISH GUIANA

By Simon Goldblatt

IF awards were made for unpopularity of an issue, first prize within the B.W.I. might easily go to the 1862 provisional issue of British Guiana. Some of the listed varieties will probably be found not to have altered in catalogue price for 40 years or more!

A number of reasons can be suggested: the design is thoroughly crude; the stamps come in all shapes, sizes and conditions; in the case of the 4 cents value, at any rate, the details of the design are often extremely hard to discern against the dark blue paper; the stamps have been widely forged and catalogue values have consistently been discouragingly high. Finally, the catalogue listing is diffuse, complex, and rather formidable.

When one remembers that some of the rarest and costliest stamps in the world (including the costliest of all) came from the same country and for much the same reasons as inspired the 1862 issue, during the twelve preceding years, the unpopularity of the 1862 stamps is rather to be regretted. Here then is an attempt to re-establish the issue in esteem, and to be put forward a few reasons why it should be rather more eagerly sought and collected.

Necessary Provisional Issue

The issue was needed to meet an acute shortage in the colony, because stocks of the current low value stamps printed in London were found to be inseparably glued together, and the provisionals had to be improvised in a great hurry. The work was done at the offices of the local newspaper, the *Royal Gazette*, where the printer did what he could with the aid of his ordinary type-set letters, and a limited quantity of fancy decorative type.

It is almost impossible for the tyro to recognise these stamps from the catalogue illustrations, since these give him no real idea of what to expect. The dominant feature of the stamps themselves is the coloured paper on which they are printed. Also important is the handwritten inscription in the centre of the stamp. So where the six types illustrated in the catalogue stand out crisp and stark, what one sees in the flesh is a square (more or less!) of brightly-coloured paper, marked, in the case of the 4 cents, by a central ink inscription. Given a postmark also, as there very probably is, the fancy border and inscription are comparatively subdued.

The central inscription is itself interesting. The postal authorities at this era were greatly obsessed by the risk of forgery and poor Mr. Robert Mather, the acting Receiver-General of the colony, was given the task of inscribing his initials on the centre of every single stamp. So each genuine stamp bears, in a familiar hand, the initials "*R.M*", and beneath them the cipher "*Ac R.G.*". Imagine the task of writing these symbols 15,000 times. No wonder that a few remainder sheets still exist, intact, unrouletted, unissued and unsigned. These are of much reduced value for collecting purposes, no doubt, but for plating and analysis, they are invaluable relics.

Oddly enough, in the case of the 4 cents, the ink used and the surface colour of the paper inter-acted chemically, so that the writing simply came out white. What is written in the centre of these stamps, whether as to style of writing, content, or simple appearance, is an almost conclusive guide to the genuineness or otherwise of the basic stamp. I have yet to see a forgery with the handwritten part convincingly reproduced.

Catalogue classification

Turning from basic recognition, to catalogue classification, one may note from the main types and from the minor varieties, the separate listing of no fewer than 32 different stamps. If this is the expected task with which the intending collector is faced then, inevitably, the unenlightened are put off.

Really, the 1862 stamps are rather simpler than would be thought from this listing, and "catalogue-completeness" is far too ambitious for all but the collector with a bottomless purse.

There was one printing only of each value, comprising in each case of sheets of 24, set up in four rows of six. In the case of the 4 cents value, the setting was individual to that stamp. With the other two values the same type-setting was used for each, except, of course, that the value "ONE CENT" was replaced in the first setting by "TWO CENTS", or perhaps vice versa, because it is not quite certain which value was printed first. It is not clear what was the reason for setting up two lots of type, instead of either one or three. Perhaps it was a mere shortage of fancy type, since the diversity of ornamentation suggests that there was no great quantity of any particular ornament in stock.

Where the catalogue shows three different key types (with differing ornamental borders) applicable to each of the two settings, the explanation must surely be that there was not enough of any one, or any two, types of ornament to make up one entire setting of 24 stamps. Be that as it may, each of the three key types figure in each relevant sheet. The reference to "12 in sheet", "4 in sheet", and so on, is not, therefore, to successive settings and printings which become progressively more miniscule, right down to "2 in sheet". On the contrary, it means that "in each sheet of 24 stamps you will find 12 of this type, 8 of this type, and 4 of this type" or, in the case of the 4 cents stamp, "10 and 6 and 6 and 2".

In the case of the low values all rows, and in the case of the top value the first two rows, have internal dividing lines. Presumably the reason is as before: that the stock of lines ran out after setting up 36 stamps.

Intrinsically then, no particular stamp in the sheet of 24 is more significant than any other. As a collector, one can be just as proud of having stamp no. 7 from a 4 cents sheet in one's hands (which would be S.G.122, priced at £25) as of

(*Continued on page 781*)

★ **CHANNEL ISLANDS**
1895—Q.E.II
A collection mainly covers and postal history—**£700**

★ **MALTA**
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A collection—Accumulation Q.V to Q.E.II—**£850**

BRIDGER & KAY LTD.,
86 STRAND, LONDON WC2R 0EB
Telephone: 01-836 2316
Cable: BRIDKAY LONDON
Est. 1897



1 cent, type 12



2 cents, type 10



4 cents, type 15

The 1862 British Guiana (*continued from page 779*)

having no. 12 from the same sheet (S.G.125, priced at £140). Indeed, for reasons to be given, the former would probably look far more attractive than the latter. Equally, if one has a copy of S.G.118 or 119, the strong probability is that it will be one of the more highly-priced minor varieties. After all, there are only two stamps left to constitute the so-called uncomplicated stamp.

There is something to be said, obviously, for aspiring to acquire one stamp of each value in each key type, and even for aiming at the final type of the top value, with and without dividing lines. Most collectors will stop at that point; for if one goes on to distinguish the minor varieties, there is little reason for ambition to stop short of reconstructing a full sheet of each value. There are differences of type-setting by which the unlisted plate positions can be distinguished just as easily as those whose " rank and number " are already listed and described.

The rouletting

Attention may next be directed to rouletting. Optimistically, one finds this catalogue note: " Superb copies with roulettes on all sides are worth considerably more ". What has never, to my knowledge, been emphasised is that these sheets were ordinarily subjected to *internal* rouletting only, and that they were cut round the external margins with scissors and not even a guillotine. The result is that marginal copies almost certainly *cannot* be found with roulettes along the outer margin, and in many instances the margins as cut were less than generous: indeed the stamp design was frequently cut into, and that is how the stamps were issued. Hence, our stamp no. 12 above, being a marginal copy, is likely to be less attractive than no. 7 (one of the eight internal stamps in each sheet), whilst a corner stamp may actually be unrouletted and cut into along two sides, and still be a fine example of its kind.

The rouletting itself was done with no great accuracy, with the inevitable result that some stamps are wide, some stamps are narrow, some are tall, and some are squat. Given that the paper is not strong, is prone to rub, or tear or thin, and given the unpredictable register of the rouletting, the chances of finding " superb (square, undamaged) copies with roulettes on all sides " are minimal in eight of the sheet positions, and non-existent in the other 16 positions.

Something over 200 sheets of each value are said to have been printed. Being an early stamp, issued for genuine postal purposes to fill a genuine need, the large bulk of the stamps originally printed were used and destroyed, and hardly any at all have survived as issued, but unused. On cover, this provisional issue is probably not one whit less rare than the " Cotton-reels " in similar state.

The most cogent argument for acquiring examples is that of the four provisional issues of the period—the " Cotton-reels " of 1850, the famous 1856 Ship issue, and these (and one could virtually include the " Patimus " stamps of 1852) —the 1862 stamps are by a long way the most nearly within the average collector's grasp, and may be had today, if and when found, almost in the bargain basement. No collection of British Guiana can be satisfying to the discerning collector, which does not at least offer him the flavour of some of the local provisional stamps.

The forgeries

What of the forgeries? Writing apart, the paper of the forgeries is generally speaking too thin, too smooth, too mechanical; the type-setting is probably too thin and too clear; and the postmark, for those who know the colony, is never quite right. The forger frequently copies the " A 03 " postmark and he may attempt the " A 04 ". He had not the knowledge, or the necessary material, with which to copy the village " code " marking and one of these (though uncommon) will of itself verify a genuine stamp. At this point, too, the detail of the catalogue listing comes into its own. If a stamp under examination shows all the details of one of the listed minor varieties, it must be a genuine stamp, because the particular details of the variations and errors in type-setting were certainly not forged.

Be comforted, then. A page in your collection will glow if it merely contains three stamps: " 1862 provisional issue —the one cent on rose, the two cents on yellow, the four cents on blue ". If you can go further, and if you can find them, do it this way: " One cent on rose, the three types—two cents on yellow, the three types—four cents on blue, the three (four?) types ". You will find that an issue which is unloved by many, and unknown to most, has suddenly become very dear to your heart.

(*The illustrations are from photographs by Studio Frankfurt Ltd.*)

COMMONWEALTH NEWSBITS

Falkland Is. Release of the new **Coinage** issue, scheduled for December 10th, has been deferred to December 31st. The final release date of the **Heraldic Arms** issue was October 28th.

Malawi. The **Christmas** issue is planned for release on December 12th, subject to confirmation.

Turks & Caicos Is. The **Coral** issue, expected on November 11th was scheduled for release on December 4th.

Gambia. The **Michelangelo** issue was postponed from November 1st to November 14th.

Jamaica. Release of the Belisario prints set (the **Christmas** issue) was postponed from October 27th to November 3rd.

Belize. The **Christmas** issue was released on November 17th.

Lesotho. The **Aloes & Succulents** issue has been postponed indefinitely.

Mauritius. The **French Speaking Parliament Assembly** stamp was released on November 21st and the **International Women's Year** issue is due on December 5th.

New Hebrides. The **Christmas** set, showing Michelangelo sculptures, was released on November 11th.

STAMP COLLECTING, NOV. 19, 1954.



ELIZABETHANS FROM EL DORADO

BACKGROUND TO BRITISH GUIANA'S NEW STAMPS



The new British Guiana stamps to be issued on December 1st are a mixture of six old designs (some presented in new frames) and nine new ones.

THE most colourful stamp in the new series is the $1 black, red, green and yellow, which shows that curious bird that is known to all of us through the advertisements of a well-known brand of stout, the Toucan. The advertisement asks us to "Just think what Toucan do", but as there are no less than eight varieties of this particular bird perhaps it would be wiser not to dwell on this subject !

A map of the colony, Britain's only one in South America, is shown on the **5c.** black and red. It is an improvement on the 4c. K.G.VI design.

The earliest inhabitants of British Guiana were the Amerindians, of which there are nine tribes, the best known being the Caribs and Arawaks. It was from these people that the colony got its name, which means "Land of the Waters", because it is watered by three great rivers, the Essequibo, the Demerara and the Berbice. It is right, therefore, that our old friend the Amerindian shooting fish should again be with us ; this time on the **4c.** violet.







Guianese main crops are sugar and rice and two of the new stamps show sugar cane entering the factory (**8c.** blue) and rice being harvested with a combine (**6c.** apple-green). Both crops are grown in the swampy alluvium which stretches along the 270 miles of seaboard and some way up the main rivers.

The inland forest area is represented by the **12c.** black and russet which shows a native felling greenheart, the hardest wood in the world and Guiana's most famous timber.

It seems fashionable nowadays to show the General Post Office on colonial stamps and British Guiana provides an addition for thematic collectors on the **1c.** black which depicts the new G.P.O. built at Georgetown in 1952 to replace the one destroyed by fire in 1942. The new one cost £350,000 and stamp collectors are being given an opportunity of helping to pay for it by buying this new series, which for the first time contains a $5 value ! This new value, printed in blue and black, shows the new Coat of Arms, designed by Vincent Roth, O.B.E., and bears the motto "Damus petimus que vicissum" ("We give and seek in return").

Major mining industries of the colony are bauxite, from which aluminium is produced, and gold. A bauxite mine appears on the **24c.** black and orange and a gold dredger on the $2 magenta. British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields have a concession which includes the Potaro River and one of their dredgers is shown on the stamp.

Georgetown, the capital, is famous for its botanical gardens which have the reputation of being those best laid out in the British Caribbean. An avenue in the gardens was shown on the K.G.V and K.G.VI $1 values and now another view of the gardens appears on the **2c.** green.

Flora of the colony includes the beautiful Victoria Regia lilies which appeared on the $3 K.G.VI and are now repeated on the **3c.** olive-green and russet of the new set, which is almost a complete reproduction of that design. These lilies are the largest of the water-lilies and have a leaf diameter of six feet. They were first discovered by Sir Robert Schomburgk in 1840 at Gluck Island in the Essequibo River.

Another "world's largest" is the Arapaima, a fresh-water fish which is found in the Rupununi River and grows to a length of fifteen feet (**72c.** rose and emerald-green).

The highest mountain in the colony is Roraima which is 9 000 feet in height and forms the boundary of British Guiana, Brazil and Venezuela. It comes this time on the **36c.** black and carmine but has also appeared on the 1898 Jubilee set and on the K.G.V 72c. and the K.G.VI $2. Another favourite view that has appeared on the same sets is the Kaieteur Falls which are found this time on the **48c.** ultramarine and venetian-red. The Falls are situated on the Potaro River and are the world's largest major waterfall with a drop of 822 feet. They were discovered by Barrington Brown, a Government Surveyor, in 1870.

On the whole, the new British Guiana stamps form a pleasing set, but one or two of the designs are rather flat, particularly the $2, while the $5 is a disgrace as a high value, for it gives the impression of a scissors and paste design.

O.W.N.









BRITISH HONDURAS

SG SELL 'MISS ROSE/BLANKENBURG' COVER

AND OFFER 'INVERTED SWAN'



The 'Rarities of the World' sale held by Stanley Gibbons Auctions on 11 May (during Stamp World London 90) included one of the world's foremost philatelic rarities — possibly one of the 'top ten'. This was the British Guiana 1857 entire letter, addressed 'Miss Rose/Blankenburg' and bearing a vertical pair of SG1, 'Cottonreel' 2c.

Only ten examples of this stamp are known, four singles off-cover and three pairs on individual covers, one of which is in the Royal Collection.

It was on 15 June 1850 that a public notice appeared in the *Royal Gazette* of British Guiana announcing that a house-to-house delivery service for prepaid letters was being introduced and that postage stamps would be ready for sale on or before 25 June. These first stamps were typeset and 2c, 4c, 8c and 12c values were produced at the officers of the *Royal Gazette*. They were nicknamed 'cottonreels' because of their similarity to the labels on the ends of the wooden reels on which cotton thread was sold. As a safeguard against forgery, each stamp was initialled by a Post Office official. The stamps on the 'Miss Rose' cover are initialled 'ETED' by the Deputy Postmaster General, E.T.E. Dalton and are tied to the cover by two strikes of the Demarara double arc cds.

The story of the 'Miss Rose' cover is that of one of the most remarkable philatelic finds ever made. On Easter Day, 1896, Christ Church in Demerara was overdrawn at the bank to about £100 and in order to meet the instalments on the mortgage and other claims efforts were being made to raise money. An old lady, Miss Preston, sent two stamps as a donation; they were sold for $33.60.

On Easter Monday Canon F P L Josa visited Miss Preston to thank her for the gift. Whilst there he enquired whether she had any more stamps as buyers were offering £100 for the 2c rose of 1851. Miss Preston told him that she had given all her stamps away but then brought out an old basket filled with receipts and bills and it was here that Canon Josa discovered the 'Miss Rose' letter.

As it happened, Miss Rose was present n the room as the discovery was made and was overjoyed to be able to give something worthwhile to the Church. Shortly afterwards the envelope was bought by E C Luard for $1,005 (£205) and later that year it was acquired for £600 by Stanley Gibbons Ltd, who sold it to H J Duveen. During 1922 Arthur Hind bought the letter for about $5,000 and in the Hind auction in May 1934 it was bought by Champion for £1,300. Some time after this the cover was taken into the Dale-Lichtenstein collection and it realised $34,000 when part of that famous collection was sold by Harmers (New York) in 1969.

Until this year's sale, the cover was last offered at auction by Stanley Gibbons in the Claude Cartier sale in 1977, when it fetched £70,000. The price was exactly doubled on 11 May, when the hammer fell at £140,000. With premium and VAT, the buyer (from the Far East) had to find £164,150.

Two outstanding lots from the June 29 Commonwealth sale were (a) a British Guiana 1934-51 4c corner marginal mint block of 4 — variety imperf horizontally and catalogued at £10,000 plus which went under the hammer for £6,500 (illustration) and (b) a Falkland Islands 1964 Battle 6d, variety HMS Glasgow error of centre, lightly hinged mint realising £9,500 (SG cat price £14,000).

Phillips



Stamp Mail August 1990

BRITISH GUIANA MACHINE CANCELLATIONS

By Col. Fred F. Seifert

Of the Post Offices in British Guiana, only the G.P.O. at Georgetown and those at New Amsterdam and Mackenzie have handled a sufficient quantity of mail to warrant the use of electric cancelling machines. The postmark applied by these machines is similar to that of most of the Post Offices in the U.S. and the U.K. as well as many other countries. It consists of a small circular date stamp (CDS) having the name of the P.C. and (except for Mackenzie) the Colony name, as well as the time and date of postmarking. To the right of this CDS, so positioned as to fall on and cancel the postage stamps, there is an obliterator consisting of either five to seven wavy lines or a slogan.



FIGURE 1.

Both the CDS and the Cbliterator are removable, and it is not unusual to find strikes with one part or the other in an inverted position.



FIGURE 2.

Dates or portions of them are also found inverted, and one strike has been seen with time and date normal but town name and Colony inverted.

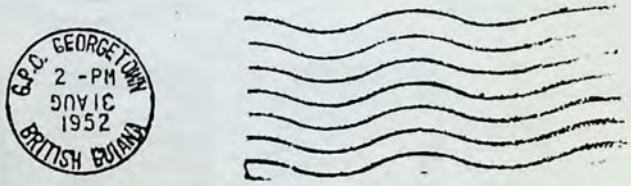


FIGURE 3.

Based upon study of all the strikes I have been able to find, and what information I could obtain from other B.G. enthusiasts, it appears that the first electric cancelling machine was put into use at the G.P.O. sometime in 1934. My earliest strike is dated 13 OCT of that year and employs a slogan inviting the traveler to "VISIT KAIETEUR WATERFALL/ BRITISH GUIANA/WORLD'S WONDER."

While strikes of Georgetown are quite common, some of the slogans were short lived and are quite difficult to find. Neither New Amsterdam nor Mackenzie appears to have made much use of its machine. While hand struck marks of the last several decades are very common for both of these offices, machine strikes are seldom seen. It is apparent that their normal volume of mail is more easily accommodated by handstamping and the machines are reserved for periods of unusually heavy mailing.

Six different CDS types are known to have been used by Georgetown and one each by New Amsterdam and Mackenzie. In each, the center format is the same with Time/Day and Month/Year in Full.

CDS TYPES.

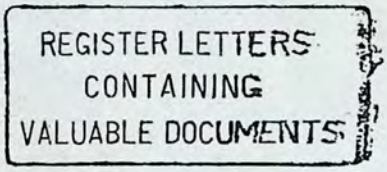
TYPE MC1.





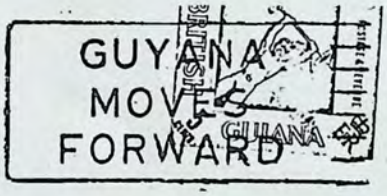
TYPE MC2.





TYPE MC3.





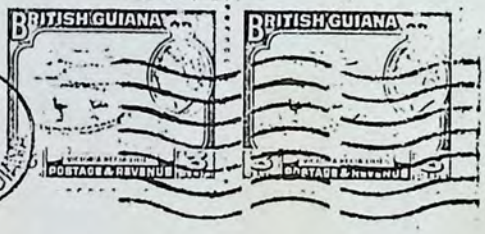
TYPE MC4.





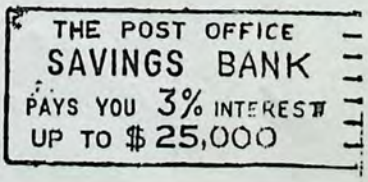
TYPE MC5.





TYPE MC6.

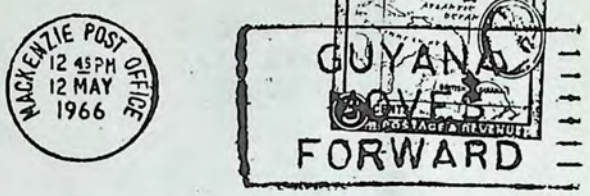




TYPE MC7.



TYPE MC8.



CBLITERATOR TYPES.

TYPE OBL1. - Five wavy lines spaced 4 mm apart. (See MC7 above)

TYPE CBL2. - Seven wavy lines spaced 3½ mm apart. (See Fig. 1.)

TYPE CBL3. - Six wavy lines spaced 3½ mm apart and broken into three sections. (See MC4 on previous page)

TYPE CBL4. - Seven wavy lines spaced 3½ mm apart and broken into three sections. (See MC5 on previous page)

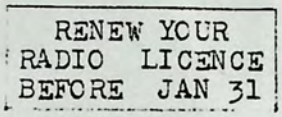
It will be noted that the strike of CBL2 in Fig. 3 is inverted when compared to that in Fig. 1. The former has a wave crest in the center, while the latter has a trough. This is merely a matter of the die being inverted.

SLOGAN TYPES.

TYPE SL01.	VISIT KAIETEUR WATERFALL BRITISH GUIANA A WORLD'S WONDER	With MC1, 1934-40
TYPE SL02.	REMIT BY MONEY OR POSTAL ORDER THROUGH THE POST NOT BY NOTES	With MC1, 1935-41
TYPE SL03.	WINTER IN BRITISH GUIANA FOR HEALTH-GIVING SUNSHINE	With MC1, 1935-40
TYPE SL04.	DEPOSIT & SAVE BRITISH GUIANA P.O. SAVINGS BANK	With MC1, 1934-41

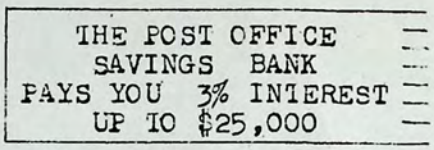
TYPE SLC5.	DRINK DEMERARA COFFEE	With MC1, 1937-40
TYPE SLC6.	CABLE AND WIRELESS "VIA IMPERIAL"	With MC1, 1940-41
TYPE SLC7.	RENT A PHONE AND SAVE TIME AND MONEY	With MC1, 1940-41
TYPE SLC8.	V ▪ ▪ ▪ ▬	With MC1, 1941
TYPE SLC9.	PREVENT TB WITH BCG	No copies with CDS but identical mark used in Jamaica, 1951-52
TYPE SLC10.	REGISTER LETTERS CONTAINING VALUABLE DOCUMENTS	With MC2, 1954-57
TYPE SLC11.	DO NOT ENCLOSE MONEY IN LETTERS	With MC3, 1954
TYPE SLC12.	CLEAN FOOD WEEK SEPT.9TH-15TH JOIN THE CAMPAIGN	No dated copies seen
TYPE SLC13.	PRINCESS ALICE APPEAL	With MC2, 1955
TYPE SLC14.	THE P.O. SAVINGS BANK PAYS YOU 2.4% INTEREST UP TO $15,000	With ? , 1955
TYPE SLC15.	DEPOSIT YOUR SAVINGS IN THE P.O. SAVINGS BANK	With MC2 and MC3, 1951-60
TYPE SLC16.	ADDRESS YOUR LETTERS CLEARLY	With MC3, 19??-66

TYPE SLO17.



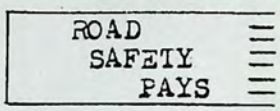
With MC3, 1955-57

TYPE SLO18.



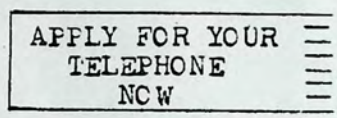
With MC3 and MC6, 1958-63
Also MC4, 1960

TYPE SLO19.



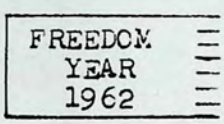
With MC6, 1960-61
Also MC3, 1960

TYPE SLO20.



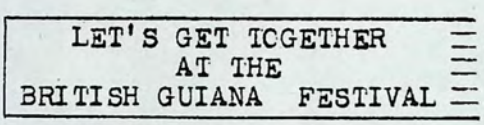
With ?, 1960

TYPE SLO21.



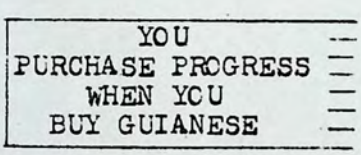
With MC4, 1962

TYPE SLO22.



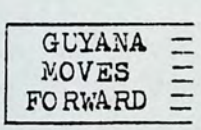
With ?, 1961

TYPE SLO23.



With MC3 and MC4, 1961-66

TYPE SLO24.



With MC3 and MC8, 1966

CDS AND OBLITERATOR COMBINATIONS RECORDED

MC1. with OBL1.	1938-43
MC1. with OBL2.	1943
MC2. with OBL2.	1946-52
MC3. with OBL2.	1955-56
MC4. with OBL3.	1959
MC5. with OBL4.	1958-65
MC7. with OBL1.	1944-47
MC8. with OBL2.	1957-59

****

BCPJ. Whole No. 40

A British Guiana Forgery

BY WINTON PATNODE & FRED F. SEIFERT

Although the Reverend R.B. Earée described many of the British Guiana forgeries in his 'ALBUM WEEDS', his only mention of the De la Rue stamps of 1876 is in his study of the forged OFFICIAL overprints on genuine stamps of this issue. Robson Lowe in the forgeries section of his Regent Catalog states that all values of the 1876 series were lithographed forged by Panelli, but gives no further details. From examples of Panelli's work that we have seen, we doubt that the item we are about to describe originated in his shop.

Our specimen, which purports to be SG 131 or Scott 77, the 12¢ of this series, first aroused our suspicion because its color did not match any of the other copies of this stamp in our collections. A closer examination and comparison with the genuine stamps made it immediately obvious that it was a forgery.



FORGERY



GENUINE

While there are many differences between the forged and genuine stamp, the most obvious ones are:

1. On the genuine the figure 1 has no serif and the 2 is wide; the forged has a serif on the 1 and a narrow 2.
2. The outer lettering is thicker on the genuine than on the forged.
3. The floriate ornaments in the spandrels and the vine-like design in the arc below the sea are thin and clean cut on the genuine, but wide and fuzzy on the forgery.
4. Although not illustrated, the forgery is on unwatermarked paper with a pseudo watermark printed on the back which lacks the normal serifs at the top of the two C's.

5. Many of the letters of the forgery are shaped differently than those of the genuine stamp. For example the E in POSTAGE of the genuine has a much longer bar at the bottom than at the top, while the forgery has both bars approximately the same length.
6. The genuine stamp is printed with ink varying in color from grey lilac to lilac for various copies we have seen. The forgery has a more pinkish hue and could best be called pale rose-lilac.

While this is easily recognized to be a forgery when one has a genuine stamp for comparison, it could well deceive one with only the catalog illustration to use as a reference. Gibbons illustrates the 1¢ of this set, which it should be noted does have a serif on the one, a fact that may have been responsible for the error on the part of the producer of this 12¢ forgery.

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London Philatelist Jan-Feb 1988

BRITISH GUIANA

Proofs of the 1876 De La Rue Issue

by DEREK M. NATHAN

THERE HAVE BEEN at least three previous publications[1,2,3] by the Society on this subject, but the author makes no apology for reverting to it, as he believes that much information, if not new, at least is now gathered together for the first time.

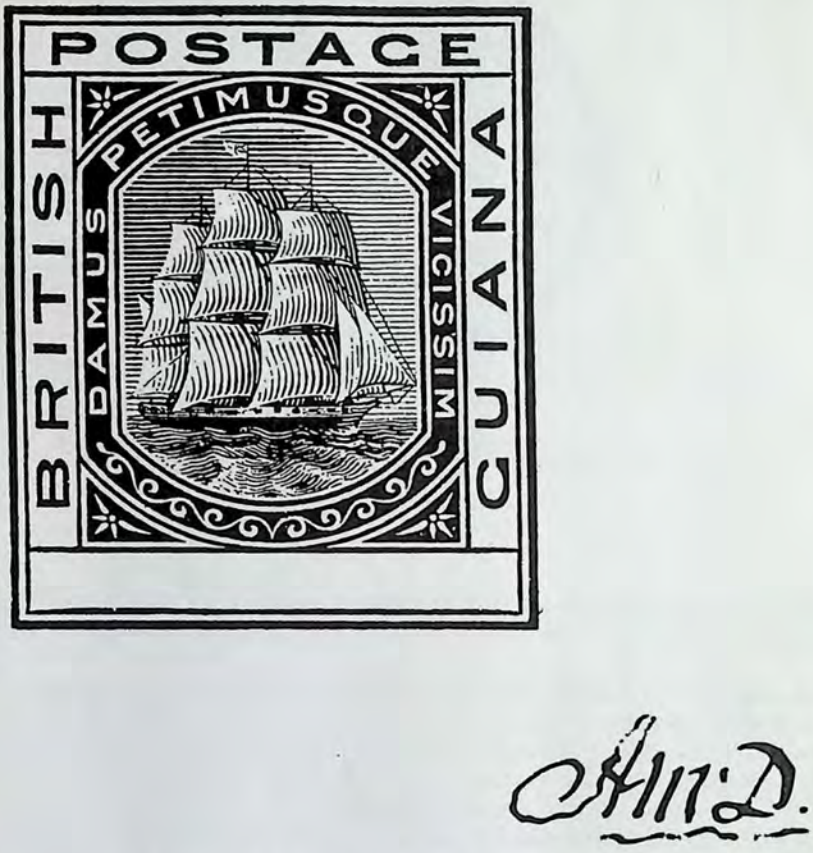

Figure 1: Proof 'U' of 17 December 1875, signed AMD.

In THE LONDON PHILATELIST, November 1940, former President R. B. Yardley[1] compared two proofs (27 Oct 1875 'Before Hardening' (Figure 2) and 19 Nov 1875 'After Hardening') and was able to show many points of difference. In their book *Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana,* Townsend & Howe[2] mentioned six proofs, but did not examine the differences, and in fact remarked that 'no explanation for these proofs is known'. Finally, in THE LONDON PHILATELIST of Sept–Oct 1976, Commander F. W. Collins RN (Rtd)[3] examined eight different proofs and pointed to differences between five of them.

The present author has assembled thirteen different proofs and, with the help of Past-President J. D. Marriott LVO, RDP, the Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, has been able to examine a further four proofs therein. In addition to these, the Nov 19 proof mentioned by Yardley, which was later to be in the Townsend collection, and which was sold when the collection was offered by Harmers on 20 Oct 1969, is not included among these; nor

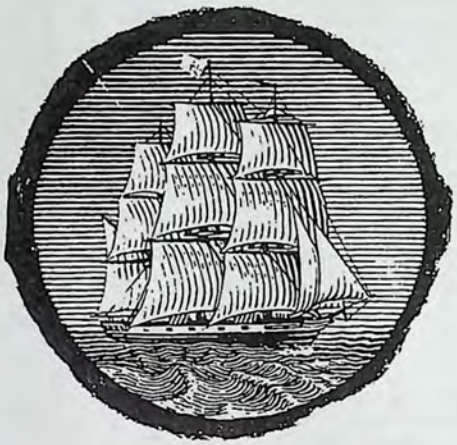

Figure 2: Proof 'D' of 27 October 1875: the central vignette only.

are proofs dated Oct 21, Nov 17 'Before Hardening' and Nov 17, all signed AMD, which were in the Townsend collection and were sold by Harmers on the same date. Of the eight Collins' proofs, all are accounted for except that of Oct 26.

It would seem, therefore, that between Thursday 21 Oct and Saturday 18 Dec 1875, at least twenty-two proofs were pulled, all with slight differences from one to the next. This represents a new proof every two working days on average throughout this period. It is, however, possible that some of the undated proofs examined by the author could be cut-down versions of the missing dates. A tremendous amount of diemaker's work must have been put into this succession of alterations and one may surmise as to why this happened.

The authorities in the Colony were opposed to the change of printer from Waterlow to De La Rue, which appears to have been foisted upon them by the Crown Agents. It does not seem, however, that it was the Colonial Government who were being obstructive, because there was no time to submit the proofs and have them returned by anyone outside London. There is no record in the extant correspondence that proofs were even submitted as far as the Crown Agents during this period. In fact, after the letter from the Crown Agents ordering dies on 15 September 1875, and that approving a design on 22 September 1875, there is no further relevant correspondence in the book in the Postal Museum until 22 December 1875, when proofs in colour were approved by Crown Agents (other than the 48c) and quantities ordered.

It is known, however, that Mr A. McDonnell, the Government Inspector at De La Rue, was by 1875 getting towards his retirement and is thought to have become tetchy and impatient by this date. It is possible that he and the diemaker did not see eye to eye and that a running battle took place between them during these two months. It will be seen, when the changes between proofs are looked into in detail, that in some instances corrections revert to the state of an earlier proof which had apparently been rejected. This may have been carelessness, but it seems more likely to be a symptom of a clash of personalities. It would be interesting to hear if any reader can produce evidence of such a conflict regarding another territory at about this period.

LISTING OF THE PROOFS PULLED

(* Indicates detailed discussion follows; Brackets signify undated proofs)

	Date	*Reference*	*Comments*
A.	Oct 21	Townsend	No details given (Signed AMD)
B.	* (Oct 21)	DMN (Author)	Uncleared, undated, cut down
C.	Oct 26	Collins	Discussed in 1976 article
D.	* Oct 27	DMN	Before Hardening
E.	* Nov 11	DMN	
F.	* Nov 12	Royal Collection	
G.	* Nov 12	DMN	Different from previous
H.	* (Between Nov 12 and Dec 10)	DMN	
I.	* (Between Nov 12 and Dec 10)	Royal Collection	Different from previous
J.	Nov 17	Townsend	Before Hardening. No details known (Signed AMD)
K.	Nov 17	Townsend	No details known (Signed AMD)
L.	Nov 19	Yardley	After Hardening. Discussed 1940 article. Signed AMD
M.	* Dec 10	Royal Collection	Complete stamp without value tablet
N.	* Dec 10	DMN	Different from previous
O.	* Dec 13	DMN	
P.	* (Between Dec 13 and Dec 14)	DMN	
Q.	* Dec 14	DMN	
R.	* Dec 15	DMN	
S.	* (Dec 16)	DMN	Cut down. Probable date
T.	* (Dec 17)	Royal Collection	Cut down. Probable date
U.	* Dec 17	DMN	After Hardening. Signed AMD
V.	* Dec 18	DMN	Working die in works book

W. A. Townsend states that all his proofs were signed AMD. This may have been a lapse of memory, as it seems likely that only the passed proof of the central vignette dated 'Nov 19 After Hardening' (reproduced in the 1940 article) and the passed proof of the complete stamp dated 'Dec 17 After Hardening' (in the author's collection) would have been signed.

The proofs fall into two distinct categories. From Oct 21 to Nov 19 they are of the central vignette only, while from Dec 10 to Dec 18 they are of the complete stamp without the value tablet. There are twelve known proofs of the central vignette and while it would be logical to take them in date order, it will be clearer to start with the dated proof D ('Oct 27, Before Hardening') (Figure 2), which will allow some pinpointing of the areas in which most of the changes took place.

(1) At the masthead flies a Union Jack, which touches the mast at only one point.
(2) There is an extra spar above the foretopsail, which does not appear to have any purpose.
(3) There is no discernible horizon, although there is some thickening of the lines of shading at this level.
(4) The shrouds before the foremast and below the foresail do not touch the sail.
(5) There are three waves from the hull of the ship to the lower margin. These all bend significantly to the left as they descend.
(6) On the white area between the dark hull and the open deck, which we shall call the Gundeck, there are two lines of shading between the bow and the line of the foremast, passing three black dots representing gun ports. There are no horizontal lines of shading further aft than this. There are three solid rectangles representing stern windows.
(7) The black line across the mizzen sail, called the spanker topping lift, meets the boom about two-thirds of the way along.
(8) The spanker, the fore and aft sail at the stern, continues the line of the edge of the mizzen sail.
(9) The mainsail, main topsail, foresail and foretopsail all have two rows of dots representing reefing points.
(10) The pennant on the foremast touches two lines of shading.
(11) There are two parallel white lines on stem of hull.

With this proof as a basis, the other proofs can be examined to show differences and a progression of alterations.

B: Oct 21

Undated, cut-down proof with squared-up, uncleared background. Points 1–9 above all seem identical, and the author places this as earlier – because uncleared – and distinguishes it from C(Oct 26) as described by Cdr Collins in one detail only. (4) is the same on the proof as Oct 27 but Cdr Collins states that in C(Oct 26), the shrouds touch the sail. The drawing published with his article illustrates this point, and when questioned in June 1987 he was adamant about this. The original of the drawing, but unfortunately not the proof, is now in the author's possession.

E: Nov 11

(1) The Union Jack has been replaced by a white ensign which touches the mast over its full height.
(2) The spar has been removed, the rigging and shading redrawn.
(3) A horizon has been introduced both fore and aft of the hull.
(4) The area below the foresail has been filled in solid black.
(5) The two waves to the right are now straight and the one to the left is less bent.
(6) Shading introduced in the after part of the gundeck; stern window area filled in solid black.
(7) The topping lift has been redrawn to the end of the boom.
(8) The spanker has been redrawn at a sharper angle to the mizzen topsail.
(10) The pennant is a thickening of one line of shading.
(11) Lines deleted from stem.

F: Nov 12

(3) The horizon is more pronounced.
(4) Shrouds redrawn below the foresail.
(5) The wave crests have been revised. The trough in the centre is now continuous, not broken.
(6) The second and third gunports have been redrawn.

G: Nov 12

(4) The shrouds now clearly reach foot of the foresail.
(5) The wave crests softened again.
(6) Stern windows now separate but solid; line of shading abaft central gunport.
(11) White lines reintroduced to stem.
(12) Some highlights have been introduced into the sails.

H: Undated DMN

(6) Stern windows redrawn with highlight in middle window; line below central gunport removed.
(9) The most important and lasting change. The reefing points have been removed from the sails. This dates the proof as after Nov 12.
(11) White lines on stem shortened.
(13) Three black dots below mizzen boom.
(14) Vertical dark line across gundeck and waves. Possibly a scratch.
(15) Shading on second jib does not now touch first jib.

I: Undated Royal

Most details are as previous proof except the surround is cut differently and:
(13) Four black dots below mizzen boom.
(14) Vertical black line removed.
It seems possible that the previous two proofs are those dated Nov 17 seen by Townsend.

L: Nov 19

Passed proof as described by Yardley. This is an uncleared version of the central vignette, dated, after hardening and initialled AMD. This is very similar to the previous proof except there are three black dots below the boom.

M: Dec 10

First proof of the complete stamp without value tablets. The corner emblems have three leaves. From Dec 13 all proofs have five leaves.
(6) Stern window area is solid once more.
(7) The topping lift has been redrawn thicker.
(11) Solid hull without white lines.
(13) One black dot below the boom.
(16) Sea ahead of ship is filled in solid.



Figure 3: Proof 'N' of 10 December 1875: the complete stamp without value tablets.

N: Dec 10 (Figure 3)

(6) Separate stern windows without highlights.
(13) Two black dots below boom.
(17) Heavy area of shadow on gundeck below jib.

O: Dec 13

The corner emblems have five leaves from this point on.
(3) The horizon is less dramatic than previously.
(5) Heavy shading on waves reduced drastically.
(6) Two of the stern windows have highlights. The centre one remains solid black.
(7) Topping lift redrawn lighter.
(11) Longer white lines re-introduced in stem.
(12) Highlights introduced into all the sails.
(16) Sea ahead of ship redrawn with shading as earlier proofs.
(17) Heavy shadow removed as early proofs.

P: Undated proof

(5) Shading on waves reduced further.
(6) All the stern windows have highlights.
(18) There is a single line of shading joining the two main waves. This occurs on all proofs up to this point, but is removed on Dec 14. It is surmised that this proof was taken late on Dec 13 or early on Dec 14.

Q: Dec 14

(18) The line between the two main waves is broken.
(19) The rigging across the foresail has been redrawn thicker.

R: Dec 15

(5) Heavier shading on waves.

(6) Shading on the gundeck from bow is extended to the fourth port. The lower line of shading runs practically the length of the ship.
(12) Highlights in sails increased, so much so that the line of the topping lift disappears.
(20) There is an extra trough in the waves at the centre foot of the picture.

S: Undated proof – DMN

(6) Shading on the gundeck reduced to the level of all later proofs.
(21) There is a new 're-entry' line introduced in the waves at the centre which occurs on all later proofs.
This proof is probably Dec 16.

T: Undated proof – Royal

(11) White lines on stem shorter (Between Dec 16 and 17).
(13) Highlights in the sails reduced. Topping lift redrawn across highlights.
The shading in the sea middleground is similar to Dec 17. This proof is probably early on Dec 17, before hardening.

U: Dec 17

After Hardening. Signed AMcD.
(11) White lines on stern and after part of hull shorter.
(21) Bow wave redrawn.

V: Dec 18

(6) An extra line has been introduced on the gundeck, between 5th and 6th ports at the foot. Otherwise, there are no changes from the passed proof.

From this last die, 60 leads were struck, to make up the printing plate. To these were added the value tablets, which were proofed on Dec 31. The only item of interest here is that the 1 cent was originally proofed without a serif on the '1' but this was marked 'cancelled' and the extremely large and ugly serif which distinguished the 1 cent for the next twelve years was introduced. It was not until the wrappers were printed in 1883 that the serif on the 1 cent was modified to less generous proportions.

Printing of the issue took place in January and February 1876, being completed and struck off the works book on 26 February. The stamps were shipped to the Colony per SS *Tasmanian* on 7 March, arriving at Georgetown on 3 April, and were placed on sale on 1 July 1876. The finished stamp is handsome and the design lasted for some twelve years, but few of the people who licked them and stuck them to their letters could have realised the trouble and probable back-biting which must have gone into the fine detail, most of which went unnoticed until now.

Bibliography

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3. Commander F. W. Collins, RN (Rtd), THE LONDON PHILATELIST, September–October 1976, Vol 85, No 1005–6, 163–4.

The author would like to acknowledge the help of Charles Freeland in the preparation of this article.

Why "Cotton Reels"?

The nickname was taken from the stamps' similarity to the circular labels used for decorating and conveying information on the ends of what, until comparatively recent years, were wooden reels on which cotton was wound for use such as home dressmaking. Plastic has replaced wood.

The first philatelic use of the term "Cotton Reels" that I have been able to trace occurs in a long-titled article by A. D. Ferguson FRPSL in the *British Guiana Philatelic Journal* No 3 p 4 (December 1921), where he states:

> "Although not possessing the artistic merits of the Mauritius 'Post Office' these crude primitive stamps of 1850, commonly called 'Cotton reels', are looked upon with great pride by collectors who are fortunate enough to possess any."

Production

The first use of stamps for prepayment of postage in British Guiana was announced by the Deputy Postmaster General, E. T. E. Dalton — he was deputy to the PMG in London — by a notice published in the *Royal Gazette* on 15 June 1850.

They were to be 4, 8 and 12 cents and were to be brought into use on 1 July, available from the Post Offices in Georgetown and New Amsterdam and elsewhere on or before 24 June.

There being no time to obtain supplies from London, the printers of the *Royal Gazette*, Baum and Dallas, were instructed to prepare the stamps.

The production details were set out in *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana* by W. A. Townsend and F. G. Howe (1970) p. 25.

The circular frames were formed by pieces of printer's brass rule, bevelled at one edge and blunt at the other edge. Each piece of rule was 23mm wide and 82mm long and, after being bent, was soldered at the junction so as to make a tube. Into the tube pieces of printer's type were fitted to form the inscription and value. Some, but it is not certain how many, such assemblages were gathered together for the printing. Perhaps there were four.

After one value had been printed the appropriate piece of type in each tube was removed and replaced by another piece or two other pieces of type for the next value to be printed. The typesettting resulted in four philatelic Types, three with thick frames and one with a thin frame.

2 Cents

The first mention of a 2 cents value occurred on 22 February 1851 in a notice issued from the Post Office at Georgetown. It was to the effect that, as from 1 March, twice-daily delivery of letters would take place through the principal streets of the city and that, if a letter for such delivery did not bear a 2 cents stamp it would not be delivered and the normal 8 cents postage would be charged when the letter was called for.

Of the four Types only two — both thick frames — exist on the ten known examples of the 2 cents. Eight of them are distinguished as being of Type A, characterised by the first I of BRITISH leaning to the right. The other two stamps, a pair on covers addressed to "Miss Rose," are, according to my observation, Type B, which is characterised by a raised and left-leaning first A of GUIANA and a minute break in the outer circle slightly to the left (not right as appears in Mr Townsend's description of the Types) of the first I of BRITISH.

No complete record exists of the numbers of Cotton Reels printed. The papers used were: 2 cents, rose; 4 cents, yellow; 8 cents, green; and 12 cents, blue.

Because the Cotton Reels were of primitive appearance, they were liable to be forged. Consequently each example was initialed by an official of the Post Office before being issued. According to Armand Martin, a French civil servant and early erudite student, writing under his pen-name Natalis Rondot, in a series of articles titled "Les Timbres Poste" in *Le Magasin Picturesque* vol 34 p 340 (1866), E. T. E. Dalton, in a note dated 16 December 1861, addressed to the Colonial Secretary, wrote:

> "These stamps were ... printed in the colony ... As they could be imitated in any printing office I was obliged to countersign them. They were of the most ordinary workmanship and were only in use for several months until the arrival from England of better manufactured stamps."

The accuracy of observation and report of Armand Martin were such that, even today, he is the source of reference for some philatelic details. So far as my researches have revealed, until I commented in 1981 on the note to the Colonial Secretary, no previous writer had even referred to it.

The names and positions occupied by the various people whose initials appear on the Cotton Reels are set out in Stanley Gibbons Part 1 catalogue.



I



II



III



IV



V VI

The Ten Existing 2 Cents

In July 1865 a stamp on pink paper with uncertain denomination was mentioned by F. A. Philbrick — *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* vol 3 p100 — but no stamp on any such paper was discovered until the end of 1877. Thomas Ridpath, the Liverpool dealer, bought a 2 cents (No I), initialled J. B. *S(mith, clerk in the Imperial Department of the Post Office)* on rose paper from N. R. McKinnon in British Guiana.

That stamp went to Ferrary in 1877 but Ridpath obtained it again a year later in exhange for No. IV. The subsequent history is: 1879 — Pemberton, Wilson & Co,; Capt. J. D. Cameron (£25); 1883 — James Botteley (£30); 1887 — Maurice Giwelb; Douglas Garth (£75); 1893 — W. W. Blest; 1895 - W. B. Avery; 1900 — W. H. Peckitt (£345); 19?? — E. Mors; 1920 May 18: Auction: Gilbert "Me M..." sale. Lot 352. — Theodore Champion; King Fuad of Egypt; 1954 February 17: Auction: "Palace Collections". Lot 1231 £700; 19?? — Ernest Hunt; 19?? — Stanley Gibbons Ltd; 1973 — Collector in U.S.A.; 1977 June 7 — 9: Auction: David Feldman, Geneva. Lot 696A. £13,953 — René Berlingin; 1984 — Collector in U.S.A..

No II Initialled J.B.S. 1877 — Acquired by N. R. McKinnon; 1878 — Bought by Alfred Smith & Co; F. A. Philbrick (£20); 1881 — Ferrary bought Philbrick's collection; 188? — The Caillebotte brothers bought No II; 1887 — Pemberton, Wilson & Co bought the Caillebots' collection; 1888 — F de Coppet bought No II (£70); 1893 April 4: Auction: J W Scott "de Coppet" 2. Lot 358. £210 — R. F. Albrecht for F. W. Hunter; 1900 January 12 — Acquired by Reichspost Museum. No II in a frame with other stamps disappeared from the Reichspost Museum in storage and, in 1977, was surrendered to the U.S. Customs Service; it was claimed by both the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic; in 1989 the U.S.C.S. requested the State Department to relieve them of custody of frame and contents.

No III Initialled J.B.S. 1877 — Acquired by N. R. McKinnon; 1878 July — Bought by Alfred Smith & Co.; bought by W. E. Image (£20); 1882 — Thomas Keay Tapling bought Image's collection; 1891 — British Museum received Tapling Collection as a bequest; 1973 — Consequent on the British Library Act 1972 (c. 54) Tapling Collection transferred to the British Library.

No IV Initialled J.B.S. 1877 — Acquired by N. R. McKinnon; 1878 October 2 — Thomas Ridpath bought McKinnon's collection through the agency of Wylie Hill (£120); 1878 October — Ferrary obtained No IV in exchange for No. I; 1924 June 18: Auction: Gilbert "Ferrary" 10. Lot 169. £740 — Theodore Champion; 196? — Changed hands privately.

Nos V and VI Initialled J.B.S. Vertical pair on folded entire letter adddressed *Mr Job Collier / Victoria Village / East Coast.* The illustration is made from a photograph taken for E. C. Luard in 1890; since then the gaps in the stamps have been filled in with coloured paper and the missing portions of the designs have been painted in. 1851 October — Job Collier; 1888 — Bought by E. C. Luard and exhibited by him at London Philatelic Exhibition in May 1890; 1890 — Luard's collection bought by Pemberton, Wilson & Co.; Ferrary (£175); 1921 October 21: auction: Gilbert Ferrary 2. Lot 176. £1,330 — Theodore Champion; 19?? Royal Collection.

Nos VII and VIII. Vertical pair initialled E.T.E.*(Dalton).* On folded letter addressed *Miss Rose / Blankenburg.* 1851 — Miss Rose; 1896



VII and VIII

— Christ Church, Demerara received letter as gift; E. C. Luard (£205); E. Stanley Gibbons (£600); H. J. Duveen (£650); 1922 — Arthur Hind, through agency of C. J. Phillips ($5,000); 1934 May 7: Auction: H. R. Harmer Hind 2. Lot 94. £1,300 — Theodore Champion; 19?? — Mrs John Denny Dale; 1969 February 17: Auction: H.R. Harmer Inc. Dale-Lichtenstein. lot 401. £34,000 — Stanley Gibbons Ltd. 1977 April 21: Auction: Stanley Gibbons "Classics from the Claude Cartier Collection." Lot 23. £70,000 — South American collector; 1989 Janu[illegible] — Stanley Gibbons invite offers in excess of £150,000.

IX and X. The history is recited earlier in this contribution.

Pseudo 2 cents blue

A pseudo "2" cents blue, initialed E.D. W*(ight, clerk in the Colonial Department of the Post Office)* is known on a folded letter addressed to *The Right Reverned / The Lord Bishop of Guiana / Georgetown.* In the lower right-hand corner of the address side is the encircled trefoil applied to items in the Ferrary collection.

The stamp paper is that used for the 12 cents and the pseudo 2 cents occurred because the first figure was plucked from the brass tube during printing of the 12 cents or was omitted while the tube was being altered from a different value to make a printing of 12 cents stamps.

The letter was written by the vicar of Leguan and, according to a catalogue description, "contains unctuous greetings."

The letter first came to light on the dispersal of the Ferrary collection, Gilbert sale 2 lot 199 on 13 October 1921 when it realised 4,230 francs including 17½ per cent tax (£81). It was bought by Maurice Burrus and at the sale of his collection on 26 November 1963 by Robson Lowe the letter realised £2,500. On 23 October 1968 it was offered for sale at auction by Edgar Mohrmann, of Hamburg. The sale took place aboard the ship *Wappen von Hamburg* (Arms of Hamburg). The letter, lot 3330 in the catalogue, realised DM 175,000, the purchaser paying 10 per cent commission, so that, at DM10 to £1, the letter cost the buyer £19,250.



The pseudo 2 cents blue

THE "COTTON REELS"

By Norman Williams

The hammer price of over half-a-million Swiss Francs for a cover bearing a vertical pair of the 2 cents rose of British Guina 1851 brings into current prominence the classic "Cotton Reels" of that erstwhile British colony — now Guyana.

The details of the cover are that it bears what are, undoubtedly, the best surviving examples of the lowest value of the issue, of which a mere ten are recorded as existing. The pair is affixed to the upper



right corner of the cover, which is addressed to *Edward Gordon Esq Plantn Good Hope* and bears in the south-east corner the encircled treiori marking applied by Phillipp la Renotierè von Ferrary, the collector whose fabulous collection was dispersed by order of the French authorities for war reparations — because he had bequeathed it to the Berlin Postmuseum — in 14 sales during 1921 and the subsequent years until 1925.

The stamps were each initialled *E. D. W.* (E. D. Wright), clerk in the Colonial Department of the Post Office. They and the other values of the issue — 4, 8 and 12 cents — were initialled because the postmaster was of opinion that they could be imitated in any printing office, so that he was obliged to countersign them or have them countersigned by staff.

Each of the pair is cancelled with a double arc dated post office marking "DEMERARA / NO 26 / 1851."

The auction sale in Zurich by Christie's Robson Lowe of the "Rarities of Mauritius and British Guiana from the Weill Brothers Stock" on Wednesday 22 November 1989 had the Edward Gordon cover as lot 1. The hammer price attained was SFr 520,000. At a rate of approximately SFr 2.52 to £1, that amounted to £206,350. To that sum, however, had to be added the premium to the buyer of 19.5 per cent or, if the buyer was, what is referred to as one of the Swiss grossistes, 12.5 per cent, namely, SFr 101,400 or SFr 65,000. A buyer domiciled outside Switzerland was entitled to a 7 per cent rebate if certain conditions were satisfied. The minimum amount of premium, therefore, was an additional £25,974.

The previous history of the cover — actually it is an entire letter — as recorded in *Stamps of Fame* (1949) by my late brother, Maurice and myself, up to the Ferrary sale was:

> 1861 T.M. Gordon, son of the addressee acquired the papers of his father on his death. 1897 E. C. Luard bou[illegible] it from the son and that same year Stanley Gibbons bought the letter for £650 and, still in 1897, the letter went to Carl Willadt, of Pforzheim, Paul Kossack, of Berlin, bought it, and so did Baron Otto von Transehe-Roseneck. Two years later Paul Kohl bought the Baron's collection, Stanley Gibbons bought the letter in 1900 and in 1901 Ferrary bought it for £1,000. On 23 June 1921 in the fifth Ferrary sale Maurice Burrus bought the letter for 210.000 francs plus 17½% tax at 47 francs to £1, that is £5,250, the highest amount that Burrus ever paid for an item in his collection.

The subsequent history of the cover, which I have related elsewhere* and will be incorporated in *Encyclopaedia of Rare and Famous Stamps* (now in late stages of pre-publication) is as follows.

> 1963 (November 26) Robson Lowe's "Burrus" sale lot 15, bought by Raymond H. Weill Co for £25,000. In 1964 the cover was bought by Mr "P," and was bought back by the Weills in 1969. At Robson Lowe's sale of the "Great Collection" on 26 March 1970, as lot 4, the letter was knocked down to Robert A. Siegel for £75,000. On 1 May 1975, at Robson Lowe's Geneva sale, as lot 3, the item realised SFr 450,000 (£75,000) and it was acquired by the Weills.

The 1964 and 1969 transactions are taken from the 1989 auction catalogue.

BRITISH GUIANA
THE DIAMOND JUBILEE ISSUE OF QUEEN VICTORIA

Michael B Nicholson

It is reported that in August 1897 the Postmaster General of British Guiana suggested to the Governor of the Colony that it would be of benefit for both increasing revenue and to advertise the Colony that a set of stamps be issued to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. His idea was rather late in the day; the Colony had already had a public holiday on 22 June to celebrate the 'sixty glorious years' since Her Majesty came to the Throne on 20 June 1837. It was to be nearly a year after his suggestion that the stamps were made available to the public on 18 July 1898.

However, the Governor (in Council) agreed that the suggestion was worthy of merit and the Crown Agents (CA) were asked by letter dated 13 September 1897 to advise on the matter. In the letter of request the Government Secretary enclosed 'photoprints' of four views of 'scenes in the Colony' and expressed the desired order of preference for the designs as being Mount Roraima, Kaieteur Falls, Massaruni Falls and Timehri Rocks. It was requested that the year '1897' be distinctly shown and stated that the motto '*Damus petimusque vicissim*' need not be given (until then all issues except the 'Cotton Reels' and some locally produced provisionals had contained it). It was requested that not more than two designs be used, to save cost. It was stated that there was no objection to an oblong stamp being produced for either of the views, indeed 'it might possibly have some advantage as marking more distinctly the special character of the stamps'. The name of the view selected should be given on the design. An estimate of the cost was requested and the need to make haste was stressed. The choice of colours was in effect left to CA. This letter was sent to De La Rue (DLR) by CA on 1 October 1897. In the event DLR prepared essays of the expressed and second choices and submitted them to CA on 20 October 1987. They included quotations for the work—original Landscape and Duty plates at £8 each and working (60 set) Landscape and Duty plates at £20 each. Stamps were quoted per 1000 and the rate varied from 19s.6d. per 1000 for up to 5000 of one type to 3s.1d. per 1000 for over a million of one type ordered at one time). They estimated about three months from date of order to delivery to the CA's Inspector.

Upon receipt CA wrote back and requested that 'specimen sheets (in duplicate) of the proposed colours to be used for printing the stamps' be supplied in time for them to be forwarded to the Colony by Mail of 2 November. DLR replied pointing out that they had no means of producing specimens of the stamps until the designs were approved, when they would then prepare the necessary plates and print specimens of colour for approval.

The designs were approved by the Executive Council on 29 November and returned to London under flying seal. This was communicated to DLR on 31 December 1897. In their submission DLR had said that it would be necessary that the Issue should be printed by the then relatively new copperplate (recess) process which would enable each stamp to be printed in two distinct colours for 'a more artistic rendering'. This involved two separate printings for each sheet of stamps, and as the paper had to be dampened twice it had to be supplied 25 per cent thicker than was normally supplied for postage stamps at the time. This was done for no extra charge (viz 47s. per ream). Asked to expedite delivery, DLR pointed out that there was a total of about 75,000 operations for a printing of the quantity of stamps ordered.

Choosing the Colours

On 15 March 1898 DLR sent two suggested colour schemes (of five stamps each) to CA and a further 26 colour combinations 'In case you do not approve of our selection' a total of 36 Colour Trials. These were produced using the original landscape and blank duty plates. CA returned the examples indicating their choices marked with a cross but leaving the decision as to which colours should be used for the respective duties to DLR, describing this as 'immaterial'. People who have seen some of the alternatives have expressed the opinion that the choices made were not of the best submitted.

Working landscape and duty plates (with the values added) were prepared and imperforate proofs were produced on watermarked paper. I have no information on quantities of these proofs, but the 5c. is known in this state with the watermark inverted (see below).

Production was further delayed since the engraving took longer than anticipated because a steel roller cracked in the preparatory hardening process, and that work had to be redone. DLR wrote to CA on 24 March saying that this accident would mean that it would be another two months before they could have the first of the stamps ready for delivery.

Two Vignette Plates for the 1c.

Later on, in October 1898, a second horizontal view plate had to be produced. DLR wrote to CA (14 October 1898) explaining that some grit had got on the plate and damaged it. Since use of this second vignette is confined to the 1c. value, printing of the 5c. and 15c. stamps must have been completed before the damage was noticed. In any event, delivery of all values to CA was by instalments, the 5c., 10c. and 15c. being finished in October, the 2c. by the end of November and the 1c. by mid-December.

Moreover, although DLR had only quoted to supply five working duty plates (and eventually did indeed only charge for five) they told CA in March 1898 when they were planning their production line that they would need to make two plates each for the 'borders' of the 1c. and 2c. duties, otherwise 'we shall be unable to execute the order for these Stamps to time'. They asked that the 'six machines' in the room under the 'control' of CA's Inspector be allowed to be used for printing the 'borders which contain the duties', and that the (centre) vignette plate(s) be printed on a machine 'in a room by itself in our 'Mint' Works, which your Inspector can lock up at night and open in the morning'. CA agreed to this proposal. All values were printed in sheets of 60, the 2c. and 10c. Kaieteur Falls (vertical) design in 5 horizontal rows of 12, and the 1c., 5c. and 15c. Mt Roraima (horizontal) design in 10 horizontal rows of 6.

The two vignette plates on the 1c. value: the second plate (bottom) shows the mountain and foreground much more clearly than the first, although the shading in the sky is less pronounced. The stamp from the second plate also shows the 'SPECIMEN' overprint with slanting 'N'



Watermarks

The stamps are watermarked Large Crown CC (W5 in SG *Part I*) upright on the 2c. and 10c. and sideways on the 1c., 5c. and 15c. The watermark layout was of 240 (12 × 20) enclosed by a single line rectangular frame; the words 'CROWN COLONIES' appear twice in each margin at the sides, reading upwards in the left margin, and downwards in the right, and there is a cross at the mid point in each of the four margins. Traces of the margin watermarks can sometimes be found on the stamps. Paper to fit this watermark layout was originally produced in 1864 for the Cape of Good Hope fiscal stamps (and was often referred to as Receipt paper) but had been used for large format postage stamps since the Trinidad 5s. issue of 1869. Over the years it became usual to cut the standard sheet down, and a smaller size was essential when two dampenings of the paper were necessary, as in the case of the Jubilee issue. The upright Jubilee design fitted the watermark spacing, being the same size as the stamp for which the paper was originally manufactured. Quite often the watermark falls between two stamps vertically; it appears to have been the practice to cut a sheet of Receipt paper to provide pieces for either two sheets of the vertical design and one of the horizontal, or vice versa. Thus, when a sheet of paper produced for 240 stamps is cut to print sheets of 60, with margins, since the margins do not equate to the height of a stamp, the watermark on the second sheet downwards is not central. Sheets for the horizontal stamps were cut with the watermark sideways, for economic use of paper. The latter design is of different proportions to the vertical (approx 35mm wide by 22mm high, whereas the vertical is approx 25mm wide by 30mm high plus the gutters between the stamps, approx 3mm, in each case): it will be obvious that both could not be printed with one watermark per stamp and the appearance on the horizontal is often similar to a multiple watermark, parts of two (on rows 1 to 5) or four (often, but not always, on rows 6 to 10) watermarks occurring on most stamps.

Part of the words 'CROWN COLONIES' appear in the side margins of sheets of the 2c. and 10c. values. Normal sheets of the horizontal design have the words upright in the top margin, the sideways Crown CC watermark pointing to the left (viewed from the front). Reversed watermarks are known on the 2c. value but no inverted or reversed watermark has been reported on the 10c. value and no inverted watermark on the 2c. Inverted watermarks (i.e. Crown pointing to the right viewed from the front) are quite common on the 1c. and 5c. values (with the words 'CROWN COLONIES' inverted in the bottom margin), and reversed, and inverted and reversed, watermarks are known on the 1c. value (*vide* C A Freeland's article in *BWISC Bulletin* No 151). No variety from normal has been reported to my knowledge on the 15c. value.

Perforations

The issues are line perforated 14. The 5c. is reported doubly perforated on the right. The 2c. is known imperforate (vertically) on one or both sides, and between the stamp and the left margin, and the 5c. is known imperforate vertically between two stamps. The 2c. varieties come from the three left-hand vertical rows of one sheet, yielding ten examples imperforate down both sides and five imperforate down the left side and perforated down the right. Stamps can also be found which have little evidence of perforation on one side.

DLR commented in correspondence with CA that dampening the paper twice caused a problem of distortion after the paper had been dried twice; this probably accounts for the size of the perforated areas varying.



The 5c., 10c. and 15c. values; the 2c. is shown on the front cover

Specimens

To comply with the rules of membership of the UPU in 1898, 750 stamps were overprinted 'SPECIMEN' for distribution amongst member countries. All examples of the horizontal design that I have seen with this overprint (including those in the UPU Collection in The British Library) have a slanting 'N', as have some of the vertical design. The specimen stamps must have been overprinted from the end of the print run because all examples of the 1c. seen are on stamps from the second vignette plate (see above). It was, apparently, not unusual for UPU requirements to be fulfilled some time after the release of the stamps in question in those days—it is mentioned in a letter from GPO London to the Colonial Office dated 29 December 1898 'that specimens of these stamps have only recently been received here from the Crown Agents'. There are other minor varieties of this overprint, and the 5c. is known with normal and inverted watermark.

Shades and Varieties

The colours chosen for the issue are delightfully contrasting (despite the comment above on available alternatives!) and show much variation over the production cycle. On the 1c. both the carmine frame and the blue-black centre vary, as do the indigo to blue frame and pale to deep brown centre of the 2c. The most consistent colouring occurs on the 5c. sepia frame and green centre, although a bluish tinge is discernible quite often in the latter. The frame of the 10c. is a fairly consistent orange-red, but the centre varies from dark blue-black to pale grey-black; the greatest variety occurs on the 15c. where the frame can be pale blue through to indigo and the centre pale orange-brown to deep brown-orange. The 15c. is known with an overall blue surface to the paper (which may be due to climate). Poor inking can be found on all values, particularly on the value tablets (it was reported at the time that 1000 of the 2c. were printed with the value tablet in light blue instead of dark blue). It is not unusual to find lines of stronger colour on the centre vignettes possibly arising from inadequate removal of surplus ink from the plate before printing—the last part of this process was by use of the palm of the hand and was obviously an acquired art.

Whilst avoiding details of minor examples of plate variance, the 15c. is known on Row 6/1 with a re-entry of the figures '15' in the left-hand value tablet, and there is a dot of colour to the north-west of the figure 1 of '1897' on Row 7/6.

'Not Tremendously Popular'

It has been said that the stamps did not prove tremendously popular in the Colony (only 1955 of the 15c. were sold in the first two weeks) and after the introduction of Imperial Penny Post on 25 December 1898 it was decided that large quantities of the three higher values should be overprinted for use at the new rate; just over 465,000 in total were overprinted with the words 'TWO CENTS' during and after February 1899. These overprints are a fascinating study in themselves, one that I am still researching. The Issue remained valid for many years—I have a registered cover addressed to Customs Department in Georgetown dated July 1931 with three 2c. values to pay the postage etc.

The complete set on cover



Details of the numbers of each stamp in the Issue are as follows:

	1c.	2c.	5c.	10c.	15c.
Ordered	750,000	900,000	300,000	150,000	150,000
Delivered (Total cost £570/12s.)	787,560	884,040	306,900	153,600	154,680
Reported to have been destroyed	30,000				
Overprinted 'TWO CENTS'			207,900	126,600	130,680
Usage of each original value	757,560	884,040	99,000	27,000	24,000

In 1895 DLR had agreed with CA that they could deliver up to 5 per cent in excess of the ordered quantity of any stamps, and that they would be paid for the quantity delivered. This was because they were obliged to overproduce to cover waste, of which there was always an amount but obviously unquantifiable until printing was completed, and it seemed pointless to destroy good product, hence the over-supply of four out of the five values. Unfortunately, the Day Book for 1897 is no longer in the De La Rue Archives so I am unable to give quantities of the first and second centre vignettes of the 1c. It has been estimated that the original is about twice as plentiful as the later one.

In conclusion, this issue was made at a time when stamp design and printing was going through a period of radical improvement and DLR were leading the field in this evolution. They had learned a lot producing the 1897 Tonga issue (a cancelled 5s. of which they sent with their initial design proposals to British Guiana as an example of their new process) and were sufficiently pleased with their efforts on this occasion to use the frame of the vertical design when submitting an essay for the Bahamas Staircase issue of 1901.

My thanks for help on various aspects of this article are expressed to Derek Nathan, Charles Freeland, Larry Lewendon FRPSL, David Beech FRPSL for access to the UPU SPECIMENS in the British Library Philatelic Collections, The Public Record Office and, by no means least, The National Postal Museum for access to the De La Rue Archives from where most of the quotations herein are taken.





Only five marginal examples of the 2c. imperf vertically on both sides are known

THE COLLECTION OF POSTAGE DUE IN BRITISH GUIANA

Derek M Nathan

Postage due is as old as postal services. In the period before adhesives were used, postage was usually not pre-paid, but collected from the addressee.

This, however, is not the subject of the present article, which is concerned with the collection of underpaid postage during the period when it should have been pre-paid.

This process was originally known as 'taxing' the item of mail, and in many countries this is still the word used. Many postage due stamps still have the word 'Taxe' as the main part of their design. The international symbol for this is a capital 'T', often with a border; square, circular, hexagonal, or, in the case of Barbados, heart-shaped.

There are two types of mark to be found on covers. The first are those applied by the office from which the mail was sent, drawing attention to the underpayment and indicating, usually in gold centimes, the International scale, the amount of shortfall in postage. Collection by the delivery office was to be based on this. The rate of exchange varies by period and by territory, but for Great Britain and British Guiana during the nineteenth century, 10 gold centimes was the equivalent of 1d. (2c.), in 1914 it was ½d., but by 1925 when the gold standard was difficult to maintain, it was only ¼d. The other form are those marks applied by the delivery office indicating in local currency the amount to be collected from the addressee, usually twice the underpayment, but sometimes this is varied by the Authorities. This second mark may be in the form of a handstamp along the lines of 'Postage Due...' and a figure, often in manuscript, or postage due stamps to the value required, or even postage stamps to this value, sometimes with a distinctive cancellation. At present in Britain the first two are being run in parallel, depending on the office or even the mood of those running the office.

The Earliest Markings

In British Guiana, the earliest collection marks recorded are those on the 1889 issue,

POSTAGE DUE
CENTS

has been seen, although no copies have been recorded with the number of cents filled in.

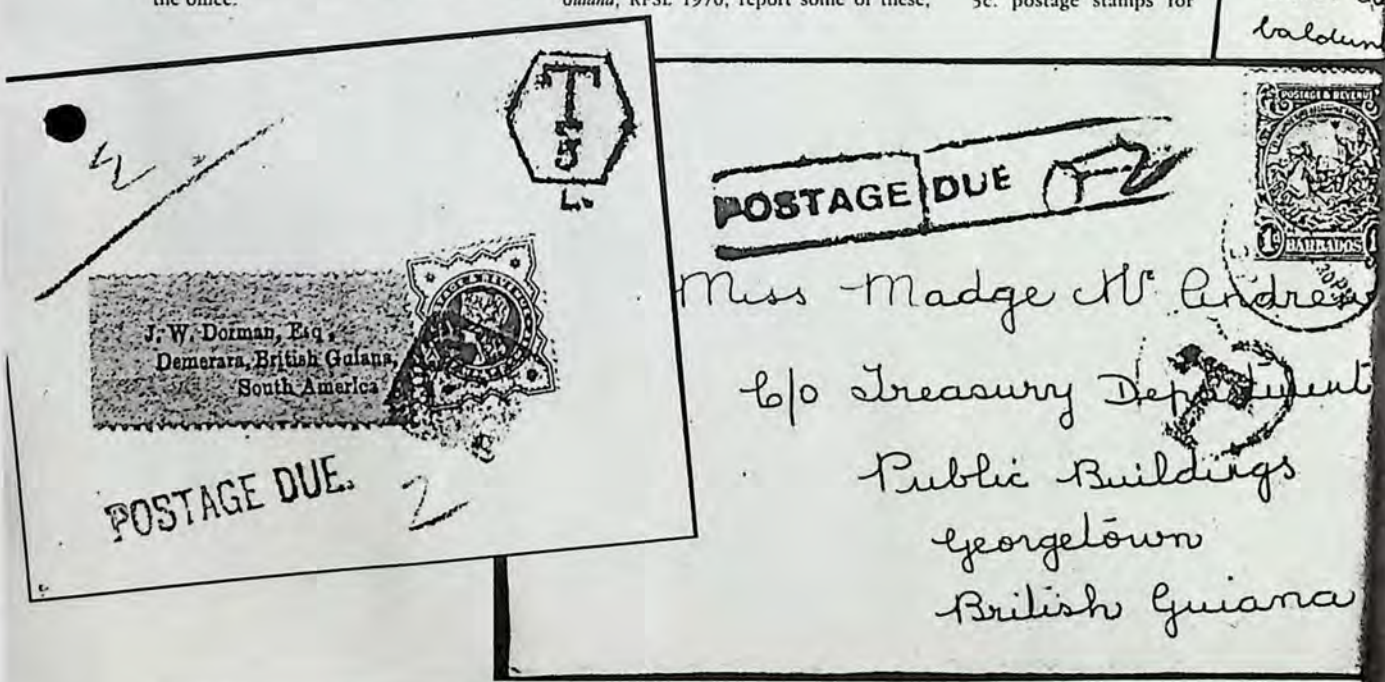
In 1894, the design DUE 4c was used, although only two strikes have been reported. More recent research has now shown up ten different marks in this category. These include, in addition to those mentioned above, 'POSTAGE DUE' without serifs or lines, struck in red in 1893 and 1897; 'DUE' in a box, seen 1901–3; 'POSTAGE DUE' in box, in 1908; 'POSTAGE DUE' with serifs and between parallel lines, 1912–14; sans-serif 'POSTAGE DUE.....' between lines, 1923–30; as this but with serifs and boxed, 1935; sans-serif with divided box and '.....' in 1931–37; and completely without embellishment, as the 1893 mark but struck in black without full stop, 1939–43.

The authorities on the Postal History of the area, Townsend & Howe, in their book *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana*, RPSL 1970, report some of these, but nothing between 1894 and their first 'T' in circle, noted in 1911. This seems a very long time for there to have been no method of collecting the underpaid postage, which anomaly excited my first curiosity to investigate further. It is now possible that this gap can be eliminated, with recently recognised material turning up from dates throughout the last hundred years.

There is in my collection a newspaper wrapper piece, referred to above, sent from Dublin to Georgetown, Demerara, and stamped with a Great Britain Queen Victoria 'Jubilee' ½d. orange, but the date is undecipherable; the newspaper rate at the time was 1d. In London this was recognised and a Tax mark applied—'T' in a hexagon with 'L' below and '5' in the centre of the mark, indicating five gold centimes. On arrival this was supplemented by a red strike of 'POSTAGE DUE', in 5mm capital letters, 37mm long and by '2c' in blue crayon. This ties in with the principle that the shortfall is doubled. A further copy of this mark, dated 1893, has been seen recently.

Pen Cancelled in Bulk

Another completely different system was in use at least between December 1897 and 24 November 1913, which also seems to have escaped the notice of previous writers on the subject. This is the use of 5c. postage stamps for



the collection of Tax. It would appear that these were pen cancelled in bulk, as I have a sheet corner consisting of 30 stamps with two sheet margins, each stamp pre-cancelled 'JOS21/12/97', and I have seen another similar piece. The usage of these stamps is illustrated by a further pair with manuscript 'WK 6/10/13' and further cancelled by a circular datestamp reading 'UNPAID BRANCH GPO BG' and dated '24 NOV 1913', not previously recorded. This pair has a further curious feature, most easily detected from the back, and this is a brace of circular indentations, 8mm in diameter. This puzzled a number of philatelists for some time until it was suggested by Mr Robson Lowe that they were probably caused by the stamps being kept after signing and until required in a blotter book of the type used by a secretary to present letters for signature. The blotting paper is usually aerated by a number of holes of exactly this size, and the scenario is complete. Or is it? Why have only 5c. stamps been found in this condition? This is a most unlikely value to be the sole one in use for this purpose, as most postage due is collected in even multiples, being double the shortfall. Stamps of even-valued denominations are much more likely to have been employed. Are there even-valued stamps of 1897–1913 out there, spurned because they are pen cancelled? Or have they all been thrown out as unsuitable for collection by our forebears? Surely some must survive. And where are the covers that would prove this theory?

Scope for Excitement?

As for the second kind of mark, capital 'T' in a circle, one would think that there is little enough scope to get excited about a simple concept like that. Townsend & Howe show five examples in their book, this should be sufficient. Realisation has dawned, however, that this is nowhere near the whole story. Firstly, one of their illustrations must be discarded, as it is clearly the London hexagon, which was not applied in British Guiana. But eighteen other types can be shown to have been applied at Georgetown during the period between 1888 and 1966.

These can be classified in various different ways. The circle, usually 21mm in diameter, varies from 18.5mm to 28mm, and its thickness from hairline to 2mm. The letter 'T' may be with or without serifs, and the serifs vary in shape from simple slabs to complicated wedges. The 'T' may vary in height from 8mm to 13mm and it may or may not be followed by a full stop. It may be struck in violet or black, only the commonest one, used in the 1930s, being seen in both, albeit at different periods. Strangely, use of the 'T' in circle seems to have ceased from 1941, after postage due stamps were introduced, until 1958, when use continued up to and beyond 1966. It is possible that continuing research may bring to light usages during this period, but at the moment it seems to be a curious hiatus. Logically, it should not have been affected by the introduction of the stamps, which should only have been used on the collection side.

In addition to all of these, a manuscript 'T' was used when the relevant handstamp was not easily available. A full study of these marks is in preparation and will be published by the British West Indies Study Circle.

In 1930, however, we come to another curiosity. This is another circular datestamp, reading 'T.L.B. CLERK BRITISH GUIANA*' and two line date. This has been seen on loose stamps from 17 June 1930 until 1935, but so far only one cover is known, and this is a clearly philatelic misuse, dating from 1937 and cancelling a range of adhesives. TLB stands for Taxed Letter Bill (or Bureau) and for this period it would appear that postage stamps were again used for the collection of postage due. This is supported by the fact that virtually all copies I have seen are on even numbers of cents stamps, usually 2c. and 4c., but also 24c. and two copies of $1. However, one copy of the 1c. Centenary issue also carries this mark, dated '6 NO 32'. It could, of course, have been one of a pair. Most of the copies seen are on 2c. violet King George V and 4c. Centenary stamps.

Postage Stamps used as Postage Dues

In 1935 the previous method of collection was re-introduced and the divided cachet 'POSTAGE/DUE....' in a box was used until postage due stamps were issued in 1940. After that the only interest was caused by the introduction of chalky paper and by the use of printing paper with a rogue St Edward's Crown in one position, but, compared with what had gone on previously these variations lack excitement as far as I am concerned.

Comments from readers who can throw light on any aspect discussed in the article, and especially pen cancelled stamps during those twenty years, would be warmly welcomed if they were sent to the Author, c/o BWISC, 'Timbers', Chequers Lane, Tharston, Norwich NR15 2YA.



Far left: GB ½d. on wrapper with London Tax mark and British Guiana 'POSTAGE DUE 2'; Left: Barbados 'T' in heart and British Guiana collection mark
Above: British Guiana Tax mark (the only strike recorded), London collection mark and GB 1½d. postage due; Right: British Guiana Tax mark and London Foreign

GUYANA
(formerly British Guiana)

STAMP LOVER. Sept.-Oct.-1967.

GUYANA

A PHILATELIST'S SURVEY

By Col. Fred F. Seifert of Albuquerque, New Mexico

ON 26th May, 1966, the Crown Colony of British Guiana ceased to exist and the independent country of Guyana was established to take its place in the British Commonwealth. This event had been scheduled to take place some years earlier, but unsettled political conditions had enforced postponement of independence.

Although Guyana is located on the South American Continent, both its proximity and postal ties with the British West Indies have led philatelists to treat it as a part of the group. The popularity of British Guiana as a country to collect has always been limited by the fact that so many of its early adhesives are both extremely rare and costly. Only one complete collection is possible and few philatelists can come even close to approaching completion. Since Guyana's philatelic history can be considered to begin with its independence, philatelists are given a new opportunity to build up a complete collection from this interesting area. At the moment only a modest investment is required and if the Guyana Government continues its present reasonable policy with regard to postal issues, it should be a good country to collect.

POSTAGE STAMPS

As this article is being written in June, 1967, a complete collection of Guyana adhesives consists of forty-four stamps, although seventeen of these are watermark variations.

Guyana's first postage stamps were issued on its Independence Day, 26th May, 1966. They consisted of all values of the then current British Guiana definitives, with an overprint in black upper case letters reading GUYANA INDEPENDENCE 1966 in three lines. On the same day a special set of four Independence Commemoratives was released. The overprinting was arranged by the Crown Agents and was applied both to sheets in their stock and those returned from the Colony. The quality of workmanship was excellent and no printing varieties or errors appear to have been produced.

Of the overprinted stamps sold to dealers by the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau, the 2c. and 6c. were on paper with Watermark Script CA upright; the 1c., 4c., 8c., 24c. and 48c. were Watermark Block CA sideways and the 3c., 5c., 12c., 36c., 72c., $1, $2 and $5 were Watermark Block CA upright. There must have been some sort of printing error on the $1, for the Crown Agents announced that all sheets of this denomination, including those sent to Guyana, would have the right-hand row of stamps missing.

Shortly after the Independence Overprints were released, reports began to appear in the philatelic press of the discovery in Guyana of some values on differently watermarked paper than those issued by the Stamp Bureau: these were probably sheets that had been returned from British Guiana for overprinting. While there seems to be no way of telling exactly in what quantities these different watermarks were found, the prices paid by a major New Issue Service in England to obtain copies for their subscribers does give an indication of the relative scarcity. The 4c., 8c. and 12c. with Watermark Script CA upright were obtained at or near face value: the 24c. with Watermark Block CA upright was also available at face value, but the 48c. with this watermark cost 20/-. The greatest premium was asked for the 3c. Watermark Script CA upright, which at 7/6d. cost more than 50 times its face value; and the $5 with this latter watermark was more of a bargain at 90/- or a little over four times face. While the possibility cannot be dismissed that some of the latter three items are being withheld by speculators to create artificially high prices, it seems fairly obvious that not very many copies exist.

One would have expected that Guyana, proud of its independence and its new name, would hasten to have a new definitive series available by the time the Independence Overprints were depleted. Thus it was somewhat of a surprise when the Crown Agents announced that a new printing of some denominations of the Overprints was being prepared for release on 28th February, 1967. In this printing the watermarks differed either in type or orientation from those of the original issue, so that from the philatelist's point of view it constituted a new issue. The 1c., 4c. and 6c. were Watermark Block CA upright, while the 12c., 36c., 72c., $2 and $5 were Watermark Block CA sideways. On 14th March, 1967, an additional release was made of three values of this series; only two showed watermark changes, the 8c. with Watermark Block CA upright and the $1 with Watermark Block CA sideways (the 48c. Watermark Block CA sideways was a repeat of the original release).

Subsequent to these reprintings, the Crown Agents announced that a new definitive series of fifteen stamps portraying Guyana wildlife would be released in late 1967 or early 1968. At the moment it appears very likely that additional supplies of the Overprints will be required to fill the gap until this new series is released. Thus there is a good possibility that a few more varieties of watermark may show up before the Overprint set becomes obsolete.

Going back to the Independence Day emissions, the four commemorative stamps were designed by V. Whiteley and photogravure printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd. on unwatermarked paper. There were two designs, the National Flag (5c. and 15c.) and the Coat of Arms (25c. and $1). Official First Day Covers were prepared and flown to Washington, D.C., for sale at the SIPEX Stamp Exhibition. Since the Guyana Independence Day was a National Holiday, most Post Offices were closed and very little normal mail was processed.

The next Guyana issue was on 11th October, 1966, when a set of two stamps, 5c. and 25c., commemorated the Official Opening of the Bank of Guyana. This institution performs functions similar to the Bank of England. It issues banknotes in $1, $5, $10 and $20 denominations. The Guyana Dollar has a fixed value of 4s. 2d. Sterling. The stamps of this issue depict the Administration Building of the Bank of Guyana: they were designed by R. Granger Barrett

(Continuation.)

and photogravure-printed in Haarlem, Holland by Enschedé and Zonen on unwatermarked paper in sheets of 50 subjects. First Day Covers received a special violet datestamp at the Georgetown G.P.O.

What was probably the most popular issue of Guyana was released on 23rd February, 1967: it consisted of 5c. and 25c. adhesives depicting "The World's Rarest Stamp", the One Cent black on magenta issued in 1856 by British Guiana, of which only one copy is known. These commemoratives were designed by V. Whiteley and printed by Delacryl process on unwatermarked paper by De La Rue and Co. Ltd. First day covers were serviced and the entire Crown Agents stock of this issue was sold out by 27th February.

To celebrate the First Anniversary of Independence on 26th May, 1967, Guyana released a set of four commemoratives. The 6c. shows the chimney at Chateau Margot, a Dutch sugar estate located a few miles east of Georgetown: this chimney has been used for many years as a navigational landmark by ships. The 15c. displays a more recent acquisition to the Guyana landscape, Independence Arch, but the 25c. again goes back into history to show an old fortification on Fort Island, located in the Essequibo River near its mouth. Finally, the 61 shows the interior of the Parliament Assembly Gallery, where Prime Minister Forbes Burnham, head of the coalition government, and Dr. Cheddi Jagan, leader of the left-wing opposition, debate the courses to be pursued to improve the economy of their new nation.

While the major stocks of the British Guiana definitives received the Independence Overprint, the few stamps remaining in the hands of individuals, or as partial sheets in the smaller Postal Agencies, managed to escape this operation. They were not invalidated and a number of covers have been seen showing their use well after Independence Day. Mixed franking of the old and new has also been observed.

THE POST OFFICE

The Post Office in Guyana is under the supervision of the Director of Posts and Telecommunications, with headquarters in the G.P.O., Georgetown. There are 47 Post Offices throughout the country, each providing all of the normal postal services. In the list which follows, the letters after the office name are the official abbreviations which are used for mail routing and in telegrams and radiograms. The philatelist will most frequently find them in manuscript on Registration Labels to identify the office of origin, although a strike of the office postmark is also used for this purpose: absence of an abbreviation for Lethem is possibly accounted for by the fact that it was originally established as a Postal Agency and only attained Post Office status about ten years ago.

Post Offices

G.P.O., Georgetown	(SOC)	Leonora	(LO)
Anna Regina	(AR)	Mabaruma	(MAB)
Aurora	(AO)	Mackenzie	(MCK)
Bagotville	(BG)	Mahaica	(MI)
Bartica	(BK)	Mahaicony	(MO)
Benab	(BB)	Matthews Ridge	(MD)
Beterverwagting	(BV)	Metenmeerzorg	(MR)
Bourda	(BA)	New Amsterdam	(NA)
Buxton	(BX)	Nigg	(GG)
Cane Grove	(CG)	Parika	(PK)
Charity	(CT)	Plaisance	(PA)
Charlestown	(CN)	Providence	(PR)
Clonbrook	(CK)	Queenstown	(QN)
Cove and John	(CJ)	Reliance	(RL)
Danielstown	(DT)	Rosignol	(RO)
Enmore	(EN)	Skeldon	(SK)
Eversham	(ES)	Suddie	(SD)
Fellowship	(FO)	Tuschen	(TU)
Fort Wellington	(FL)	Vreedenhoop	(VP)
Grove	(GR)	Wakenaam	(WK)
Kitty	(KY)	Wales	(WA)
Leguan	(LN)	Weldaad	(WL)
Lethem		Whim	(WM)
		Wismar	(WR)

In the areas of Guyana where the population is not sufficient to justify establishment of a Post Office, limited postal services are provided by Postal Agencies. These are usually only open for business during brief periods when mail arrives or is being dispatched: they are located in the shops of local merchants, private dwellings or public buildings such as Police Stations. The latter are operated by public officials in addition to their normal duties and are known officially as Honorary Postal Agencies, a distinction which means nothing to the public whom they serve.

The most recent list of Postal Agencies published by the Director of Posts and Telecommunications provides the status as of 31st December, 1964, but while the heading indicates a total of eighty-four, only eighty names are given on the list. These are as follows:

Postal Agencies

Acquero	Imbaimadai
Agricola	Kamarang Mouth
Aishalton	Jacoba Constantia
Annai	Kato
Apiqua	Kurupung
Apoteri	Kwakwani
Atkinson Field	Lesbeholden, Black Bush Polder
Arakaka	Lodge
Aruka	Lumid Pau (Karaudanawa)
Baracara, Canje	Mahaicony-Abary
Blairmont	Mara
Bootooba, Upper Demerara River	Maria Henrietta
Bonasika	Mallali
Bush Lot, Corentyne	Morawhanna
Butukari	No. 72 Corentyne
Cabacaburi	No. 19.
Caledonia, Wakenaam	No. 51
Campbellville	Northern Hog Island
Canal No. 2	Oranapai
Coomacka, Upper Demerara River	Orinduik
Caria Caria	Present Hope
Crabwood Creek, Corentyne	Potaro—72 Miles
Cummingsburg	Potaro—110 Miles
Dadanawa	Rampoor Settlement
Dartmouth	Relief & Support, East Bank Demerara
De Kinderen	Sheet Anchor (No. 2 Palmyra)
East La Penitence	Sisters
Ebini	Soesdyke
Enachu	Stampa
Eping Upper	Stanleytown
Eping Perenong	Tacama
Five Mile Bartica-Caburi Road	Tumatumari

Fort Island
Garraway Stream
Good Hope, Rupununi
Great Troolie Island
Issano, Mazaruni
Issano Road—13½ Miles
Ithaca
Ituni
Two Mouth, Kurupung Creek
Uitvlugt
Wakapoa
Waramuri, Essequibo River
Western Hogg Island
Wineperu
Yakusari, Black Bush Polder
Yupukari

Another list (source unknown) includes two additional Postal Agencies said to have been open in 1964, Monkey Mountain and Port Kaituma. The current status of these two agencies has not been determined. Subsequent to 1964 Postal Agencies have been opened at Hague (14th June, 1965), Sand Creek (2nd January, 1967) and Vigilance (date unknown). The Postal Agency at Garraway Stream was closed on 1st March, 1967.

The only roads of any consequence in Guyana are situated in the most populated area along the coast. While the use of air mail service to and from the interior has been increasing, a large portion is still transported by boats on the principal rivers. Each of these, as well as the coastal railways, has some sort of Travelling Post Office or Travelling Postal Agency aboard. There are six of the former and thirteen of the latter.

Travelling Post Offices
Bartica Steamer
Canje Launch
East Coast Railway
Essequibo Steamer
West Coast Berbice, Railway
West Coast Demerara, Railway

Travelling Postal Agencies
Abary Creek
Bonasika Creek
Corentyne River Launch Service
Cuyuni River
Demerara River Steamer
Joe Hoop (Mahaica Creek)
Launch "Parakeet"
Berbice River Steamer
Mahaicony Creek
Mazaruni River Boat
Medical Mobile Unit, N.W.D.
Pomeroon Launch
Upper Demerara River Launch

Not strictly Travelling Post Offices (since they operate only while parked) are two Mobile Post Offices housed in motor vehicles. Mobile Postal Unit 1 operates in the Georgetown Area and Mobile Postal Unit 2 in the Corentyne Area out of Whim Post Office. Each van halts for several hours at a number of scheduled locations in the area it serves: while parked it provides the normal services of a Post Office.

THE POSTMARKS

Prior to Independence Day a supply of postmarking devices to replace those of former British Guiana had been procured and issued to most of the Post Offices and several of the Postal Agencies. These marks, illustrated in figures 1 to 4 and figure 10, were put into immediate use on Independence, although a few offices continued to employ their old British Guiana postmarks, either in lieu of or in addition to the new device.

For many years prior to Independence many of the Post Offices and nearly all of the Postal Agencies had been using either as their principal or as a supplementary postmark, a do-it-yourself gadget often called the "Skeleton Type" postmark. It employs removable type, a box full of letters and figures being provided with each device. When a retaining ring has been screwed off the base of the holder/handle and a face plate removed, up to twenty-six letters may be inserted in slots just inside the outer circumference. Additional slots are provided in the central portion in two lines for the date or other desired markings. Figures 5 to 9 and figures 11 and 14 illustrate this mark. After Independence it was a simple matter to reset the type in these marks to reflect the change in name, but as can be seen in figures 11 and 14, a few Postal Agencies have failed to do so. As could be expected, the removable type feature of this handstamp results in spelling errors, missing letters and variations in the text: all of these add to the interest of collecting odd postmarks.

Figures 12 and 13 illustrate two British Guiana cancels that have continued in use after Independence: the shadowy areas at the sides of figure 13 were not a part of the original mark, but are due to wear and the accumulation of dirt due to long use.

Handling a large volume of mail, Georgetown frequently employs cancelling machines. Their marks are similar to those of most other countries with a circular date stamp portion and an obliterator portion. A typical strike is shown in figure 15. Although British Guiana machine marks often used an obliterator consisting of a series of parallel wavy lines, all Guyana strikes noted to date have had slogans. Two different CDS are known for Georgetown: one is illustrated and the other reads AIR MAIL G.P.O. at the top and GUYANA at the bottom. Slogans, in addition to the example illustrated, are noted as:

GUYANA
MOVES
FORWARD

POST EARLY
FOR
CHRISTMAS

LET'S BE
TRULY
INDEPENDENT

PRODUCE MORE—IMPORT LESS

The last slogan has the outline of Guyana's flag mounted on a short staff in the upper left portion above the words PRODUCE MORE.

Only two other offices handle enough mail to warrant machines, New Amsterdam and Mackenzie. The former is the second largest community in Guyana, while Mackenzie is the site of a large bauxite mining operation by Demerara Bauxite Company (DEMBA), a subsidiary of the Aluminium Company of Canada. The CDS portions of the New Amsterdam and Mackenzie machine marks are the same as those of Georgetown (with town name at top and GUYANA at bottom) and neither of the two marks are very common as normal mail can be handled with handstamps. New Amsterdam has only been seen with the LET'S BE TRULY INDEPENDENT, etc., slogan: the only strike of Mackenzie noted had a slogan reading

STOP
ACCIDENTS

with the International Highway Stop sign of a triangle within a circle in the upper right corner, except that the triangle is inverted.

BRITISH GUIANA

STAMP MAGAZINE, July 1966

GUYANA INDEPENDENCE



Arthur Neil Storey, from the Guyana High Commissioner in London, examines the Independence issues.

ON the 26th of May, 1966 British Guiana achieved Independence, and will henceforth be known as Guyana.

British Guiana is one of the Crown Agents' very oldest Principals; in fact, the association dates from 1833 when the Agents General for the Crown Colonies, as the Crown Agents were then called, were appointed as the Government of British Guiana's commercial and financial agents, a relationship which has continued unbroken ever since.

The postage stamps of British Guiana have always been of great interest to collectors, as the earliest issues contain some of the world's great rarities.

The Crown Agents assumed responsibility for the control of production of British Guiana stamps in 1875 and the first issue of stamps printed under this arrangement appeared the following year. Since that date the Crown Agents have continued to co-ordinate the various individual efforts needed to initiate an issue of stamps, to control production at all stages, to arrange shipment of the finished stamps to British Guiana and, since 1906, to distribute the country's new issues to the philatelic trade throughout the world.

The stamps issued on 26th May comprise two issues: the present definitive issue overprinted in black "Guyana Independence 1966" and a special four denomination issue showing the new coat of arms and the new flag, released to commemorate the occasion.



Two values from the Commemorative issue. The $1 value will show GUYANA in gold.

The coat-of-arms incorporates several features of life in Guyana—jaguars, a Canje pheasant, sugar cane, a rice plant, diamonds and a pick. The Royal College of Arms' description is more complete and certainly more colourful:—

"Argent in fess three barrulets wavy Azure in chief a Victoria Regia Lily Leaf and Two Flowers conjoined on one stem. The Flower to the dexter opened and the other opening, and in base Canje Pheasant proper—and for the Crest on a Wreath of Colours between two Diamonds a Cacique's Crown proper, and for the supporters on either side a Jaguar, the dexter holding a Pick and the sinister a Sugar Cane and a Plant of Rice all proper."

British Guiana's new name of Guyana means, in the Amerindian dialect, "land of waters".

Guyana, located on the north-east shoulder of the South American continent, is 83,000 square miles in area. It is notable for its mighty rivers, the most important being the Demerara, Berbice, Essequibo and Courantyne. The most spectacular of the numerous waterfalls and rapids is Kaieteur Falls on the Potara River with a drop of 741 feet, nearly five times the height of Niagara Falls.

The population was estimated at 638,030 in December, 1964, of which 162,000 live in the environs and the capital, Georgetown.

The economy of the country has traditionally been based on the production of two agricultural crops—sugar and rice, and since the second world war on bauxite, the ore of aluminium. Sugar alone accounts for approximately 40% of the total value of all exports. Although important surveying work has been done, Guyana is not yet surveyed in depth and the discovery of new minerals and metals in large quantity is considered likely. Difficulties of terrain, transportation and communications will need to be overcome, but recently United Nations surveyors have discovered what seems to be commercially viable deposits of copper and molybdenum.



The 15 values comprising the current definitive issue are overprinted by De La Rue & Co. with the wording "GUYANA INDEPENDENCE 1966". They will remain on sale until a new definitive issue is available

Queen Elizabeth II Definitives

Part 4—British Guiana 1954–63 and 1963–65

Nick Halewood takes a look at another QEII definitive series

In 1796 Britain captured the three countries of Demerara, Essequibo and Berbice, which had been settled by the Dutch West Indies Company around 1620. The three countries were ceded to Britain in 1814 and were united as British Guiana in 1831.

British Guiana, covering an area of 83,000 squares miles, and bounded by Venezuela, Brazil and Surinam, was the only British colony on the South American continent. The colony became an independent member of the British Commonwealth on 26 May 1966, as Guyana.

Production and sheet layout

All fifteen 1954–63 definitive values were first issued on 1 December 1954 (SG 331/45). All, except for the vignette of the $1, were recess-printed with flat-bed plates, initially by Waterlow and Sons. The $1 vignette was printed by lithography. All values were printed in sheets of 100 (10 × 10). The mono-coloured (single working) values had one plate number in the bottom margin under stamp 99, with one exception; for plate 2 of the 6c. the number was under stamp 92. The bi-coloured (double working) values all had plate numbers under stamps 99 (frame plate) and 100 (vignette plate). The four colours of the $1 vignette were represented by four numbers under stamp 100. New plates, frame and/or vignette, were introduced later for six values (see Table I). All values had the Waterlow & Sons Limited, London Wall, London EC imprint in the centre of the bottom margin of each sheet. All were initially printed on paper with the Multiple Crown Script CA watermark, and all were single comb-perforated (14 gauge). The author has examples of the 2c., 5c., 8c. and 48c. on Script CA paper with a punch-hole in one corner, which are reputed to be from Waterlow's files.

In the middle of 1961 the printing of the stamps of certain countries, including British Guiana, was transferred from Waterlow to De La Rue. De La Rue printings can be distinguished by the sharpness of the lines and the absence of the feathering found on Waterlow printings, the wider margins resulting from De La Rue's use of larger paper, and the new imprint, THOMAS DE LA RUE & COMPANY, LIMITED. The 4c., 48c., 72c. and $5 (that is, all the vertical format values except the 12c.) can also be distinguished by the single wide-tooth perforation at each side at the bottom of the stamps (*Fig 1*); for the Waterlow printings, and the 12c. printed by De La Rue on Script CA paper, these teeth are at the top (*Fig 2*). Printers waste (trial printings), from De La Rue, on coarse buff unwatermarked paper exists. At least three sheets escaped destruction. One has the British Guiana 3c. red-brown frame on one side, with an offset of the $2 mauve superimposed but upside down in relation to the former, and the $2 mauve on the other side, with the Malaya Perlis 1957–62 1c. black (Copra) superimposed at right angles, showing interpanneau plate numbers 1B and 1C. Another sheet has the British Guiana 3c. red-brown frame, with the North Borneo 1961 10c. red and 12c. grey-green frames, and the 1c. vignette (Payau) in grey-green (not the issued colour, emerald) twice, once upside down in relation to the rest, superimposed. On the other side are offsets of the North Borneo 12c. grey-green frame and the 25c. scarlet frame upside down in relation to it. A third sheet has the British Guiana 3c. frame and, superimposed, the North Borneo 1961 10c. red and green (map of Borneo), and 12c. green frame; upside down in relation to all the former is the 10c. red frame. On the back of this sheet there are offsets of the 1c. green vignette (Payau), the 10c. red frame and, upside down, the 10c. vignette (map of Borneo).

Continued on page 54





Fig 1 (below left): 4c. De La Rue printing showing wide-tooth perforation on each side at the bottom of the stamp
Fig 2 (below right): Vertical stamps printed by Waterlow and the 12c. De La Rue on Script CA paper have wide teeth at the top
Fig 3 (right): De La Rue 12c. on Block CA paper with irregular comb perforation giving the appearance of line perforation





Fig 4 'Weed' flaw (top) with normal





Fig 5 'Clubbed foot' flaw (top) with normal



Fig 6 'Dot under waterfall' flaw

Fig 7 Bad plate registration



Near the end of 1963 there was a change from the Script CA paper to paper with the Multiple St Edward's Crown Block CA watermark. Nine British Guiana values appeared on the new paper (354/65) (see Table I). An irregular comb was used by De La Rue for the 12c. on the new paper; the comb used was slightly deeper than the size of the stamps, giving the appearance of line perforation (see *Fig 3*).

Reels

The 1c., 2c. and 5c. were made up into reels (coils) of 500 stamps for sale from vending machines, the reels costing $5, $10 and $25, respectively. Sheets were broken into vertical strips of ten, which were joined together by means of a thin section of the bottom (1c. and 2c.) or top (5c.) margin, that is, the longer side. The 1c. and 2c., on Script CA paper, were printed and reeled by Waterlow, and despatched to the colony on 27 January and 4 July 1955, respectively. The 5c., on Block CA paper, was printed by De La Rue but reeled by Waterlow, and despatched on 23 December 1962.

The designs

The map on the 5c. (335 and 356) clearly shows the colony's close proximity to the West Indian islands and the Caribbean. In 1945 a disastrous fire destroyed a considerable part of Georgetown, the capital, including the main post office. In 1952 the new General Post Office (1c.; 331) was built at a cost of £350,000. Also in Georgetown are the famous Botanical Gardens (2c.; 332), an area of 180 acres containing the finest collection of palms in the world, as well as ponds of *Victoria regia* water-lilies (3c.; 333 and 354). These showy crimson and white water-lilies have huge leaves of up to six feet in diameter.

The earliest inhabitants of British Guiana were the Amerindians, of whom there were nine tribes, the best known being the Caribs and Arawaks. It was these people who gave the colony its name, Guiana, which means 'Land of the Waters', because it is traversed by three great rivers, the Essequibo, Demerara and Berbice. The 4c. (334, 334a and 334ab) shows an Amerindian shooting fish with a bow and arrow. The largest freshwater fish in the world, the arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*), is depicted on the 72c. (342, 342a and 363). This fish, found in the Rupununi River, can grow up to 15 feet long and weigh up to 400 pounds.

The leading exports of British Guiana are rice, sugar, timber, bauxite and gold. The 6c. (336 and 336a) shows a rice combine-harvester. Rice is grown on the swampy alluvial soil which stretches along the 270 miles of seaboard and some way up the rivers. Sugar cane is grown on the same soil, but mainly on the lower reaches of the Berbice and Demerara Rivers. The 8c. (337 and 337a) depicts sugar cane entering a sugar factory in lighters or punts. The inland forest area is represented by the 12c. (338, 338a, 338b and 359), which shows a native felling greenheart (*Ocotea rodioei*), the hardest wood in the world and Guiana's most famous timber. Because of its toughness and durability, it is used for many purposes, from shipbuilding to the butts of billiard cues. The 24c. (339, 339a and 360) shows the mining of bauxite, from which aluminium is produced. Bauxite mining takes place at Mackenzie and Kwakwani. The $2 (344, 344a and 365) depicts one of the three dredges of British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields Limited dredging for alluvial gold in the Potaro River.

No series of British Guiana stamps would be complete without views of Mount Roraima (36c.; 340 and 361) and the Kaieteur Falls (48c.; 341, 341a, 341ab and 362). At 8600 feet, Mount Roraima is the highest mountain in the colony. This flat-topped mountain straddles the borders of the colony, Brazil and Venezuela. The Kaieteur Falls with a clear drop of 741 feet and a total fall of 822 feet, that is, five times that of the Niagara Falls, are among the world's major waterfalls. They are situated on the Potaro River and were discovered by Barrington Brown, a government surveyor, in 1870.

The last two values to be described are the $1 and $5, the former being the most colourful and the latter the most uninspired. The use of four colours, black, red, green and yellow, for the vignette of the $1 (343 and 364) allows a realistic rendering of a multihued toucan. The creature, perhaps best described as a huge beak with a bird attached to it, feeds mainly on fruit and nests in holes in trees. The disappointing $5 (345 and 345a), with its cut-and-paste appearance, shows the coat-of-arms of the colony designed by Vincent Roth OBE. The coat-of-arms comprises the familiar full-rigged sailing vessel within a garter bearing the Latin motto DAMUS PETIMUSQUE VICISSIM ('We both give and seek').

Plate flaws and varieties

There are only three major plate flaws listed to date. On the Script CA 3c., R3/10, there is a green flaw resembling a weed on the lily below the second 'I' of 'BRITISH' (SG V4, weed flaw; *Fig 4*). Then on R4/1 of the same stamp there are two green blobs on the right foot of the right-hand bird resembling a clubbed foot (V5, clubbed foot flaw; *Fig 5*). Finally on the Block CA 48c, R2/1, there is a blue flaw under the waterfall (V2, dot under waterfall; *Fig 6*). All three can be found on the corresponding Guyana independence overprinted stamps.

The 3c., 5c. and 36c. on Script CA paper, and the 5c. and 48c. on Block CA paper have been recorded with inverted watermarks, but the author can only confirm the existence of one, the 5c. on Block CA paper.

In *Fig 7* is an example of the 5c. on Block CA paper showing extremely bad plate registration, a problem with the use of two plates (double working). Such errors were normally detected and destroyed before leaving the printer.

Guyana independence overprints

As stated at the beginning, British Guiana became independent and was renamed Guyana on 26 May 1966. Initially, stamps of British Guiana were overprinted GUYANA/DEPENDENCE/1966. These overprinted stamps will be the subject of the next article in this series.

Table I Release dates, plate numbers and colour and paper changes

—	1c.	2c.	3c.	4c.	5c.	6c.	8c.	12c.	24c.	36c.	48c.	72c.	$1	$2	$5
CA release	Waterlow/Script CA														
1/12/54	1 a	1 b	1/1 c	1 d	1/1 e	1 f	1 g	1/1 h	1/1 i	1/1 j	1/1 k	1/1 l	1/1 m	1 n	1/1 o
13/6/56	1	1		1		1	1	1/1 ha	1/1 ia		1/1 ka			1	
28/11/56		1		2		1		1/1	1/1						
10/4/57	1		1/1				1						1/1*		
16/10/57		1		2		1		1/1	1/1		1/1				
24/4/58		2		2					1/1						
16/12/58						1								1	
16/9/59		2	1/1	2	1/1	1	1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1				
22/3/60		2	1/1	2		1	1		1/1	1/1			1/1*		
19/4/61			1/1												
	De La Rue/Script CA														
11/7/61	1	2	1/1					2/1 hb						1 na	
19/9/61							2 ga			1/1	1/1				1/1
6/3/62					2/1										
22/5/62	1					1 fa									
17/7/62		3							1/1		1/1	1/1	1/2		
5/12/62		3		4 da											
13/1/63				4											
22/1/63					4/3										
12/2/63													1/2*		
	De La Rue/Block CA														
25/11/63											1/1 kb	1/1			
26/11/63			1/1												
10/12/63									1/1 ib	1/1			1/2	1	
28/5/64					4/3										
9/6/64						2·S									
6/10/64								2/2 hc							
?/12/65			1/1												

All release dates and plate numbers (frame/vignette in the case of the bi-coloured values) are cited from *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*. In the colour combinations for the bi-coloured values given below, the first colour is for the vignette and the second one for the frame.

a black
b myrtle-green
c brown-olive & red-brown
d violet
da deep violet
e scarlet & black
f yellow-green
fa green
S Script CA
g ultramarine
ga blue
h black & reddish brown
ha black & light brown
hb black & brown
hc black & yellowish brown
i black & brownish orange
ia black & orange
ib black & bright orange
j rose-carmine & black
k ultramarine & brown-lake
ka bright ultramarine & pale brown-lake
kb bright ultramarine & Venetian red
l carmine & emerald
m yellow, black, pink & green, & black
* 1/1 = 1/1111; 1/2 = 1/2222
n deep mauve
na reddish mauve
o ultramarine & black











GUYANA'S U.N. ENVOY HOME FOR BRIEFING

By Our Correspondent in Georgetown, Guyana

Commonwealth Caribbean ambassadors to the United Nations have asked to be fully informed about developments in Venezuala's campaign of aggression against Guyana, and they are ready to place their diplomacy at Guyana's disposal.

This was disclosed yesterday by Guyana's Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Noel Sinclair, who is in Georgetown to be briefed by the Foreign Ministry on the latest developments in Venezuala's claim to Guyanan territory.

Mr Sinclair noted that while the issue was not formally before the United Nations, "We have to let them know Guyana's position and our commitment to peaceful, friendly and good neighbourly relations with Venezuala."

24/12/82

EIGHT HELD IN GUYANA PLOT

Seven Canadians and an American citizen have been arrested and charged with offences linked to an alleged plot to overthrow the Government of Guyana, Toronto police said yesterday.

A police spokesman said the Canadians planned to buy and pass arms to a 20-man assassination team to kill Guyanese President Forbes Burnham and key members of his Cabinet.—Reuter.

Guyana Misplaced Date

The catalogue has recorded for some time that various values from the Guyana 1967–68 'INDEPENDENCE' overprint exist with the '1966' part of the overprint misplaced. There are two constant types of this, one showing the date misplaced 5mm. so that it occurs under the second 'D' of 'INDEPENDENCE' and the other with the date misplaced 2mm. so that it comes below the second 'E'. This last is known on the 1c., 2c., 3c. and 5c., all of which are horizontal designs, from row 6/1.

Mr J Webber of Lewes has, however, sent me a mint block of six of the 4c. Block watermark, one stamp in which shows a similar displacement. The block was found in some material acquired for a children's stamp club and they, together with Mr Webber, would be interested to know if this is also a constant variety. Certainly our own records do not cover this variety occuring on vertical format stamps.

G.S.M. October 1994

Guyana Prince William Overprint

A reader, Mr N. R. Simons, has reported the existence of a British Guiana 3c issue of 1954 (S.G. 333) with the overprint **GUYANA "H.R.H. Prince William 1st June 1982"** and surcharged $1.10. We illustrate a cancelled specimen, but have no information as to the authenticity of this stamp as overprinted.



ESEQUIBA AS 'ANOTHER FALKLANDS'

By BRUCE VANDERVORT in Geneva

BRITAIN'S involvement in post-colonial disputes in South America is not likely to end with the resolution, peaceful or otherwise, of the Falkland conflict.

Another very similar dispute even now awaits the attention of the Thatcher Government on the boundary between the former British Guiana and Venezuela.

The "Esequiba" dispute, which concerns Venezuelan claims to about 100,000 square miles, or about one-half of the land area of present-day Guyana, helps to explain better than anything else why democratic Venezuela swallowed its evident distaste for Argentina's human rights record and became a vociferous supporter of the Argentine claim to the Falklands.

The Esequiba dispute, which has dragged on since the mid-19th century, has achieved new prominence lately with the



lapse of the 1970 protocol of Port of Spain, which gave Guyana, Venezuela, and Britain, as the former colonial power, 10 years' grace to negotiate a settlement.

STAMP COLLECTING 19 March 1970

GUYANA

GO–IT–ALONE GUYANA

The World's First Co-operative Republic

THE Republic Day commemorative stamps issued in Guyana on February 23rd mark the final stage of Independence—within the Commonwealth—for the Guyanese.

The four stamps were based on photographs by Design & Graphics of Guyana, the finished art work being carried out by L. D. Curtis. Printing was by De La Rue in Delacryl, on Lotus Blossom Bud watermarked paper in sheets of 50. The designs, which symbolise the final transition to full independence are described below:



5c.: Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, who was born on February 20th, 1923, is Leader of the People's National Congress. He was elected Prime Minister, 1964–68, and re-elected 1968.

Forbes Burnham came into power at a time when the country, then a British Colony, was torn by civil disorder and racial rioting. Under his wise and firm leadership, peace and stability came to this English-speaking country on the north coast of South America, and on May 26th, 1966, he became the first Prime Minister of independent Guyana.

His régime has seen the co-operative movement expand significantly and the formerly depressed coastal villages and hinterland communities have been transformed by a new spirit of self-help and self-confidence. In the new republic he remains Prime Minister of a Guyana which becomes the first Co-operative Republic in the world. A Constitutional President, elected by Members of Parliament, will replace the Governor General, appointed by the British Queen. The new Republic will continue to be a member of the Commonwealth recognising the Queen as its Head.

6c.: Self-help is a way of life in Guyana today. Over 400 communities and 200,000 individuals have been involved in this nation-building exercise from the beginning of 1965 to the end of 1969.

The Government supply the materials and technical supervision, while the " self-helpers " supply free labour. Out of this arrangement hundreds of unemployed persons have become skilled carpenters, painters and masons. More than 1,500 youths have been trained.

Behind the scheme's success is hard work, dedication, sacrifice and co-operation at all levels in the new Co-operative Republic which will be striving to make the small man a real man.

Since 1964, 2,143 projects worth $20 million, have been completed—bringing about a $15 million saving of Public Funds. In the years 1965 to 1969, 36,000 new school places were made available as against 436 new places in 1964, with the construction of 120 additional schools, most of them by Self-Help. At the same time, 28 teachers' houses were built and 15 Home Economic, Handicraft and Domestic Science Centres erected.

Of the 563 new self-help projects last year, 29 were completed on the West Berbice without any Government aid whatsoever.

15c.: The University of Guyana was incorporated by an Act of Legislature of what was then British Guiana on April 19th, 1963, and in October of the same year admitted its first 164 students to the Faculties of Arts, Natural Science, and Social Science. To date, there are just over 1,000 students, and there is, in addition to the three named Faculties, a Faculty of Education and a Division of Tiechncal Studies.

Up until October 1969 the University conducted classes on the premises of Queen's College, but in that month it moved into its new buildings (shown on this 15c. stamp) on a 140 acre site at Turkeyen. The site was a gift of the Booker Group of Companies, and the buildings, which were completed at a cost of nearly G$5 million, were made possible by substantial grants from the Governments of the United Kingdom and Canada, as well as from the Guyana Government.

25c.: Guyana House is the official residence of the Governor-General. It was known as Government House until the country became independent on May 26th, 1966, and was formerly the official residence of Governors for most of the century. It was erected in 1854, but additions have been made from time to time, the most substantial being carried out in 1867. It is considered a good architectural example of the " Colonial " type mansion. Its large setting features the main dining and reception rooms and the state dinner room.

On Republic Day, the office of Governor-General gave way to that of President of the Republic of Guyana and Guyana House will be the official residence of the President.

GUYANA

Supplement No. 5 to the "JL" 1967 Variety Catalogue (10th Edition)

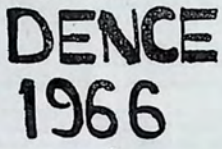
P.M. 1/3/68

Edited by P. N. Bullivant and published by SHELLEY STAMPS, COLLEGE HILL CHAMBERS, COLLEGE HILL, LONDON, E.C.4. Note: The 11th edition for 1968 will be available on March 22nd, 1968 and may be obtained, price 12/6d. (postage 1/- inland) from Harris Publications Ltd., 16, John Adam Street, London, W.C.2, or from the publishers.

Pricings Left hand column is for MINT in pair with normal. USED single to right.

GUYANA

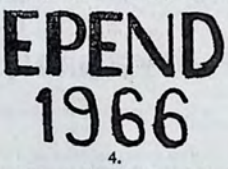
1967 Definitive. Local overprinting of 1966 issue on British Guiana stamps.



3

Row 6 No. 3. "1966" set to right, the "1" being below the "D" instead of "P" of INDEPENDENCE. Positional block of 6.

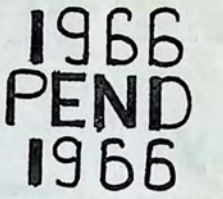
V31. 1c. black (Script CA paper) .. 20 0 10 0



4.

Row 6 No. 2. "1966" set to left, the "1" being below the "EP" instead of "PE" of INDEPENDENCE. Positional pair.

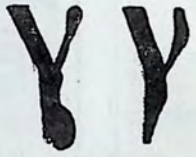
V41. 3c. olive-green, chocolate (Script CA paper) 15 0 10 0



5.

Row 7 No. 10. "1966 INDEPENDENCE 1966" for "GUYANA INDEPENDENCE 1966". Error corrected during printing. Positional block of 4.
Script CA watermarked paper.

V51. 2c. grey-green £25 £15
V52. 3c. olive-green, chocolate.. .. £15 £10
V53. 6c. yellow-green.. .. .. .. £25 £20
Block CA watermarked paper.
V54. 3c. olive-green, chocolate.. .. £75 £50



6.

Row 6 No. 5. State I. Large stop at foot of "Y" of GUYANA. State II. "V" for "Y" in GUYANA, as foot of "Y" is broken off. Positional pair.

V61. 1c. black (Script CA paper). State I 20 0 10 0
V62. 1c. black (Script CA paper). State II 25 0 20 0

GUYANA.

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, 5 Jan. 1968

QE II
PANORAMA by AVON



GUYANA LOCAL OVERPRINTS

SOME MORE DETAILS

MY "Caribbean Correspondent" has now reported on the various settings employed by the printers when overprinting local reserves of British Guiana stamps. I quote:

"I have been able to examine a fair number of complete sheets of all values of the local overprints (except in the case of the 5c. value of which only right-hand half sheets were available). My findings lead me to believe that three basic settings were used for the horizontal (1c., 2c., 3c., 5c. and 6c.) stamps and one for the vertical (4c.) stamp. It is quite obvious, however, that some of the type face was changed during the course of 'runs', the classic example being that of the major '1966 for GUYANA' error.

I have used as a norm the G of GUYANA appearing immediately above the first E of INDEPENDENCE and the 1 of 1966 appearing centrally below the EP of INDEPENDENCE.

SETTING I. 1c. ONLY.

Row 1 No. 1. The 1 of 1966 is under second E of INDEPENDENCE.
Row 1 No. 3. The first A of GUYANA is broken at left.
Row 4 No. 1. The G of GUYANA is over the EP of INDEPENDENCE.
Row 4 No. 7. The P of INDEPENDENCE appears as an F (later corrected).
*Row 5 No. 8. The U of GUYANA appears as an L (later corrected).
Row 6 No. 2. As Row 1 No. 1.
*Row 6 No. 3. The 1 of 1966 is under the second D of INDEPENDENCE.
Row 6 No. 4, Row 6 No. 5 and Row 7 No. 7. The 1 of 1966 is under the P of INDEPENDENCE.
Row 6 No. 8. The 1 of 1966 is under the first EN of INDEPENDENCE.
Row 9 No. 4. The N of GUYANA is broken at left (later corrected).

SETTING II. 1c., 2c., 3c. and 6c. (POSSIBLY ALSO 5c.).

Row 6 No. 2, and Row 6 No. 5. The 1 of 1966 is under the EP of INDEPENDENCE.
*Row 7 No. 10. The '1966 FOR GUYANA' ERROR (later corrected). This variety has been seen on 2c., 3c. and 6c. values but could also exist on 1c. and possibly also 5c. value.

SETTING III. 2c., 3c. and 5c.

Row 4 No. 1, and Row 10 No. 7. The G of GUYANA is over the EP of INDEPENDENCE.
Row 7 No. 4, Row 9 No. 6 and Row 10 No. 3. The 1 of 1966 is under the second E of INDEPENDENCE".

(*Note:* Those items marked with an asterisk (*) will be listed in the Commonwealth Catalogue – AVON.)

Postscript: The 24c. value, locally overprinted, was placed on sale on 11th December and all other values to $5 are in course of being overprinted.

STAMP COLLECTING 11 April 1968.

Guyana Double Overprint



The 6c. script watermark of the " GUYANA INDEPENDENCE 1966 " locally overprinted series has been found with double overprint.

The additional overprint overlays the original but with a lateral displacement to the left of $\frac{1}{8}$ in., the date in the last line reading like a blurred " 19666".

The illustration shows a marginal pair (the sheet margin at left has been masked) submitted by a reader. It is reasonable to assume that a full sheet existed but no news of any other survivors has been released.

Inverted overprints. To the 1c. and 4c. inverted local overprints already reported, a reader adds the **6c.** and **48c.**, now in his possession, and says he has been told of the existence of the $5 value but that he has not seen it.

STAMP COLLECTING 16 May 1968

Guyana's Postal Minister at London Conference

Speaking to STAMP COLLECTING just before leaving London 10 days ago, Mr. Eugene Correia, Minister of Communications of Guyana, confirmed the existence of a complete sheet of $5 stamps with the local Independence overprint inverted, as originally reported on April 11th.

Mr. Correia explained that the sheet had been seen in stocks before issue to the post office counter in Georgetown and was now in the departmental vaults awaiting destruction.

Outlining Guyana's stamp-issuing policy, Mr. Correia first said that he intended that the Guyana Post Office would continue with the Crown Agents as philatelic distributors.

There would be an average of six issues each year, none of which would exceed the equivalent of 5s. in face value. The remaining issues for 1968 include one concerned with the Koran (there is a strong Muslim element in Guyana), one combining propaganda for Efficiency Year and Savings Bonds and a Christmas issue with a Cable and Wireless tie-in to suggest the dissemination of Christmas greetings.

The 1969 programme is already largely planned. Art and Culture week will result on January 27th in an issue of local interest. An Easter issue picturing the Resurrection will follow on March 17th. The first anniversary of the signing (on May 1st this year) of the Caribbean Free Trade Area (CARIFTA) treaty will be marked on May 1st next year. This will be part of a mini-bus issue in which the other signatories will participate. Tourism comes into the programme with a special issue covering a new hotel development and the completion of the airfield Terminal Building. Guyana will also be participating in the International Labour Office omnibus issue of 1969. Of special national, and international, interest will be the issue in August of the World Scout Jamboree to be held in Guyana on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of Scouting in Guyana.

Finally, in a reference to the Philatelic Bureau established in January last, Mr. Correia said that philatelic sales of Guyana stamps in 1967 had reached the £100,000 mark and that he looked for an advance on this with a settled programme of moderation planned for the future.

GUYANA

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

february 2, 1968

Le GUYANA

Commonwealth Commentary

By ANGOL

For some time, with releases of new printings few and far between, it is something to get even the two small reprints which came out January 16th. Not that they amounted to anything of importance, though they were examined with interest.

For **British Solomon Is.** there was a reprint of the 3c. and a new shade or watermark variety would have meant a scramble, with the new set due out in a couple of months. But there was no change.

I don't suppose that many will regret the passing of the present issue, for lurid colours and moderate designs please no one in the days of so many attractive stamps. It speaks well for the popularity of British Solomon Is. stamps, that the 1965 issue didn't kill the demand stone dead. Perhaps the short life, the overprints (which in general are now all the vogue) and the watermark changes did the trick. One thing is certain, the three last sets look like proving very good property for with so many new stamps to buy, there can be few dealers who can find the loose capital to put away stamps of relatively high face value in any quantity.

For Guyana there was a reprint of the **1c. and 6c.** With the territory overprinting its own stamps, it might have been thought that these two values were the clearance of old stock, for why just two odd values like this? However, they appear to be a new printing all right, as both stamps can be readily distinguished from previous releases. The 1c. being of a rather lighter black, whilst the 6c. is of a slightly deeper green. These differences, such as they are, do not amount to new varieties worth consideration, but in the meanwhile, new varieties seem to be popping up amongst the overprints coming from Guyana itself.

The latest seems to be the $2 with the **block watermark.** If these are all part of the number of this value, which was reported in a recent edition of the PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, then both this stamp and the **script watermark** variety, will indeed be good stamps. It will obviously be some time before the true value of the various local overprints can be assessed with certainty, and by then it will be too late to get the bargains. Now is the time to buy them all. Prices in general, seem reasonable enough.

I have been checking ...

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE 29 Mad 68

Le GUYANA

Commonwealth Commentary

By ANGOL

There is only a very humble reprint to deal with this time, the ½c. surcharged item for **Pitcairn Is.**, which was released February 13th. As there was no change, new printings are soon disposed of, which is more than can be claimed for the local overprints of **Guyana.**

Whilst it is true enough that we have no doubt seen the last of any more new items, it is equally certain that dealers are still trying to sort things out, and as yet it is anybody's guess which are going to prove the scarcest items. Of course, the original 3c. and 5c. (block watermark) are obviously very good items, but the $2 script watermark may prove a much better stamp than it is given credit for at the moment; there are perhaps others similarly underrated.

It was the last set of overprints (1c. to 6c.) which caused most heart-burnings. With the new definitive issue delayed, and local stocks almost exhausted, it was necessary to have more basic stamps printed, and these went to the territory to be overprinted. Nothing wrong with that. However, the Guyana Post Office circularised a number of British dealers who had bought previous overprints, that the last lot would be overprinted in colour. On the strength of this orders were sent. However, black ink was again used, and the same type. Fortunately, all were on E (block) watermarked paper: the 1c., 2c., 4c., 6c. for the first time. In the case of the 3c. and 5c. values, though with the same watermark as before, such were the differences of shades, that they are not likely to be confused with originals.

As to the value of this last printing, while it is true that some dealers would have ordered from the territory itself and got what they asked for (if their orders were received by March 2nd), with the announcement that the Crown Agents would have supplies, the number who did order would have been relatively limited. It is safe to say, therefore, that the *total* available will, at best, not be large, so do not be put off buying because one or two are able to offer cheaply.

All in all, due to one thing or another, dealers cannot be very pleased with the way this set was handled. At the same time, it is only fair to add that a genuine postal need for the stamps was behind their issue; the idea of selling to collectors never entered the authorities' heads. As a matter of fact, overseas orders were not welcomed, which is the reason why one or two enterprising dealers actually flew out to Georgetown to obtain supplies. My advice is get your set now.

What about the latest novelty, PVA gum? Some time ago there was a complaint about the gum, or apparent lack of it, on one of the special Commonwealth issues. The stamps themselves had this particular gum and it was claimed that collectors would not accept these stamps as mint. Let us hope that none would be so foolish as all that. For all that mint means is that the stamps are as issued. Providing they are so, then even if there is no gum at all, the stamps are still mint, and that is all there is to it. As for this new gum, it is easily detected, for stamps treated with the PVA variety, lack the shine and the level appearance.

As far as our own **British** stamps are concerned, it is probable that collectors will want both gum types, but as far as the rest of the Commonwealth is concerned, most will think that they have enough on hand, without further complicating the matter. The new gum will be used on all further printings of G.B. and the Regionals, but then unwatermarked paper will also be used, so it would seem that the only G.B. stamps with old and new gum, where there are no other changes, will be the 3d., 4d., 9d., 1/-, 1/6d. and 1/9d. values.

GUYANA.

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE NOV. 9, 1967

Guyana Local Overprints

P.M. 9

Information has been received that substantial further quantities of the lower values (excluding the 5c.) were overprinted just before or simultaneously with the 24c. value. It is believed that these were further sheets of the old British Guiana stamps which were due for destruction. The setting used was the same as that used on the 24c. value and subsequently on the higher values. While it follows that this will result in redueing somewhat the value of the basic stamps, it will in no way affect the scarcity of the "1966 for GUYANA" errors nor the scarce 5c. stamp. The 3c. with Block watermark may well turn out to be the best of the bunch.

An entirely new London printing of the basic British Guiana 1c.-6c. stamps has been carried out and these have been sent to Guyana for overprinting. That they'll provide further watermark and shade varieties seems inevitable.

Of the higher values (listed on page v of this review) it seems strange that the 12c. and $2 values should have Script watermarks as the basic stamps of British Guiana were replaced by those with Block watermarks starting in 1964 and 1963, respectively.

Mr. Grant of Rushstamps who has recently visited Guyana reports the existence of a second sheet of the 1c. value with inverted overprint and a part sheet (48 copies) of the 4c. with the overprint similarly inverted.

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, DEC. 23, 1967

Guyana Local Overprints

Further local overprints have been made on the old British Guiana stamps. These are from reset type. Values and quantities are 8c., 100,000; 12c., 100,000; 24c., 170,000; 36c., 100,000; 48c., 100,000; 72c., 100,000; $1, 50,000; $2, 25,000; $5, 10,000. *See article on page ii of "Commonwealth Review".*

STAMP COLLECTING, Dec. 7, 1967

Local Guyana Independence Ovpts.

To supplement the dwindling supplies of the current Independence overprints in the hope that the new definitives will soon take over, Guyana has resorted to locally overprinting on the basic Q.E.II stamps. There is no attempt to match the London overprints, which were in solid sans serif type. The Guyana overprint exhibits thick and thin uprights in the letters.

P. A. Driffield, of Georgetown, Guyana, submits the 1c., 2c., 3c., 4c., 5c. and 6c. local overprints. All are on Script *CA* except the 5c., which is Block CA. Mr. Driffield reports having seen an error of the setting reading 1966/ INDEPENDENCE/1966" (instead of GUYANA/INDEPENDENCE/ 1966" on some sheets of the 2c., 3c. and 6c.

To the above, H. Sinclair-Brown, of Liverpool, adds that one value (unspecified) has been seen on both Script and Block watermark. Philatelic supplies are difficult to obtain, as the Guyana Post Office is trying hard to make supplies last for postal use.

STAMP COLLECTING, Dec. 14, 1967

Local Guyana Overprints

Further details of the locally-applied Guyana INDEPENDENCE overprints (see page 741 last week) come from Shelley Stamps (London, E.C.4), who state that the "unspecified" value seen on *both* Script and Block watermark is the 3c. stamp, and add that the "1966" error for GUYANA exists on the 3c. Block CA paper, in which condition it is a scarce stamp. Shelley Stamps also point out that in the case of the 1c. value the basic British Guiana stamp on Script CA paper has been used for the first time with an "Independence" overprint of any kind.

STAMP COLLECTING, Dec. 28, 1967

Guyana's Local Overprints

The Guyana stamps locally overprinted "GUYANA INDEPENDENCE 1966" (see references on December 7th, page 741, and December 14th, page 817) are only being sold over the post office counters in the territory, reports a local correspondent. The "1966—GUYANA—1966" error is constant on the 70th stamp on some sheets of the 2c., 3c. and 6c. values, but does not appear on *all* sheets.

The **24c.** was placed on sale with the local overprint on December 13th and all values from the 8c. to $5 are to follow. The **1c.** and **3c.** local overprints were withdrawn from sale on December 13th and 14th respectively and the London overprint placed on sale again. One sheet of 100 of the **1c. local** overprint has been found **inverted.**

Our correspondent, P. A. Driffield, asks us to state that he cannot supply these, or any other, stamps of Guyana, as he is *not* a dealer.

STAMP COLLECTING, Jan. 18, 1968

P.O. Withdraw Guyana Ovpt. Error

A Georgetown report states that, as from January 2nd, the locally-overprinted 3c. "Independence" stamp has only been on sale at the G.P.O. there with the "1966" error taken out of the sheets before sale to the public.

GUYANA

STAMP COLLECTING, Jan. 11, 1968

Guyana Overprint Error

Considerable interest is being taken in the " 1966 GUYANA 1966 " error which occurred on the 2c., 3c. and 6c. during the local emergency overprinting of British Guiana stamps.

An advertisement in STAMP COLLECTING (under a Box Number) offered certain of these varieties but, owing to a transaction within the trade, the advertiser found himself unable to supply the stamps, but it was too late to withdraw the advertisement which had already gone to press. All who replied to the advertisement have received an explanation from STAMP COLLECTING, who supervised the return of remittances to the disappointed applicants.

A local correspondent in Georgetown reported on January 1st that the Gauyana G.P.O. is now accepting orders for the local overprints.

STAMP COLLECTING, Jan. 11, 1968;

Reprint of Guyana's Christmas Stamps

Guyana has ordered a new printing of the 1967 Christmas stamps (Millie, the bi-lingual parrot), stocks of which were exhausted by December 15th. The Crown Agents announce that the backgrounds of the reprints will differ (due to colour matching difficulties) from the originals and will be: 5c., red; 25c., apple green. Release date expected; "early January ".

STAMP COLLECTING, Jan. 25, 1968

Guyana 4c. Inverted Overprint

The locally-overprinted 4c. Guyana is reported by Rushstamps (Totton) inverted. A block of 48 of these has been purchased by Rushstamps. The same correspondent reports finding a second complete sheet of the 1c. value with overprint inverted.

Stamp Magazine May 1968

Guyana—Local Overprints

The 1c., 2c., 3c., 4c., 5c., 6c. British Guiana stamps from an entirely new printing with block watermark were put on sale in Guyana at end of February with local 'Independence' overprint. The 1c., 2c., 4c., 6c. are thus with block watermark for the first time, although all six values are on a white paper which helps to distinguish between the previous 3c. and 5c. values with the same watermark. There are also slight shade differences with the 3c. and 5c. values. It is reported that the 5c. value was sold out on the day of issue.

However, Mr. Sinclair-Brown of Liverpool reports finding the 3c. and 5c. values from the new printing on cream paper. The new definitives were issued on 4th March.

The Guyana and Jamaica Cricket sheet exist with both gum arabic and synthetic adhesive. The supplies sent to Jamaica were only with synthetic gum, while the Crown Agents and Guyana supplies were mixed.

STAMP MAGAZINE. June 1968

Guyana Local Overprints

Mr. J. Pearson confirms that the inverted overprint on the 4c. script watermark value exists on both the violet and the deep violet shades.

Two cases of double overprints have been reported by Rushstamps of Southampton on the 6c. and 24c. values. On the 6c. value the two overprints are next to each other, resulting in the date appearing to read '19666'. On the 24c. value the two overprints are quite separate, one being in the usual position, the second being positioned diagonally near the top of the stamp.

STAMP MAGAZINE. Sept. 1968

Guyana Local Overprints

My apologies for referring to this issue again, or more particularly to the reprints on block watermark paper released in February of this year. Further investigation has shown that this set was printed on three different papers, which will be classified as follows :

Paper A—white surfaced paper giving a brilliant white reaction under the ultra-violet lamp.

Paper B—off-white surfaced paper giving a dull white lamp reaction.

Paper C—cream surfaced paper giving a dull violet lamp reaction. Papers B and C have been used for previous British Guiana stamps, both overprinted and unoverprinted ; while—apart from the reprint of the 1c. London overprint on block upright watermark paper issued on 16th January—paper A has only been used for the special printing of the basic stamps used for the reprint of February 1968.

The five values released in February exist on papers as follows :

1c.—A only ;
2c.—A and B ;
3c.—A and B ;
4c.—B only ;
5c.—A, B and C.

With the 5c. value in particular, the various printings of the local overprints can be separated by shade :

Original October 1967 printing—orange-scarlet and grey-black (on paper C) ;

February 1968 printing :

paper A—deep scarlet and black ;
B—scarlet and black ;
C—pale scarlet and black.

(continuation)



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



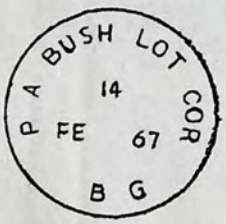
8



9



10



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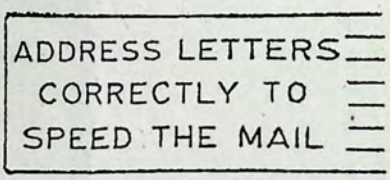


15

The last slogan has also been seen as a handstamp in several sizes on mail from Georgetown, Mackenzie and New Amsterdam. Another handstamped slogan was used in New Amsterdam during September, 1966,

"INTERNATIONAL RICE YEAR 1966
GUYANA RICE WEEK—18th-24th SEPT."

In addition to their normal postmarks used as cancelling devices, Georgetown, and to a lesser extent New Amsterdam, have other postmarks to identify items handled by particular sections of their offices. These are found in both the types of figure 1 and of figure 5. From Georgetown the following have been seen in the figure 1 style: AIR MAIL G.P.O.; G.P.O. COUNTER I; G.P.O. COUNTER II; G.P.O. COUNTER III; G.P.O. COUNTER IV; REGD. AIR MAIL; REGN. BCH. G.P.O.; R.L.O. GEORGETOWN (Returned Letter Office); S.O.S. G.P.O. (Sorting Office Superintendent, see figure 4) and G.P.O. Vendor IV. In the Skeleton format: OFFICIAL PAID GUYANA; REGISTRATION BCH GUYANA; REG BRANCH GPO GUYANA and G.P.O. GUYANA have been noted.

New Amsterdam has a figure 1 mark reading TELEGRAPHS N.A. which is found both as a backstamp and as a cancellation. In the figure 5 type REGD NEW AMSTERDAM PO GY is found.

Mail intended for other countries which has been misrouted to Guyana is stamped in violet with a single line boxed handstamp which originally read MISSENT TO BRITISH GUIANA. Since Independence the word British has been cut off pending manufacture of a new stamp.

POSTAL STATIONERY AND FORMS

For reasons of economy, Guyana has continued to use its stocks of British Guiana Postal Stationery and Post Office Forms without any overprinting to show the change in name. The Air Letter Sheet is unstamped and must be franked with adhesives, but the reverse has a photo of Kaieteur Fall with the inscription to one side "Visit Kaieteur Fall, British Guiana (822 feet high) Enquire Br. Guiana Tourist Committee".

Other items of stationery seen have been the British Guiana Registered Letter envelope with imprinted 6c., and the 4c. ordinary envelope. While examples of the most recent Post Cards and Wrappers of British Guiana have not been seen, it is possible that these are still being employed.

British Guiana Post Office Forms noted have been Registration Labels, Parcel Receipts (often used on registered letters in place of the normal label), "Officially Sealed in the Post Office British Guiana" labels and Official Envelopes (O.H.M.S.). The latter have now been replaced by a type reading "On Guyana Government Service".

Col. Seifert, a prominent "New World" philatelist, is President of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, an International Organisation whose members share the common interest of sponsoring studies and research of the Postal History and Postal Issues of the Bahamas, Bermuda, British Guiana (Guyana), British Honduras and the British West Indies. This Group publishes bi-monthly the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, as well as brochures based on its studies. New members are always welcomed. For further details apply to the Secretary, Reg. H. Lant, Apartment 401, 25 Roehampton Avenue, Toronto 12, Ontario, Canada.—Editor.

Philatelic Magazine (Commonwealth Review) Dec. 22, 1967 GUYANA.

QE II PANORAMA by AVON

GUYANA LOCAL OVERPRINTS

AN EXCLUSIVE 'ON THE SPOT' REPORT

FOR my article this time I am quoting verbatim an exclusive report from my "Caribbean Correspondent" who, on learning of the appearance of the local overprints in **Guyana**, immediately flew down from **Trinidad** to obtain first hand information. That he obtained interviews with the Minister of Communications, The Head Postmaster and Chief Accountant at Georgetown and the Managing Director of the printers involved is eloquent testimony of his determination to obtain the complete facts. Here then is his report:



The "1966 for Guyana" Error

"During September 1967 it became apparent that stocks of some values of **Guyana** stamps were beginning to run dangerously low. This was particularly true of the 5c. value. It was realised that should supplies of this value dry up altogether then the usage of 2c. with 3c. or 1c. with 4c. combinations to make up the value would result in a sell-out of these values also. It was hoped that the issue of the Christmas ('Millie the Parrot') 5c. stamp would ameliorate the problem but even this would not be sufficient to prevent a real crisis several weeks before the new definitive issue goes on sale (provisionally set for late February).

This shortage was due to two unprecedented factors. First, the many watermark varieties of the Harrison overprints created a quite exceptional philatelic demand and secondly the usage of stamps by the general public (for letters and receipts) has increased quite enormously during the last twelve months. Hence what was thought to be an adequate printing by Harrisons, to last until the new set was ready, turned out to be wholly inadequate.

When **Guyana** achieved her Independence in 1966 all *unopened* cases of **British Guiana** stamps held in the territory were returned to **London** for overprinting by Harrisons. Loose sheets from cases already opened were withdrawn from post offices and stored in the vaults at Georgetown P.O. for ultimate destruction.

In view of the urgency of the problem, the Minister of Communications decided that these loose sheets of 1c. to 6c. values should be overprinted locally. The Crown Agents were advised of this decision and also of the need for maximum secrecy in order to prevent a philatelic rush which would only have further prejudiced the situation. That this secrecy was successful is proved by the fact that no philatelic interest was aroused for a full six weeks after the stamps first came on sale at the post offices of Guyana.

The local printers had never previously carried out such a commission but accepted the challenge gladly. Using several different plates they carried out the work on two very old Hand Platen machines and an even older Wharfedale. I was privileged to be granted the opportunity of inspecting these machines and also the two plates (one vertical for the 4c. and one horizontal for other values) which were last to be used. The plates were quite badly worn and I was informed that they would be broken up and further new plates prepared for any subsequent work that may prove necessary. That then was the situation on November 22nd.

The first of the locally overprinted stamps, 1c., 2c., 3c. and 5c., were filtered into use at Georgetown and other post offices on October 3rd; the 4c. followed at the end of October and the 6c. not until the middle of November.

By the time that the Christmas stamps were released, virtually all Harrison and local 5c. stamps were gone. I personally visited every post office in the Georgetown area and up and down the coastal strip, as well as postal agencies and offices in the interior. At only one office did I discover a few 5c. stamps and these were Harrisons. The local overprints had all gone!

Although the Christmas 5c. stamp, released on November 6th, did help the situation somewhat, even stocks of these were running low by the end of November and most post offices were issuing 2c. and 3c. overprints, virtually all local, to make up the commonly used 5c. rate – which, incidentally, is required by law to be affixed to all receipts.

I was authoritively informed that an entirely new reprint of some values of the original **British Guiana** has been ordered from **London**, and that these may be overprinted either in London or locally. These must surely be on paper with Block watermark sideways and are almost certain to show some differences in either the printing or the overprinting. Time alone will tell.

The 1c., 2c., 3c., 4c. and 6c. stamps which were overprinted were on Script watermark paper, while the 5c. value was with Block watermark. A few – a very few – sheets of the 3c. have been found on Block watermark paper and copies are changing hands at $10 each. There must, of course, be an outside chance that the 5c. may have been overprinted on Script paper but none has so far been reported.

I was able to find only one person who had a few copies of the local 5c. – no complete sheets. He kindly let me have ten copies at $12 each! Since returning I've heard $20 to $25 quoted by another source.

During the course of the overprinting a minor accident occurred which resulted in a major error. Some of the horizontal type face was disturbed and the compositor responsible inserted a '1966' slug instead of a 'GUYANA' slug on Row 7 No. 10. This was noticed quite quickly but not before a number of 2c. and 3c. sheets had been taken away to the Post Office. I was informed at the printery that the total number of sheets so printed was only 84 (mostly 3c.) but I believe this may be an underestimation. This error is very scarce on 3c. Block watermark. It has also been reported to exist on the 6c., but I have not seen any.

On the whole, the overprinting was quite good, but unfortunately worn plates were retained in use for too long and this resulted in a number of very indistinct overprints, particularly affecting the date. Of course, overprinting on recess stamps is always a difficult task. So far only two really major printing errors have been reported. A single sheet of the 1c. value was bought over the post office counter at Georgetown with inverted overprint, while two consecutive sheets of the 3c. Script have been reported with the overprint entirely omitted on the bottom left-hand corner stamps – due no doubt to a piece of paper intruding.

The Chief Accountant at the Post Office informed me that all faulty sheets had been removed for destruction.

Philatelic Magazine 24 May 1968

Guyana's Stamp Policy

THE Minister of Communications of Guyana, Mr. Eugene Correia, gave an informal Press Conference at the West Indian Club on May 3rd. He told us that Guyana made £100,000 from stamp sales last year and expected considerably more this year because of the new definitive series.

Mr. Correia said that he had been approached by all the well-known agents with offers to handle his country's stamps, but preferred to stay with the Crown Agents.

He also told of the scramble for the local printings of the Independence overprints and the number of British dealers that flew into Demerara for supplies. Mr. Correia was surprised at their interest. He also told of the sheet of $5 with inverted overprint that was found in Post Office stocks and is to be destroyed.

Six series a year, of moderate face value, is the future programme. This year there will be series for Efficiency Year, the Koran, the installation of the Cable & Wireless Parabolic Aerial and Christmas. The Cable & Wireless and Christmas issues will probably be combined to illustrate the sending of Christmas messages.

A mini-bus series is being proposed next year for the first anniversary of CARIFTA (the Caribbean Free Trade Area) to be made by each of the member-countries. Mr. Correia has already prepared designs showing a map of the area and clasped hands in a circle. Other 1969 issues will be for the International Labour Organisation, the World Scout Jamboree, to be held in Guyana, Art and Culture and Hotel Building. The Christmas and Easter issues are to become annual events.

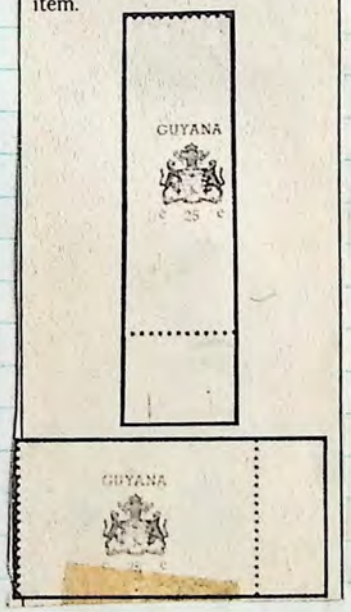
We commend the Minister of Posts on his conservative policy and hope that other Commonwealth countries will follow his example.

Stamp Magazine - April 1983

Guyana

A Coat of Arms appears on the 'coil' issues of Guyana. A pair of values at 25c appeared in 1986 in vertical and horizontal formats. The actual width varies considerably, some copies are not cut square and can be as narrow as 1cm. Revaluation took place by overprinting in 1987, and a commemorative overprint for the Anniversary of Independence, 1966–1986, also appeared.

Has anyone seen any of these coils used on the mails? Whatever the answer, they are a cheap but elusive thematic item.



GO–IT–ALONE GUYANA

The World's First Co-operative Republic

THE Republic Day commemorative stamps issued in Guyana on February 23rd mark the final stage of Independence—within the Commonwealth—for the Guyanese.

The four stamps were based on photographs by Design & Graphics of Guyana, the finished art work being carried out by L. D. Curtis. Printing was by De La Rue in Delacryl, on Lotus Blossom Bud watermarked paper in sheets of 50. The designs, which symbolise the final transition to full independence are described below:



5c.: Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, who was born on February 20th, 1923, is Leader of the People's National Congress. He was elected Prime Minister, 1964–68, and re-elected 1968.

Forbes Burnham came into power at a time when the country, then a British Colony, was torn by civil disorder and racial rioting. Under his wise and firm leadership, peace and stability came to this English-speaking country on the north coast of South America, and on May 26th, 1966, he became the first Prime Minister of independent Guyana.

His régime has seen the co-operative movement expand significantly and the formerly depressed coastal villages and hinterland communities have been transformed by a new spirit of self-help and self-confidence. In the new republic he remains Prime Minister of a Guyana which becomes the first Co-operative Republic in the world. A Constitutional President, elected by Members of Parliament, will replace the Governor General, appointed by the British Queen. The new Republic will continue to be a member of the Commonwealth recognising the Queen as its Head.

6c.: Self-help is a way of life in Guyana today. Over 400 communities and 200,000 individuals have been involved in this nation-building exercise from the beginning of 1965 to the end of 1969.

The Government supply the materials and technical supervision, while the "self-helpers" supply free labour. Out of this arrangement hundreds of unemployed persons have become skilled carpenters, painters and masons. More than 1,500 youths have been trained.

Behind the scheme's success is hard work, dedication, sacrifice and co-operation at all levels in the new Co-operative Republic which will be striving to make the small man a real man.

Since 1964, 2,143 projects, worth $20 million, have been completed—bringing about a $15 million saving of Public Funds. In the years 1965 to 1969, 36,000 new school places were made available as against 436 new places in 1964, with the construction of 120 additional schools, most of them by Self-Help. At the same time, 28 teachers' houses were built and 15 Home Economic, Handicraft and Domestic Science Centres erected.

Of the 563 new self-help projects last year, 29 were completed on the West Berbice without any Government aid whatsoever.

15c.: The University of Guyana was incorporated by an Act of Legislature of what was then British Guiana on April 19th, 1963, and in October of the same year admitted its first 164 students to the Faculties of Arts, Natural Science, and Social Science. To date, there are just over 1,000 students, and there is, in addition to the three named Faculties, a Faculty of Education and a Division of Tiechncal Studies.

Up until October 1969 the University conducted classes on the premises of Queen's College, but in that month it moved into its new buildings (shown on this 15c. stamp) on a 140 acre site at Turkeyen. The site was a gift of the Booker Group of Companies, and the buildings, which were completed at a cost of nearly G$5 million, were made possible by substantial grants from the Governments of the United Kingdom and Canada, as well as from the Guyana Government.

25c.: Guyana House is the official residence of the Governor-General. It was known as Government House until the country became independent on May 26th, 1966, and was formerly the official residence of Governors for most of the century. It was erected in 1854, but additions have been made from time to time, the most substantial being carried out in 1867. It is considered a good architectural example of the "Colonial" type mansion. Its large setting features the main dining and reception rooms and the state dinner room.

On Republic Day, the office of Governor-General gave way to that of President of the Republic of Guyana and Guyana House will be the official residence of the President.

GUYANA

Lotus Blossom Watermark Varieties

A E Buzz Jehle

The Guyana lotus blossom watermark (Stanley Gibbons type 106) was first used on the 1968 Christmas issue (SG 473/6) and continues to be used for many current emissions. It is a particularly difficult watermark to see on many issues, especially the orientation of the lotus blossom. When the last *Elizabethan Catalogue* was issued in 1985, it listed only one inverted watermark for Guyana. Were the printers that good? I do not think so, as in the past year I have discovered over 60 different stamps that come with both normal and inverted watermarks. If I had a larger pool of Guyana stamps to study, one hundred would not have been out of the question. The purpose of this article is to enumerate those stamps that have more than one watermark orientation or that may have more than one. It's up to you to find the rest!

First let me set the ground rules for viewing watermark. The lotus blossom has three small protuberances on the bottom and a small segment which I call a sliver to the left-hand side of the blossom. *All discussions assume the stamp is being viewed from the rear.* Second, on the recent overprinted stamps, the orientation is as per the basic unoverprinted stamp, regardless of the position of the overprint. There are then four possible orientations of the watermark assuming the paper is not reversed.

Wmk Upright (Up)—Protuberances at bottom, sliver at left

Wmk Inverted (Inv)—Protuberances at top, sliver at right

Wmk Sideways (Side)—Protuberances at right, sliver at bottom

Wmk Sideways Inverted (Side Inv)—Protuberances at left, sliver at top

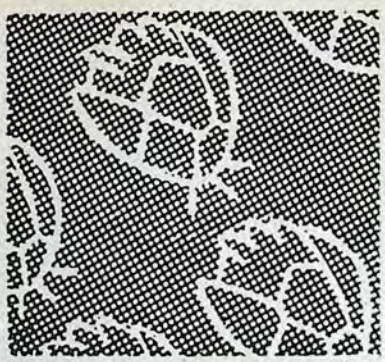
I have never seen or heard of any reversed watermarks on these issues, so I am assuming, until proven otherwise, that none exist. Where overprinted stamps have the same basic orientation of watermark as the listed stamp, they are not listed. The vast majority of the issues come with the basic watermark either upright or sideways, but there are exceptions as shown in Table 1.

The 1980 Rotary issue (745/8) is listed as having the lotus blossom watermark, though I have never been able to see it on the basic stamps or the many overprints thereon. Supposedly the 10c. and 30c. are sideways and the 50c. and $1 are upright. Any help?

Tête Bêche Complications

At least nine stamps issued in *tête-bêche* formats for facilitating booklet make-up, ensuring both watermark orientations exist. These are the five Riverboat issues (1127/31) and the four stamp anniversary issues (1172/5). Luckily none of the nine have been overprinted as yet.

There are also several stamps that come both on unwatermarked and watermarked paper. The Wildlife set (485/99) issued in 1969 on lotus blossom watermarked paper was originally issued on unwatermarked paper (448/62).



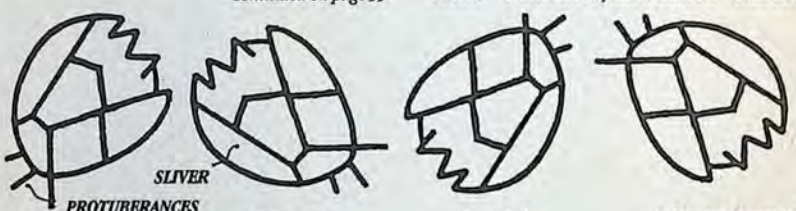
The Guyana lotus blossom watermark (SG type 106), enlarged and as seen from the front of the stamp

So far I have identified a number of stamps that come with both normal and inverted watermarks, although in some cases the basic stamp is only known with one orientation, while overprinted it may come with both or just inverted. The 1971 Flower definitives, (542/56) are the largest source of stamps with two watermark orientations. The 1c., 2c., 3c., 6c., 10c., 15c., 25c. and 60c. stamps are all

Continued on page 59

Table 1 Stamps on which the 'normal' watermark is either inverted or sideways inverted

SG No	*Description*	*'Normal' Watermark*
490a	10c. glazed	Inv
491a	15c. glazed	Inv
493a	25c. glazed	Inv
497a	$1 glazed	Side Inv
519/22	Easter 1970	Inv
523/6	UN	Inv
534	5c. Race Year	Side Inv
535	6c. Race Year	Side Inv
503	40c. ILO	Side Inv
547a	10c. Cattleya p 13	Side Inv
548a	15c. Christmas Orchid p 13	Side Inv
549a	20c. p 13	Side Inv
550	25c. Marabunta up	Side Inv
550a	25c, Marabunta down	Inv
550ab	25c. Marabunta down p 13	Side Inv
575	40c. Arts 1972	Inv
576	50c. Arts 1972	Inv
581	8c. Republic Day 1973	Inv
658	Tenth Independence SS	Inv
717	10c. Rowland Hill	Side Inv
719	50c. Rowland Hill	Side Inv
725	10c. Lab Union	Side Inv
749/51	CCMRC	Side Inv
855	$1 on 30c. Soldier	Inv
1176a	Stamp Block	Inv
1180a	Stamp Block	Inv
1184a	Stamp Block	Inv
1188a	Stamp Block	Inv
1298a	4 × 25c. Guyana Teachers	Side Inv



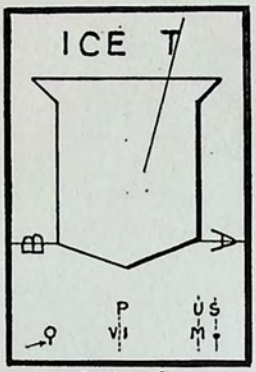
The watermark positions as seen from the back of the stamp

Table 2. 1971–76 Flowers and 1973 Postage Dues on which the watermarks on overprinted issues vary from those on unoverprinted versions

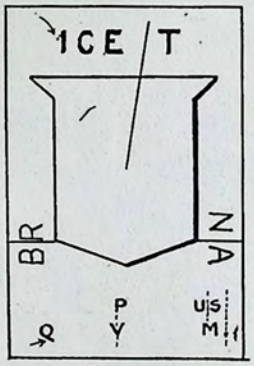
SG No	*Stamp*	*Unoverprinted Watermarks*	*Overprinted Watermarks*
542	1c. Pitcher Plant	Side Inv	Side only; SG 922, 1000, 1336
			Side and Side Inv; 980, 1271/3
543	2c. Yellow Allamanda	Side/Side Inv	All Side only
544	3c. Hanging Heliconia	Side Inv	All Side only
546	6c. Cannon-ball tree	Side	Side Inv only; 1035, 1086, 1323a
			Side and Side Inv; 869, 890, 893
			905, 906, 939, 1031, 1262, 1275, 1740/3
547	10c. Cattleya	Side	Side Inv only; 1341
548	15c. Christmas Orchid	Side	Side Inv only; 1342
550	25c. Marabunta	Side Inv	Side only; 889a. Side and Side Inv; 869a
553	60c. Soldier's Cap	Up	Up and Inv; 799, 1169, 1169a
D8	1c. Postage Due	Inv	Up and Inv; 784 A and B
D9	2c. Postage Due	Up	Up and Inv; 782, 5 and 8 A and B
D10	4c. Postage Due	Up	Up and Inv; 786, 7, 9, 790 A and B
			Inv only; 1400

BRITISH GUIANA

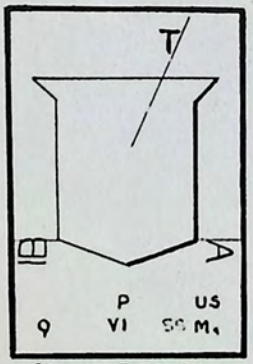
1851



GENUINE



FORGERY
Note thin frame lines.
(Earée)

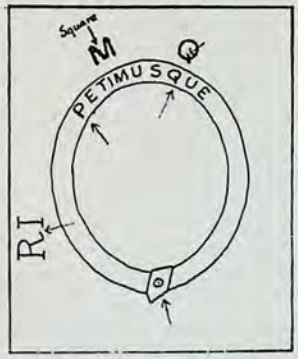


SECOND FORGERY



ISSUES OF 1860-75.

Perforate



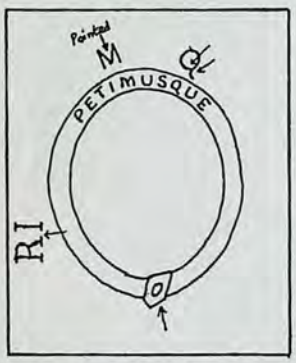
GENUINE
Perforate 10, 12, 12½, 13 & 15.



? Imit.



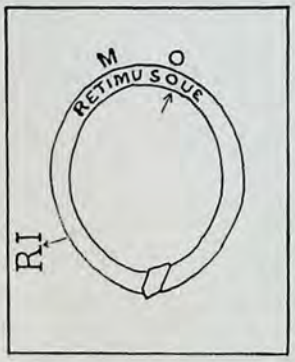
? Imprs.



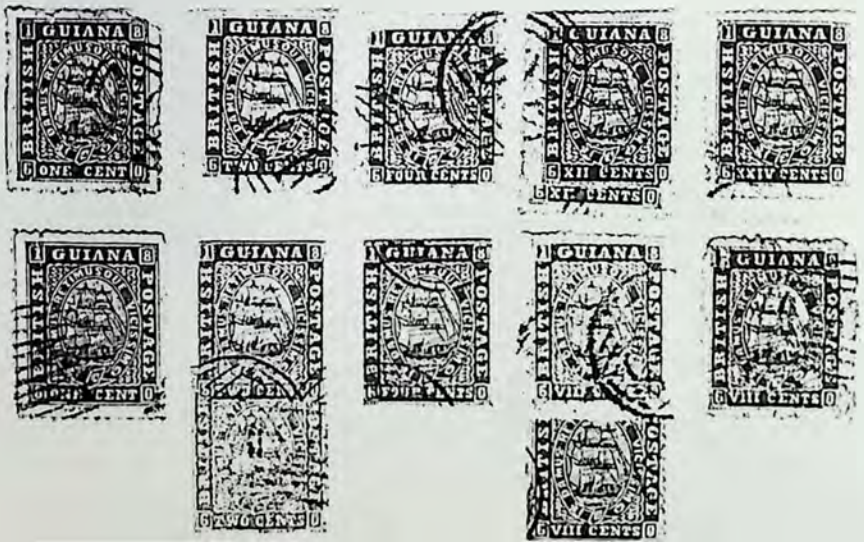
FIRST FORGERY



Forgery, but
? Issue !



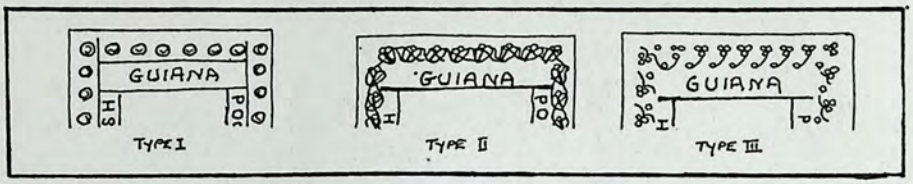
SECOND FORGERY



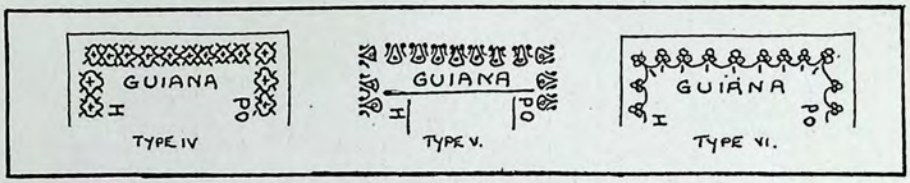
BRITISH GUIANA

ISSUE OF 1862.

There are three types of border in the One cent, and Two cents



and three types of border in the Four cents value. (see below.)





Type VI did not exist in 2 cents value.
Type pearls around circle instead of bricks

F. Type V
Local forgery?



Bogus Inside lines not present in type VI
Type words around a circle instead of bricks in corner.

G. S. RYAN
32 WOLSEY ROAD
NORTHWOOD
MIDDLESEX HA6 2EW
ENGLAND

THE REVENUE STAMPS OF BRITISH GUIANA.

---

by A.B.Kay.

The adhesive fiscals of this colony are comparatively few in number, whilst the striking and well known designs used for the two sets of duties, makes their collection a pleasing task.

There does not appear to be any record of decrees authorizing their issue, numbers of stamps printed, or composition of the sheets, and all these points are left for future discovery.

The first series to appear was that for "Summary Jurisdiction" the design of which shows the figure of Justice with a scroll above inscribed. "Fiat Justitia", surrounded by an oval and ornamental spandrel, size 32 x 40 mm. An engraved die proof in black exists of the design, but with the four corner circles for the figures of value left blank, and also a space under the central figure where the value in words should appear. On the same print are the corner figures and words of value for different denominations, so without doubt the stamps, which are lithographed, were made from a transfer of the black design with the corner figures and value added.

As for the postage stamps of the like period, the printers of the earlier issues were Messrs Waterlow and Sons of London, and the same perforations of 12½, 10 and 15 were employed. Imperforate copies are known, but as those with fully satisfactory margins are unused, they must be considered as proofs. The paper used was wove of medium thickness, with the makers' name in the sheet in open double lined Roman letters.

The earliest date of use is 4th. December 1865 (on a 12c. value), whilst the latest is 27th.February 1903 when the use of these stamps appears to have been discontinued. From a study of dated used copies the following list is compiled, the dates given at the commencement of a set being the earliest seen, whilst that in brackets is of a particular value or shade. It will be noted that the first perforation used is 12½, next 10, then 15 and lastly reverting to the 12½ gauge, the printings in the two latter perforations being from new transfers and in different shades.

The denominations were 12, 16, 24, 48, 60, 72 and 96 cents, and the most used values the 48, 60 and 72 cents. The 16c. was but little employed and the original printing appears with cancellations at rare intervals until 1891, no copy of the 10 perforation appearing until 1890. There can have originally been hardly any use for the 96c. value as but one early dated copy used in 1867 is found, and this is on white paper, whilst the next dated from 1889 to 1895 when it's use was common, are on deeply toned paper stained by the old gum.

A 50c. duty was needed and the 12c. perforated 15 was locally overprinted in black at the base of the stamp. The same type as used for the One Cent surcharges of 1890 on the Inland Revenue series (Gibbons Type 31) was employed. Dates of use noted are from 1894 to 1897 but it may have appeared earlier.

Mystery stamps, which may be essays or even bogus varieties, are surcharges of 12c. on 24c. (not now traced), 25c. on 72c. and 50c. on 60c. The overprint reads Provisional in similar type to the Fifty Cents

25c.
1887.

previously recorded. The 25c. is unused and the 50c. postmarked with a double lined circle inscribed .GEORGE-TOWN. B.GUIANA. and O AU2 87 in the centre, but no information is recorded regarding them.

Summary Jurisdiction.

Printed by Messrs Waterloo and Sons of London.

First Transfers

? date - Imperforate, presumably proofs
12c. orange
60c. milky blue

1865 - Perf. 12½ Paper watermarked in sheet
KING (20 & 15 mm high) or
T H Saunders (15 & 12 mm high).
1867
12c. red orange
16c. green
24c. black
48c. purple
60c. milky blue 8-12-65.
60c. greenish blue (1875)
72c. red orange
96c. purple

1871 - Perf. 10 Paper watermarked in sheet
ORIGINAL
TURKEY MILL (15 & 12 mm. high)
KENT
12c. red orange
16c. green
24c. black
48c. slate
60c. pale blue
60c. dark blue
72c. red orange

Second Transfers

1874 - Perf.10 72c. brown orange

1875 - Perf. 15 Paper watermarked in sheet
ORIGINAL
TURKEY MILL (15 & 12 mm. high)
KENT
12c. orange
24c. black
48c. rose
60c. dull blue (1876)
ultramarine (1880)
grey blue (1882)
72c. brown orange

1878 - Perf. 12½ Paper watermarked in sheet
GREEN & SON (15 & 12 mm. high)
1877
12c. orange
24c. black
48c. rose (1880)
60c. ultramarine (1880)
72c. brown orange (1878)

1887 - Overprinted on perf. 12½, presumably essays
12c. on 24c. black (?)
25c. on 72c. brown orange
50c. on 60c. ultramarine

1894 (?) - Overprinted on perf. 15
Fifty cents on 12c. orange

As with most lithographed stamps, the sheet was made up by a few transfers taken from the original die, placed in a strip, and further transfers of this strip repeated to make up the sheet. Want of material, especially in the form of other than single copies, prevents any satisfactory definite results being recorded, but the following notes of transfer types may be of assistance to other collectors. There were two series of printing stones, the first used for the perf. 12½ and 10, stamps issued from 1865 to 1871, whilst the perf. 15 and later 12½ perforations are from entirely new transfers, there being also a printing of the 72 cents perf. 10 from the later setting. Types are denoted by A, B, C, etc. to distinguish them, but this is not necessarily their correct order.

First Transfers 1865 - 71

12c. - Perfs. 12½ and 10
Type A - white dot after N of JURISDICTION
B - coloured dot before top of T of TWELVE
C - cap to top of 2 in right top corner
D - line in white circle from top of 1 to foot of 2 in right bottom 12

16c. - Perfs. 12½ and 10
Type A - white dot over J of JURISDICTION
B - white dot in first A of GUIANA
C - white blot on left lower part of ornament at right side
D - coloured dot on top of 6 of top left 16
E - coloured dot at bottom right of T of SIXTEEN

24c. - Perfs 12½ and 10

Type A - left portion of top of T of BRITISH thin
B - line in white circle at point of 2 in right bottom 24.
C - lines in white circle below 24 in top right corner
D - line in white circle from ball of 2 to foot of 4 in right bottom 24
E - black spots in right bottom 24

48c. (purple) - Perfs 12½ and 10
Type A - white spot at top right of first A of GUIANA
B - white dot between right bottom 48
C - spur at end of ornament at right side
D - white dot between left bottom 48

60c. - Perfs 12½ and 10
Type A - white dot at left top of J of JURISDICTION
B - white dot at top left of 6 of top right 60
C - white dot on middle left of 0 in bottom right 60
D - white dot below 0 of top left 60
E. - blot on lower right of 0 in left bottom 60

72c. - Perfs 12½ and 10
Type A - ornament touches oval under R of BRITISH
B - line below first A of GUIANA touching ornament
C - dot in oval above N of GUIANA
D - line above N of JURISDICTION joining ornament
E - white dash joining top of N of JURISDICTION

96c. - Perf. 12½
Type A - white dot in front of 9 of top left 96
B - TS of CENTS joined at top
C - white dot between MA of SUMMARY

The latter type is much scarcer than the other two.

It will be noted that there are five transfer types to the 12, 16, 60 and 72 cents, but four to the 48 cents and three only to the 96 cents.

Second Transfers 1874 - Three transfer types to each value

12c. - Perfs 12½ and 15
Type A - white circle around 12 in right lower corner, thin at bottom right
B - irregular line under lower part of coloured 12 circle in top left corner
C - dot below DI of JURISDICTION

Note - Besides a horizontal pair of Types B and C, a pair both of Type B is found.

24c. - Perfs 15 and 12½
Type A - white dash below top left 24
B - thin 2 to top right 24
C - thin diagonal stroke to 4 of right bottom 24

48c. - Perfs 12½ and 15
Type A - break in oval under NT of CENTS
B - small projection at left of top right dark circle containing 48
C - only a down tail to 4 of bottom left 48

60c. - Perfs 12½ and 15
Type A - two white dots to top right part of left side ornament
B - tall thin 6 to bottom left 60
C - break in oval under S of CENTS

72c. - Perfs 10, 12½ and 15
Type A - line broken under NT of CENTS
B - 72c. in top right corner placed high to right
C - blot on left lower prong of right side ornament

Other flaws of course may be found, but these are sheet varieties (secondary flaws) and must not be confused with transfer types into which different values can be divided. Marked varieties are:-

48c. rose perf. 15 (Type B). The R of SUMMARY appears as a B.

60c. ultramarine perf. 15 (Type B). A large coloured dot betweenTS of CENTS

Messrs. T. de la Rue & Co. of London produced the later printings of these stamps, all on paper watermarked Crown and CC intended for the large sized 5/- postage stamps of various British colonies, but the Summary Jurisdiction stamps being a good deal larger in size than these, the watermark does not fit and more than one watermark is frequently found. The earliest date noted for the use of this firm's production is 1883, when the 48, 60 and 72 cents values are found perforated 12 and generally on paper strongly blued, though occasionally on white. In 1884 stamps perforated 14 appear in the same three values, whilst all other values as previously used are found with later dates in the 90's evidently the earlier printings being first used up. The blued paper is found on stamps used until 1898. Two new values were issued, the 50c. and 1$, the former being quite common but the latter exceedingly rare. The original design was used but fresh transfers were made.

The shades of these stamps are very numerous, pointing to several printings and different transfers, but it does not seem possible to distinguish the latter, except in the case of the 96 cents. On examination, the position of the corner figures of value appear to differ on almost every stamp, so possibly some process was employed other than the usual one of a few transfer types repeated on the lithographic stone.

A distinctly different type of the 48 cent value appears from 1894. The thin line of the oval below the value in words is further away from the thick coloured oval than in stamps of an earlier date.

A minor variety of the 72c. has a broken E in the value lettering, reading SEVFNTY.

Another interesting variety is found in the shape of a pair of 48c. used in 1894, one stamp with the EIGHT CENTS of the value in words redrawn in much thicker letters than the word FORTY, and also closer to the surrounding oval than a normal copy.

Printings by Messrs T. De la Rue & Co. of London, all watermarked Crown CC

1883 - Perf 12 - paper generally bleuté
- 48c. carmine
- 60c. Blue
- 72c. deep orange

1884 - Perf 14 - paper found bleuté until 1898

12c.	orange	earliest date used 1886
16c.	green	1892
24c.	black	1891
48c.	carmine	1885
48c.	scarlet	1901
50c.	chocalate	1894
60c.	blue	1886
60c.	deep blue	1892
72c.	deep orange	1886
72c.	orange brown	1896
72c.	orange	1901
96c.	grey	1895
1$	yellow	

Transfer types of 96 cents
- A - top of 9 in right bottom corner cut
- B - projection at bottom of top left value circle
- C - thin top to 6 in lower left corner

The next series for consideration is that for "Inland Revenue", with the striking design of a palm tree. In size the stamps measure 30 X 36 mm. and are lithographed, the printers being Messrs Waterlow & Sons of London. It would appear that the design for each value was made from a matrix with the values in figures and words blank, these being added for the different values, but close examination of many copies does not disclose any transfer types.

Their period of use was about eight years, the earliest dated copy being 30 October 1869 and the latest 29 January 1878. There is a large range of values from 1 to 40 dollars, of which the 1. 2. 4. 16 and 20 dollars are the ones usually met with, whilst the 7. 9. and 30 dollars are rare.

All values have been chronicled imperforate, but as satisfactory copies of such are only met with unused, such must be considered as proofs.

Inland Revenue - Printed by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons of London

1869 - Imperforate, probably proofs. Paper watermarked in sheet T H SAUNDERS in double lined san serif letters 8 mm high.

$1 black
$2 ?
$3 brown
$4 green
$5 ?
$6 ochre
$7 grey lilac
$8 ultramarine
$9 yellow
$10 lilac
$12 orange
$16 dark blue
$20 carmine
$30 ?
$40 rose

1869 - Perf. 10 Paper watermarked in sheet
(a) J WATERLOW & SONS (15 & 12 mm high)
LONDON and from 1873
ORIGINAL
(b) TURKEY MILL (15 & 12 mm high)
KENT

$1 black
$2 orange brown
$3 brown
$4 green
$5 grey
$6 ochre
$7 lilac
$8 slate blue
$8 dull purple (1873)
$9 yellow
$10 purple
$10 lilac
$12 orange
$16 blue
$20 rose
$20 vermilion (1872)
$30 dark green
$40 rose

1876 - Perf 15 watermark in sheet (b) as before
- $1 black
- $2 orange brown
- $3 brown
- $4 green
- $5 brown grey
- $6 ochre
- $8 slate blue
- $10 purple
- $12 orange
- $16 dark blue
- $20 carmine
- $40 rose

1877 - Perf 12½ watermark in sheet (b) as before
- $1 black
- $2 orange brown
- $4 green
- $5 grey
- $6 ochre
- $8 slate purple
- $8 ultramarine
- $12 orange
- $16 dark blue

? date - Perf 12 watermark in sheet (b) as before
Prepared for use but not issued
- $1 black
- $2 orange
- $3 brown
- $4 green
- $5 bistre
- $6 ochre
- $8 slate blue
- $12 orange
- $30 dark green
- $40 rose

No other fiscal stamps appeared until 1888 when a series appeared with the cents values(1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 20, 40, 72) in dull purple and the dollar values (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) in green printed from the postage die with blank value tablet, and overprinted in black INLAND REVENUE and the value. The stamps were also used for postal purposes, but as the inscription would infer purely fiscal use, it is better to record them.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' catalogue noted the variety with larger 4 which occurs on the 3rd. and 6th. vertical rows of a pane of 60 stamps, but on the 6 cents a variety is found on the 4th. and 6th. vertical rows, the 6 having a straight top, the normal type being with the top curved downwards. The 5 dollars value also comes with the curve of the figure nearly closed and open, but the positions are not known.
Mr. F.G.C. Lundy in his Revenue catalogue which appeared in the Philatelic Journal of Great Britain in 1891 says "There is no doubt but that several values were printed on the same sheet. I possess specimens of the $1 and $5 together below each other with the perforations intact, and I learn that the $2 and $3 also exists".
The editor of "Le Timbre Fiscal" in the issue for July 1890 states that he has received the $1 and $5 se tenant from Mr. Lundy and reports the other combination. These can only have been proof copies, possibly trials for the setting of the surcharge, and certainly the $1, 2, 3 and 4 dollars values were printed in panes of separate values, as evidenced by the later One Cent surcharge on these values. The 1 dollar value was used to a very limited extent.

In 1889 the 2 cent value was locally overprinted with a ..2 in red to prevent the stamp being converted into a 72 cent value, by fraudulent addition of a figure 7. This is found doubly printed and also inverted, but these varieties are not considered to have been legitimately issued.

In 1890 the 1, 2, 3 and 4 dollars values were locally overprinted "One Cent" in red undoubtedly for postal use, though copies are found fiscally used.
There are many varieties of broken type, the most important being the 18th stamp on a pane of 60 with a small e in 6ent, and the 59th. stamp with the e open. The 1 and 3 dollar values exist with the surcharge doubly printed.

It is not necessary to give a list of the above stamps as they are recorded in the postage stamp catalogues.

A combined "Postage and Revenue" design (Gibbons' Type 30) appeared in September 1889, and at the same time stamps of similar design, but with "REVENUE" instead of "POSTAGE & REVENUE" at the top, appeared. As there do not appear to be any minor varieties to note, the record is

1889 - Perf 14 watermark Crown CA
- $2.40 green and purple
- $4.80 " " blue
- $9.60 " " orange
- $12 " " carmine

1910 - Perf 14 watermark multiple Crown CA, chalk surfaced paper
- $2.40 green and purple
- $3 purple and carmine on blue paper
- $4.80 green and blue
- $5 black and blue
- $12 green and carmine
- $20 green and green
- $50 purple and carmine

BRITISH GUIANA.

THE PHILATELIST. AUG. 1962.

THE PLANTATION PAPERS. III. By COLIN MAYCOCK

BRITISH GUIANA

I. Demerara

Although the *Plantation Papers* include many Demerara letters, the postal entires are very few indeed. There is an example of the DEMERARA large fleuron, type [PG] 37 mm. diameter of 24.6.1819 (259/6—a Berbice letter) *(See Fig. 4)*, one small fleuron, type [PG] 30 mm. diameter of 17.11.1837—a poor copy—and a type [PH] of 10.2.1842. There are two ship letters—a Gravesend S.5 (1821) and a Portsmouth S.14 (red) of 1823.



Fig. 4

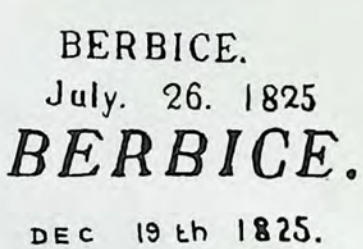


Fig. 5 above and Fig. 6 below

II. Berbice

By contrast, the Berbice letters have a great deal more postal history material. The colony was united with Demerara and Essequibo in 1831 to form British Guiana and soon after that date Berbice became a sub-port of Demerara and the correspondence ceased. The first type of date-stamp found is a 25 mm. BERBICE (upright serif capitals 4 mm. high) with a date line below varying in length between 29 and 35 mm. *(See Fig. 5)*. There are 15 copies of this type with dates from 7.8.1817 to 16.2.1830. The date-line is shown in one of three ways: (a) "Aug. 7. 1817."; (b) "19 June, 1821"; or (c) "Oct. 25th. 1826.". Type (b) occurs only in 1821. Within the period of use of this date-stamp a single copy was found of an unusually large BERBICE 50 mm. long with **sloping** serif capitals 6-7 mm. high (262/59 [26] — 19.12.1825) *(See Fig. 6)*.

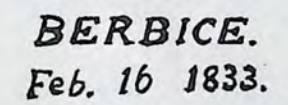


Fig. 7

Three examples of a third Berbice two-line type were recorded: BERBICE in sloping serif capitals 30 mm. long and 4 mm. high, on letters dated 21.1.1832, 9.2.1833 and 15.6.1833. None of these specimens is good but they are clearly identifiable as a separate type *(See Fig. 7)*. The date-line in two of the strikes is underlined by a straight line 58 mm. long. This may, however, be an impression of the bottom edge of the handstamp casing.

Ship Letters

The 31 ship letters from Berbice arrived at the following ports:

Dartmouth	S.3 (1)		Liverpool	S.12 (2)
Deal	S.8 (8)	S.10 (b) (1)	London	S.22 (2)
Dover	S.9 (3)	S.11 (2)	Marazion	S.2 (2)
Falmouth	S.6 (1)	— red	Margate	S.4 (2)
Gravesend	S.5 (1)		Penzance	S.4 (1)
Hastings	S.3 (2)		Romney	S.3 (1)
Kingsbridge	S.1 (1)		Ryde	S.3 (c) (1) — yellow-ochre

Vessels mentioned in superscriptions include:

Georgiana, 1820, 1824.
Albion, Capt. Trumble, 1820.
Brig Manley, Capt. Bennett, 1820, 1821.
Brig Mary, Capt. Thomson, 1821.
Henry, Capt. Kendall, 1822.
Lord Melville, 1824.
Apollo, 1825.
Rosanna, 1828, 1829.
John, 1829.
Camerons, 1831.

The fine and very scarce Marazion S.2 of 4.7.1820 (261/24 [15]) is ten years earlier than the dates given in Robertson (1830-1839). The Ryde S.3 (c) with a London arrival of 13.1.1832 is a late use of this stamp in yellow ochre (359/4 [22]) for which Robertson gives 1823-30. The Deal S.10 (b)—bottom panel 27 mm. wide—is unusual, being an early use and struck in black (7.11.1834) (262/79 [21]). Robertson gives this type as struck in red only from 1836 to 1839.

By L. N. and M. William

This new series of informative articles dealing with the world's most famous first issues, will, we are positive, prove of immense interest to readers generally. Previous articles of the series dealt with the classical issue "The Sydney Views," the story of The Spanish "Penny Black" the French "Ceres Heads," the Great Britain 1d. black, and "The Saxon Three".

THE "COTTONREELS"

BRITISH Guiana, unlike Mauritius and Bermuda, is not issuing commemorative stamps to mark the centenary of its first postage stamps, perhaps thereby establishing a precedent which will be followed by the other British Colonies, because there would indeed by a flood of commemoratives during the next few years if every stamp-issuing colony were to make a special issue for its postal centenary.

It is not that the first stamps of British Guiana are uninteresting or lack romance; on the contrary, from a philatelic point of view the issue is intriguing, and even at this stage the precise details of its production remain uncertain. Of its romance there can be no doubt, for the story of the lowest denomination includes one of the most thrilling finds in philatelic history.

The early history of British Guiana resounds with the clamour of war and international struggle. In the late eighteenth century the districts of Berbice, Demerara and Essequibo belonged to the Netherlands, but in 1781 British privateers took possession of the three places and they were put under the jurisdiction of the Barbados. The following year British Guiana was attacked by the French, who recaptured it and restored it to Holland, but in 1796 Britain again made an assault on the colony and only relinquished it to the Netherlands in 1802 under the Treaty of Amiens. The next year, however, the British took possession once more and in 1815 the three districts were ceded to Britain in the settlement at the end of the Napoleonic wars. Sixteen years later the districts were united under the name British Guiana.

A postal system of a kind had been established by the Dutch, but it was so ill-organised that in 1797 the British Post Office sent an agent to the colony to investigate and reform British Guiana's postal affairs. This was done successfully, and during the first half of the nineteenth century the amount of mail handled grew considerably. By the end of the fourth decade it was decided to establish an inland mail service, and a plan for its operation was drawn up by E. T. E. Dalton, the Postmaster of Georgetown (Demerara). This plan, supported by the Governor of the Colony, was approved in April 1850, and a sum of $2,400 was voted towards its being put into operation experimentally.

Dalton proposed to set up the service on July 1, 1850, and nineteen post offices were opened throughout British Guiana. Eight of these nearest to Georgetown handled letters at the rate of 4 cents per ounce; seven others performed a similar service at the rate of 8 cents, and the four most distant offices charged 12 cents. In adition to these 19 offices there were two head offices at Georgetown and New Amsterdam.



The 2 cents now in the collection of the King of Egypt

On June 15 an announcement regarding the forthcoming service and, at the same time, the issue of stamps, appeared in the *Royal Gazette of British Guiana*. This notice included a list of the various offices, most of which were situated in police stations and others in shops, together with the postal rate applicable to each. The notice stated also :—

> The public is informed, that on and after the 1st proximo, Daily Mails (Sundays excepted) will be made up at the Post Office, Georgetown, at 3 p.m. for the following places, to be forwarded by the 4 o'clock train . . . Return Mails will be made up daily at the above places, at half-past 8 o'clock a.m., to be forwarded by the 9 o'clock train . . . At 10 o'clock a.m. every week-day there will be a delivery of Letters from the Post Office for all persons residing or having offices in Water Street or Main Street . . .
>
> Newspapers will be forwarded free of charge.
>
> Prepayment of Letters will be necessary in all cases, to facilitate which, Postage Stamps of the respective values of 4, 8 and 12 cents are being printed, and will be ready for Sale on or before the 24th instant, at the Post Offices in Georgetown and New Amsterdam, and at the different Receiving Offices.

The stamps referred to in this notice were produced at the *Royal Gazette* offices. As has already been mentioned, the exact details of the manufacture have not been discovered but a considerable amount of research was carried out in Georgetown by E. C. Luard many years ago, and more recently by A. D. Ferguson who, before he died, put the results of his work on paper which he had intended publishing in handbook form, but which in fact was published in serial form in the *London Philatelist*, Vol. L and LI.

The printing was done on a Colombian hand-press. The design of the stamps was simplicity itself and consisted merely of the name of the Colony in Roman capitals curved around a rough circle, with the value in the centre; the whole was surrounded by printer's rule. This rule was of brass, bevelled at one edge and blunt at the other, and was 82 millimetres long by 23 millimetres wide. The rule was bent into a crude cylinder and soldered at the joint; the diameter varied between 24 and 26½ millimetres, according to the exactness in bending. The type in the centre was held in position by leads. When the designs were completed they were clamped together in a forme, and it is believed that there were four designs in a horizontal row. As each design varied slightly from the others, owing to the bends in the frame and the positions of the lettering, there are four types, but other variations have been observed and were due, probably, to the type's having worked loose and been reset. The same "cliches" were used for all values of the stamps, only the figure of value being changed; perhaps the subsidiary types occurred while these alterations were being made. The characteristics of the different types are given in the article by A. D. Ferguson already mentioned, and will be found in Vol. L page 193.

It is not known how many stamps there were in a sheet and all deductions have been based upon surmise. It may well have been that the sheet formation was rather irregular and this is borne out by the statement once made by E. C. Luard, that the stamps were not printed so as to be cut square easily: the specimens in the second row were not vertically beneath those in the first row, but were printed underneath the spaces between stamps. This would account for the great rarity of pairs; indeed, only the 2 and 4 cents are known in pairs, and probably in more than a dozen pairs of both values exist

The stamps were printed on poster paper of not very good quality. The denominations in the original issue which came into use on July 1 were 4 cents, 8 cents and 12 cents, and the respective colours of papers were yellow, green and blue, the printing in each case being in black. The shades of the papers varied to some extent, and the 12 cents exists on a very dark blue, so-called sugar paper, this name being applied because it was normally used for wrapping Demerara sugar. The 4 cents is known also on a pale yellow pelure paper but specimens are very rare.

The stamps of the first issue were extremely crude, and each specimen was initialed by the Postmaster or one of his employees before being issued. Presumably this was intended as a safeguard against forgery, although Dalton wrote, on July 29, 1856, that it was "a check on the printers", and that no stamp without initials would be passed by any post office in the Colony. Perhaps he meant by this that if there was any printer's waste, and it happened to get into the hands of people for whom it was not intended, it could not be used for postal purposes.

The initials found on the stamps are E. T. E. D. (E. T. E. Dalton), J. B. S. (J. B. Smith, a clerk of the Imperial Branch), E. D. W. (E. D. Wight, clerk of the Colonial Post Office), H. A. K. (H. A. Killikelly) and W. H. L. (W. H. Lortimer). As a rule the initials were applied in ink (black, violet or red) but sometimes in pencil, and a few specimens have been found without initials at all.

The stamps were neither perforated nor gummed, and were affixed to letters, as Ferguson stated, "by various qualities of adhesives and sometimes by wafers". The lack of perforation, in those days, of course, only in an experimental stage in England, led to many specimens being crudely cut or torn apart and so being rendered undesirable philatelically.

On February 22, 1851, a notice was issued from the Georgetown post office :—

> By Order of His Excellency the Governor, and upon the request of several of the merchants of Georgetown, it is proposed to establish a delivery of letters twice each day through the principal streets of this city, viz., Water-Street, Main-Street, their intermediate streets, and the Brick-Dam, as far as the Roman Catholic Chapel . . .
>
> Each letter must bear a stamp, for which Two Cents will be charged, or it will not be delivered, and when called for will be subject to the usual postage of Eight Cents.
>
> The deliveries will take place at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. every lawful day.
>
> Stamps may be bought at the Post Office or at any of the receiving offices.
>
> This delivery to commence on the 1st of March.
>
> (Signed) E. T. E. DALTON.

This new service was in operation for only a short time, and no doubt this accounts for the great rarity of specimens of the 2 cents. The stamps were printed on pale rose paper of a similar nature to that used for the other values.

Only 10 examples of the 2 cents have been found, and it is curious that six of them are in pairs, all on letters, but the reason for this is probably that, when the local delivery service ceased, supplies of the 2 cents were used in pairs to make up the 4 cents rate. The four singles all came originally from the same collection, that of N. R. McKinnon, of British Guiana, and it is by no means unlikely that they, too, were used in pairs as 4 cents stamps. The present whereabouts of all ten specimens are known and are recorded in *Stamps of Fame*. The single example now illustrated is in the King of Egypt's collection, into which it passed some thirty years ago.



The rare cover bearing the pair

Until the late eighteen-seventies the "Cottonreels", as these stamps are commonly known because of their shape, were hardly to be found in European collections, but about 1877 several finds of the stamps were made in the Colony, and in one parcel Edward Stanley Gibbons received, and bought, three or four hundred copies of the highest three values. The first 2 cents was discovered about the same time.

The most romantic story of a find of the 2 cents concerns the letter illustrated, which is now in the collection of M. Theodore Champion, of Paris. In 1896 Christ Church, Georgetown, was in financial straits, and an appeal was made to the congregation to help with gifts of money or in kind. One old coloured lady had sent two stamps, which were sold for nearly $34, and on Easter Monday Canon F. P. L. Josa went to thank her for her gift. While at her house he asked whether, perhaps, she had any more stamps, but she shook her head and said that she had given them all away. However, to make sure she brought out an old basket filled with receipts and bills. The Canon tipped them all out on the table, and before his delighted eyes there appeared this letter, bearing a pair of the 2 cents of 1851, for which there had been standing advertisements in the local papers. The lady to whom the letter was addressed was in the room at the time, and on hearing that the stamps were worth a lot of money she danced with joy, exclaiming, "Thank God! I am at last able to give something worth while". The letter was sold for over £200, and after passing through several collections was bought at H. R. Harmer's in 1934 by the present owner for £1,300.

There is a variety of the 12 cents of which only one specimen seems to have been found. It was in the Ferrary collection and realised £90 at the sales. On this stamp, which is on the usual blue paper, the value appears as "2 cents". This is unlikely to have been an error of colour, but was caused, probably, by the figure "1" having dropped out of the forme during printing.

Another British Guiana Forgery

BY WINTON PATNODE & FRED F. SEIFERT

Unlike the British Guiana forgery which we discussed in our previous article, the one we now consider was well documented by the Reverend R.B. Earée in his 'ALBUM WEEDS'. When one studies it closely he finds many obvious errors on the part of the forger, yet we would be willing to wager that a great many examples of this item repose, undetected, in present day collections of British Guiana.

Our forgery is modeled after the 1860-1863 series of stamps, those having the wide space between value and CENT(S). Although we illustrate only the ONE CENT black, SG 42 or Scott 24, the forger did not limit himself to this denomination. We have other examples of the 2, 8, 12 and 24 cent stamps and have had reports of the 4 cent value.



FORGERY



GENUINE

The most obvious error of the forger was in copying the motto surrounding the ship. He changed PETIMUSQUE to RETIMUSOUE, a rather stupid mistake. The numbers in the corner boxes of the forgery are poorly formed, also the boxes are taller than they are wide, whereas the numbers on the genuine stamp are well formed, and the boxes are nearly square. There is hardly a detail of design or lettering that does not differ between forgery and genuine, yet the overall appearance of the forgery is such that the average collector with no reason to suspect it might well place it in his collection without a second look. The perforating, if one can call it that, is very poorly done, and most copies we have seen have one or more straight edge. All copies known to us are cancelled with an A03 obliterator. The colors of all values of this forgery are a bit more vivid than their genuine counterparts.

BCPJ. Whole No 41

British Guiana Forgeries-III

BY WINTON PATNODE & FRED F. SEIFERT

The forgery which we illustrate here is a somewhat crude attempt to copy the 24¢ adhesive of the British Guiana 1863-75 issues. In Earée's *ALBUM WEEDS*, the author describes a copy of this forgery under the paragraph heading "First Forgery." It is a favored cliché of those describing forgeries such as this to say that they should fool no one, but the fact remains that they keep showing up in dealers' offerings and even in club circuits. While we have only seen the 24¢ version of this forgery, doubtless it also exists in the 6¢ and 48¢ denominations since the forger would only have to change the value tablet and color of ink to produce these additional items.



FORGERY



GENUINE

Comparison of the two photographs shows that in addition to his crude workmanship the forger made a number of errors which serve to identify this particular forgery. He made a 'J' of the last 'I' in VICISSIM, a fact that led Earée to conclude that the forgery was of German origin. He also neglected to show the top of the left-hand mast and placed some of the shrouds to the front of sails where in the genuine stamp they pass to the rear. Another clue is found in the dots appearing above various letters of the motto in the original. Thus the original dot over the first 'U' of PETIMUSQUE becomes a blob over the 'M' in the forgery, and other dots are misplaced or completely omitted. The forger also resorted to postmarks that are not known to have been used on British Guiana stamps. That on the illustrated forgery is a series of bars in the shape of an oblique parallelogram. He also used a single circle town date stamp with the "town name" ending CTWL! The forgeries are pin perf 13, although several sides of each example we have seen have been cut

with a scissors or knife and show no perfs. The ink of the forgery is a bit lighter shade of green than that of the original, but were it not for its other faults, the forgery might pass as a printing shade or faded copy.

Jumping back to the RETIMUSOUE forgery described in the February Journal, we have now acquired a copy of the 4 cent of that forgery, so can confirm its existence.

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The Gray Correspondence

by WINTON PATNODE

This is a continuation of the article on Page 8 of the February Journal. It describes the rates of postage on letters from Jamaica to England 1809-1819. The manuscript rating marks on these letters are generally uniform, but I cannot explain a few deviations, and welcome comment from students of this period.

Postage was paid in two parts. The inland Jamaica postage from Montego Bay (3 from Savanna-la-Mar) to Kingston was prepaid. That from Kingston to Stratton House, near Old Down, Somersetshire, was collected on delivery, and included the Kingston to Falmouth packet postage plus the English inland postage.

The prepaid Jamaica rate is clearly legible on 35 letters. With but two exceptions it is 2/6. One exception, May 21, 1811, is rated 1/3, half the normal rate. The letters are usually written on large 10" x 16" sheets, folded to make four pages, and weigh about 1/4 ounce. This exception rated 1/3 is on the same size paper, but a brief letter covered only one page. Could it have gone for half the rate of a three page letter? The other exception was rated 5/-, double the normal rate, but it included a Bill of Lading, probably accounting for the double rate.

Of the postage collected in England, 31 rates are clearly legible. Between 1809 and 1812, the rates are either 1/10 or 1/11. On one letter, Sept. 6, 1810, the 1/10 rate is crossed out and 1/11 added. The West Indian packet postage at that time was 1/1. Then the difference between 1/1 and 1/10 or 1/11, 9 or 10 pence, represents the English inland postage. The packet rate was raised to 1/3 after 1812, and the rates on the letters show this increase, being either 2/- or 2/1. The inland English postage still shows the two rates, either 9 or 10 pence, and scattered at random throughout the period. Question: Why two inland English rates?

Stratton House, the residence of Gray, Senior, was located less than a mile from Old Down, a Post Town some twelve miles from Bath on the Bath, Exeter, Falmouth Mail Coach Route. It seems reasonable to assume that mail received at Falmouth would be sent directly to Old Down. Then why the occasional extra penny? Who knows?

There's more. Three of the overseas ratings after 1812 are double, 4/-, 4/2, 4/2. One of these double rates is on the letter with the 5/- Jamaica double rate on account of the enclosure. The other two double rates are on letters bearing the normal 2/6 inland Jamaica rate. This appears to be a difference of opinion between the postal people in Jamaica and England. It does not appear often enough to be significant. *(See bottom of Page 74 for additional information.)*

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PAID YOUR DUES YET? IF NOT, GET ON THE BALL, BUB. THE PRINTER SAYS MY I.O.U. IS STRICTLY FOR THE BIRDS!

BRITISH GUIANA: 1938–52 $1 PERFORATION VARIETY
A CLEVER FAKE

by WILSON C. K. WONG

IN A HONG KONG auction in July 1990, I spotted a very unusual stamp in a lot described as 'British Guiana 1938–1952 1c to $3 mint complete with all perforations and shades as per SG Part 1'. However, the relatively expensive $1 perforated 14 × 13 [SG 317a] was absent: the $1 present seemed to be perforated 13 × 14, something I had never seen before. I bought the lot at a fairly modest price.

At home, I found that my purchase was perforated 13.15 × 14.10, and was larger than the normal $1. The horizontal length of the design was 1mm longer, which is very significant and easily observable. The corner perforations had a slightly odd shape, but I could not detect anything abnormal about the stamp, even with the use of a good magnifying glass (see illustration). The colour and gum looked perfectly normal.

Perhaps I should then have checked it under UV light, but my lamp was broken, and I had yet to get a replacement. I showed the stamp to Tim Hirsch, who chanced to be in Hong Kong, and he could not detect anything wrong, speculating that it might be a proof or trial printing. Anyway, I sent it to the Royal for an expert opinion.

The Expert Committee showed it to be a fake! The UV lamp showed that margins had been added and the stamp had then been reperforated. John Marriott suggested that the larger size of the stamp was due to tampering with the paper and perforation. I showed the stamp to David Aggersberg and Allan Leverton, and they concurred. Aggersberg further suggested that the stamp had been pressed to make the original perf 12½ horizontal perforations appear perf 13, though there is nothing to suggest this visually.

It was indeed a very clever and well-made fake. The stamp looks almost perfect. I can only speculate that it was originally treated to look like the $1 perf 14 × 13, but it seems too much trouble for a stamp which is not overly expensive [Ed. SG 317a is put at £180 in the 1991 catalogue]. I have no idea when or where it was made, but I suspect that the auctioneer and even the vendor did not know it was a fake.

It is of interest to note that the $1 SG 317a was originally listed by Gibbons as perf 13 × 14, but was changed to 14 × 13 the following year. Moreover, Bridger and Kay's catalogue continued for some inexplicable reason to list it as perf 13 × 14, even recently. Did the forger make this stamp in the first year it was listed by Gibbons or was he confused by the B & K listing? In any event, I am happy to have obtained it as a curiosity and an example of an excellent fake!



The Postscript (Soc. Postal Historians)
Vol. VIII, No. 4. (1958)

BRITISH GUIANA

J. Forrest.

In the year 1859 Anthony Trollope visited the West Indies and included British Guiana in his itinerary. He was on a mission on behalf of the Imperial Post Office and as a result of this mission the colony secured entire control of its postal arrangements. With the handing over of the Post Offices there was practically no change in administration. E.T.E.Dalton who had franked the famous 1853 stamps remained in charge merely drawing his salary entirely from the local source.

The Colony at this time was populated by about 150,000 people including the city of Georgetown (30,000) and New Amsterdam (4,500) showing that the population was retrogressing. This must not be entirely attributed to climate influences, severe as these were on immigrants; but two factors; one, as a Census Commissioner stated at the time, the natives of the upper classes leave the colony in great numbers and live out of it. The children of these classes disappear from the colony and comparatively few grown-up ones remain and two, the more important factor, the lack of natural increase of the immigrant population and death of the older ones who left no offspring in their places because there were no women to bear them issue. The Chinese of 1853 never saw a single woman of their race until 1860 whilst of the 3,600 of this race disembarked seven years before there were 2,600 remaining, with 338 women and 27 girls, all of the females arriving in the previous year. There were now about 15 females to every 100 males. Such was the policy of immigration in the fifties and sixties.

About 1837 as slavery was abolished and the slaves were freed, indentured labour and immigration began. Sugar was the life blood of the colony then and immigrants had to be obtained in order to work the plantations. In the period from 1835 to 1930 42,000 immigrants sailed from the West Indian Islands, 30,000 from Madeira, 239,000 from the East Indies, 13,000 from Africa, 14,000 from China and sundry others including a party of 208 from Malta in 1839, seventy from the United States in 1840 and twenty-one from England in 1851. After the Sugar Act of 1846 which brought about a new levelling of the differential duty on sugar the price fell in competition with that produced by slave owning countries like Cuba and labour was demanding higher wages. The price of sugar fell from mid-seventies to the end of the century, recovered during the First World War but depression returned during most of the twenties and early thirties. With the indentured labourers came the introduction of rice and the clash of labour over this crop was serious to the sugar growers.

I feel it is important to explore the economic background to an area when studying its postal history and this is especially true of British Guiana as the older post offices were mainly established on the sugar plantations and as mineral and timber wealth and distribution came to be realised the outback post-offices were opened one by one.

The more populated part of the country is near the sea and much is about four feet below sea level; here the East Indians form 45% of the population and Africans 36%. The former like to live on the land and dream of owning an acre and a cow and the latter's ideal is to find employment as a clerk, preferably with the Government. This is a psychological problem of very great importance to the prosperity of the Colony.

(contd. on p.2. ~~overleaf~~)

(J. Forrest)

BRITISH GUIANA (contd.) 1958/95.

There is little doubt that the history of British Guiana reflects one long weary tussle against great odds, reflected in having the highest production costs of sugar in the British Commonwealth, difficult access to the interior, immigration and labour troubles, the fairly quick working out of the gold deposits and the lack of chemical properties in the savannah grasslands in the south. The only bright spots are the valuable timber resources, mainly greenheart, and the large bauxite deposits. British Guiana produces one fifth of the world's bauxite, the base of aluminium, and its export accounts for nearly 30% of the Colony's export revenue, over 15% of the Government's total revenue and about 91% of the national income. But even here we have the problem of contrasts. Mackenzie, the head quarters of Demba (Demerara Bauxite Company) is a well set-up town of 10,000 to 15,000 people, self-supporting and with all conveniences whilst Wismar on the opposite bank of the Demerara is just a patch of tin shacks and few modern signs of civilization. Wismar has had a post office since about 1895 whilst Mackenzie's was opened in the 1920's.

In 1860 there were stated to be six post offices handling 43,000 items of mail; by 1865 another 22 offices had been opened but the mail handled only doubled itself. By 1870 another eight offices had been added and the annual "turnover" had increased to 184,000 and in another five years, with an increase of only one office, the items handled were nearly doubled to 341,000. Forty-nine offices were opened in 1880 handling 688,000 items and 1885 witnessed the million mark from 56 offices open, 1890 a million and a half with sixty offices open and between 1890 and 1910 there were another fourteen offices opened with a doubling of business. Such is the sputnik rise of the post office under "local" rule whilst, as we have seen, the economic development and prosperity of the colony has not been so happy.

In 1884, 250 ounces of gold was mined but the gold rush years were to come in 1893-94 when 138,500 ounces were produced. Many remote post offices, such as Arakaka, Peter's Mine and Omai were opened to cater for the gold and other mineral workers. It is found in alluvial form in much of the northern part and a few areas in the south and had been mined, especially in the North West District, by individual prospectors but now the deposits are nearly worked out and large-scale operations with dredgers have become necessary - as at Tumatumari, head-quarters of British Guiana Goldfields Consolidated. It is, of course, natural to assume, and assume rightly that this dredging is usually a losing game financially. In 1890 small diamonds were discovered in fair quantities in the upper Mazaruni River and small workings still exist there today. However, the real mineral wealth as mentioned before, is in bauxite mined at Ituni and Kwakwani, these two places having post offices recently opened for the benefit of the workers.

An amusing account of the Post Office in 1870 is given by J.Rodway in "The Philatelic Journal of British Guiana" (No.4 July 1908). "The British Guiana Post Office as I first saw it in 1870 gave me the impression of being fifty years behind the age. Accustomed to the morning rat-tat and cry of "Post", I was surprised to find that letter-carriers were almost unknown anywhere except for a paltry delivery in Water Street about 11 o'clock after the arrival of the East Coast train. Everyone had to call at the Post Office for his letters, and the system of private boxes was nothing more than a number of pigeon-holes from which the packages were handed to applicants at an open window. And, what a row there was on Mail day! In a narrow passage a hundred or more clerks and office boys elbowed each other to get to the window, behind which stood Mr.J.B.Smith trying to hand over the box-letters to those who held possession of the opening.

(contd. overleaf)

BRITISH GUIANA. (contd.)

"This bustle and confusion was the natural consequence of late mails. Sometimes there was only an hour to get letters and prepare replies, as the steamer would frequently be off before the whole of the letters had been sorted.

"Bad as this was, it may be considered a great improvement upon the condition of things before the Reading Room building was erected, and when the Post Office was a pokey room in the Public Buildings. Complaints were made of want of space and the only people who spoke in its favour did so on the ground that the Public Buildings were practically fire-proof. In April 1864 the Postmaster proposed to have a delivery of letters as soon as the English Mails were sorted provided they were landed before 4 p.m.,or if after that hour, early next morning; some hitch occurred, however, and the project fell through. Then came a proposal for the American lock-box system but this was not introdeced until many years after. Amongst the complaints was one that postage had been raised in 1863 from 6d. to 1/-d.

"Suppose one wrote a letter to some shop-keeper at Buxton or Plaisance, a few miles from Georgetown, it would remain in the village Post Office until called for. Suppose, however, your correspondent did not expect a letter and did not call, it came back to you some weeks later. It followed, therefore, that few letters were written, for you could not be sure when they would arrive at their real destination. The money order business was also very small, for the same difficulty was even more hampering where remittances were concerned. I was told not to waste 4 cents on a dunning letter to a country store-keeper; if he did not come one of us must look him up; and, what a disagreeable thing! You went up to, say, Buxton, and found every hut surrounded with water and the dam puddled into the slush known here as putta-putta. It might not be a hundred yards from the station, but it required a strong sense of duty to urge you on. Is it any wonder that there was no postal delivery or that anyone preferred the estates' messenger to the post? At that time also there were no steamers up the rivers, the mail cart to Berbice was often delayed by bad roads and sometimes broke down. There was no telegraphic communication except on the East Coast railway; cables were being laid, but British Guiana was not yet in communication".

The Colony is divided geographically into a series of "coasts" from the River Pomeroon to the Dutch border and vertically by four large rivers and this is reflected in a most curious and challenging group of cancellations known as the "code" or"dumb" datestamps allocated to the country post offices. These are truly the enigma of the early cancellations. It has now been established for some time that these codes were arranged geographically and at the same time probably numerically radiating out from Georgetown or a similar important place or feature. Usually the single ring datestamp shows the letters "B G" at the top, beneath which is found the code of the office, followed by day and month and beneath that the year. The series are "A C" for the Arabian Coast between the Essequibo and the Pomeroon, "W" and "L" for the Islands of Wakenaam and Leguan in the Essequibo estuary, "W C" for West Coast Demerara stretching between Georgetown on the Demerara and the Essequibo, "E C" for East Coast Demerara between Georgetown and the Berbice boundary "D R", west and east

(contd. overleaf)

BRITISH GUIANA.(contd.)

for offices up the Demerara River, "WCB" for West Coast Berbice between the Demerara boundary and New Amsterdam "ECB" beyond New Amsterdam, there are also "AH" for Airy Hall, the then terminus of the steamer on the Arabian Coast, "R", "ER" and "BIR" (Berbice River). One series extends from 1 to 8 indicating that eight offices were open between the two extremities of the coast. Quite frequently, owing to the ignorance or perhaps shortage of type, these datestamps lack much or some of the date, the majority to be filled in by hand. Wakenaam is known entirely in manuscript and the post office seal is known there cancelling adhesives.

The code datestamps gradually disappeared after 1878, all but "ER" being withdrawn by about 1882. "ER" is found as late as 1899. To replace them an interesting series of obviously American inspired or manufactured village datestamps came into being. Over a dozen offices are known with these marks with one or two unique spellings of the village names. About or in 1880 a series of double ring cancellors were introduced but some offices were equipped with single rings and others with protective circles. From the early 1900's "thimble" datestamps can be found, followed by a much larger mark which is found in a vast number of sub-types and then the pattern falls into the standard types and designs of this country.

However, there are several unusual features. British Guiana is by the very nature of its comparative inaccessibility away from the coast, the happy hunting ground of the Travelling Post Office student. The routes are mainly up the rivers, but there are four services on the railways and some coastwise routes. Two picturesque insights into these methods of communication may prove of interest. Michael Swan in his "British Guiana" published in the Corona Library, has an arresting account of the early difficulties on the Demerara Railway. He says "the history of this railway is, like the history of most activities in the Colony, one of heroic battle against adversity - with the battle never entirely won. It was begun by a private company, the Demerara Railway Company in 1848 (capital £250,000), and is the oldest railway on the whole continent of South America. It is also claimed that it is the costliest railway ever built - its first five miles cost £127,000, at which point the services of the engineer in charge of the project were terminated "for reasons of economy". This engineer was Frederick Catherwood. As soon as he arrived in British Guiana he was met by troubles; negroes would not work for a dollar a day although it was more than they would have been paid elsewhere and termites were destroying the sleepers. Catherwood disagreed with the Company on many matters. However, he solved the labour problems unconventionally, first by erecting a series of brothels at various points on the route, which kept the workers happy, and secondly by importing labour from the islands. Other matters were not so easily soluble and the Company drifted into greater debt. The first three locomotives were named "Mosquito", "Sandfly", and "Gadfly", but as the troubles progressed he renamed them "Scorpion", "Centipede", and "Marabunta", a genus of wasp. Today fine diesel locomotives run along the lines but they are proving so heavy that the track is beginning to show signs of subsidence. The second insight into the T.P.O.system is to be found on page 168 of the 1954 postal guide (only the fifth ever published) where it states that "letters and Telegrams by post, for Mahaica Creek are delivered each weekday by launch Service Travelling Postal Agency to Handsome Tree, No.10, Quackoodam, Powder Flask, Little Biaboo, Big Biaboo and Joe Hoop", these all being names of plantations or settlements along the route.

(contd. overleaf)

BRITISH GUIANA. (Contd.)

Other travelling post office routes are the North West Steamer to the coastal areas nearest Venezuela, the Pomeroon launch, the North West District launch, routes up the Mazaruni, the Essequibo, the Berbice and the Demerara Rivers and some others. Many are only launches, especially in the smaller rivers or in the upper reaches of the larger rivers. The four railway travelling post offices are East Coast (E.C.) West Coast (W.C.) Demerara and the Berbice Railways. Today, many inland offices receive and normally do only receive their mail by air.

An unusual and outstanding feature of the modern cancellations is the group of Postal Agency Numbers introduced in the late twenties. These usually comprise a datestamp, normally single-ringed, reading "Postal Agency" followed by a number; the highest known being 23. The precise whereabouts of these offices at a particular time is difficult to ascertain as some numbers were used at different places. The group could almost be considered as a method of supplying a postal agency with a temporary datestamp. A few of the known numbers were issued with circular datestamps giving the post office name in full for a time and then reverting back to a postal agency number again. An example is Mara. In many cases, being small offices, the makeup of the datestamp takes completeness and in some the year date is not given.

Another interesting series of marks are those found along the Potaro road, leading from Bartica situated where the Mazaruni joins the Essequibo in the north central part of the colony down to Potaro itself some 120 miles to the south. Post Offices were established at various milestones along this route and "XI MILES POTARO", "XV MILE POTARO", "SEVENTY TWO MILES POT" and "110 MLS POTARO" cancellations can be found. A particularly nice variation reads "11½ MILES POTARO".

There is no doubt that the fascinating sidelights, the unusual and quaint names, the knottiness of the identification problems for the code and the postal agency numbers and the difficulty of obtaining official postal information owing to successive fires in the records, make British Guiana one of the delights for the student and collector of colonial post office history.

(Paper accompanying Display - 22nd April, 1958).

The POSTSCRIPT. (Soc. Postal Historians)
Vol. VIII. No. 4 (1958)

SOME NOTES ON THE POSTAL HISTORY OF BRITISH GUIANA UP TO 1860.

W. A. Townsend.

The Postal History in the early days is very obscure and we have to rely mainly on articles written in various magazines. It was not until 1831 that the three counties of Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo became amalgamated and known as British Guiana. Prior to that this area had a very chequered career. As early as 1652 there was a British Settlement around Surinam but this was ceded to the Dutch in 1663 and it was not until 1781 that the British captured the three counties. Up to that date there were no Post Offices. Of course people wrote letters and sent them the best way they could. Correspondence increased in particular from 1740 when British Settlers arrived from Barbados, private vessels being the means used.

Britain's occupation was short lived, as within a year the French had driven us out and restored it to the Dutch in 1783. They established the first Post Office in Demerara with Adrian Loncq as Postmaster. His instructions were to deliver letters by four white servants within four days after their arrival and to obtain a receipt for each letter and charge a fee of five stivers, each of the four men having a district to cover. The mail from Demerara to Essequibo was sent every two months. The whole service was lackadaisical but seemed to meet the needs of the happy-go-lucky Dutch, who did not mind delays of a few weeks.

In 1793 the British were anxious to hasten matters and a man named de la Coste determined to establish a better postal service to Essequibo. He petitioned that he be allowed to establish a printing office and newspaper in Demerara and to make a postal delivery all along the coast. His time-table route was elaborate and his messengers were provided with canisters for each place of delivery. If you were a subscriber to his newspaper, de la Costa exempted you from any fee for postage, but if you were so behind the times as not to subscribe, you were charged 20 cents on receipt of each letter.

The population liked having a place to deposit their letter for despatch but the venture was not a financial success, and it closed down in 1795. The population felt the loss of this service and a public meeting was called on June 11th, 1796, at which it was decided that a post office should be established at Stabroek at the expense of the Colony and under the management of a proper person. In fact it was established at Demerara and the first letter from there was sent by the Governor on July 12th, 1796, to the Duke of Portland (a Secretary of State).

My first covers are of September 10th and December 14th of that year. The postage to Inverness being 1/7d, and 2/9d respectively. It was the custom at this time to send letters in duplicate to ensure that at any rate one of them might arrive safely owing to many being lost in transit, and one of mine is inscribed "Duplicate".

Letters were sent by any available ship and Berbice had a separate Government and postal service at this time. However, in 1802, the three colonies were restored to the Dutch under the Treaty of Amiens, although one year later the British re-captured them. In 1814-15 they were formally ceded to Great Britain once more.

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SOME NOTES ON THE POSTAL HISTORY OF BRITISH GUIANA . (contd.)

In 1804 when letters were called for at the Post Office, the recipients had not only to pay the normal postage but an additional amount to the Postmaster of 10d. on all ship letters from Europe, and 5d on all Colonial letters. No doubt these were his perqs! Postal services in the period to 1815 were very primitive and a number of mail packets from Britain were captured by the Americans. In one case a British Man of War chased a British Packet, under the impression that it was American. The latter threw its mail overboard and eventually both ran aground. It was not until then that they both found out they were British. In 1839 an effort was made to expedite the Mail between Demerara and Berbice by using Mounted Police as there was a mail boat only twice a week. However the Postmaster General of Great Britain protested and said he had the exclusive right to set up posts in any colony and it was discontinued. However, the next year the service using the police was sanctioned and it was re-commenced. In January 1842 arrived the first Steamship carrying mails - The Clyde, an event which caused great excitement. In 1845 the rate under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. from Britain to Demerara was 1/- and to Berbice 1/2d. Registration 1/- extra. Demerara to Berbice was 6d. In 1845 the packet from Britain for the West Indies left twice a month for Grenada and by branch vessels to British Guiana. The time taken was normally 28 to 48 days. In 1845 the rate to the Colonies in the West Indies was 4d.

An interesting feature is that the Dutch Handstruck Stamps were in use through the Dutch, British, Dutch and finally British Administration. There were a number of different types and I show several of these dated from 1820 to 1841. The Fleuron Post Mark was in use in many Colonies and Demerara had two types. I show the larger type used in 1815 and the smaller type used in 1826 and 1835. The figure $\frac{1}{2}$ enclosed in a square shows the extra charge of a halfpenny to cover the turnpike charge for crossing the border into Scotland. The one shown is, I believe, the Falmouth mark. The Double Half Circle Type with the name occupying the top half was in use for a long period for both Demerara and Berbice, always in Black. The Demerara has a diameter of 30 mm, and my dates are 1840 to 1844. The Berbice has a diameter of 27 mm. with dates from 1841 to 1853. Demerara next had a smaller type, 25 mm diameter, without serifs and this is found in Red and Black. My dates are Black 1847 to 1855. Red 1845 to 1846.

This type is also used on adhesive stamps and on stampless covers and I have 1850 to 1857. Berbice is also found on stamps, my dates being 1856 to 1860, and used as a back stamp up to 1871.

Demerara had a single circle type 19 mm diameter used as a general post stamp in Black and my examples cover the period 1858 to 1871.

The Soldiers letter is interesting and shows in red manuscript 1d. paid, as it was sent by a non-commissioned officer, dated 1846.

I recently acquired two covers within a week showing a handstruck (1/2d) from Berbice, I had not seen this mark before, dated 1846, and 1849. The Demerara ship letter is beyond my period being dated 1879, but I have included it as it is the only copy I have seen. I apologise for a cover which could not even be described in an Auction catalogue as "somewhat tatty". Again beyond my period (1882) but it shows the British Guiana Registered mark in a double lined rectangle.

(contd. overleaf)

SOME NOTES ON THE POSTAL HISTORY OF BRITISH GUIANA.(contd.)

Postal arrangements as you will see were very chaotic and led up to the first stamps in 1850 - the so-called "cotton reels" locally printed. Each stamp was initiallied as a precaution against forgery and postage was charged according to distance. This was a temporary issue pending the arrival from England of the issue of 1852 lithographed by Waterlows. It is interesting to note that cancellations found on this issue are always date stamps whereas most other countries were using obliterators.

The first idea of charging postage according to distance was not popular and in 1852 it was altered to 1 cent on all local newspapers and 4 cents per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. for letters. All British Guiana stamps up to the 1860 issue were only valid for local postage.

In 1852 letters were conveyed by train (the first railway in South America) along the East Coast as far as Belfield. Along the West Coast they were still carried by a mounted policeman. As Delivering letters necessitated liquid refreshment, his rate of progress was an easy four miles an hour.

In 1853 a splendidly executed stamp was received in the 1 cent and 4 cent values. In 1856 there was a shortage of these stamps and another locally produced issue came into being. One of my covers is believed to be the earliest recorded date - February 8th, 1856.

Up to the arrival of British stamps in 1858, compulsory repayment of postage for letters sent abroad was not enforced, but by a notice dated February 11th, 1858, postage on all letters to Great Britain was to be paid in advance. However, the stamps did not leave Great Britain until April 17th and it was not until May 12th that they came into use, the rate to Great Britain being reduced to 6d.

The piece of cover showing a 4 cent stamp for local postage and a 6d British stamp for postage to Great Britain is interesting. It is extremely unusual to find six 1d stamps used on one cover, and the cover with one 4d and two 1d is a nice item.

On May 1st, 1860, British Guiana took over control of its own Post Office and about that date Waterlows sent the issue which remained in use until 1875 with various modifications and perforations. The Earliest dated copy I have is August 13th, 1860.

I had for some time been aware of a rather crude A03 cancellation always found in red and of several types but it was not until I acquired the 1d A03 cover that I realised that a Duplex Mark had been in existance. Very shortly after this, I noticed a 1½d A03 in a bundle of covers. When I showed these to Robson Lowe he introduced me to John Forrest, who produced the PA41D cover which you see on display, this being a triplex mark. The 5d. always found on 12 cent stamps, is of course, fairly common and was for some years catalogued as a surcharge. It probably shows the proportion of the total amount payable to the country which conveyed the letter to Britain. It is surprising how when one has found items like the foregoing, further examples flow into one and since then I have come across another 1d A03 of a different type and two PA41D marks, one of which is a different type from John Forrest's cover.

(contd. overleaf)

SOME NOTES ON THE POSTAL HISTORY OF BRITISH GUIANA.(contd.)

Georgetown and New Amsterdam continued to use the A03 and A04 cancellations for some time and British Guiana appears to be the only colony to produce and use locally made cancels incorporating the G.P.O.Allocation number. British Guiana had a duplex cancellation which I think is unique as I have not seen one in use on the stamps of any other colony. It was in use for about 15 years. What do you think of the trisects? They were never authorised, as far as I can tell.

British Guiana frequently had recourse to locally produced stamps as they failed to anticipate the rapid growth of the postal service and so ran short of stamps on a number of occasions. An interesting provisional was that of 1882 caused by the shortage of 1 cent and 2 cent stamps owing to the stock having stuck together in an inseparable mass.

I show the correspondence from the Acting Postmaster, seeking approval for these locally produced stamps together with what is probably the only die proof. The first three printings were 3 x 4 as you see from the sheet I show. These had to be bisected to enable the "Specimen" perforation to be effected and sloping from lower left to top right, whereas in the four later printings, the sheets were 2 x 6 to avoid this bisecting. In these later printings, the "Speciman" perforation slopes from top left to lower right. The former is much the scarcer and I show covers of both.

(Paper accompanying Display - 22nd April, 1958).

STAMP LOVER Jan. 1936

BRITISH GUIANA

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Stamp Lover

B.W.I

Edited by FRED. J. MELVILLE



[Vol. 8] 2d. (post free 10d.) [January, 1936

BRITISH GUIANA 1862.



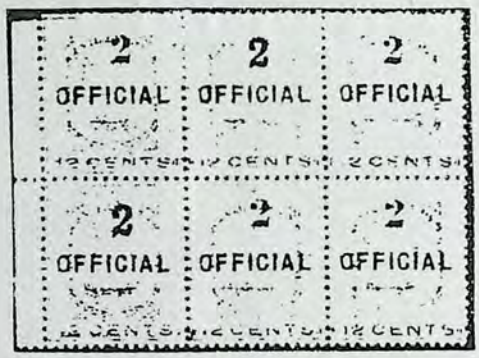
A reconstructed sheet of the 4 cents provisional of 1862 composed of printers' mignon ornaments by George Melville in the office of the Royal Gazette, Georgetown. (See "The Melvilles of British Guiana," page 223.)

BRITISH GUIANA : 2/12c AND 2/24c PROVISIONALS

by C.A. FREELAND

Ever since I acquired the piece illustrated (which was about ten years ago). I have been trying to establish precisely how many 'curly 2s' there are in the overprint setting for the 1881 12c and 24c provisionals (SG Nos 155-158). Curiously, this problem does not seem to have been addressed by any of the previous students of British Guiana, including Sir Edward Bacon, who plated the ship issues, A.D. Ferguson or any of the owners of the great British Guiana collections - or at least, if they did, they did not write about it. There is also no reference to the question in the fine handbook on the territory by Past-President Townsend and F.G. Howe.

At the outset, I made one crucial assumption that I am unable to prove although it is supported by sufficient circumstantial evidence as to be statistically irrefutable. This is that the same overprint *forme* was used for both the 12c and the 24c stamps. In the absence of this assumption I would have been unable to complete the chain of interlocking pieces.



At last, with the assistance of Past-President Marriott (who kindly made me photocopies of the blocks in the Royal Collection), Simon Goldblatt and Simon Greenwood, I have been able to confirm my early conclusions that there are five positions with the 'curly 2' in the setting of sixty subjects. These occur at positions 38, 40, 41, 42 and 43.

The key piece is the irregular block of 24 of 2/24c from the Burrus collection, illustrated in Robson Lowe's sale catalogue of 26 November 1963, which came from the Lincoln stock bought by Gibbons in 1931. This block contains four curly 2s, at positions 2, 4, 5 and 6 in row 7. I was at first puzzled as to how this block had been positioned since it has only the right-hand margin, but Simon Greenwood reminded me that the marginal watermark on the CC paper would enable the row to be identified.

The Burrus collection also contained a vertical block of twenty stamps containing the two left columns of 2/12c, with two copies of the 'curly 2'. Unfortunately, this block was not illustrated in the Burrus catalogue but since it contains only two examples of the 'curly 2' they must have been in the same positions as the block illustrated. Taking the evidence of the three blocks, this must have been 38 and 43.

Having reached this point many years ago I was faced with the need to check the remaining positions on the pane to ensure that there were no further 'curly 2' types elsewhere. This has proved to be a long task but with the help of those mentioned earlier I have been able to establish that this is in fact the case. Two other blocks from the Lincoln stock, one from the top and the other from the foot of the sheet, neither of which contained any curly types, together with other positional blocks in my own and Simon Greenwood's collection complete the puzzle.

To conclude, therefore, there were five 'curly 2s' on row 7, positions 2, 4, 5 and 6 and on row 8, position 1.

BRITISH GUI

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, Mar. 23, 1945.

BRITISH GUIANA

THE 24 CENTS GREEN OF 1863-64, 1866 and 1875

by Mrs. Stanley Barratt and Jno. J. Darlow

(N.B.—All the varieties, flaws and differences are illustrated from examples in Mrs. Barratt's collection)

This stamp was lithographed by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, on paper of varying textures, made by Messrs. T. H. Saunders (and perhaps by other firms as well), normally without watermark, and perforated 12, 12½-13, 10 and 15, by line machines. The lines of pins were somewhat irregularly spaced as to the distances from North to South and West to East respectively, so that perfectly centred copies are not easy to find. Although "normally" without watermark, copies of the earlier printings (and perhaps of all printings) do exist watermarked with complete double lined capital letters, or parts of letters and numerals, 10 millimetres and 15 millimetres high, which from the specimens so far discovered appear to have been marginal, and are obviously part of the papermakers' name or names if more than one. For example the letter "K" shown below does not form part of "T. H. Saunders, 1863."



This article follows a conversation with the Editor of the *Philatelic Magazine*, and consequent on the query by "S.S." (Montreal) *re* the stop variety after "P" of "PETIMUSQUE" on the 48c., which appeared and was answered in No. 18 of Vol. 52. It is as much in the way of seeking knowledge as imparting it, and it is hoped that anyone able to throw further light on the stamps of these issues, the make-up of the printing stones, the varieties and their positions in the sheets, will do so.

It is quite possible that fresh stones received transfers for the three separate issues, and that all the varieties found in one printing (perforation) are not found in the others. In fact, that state of affairs is a practical certainty. So far as has come to light, no one has yet completely plated these stamps, or at any rate has not published the result of such labours.

Some months ago, a large quantity of used copies of the 12c. and 24c. of the 1863-66 issues came to hand, which had been taken from their correspondence many years ago, numbering some 200 copies, many, alas, so damaged as to be useless for collections but very useful for study purposes—and a considerable time was devoted to studying them with the following results.

The sheets of the 24c. and 48c. were unquestionably of the same size, each containing 50 examples; but that does not necessarily imply that any variety, if constant, is in rarity-ratio of one to forty-nine. In fact, it is quite possible that the stones were made up of two blocks of 25 each, as certain varieties, discovered in this lot, were so numerous, and so disproportionate to the numbers of other varieties, as to put the "Fifty" make-up very doubtful. Therefore the rarity-ratio might be one to twenty-four, a small matter as regards sale or purchase, but a very big one if it helps to settle the questions of the make-up of the lithographic stones and the size of the sheets.

The varieties found are enumerated below, and are indicated on the accompanying enlarged drawing by the same letters:

The presence or absence of these varieties, or of any others not described above, raises two very important questions.

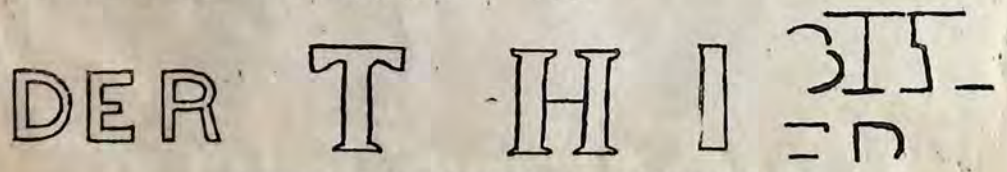
(1), the make-up of the lithographic transfers,

(2), the size of the sheets, or rather their constitution.

We know that the sheets contained fifty stamps. Were these fifty arranged in five horizontal rows of ten each, or in ten horizontal rows of five each? And in either case, were they in one block of fifty or in two separate blocks of twenty-five?

The latter, on the evidence we have, seems the more likely. The "large quantity of the 12c. and 24c." mentioned in a previous paragraph contained some one hundred and fifty of the 24c., of which some thirty copies contain the variety "A,"—far too large a proportion of the whole if the sheets contained five horizontal rows of 10 each from one transfer; but not unreasonable if there were two transfers of twenty five each, unless we consider the absurdity that the merchants bought their stamps in vertical rows. There was also a very large number of the 12c. with the large "5d." in red,* all without gum, as if they had been removed from correspondence, which may be questioned, as not one of them had any trace of postmark or cancellation, but that is outside the scope of this present article).

* This is a large handstruck "5d." struck on the stamp after being affixed to the letter to denote the proportion of postage repayable by the Colony to Great Britain for overseas letters.—EDITOR.



Watermarks we have so far found in the stamps (actual size.)

shown below does not form part of "T H S...

positions of the make-up of the lithographi stones and the size of the sheets.



A. Bulge on left of circle above DAMUS. Perf. 1

B. Diagonal line on left of T, perf. 12½—13.

C. Stop between I M of VICISSIM, perf.12½—13 : 10.

D. Broken A in DAMUS, perf. 10. One example this is in a horizontal pair the stamp on the showing variety C.

E. S of PETIMUSQUE joined to the circle above

E 1. Break left of square containing the 6.

E 2. Dot right of ornament below the ship, all the same stamp, perf. 10.

E 3. Dot between S S. Not on all copies.

F. Serif on left top of M in DAMUS, perf. 10.

G. Blob on left of U in GUIANA, perf. 12½—13.

the commonwealth review

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE 27/3/70

The Bisected Stamps of British Guiana

Although neither Stanley Gibbons nor the Scott catalogues list them, on rare occasions bisected stamps of British Guiana on cover or piece appear on the philatelic market. Since these items have not been honoured with catalogue status, one might suspect them to be either fakes, or at the best, examples of freak usage which somehow passed undetected through the posts. After doing some digging through a philatelic library, a conclusion has been reached that although many fakes exist, some bisects saw valid postal use at times of a shortage of certain values.

Writing in the *British Guiana Journal* of December 1906, Mr. E. V. A. Abraham tells of posting a letter at Capoey, Essequibo, calling for two cents postage. He states that the postmaster told him there were no stamps of the value asked for, but took the letter from him and in his presence bisected a four cents stamp and affixed half of it to the letter! Afterwards, he saw the same letter having gone through the posts and in the possession of his brother.

Mr. Abraham also reported that on various occasions, when he was Registrar of Court, he had similar experiences in posting letters from Suddie, Essequibo and New Amsterdam, Berbice. Although he gives no dates for these mailings, he does indicate that the adhesives bisected were the stamps of 1860 with values of 1c., 2c., 4c. and 12c. He also reports a 12c. stamp *quartered* to prepay 3c. postage.

To clarify what he meant by the stamps of 1860, Mr. Abraham stated that he meant those with that date on the stamps (i.e. as Stanley Gibbons type T7 or Scott A5). In the British West Indies book of the London Philatelic Society (1891) Mr. E. D. Bacon lists an 8c. stamp of the 1860 issue, bisected diagonally and used as 4c. in November 1861.

Invalidation 1862

Based upon his experience, Mr. Abraham came to the conclusion that this practice of bisecting stamps was sanctioned by the colonial Government of British Guiana. That this was not a valid conclusion is evidenced by a post office notice signed by the Postmaster-General of the Colony and reading as follows:

"*Georgetown. 9th April 1862.*

Several parties being in the habit of affixing fractions of postage stamps to their letters, viz. by using the third of the 12c. or the half of the 8c. stamp for the prepayment of a single local letter, of which the postage is 4c., notice is hereby given that all letters so improperly stamped will be treated as unpaid letters and taxed double the ordinary postage, and newspapers sought to be forwarded in that illegal manner will be detained.

E. T. E. Dalton".

From the aforegoing, it appears obvious that for an indeterminate period beginning sometime after mid-1860, when the 1860 format stamps were issued, and ending in April 1862, when the above notice appeared, bisected, trisected and quartered stamps were frequently used to prepay postage, and such postal matter was accepted by the post offices of British Guiana as being fully prepaid. Under these circumstances, it is considered that genuine covers of this period bearing fractionated stamps merit a place in the postal history of British Guiana, despite the fact that catalogue publishers refuse to accord them recognition.

1876 Bisects

In addition to the 1860 stamps, the 2c. of 1876 is also known used in bisected form. Sometime during 1877, the British Guiana Post Office ran out of 1c. values, a stamp needed to prepay newspapers. Mr. N. Darnell Davis, the Postmaster-General, let it be known that if bisected diagonally, the 2c. stamps would be accepted in payment of 1c. postage. Just how Mr. Davis promulgated this authorisation is not known. It seems quite possible that it was by informal notice to the local newspapers, and that an Official Post Office Notice was not issued. However, we do have the word of Mr. Davis in a letter dated June 10th, 1907 to the Hon. B. Howell Jones, President of the British Guiana Philatelic Society, that he authorised this use of bisects. He states that "*. . . there were no authorisations from the Executive for the arrangement. It was done off my own bat . . .*"

Forgeries

Like most philatelic rarities, the British Guiana bisects have been extensively faked. Many of these fakes were made by removing genuine stamps from genuine covers, bisecting them, and carefully replacing them on cover. Thus it would be well to suspect any bisect tied only across the perforated sides. A further requirement of the genuine article is, of course, that the cancellation has been current at the time the cover purports to have been posted.

A more dangerous forgery was foisted upon the philatelic world by someone who got his hands on an old cancelling stamp. Securing a lot of old newspaper wrappers and some genuine 1860 stamps, he bisected the latter and tied them well to the wrappers. The existence of these was reported by Rev. Canon F. P. L. Josa in an article published in the *British Guiana Philatelic Journal*, No. 3 of December 1907. Unfortunately, he gave no indication as to how they can be detected.

BRITISH GUIANA

STAMP COLLECTING Dec. 16, 1971

THE FORGOTTEN PROVINCE

By "Heuristic"

MY interest in the cancellations of British Guiana was re-kindled by my reading in STAMP COLLECTING (page 989, July 29th, 1971) that an expedition was soon leaving to explore Roraima in the Guyana Highlands. Few stamp collectors can actively take part in such an expedition and directly re-capture the Conan Doyle thrills of a "lost continent" but they can indulge in the exciting search for the modern circular date-stamps of British Guiana. Some of these are exceedingly scarce and well worth looking out for.

In the last two years before Independence, British Guiana set up two "Mobile Postal Units" believed to be the first of their kind in the Caribbean. These units comprise vans staffed by a clerk and a postman-driver and operate to set daily schedules, though these can be varied as need arises. The vehicles can thus be used in areas of shifting population, where it would be uneconomical to set up full-time post offices.





The first unit has "Mobile Pstl Unit No. 1" around the date-stamp and "B.G." at the base with the date across the centre. This is listed in "Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana" by Townsend and Howe, page 387, as VR and only one date is recorded, namely, February 17th, 1965. A second unit with the words, "Mobile P.U.11" is also very rare and the only date recorded is April 4th, 1966.

Other cancellations to look for include Tapacooma where a postal agency was opened before it received a date-stamp. For six weeks the Postal Agent, who was also the local schoolmaster, cancelled the limited amount of mail with either his school stamp or the seal used for sealing the mail prior to despatch to the Post Office at Anna Regina. The seal reads, "Emergency No. 27. Br. Guiana". In both cases the Postal Agent added his initials—E.J.G. and the date in manuscript.

On February 23rd, 1945, the G.P.O. building in Georgetown was destroyed by fire. If you can find a cancellation for that date you have something very scarce for it must have been used before the fire commenced. Makeshift date-stamps were in use until May without the name of the office, but these can only be identified as Georgetown postmarks when seen on covers bearing the 1 cent for the Georgetown city post.

The North West District

The North West District is often referred to as "The Forgotten Province" of British Guiana. In the 1890's, gold mining, for a time, brought prosperity and several post offices were opened. The main town was Morawhanna which could be reached by sea from Georgetown. The problem was to get the mails from the villages in the interior to Morawhanna. Mail to and from this post office has the cancellation "North West Str" and clear strikes with a legible date are very scarce. "Str" is a contraction for "Steamer".





In recent years, the S.S. *Tarpon* has carried the mail from Georgetown to Morawhanna and Mabaruma. Thence it was carried by the Mobile Medical Launch *Relief* to the interior, since there are only 12 miles of road in 8,000 square miles of difficult country. The *Relief* does a regular four-weekly service: 1st week—up the Aruka and Koriabo Rivers and their tributaries to Bonsekai Creek and Maridown on the Koriabo: 2nd week—up the Kaituma and Barima Rivers and their tributaries to Eclipse Falls on the Barima and Anabisci Creek on the Kaituma: 3rd week—up the Waini and Barama Rivers and their tributaries to Quebanna on the Waini and Ianna Gold Mine on the Barama: 4th week—up the Imbotero Creek on the Barima River on the Venezuelan frontier.

The launch is staffed by Government Dispensers and they automatically become postal agents as well. The skeleton date-stamp has appeared in three forms, incorporating in different ways, "Mobile Agency" with "N.W.D." Dated examples from June 30th, 1952, to November 21st, 1960, are very rare and worth looking for. If found on cover they become very desirable indeed.

Village Date-stamps

The village date-stamps of the interior are fascinating and a study in themselves.

BARAMANNI was open from 1893 to 1907 when the post office was transferred to Barama Mouth but still used the Baramanni date-stamp. However, in 1908 it moved back to Baramanni. If, therefore, you find this date-stamp with a date between October 14th, 1907, and May 1st, 1908, it was used at Barama Mouth and is very scarce.

The MOUNT EVERARD P.A. cancellation is very rare as this agency was only open from July 1st, 1949, to December 31st, 1951.

FIVE STAR is rare. It is the site of a gold mine. Open from September 1st, 1902, to September 23rd, 1903, it reopened at a later date as it was a thriving gold mine until 1914.

There are many other unusual and scarce date-stamps to look for but to me they have the added interest of the story behind the small settlements in the interior which, perhaps, flourished for a short time and then became "ghost" villages as the inhabitants departed elsewhere.

Fascinating reading on this area can be found in such books as "British Guiana" by Michael Swan (H.M.S.O. 1957); "The Marches of El Dorado" by Michael Swan (Jonathan Cape 1958). "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana" by Townsend and Howe, published 1970 by The Royal Philatelic Society, London. This latter is available from Harris Publications Ltd., 42 Maiden Lane, London WC2E 7LW, price £15 plus postage.

BRITISH GUIANA.

STAMP COLLECTING, Oct. 16, 1953

Notes on
BRITISH GUIANA CANCELLATIONS

By PETER JAFFÉ



Village Cancellations

ALTHOUGH "red" cancellations are rather uncommon, the postmarks and cancellations of British Guiana are attracting increased attention, possibly because of the large number of travelling post office and river steamer circular date stamps which exist.

While the bulk of mail on which early adhesives were used was cancelled with the Killers " A 03 ", for Georgetown, and " A 04 ", for New Amsterdam, much " up-country " mail was cancelled with a series of circular date stamps the top line of which was " B.G.". These marks have been incorrectly identified as early travelling office marks. Some 30 of them exist, and they were in use from about 1856 to 1880.

Scarce marks to be found on the Waterlow printed ship type (1860–1875) are the " PP " in a circle and the " PD " in an oval. These were supplied by the G.P.O., London, in the '60.s in connection with the Anglo-French postal convention. Used as cancellations these marks are rare, as is the " GB/40c " shaped boat rate mark.

One of the few coloured marks to be found on British Guiana adhesives is the large red " 5d " which often cancels the 12 cent of this issue. Great Britain received all but 1d. (2 cents) of the 6d. overseas rate. An unstamped letter from Demerara to London in February 1862 bears a manuscript " 5 " in red pencil. The small Demerara circular date stamp with code letter " A " was used from 1858.

The 2 cent orange typographed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. on Crown CC paper was issued on July 1st, 1876. Supplemented by a series of provisionals and by the locally produced type set stamps of Messrs. Baldwin & Co., Georgetown, it remained current until May 1882, when the same stamp on Crown C.A. paper replaced it. This in turn remained in use, supplemented by provisionals, until the bicoloured 2 cent was issued in September 1889.

A study of the 2 cent orange thus covers just over 13 years. The cancellations are varied and full of interest. These incomplete notes are only an introduction, and are based on insufficient material to suggest relative rarity.

The large (24 mm.) circular " B.G./E.I.R./2 letter month figure/year date in full " was still in use, A copy dated August 13, 1877 is known. Other similar types exist, including one " E R " without stops. This mark is known used in 1879, and remained in use until 1899.

Another attractive type contains the curved name of the village at top of the 27 mm. circle and " B.G." at the foot. The date is in three lines JUN/21/1880. This type exists for :—

GEORGETOWN

East Coast, Demerara (West to East)
PLAISANCE
B.(eter) V.(er) WAGTING
BUXTON
ENMORE
BELFIELD
CLONBROOK

West Coast, Demerara
FELLOWSHIP

Corentyne Coast, Berbice
SKELDON

Arabian Coast, Essequibo (East to West)
AURORA
SUDDIE
TAYMOUTH MANOR
ANNA REGINA.

It is believed also to exist for Brahn and Philadelphia, two offices which closed in or about 1880.

A circular date stamp of normal colonial type with 21 mm. circle and no name of colony was in use in Mahaica, at least from October '79. It includes no code letter above the date. Wakenaam also exists.

A similar mark with two concentric circles (23 and 14 mm.) was more extensively used, from November 1880 onwards. Variations exist with " B.GUIANA " or " British Guiana " at foot ; in the list below these are marked with an asterisk.

Airy Hall (80)	Aurora* (89)
Boerasirie (83)	Demerara Railway* (87)
Enmore* (86)	Fort Wellington* (8?)
Clonbrook (88)	Good Success (83)
Leguan (85)	New Amsterdam (89)
Nigg (89)	No.50 Corentyne Coast (82)
Reliance-Canje (85)	Stewartville (86)
Suddie (81)	Tarlogy (87)
T.P.O. Berbice River* (84)	T.P.O. Demerara River (86)
T.P.O. Essequibo Steamer* (85).	

Skeldon*, Morawhanna* and Bartica Grove also exist in this type.

Georgetown, in the period, used two circular date stamps. A concentric circle mark with small fine line space " blocks " between " Georgetown " and " B. Guiana " and a " Georgetown /British Guiana " circular date stamp with protective corners. The latter is dated in two lines as " 15 AUG/1883 ", with a reversed " C " as code letter at the foot. The former mark was in use in the early '70.s as a duplex with the italic A 03 killer, one of the most attractive duplex marks. It exists in red, and, rarely, in blue as well as in black.

The earliest record of " T.P.O. Suddie Steamer/B. Guiana " is on the pictorial Jubilee issue of 1898. " T.P.O. Railway E.C./B. Guiana " appears on a provisional of this issue.

The " T.P.O. Pomeroon " appears on the 1931 Centenary issue. In these T.P.O. marks the month is abbreviated to three letters, instead of the usual two.

Two modern marks are circular date stamps inscribed " B. Guiana " at foot, with asterisk above the two-lined date— " T.L.B.Clerk " and " T.P.O.DEM.RIV.STR ", for travelling letter box and Demerara River Steamer.

STAMP COLLECTING, Oct. 24, 1952.

GUIANA ANNIVERSARY

By PATRICK HAMILTON

THE early history of the stamps of British Guiana is one of a succession of provisional issues which had to be made to maintain supplies owing to the non-arrival of definitive issues. ordered from England.

One of the most interesting of these provisional issues is the one which appeared ninety years ago this month when three values, 1, 2 and 4 cents, being those in the greatest demand, were set up in type and printed by Mr. George Melville of the *Royal Gazette* in Georgetown. Extremely simple in design, these stamps took the form of a rectangle made up of printers' rule, the horizontal pieces extending to left and right, surrounded by the inscriptions BRITISH reading upwards at left, GUIANA across the top, and POSTAGE reading downwards at right. Across the base came the value expressed in words and the whole was enclosed by a fancy frame made up of printers' ornaments.

The 1 and 2 cents stamps are of particular interest, as they were printed from the same forme, the 2c. being made up by resetting the inscription at base to read TWO CENTS instead of ONE CENT.

A setting of twenty-four impressions was made, being arranged in four horizontal rows of six, but the stock of "ornaments" held by the *Royal Gazette* being limited, they did not have a sufficient number of any one type to complete the setting. In consequence, the outer frames are made up from three distinct kinds of ornaments. In stamps 1 to 12, the first two rows, these take the form of crossed ovals, while Nos. 13 to 20, third row and first two stamps in the bottom row, consist of large "pearls". The remaining four stamps in the bottom row, Nos. 21 to 24 in the sheet, are framed by little bunches of grapes.

As might be expected in a hand-set production, there are a number of printers' errors by which these stamps may be plated. The most prominent of these are as follows :—Stamp No. 1 (crossed ovals)—the fifth ornament from the top in the left frame is a "pearl in heart", a type of ornament used for the 4 cents value. No. 10 (crossed ovals) has the first I in BRITISH expressed by a figure 1, and No. 12 (crossed ovals) has another "pearl in heart" for the third ornament from top in the right frame. Of the stamps with "pearl" frames, No. 13 has a narrow T in CENT, No. 14 figure 1 for I in GUIANA, while No. 15 has a "pearl in heart" for the central ornament in the upper frame. On No. 17 the S in POSTAGE is italic, while No. 19 has the figure 1 instead of the first I in BRITISH. All the stamps with "grapes" frames are different. No. 21 is "normal", No. 22 has 1 for I in GUIANA, No. 23 has a trefoil instead of grapes as the second ornament from the left at base, and No. 24 shows the error POSTAGE.

These varieties are also found in the 2 cents stamp and in addition we find TWC for TWO on No. 13, in conjunction with narrow T in CENTS ; an italic S in CENTS on No. 16, and an italic T in TWO on No. 18.

The 4 cents was also made up from three types of frame ornaments, No. 1 to 10 being the "pearl in heart" already mentioned, Nos. 11 to 16 the "trefoil", and Nos. 17 to 24 a double cross. Of these, only Nos. 1 to 10, 23 and 24 have the inner rectangle delineated by printers' rule. The 1 for I in BRITISH variety is found with the "crosses" frame without central lines.

All these stamps were printed in black on coloured papers, rose for the 1 cent, yellow for the 2 cents, and blue for the 4 cents. Before issue each stamp was initialled "R.M.Ac R.G." (Robert Mather, Acting Receiver General). This initialling was done in black on the 1 cent, in red on the 2 cents, and with an alkaline solution on the 4 cents. This latter caused bleaching, giving the impression of yellowish-white initials. These stamps remained in use until the arrival of the 1863 definitives, when they were withdrawn. Remainders, subsequently discovered, may be distinguished by the absence of initials.

GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY, Aug. 1967

British Guiana "Clubbed Foot" Variety

Mr. J. Turton of Cheshire has shown me two examples (one in a used pair) of the British Guiana 3 c. (S.G. 333), with a dark mark on the foot of the right-hand bird perched on the water-lily. I have checked in the Gibbons stock but have been unable to trace any further examples. Since Mr. Turton's stamps are used and there is no clue as to their sheet position may I ask readers to check their stamps (particularly positional blocks) to see whether they can find further copies and tell me on which stamp in the sheet this variety appears?



STAMP LOVER Sept/Oct. 1971

With an increasing interest in the stamps of the reign of King George VI, it would be as well to bear in mind the two varieties of the 24 cents of BRITISH GUIANA. It is the earlier printings of SG 312 which should be sought on paper with script CA watermark upright. Later printings (SG 312a) have the watermark sideways and these are common. Used copies of SG 312 can be found, but this is a scarce stamp mint and one which should increase in value.



Guyana formerly 'British Guiana'



Winter's copy of the British Guiana 1c as it looked before he had it repaired

The great pretender?

Otto Hornung unveils the latest twists in the controversial British Guiana 1c saga that suggests that there is another copy of the world's most unique stamp

I hope you remember the story about the second copy of the British Guiana 1c of 1856, which made the rounds at the beginning of 1999. The stamp was expertized for the second time by the Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. It was first seen in 1987 and turned down. The new verdict of the Committee is dated January 20, 1999 and it reads: '1c Black on magenta — imperf. — used is NOT SG23 but it is a 4 cent stamp faked to resemble a 1 cent, extensively repaired and mounted on backing paper'.

I have had various communications from Herr Peter Winter, although the stamp is now, as he informed me, the property of his son. Furthermore, the American magazine *Stamp Collector*, which was one of the first to publish the original story of the find, printed on July 5, 1999 an article by Wayne L. Youngblood, its Editor, raising doubts about the decision of the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society. Mr Youngblood lists at the end of his article eleven queries. Several of his conclusions are obviously wrong, like the statement that the Royal accepts only material from members for expertizing, or that they would be embarrassed to correct a previous decision, etc. Still, this could have raised doubts among some readers. Also *Linn's Stamp News*, another widely read weekly American magazine, is very interested in this item.



Above: Friedrich Breitfuss in about 1895

Below: Charles J. Phillips, the former proprietor of Stanley Gibbons

All this has induced me to do my own research in this matter, and I have come across some very interesting facts. First of all, let me say that in my first report I recalled the details of how Mr Winter obtained the stamp from the Romanian dancer (a Münchausen tale). I am now reporting what Peter Winter told me, and I have been able to verify most of the facts.

Philatelists of the past

It all starts with two interesting gentlemen of the late 19th Century. In *The London Philatelists*, the magazine of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, I found in No. 6 of 1894 a list of members of the then Philatelic Society, London. At the top, amongst the members of royalty it gives the name of H.I.H. (His Imperial Highness) The Grand Duke Alexei Michailovich of Russia, and under the letter 'B' F. Breitfuss — both are key to the story.

Breitfuss is the first character I want to talk about: Frederic (or Friedrich in German) Andreas Breitfuss was born on September 15, 1851 in St Petersburg. He started collecting stamps aged about 13. His father Gottlieb Karl Breitfuss (1820-1868) was a goldsmith, following in his father's footsteps as the Tsar's court jeweller. Gottlieb was so impressed with the boy's hobby that he ordered in 1866 from the Leipzig stamp dealer Ernst Paul Wuttig all stamps of the world which cost him 10 Silbergroschen (from 1875 equal to 1 Reichsmark). The old man did not



Above: Grand Duke Alexei Michailovich in 1893 when he was 18 Above right: Vasile Moldoveanu in 1895

realise it, but the hundreds of stamps he received, and for which he paid 900 Reichsmark (some say it was 930), were to end up representing one of the best investments he had ever made.

In December 1873 young Frederic Breitfuss moved to London, where he lived for about two years. In 1875 he joined the Philatelic Society, London, and when he died on September 7, 1911 in Karlsbad (now Karlovy Vary in the Czech Republic) following two operations on a frozen foot, *The London Philatelist* published a glowing obituary stating that the Royal had lost its oldest member. On September 23, 1933 the American magazine *Stamps* published an article written by Charles J. Phillips (1863-1940) the former proprietor of Stanley Gibbons from 1890, who sold the business in 1910 and moved to America. Phillips called Breitfuss 'The Greatest Russian Collector'. In May 1907 Phillips travelled to St Petersburg following a letter received from Breitfuss, whom he well knew as a good customer, asking whether Stanley Gibbons would be interested in buying his collection. Phillips indeed bought seventy large albums crammed full of marvellous material. In his article Charles J. Phillips lists some of the treasures that were in the albums. Breitfuss kept, though, a few countries such as Central America, which was then of low value, and his covers, postcards and locals. Phillips said that Breitfuss had asked too much for them. The mind boggles what today's postal historian would have found amongst them. In No. 7 / 1907 *The London Philatelist* wrote 'We understand the price paid is well over £30,000... It can be surmised that the total value of the collection would be over £40,000' — an enormous sum in those days.

Prolific collector

Breitfuss was not only a prolific collector, but he was also meticulous about the quality of his stamps. He enjoyed telling stories about his treasures. In his article Charles Phillips mentions one of them. In about 1874 the German stamp dealers Senf sent him the first copy of the 27 Parale Bull's Head of Moldavia which he had never seen, but he did not like it. The stamp was cut in a circle. So he sent it to Sir Daniel Cooper, who kept it and paid $12.50 for it.

Charles Phillips also writes that about 25 years ago (that would have been in 1908, but in actual fact it was much earlier, in about 1894/5, as you will see later) 'It appears likely that the Breitfuss collection would be purchased intact and given to the Russian nation. At this period one of his great friends was the Grand Duke Alexei Michailovich. His Highness intimated to Mr Breitfuss his wish to purchase his collection and to give it to the nation, placing it under the charge of Mr Breitfuss in one of the great museums of St Petersburg'.

'Unfortunately the Grand Duke died before this arrangement could be carried out' Phillips continues. 'A little later some collectors in Russia approached Mr Breitfuss and offered him $165,000 for his collection, offering to sell his material to Stanley Gibbons.



Above: Vasile Modoveanu and his wife in about 1907



Left: The pharmacy in Samara. The house with the nameplate

That Romanian dancer again

The second gentleman of the 19th Century I want to mention, was Grand Duke Alexei Michailovich, a close relative of the Czar, also a member of the Philatelic Society, London. He was very young, but very rich and a keen philatelist. He travelled a lot, for instance in 1893 he visited Brussels and went to see the famous Belgian philatelist, publisher and dealer J. B. Moens, as you can see from the photograph the Grand Duke gave him. He was born in 1875, but he died on February 18, 1895 at the age of only 20 from consumption (tuberculosis). *The London Philatelist* published in March 1895, on the first page, prints a very respectful obituary expressing condolences to the Czar, the father of the deceased Grand Duke Michael.

And that brings us back to Mr Peter Winter and the story of the stamp he bought from the Romanian dancer.

OWNERS OF THE ORIGINAL

The original, genuine British Guiana One cent stamp also has an interesting tale to tell of its owners over the years. The story begins in 1873 when 12 year old schoolboy Vernon Vaughan is said to have found the original British Guiana 1c magenta in Demerara — the capital of the colony. Vaughan sold it to collector N R McKinnon for $1.50 (six shillings), and then five years later it was bought by Liverpool dealer Thomas Ridpath. Ridpath sold it to Count Phillippe von Ferrari for £150 and in 1922 US automobile upholstery magnate Arthur Hind bought it for $30,000 at auction. In 1933 — seven years after Hind's death — Macy's stamp department in New York brokered the stamp's sale to Australian businessman Edward Small for an undisclosed amount. In 1970 it went under the hammer at a Robert A Siegel auction in Manhattan and sold at $280,000 within 90 seconds of bidding opening to Pennsylvania dealer Irwin Weinberg. Weinberg travelled the world with it in a briefcase handcuffed to his wrist. In 1980 it was sold to chemical fortune heir John E duPont for $935,000 who often slept with it under his pillow. In 1997 duPont was convicted of murdering a wrestler he sponsored and was sentence to 30 years jail. The original is now believed to be housed in a bank vault in Philadelphia with no obvious future given its current ownership.

I can now tell you her name, it is Mioara (for short Mia) Corojeanu from Cimpulung Moldovenesc, but I don't think it would be proper to give you her full address. This is Peter Winter's story. The grandfather, or maybe the great-grandfather, of Mia was Vasile Moldoveanu. Moldoveanu means from Moldova, a republic of the former Soviet Union which borders north east on Romania, and where people speak Romanian. Vasile Moldoveanu was a valet of Grand Duke Alexei Michailovich. Actually he was much more than a servant, he was the young nobleman's nurse and probably also his confidant. He travelled everywhere with the Grand Duke and he looked after him till he died. Mia told Peter Winter that her forbear was given the stamp by the Grand Duke, bu maybe the circumstances were a bit different, wh knows? Whatever the case, the stamp remained in th family. When Alexei Michailovich died Vasile Moldoveanu settled in Samara on the Volga (now Kuybyshev). He must have had some medical and pharmaceutical knowledge because he worked in the Sunday Pharmacy of NI Saks (probably coming from the German origin Sachs), and that is where the little green envelope comes from in which the stamp was kept.

When the revolution turned everything upside down in Russia Vasile Moldoveanu returned to Romania and settled in Cimpulung Moldovenesc, a small town in Northern Romania, about 100 miles west of Iasi (Jassy). Together with the stamp, Mia also gave Peter Winter some old photographs of Vasile Moldoveneanu, one dating back to 1895 when the Grand Duke died, and the other from about 1907, showing Vasile with his wife.

'The stamp was offered for sale on the internet with a price of $1 million. This was obviously a publicity stunt'



Mioara Corojeanu, the Romanian dancer.

Where did the stamp come from?

Peter Winter assumes that amongst the stamps which were bought by the father for young Friedrich Breitfuss for 900 Reichsmark could have been the 1c British Guiana. In volume 1 of his work *Geschicte der Philateli* (History of Philately) published in 1985 Professor Dr Carlrichard Brühl writes in detail about Breitfuss. He says that amongst the stamps bought for Breitfuss were 'the provisionals of British Guiana 1 and 2 Cents'. The father bought the stamps in 1866, as Charles Phillips writes. At that time only two sets of British Guiana printed locally existed, the set of 1850, and that did not contain a 1c, and the stamps of 1856 — 4c and the rare 1c. Maybe Brühl meant to say that father Breitfuss bought the provisionals 1c and 4c (not 2c), of 1865.

Thus Peter Winter thinks that the 1c of 1856 was known in the Breitfuss collection. When it was damaged no-one knows, but it is known that Friedrich Breitfuss did not like damaged stamps. As he was so friendly with Grand Duke Alexei Michailovich, it could be assumed that he presented him with the damaged rarity.

As you can imagine, Peter Winter is not at all happy with the ruling of the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society. He submitted the stamp to two specialised institutions in Germany. Before it was seen by the Royal he handed the stamp in May 1998 to Papiertechnische Stiftung (Paper Technical Foundation) in Munich. After an extensive examination under a stereo microscope the PTS issued on June 3, 1998 the result was signed by Dr M. Keebauer. It says that there is no sign of paper having been added to the stamp. Furthermore, that the black printing does not show that different printing inks have been used, but that for the printing of the whole design of the stamp a homogenous black ink had been used. Also, that there are no signs of the removal of the text by simple mechanical or chemical means. They did find in the area of some texts (for instance in the overprint 'ONE CENT') loose ends of threads, but in view of their small number, in their opinion they were caused by the handling or surface wear, rather than by deliberate manipulation. No indication could be found that after the word 'CENT' printing ink had been removed. This expert opinion was actually



Above: The franking on a cover sent by Peter Winter. On the left of the four German stamps is a reproduction of a Liechtenstein Zeppelin stamp of 1931. The German post did not mind and cancelled it together with the other stamps. The 'FAUX' under the 'I' at the bottom can hardly be seen



Right: Winter's copy of 1934 Swiss NABA miniature sheet with 'FAUX' printed under every stamp

issued before the stamp was sent to the Royal Philatelic Society for the second time.

After receiving the latest ruling of the Royal at the urging of the well respected German philatelic magazine *Deutsche Breiefmarken Zeitung* (DBZ) Peter Winter submitted the stamp for examination to Herr Rolf Roeder, expert for documents, typewritten texts and printing products, who is an expert of the Landeskriminalamt Bremen (Crime Office of the Land Bremen) and he issued his opinion on October 11, 1999. It is given on three pages, with nine colour photographs of enlarged details, and a few in black and white. The stamp was examined by stereo microscope, by infra-red video, by ultra-violet analysing lamp and with the help of a colour laser copier. Rolf Roeder describes his procedure and he arrived at the following conclusions: 'It was not possible to find optical or physical indications, that manipulations had taken place on the above mentioned stamp in the area of the text 'ONE CENT'. Especially it was not possible to prove that there was any retouched printing ink in front of the 'O' of 'ONE' and after the 'T' of 'CENT'. Therefore, I have no doubt that the overprint 'ONE CENT' is original and therefore not forged.'

Peter Winter decided to show the stamp to the public. It was exhibited at the Cologne Stamp Fair from October 22-24, 1999 in a specially erected stand, under glass and heavily guarded. From what I hear the public was interested and people came to see the dubious stamp. I have also heard that there will be another opportunity for philatelists and the general public to see this item. It will be exhibited at WIPA 2000, the International Stamp Exhibition in Vienna, from May 30 to June 4, 2000. I have also heard that the German stamp auctioneers Egdar Mohrmann & Co of Hamburg are very interested in the stamp. Of course they would like to sell it, but first they intend to send it for expertizing to the American Philatelic Society.

Hefty price tag

It might interest you to know that the stamp was offered for sale on the Internet, with a price tag of $1,000,000 or DM1,900,000. Someone did make some enquiries, but there was no taker. This was obviously a publicity stunt.

So, this is the whole story as it has developed to this day, and I think it is a fascinating story, worth telling. I have never seen the stamp 'in natura' — just some colour photographs, and even if I had seen it I would not dare to give an opinion. I believe that has to be left to the experts.

I have never met Mr Peter Winter, I have just seen his picture and corresponded with him by telephone and fax. Winter has a poor reputation in Germany, because he is alledged to have produced a large number of copies of stamps and philatelic material. He traded under the name Prophil Forum and later House of Stamps from Geneva. Winter knows that he has a bad name, but he's reluctantly willing to accept the name 'the friendly forger', which he has been dubbed in the US by *Linn's Stamp News*.

Knowing Peter Winter I am sure he will not rest and try to move heaven and earth to get his treasure certified as genuine. No doubt, in the future we shall hear much more about the exact provenance of the 'second' British Guiana 1c.

Below: Soviet airmail postcard franked with Island airmail stamps of 1933, all produced by Winter

Below: Winter's fantasy £10 GB miniature sheet for Diana





7, Cromford Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 3BB
0208-942 3881
e-mail: derek@DMN.dircon.co.uk

9 February 2000

Otto Hornung Esq,
C/o Stamp Magazine,
Link House
Dingwall Avenue,
Croydon CR92TA

Dear Mr Hornung,

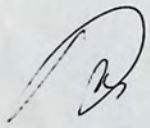
I was fascinated by your article in Stamp Magazine dated February, which I have only just got round to reading. As you can imagine, anything which keeps the name British Guiana before the public is good news, as far as I'm concerned.

A good story though it is that you tell, it does fall down on one essential point. The purchase for Herr Breitfuss is said to include 'the provisionals of British Guiana 1 and 2 cents'. You state that the only two issues locally printed by that time were the 1850 and 1856 sets. In 1862 there was a locally printed provisional issue which included both 1 cent and 2 cents values, in addition to one of 4 cents.

I should like to suggest that in 1866 reference to THE provisionals of British Guiana, would be to the fairly recent issue, which does correctly fall into the value category mentioned.

I realise that many of your arguments are unchanged by this correction, but it does question one of your tenets, and therefore it perhaps should receive some publicity.

Yours truly,
Derek M. Nathan FRPS,L



Is it unique?

Is there a second copy of the One Cent British Guiana? Otto Hornung reveals the latest twist in the history of this famous stamp.

The ship from England was late in 1856, and in British Guiana they were running out of stamps. So the Georgetown printers of the *Official Gazette*, J. Baum and W. Dallas, were asked to produce an emergency supply. They used a picture of a sailing ship taken from the paper and printed some 4c stamps in black on magenta surfaced paper. These stamps are quite rare and



Enlarged illustration of the 1c British Guiana found by L. Vernon Vaughan in 1873 (courtesy of 'postfrisch').



Enlarged illustration of the Winter stamp as it looked before repair.



The Winter stamp lying on the envelope from the Russian pharmacy, in which it was kept (courtesy of 'postfrisch').

expensive, catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at £6,000 used.

In 1875 a local schoolboy, L. Vernon Vaughan, was rummaging in the attic through family correspondence looking for stamps to add to his collection. He found one of the provisionals with clipped corners and a bit rubbed on the surface, but instead of 'FOUR CENTS' it was inscribed 'ONE CENT'. Soon afterwards he sold the stamp to N. R. McKinnon for six shillings to get money for other stamps. This is the beginning of the legend. On October 2, 1878 the McKinnon collection was bought by Thomas Ridpath of Liverpool for £120. The new owner immediately sold the 1c to the famous Paris collector, Philipp de la Rénotière von Ferrary, for about £50, as recorded by L. N. and N. Williams, although another source, *postfrisch*, the magazine of the German Post Office, states it was £150.

When France sold the Ferrary collection, confiscated for war reparations, the dealer Hugo Griebert bought the stamp on April 6, 1922 in the third Ferrary auction for 351,000 Francs (then £7,343) on behalf of Arthur Hind, a millionaire US manufacturer. Hind died in 1933 and the stamp was successfully claimed by his widow.

In November 1938, STAMP MAGAZINE reported that Mrs Scala, the widow of Arthur Hind, had unsuccessfully tried to sell the stamp through Harmer Rooke and Co, stamp auctioneers of London, but that it failed to reach its reserve price of £8,500, achieving only £7,500. It was being offered again, this time through the Kenmore Stamp Company of New York, with an asking price of $37,500 (then about £7,900).

Mrs Scala sold it in 1940 for £10,000 or possibly £15,000, it is assumed. The name of the buyer came to light only in 1970, when it was sold in the A. Siegel auction in New York. For 30 years it had been in the possession of Frederick T. Small of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. It was bought on March 24, 1970 by the rarity dealer Irvin Weinberg for $280,000 (£116,600). Ten years later Siegel offered the stamp again for auction and it was bought for $935,000 by John du Pont, the millionaire industrialist, who is now serving a prison sentence for murder.

The legend has it that Arthur Hind was offered another copy of the 1c. He bought it, and, in the presence of the shocked vendor, he burned it. 'There's only one magenta One Cent Guiana.'

Indeed, in 1938 an anonymous letter was sent to the editor of the *American Stamp and Cover Collectors' Review*, which was also published in STAMP MAGAZINE in December 1938. In it the writer states that while he was a cabin boy on a tramp steamer, he developed an interest in stamps. During calls at Georgetown, British Guiana, he used to drink with an old man and his son. When the old man died, the son passed some correspondence bearing stamps to the writer. The stamps were later mounted in an album, and it was only when Arthur Hind made his purchase that it was realised that one was the 1c British Guiana. The writer offered his stamp to Hind, so that he might have both examples in existence. Hind accepted, and paid in cash.

The writer stated in his letter that his stamp 'had a tear in it, on the right side. I had carelessly torn it myself taking it off one page to put it on another, many years before.'

The stamp was ashes

The anonymous letter continues: 'He offered me a cigar. He lighted his and looked at my stamp again, then he held the stamp to the still burning match . . . Cold chills went down me and I jumped up to grab but the stamp was ashes.'

The 1c was shown only once in the United Kingdom, in 1965 at the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Centenary Exhibition at the Royal Festival Hall in London. It was insured for £200,000.

In 1986 it was on show at the Stockholmia international stamp exhibition in Sweden.

Postfrisch published towards the end of 1998 a report saying that a German dealer in Bremen had found another copy of a 1c, and showed a photograph of it. Fascinated, I contacted the magazine. Peter Platz, who dealt with the story, was very helpful. He told me the name of the owner and gave me his telephone number. 'By the way, Peter Winter is an opera singer.'

I rang Winter and he was charming on the telephone. 'Yes', he said, 'by profession I am a tenor. I don't have a firm employment. I work, so to say, freelance, and I frequently go on tour.' 'What profession gives you more money?' I wanted to know. 'Actually singing, but I enjoy doing stamps on the side.' On one of his engagements he was booked, amongst other performers, with a troupe of Romanian dancers. That was about 15 years ago, and he could not remember, or did not want to tell me, the name of the town. He got very friendly with a Romanian girl from the dance troupe. She was about 20, and very attractive, and Peter Winter, who is now 48, was then 15 years younger. Anyway, when she heard that he was also dealing in stamps, she asked him for help.

This is her story, as told by Winter. The girl's grandfather or great-grandfather was employed before the Russian revolution by a Russian Grand-duke as a servant. In 1917 or 1918, when everything in Russia was in turmoil, the grandfather returned to Romania and brought home the 1c British Guiana, saying the Grand-duke had given it to him. When I asked what the nobleman's name was, Winter said it was Alexi or Alexey, or something like that.

Now the girl wanted to sell the stamp; she needed money. She showed Peter Winter a small envelope from a Russian pharmacy, and the stamp was inside. On the envelope, at the top left, is a Russian double eagle, the arms of Russia. The inscription at the top reads 'Voskresenskaya apteka' (Sunday Pharmacy), 'N. I. Zaks, Samara'. The inscription in large capitals is 'CITROVANIL' and underneath 'po' (at) 'gr.' (grams) 'por.' (dose). The last line is on the right reads 'kop' (kopeks). I had a word with my pharmacist who confirmed that Citrovanil must have been a pre-revolutionary cold medicine.

So, Winter bought the stamp, after first showing it to a stamp expert, who told him that this was something special. 'How much did you pay for it?' I asked, but Winter would not tell me. 'I bought her a video recorder, gave her some money and dressed her nicely from head to toe.' He said he spent just under DM 10,000.

That is Winter's tale. It sounds like a good Münchhausen story. In the German magazine *Deutsche Briefmarken-Revue* Jan Billion in his report states of 'the opera singer from Bremen' that 'time and again he creates excitement with his stamp reproductions'.

As the stamp was badly damaged, with the signature E. D. W. cutting the paper, Winter had it repaired by Mr Hummel, a repair specialist somewhere in South Germany. Then, some twelve years ago, he sent it to The Royal Philatelic Society London for expertising. This is true: the 'Royal' saw it in 1987, but Peter Winter was not happy with the verdict. So, after a few years, he tried again. First he sent it for examination to the Papiertechnische Stiftung in Munich (Paper Technical Foundation). It found, as Jan Billion



Peter Winter (left) discussing the stamp with the German expert Wolfgang Jakubek, when he first examined it in November 1997.

writes, that 'identical black ink was applied to all parts of the stamp', in a statement dated June 22, 1998, signed by Dr R. Wilken and Dr N. Kleebauer. The stamp was also seen by Wolfgang Jakubek, the German auctioneer and expert, who said: 'If the ink was applied homogeneously, then the value 1c must be original and not manipulated.' Finally, Winter sent the stamp to David Feldman of Geneva for auction, and David Feldman sent it again to the 'Royal' asking for a review of the original opinion of 1987. That is where it is now. By the way, I believe this is not the only copy of a 1c that has been not confirmed as genuine by the 'Royal'. There have probably been more.

I rang David Feldman and asked for his opinion. This is what he replied: 'It has been substantially repaired but illustrations from before the repair show that the vital "ONE" was in roughly a similar state as it is now. It plates a position from the original setting of the "FOUR CENTS" and its colour, ink and original paper are correct. It is difficult to detect signs of manipulation of the "FOUR" to "ONE", which would have been the original suspicion.

'Patrick Pearson on behalf of the RPSL Expert Committee has taken over the investigation and is in touch with us about it. It is obviously a very exciting and fascinating affair and let us hope that we can determine the status with certainty very soon. Should it be clearly authentic we would then probably move forward with it for public auction.'

A final point: Peter Winter also told me that the 1c British Guiana is no longer his property. He gave it as a present to his son on his 21st birthday in 1992.

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72	11.75	.70	117	6.00	.25	162	5.00	1.00	205	5.00	.50
73	10.00	.50	118	9.00	.25	163	6.00	.40	206	5.00	1.50
74	7.50	.25	119	6.00	.25	164	5.00	.60	207	5.00	1.75
76	12.00	.25	120	6.00	.25	165	6.00	.25	208	5.00	2.25
78	25.00	.25	121	14.00	1.50	166	5.00	.80	209	5.00	1.50
79	10.00	.25	122	5.00	.25	167	5.00	.25	210	10.00	3.25
80	7.50	.25	123	5.00	.25	168	5.00	1.40	211	12.50	4.75
81	19.00	.30	124	5.00	.25	169	11.50	.90	212	5.00	2.25
82	55.00	.75	125	6.00	.30	170	5.00	.25	213	5.00	2.25
83	45.00	1.25	127	10.00	.30	171	5.00	.25	214	6.50	3.25
84	22.00	.30	129	6.00	1.25	172	5.00	.25	215	6.50	3.25
85	9.00	.30	130	6.00	.30	173	12.50	1.40	216	6.50	3.25
86	11.00	.70	131	25.00	2.75	174	5.00	.25	217	5.00	1.00
87	9.50	.25	132	45.00	8.00	175	8.75	.50	218	7.50	1.50
88	100.00	1.50	133	27.50	2.25	176	5.00	.30	219	25.00	25.00
89	12.50	.25	134	5.00	.25	177	5.00	.25	220	7.25	1.25
90	9.00	.25	135	25.00	5.00	178	5.00	.50	221	7.50	4.00
91	10.00	.80	136	25.00	3.50	179	5.00	.30	222	15.00	14.00
92	6.00	.25	137	5.00	.30	180	8.75	.80	223	27.50	24.00
93	15.00	.25	138	5.00	.25	181	5.00	.25	224	25.00	19.50
94	12.50	.75	139	8.50	3.50	182	29.50	.80	225	425.00	175.00
95	8.00	.25	140	5.00	.25	183	8.50	.40			
96	9.50	.25	141	39.50	1.40	184	5.00	.25	SG48/9	½d	Plates
97	7.50	.40	142	15.00	4.50	185	8.75	.35	1	21.50	9.75
98	7.50	.80	143	10.00	2.75	186	9.50	.30	3	13.50	3.00
99	8.00	.80	144	29.50	4.00	187	5.00	.25	4	17.50	1.40
100	12.50	.30	145	5.00	.30	188	7.00	1.75	5	12.50	1.00
101	18.00	1.50	146	5.00	1.00	189	10.00	1.00	6	10.00	1.00
102	7.50	.25	147	5.50	.40	190	5.00	.80	8	20.00	8.95
103	6.00	.40	148	7.00	.40	191	5.00	1.00	9	560.00	85.00
104	12.50	.75	149	5.00	.80	192	7.25	.25	10	17.00	1.00
105	25.00	1.25	150	5.00	.25	193	5.00	.25	11	10.00	1.00
106	12.00	.25	151	7.00	1.50	194	5.00	1.25	12	10.00	1.00
107	14.00	1.00	152	8.50	.80	195	5.00	1.25	13	10.00	1.00
108	12.00	.30	153	25.00	1.50	196	5.00	.70	14	10.00	1.00
109	25.00	.40	154	5.00	.25	197	8.75	1.50	15	13.00	2.00
110	8.75	1.75	155	5.00	.25	198	5.00	.85	19	21.00	4.75
111	12.00	.30	156	5.00	.25	199	5.00	.85	20	22.00	8.50
112	20.00	.30	157	5.00	.25	200	5.00	.25			
113	6.00	2.25	158	5.00	.25	201	5.00	1.00	SG51/2	1½d	Plates
114	87.50	2.25	159	5.00	.25	202	5.00	1.40	1	87.50	6.45
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BRITISH GUIANA
WAR TAX

These are extracts from
The BRITISH GUIANA
PHILATELIC JOURNAL of
the dates noted.

JUNE 1917

BRITISH GUIANA WAR TAX.

British Guiana has followed the example set by most of the British Colonies by levying a special tax on letters, newspapers, etc., but instead of having special stamps overprinted for this purpose, ordinary current postage stamps are used to defray the extra tax.

The New Stamp Ordinance published in the "Official Gazette" on 5th April, 1917, is as follows :

Ordinance No. 3 of 1917

An Ordinance to amend the Tax Ordinance of 1917 in order to provide for Special War Revenue.

Be it enacted by the Governnor of British Guiana with the advice and consent of the Combined Court thereof, as follows:—

1. This ordinance to be cited as the Special War Tax Ordinance of 1917.

2. In view of the local conditions consequent upon the present war, there shall be raised, levied, collected and paid for the public use of the Colony a Special War Tax equal and in addition to the existing rates of postage, to be prepaid by affixing postage stamps to the requisite amount, on all letters posted in the Colony for delivery outside the same, and on all printed matter and postcards posted in the Colony for delivery within or without the same, provided that the mininum rate of postage on all letters and postcards to be delivered within the Colony shall be two cents on every such letter or postcard.

3. This Ordinance to remain in force for the duration of the present war and no longer.

Although this Ordinance was published on 5th April, the tax was not enforced until about a week after when a notice was issued by the Postmaster General informing the public that insufficiently prepaid letters would not be delivered.

In the meantime, it had been realized that there would be a shortage in 4c stamps, and an order was issued that no more than 3 or 4 would be sold to one person at a time. This restriction has caused a great deal of inconvenience especially to large firms, as two 2c. stamps have had to be used. This, however, is only a temporary measure pending the arrival of a large supply from England.

The sheets of the current British Guiana stamps now bear numbers in black from 001 to 120, denoting the number of sheets in each packet, the numbers are printed to the right of the Control Number.

So far the 2c., 4c, and 12c. have been issued, they are new consignments, the shades being quite different to the previous lot.

DECEMBER 1917

BRITISH GUIANA WAR TAX STAMP.

In our last number we gave the text of the Special Stamp Ordinance published in the "Official Gazette" of 5th April, 1917. This has now been repealed. At the recent session of the Combined Court the Government explained that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had pointed out in a despatch, that the Ordinance conflicted with the Conventions of the Postal Union and accordingly a new Ordinance was introduced the text of which is as follows :

"In addition to the existing rates of postage on letters fixed by the additional Regulations passed by this Court on the 11th April, 1907 and to the rates of postage on letters to the United States of America fixed by Resolution of 16th August, 1915 this Court approves of an additional charge of 2 cents being imposed on each letter posted in the colony to places within the British Empire and the United States of America.

"The Court further approves of this additional charge being imposed in the form of a war tax stamp, and of its remaining in force for the duration of the present war and no longer."

The surcharged stamps are being printed locally by the Government contractors and will be completed and ready for issue in the first week of January.

The stamps used is the 2c. denomination.

The surcharge "War Tax" will be in two ues, and the issue is to be 400,000.

DECEMBER 1918

JUNE 1918

BRITISH GUIANA WAR TAX STAMPS.

In our December, 1917, number we referred to the approaching issue of a 2 cent War Tax stamp for use on letters posted to places outside of the colony.

This 2 cent War Tax stamp was first issued to the public on 5th January, 1918, the overprint being applied locally. The stamps used were from a new consignment of the 2 cent stamps printed in sheets of 240 in four panes of 60 each, of a scarlet colour.

The overprinting was done by "The Daily Chroniele," Ltd. The setting in lower Roman case type with capitals W and T was in 240 lines set up by a licotype machine and the complete sheet printed at one operation. After 57 sheets had been printed with the one line setting it was discovered that on account of the unequal size of the margin of the sheets tho overprint could not be correctly registered on the stamp, with the result that the X of Tax was printed on the adjoining stamp. It was, therefore, decided to print the surcharge in two lines, which was accordingly set up by the linotype machine so as to print the sheet of 240 stamps at one operation, and the remainder of the batch of stamps were overprinted in this manner.

The 57 sheets printed in one line have been destroyed by the Government and very rightly so we consider.

The overprint is free from errors, no doubt due to the careful supervision of the Government official who arranged the printing. We have discovered a few minor defects in some of the letters no doubt due to tricks of the linotype machine. They are as follows :—

Top left pane, Row 3 No. 1 faulty X
Top right pane, " 7 " 6 limb of T broken.
" 1 " 5 W & X faulty.
" 3 " 1 serf of T broken.
" 3 " 6 T & X faulty.
" 5 " 6 X faulty.
Bottom left pane, " 10 " 6 A of Tax broken.
" 1 " 4 W broken.
" 3 " 5 W broken.
Bottom right pane, " 7 " 6 X broken.
" 9 " 6 T A defective.

The number of stamps issued to the printers was 400,080 made up as follows: eight packets of 200 sheets, each sheet of 240 stamps, equals 384,000; the 16,080 to complete the number ordered was made up with sheets of 120 stamps each from the current stock. The 57 sheets destroyed were of 120 stamps each. This leaves the issue at 393,240 stamps.

We have not seen any of these smaller sheets, nor have we noticed any differences of shade. Possibly they may be from the same printing, as the 240 sheets.

This first printing is now nearing exhaustion, and a second printing of 576,000 has now been completed by the printers.

As the setting of the first printing has not been destroyed, Philatelists will not be subjected to any new varieties of setting. And we doubt that there will be any difference in the shade of the stamps as they are all from the same batch as the first printing. It is estimated that these stamps will not be required for issue before the beginning of August unless there is any unprecedented demand.

Stamp Hunting

Nimrod suggests some stamps worth looking for

British Guiana

In the 1889 set of ten (SG 193/205) the two shades of the 6c. (197, 198) are rather elusive at present, either mint or fine used. The latter are certainly uncommon, and are worth looking out for. The 8c. in this series (199) is a worthwhile stamp in fine mint.

The 1898 set of five commemorating Queen Victoria's Jubilee (216/21) is not at all easy to come by in fine mint condition. The stamps are not especially scarce, but condition is usually poor, particularly as regards toning. The 1c. (216) was formerly quite plentiful, but is much less so today. The 2c. (217, 218) is in very short supply, whilst the 5c. (219) remains the key value in the mint set, which as a whole can be recommended if fine.

The 1905–07 set of 11 on Multiple Crown watermarked paper (240/50) is notable for a number of very scarce used values. These fall into two categories. The higher values, particularly the 60c. (248, 248a) and the 72c. (249), saw little usage in their time of currency; the 60c. is outstanding, and undoubtedly the key to the used set. Then there are four values (4c., 5c., 6c., 12c.,) which are also very scarce used, in this case because they were fairly quickly replaced by new colours in 1907. Also, they are collected on both ordinary and chalk-surfaced paper, a factor which considerably increases demand. The chalky papers are possibly even better than their ordinary counterparts, the best being the 6c. (244a) and 12c. (245a). A stamp which shows promise both mint and used is the 24c. on ordinary paper (246). This has hardened considerably in the last few years, and is much better than the same value on chalky paper (246a), which is still plentiful. The 72c. (249) is a good item in fine mint, and worth picking up; quite possibly it is the best value in the mint set, but avoid examples where the purple colour has been rubbed, a common fault here. Two values in mint condition from the aforementioned 1907 colour changes are currently looking good, namely the 2c. rose-red (253, 253a) and the 5c. ultramarine (255).

The first designs for the reign of George V are generally considered most attractive, and are certainly popular. The first series was with the Multiple Crown watermark (259/69a). Here, the two shades of the 4c. (261, 261a) are tricky little stamps in fine mint, often needed for set completion. The 48c. (266) is an uncommon stamp either fine mint or used, but, as with the 1905–07 set, pride of place in the used goes to the 60c. (267) and 72c. (268), with the latter the key stamp in the mint. Between 1921 and 1927 most values were produced with the Multiple Script watermark (272/282). Here, the 1c. (272) is oddly elusive in fine mint, and the formerly very plentiful 2c. bright violet (274) is also improving in this condition, as is the 72c. (281) and possibly the 60c. (280). This mint set still looks very modestly priced. The top three values (60c., 72c., 96c.) are very scarce and desirable in fine used.

The 1934–51 set of 13 (288/300) is one of the less difficult George V sets, either mint or used. Even in fine condition it is not too hard, though mint are often slightly toned, and used often have short perforations. The 6c. (292) is somewhat elusive in fine used, and the 24c. (294), though common, is looking undervalued both mint and used. For many years the 96c. black (299) seemed better in fine used than the $1 bright violet (300), but the latter may now be catching up. Another item which is probably too cheap at present quotes is the 1935 Silver Jubilee set of four (301/4) in fine used.

Two unmounted mint stamps from the attractive George VI definitives (308/319) which are less readily obtainable nowadays are the 36c. perf 13×14 (313a) and $2 perf 14×13 (318a). Likewise, the 60c. (315) and $2 perf 12½ (318) are worth acquiring in fine used. A little sleeper which is just coming good is the 6c. from the 1949 Postal Union commemoration in unmounted mint (325). Finally, old favourites from the highly thematic and popular 1954–63 definitives such as the $1 bird (343) and $2 gold dredging (344) continue to make steady progress in unmounted mint.