ST. LUCIA

— GIBBONS' STAMP MONTHLY. June 1947

GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY

EDITED BY STANLEY PHILLIPS AND C. P. RANG

Vol. XX JUNE 1, 1947 No. 10

SUBSCRIPTION 6s. PER ANNUM

St. Lucia

By The Rev. W. G. IREMONGER, F.R.P.S.L.

EDITORS' NOTE. We are publishing this article, in spite of the fact that we published another on the same subject by Mr. H. G. D. Gisburn in March, 1945, as our two authors have treated it from different angles, and we should like to have our readers' views as to which method they prefer. Any correspondence sent in on this subject will be for the Editors' information only.

ST. LUCIA, the northernmost and the largest of the Windward Islands, is one of the most beautiful in the West Indies; mountains, up to 4000 feet in height, intersected by deep ravines and clothed with impenetrable forests, alternate with fertile plains, and lovely bays and coves. The climate is so humid—the rainfall varying from 70 to 120 inches in the year—that vegetation everywhere is luxuriant. Sugar, cocoa and logwood are the chief exports—not to mention stamps! The island was discovered by Columbus on St. Lucia's day, 1502, and this was the reason for the name that was given to it. Nothing more was heard of it till 1604, when some Englishmen tried to settle on it, but most of them were killed by the natives. Then for 200 years it was claimed and occupied by France and Britain alternately, though the former were the longer stayers; by the Treaty of Paris it was finally ceded to the British.

Stamps were first issued in 1860, in a design that departed from the usual heavily shaded background; the 9d. stamp of South Australia was issued in the same year, and shows a great similarity of design. It is certainly one of the most attractive of the recess-printed types. To save expense the same plate was used for all the values at first, the values being differentiated by the colour—rose-red for the 1d., blue for the 4d., and green for the 6d. The stamps were printed on the paper with the small star watermark, and perforated 14 to 16; the plate was made and the stamps printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. It is interesting to notice the similarity of the early philatelic history of St. Lucia and St. Helena; in each case the original plates were made by Perkins, Bacon, and only one plate used for all the values; in 1863 both the plates were handed over to De La Rue and Co., and the succeeding stamps printed by this firm. The only difference is that, in the case of St. Helena, the stamps were surcharged with the appropriate value in words, though St. Lucia also adopted this idea in 1881.

There are some interesting varieties to be found in the plate, and therefore in all values; there are at least two re-entries. In that which is illustrated the doubling is to be seen under the "S" of "ST. LUCIA", also slightly under the small "T", as well as under the upright stroke of the "P" of "POSTAGE". Besides these there are various flaws that are constant throughout the various printings, and for which it is difficult to account in a recess-printed plate; in one case there is a smudge of colour attached to the stop under the small "T", which turns it into a comma upside down; in another there is a dot between the "L" and "U" of "LUCIA", while in a third a dot is to be seen to the right of the "S" of "POSTAGE". Then we find a line from the top of the small "T" to the top of the "I" of "LUCIA", not straight, but slightly curved downward, and in another case three scratches to the right of the right ornament. Finally, two stamps exhibit a curious weakening in the engraving, one being noticeable in the left bottom corner, which prints very faintly, and the other on the crown of the head, where there are two or three lines of engraving missing. I also have a copy of the 1d. of 1864, in which there is a spot of colour on the neck. With the exception of the last-mentioned, all these flaws are constant, though, in the case of the 1d. I have not found further confirmation.

To return to the stamps themselves—in the first issue all three values are found "imperf. between," and must be among the scarcest that there are, while the 1d. is found with double impression. In 1863 the plates, as stated before, were handed over to De La Rue, but one does not find the full, deep colours of the first set, though the same basic colours are reserved for the three values. The watermark in this set is Crown CC, and the perforation 12½; the 1d. and 4d. are found imperf. The two stamps that follow in the Catalogue were essays after the style of the then current stamps of St. Helena, but the idea was evidently not acceptable, and so they are only regarded as "prepared for use and not issued"; the 6d. on 4d., however, is a very scarce stamp and sells for more than the catalogue price.

In 1864 the colours were changed—the 1d. to black, the 4d. to yellow, the 6d. to shades of violet, while a new value, 1s., was added; the perforation remains the same. Again, three of the values are found imperf., viz., the 1d., which is not rare, the 6d. and 1s. Later the same four values were issued with a change to perf. 14. In 1881 the island followed the example of St. Helena in having the denomination expressed by the surcharge in words. Two new values, ½d. and 2½d., appeared thus on the CC paper, and later the rest, including a second printing of the ½d., on CA paper. The 4d. is also found perf. 12.

The typographed issue, which appeared in 1882 and following years, is a sad come-down after the previous type, and there is little of interest in it; the two

(Cont. under)



One of the re-entries.

dies are too well known to need description. In 1886–87 the colours of the 1d., 6d. and 1s. were changed, and a 3d. stamp added. Die II came into use in 1891, and all the stamps then current appeared from it, with the addition of a 2d., as well as a 5s. and 10s.

We now come to one of the most interesting issues—the surcharges of 1892—caused by a shortage of ½d. and 1d. stamps. First the 3d. stamp from both Dies I and II was surcharged "ONE HALF PENNY" in three lines; the surcharge was set up in a group of thirty, and applied twice to each pane. The most interesting variety is on No. 12, i.e., the second stamp of the third and eighth rows, in which the "O" is smaller and narrower. In the stamp above this in the setting the "Y" is almost completely broken off, and the top of the "F" is missing, while on No. 15 the two upright strokes of the second "N" of "PENNY" are broken off, and on No. 20 the right-hand stroke has suffered the same fate.

When the supply of the surcharged stamps was exhausted, it was decided to use only half stamps in order to save the stock in hand by surcharging "½d." on each half of the 6d., Die I. Experts have differed as to the method employed, but the solution, suggested by Sir Edward Bacon, seems the most reasonable one. He believes that the original setting was one of sixty subjects, and that this was applied, as in the case of the first provisional, twice to each pane, thus making 120 stamps from each pane. It is quite possible, in fact probable, that the panes were divided in two before the work was done; then after the surcharging was done the pane was cut, probably by a machine, into strips of five horizontal rows of two, with two strips of five from the sides of the pane; thus there are no so-called "unsevered pairs," such as are to be found in other cases of a surcharge on half a stamp. Strips, such as I have mentioned, are fairly common. There are two varieties to be found: in the fifth horizontal row one stamp in every sixty has the "d" dropped, while in the first and fourth row one stamp has the "1" thicker, and with a sloping serif; one stamp in each setting has no fraction bar.

Finally, we come to the "ONE PENNY" surcharge on the 4d.; this was set up in one vertical row of ten repeated six times across the pane; this is certain, because all stamps in the first horizontal row have the first "N" from a different fount, while in the ninth row the second "N" is the same. All these three stamps are to be found with the surcharge in wrong positions—sideways and double on the half stamp, and double and inverted on the other two. With regard to the "double" it is well to give a warning; one often comes across stamps that are supposed to be, or are claimed to be, double, but in which only a portion of the surcharge appears; it is often the case that, in the process of placing the paper in the press, it has buckled owing to the effect of the heat on the gum, with the result that a part of the paper comes in contact with the plate and receives a slight impression of the words, and then the true impression is printed not quite in the same place, with the effect of giving the appearance of a double print. I have a copy of the "ONE PENNY" on 4d., in which this is exemplified. The numbers of these surcharged stamps are as follows—"½d." on half 6d., 9600; "ONE HALF PENNY" on 3d., 4300; "ONE PENNY" on 4d., 6700.



The Edwardian set began to appear in 1902, and followed the usual pattern; first of all five values on Crown CA paper, and then the same together with the 6d. and 5s. on Multiple CA paper. In the latter set the ½d., 1d., 2½d. and 6d. are to be found both on ordinary and chalky paper. The same seven values were issued in the so-called "Universal colours" from 1907 to 1909. In 1902, meanwhile, a special stamp had been issued to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of the island by Columbus—a very modest effort: this illustrated the Pitons, which consist of two immense pyramids of rock rising out of the sea to the height of 2700 feet, at an angle of 60 degrees; it was printed by the same firm, and is on the CC paper with the watermark sideways and perforated 14.

The Georgian stamps were issued, as the Edwardians became exhausted, and consisted of the same values, with the addition of a 4d. and 2s. 6d. The set is interesting, as providing examples of three different colonial key-plates used by De La Rue; the 4d. is in the "Nyasaland" type, as also used for British Honduras; the 2d. and 2s. 6d. are in the "Malta" type, while the rest of the set is in the "Tablet" type. Various printings were made on the CA paper—from plates 1, 3, 5 and 6 for the ½d.; from these and plate 8 for the 1d.; from plates 1, 5 and 6 for the 2½d.; from plates 1 and 8 for the 3d., as well as plate 10 in Die II; 6d. from plates 1 and 5; and the 1s. and 5s. from plate 1 only. The 2d. and 2s. 6d. used plate 1 only. Two war stamps appeared in 1916, one being a local overprint on two shades of the 1d., while the other was overprinted in London; the former exists with the overprint double. In 1920 the 1s., as with many other colonies, was changed in colour to orange-brown.

In 1921 the stamps began to appear on the Script paper—the ½d., 1d. and 2½d. from plate 10; the 1d. carmine is quite a scarce stamp, especially used, as it was succeeded the following year by the 1d. brown from the same plate. In 1922 the 2½d. blue was replaced by the 3d. blue, also from plate 10, from which, in addition, the 6d., 1s. and 5s. were printed. Plate 11 came into use the same year with the 2½d. orange, while all values up to 1s., including the 3d. on yellow, were issued from the same plate in this and the following years. Plate 16 was used for the ½d., 1d. (brown), 2½d. (blue), 3d. and 1s., and the ½d., 1d. (brown), 1s. and 5s. are found from plate 21; the 5s. of this printing is in a very striking shade—deep green on a lemon paper. The 4d., still from plate 1, was on the same paper, and issued at the same time. A new value, 1½d., was issued in 1922 in the "Nyasaland" type, i.e., in the same type as the 4d., still from plate 1. The 2d. and 2s. 6d. in the "Malta" type were issued from plate 3. Two very prominent shades of the 3d. and 6d. were printed from plate 28 in 1935 or 1936, just before the pictorial set was due. The Jubilee set calls for no comment, except to note the way in which it has increased in value recently.

The pictorial issue, incorporating a portrait of King George V, was in course of preparation at the time of the king's death; it was proposed, I believe, to cancel the issue, but it was eventually decided to proceed with it. There is not much to be said on this set, except to note the issue of the ½d. and 1d. in rolls, with a perforation gauging 13×12, and the 1½d. with the same perforation, but 12×13 in this case, in sheet form in very small quantity. The 10s. in this issue is, to my mind, one of the most attractive pictorials, and is much to be preferred to the more formal design of the rest of the set.

I need say nothing about the fiscal stamps, used for postage, as the Catalogue gives all the information necessary, and they are not popular with the majority of collectors.

I should like, however, to say something about the postage due stamps, especially the locally-produced set. The stamps were printed in panes of sixty, in ten horizontal rows of six, from ordinary type, and the main variety consists in the last row of stamps having the "N" of "No." in a different type—much wider—from the rest. In addition I have a sheet



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St. Lucia (*continued*)
of the 1d. in which there is no stop after "LUCIA" in the 2nd stamp of the ninth row; whether this is constant I cannot tell. The make-up of the sheet is rather interesting, the right margin is always imperf., but the left is always perforated; it seems that several sheets were made up into a sort of book, and that, when sheets were required, they were simply torn out of the book. The numbers run from the top *right* corner, not the left, as one would suppose, and *down*, not across, as is usual; the result is that all the stamps in the top row have numbers ending in 1, while the stamps in the bottom row, with the wide "N", all have numbers ending in 0. There must have been a considerable number issued, as a sheet of the 1d. which I have starts from No. 20281, while a sheet of the 2d. starts from 10201; but it seems that the sheets were not used in numerical order, as I have the 1d. and 2d. used at about the same time as I obtained the sheets, with No. 15928 on the former and No. 11181 on the latter. The London-printed Postage Dues call for no comment.

In conclusion a word as to the postmarks; on the first type there are only two, so far as I know—the "killer" "A·11", and a small circle with "St. Lucia" at the top, and the date in three lines across the middle; these two may be found used together or separately. Castries, the capital of the island, begins to appear with the second type, and it is not till we come to the Georgian stamps that we come across other post offices, with their own marks. So far as I know, the present offices consist of Anse-la-Raye, Canaries, Choiseul, Dennery, Gros Islet, Laborie, Micoud, Soufrière and Vieux Fort; all except possibly one of these are French names, showing the influence of France as predominating in the history of the island.

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, Sept. 16, 1949

TOURING AROUND THE EMPIRE

Island of Sunshine and Military Cemeteries



LIKE many another of the West Indian islands, St. Lucia is reputed to have been discovered by Christopher Columbus but, in point of fact, one of the earliest recorded landfalls was that made by the good ship *Orange Blossom* which touched there in 1605 on her way to Guiana. In 1638 a party of colonists arrived from St. Kitts and Bermuda, but their efforts at settlement met with considerable opposition from the native Caribs who drove them out three years later.

In 1650, the French arrived under the Governor of Martinique, Du Parquet, and for the next 150 years the island was the scene of a bitter struggle between French and English for its possession. As a result of the continuous hostilities, no fewer than thirteen English Regiments bear St. Lucia on their colours. It passed into British hands finally in 1814 by virtue of the Treaty of Paris. St. Lucia has seen much bloodshed and has changed hands many times.

It is only a small island—a mere 233 square miles, with a population of just over 81,000. As a grim reminder of past battles a number of military cemeteries remain to belie the carefree impression gained by the chance visitor, enraptured with its blue skies and sea, its white sands, and its richly clad hills.

In shape, the island bears a striking resemblance to St. Vincent, and it too is of volcanic origin, although it is fortunate in being unable to boast of anything so spectacular as St. Vincent's Mount Souffriere. However, near the town of Soufriere (could the name be coincidental ?) there is a crater and some famous hot sulphurous springs which have been recognised as possessing curative qualities since 1785.

Let us take a short tour round the island, commencing from the capital, Castries. This town, with its magnificent harbour is encircled by richly clad hills from whose crests splendid views may be had of the surrounding country. The town itself was the victim of a paralysing catastrophe on the 19th June, 1948, when a disastrous fire reduced the greater part of it to a heap of cinders, and it is only just commencing to rise again.

Nearby is the neck of land known as Vigie where in 1778 a force of 1,300 British held off an attack by 5,000 French. This historical event is reflected at the present day in the plume worn by the Northumberland Fusiliers—" The White Plume of the Fighting Fifth." General Lord Harris relates " that after the action of St. Lucia when the men of the 5th were taking the white feathers from the hats of the Frenchmen who were killed, they said to each other : ' No one will dispute our right to the White Feather after this day.' " He goes on to say : " I can vouch that for the 26 years I was with them, from ensign to Lieut.-Colonel, they wore the white feather without a stain."

To the north of Castries lies Pigeon Island, looking like a huge lion couchant, with the conical elevation to the east forming a massive head. The centre or saddle is known as Saddle Battery. Only 700 yards from the mainland, this little island derived its importance during the wars of the 17th and 18th centuries on account of its strategic position in close proximity to Fort Royal, Martinique, from which it is only 30 miles distant.



From Fort Rodney on this island, the famous Admiral Rodney watched the movements of the French fleet, and the pigeon-cote in which the Admiral housed his carrier pigeons (from which the island derives its name) is still intact. At the present time it is famous as a bathing beach, one of the loveliest in the Caribbean.

An attractive trip from Castries is the sixty-mile run to Soufriere where in the first mile and a half the car climbs from sea level to 840 feet, on the Morne Fortune, where a splendid view can be enjoyed. The road then climbs again to 1,200 feet passing through forests of astonishing beauty. Soon a glimpse is seen of those



Picturesque Soufriere village in sunny St. Lucia.

ST. LUCIA

Blue skies, azure sea, white sand and rich green hills make up the West Indian paradise which we call St. Lucia. But it has been the scene of many grim battles and to this day the memory of them is carried by the famous " Fighting Fifth."

This is the eighth of a series of articles designed to give collectors some idea of the background of the British Colonial stamps they collect. All stamps have a story to tell but that story is incomplete unless something is known about the country or colony which issued them. Our next issue will feature Northern Rhodesia.



FAMOUS PITONS REAR THEIR HEADS

The Pitons do not look quite like this on our stamps. They shoot up to a height of over 2,600 feet and from their summits can be seen Martinique, Dominica and Barbados.

famous mountains familiar to every philatelist—The Pitons—which rear their lofty heads sheer out of the sea to a height of over 2,600 feet. From their summit (but it is a precipitous climb !) one can see as far as Martinique, Dominica and Barbados. Close by is another natural phenomenon made familiar via the stamps



of this little colony—the Ventine Waterfall, cascading into a deep pool surrounded by lush vegetation.

Between the two great obelisks of the Pitons is a little bay and behind them green wooded slopes rise towards the rearward mountain of the Soufriere. The depth of sea at the base of the Pitons is very great and these mountains bear evident traces of volcanic origin by their proximity to the Soufriere.

If we go inland, there are forests crossed by bridle-paths—a hiker's paradise. There is but little animal life—the agouti, a small rodent resembling a wild hare, opossum and the green iguana lizard being the few native species, although the mongoose has been introduced.

Thus far, St. Lucia from the tourist's angle. Let us now briefly glance at the island's economics. Sugar-cane is the most important of the local products, but financial difficulties have recently intervened. An approach may be made to the Colonial Development Corporation for funds to install fresh machinery. Limes were an important product, but the crops have been ravaged by diseases which have proved almost impossible to check.

Cocoa and coconuts also help the island to pay its way, while experiments have been made in cotton-growing. Unemployment is a serious problem and although public works of various kinds have helped to relieve distress, many labourers have left St. Lucia for more profitable work in Aruba and Curacao, while a scheme for emigration to British Guiana is under consideration.

Postal services are carried out by road or coastal launch services, the Government paying a subsidy for the carriage of mails, passengers and cargo on both routes. The coast-wise service from Soufriere to Castries and return via Anse-la-Raye and Canaries runs five times weekly and that via Choiseul, Laborie and Vieux Fort three times weekly.

Overland routes are from Vieux Fort to Castries returning via Micoud, Patience and Dennery and from Castries across the island from west to east to Dennery, turning south to Vieux Fort along the coast.

The British West Indian Airways Ltd. maintain an efficient service connecting the British West Indian islands from Jamaica to Trinidad three times a week, while air mails are also conveyed by the Pan-American Airways to Beane Field, Vieux Fort, four times a week.

A French aircraft from Martinique calls weekly, conveying mails from that island and Guadeloupe to link with Pan-American Airways at Vieux Fort and on its return trip it carries incoming mails for the French islands brought in by Pan-American Airways. This service provides a



further link between the French islands and the Colony.

We wish to thank Col. H. G. Reid, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., F.R.P.S.L., President of the St. Lucia Philatelic Society for sending pamphlets and brochures which have greatly assisted in the compilation of this article.

STAMP COLLECTING, July 13, 1951 & July 20, 1951

THE INLAND POST OF ST. LUCIA



By PETER JAFFÉ

The following article is based on research carried out on the island and in London, in the Record Room, G.P.O., and in the Public Record Office.

AT the end of the eighteenth century there was a local post on St. Lucia operated by the French; particulars are set out in the "St. Lucia Philatelist". Under the British this was abandoned, but some fifty years later, in 1851, there was a daily post between Castries and Soufriere. Bacon records that the master permissive Act for Colonial Inland Posts was passed at Westminster in 1849/50. The new marks required in St. Lucia—"Inland-Postage/Paid" and the circular date stamp "Soufriere-St. Lucia"—were despatched from London on March 16th, 1850, as is evidenced by the G.P.O. proof books of foreign and Colonial postmarks.

In the 1860's, coastal vessels were used to operate a 1 penny post and Capt. Shugg was one of the operators of a small vessel on the Castries run down the leeward coast to Soufriere. St. Lucia line engraved S.G. type I stamps are known cancelled by the shipping company; in the early '70's this cancellation was used to produce handstruck adhesives, which were usually cut in half and pen cancelled. Examples are included in the Holman collection.

The existing inland posts in the three Windward Islands began operations at various times; St. Vincent and Grenada in the last quarter of 1872 and St. Lucia in July, 1884. Dominica, the fourth member of the group, was one of the Leeward Islands until December 31st, 1939. The *Colonial Gazette* shows that authority to operate a post within St. Lucia dated from November, 1881.

On July 15th, 1884, a post, carried by water between Castries and Soufriere, was instituted. The Company providing the service received £250 per annum. Subsequently £1,000 was asked but the amount awarded for a full service to the Government was £750, which was soon reduced to £600 per annum.

On January 19th, 1885—as announced in the *Gazette*—a once-a-week service was introduced between Castries and Dennery on the Windward Coast. Letters from Dennery did not have to be prepaid. At the same time the Postmaster (F. S. Reece), announced that letters addressed to Canaries or to Choiseul would be sent to Soufriere, and letters addressed to Laborie or to Micoud would be sent to Vieux-Fort. On March 15th, 1885, it was announced in the *Gazette* that the Town Wardens would act as local Postmasters.

In addition to the closed mail between the sub-offices and Castries, there was an irregular open mail service between sub-offices. This open mail was not greatly used, only between 2,000 and 2,500 letters and postcards being handled annually in the period 1897-1899, as is shown in the annual reports of the Postmaster.

The rate in the Inland Mail in 1885 was 1d. per ½ ounce. On June 15th, 1894, the rate became ½d. per ½ ounce with a minimum of 1d.

Unlike Grenada Inland Post, which collected 1d. on letters posted outside the Colony to addresses up country and vice versa, St. Vincent and St. Lucia charged nothing for inland carriage on letters to or from overseas.

In both 1888 and 1891 the Postmaster complained in his annual report that he was meeting competition from unauthorised letter carriers, including the coasting steamers (whose owners were receiving £600 per annum subsidy from the Government) and thus losing revenue. The abuse continued until a Regulation was made on May 3rd, 1894. A warning of a £10 penalty appeared in the *Gazette* date October 22nd, 1904.

Abbreviated Name Date Stamps

From 1861 Grenada made use of large code letters, A to G, to indicate the parish offices. St. Vincent and St. Lucia abbreviated the names of the offices, but while the St. Vincent marks were large date stamps of a particular type and were struck in red (at least during most of the currency of the 1d. black), the St. Lucia marks were normal small circular date stamps struck in black, inscribed St. Lucia at the top and with code letters immediately below the name and above the date. Though not traced in the proof books in London these code letters exist for the following places and were in use at least between the dates indicated :—

Castries	.. ..	C	1885–1909
Soufriere	.. ..	S	1889–1915
Vieux-Fort	.. ..	VF	1889–1911
Laborie	.. ..	L	1891–1911
Dennery	.. ..	D	1889–1910
Micoud	.. ..	M	1893–1914

The order is that of relative rarity on Queen Victoria stamps. Lt.-Commander Gordon, R.N., has seen a St. Lucia "A" dated December 5th, 1886; this may have been in use at Castries.





No early mark has been recorded for Choiseul and it may have been the practice to cancel all adhesives at Soufriere. It is possible that the St. Lucia "C" mark was used at Choiseul after the issue to Castries of "Castries, St. Lucia". (A date stamp with this inscription left London on February 15th, 1899.)

The absence of entires used in the local post makes it impracticable to do more than speculate on the marks used on stamps and envelopes, but it is possible that in St. Lucia, as in Sierra Leone, the local mark fell on the envelope and the adhesive was cancelled in Castries. This may have been the method used up to 1889, but it is more probable that date stamps were not provided earlier for the six original sub-offices.

Further research should enable the dates of use of the abbreviated name date stamps to be extended.

The Soufriere "S" mark has been used to cancel postal fiscals from which pen marks have been removed.

(To be continued)

STAMP COLLECTING, July 13, 1951 & July 20, 1951



Inland Post of St. Lucia

By PETER JAFFÉ

(*Continued from page 533*)

Business Handled

No continuous statistics are available of letters and postcards despatched in the inland post, but the following table gives some indication of relative scarcity. For any one year the comparison between villages is exact but the " incoming " mail is sometimes included with mail " despatched " as " handled ".

Letters and Postcards in the Inland Post of St. Lucia

	1886	1890	1897	1902
Soufriere	7,662	6,224	6,971	12,028
Choiseul	2,419	2,092	3,630	3,901
Laborie	1,826	1,385	2,262	3,440
Vieux-Fort	3,206	3,424	3,663	5,021
Micoud	1,579	890	1,451	1,914
Dennery	1,477	943	1,060	2,714
Gros Islet	—	—	389	877
Canaries	—	—	—	—
Anse-la-Raye ..	—	—	—	—

	1905	1908	1912–13	1918–19
Soufriere	17,545	15,490	18,507	24,197
Choiseul	5,741	5,052	4,067	10,766
Laborie	4,307	3,742	3,546	6,672
Vieux-Fort	7,803	6,772	7,598	10,316
Micoud	3,313	3,165	3,103	8,072
Dennery	4,878	6,382	4,578	8,808
Gros Islet	1,649	1,906	1,350	2,971
Canaries	—	669	675	1,892
Anse-la-Raye ..	—	1,042	1,220	2,519

The office at Gros Islet, which lies to the north of Castries, began operations on January 1st, 1891, and in that year handled 757 letters and postcards. There were two mails a week, from and to Castries. The first mark used at this office was inscribed Gros Islet, St. Lucia (at foot) with code letter " G " above the date. So far this mark has not been recorded on Queen Victoria head stamps.

As has been mentioned, the mail between Castries and the outstations was a sealed mail, while the few letters carried between one outstation and another were conveyed loose. On December 31st, 1897, the G.P.O. proof books show that the following six seals were forwarded from London to Castries :—

Castries, Vieux-Fort, Soufriere, Dennery, Choiseul and Laborie. The inclusion of Choiseul, and the exclusion of Micoud and Gros Islet, is in accord with the volume of mail handled. A Gros Islet mark was despatched on October 23rd, 1905.

Anse-la-Raye began operations with a weekly service on Tuesdays on October 31st, 1905. Canaries had a weekly service on Saturdays from March 3rd, 1906. The two new date stamps AUSE-LA-RAYE and CANARIES were sent from London on August 15th, 1906. Another CANARIES was sent on March 29th, 1909. In 1906 these offices despatched, respectively, 742 and 353 letters. In that year Gros Islet despatched 1,542, and Micoud 2,816. As promised in his report for 1903 the Postmaster was assisting in educating and civilising the island.

Further Offices and new Date Stamps

The office at Patience was opened in September, 1936. In June, 1950, offices were opened at Maboiya Valley and Saltibus. In the first months of operation the two latter offices had no cancellations.

In 1899, Castries began using a similar mark to that described for Gros Islet, with code letter " C ". Ause-la-Raye (misreading) of Anse-la-Raye, used code letter " A ", and Canaries code letter " C ". No other offices used this type. Later, Castries used a mark with star instead of code letter.

In 1948 Canaries, Patience and Anse-la-Raye all handled less than 2,500 letters and postcards. Micoud and Choiseul handled between 5,000 and 6,000.

Present Services

In July, 1950, the steamer from Castries called daily, except Wednesdays, at Anse-la-Raye, Canaries, Soufriere, Choiseul, and Laborie. On Thursdays the terminus was Vieux-Fort. At the smaller villages a canoe is used as a tender. These fast craft, designed for paddle or square sail propulsion, are still built with the rams used in Carib War canoes.

Gros Islet was served daily, except Wednesdays and Fridays, by bicycle.

Dennery, Micoud, Patience and Vieux-Fort were served daily, except on Wednesdays and Thursdays, by omnibus. On Mondays and Thursdays an omnibus ran to Saltibus and Maboiya Valley.

ST. LUCIA

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, NOV. 25, 1949

Remarkable West Indies Discovery

ONE of the most remarkable discoveries in modern Colonials comes to me from St. Lucia where some copies of the 6 cents have been discovered imperforate on the left hand side.

Mr. C. D. Milbourne, Hon. Sec. of the St. Lucia P.S. writes that there are only eight of these stamps in existence and all are on first day covers. "The stamps do not," writes Mr. Milbourne, "exist in the mint state."

It seems that a Mr. John Walton of Souffriere visited the post office on the morning of October 1st with the object of sending some first day covers of the new dollar currency stamps to some friends. While at the counter he noticed that there was only one sheet of the 6 cents value and he bought the first two or three vertical rows.

He looked again and this time saw that the perforation which should have been down the left hand side of the sheet was missing. Mr. Walton is not a stamp collector but even he realised that this was something out of the ordinary and thinking that they would be even more valuable



used, he placed them all on envelopes and sent them through the post.

Of the eight stamps, one was sent to Mr. Milbourne, another to a relation of Mr. Walton's in England and the others in vertical pairs addressed to and retained by Mr. Walton himself.

"The strange thing about this find," says Mr. Milbourne, "is that although only one sheet was issued to the Souffriere Post Office, the fact that this sheet lacked a line of perforation was not noted either at the General Post Office in Castries or by the staff of the sub-Post Office at Souffriere."

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, NOV·2, 1956



Fig. 1. Fig. 2. Fig. 3. Fig. 4.

THERE'S MONEY IN POSTMARKS

CODE MARKS OF ST. LUCIA

By

PETER SCOTT

THE British West Indies is probably the most popular of all Commonwealth groups and, as a natural result, bargains are particularly hard to find. As British collectors are well aware, U.S.A. buyers are active in this market whenever fine material is offered.

Still, in the field of postal markings, there are plenty of opportunities for the eagle-eyed. More, in my opinion, the earlier village postmarks are, as yet, a long way from obtaining their true value in the open market—as compared with, say, the markings of St. Vincent.

Like so many of our Colonies, St. Lucia started her philatelic life as a poor relation of the mother-country: stamps of Great Britain were used in the island between 1858 and 1st May, 1860. I do not propose to enlarge upon this aspect as Gibbons' cover the field competently enough on page 53 of the current Part I catalogue.

I will merely point out that the obliterator allotted to the island was a horizontally flattened oval of thin bars with "A.11" in the centre. British stamps of 1855–57 have been picked up for a few coppers, adorned with this particular mark, but the quest is hardly a rewarding one these days!

Nor do I, in this or subsequent articles, intend to provide a complete listing of every type of postmark used. These articles are merely intended to pinpoint the markings which are often offered as normals but which, with the general increase of interest in the subject, are likely to augment in value.

When St. Lucia issued her first stamps in December 1860 the old A.18 marking was kept in use and is the *normal cancellation for these earlies*. It was used in the capital, Castries, the smaller post offices having not yet been provided with individual obliterators. Indeed, I believe that at this time Soufriere was the only other office in existence.

From 1884 onwards the sub-offices commence to come into the picture and it is with these that we are concerned. Dates upon which they opened were:—

Soufriere and Vieux Fort (16th July, 1884). As I have mentioned, Soufriere was already in business, but the only marking of which I have heard was one used in pre-stamp days. I do not know whether this has ever been found cancelling a stamp.

Choiseul, Canaries, Dennery, Laborie, Micoud (all opened on 19th January, 1885).

Gros Islet (1st January, 1891), Anse-la-Raye (31st October, 1905), Patience (29th September, 1936), Mabouya Valley and Saltibus (1st June, 1950).

The Castries cancellation (Fig. 1) appears to have come into use in 1884 also, the "C" code-letter representing the initial letter of that town. On the same principle, the following post offices received a similar mark, the code-letter varying in each case: Dennery (D) (Fig. 2), Laborie (L) (Fig. 3), Micoud (M), Soufriere (S) and Vieux-Fort (VF). Comparative valuations are provided in the attached table.

These code-marks are the ones which can often be found on stamps priced at a fraction of catalogue by the ignorant, or unwary. They are usually discovered on low values—the relatively common ½d. and 1d. Die II of 1891–98 (S.G.43–44) are rewarding subjects for observation.

These marks were still in use when the King Edward VII issues came along and some of them (M—Micoud, for example) lasted until the 1912–19 George V set. I have yet to see one of the last-named stamps thus postmarked, however.

When these code sub-office marks were withdrawn, more conventional and obvious types came into use—circular date-stamps with the office name at the top, St. Lucia at the bottom, a code-letter or a star, and the day, month and year in two lines. Of these, on George V stamps, Soufriere is fairly common.

St. Lucia stamps can also be found postmarked on arrival in Barbados, Antigua and other West Indian islands. I have an S.G.43 with the barred "A.07" mark of Dominica. Paquebot marks and London receiving marks are also encountered.

ST. LUCIA

Code-letter date stamps as at Figs. 1 and 2. In my experience covers and cards with these marks (except for Castries) do not exist.

Valuations represent premiums over normal market price on S.G.43-44, 58-59, 64-65 and 72-73. Add 50 per cent. for S.G.31, 32 and 39. Higher denominations are scarce to rare.

Type		Loose Stamp
1.	"C" (Castries) (Q.V.)	Normal
2.	"S" (Soufriere) (Q.V.)	9d.
	"S" (Soufriere) (K.E.)	6d.
3.	"VF" (Vieux-Fort) (Q.V.)	1/6
	"VF" (Vieux-Fort) (K.E.)	1/–
4.	"L" (Laborie) (Q.V.)	4/–
	"L" (Laborie) (K.E.)	2/6
5.	"D" (Dennery) (Q.V.)	6/–
	"D" (Dennery) (K.E.)	4/–
6.	"M" (Micoud) (Q.V.)	10/–
	"M" (Micoud) (K.E.)	7/–

Circular named date-stamps similar to Fig. 4 found on stamps (usually low values) from 1900 onwards.

Type		Loose Stamp	Cover or Card
7.	Anse-la-Raye (mis-spelt AUSE)	10/–	—
7a.	Anse-la-Raye (normal)	2/–	15/–
8.	Gros Islet	2/–	15/–
9.	Soufriere, Vieux Fort, Canaries, Choiseul, Dennery, Laborie, Micoud, Patience, Mabouya Valley and Saltibus	*	*

*** On George VI (except for Soufriere and Patience) stamps are worth a copper or two above normal, non-philatelic covers about a shilling above normal. On George V Canaries appears to be scarcest.**

Note.—Types 7, 7a and 8 are distinguished from those grouped under Type 9 in having code-letters "A" (Anse-la-Raye) and "G" (Gros-Islet). Type 9 has stars, though Vieux-Fort appeared minus star in 1948.

St. Lucia Q.V. are sometimes found cleaned of penmarks and with cancellations superimposed.

St. Lucia

Stamp Collecting, Jan. 20, 1961



THE STAMPS OF ST. LUCIA



By R. W. DAVIS



THE unfortunate trend among many British colonial and dominion territories towards pictorial stamps without the portrait of the "Head of the Commonwealth" and, in certain cases, questionable methods of supplying them, are influencing many collectors against continuing these countries. Whether this attitude will have any influence on the administrations concerned only time will tell, but it may well turn the attention of philatelists still more to those colonies which continue to show the Queen's portrait. To those who have not so far succumbed to the fascination of the British West Indies the colony of St. Lucia whose first stamps have just become centenarians, may well prove attractive.

To begin with, there are not many more than 200 stamps, even if postage dues and fiscals used for postage are included. There are not, in the main, repetitive key-plate issues. The pictorials, especially those of 1936, are most attractive and beautifully engraved, and the lower values of both King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II are neat and tidy little stamps. Also, for those who hanker after completeness and are willing to concentrate on the collection, there are few after 1886—with the exception of the rare surcharges of 1891—which are out of reach. Of the earlier ones, at least a reasonably representative lot can be collected.

The postal history began—officially, at any rate—in 1844, when the British Post Office established an office at Castries, the capital of the island. Prior to this, however, mail had been regularly received and despatched via the famous Falmouth Packet Service until about 1840. It was a very costly service, and when the big shipping companies began regular steamship voyages across the Atlantic the Post Office entered into a contract with the Royal Mail Line to serve the West Indies. This early mail from St. Lucia bore no adhesive stamps, but was hand-stamped "Paid at St. Lucia". This arrangement continued until 1855, when the then current 2d. of Great Britain was introduced, together with the cancellation "A 11". This was followed by the 6d. and 1s. in 1856, and the 1d. and 4d. in 1857.

Then, at the end of 1860, the first St. Lucia adhesives were issued. These were recess-printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co., with a design showing the Queen's head to the left surrounded by a white oval on which were inscribed: (above) "St. Lucia" and (below) "Postage". To right and left the oval was filled in with ornaments, and the spandrels were decorated with filigree work. The paper was white wove, watermarked with the Small Star. As with the first issues of Barbados and Trinidad, no values were given, these being inferred from the colours—red for the 1d., blue for the 4d. and green for the 6d. From the perforations (14 to 16) it would appear that Perkins, Bacon & Co. were still having trouble with their machines.





In the early '60s Perkins, Bacon & Co. lost several colonial contracts, including Bahamas, Ceylon and Trinidad, and were succeeded by De La Rue & Co. Thus in 1863 the St. Lucia printing plates were handed over to De La Rue and printings of the three values made in colours probably intended to be the same as the originals but actually differing considerably. Also the De La Rue stamps were on "CC" paper and definitely perforated 12.

About this time, a ½d. postal charge was contemplated, and a number of green stamps (6d.) were surcharged HALFPENNY, and also the blue (4d.) was surcharged "6d.", but apparently the expected use did not materialise, and they were never issued. But in 1864 all three appeared in new colours—black, yellow, and violet respectively—and a 1s. value in orange was added. All these were on "CC" paper with perforation 12. Later, all values came with the standard De La Rue perforation 14. During 1881–84 all values were surcharged HALFPENNY, including the green (6d.), whilst the 1d. lake was surcharged "2½ PENCE". Here may be noticed a catalogue inconsistency, inasmuch as S.G.24 is described as "brown-red", whereas according to the listing no such colour had been used for the 1d. value. This surcharging has been attributed to "reasons of economy": in plain English, to save money by avoiding the preparation of new dies and plates.

After the first flush of what were, in many instances, beautiful stamps produced by line-engraving, our colonial authorities and many foreign postal administrations decided that that process was too expensive and adopted surface-printing. St. Lucia was involved in this trend, but instead of having her own exclusive design she had to share one also used for Cyprus, Turks Islands and Virgin Islands. This "communal effort" first appeared in the Virgin Islands in 1880, Turks Islands and Cyprus following in 1882. It consisted of the Queen's head on an octagonal background, four leaf ornaments squaring up the upper and lower angles, a line of dots at each side, blank panels for name and denomination at top and bottom, and a frame-line surrounding the whole. Two dies were made, the second varying from the first in small details of the crown, the Queen's throat and a tiny curl of hair—all described with enlarged illustrations in the preface to Part I of the catalogue. The new issue included ½d. and 2½d. values, thus replacing the provisionals created by surcharging. In 1886, the 1d., 3d., 6d. and 1s. took on the "dull mauve" colour which added to the monotony of many key-plate values for 20 years. Between 1891 and 1898 the whole series appeared from Die II, with the addition of 5s. and 10s. values, thus making St. Lucia among the first of the Crown Colonies to have stamps above a shilling.

Although a ½d. value formed one of the current series, recourse to provisionals was again necessary in 1891, the 3d. and 6d. Die I and the 3d. Die II being surcharged. One curious feature of these surcharges is that whilst both 3d.s bore the new value in words: ONE/HALF/PENNY, the 6d. was made to do duty for two stamps by having the figures "½d." printed on each side of the diagonal. At the same time the 4d. of the current series was surcharged: ONE/PENNY.

Reference has been made to the possibility of completeness of a collection of St. Lucia, and this is a convenient point to enlarge on this. With the exception of S.G. Nos. 1, 5 and 6, the Perkins, Bacon & Co. printings are definitely out of reach of the majority of collectors, but allowing for some discount from catalogue prices these three need not be "impossibles". Ignoring shades and perforations, the 1864 printings could be acquired

(*Continued on page 581*)

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(Continued under overleaf)

Stamp Collecting, Jan. 20, 1961

The Stamps of St. Lucia (*continued from page 579*)

in time. (Patience is a great virtue in philately!) The ½d., 1d., 2½d. and 4d. 1882, Die I, are well within reach, and there is nothing very formidable about Die II. It all depends whether the collector is sufficiently keen, and is willing to forego the pleasure of spending his money in other directions. In the acquisition of expensive stamps—as with other desiderata—if you want them badly enough you will probably get them!

With the accession of King Edward VII came a short series of five values (½d., 1d., 2½d., 3d., 1s.) in the standard key-plate design. Unfortunately, St. Lucia did not follow the examples of some other colonies, e.g., Gambia and Seychelles, in the matter of colours, and these five in dull purple and insipid green are among those which give the key-plates a bad name. It will be noted that the Edwardian set goes no higher than one shilling, and that the 2d. and 6d. values are not included. From this it may be inferred either that no higher value was required, or that sufficient of the previous issue remained to last for three years, i.e., until 1905, when a 5s. value was added and the 6d. again appeared. These Edwardian series run to the usual pattern —Single C A, Multiple C A and Multiple C A "Universal" colours. As with most of the Edwardians, values printed on chalk-surfaced paper are not easy to find in good used condition, and care has to be taken to examine unused copies carefully to see that the "whites" are clean and that the background behind the King's head is not blotchy with rubbing.

Columbus discovered the island on St. Lucia's Day—June 15th, 1502—and on December 16th, 1902, a very attractive stamp was issued to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the occasion. It is printed in pleasant tones of green and brown, and portrays a view of the Pitons—two volcanic conical rocks rising sheer in the Soufrière Bay—on the southern part of the west coast. The production is up to the usual high standard of recess-printing by De La Rue, and printed on Crown C C paper.

(~~To be~~ *Continued*)

ST. LUCIA POST OFFICES

SIR,—Mr. R. W. Davis (January 20th, 1961) states that a British post office was open at Castries in 1844. I presume that this is a misprint for 1814. The earliest known hand-stamp of the British Post Office is dated April 6th, 1819 (in my collection).

Incidentally there were 11 post offices functioning in St. Lucia in 1790 during the French occupation.

Thornton Heath, Surrey. B. DE BURCA.

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(Continued under overleaf)

STAMP COLLECTING, Feb 3, 1961

THE STAMPS OF ST. LUCIA

By
R. W. DAVIS

(Continued ~~from page 581, Jan. 20th~~ from p. 2)

In the King George V stamps, which began to appear in 1912, we have a curious mixture of standard key-plate, the " Malta " and the " Nyasaland " types. St. Lucia, however, did not follow the example of some other colonies and used the low-value " Nyasaland " type for her higher values. The usual wartime coloured papers are found, as are also the local and the London " War Tax " overprintings. In 1920 the 1s. changed from the old black on green to orange-brown. In addition to the change to Script C A in 1921, the 1d. changed colour twice during the following five years—first to brown and then to carmine. The 2½d. became orange, whilst the original blue was given to the 3d., which for 14 years had been familiar in brown on varying yellows.

The issue commemorating the Silver Jubilee of King George V needs no comment ; which leads us to 1936, in which year the island acquired one of the most attractive of the pictorial series then being introduced to the Crown Colonies. This issue is not only artistic in design but beautifully engraved and recess-printed by De La Rue and provides half-a-dozen first-class views of the island.

The ½d., 2d. and 4d. values give us a view of Castries, the capital of the island, standing on Carenage Bay. The French made the first permanent settlements in 1635. The port was strongly fortified, and during the various wars with France changed hands no fewer than seven times, finally becoming British in 1803. The excellence of the harbour at Castries made it an important coaling station and naval base, and to this St. Lucia owes much of her prosperity.

Columbus Square on the 1d., 2½d. and 6d. (curiously mis-spelt " Colombos ") reminds us of the original town-planning by the French in 1668, whilst the Ventine Falls on the 1½d. and 3d. provide two beautiful stamps. St. Lucia is of volcanic origin, and the mountainous interior is dominated by an active volcano —Mount Soufrière, 3,000 ft. high. Numerous streams and small rivers emanate from these mountains, and the Ventine Falls flow from one of these into the Soufrière Valley. The water is hot and sulphurous.



Pigeon Island and Fort Rodney on the 1s. value is another reminder of the French wars. Admiral Rodney captured St. Lucia in 1761, when commanding the Leewards Station. He fortified Pigeon Island and made it his headquarters. On January 16th, 1780, he defeated the Spanish Fleet at the Battle of St. Vincent, and other decisive battles followed, including the defeat of the French at Martinique on April 12th, 1782.

Another victory over the French is commemorated by the Inniskilling Monument on the 2s.6d. stamp. This stands on Morne Fortune, the site of the battle in 1796, and overlooks Castries Harbour. The heights were stormed by the 27th Inniskillings under the command of Brigadier John Moore —later Sir John Moore, of Corunna fame. On the 5s. value there is the present Government House, also overlooking Castries Harbour, whilst the 10s. shows the Badge of the Colony—forts, mountains and the rising sun, with the motto " Statio haud malefida carinis "—" A safe harbour for ships ".

There are three varieties in this issue which deserve note—the ½d., 1d. and 1½d. The normal perforation of all values in the set is 14 with the exception of the 1s. and 10s., which are perforation 13×12. A number of sheets of the ½d., 1d. and 1½d. were also perforated with that gauge, broken up and made into coils by hand. It would appear, however, that at least one sheet was sold, as in *Gibbons' Stamp Monthly* for September 1936, page 239, it is noted that " Mr. Henry Bach kindly informs us that he has a block of 6 of the ½d. in the coil perf. 13×12. Whether the specially-perforated sheets intended for coils were issued intentionally or not we are unable to say ". Reference to this sheet is again made in January 1937, page 78 : " The block of current ½d. stamps perf. 13×11½ (. . . since seen by us) now has an additional interest as the St. Lucia postmaster advises us that he has no knowledge of the existence of this perforation except in the coil stamps. The block in question came from sheet 4205 and was purchased from St. Lucia last June ".

The first issue of King George VI began to appear on September 22nd, 1938. The low values, ½d. to 3d., came in an entirely new and pleasing design in the normal stamp size—the King's head surrounded by a collar set with the Rose of England and the French Fleur de-Lys alternate, the whole surmounted by a crown. Figures of value are placed in both upper corners and ST. LUCIA in Roman capitals at the foot. In 1946 8d., 3s. and £1 values were added in this design, and in 1947 a 3½d. For the other values Columbus Square was again used for the 6d., but from a new die with " Columbus " spelt correctly, Government House figures on the 1s. (also redrawn), our old friends the Pitons are the subject of the 2s., and the 5s. shows bananas, one of the chief exports, being loaded on to the *Lady Hawkins*, a Canadian National Steamship Co. vessel. The 10s. value displays the new Arms of St. Lucia, the official description of which reads : " An accurate representation of the Armorial Ensigns granted by Royal Warrant dated 16th August, 1939. Sable a Cross of Bamboo couped between in the first and fourth quarters a Rose and in the second and third a Fleur-de-Lys all or together with the motto *Statio Haud Malefida Carinis*. The Royal Cypher and Crown are not part of the Arms."



The production of this series was distributed among Messrs. Waterlow & Sons (values 3d. and 5s.), De La Rue (6d. and 1s.), and Bradbury, Wilkinson (2s. and 10s.). This accounts for the initial perforation variations, the later gauges being due to the chaotic conditions caused by the destruction of plant in the bombing of London.

When, in common with other West Indian colonies, St. Lucia adopted the dollar currency, a new set of stamps in cents and dollars became necessary. All pictorials were dropped ; values to 16c. remained in the small format of the previous low values, and values above this appeared in the large " Arms " type with several alterations. " St. Lucia " was relegated to the foot of the design, the crown was removed from its former position and surmounted the Royal Cypher immediately above the shield. The values, formerly repeated in the lower corners, now take the opposite positions at the head of the stamp. The background is as before, entirely filled with innumerable repetitions of the Royal Cypher. The values to 16c. were recess-printed by Waterlow, and the others by Bradbury, Wilkinson. The 1c. and 2c. were also issued in



(Continued on page 639)

ST LUCIA.

The Stamps of St. Lucia (*continued from page 637*)

coils, perf. 14 and 14½ × 14 respectively. Later the 4c. and 12c. appeared in this perforation. In the case of the 2c. at any rate, history seems to have been repeated as examples from sheets came on to the market. These can be distinguished by being either in pairs or with sheet margin attached. The 4c. is one of the scarcest of the K.G.VI stamps, and as a matter of fact a used pair, said to be the only one known, was recently offered by a well-known London firm for £375. Particular care should be taken when buying this stamp as excellent lithographic forgeries exist. The 12c. is also a scarce stamp, mint copies fetching around £35 at auction.

The only change made in the current Queen Elizabeth II issue is the substitution of Her Majesty's portrait for that of King George VI, and a slight revision of the Arms type apart from the substitution of the "E II R" cypher in place of that of King George VI. The highest value to date is the $2.50 stamp.

During the last 15 years St. Lucia has participated in the various "block" commemoratives of Victory, Royal Silver Wedding, U.P.U. and the Coronation, but these being, as it were, imposed from outside, are quite devoid of "local colour". Other commemoratives, however, are distinctly concerned with local events and developments. In 1951 three commemoratives were issued, the first for the opening of the University College of the West Indies by Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, who was installed as its first Chancellor. The University is situated in Jamaica, and St. Lucia was one of the 14 colonies to issue two stamps to mark the occasion. Next came the single stamp to commemorate the rebuilding of Castries. The centre of the city was destroyed by fire on June 19th, 1948, and on the stamp the Phoenix rising from the flames symbolises the resurrection from the ruins. Also in 1951, the Windward Islands (Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent) were granted a New Constitution, and four stamps of the current issue of each colony were overprinted "New Constitution 1951" in honour of the occasion There was a "back to Columbus" design for three stamps (8c., 10c. and 25c.) issued in 1960 on the granting of yet another Constitution for the Leeward and Windward Islands. The flagship of Columbus, the *Santa Maria*, is pictured with the Pitons in the background.



* * * *

In August 1956, the colonies of Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Christopher-Nevis and Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Trinidad & Tobago became the Federation of the West Indies and Princess Margaret opened the first Federal Parliament in Trinidad on April 22nd, 1958. A commemorative issue of three stamps for each colony, all in one common design, appeared on that day. This issue set the pattern of things to come, for in two years the Federation will gain independence and there will be one common series of Federal stamps, though supplies to each colony will continue to bear the name of that colony. So it looks as though collections of these particular colonies will become rather monotonous, the only difference between them being the name on the stamps. Will the Federation, in its enthusiasm for designs of its own, also discard the portrait of Her Majesty the Queen?

St. LUCIA

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE. Dec. 16, 1960.

CENTENARY OF ST. LUCIA'S FIRST STAMPS

★ St. Lucia's first stamps, issued 100 years ago, bore no figures of value. The denominations were indicated by the colours.

By

PATRICK HAMILTON

ONE of the most interesting historically of the Plantation Islands, as the British West Indies used to be called, and the first of the Lesser Antilles to have its own stamp issues, made its philatelic debut a hundred years ago, on December 18th, 1860.

This was St. Lucia, named by Columbus who first discovered it on St. Lucy's Day, 1502. An early British settlement in 1639 was short-lived and a hundred years later the island was under French control. Situated almost midway between St. Vincent and Martinique, some 90 miles to the west of Barbados, St. Lucia was a place of strategic importance in the wars between England and France, and changed hands several times.

Taken by England in 1745 it was returned to France in 1763, captured again on December 28th, 1778, and once more given back to France in 1783, it became British again in March 1794. A revolt of the French settlers gave trouble in 1795/6, but this uprising was crushed in 1797, yet in 1801 St. Lucia was again handed back to France.

The last British capture of the island took place on June 22nd, 1803 and St. Lucia was formally ceded to Great Britain in 1814.

A British post office, a sub-office under Barbados, seems to have been opened at Castries, the island capital, in 1840, and on letters of this year are found the earliest known type of postal marking, an unframed circular datestamp lettered ST. LUCIA with a fleuron at the base bearing the figures of the date repeated before and after the month which was placed above the year, expressed in full.

Letters to and from the island were at this time sent as and when opportunity offered, mostly by private ship, and from 1841 appear the rare two line marking, ST. LUCIA/SHIP LETTER. Another early marking is the familiar Crowned Circle handstamp, an example with double rings inscribed PAID AT ST. LUCIA being despatched to the island from the G.P.O. London on May 1st, 1844.

In this year, 1844, a British Packet Agent was appointed at Castries, and eight years later a new datestamp inscribed ST. LUCIA in the unframed sans-serif double arc type used in the United Kingdom was supplied.

Under Direct London Control

The postal arrangements of St. Lucia, like those of the other West Indian islands, were under the direct control of the British Postmaster-General in London. In 1855 however it was proposed that this control be handed over to the various colonial governments, a circular to this effect being issued.

St. Lucia's reaction to this was discouraging, a letter from Sir I. J. Deverell, the island's administrator, dated January 4th, 1856 reading:



"I have to observe that, however desirable it would be that the Government of this island should possess a control over its post office, yet I regret to report that the state of its finances will not admit of its acceding to the terms proposed by the Postmaster-General, viz., of bearing the whole expense of that institution."

British Stamps Sent To The Island

Faced with this impasse, the Home Government shelved the plan for the time being, and in the year 1858, to allow of postage being prepaid otherwise than by cash, ordinary British adhesive postage stamps were supplied to the island together with a barred obliterator bearing the identification "A 11"; this is to be found cancelling the following British stamps—1d. and 2d., recess printed "Stars," and 4d., 6d. and 1/– surface printed without check letters in the corners.

The British Post Office was, however, determined to relinquish its responsibility for the West Indian postal establishments and notice was given that these would be handed over to the local authorities on May 1st, 1860. The St. Lucia Post Office Act was therefore passed by the island's legislature, not without protest at the financial implications thereof, on March 7th, 1860.

Suggestions that the local post office and the packet agency be amalgamated, the British Post Office bearing the cost of the postmaster's salary, were rejected by Francis Hill, and the St. Lucia Post Office Act was sent to London for confirmation. The letter from the Governor accompanying this said *inter alia* "If the Ordinance is confirmed, a copy should be sent to the Colonial Agent-General in order that he may send out the necessary postage stamps."

The Ordinance was confirmed on June 30th, 1860 and on the 23rd of the following month the Agent-General was requested to obtain postage stamps for St. Lucia. He contacted Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co., who lost no time reporting on August 2nd, that they had "the honour of forwarding you designs for each denomination of stamps, either

of which could be used which you may select for the purpose."

An order for the preparation of stamps seems to have been given to the printers six days later, but a certain amount of confusion arose soon afterwards on account of their receiving conflicting instructions as the following letter from Perkins Bacon and Co., to the Agent dated August 15th, 1860, shows: "On the 8th instant we received orders from you to prepare two steel plates for postage stamps for the Colony of St. Lucia of the denomination of 1d. and 6d., agreeably to our tender of the 2nd instant. By the last mail



we have received an order dated Government House, St. Lucia, July 25th, 1860, and signed Henry H. Breen, Administrator of the Government, directing us to prepare one plate of 240 stamps without denomination, and to print 4,000 impressions on green coloured paper, 3,000 on blue coloured paper, and 8,640 on red paper. Will you kindly tell us which of these two orders we are to execute."

The Agent, Mr. Barnard, wrote to the Colonial Secretary on August 20th asking for guidance and on the last day of the month was informed: "(1) Mr. Breen's first requisition for dies was dated March 15th, the second July 25th. There seems to be no necessity for more than one plate, though Mr. Breen's proceeding in sending in an order direct to Messrs. Bacon seems irregular, and (2) if there be no necessity for more than one plate the second requisition should be authorised with a note to that effect. But I rather doubt whether colour without denomination will be sufficiently understood in all parts to which the post may carry the stamps in question. The Agent-General will know what is usual and might govern himself accordingly."

Acting upon this Mr. Barnard authorised the order for a single, undenominated plate but amended the printing instructions so that the stamps were printed in colour on white paper. For the value required to defray local postage, 1d. red was selected, blue and green being chosen for the 4d. and 6d. labels used respectively for letters to the other West Indian islands and to the United Kingdom.

The first consignment of stamps as ordered, printed in sheets of 240 on paper watermarked Small Star and perforated 14–16, was sent from London on November 17th, and these were duly placed on sale in Castries on December 18th, a hundred years ago. The 1d. was in a shade of rose-red, the 4d. and 6d. in blue and green respectively, both varying to deep. Imperforates of the 1d. are known and also horizontal pairs imperforate between of the other two values.

In 1863 stamps printed by Thomas De La Rue and Co., from the original Perkins Bacon plate but watermarked Crown over C C and perforated 12½ were released. The shades of these are quite distinct, the 1d. being in lake varying to brownish-lake, the 4d. in indigo, and the 6d. in emerald-green. The 1d. and 4d. are found imperforate.

In the following year the colours in which these stamps were printed were changed, paper and perforation remaining as before. The 1d. now came in black varying to intense black, the 4d. in yellow to chrome-yellow, and the 6d. in mauve varying to violet. At the same time a new denomination, of 1/–, in orange to brown-orange was placed on sale; imperforates are recorded of the 1d., 6d. and 1/–. Later prints of all four denominations were perforated 14.

Two provisionals came along in September 1881, stamps printed in green and in brown-red, watermarked Crown CC and perforated 14, being surcharged HALFPENNY and 2½ PENCE respectively in black, while in 1882/84 the inconvenience of using undenominated stamps was overcome by surcharging the value in words. This was applied in carmine on the 1d. and in black on the other values, ½d., 4d., 6d. and 1/–, all being now on paper watermarked Crown over CA and perforated 14; the 4d. value with this watermark and overprinted FOUR PENCE is also found perforated 12.

Between 1882 and 1886 stamps of the Perkins Bacon type were replaced by others in the De La Rue Victorian Key Type but before leaving the original stamps mention must be made of the fact that there were two major re-entries on the plate which therefore exist on all denominations and all printings of the first type. One of these shows signs of the partially erased original entry upwards along the lower frame line, along the upper frame to the left, and in the oval band enclosing the vignette. The second displays a doubling of the lines of the oval band especially at the top through the inscription ST. LUCIA.

While none of these first type St. Lucia's are common, the catalogue quotations for normals range from 30/– to £28, none are great rarities though some of the imperforate varieties fetch considerably enhanced prices. In view however of the general popularity of the issues of the British West Indies, both in this country and the U.S.A., and the fact that the original stamps are now centenarians, it seems reasonable to suppose that the prices which these fine old classics command will be substantially increased before much longer.

STAMP COLLECTING, Nov. 27, 1964

ST. LUCIA K.G.VI 12c.–PERF. 14½×14

A mint marginal copy (with sheet number 1573 in the margin above the stamp) of St. Lucia S.G.153a (CW.44), the scarce 14½×14 on the 12 cents claret of King George is in the possession of H. A. Maguire, of Toronto.

Reviewing the known history of the stamp, Mr. Maguire says that 46 are thought to have been recorded all, it is assumed, from one sheet. Does anybody own a block, or even a single, with another sheet number which would establish the original existence of at least two sheets?

It is thought that this perforation, which is quite common on the 2c. magenta and very rare on the 4c. grey of the same issue, resulted from the accidental inclusion of sheets of the 4c. and 12c. in a batch of 2c. sheets which were being perforated 14½×14 in preparation for conversion into coils.

GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY. (date unknown)

St. Lucia.—The 12 c. K.G. VI stamp, perf. 14½×14, which we list this month as S.G. 153*a*, is something of a mystery. The normal issue is line-perf. 12½, and this comb-perf. 14½×14 has previously only appeared in the current series for the 2 c. issue (S.G. 147*a*).

Reference to Crown Agents' *Bulletins* shows that there have only been two printings of the 12 c.—the original, issued in October 1949, and one released in London in August 1951. Only the 12½ perforation was noted at the time for both these printings. When, then, could the 12 c. perf. 14½×14 have been produced?

The 2 c. perf. 14½×14 first appeared in the Colony as a coil stamp in late 1949. It is reasonable to assume that these coils were prepared at the same time as the ordinary series. They were made up from normal-size sheets (120 stamps, 15 across by 8 down) with only the perforation different, so we are led to believe that the 12 c. perf. 14½×14 were produced at the same time.

The problem now arises as to whether the 12 c. were perforated 14½×14 deliberately or accidentally. The latter is a possibility since the colours of the two values (2 c. magenta, 12 c. claret) are not so very different, while it is also conceivable that the similarity in the values ("2" and "12") may have caused confusion.

This is something which may never be solved. What does however seem definite is that this 12 c. perf. 14½×14 is very rare. Although it has been known by its discoverer for some twelve months, and a thorough search made in the Colony, only very few copies have turned up, and even if any further printing were to be made in the King George VI design it is most unlikely that a reversion would be made to this particular perforation.

ST. LUCIA.

THE PHILATELIST, June, 1963.

The Plantation Papers: XI—

St. Lucia and ~~St. Vincent~~ (see under St.V.)

By COLIN MAYCOCK

(~~Continued from page 183~~)

ST. LUCIA

Although St. Lucia was ceded to Great Britain by France in 1814, having been in British hands since 1811, there is little known about the early postal history of the island. The St. Lucia correspondence in the *Plantation Papers*, although containing many letters with dates from 1815 onwards, has very few postal entires until 1840 (the previous earliest recorded date for St. Lucia postal markings). From the evidence of seal impressions, a large number of the early letters were enclosed in wrappers which have not survived.

Type [PG], ST. LUCIA fleuron, 29 mm. vertical diameter.

The earliest strike recorded is 12JA12/21 (754/40[23]). This isolated example is followed by five more in the years 1832-34. The day of the month is shown singly, together with the two final figures of the year, e.g. 14 FE/34. Another gap of five years occurs until 1840 when a continuous run of 47 examples was found, dated from 6 AU(1840) to AU 26(1844). On about half of these, no year is shown (Fig. 2), but from January, 1841, to January, 1844, 23 copies were recorded with "181", unchanged from year to year, in the second line of the date. The day frequently precedes the month in the 1840-42 strikes but from January, 1843, to August, 1844, the month invariably comes first (Fig. 1).

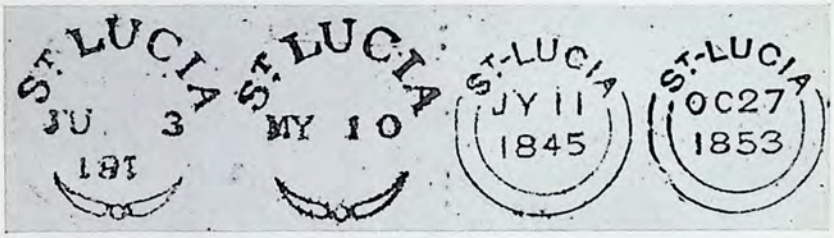


Fig. 1 *Fig.* 2 *Fig.* 3 *Fig.* 4

Type [PL], ST. LUCIA sanserif c.d.s., 25.5 mm. diameter.

Thirty examples of this handstamp were recorded, from 25JA/1845 to OC27/1853. No check letters were used and there is evidence of a certain amount of damage to the outer ring on the left of the stamp in the later strikes (Figs. 3 and 4). Varieties noted include an inverted AU in AU10/1846 (2 examples).

Ship Letters

Two St. Lucia letters carried by ship were recorded, one with a Dover S.9 (1821) and the other with a London S.20 (1816).

ST. LUCIA

GIBBONS' STAMP MONTHLY, July, Aug, Sept & Oct. 1965

St. Lucia

The Plate Varieties of 1860-84 Issues

This study of the re-entries and plate flaws constant throughout all the first recess-printed stamps of St. Lucia has been compiled by Russell Bennett, based on the research and incomparable collection of Mr. B. H. Homan.

The first issue of St. Lucia which appeared in December 1860 was printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co. Later printings, from the same plates were by De La Rue. The plates contained 240 impressions in twenty horizontal rows of twelve. There are a number of marked re-entries and also numerous plate scratches and other flaws which enable individual stamps to be identified and plated. It is the aim of this article to place on permanent record descriptions and illustrations of all known flaws and varieties for the benefit of present and future students of these fascinating classic stamps.

No.

1. Line through " S " of " POSTAGE " and two lines at right of right-hand ornament in oval.
2. Three lines at left of left-hand ornament and one line at right of right-hand ornament in oval.
3. One line at right of right-hand ornament in oval.
4. Weak entry in top left-hand corner; re-entry showing as doubling in the bottom frame line and lettering and to left and right sides.
5. Re-entry affecting " STA " of " POSTAGE " and upper curve of oval at foot; faint lines to left and right of side ornaments.
6. Slight shift showing as a smudge of colour at right of dot below " T " of " ST."; faint lines to left and right of side ornaments.
7. Re-entry affecting bottom frame-line and " OSTA " of " POSTAGE "; speck of colour at right of " L " of " LUCIA " and right ornament.
8. Re-entry affecting bottom frame-line and " STA " of " POSTAGE "; coloured dots above left-hand ornament, in top loop of " S " of " ST.", to right of " A " of " LUCIA ", to left of right-hand ornament.
9. Bottom frame-line and " STA " re-entered; line to right of right-hand ornament.
10. Line at top, between " L " and " U "; broken lines to right of right-hand ornament; dot to left of " A " of " POSTAGE ".
11. Two long lines to right of right-hand ornament; two short coloured dashes inside " O " of " POSTAGE ".
12. A series of broken lines to left above left-hand ornament; one broken line to right centre of right ornament.

No.

15. Lines to left and right of side ornaments; speck of colour between " G " and " E " of " POSTAGE ".
16. Lines to left and right of side ornaments; curved line through " T " of " ST.".
17. Three lines to left and small curved line to right of left-hand ornament; broken line to right of right-hand ornament.
18. Three lines to left of left-hand ornament; smudge of colour to right of stop below " T." of " ST.".
19. Two broken lines to right of right-hand ornament.
20. Small diagonal dashes of colour to right of " A " of " LUCIA " and near inner frame oval left of right-hand ornament.
24. Left-hand frame-line broken; smudge of colour outside frame at top right.
25. Short horizontal dash top left of left-hand ornament; two dashes between " O " and " S " of " POSTAGE ".
26. Diagonal line to left and dot to right of left-hand ornament; short dash of colour extends outside frame at bottom right corner.
27. Coloured " tail " to foot of " L " of " LUCIA "; four lines to right of right-hand ornament.
28. Broken lines top left of left-hand ornament; dash in top loop of " S " and curved line through " T." of " ST."; short dash to left and line to right of right-hand ornament.
29. Two lines top left and two dashes middle right of left-hand ornament.
30. Two lines top left of left-hand ornament; smudge of colour to right of stop below " T." of " ST.".
31. Short dash top right of " L " of " LUCIA "; diagonal dash lower left of right-hand ornament.
32. Curved line through " T." of " ST.".
33. Diagonal line down between " U " and " C " of " LUCIA "; diagonal line up between " A " and " G " of " POSTAGE ".
35. Coloured dash below left-hand ornament; dash and dot lower left and diagonal line right of right-hand ornament.
36. A group of coloured lines to left of left-hand ornament; short diagonal dash between " T " and " L " at top; two dashes and a line at centre

No.

38. Dark spot at junction of left frame-line and outer oval; diagonal lines upwards either side of " S " of " ST."; thin vertical line right of right-hand ornament.
39. Diagonal line upper left of left-hand ornament; " tail " to " L " of " LUCIA "; two lines to right of right-hand ornament.
40. Dash of colour below bottom frame in left-hand corner; two lines left of left-hand ornament; curved line through " T." of " ST."; short dash top left of right-hand ornament.
42. Coloured dash right of dot below " T." of " ST."; short line centre right of right-hand ornament.
43. First state. Broken line at right centre of right-hand ornament.

43a. Second state. Broken line at right centre of right-hand ornament and diagonal line down through foot of " T." of " ST.".

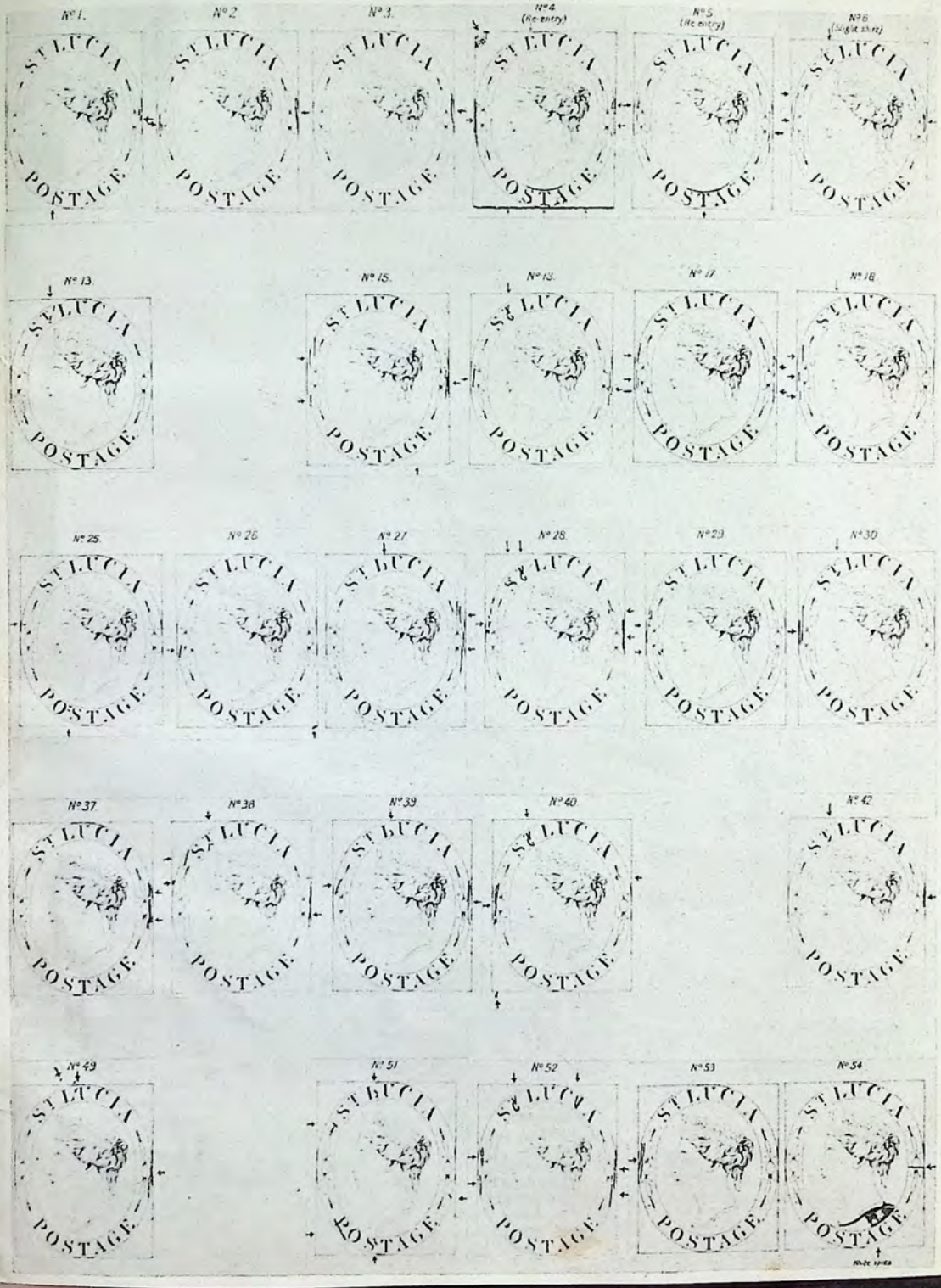
44. Line at top right of right-hand ornament.
45. Two lines left centre of left-hand ornament; two lines near outer oval right centre of right-hand ornament.
46. First state. Horizontal dash top left of " S " of " ST.".

46a. Second state. Horizontal dash top left of " S " of " ST."; diagonal and vertical lines right of right-hand ornament.

47. Diagonal dash left centre of left ornament, with vertical line below.
48. Vertical lines left of left-hand ornament, broken in centre by design.
49. Short diagonal dash between foot of " L " and " U " of " LUCIA "; two vertical lines right of right-hand ornament.
51. Diagonal dashes at top of left ornament, on foot of " L ", on outer oval below right ornament and on top serif of " S " of " POSTAGE "; diagonal line from " P " of " POSTAGE " down to outer oval.
52. Lines to left of left-hand ornament; curved line through " T." of " ST."; diagonal line to left of " I " of " LUCIA "; lines to right of right-hand ornament.
53. Two parallel lines top left of left-hand ornament.
54. White patches (? weak entry) below Queen's neck at right; coloured horizontal line through centre of right-hand ornament.
56. Thick frame line at right; coloured dashes bottom left of left ornament and between " T." and " L".
57. First state. Long vertical smear of colour left of left-hand ornament.

57a. Second state. Long vertical smear of colour left of left-hand ornament and long diagonal line from top of " U " to top of right-hand ornament.

59. Two short dashes top right and curved and straight lines right centre of right-hand ornament.
60. Short dashes at top between " T "


Nº 1.
Nº 2
Nº 3.
Nº 4 (Re-entry)
Nº 5 (Re-entry)
Nº 6 (Slight shift)
Nº 13.
Nº 15.
Nº 16.
Nº 17
Nº 18.
Nº 25.
Nº 26
Nº 27.
Nº 28.
Nº 29.
Nº 30
Nº 37.
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Nº 49
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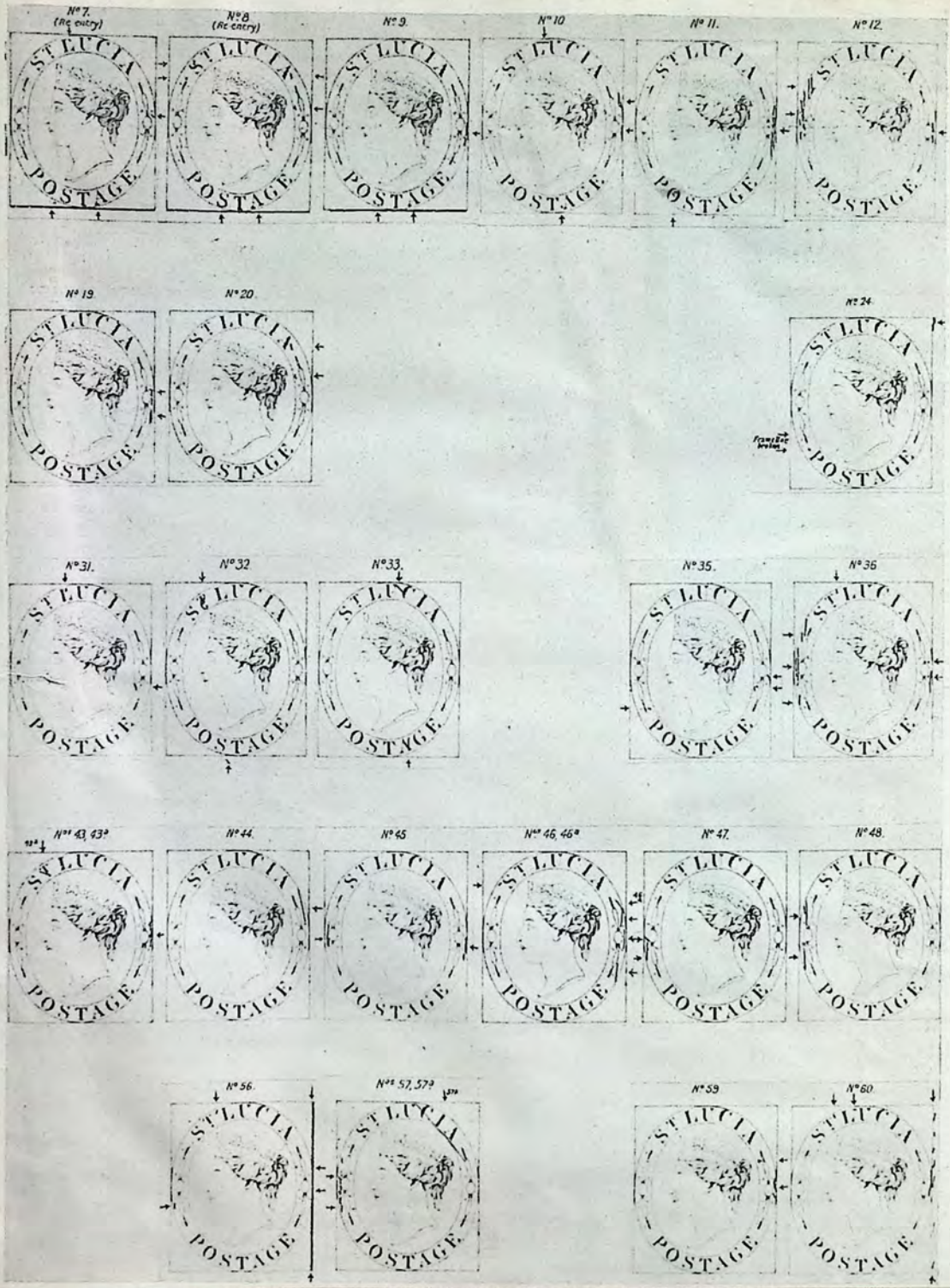
Nº 52
Nº 53
Nº 54
ST LUCIA
POSTAGE


N° 7. (Re entry)
N° 8 (Re entry)
N° 9.
N° 10
N° 11.
N° 12.
N° 19.
N° 20.
N° 24.
Frame Error
N° 31.
N° 32.
N° 33.
N° 35.
N° 36
N°s 43, 43a
N° 44.
N° 45
N°s 46, 46a
N° 47.
N° 48.
N° 56.
N°s 57, 57a
N° 59
N° 60
ST LUCIA
POSTAGE

St. Lucia

The Plate Varieties of the 1860-84 Issues

Compiled by Russell Bennett

No.

61. Two small coloured dots bottom right of right-hand ornament.
62. Diagonal dash upward from top serif of " S " of " ST."; horizontal dash at right of foot of " T.".
63. Single line lower left of left-hand ornament; two parallel lines lower right of right-hand ornament.
64. Short coloured dash right of " A " of " LUCIA " and close to inner oval lower left of right-hand ornament.
66. Single line from outer oval to below centre, left of left-hand ornament.
67. Three dots above vertical line touching inner oval between " A " and right-hand ornament.
68. Spot on Queen's face, left of ear; groups of lines left centre of left ornament and right centre of right ornament.
69. First state. Three vertical lines left centre of left-hand ornament; two short vertical lines right centre of right-hand ornament.

69a. Second state. Three vertical lines left centre of left ornament; two short vertical lines right centre of right ornament; diagonal line from inner to outer oval across lower right ornament.

70. Spot of colour outside right-hand frame-line just above outer oval.
71. Spot of colour on Queen's neck below chignon; small curved line top left of right-hand ornament.
72. Dash inside top loop of " S " of " ST."; two dots between " L " and " U " at top.
73. Dash through top left serif of " L "; two dots lower right of right-hand ornament; diagonal line from top left serif to foot of " T " in " POSTAGE ".
74. Dot above left centre of left-hand ornament; dot between " P " and " O ".
75. First state. Three vertical lines crossed by short diagonal dash right centre of right-hand ornament.

75a. Second state. Three vertical lines crossed by short diagonal dash right centre of right-hand ornament; diagonal line from upper serif of " S " to foot of " T " of " POSTAGE ".

76. Group of dots left of " I " and single dot after " A " of " LUCIA ".
82. Vertical line right centre of right-hand ornament; diagonal stroke and vertical line extending through bottom frame-line either side of foot of " T ".

No.

83. Vertical lines left centre of left-hand ornament; small " U " shaped coloured line extends from top left of right-hand ornament.
84. Short line lower left and diagonal dash top left of left-hand ornament; light dot between " L " and " U ".
87. Diagonal line from top right serif of " U " to " C " of " LUCIA "; two vertical lines right centre of right-hand ornament.
88. Diagonal line from top of left ornament to inner oval; dot after " A " of " LUCIA "; dash extending from inner oval between " T " and " A " of " POSTAGE ".
93. Lines joining bottom of left-hand ornament to " P " and " S " to " T " of " POSTAGE " at tops of letters.
94. Long diagonal line extending from curve of " P ", across " O ", outer oval and through bottom frame-line.
95. Broken vertical lines left of left-hand ornament; coloured dash left of " P ".
96. Light dot between " L " and " U "; short line right centre of right-hand ornament close to outer frame.
97. Dash from outer oval down through top left serif of " L ".
99. Diagonal dash joining lower right centre of right-hand ornament to outer frame.
102. First state. Diagonal dash outwards from bottom left corner of outer frame-line; dot near outer oval top left of " S " of " ST.".

102a. Second state. Diagonal dash bottom left corner of outer frame-line; dot near outer oval top left of " S "; diagonal line down from top serif of " S ", through foot of " T." to foot of " L ".

103. Dot on left side of left-hand stroke of " U ", just below serif.
104. Dot on outer oval between top of left-hand ornament and " S "of " ST.".
105. Short line lower left of left-hand ornament; vertical line just inside outer oval at right centre of right-hand ornament.
106. Vertical line upper left of left-hand ornament; diagonal line from outer oval to base of " U " between " L " and " U "; diagonal line from inner to outer oval through upper right-hand ornament.
107. First state. Broken line and dash upper left of left-hand ornament; two vertical lines lower right of right-hand ornament.

No.

107a. Second state. Broken line and dash upper left of left-hand ornament; two vertical lines lower right of right-hand ornament; two parallel diagonal lines between " S " and " T " of " POSTAGE ".

108. Dot between " L " and " U "; vertical line right centre of right-hand ornament.
109. First state. Diagonal line down through top frame-line to top right serif of " L "; dot between " U " and " C ".

109a. Second state. Diagonal line down through top frame-line to top right serif of " L "; dot between " U " and " C "; dot top right of right-hand ornament.

110. First state. Diagonal dashes from outer oval bottom left of left-hand ornament and right centre of right-hand ornament.

110a. Second state. Diagonal dashes from outer oval bottom left of left ornament and right centre of right ornament; diagonal line through " C " and from inner oval between " E " and right ornament in lower right corner.

111. First state. Group of broken lines extending almost whole length left of left-hand ornament.

111a. Second state. Group of broken lines left of left-hand ornament; diagonal line down from top outer oval, through top left serif to foot of " L ".

112. Dot half-way down left-hand stroke of " U "; vertical line right centre of right-hand ornament.
115. First state. Diagonal line from outer oval where it joins left frame, across upper left ornament.

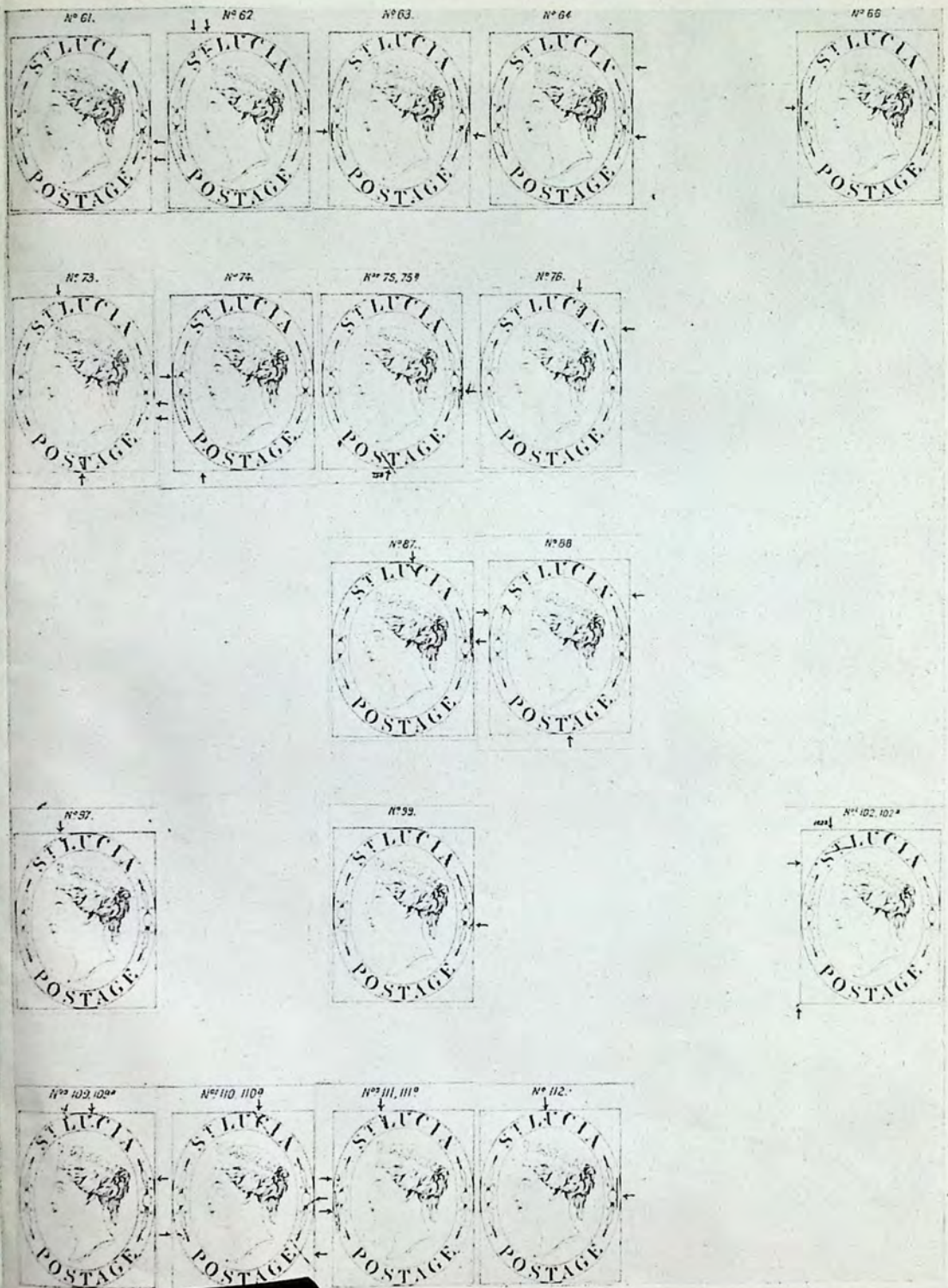
115a. Second state. Diagonal line from outer oval where it joins left frame, across upper left ornament; diagonal line across point of Queen's neck above " ST.".

119. First state. Group of vertical lines right centre of right-hand ornament.

119a. Second state. Group of vertical lines right centre of right-hand ornament; diagonal line across oval frame through top left ornament; two diagonal lines from outer oval to curve of " S " of " ST.".

120. Diagonal line across oval frame before " S " of " ST."; dot between " L " and " U ".

To be continued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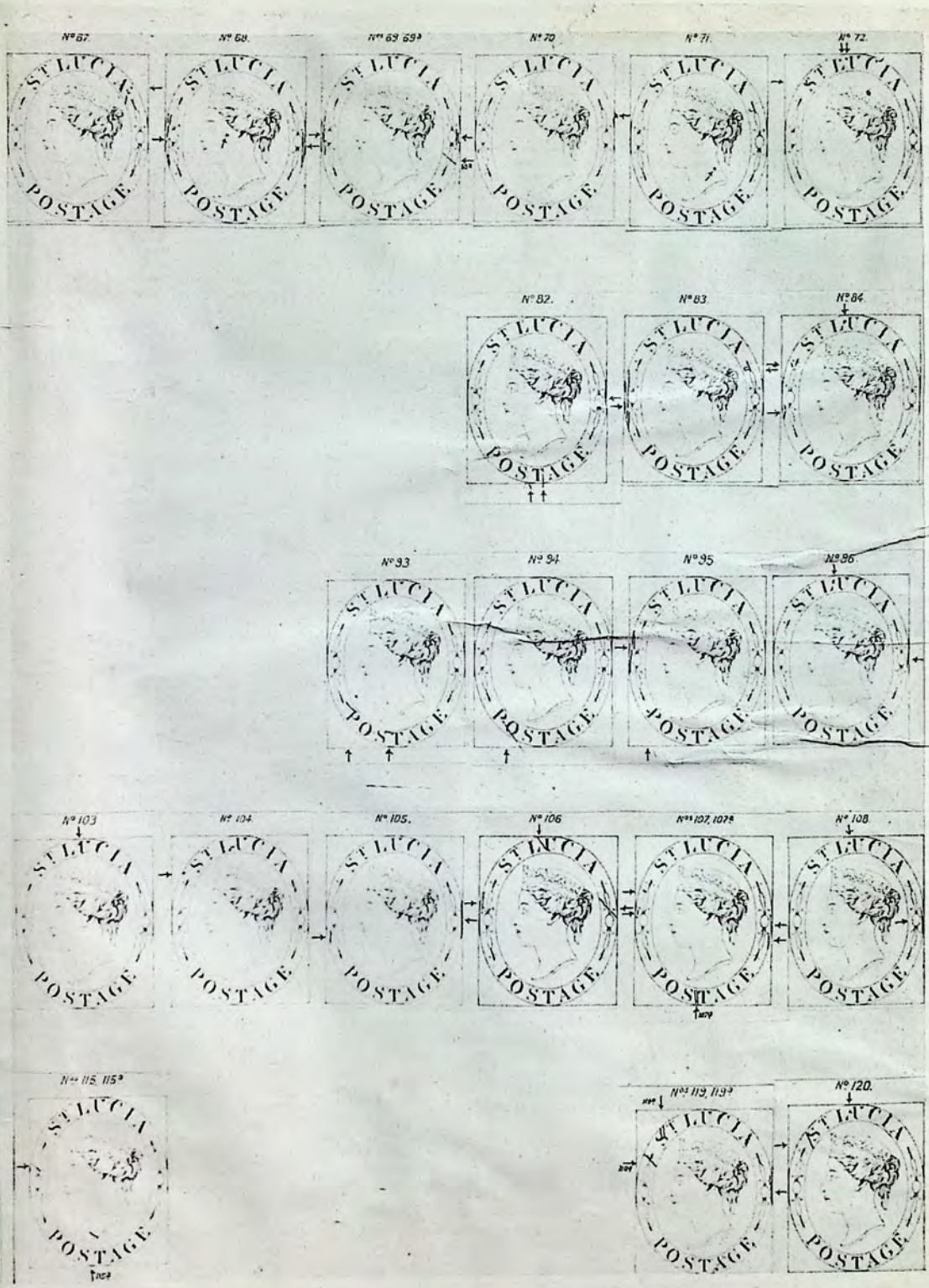
ST LUCIA
POSTAGE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Nº 95
Nº 96
Nº 103
Nº 104.
Nº 105.
Nº 106
Nos 107, 107a
Nº 108.
Nos 115, 115a
Nos 119, 119a
Nº 120.
ST LUCIA
POSTAGE

St. Lucia

The Plate Varieties of the 1860-84 Issues

Compiled by Russell Bennett

No.

121. Dot before " P " of " POSTAGE "; V-shaped mark across upper left ornament; dot mid-way between top serif and foot of " L ".
123. Short vertical lines extending up and down from left-hand spandrels of left ornament with reversed L-shaped mark to right of upper line; dot to right of " L " of " LUCIA ".
124. Vertical line lower left of left-hand ornament; two broken vertical lines right centre of right-hand ornament.
125. Dot on Queen's cheek; dashes lower left of right-hand ornament and between " O " and " S " of " POSTAGE ".
126. Broken horizontal lines through " LUC ".
127. Broken single horizontal line across top of stamp, cutting through top of " LUC ".
128. Group of horizontal lines across top of stamp mostly through " LUC "; dot lower right of right-hand ornament; horizontal line between " T " and " A " of " POSTAGE ".
129. Two horizontal lines through " LUC "; three rough strokes of colour into oval right centre of right-hand ornament; light spot of colour on serif of " G " of " POSTAGE ".

Harmer Rooke
Auction Programme

at 2 Arundel Street, London, W.C.2.

All Sales commence at **2 p.m.** on Thursdays and **11 a.m.** and **2 p.m.** on Fridays (unless otherwise stated).

September 9th and 10th
First Sale of New Season.

September 18th, 11.30 a.m.
The first " Saturday Special "
(Viewing of lots from 9.45 a.m.).

September 23rd and 24th
(11 a.m. and 2 p.m.).
The " Sir Archibald Gray "
Germany, its States and Colonies.

September 30th
(11 a.m. and 2 p.m.).
Classic Greece and Netherlands.

October 1st
(11 a.m. and 2 p.m.).
Airmail Classics.

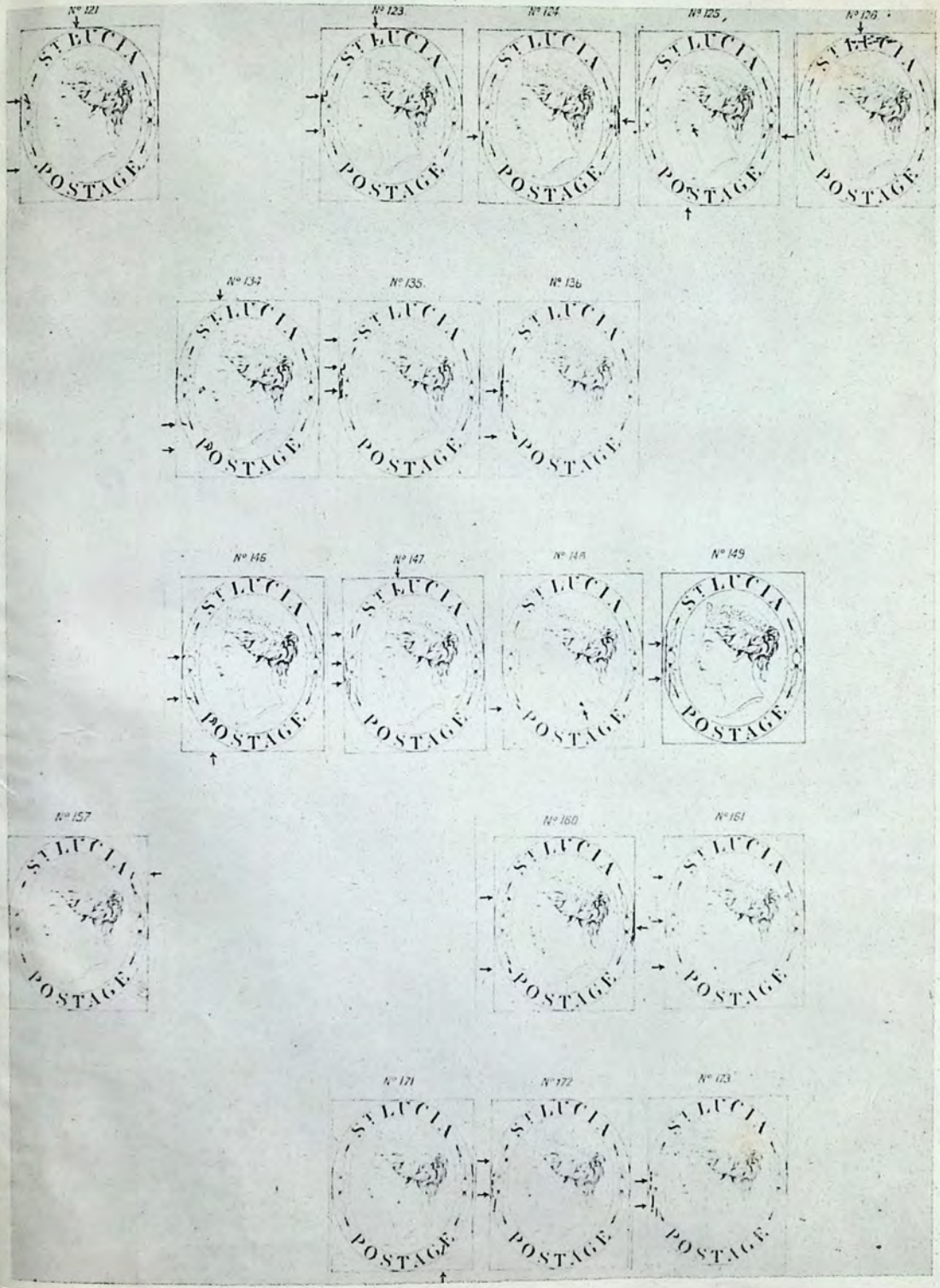
No.

130. Two horizontal lines through " LUC "; small dot between " P " and " O ".
131. Single horizontal line through " LUC "; spot on Queen's face below ear.
132. Spot between " L " and " U "; faint vertical dashes outside top corner right frame-line; three diagonal strokes upper right of right-hand ornament.
134. Spot to right of foot of " T " of " ST."; diagonal dash bottom left of left-hand ornament; curved stroke right of loop of " P ".
135. Group of broken lines left of left-hand ornament.
136. Vertical lines left centre and smudge of colour below left-hand ornament.
139. Line joining " A " and " G " of " POSTAGE ".
140. Vertical line left centre of left-hand ornament.
141. First state. Specks of colour around left-hand and two vertical lines lower right of right-hand ornaments.
141a. Second state. Specks of colour at left, two vertical lines lower right of right-hand ornament; diagonal line through top frame-line in right-hand corner.
142. Dots in " P " and " S " of " POSTAGE ".
143. Spots on Queen's face; broken vertical lines left centre of left-hand ornament.
144. First state. Vertical and horizontal lines at left; two dashes through " A " of " POSTAGE ".
144a. Second state. Vertical and horizontal lines at left, two dashes through " A "; vertical line from Queen's chin downwards across neck.
146. Diagonal dashes on left outer oval; curved line round " P ".
147. Group of vertical lines left of left-hand ornament; dash of colour in " L ".
148. Spot on Queen's neck; dash below left-hand ornament.
149. Two vertical lines left of left-hand ornament.
152. First state. Two short lines lower left of left ornament; dot between " G " and " E ".
152a. Second state. Two short lines lower left of left ornament; dot between " G " and " E "; diagonal line joining inner oval to right ornament.

No.

153. First state. Blurred lines right or right-hand ornament.
153a. Second state. Blurred lines at right; stroke of colour extending from " T " of " POSTAGE ".
154. Stroke of colour after " S " of " ST."; dots in " U " of " LUCIA " and " S " of " POSTAGE "; stroke of colour extending from " A ".
155. First state. Spots on Queen's face near nose and ear; diagonal dash through top left ornament.
155a. Second state. Spots on face; diagonal dash through top left ornament; small dash of colour right centre of left ornament.
156. Group of lines left of left-hand ornament; strokes through " C " of " LUCIA " and " P " and " A " of " POSTAGE ".
157. Diagonal line between " A " and top right ornament.
160. Spots of colour below and top right of left-hand ornament; blurred line right of right-hand ornament.
161. Greater part of left-hand frame-line missing.
163. Horizontal stroke through " S " of " POSTAGE ".
164. Vertical line from " S " of " ST." down to inner oval.
165. First state. Vertical line upper right of right-hand ornament.
165a. Second state. Vertical line upper right of right-hand ornament; diagonal line below; line through " E " of " POSTAGE ".
166. Dash at bottom of central oval ornament at right.
167. Stroke of colour through lower left ornament; spot bottom right of right-hand ornament.
168. Group of lines left of left-hand ornament; diagonal line through " C "; short line extending from " A " of " LUCIA ".
171. Diagonal line between " G " and " E " of " POSTAGE ".
172. Broken lines left and spot of colour top right of left-hand ornament.
173. Vertical short lines centre and lower left of left-hand ornament.
176. Dot between " U " and " C "; two vertical lines right centre and dot bottom right of right-hand ornament.
179. Diagonal dash through " O ".
180. Diagonal dash joining centre of right ornament to outer oval.

To be Continued.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No 149
No 157
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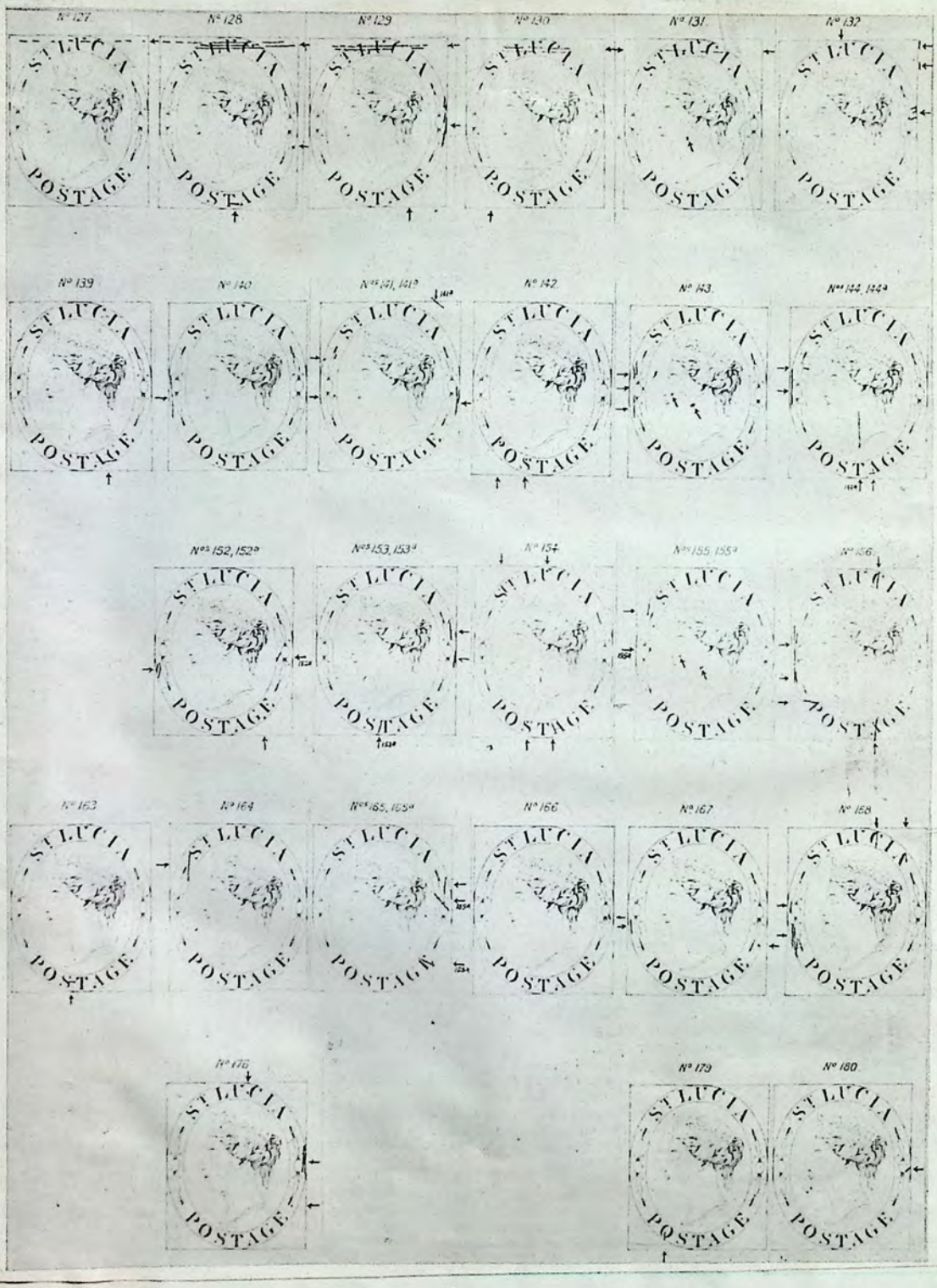
No 161
No 171
No 172
No 173
ST LUCIA
POSTAGE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No 139
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No 143
Nos 144, 144a
Nos 152, 152a
Nos 153, 153a
No 154
Nos 155, 155a
No 156
No 163
No 164
Nos 165, 165a
No 166
No 167
No 168
No 176
No 179
No 180
STLUCIA
POSTAGE

[conclusion]

St. Lucia

St. Lucia *The Plate Varieties of the 1860-84 Issues*

Compiled by Russell Bennett

No.

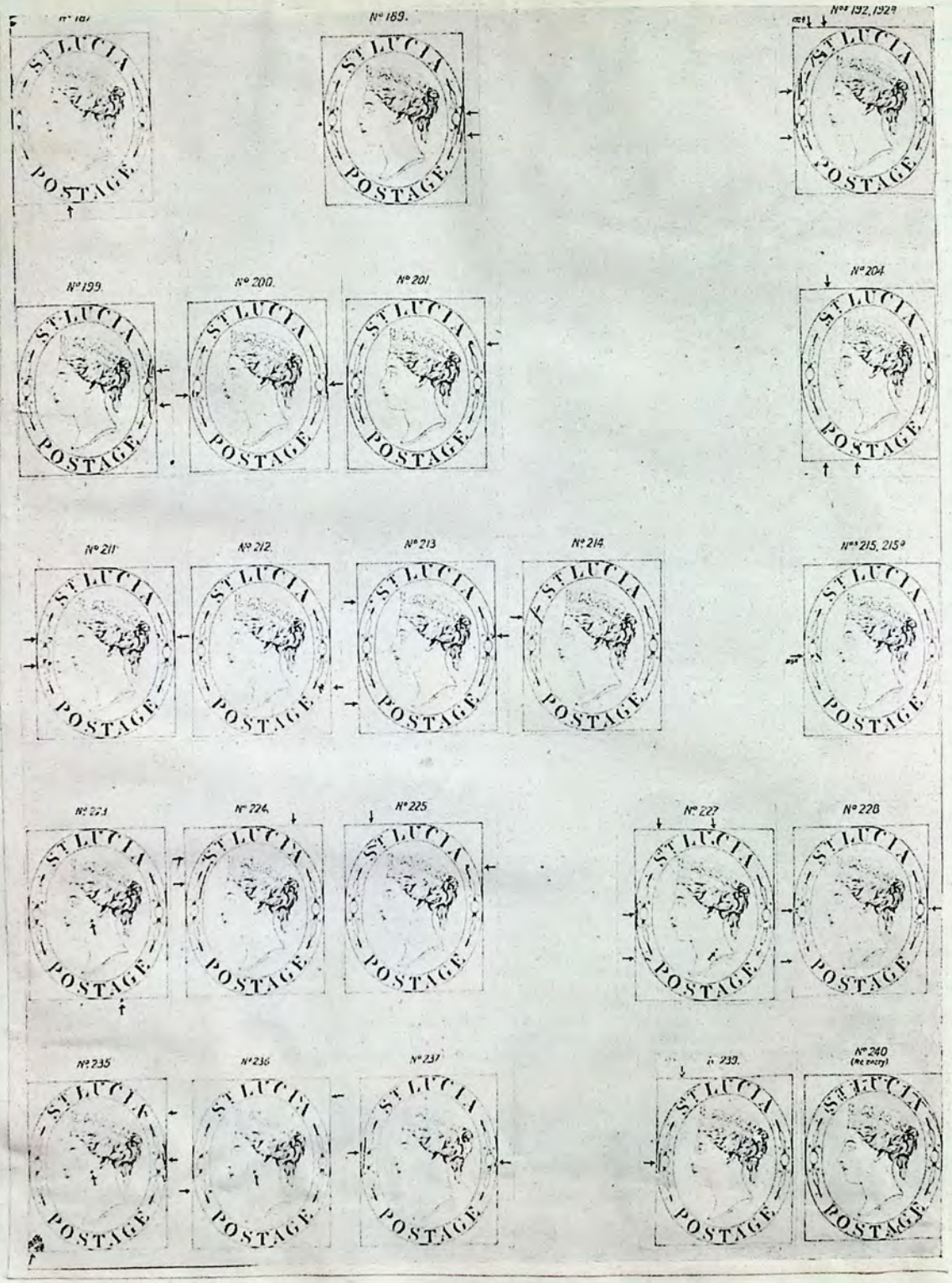
181. Spot of colour left centre of left-hand ornament; dashes before " S " of " ST." and top right of right-hand ornament.
186. Vertical lines left of left-hand ornament; smudge outer oval at right.
187. Line through top of " ST " of " POSTAGE ".
189. Diagonal lines right centre of right-hand ornament.
192. First state. Broken lines left of left-hand ornament.
192a. Second state. Broken lines left of left-hand ornament; smudge lower curve of " S " of " ST.".
193. Weak entry in bottom left corner of stamp; two dots top right of right-hand ornament.
194. Diagonal line through " A " of " POSTAGE "; dash through upper left spandrel of right ornament.
195. Short and long vertical lines left centre of left-hand ornament.
196. Spot upper right and two dashes bottom left of left-hand ornament.
198. One vertical line, close to outer oval, left centre of left-hand ornament.
199. Slightly curved vertical lines right of right-hand ornament.
200. Short vertical lines between ornaments and frame at each side.
201. Spot at top of right-hand ornament.
204. Smudges of colour on lower curve of " S " of " ST." and inside upper loop of " S " of " POSTAGE ".
205. Marked re-entry, especially strong at foot where the bottom frame-line is doubled about ¾ *mm.* upwards.
206. Vertical line left centre of left-hand ornament; dash through centre of " S " of " POSTAGE ".
207a. Later printings show diagonal line through upper right spandrel of right-hand ornament.
208. First state. Vertical lines between ornaments and outer oval on each side.
208a. Second state. Vertical lines between ornaments and outer oval on each side; long diagonal line through lower left ornament down to " P ".
210. Elongated " V "-shaped mark and short vertical line left centre of left-hand ornament.
211. Dash and dot right of left-hand ornament and dash upper left of right-hand ornament.
212. " M "-shaped mark on outer oval at foot of right-hand ornament.
213. Dot before " S " of " ST."; dash between upper right spandrel at right and outer oval; dot after " P " of " POSTAGE ".
214. Diagonal line through top of left-hand ornament.
215a. Later printings show a short diagonal stroke joining centre of left-hand ornament to inner oval.

No.

217. Short vertical lines top and bottom right of left-hand ornament.
220. Specks of colour all around left-hand ornament; two short strokes joining lower right spandrel at right to outer oval.
222. Single vertical line near outer frame to left of left-hand ornament.
223. Spot on Queen's face and outside frame-line at foot, below " A ".
224. Thin line from upper right spandrel at left to foot of " S "; dot in front of " S "; diagonal dash between " I " and " A ".
225. Diagonal dash extends from top serif of " S " of " ST."; spot on top of right-hand ornament.
227. Vertical line left centre of left-hand ornament, with dash on outer oval below; dash on outer oval between " S " and " T "; dot between " U " and " C "; spot on Queen's neck.
228. Left outer frame-line missing (? weak entry) in bottom corner; two dots left centre of left-hand ornament; dot outside frame at right centre.
229. Weak entry in bottom left corner; spot on Queen's face below ear.
230. Weak entry on bottom left corner; spot on Queen's face below ear; dot in upper curve of " S " of " ST.".
231. Weak entry in bottom left corner; spot on Queen's face below ear; dot to left of bottom serif of " T ".
232. Spot on Queen's face below ear; vertical lines and dashes through left-hand ornament.
233. Spot on Queen's face below ear; spot in lower curve of " S " and below bottom right serif of " T " of " ST.".
234. Spot on Queen's face below ear; vertical lines left centre of left-hand ornament; short dash left of " L " of " LUCIA ".
235. Weak entry in bottom left corner; spot on Queen's face below ear; diagonal dash after " A " of " LUCIA "; broken lines right centre of right-hand ornament.
236. Spot on Queen's face below ear; dot lower right of left ornament; diagonal dash between " I " and " A " of " LUCIA ".
237. Single long vertical line left of left-hand ornament; two dashes right centre of right-hand ornament near outer frame.
239. Vertical line left centre of left-hand ornament; dash from outer oval between " S " and " T " of " ST.".
240. Re-entry, showing duplication of the outer oval and wording at top and wording at foot, in a downwards direction.

Conclusion

St. Lucia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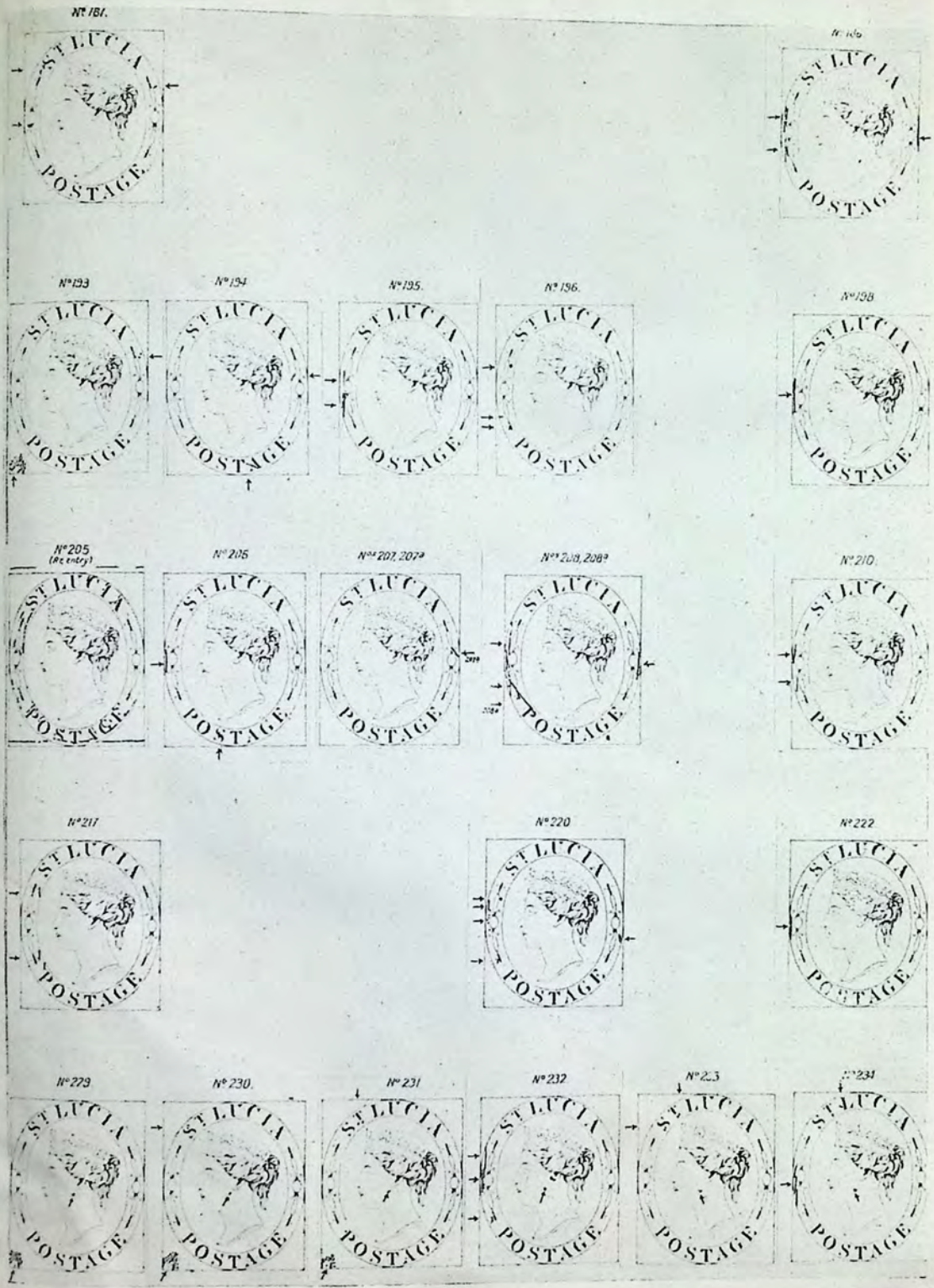
Nos 192, 192a
No 199.
No 200.
No 201.
No 204
No 211
No 212.
No 213
No 214
Nos 215, 215a
No 223
No 224.
No 225
No 227
No 228
No 235
No 236
No 237
No 240
STLUCIA
POSTAGE


Nº 181.
Nº 190
Nº 193
Nº 194
Nº 195.
Nº 196.
Nº 198
Nº 205 (2nd entry)
Nº 206
Nºs 207, 207a
Nºs 208, 208a
Nº 210.
Nº 217
Nº 220
Nº 222
Nº 229
Nº 230.
Nº 231
Nº 232
Nº 233
Nº 234
ST LUCIA
POSTAGE

ST. LUCIA

GIBBONS' STAMP MONTHLY, JUNE, 1965

Saint Lucia 1860-1891

Two New Discoveries

Michael Lea



Type III

Saint Lucia, an island in the Windwards forming part of the philatelically popular British West Indies group, first issued postage stamps at the end of the year 1860. Previous to that, we are informed by a Post Office circular dated May 14th, 1858, British stamps were usable in the Colony to pre-pay postage on letters and newspapers posted to the United Kingdom. This edict was, however, terminated by a Post Office notice dated April 18th, 1860, when the local government took over control of the Post Office from the General Post Office in London. At this time the local or inland letter rate was one penny per half ounce. On December 18th, 1860, the Post Office announced the introduction of postage stamps. Perkins Bacon, those masters of line engraved stamp production, were the printers. As there was no face value shown it was necessary for the Post Office to announce that, " postage stamps for the pre-payment of letters may be obtained at this office for the following rates. Stamps of a red colour at 1d., stamps of a blue colour at 4d., stamps of a green colour at 6d. These stamps are applicable to St. Lucia only." These first stamps were printed on Small Star watermarked paper and perforated 14–16. This issue was only in use for a period of three years and it is notable that the quality of production is not up to the usual high standard one would associate with the firm of Perkins Bacon.

In 1863 a new issue appeared on Crown C.C. watermark paper, perforated 12½, printed by De La Rue & Co. from the original Perkins Bacon plates and in the same colours as the first issue. However, on April 1st, 1863, the packet rate to England was increased from 6d. to one shilling and it was necessary to order new values.

In 1864 a completely new issue appeared on Crown C.C. watermarked paper and in three perforations: the first being perf. 12½, the second perf. 14 and the third perf. 13. It is from this issue that we shall have the first change in our catalogue listing. Previously it was supposed that this issue existed only in two perforation varieties, perf. 12½ and perf. 14. However, the existence of a third variation, perf. 13, has been found. Notification of this third issue was published in a Gazette of November 23rd, 1864. It states that: " On, and after, this day, postage stamps of the colours and denominations undermentioned may be obtained at the Post Office, but the issue of those hitherto used has been stopped. Orange Red, face value one shilling, lilac—face value 6d., light yellow—face value 4d., and black—face value 1d. "It also states: " Persons, however, who have any of the old stamps in their possession are informed that, for the present, they will continue to be received on the letters etc.": signed by J. M. Grant, Administrator. These stamps were of similar design to the first issue and bore no value on their face. This notice is very important as it fixes a true postal denomination for each colour. The discovery of this new perforation 13 was made by B. H. Homan, Junior. It is upon his large and very extensive collection that this article has been based. He has devoted a complete section to his discovery and from the introduction I quote, " St. Lucia stamps, perforated 13, are a new discovery. All the standard catalogues, including Gibbons, give the perforations of the 1864 issue of St. Lucia as 12½ and 14. I have made an intensive study of these issues and find an unmistakable 13 perforation on the 4d. yellow, 6d. violet, the 6d. mauve, the one shilling red-orange and the one shilling orange of 1864. There are several copies of each value in my collection which have been checked very carefully. These stamps were printed by De La Rue from the Perkins Bacon plates, they were likewise perforated by the former firm who are known to have used a machine with 13 gauge on stamps around this date. Some of the issues which come to my mind are Ceylon 1862 and 1863, Bahamas 1862, Western Australia 1864 and New South Wales 1862 and 1864–1866. It is therefore understandable that this machine could have been used for the perforation of St. Lucia stamps issued during that period."

It is noticeable that there is no mention in this list of the 1d. black. In fact there is one mint copy of this stamp in the collection so it is fair to presume that this stamp also came under the perf. 13 gauge. Needless to say, stamps from this group are very rare.

On January 1st, 1881, St. Lucia gained admission to the Postal Union and this necessitated new stamps. Two new adhesives were printed from the old plate used for previous issues. The former in bright green and the latter in red-vermilion. Both of these stamps had the value surcharged in black and a straight line across the lower part, the values being ½d. for the green stamp and 2½d. for the red stamp (S.G. 23/24).

In 1882 a new set was issued with the values ½d. green, 1d. black, 4d. yellow, 6d. violet and one shilling orange overprinted with the denominations they represented. This set was on Crown C.A. watermarked paper and was perforated 14. A further yellow stamp was issued overprinted 4d. and perforated 12.

Also in 1882 a major change in the design of the St. Lucia stamps was effected. By this time De La Rue had introduced standard key types for all the Crown Colonies and these now made their appearance in St. Lucia in Die I form. They were printed on Crown C.A. watermarked paper and perforated 14. In 1886 new colours were issued for the 1d., 6d. and one shilling, and a completely new value, a 3d. These were again printed on Crown C.A. watermarked paper, with perforation 14. However, in 1891, using the same key types, but in Die II form, a completely new issue was introduced with three new values: 2d., 5 shillings and 10 shillings.

Also in 1891, due to a shortage of the ½d. and 1d. values, the 3d. Die I, 4d. Die I, half of 6d. Die I and the 3d. Die II were surcharged; ½d. on 3d. dull mauve and green, Dies I and II, ½d. on half 6d. dull mauve and blue, 1d. on 4d. brown. It is the surcharges on the 1d. on 4d. brown (S.G. 55) which will show the second major change when the catalogue listing is revised. It was previously supposed that this 1d. surcharge existed in one type only. Mr. Homan has subsequently proved that in fact there are three types. The difference occurs in the two " N "s of " PENNY ". Type I, both " N "s of penny normal; Type II, first " N " with thick diagonal stroke; Type III, second " N " with thick diagonal stroke (*see illustration*).

Varieties, Unchronicled, Uncatalogued or Not Generally Known.

Re St Lucia

P. L. PEMBERTON.

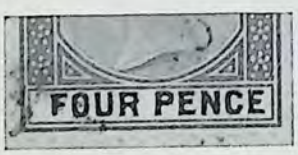
THOSE very careful stamp printers, Messrs. De la Rue & Co. very rarely allow any faulty work to get into circulation, but their output, during the past eighty years, has been so vast that small varieties caused by defects in making the printing plates were bound to crop up occasionally. Some of these are well known, and some, such as the 4d. Tobago, issued in 1884, with malformed "CE" in "PENCE" have, oddly enough, attained catalogue rank. Another variety on the second type of Tobago, with a white dash after the "E" of "POSTAGE," is also well known. Others of the same nature which come easily to mind are the Leeward Islands 1/- King Edward with dropped "R," the 2½d. of the same issue with wide "A" in "LEEWARD," which I illustrated in this column in April 1937, and the 2d. grey, King George, of the same colony, with malformed "LEE." Then there are the varieties of Hong Kong King George V, including that found on the 4c., which was illustrated on this page in August, 1937. The St. Helena and Ascension "cleft rock" and similar varieties also

9-51-58



belong to this category. There are, indeed, quite a number of varieties of varying degrees of prominence, and a collection of them would make an interesting subject for a display at any meeting of a philatelic society.

This month I illustrate some more varieties in De la Rue's stamps which are not so well known as those referred to. I start with a recess-printed stamp—the 1d. brown and black of the 1936 pictorial issue of St. Lucia. It is only comparatively lately that this firm has produced line-engraved stamps at all regularly, and while their work in this field compares very favourably with that of other printers who have always printed in recess, they are responsible for the very curious variety which is here illustrated. It will be seen that there is a large blot on the "I" of "LUCIA," and much of the shading of horizontal lines, which should fill in the space between that letter and the "A," is missing. Oddly enough, what shading remains in this space seems peculiarly clear and sharp, and ends abruptly. The left outline of the "A" is missing entirely above the level of the cross-bar. Also, some of the horizontal lines in the background above, and to the left of, the "A," look as though they may have been redrawn—though this is most unlikely to have been the case. It is difficult to account for such a variety on a line-engraved stamp, but though the master-plate was produced by the ordinary mill and die process, it must be remembered that the actual printing was made from an electro taken from the master, which in turn was chromium plated. It is probable that an accident occurred to the plate in its latest stage, which produced this variety.



The other varieties illustrated are all on surface-printed stamps. They include the Gibraltar 4d. of 1898, in which the letter "F" is short at foot, and the ½d. George V, mult. wmk. with a line at foot of "F" which makes that letter look like an "E." The fourth variety occurs on the King George V issue of Seychelles. In this the "A" of "POSTAGE," in the right-hand label, is split at the top. It is as though that letter were composed of two diagonal lines which taper at the





top without meeting. This occurs regularly on the third stamp from the left in the eighth horizontal row of the pane in which the bull's eye "I" occurs at lower left.

ST. LUCIA.

STAMP COLLECTING, Jan. 24, 1964.

The Story Behind the Stamp

Columbus Square Mirrors St. Lucia's Chequered History

By A. G. K. LEONARD

THE pictorial stamps of the British West Indies exhibit an attractive documentary quality, presenting a miniature panorama of the territories whose postal needs they serve, and the smaller the island, the more interesting are the subjects.



There is a story behind every stamp, even so apparently an ordinary scene as the view of Columbus Square appearing on the 1d., 2½d. and 6d. bicoloured 1936 King George V series of St. Lucia and retained for the 1938 6d. claret bearing the portrait of his successor. Bandstand, palm trees and surrounding buildings give dimension to the lawns and flower beds that beautify this three-acre open space that provides a popular place of resort for the residents of Castries, capital of the island, one somewhat larger than the Isle of Man. Of its 82,000 population, nearly a third live in Castries, which stands at the head of a mile-long sheltered bay. Once known to the English as Carenage Town, it was named by Baron de Laborie, Governor in 1784, after Maréchal des Castries, French Colonial Minister of that time, a fact which indicates the chequered history of St. Lucia and of its present-day Columbus Square.

Mountainous and volcanic, but well watered with fertile valleys and good harbours, St. Lucia was much disputed by France and England throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, changing hands several times after fierce fighting. It was not finally ceded to Britain until 1814.

Columbus Square was formerly the French parade ground, known as the Place d'Armes from about 1768, when the then rulers moved their capital from Vigie to its present site. They devoted much energy to developing St. Lucia and laid out the town much on the pattern that still endures, in parallel lines from north to south and east to west. The big open space fitted into this town plan, although later a market and court house were built on it.

Writing in 1844, the local historian Henry Breen said :—

> Castries possesses a Place d'Armes or square 336 feet from east to west and 292 feet from north to south. To that active Governor, Sir Dudley Hill (1834–37), this square is indebted for much of its importance. He it was who planted its ornamental trees, removed the old Court House (an eyesore that formerly stood in the centre) and thence transferred the market to its present advantageous and more suitable position at the north-west corner of the wharf.

If the old square could tell its story, it might include the functioning of the guillotine there during the aftermath of the French Revolution, when St. Lucia was designated by the Convention, "The Faithful", on account of the support its inhabitants gave to the revolutionary cause. There is also a tradition that the square was the scene of public hangings. Certainly, it has seen many a conflagration around it, for Castries has several times been ravaged by disastrous fires, notably in 1796, 1813, 1927 and 1948 (hence the special "Phoenix" stamp in 1951). The supposed hangman's tree, one of the finest specimens of the saman, happily survived, as did the nearby cathedral church of the Immaculate Conception (opened 1897), although the library at the north-west corner of the square was gutted, but has since been rebuilt.

The original Place d'Armes was officially renamed Columbus Square on January 1st, 1893, doubtless connected with celebrations a few weeks earlier of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of the New World by Columbus. Known by the Caribs as Hewanorra, the island is said to have obtained its name through being sighted by Columbus on Santa Lucia's Day in 1502, as commemorated by a stamp in 1902. His vessel *Santa Maria*, off the Pitons, those twin peaks conspicuous on the island's leeward side, was depicted on the 1960 commemorative trio marking the new constitution of the Windward and Leeward Islands, St. Lucia, of course, being one of the four forming the former group.

Columbus Square is the veritable centre of Castries, used for various public functions as well as for children's (unofficial) games. In addition to shady walks, fountain, flagstaffs and bandstand, it contains the cenotaph put up to the memory of St. Lucians, who died in the first World War. Remembrance Day services are held there, while at Christmas a big tree is erected and carols are sung around it. On February 19th, 1960, H.R.H. The Princess Royal planted a tree on Columbus Square to commemorate her visit to St. Lucia, which is now fast becoming a "vacationer's paradise", although still unspoiled. For the visitor, as for the resident, Columbus Square exemplifies the past and present of St. Lucia, reflected in miniature on its stamps.

ST. LUCIA

STAMP COLLECTING, Dec. 30, 1950



K.G. VI Study Circle Page

(*see also page* 491)

ST. LUCIA

K.G. VI (Sterling)

By W. J. W. POTTER



THIS is yet another Colony whose original K.G.VI stamps were supplied by the three printers, with a resulting lack of uniformity which is nevertheless attractive in this instance. Colour and perforation changes and the introduction of new values have also contributed to the popularity of the series.

In the King's Head stamps the range of shades that can be found in one printing is fully equal to that between printings, while the liability of the gum used to slight browning at all periods further complicates the picture so that it is dangerous to be dogmatic about dates without very definite evidence.

As an instance the two blues of the 2½d. perf. 12½ appeared in different printings, but in the later 3½d. two very similar blues can be found though in this case there was only the one printing. Similar varieties can be found in the 1d. violet, 1d. scarlet and 2½d. violet in the perf. 12½, all of which only one printing is recorded.

The higher values are much easier to date. There were fewer printings and the larger format gives a better opportunity for judging paper differences. There were also definite shades for each printing which once recognised are easily separated. The two 10s. are particularly interesting as an example of stamps apparently identical but which on examination are seen to have little in common. The 1938 issue is on an opaque yellow paper, paler on the front than the back, while the black ink used is shiny with a dull appearance when not viewed at an angle. The 1943 stamp is on a more transparent paper, which is paler on the back than the front, while the black ink is a matt type giving a very intense shade when viewed directly.

Table by Lt.-Col. R. C. M. Shelton and W. J. W. Potter

	Cream		Thinner White Paper					
	1938	1940/1 Col. Rel.	Apr. '42	May '43	July '45	Feb. '46	Apr. '47	1948
½d. ..	Yellow green 128	Green 128	—	Deep green 128a	—	Deep bl. green 128a	—	—
1d. ..	Violet 129 129a	Br. violet 129	—	Br. violet 129a	—	—	Scarlet 129b	Sep. Br. scarlet 129c
					(Nov. '44)			
1½d.	Scarlet 130	Deep scarlet 130		Scarlet 130a	Scarlet 130a	—	—	—
2d. ..	Grey 131	Grey 131	—	Slate grey 131a	Slate grey 131a	Slate grey 131a	—	—
2½d.	Blue 132	Blue 132	—	Pale ultram. 132a	—	Br. ultram. 132a	Violet 132b	—
3d. ..	Deep orange 133	Orange 133	—	Br. Orange 133a	Orange 133a	Red-orange 133a	—	—
3½d.	—	—	—	—	—	—	Ultra 133b	—
8d. ..	—	—	—	—	—	Deep brown 134b	—	—
3/- ..	—	—	—	—	—	Br. purple 136a	—	—
£1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	Sepia 141	—	—
								Feb.
6d. ..	Claret 134	Reddish claret 134	—	Br. claret 134	Carmine-lake 134a	—	—	Pale claret 134aa
1/- ..	Brown 135	—	Paler brown 135	Warm brown 135	—	—	—	Brown 135a
2/- ..	Indigo, Reddish purple 136	—	Purple 136	Bluish-purple 136	—	—	—	—
5/- ..	Black, mauve 137	—	Pale mauve 137	Violet 137	—	—	—	—
10/-	Shiny black/ pale yellow 138	—	—	Intense black/ bright yellow 138	—	—	—	—

ST. LUCIA.

Re St. Lucia Statehood overprints

Philatelic Magazine. 31 Mch. 1967

ST. LUCIA QUANTITIES

QUANTITIES issued of the much discussed St. Lucia Statehood overprint of March 1st, are as follows :—

300,000	stamps of	1 cent
50,000	stamps of	2 cents
100,000	stamps of	5 cents
100,000	stamps of	6 cents
50,000	stamps of	8 cents
50,000	stamps of	10 cents
50,000	stamps of	12 cents
20,000	stamps of	15 cents
20,000	stamps of	25 cents
20,000	stamps of	35 cents
20,000	stamps of	50 cents
25,000	stamps of	$1.00
8,000	stamps of	$2.50

For this information we are indebted to the International Stamp Co. Ltd., 6, Cecil Court, Charing Cross Road, London, W.C.2.

STAMP COLLECTING 24 Mch. 1967

Imperfs. and Souvenir Sheets from St. Lucia

An announcement headed " Stamp Decree ", and issued on February 28th by the Ministry for Communications and Works, St. Lucia, West Indies, states that on March 1st St. Lucia would issue a 15c. blue airmail stamp as part of the Statehood celebrations of the island under the new constitutional arrangements granting " statehood in association with Great Britain " to several former West Indian colonies. The printing is by Harrisons and the quantities are stated as : 500,000 normal, perforated stamps; 10,000 imperforate; and 10,000 souvenir sheets.

In addition, Harrisons have overprinted the current definitives " STATEHOOD 1st MARCH 1967 ", all overprints being in red except that 300 only of the $2.50 have also been overprinted in black. The quantities for each value are stated in the " Stamp Decree " to be :—

1c.,	300,000	15c.,	20,000
2c.,	50,000	25c.,	20,000
5c.,	100,000	35c.,	20,000
6c.,	100,000	50c.,	20,000
8c.,	50,000	$1,	25,000
10c.,	50,000	$2.50,	8,000
12c.,	50,000	*$2.50,	300

* *Black overprint*

The Decree carefully sets out the total face value of the stamps involved, this amounting to $99,750, which, with unspecified postal stationery of $250 face value, is nicely rounded off at $100,000.

Although, hitherto, the Crown Agents have always provided St. Lucia with its stamps, on this occasion they were in no way involved with the preparation or issue of the stamps, which appear to have been suggested to the territory by an outside agency.

STAMP COLLECTING 21 Apr. 1967

Crown Agents' Man Flies to St. Lucia

The Head of the Crown Agents' Security Printing Division, Mr. E. D. Stacey, who has overall responsibility for stamp printing and distribution placed with the Crown Agents, has flown to St. Lucia to make enquiries concerning the circumstances of the issue of the Statehood overprints.

Mr. Stacey is then to visit the other West Indian islands for which the Crown Agents act. He will be away from London for six weeks.

STAMP COLLECTING 7 Apr. 1967

Another St. Lucia Surprise

The 25c. value of the St. Lucia UNESCO issue has appeared on the London market with a " Statehood " overprint. The report suggests that 9,000 of the stamps were overprinted in blue and 2,000 in black. The St. Lucia Post Office has never had the stamp on sale.

Comment. This news is a further indication that St. Lucia is the first of the new " Statehood " territories to fall into the hands of an exploiting agency. When the Statehood overprints were announced in a Post Office Notice published in St. Lucia on March 7th, it listed all values from 2c. to $1 and these are to be catalogued by Gibbons. A London wholesaler telephoned an order to St. Lucia for the complete set, including the 1c. and the $2.50, and was informed neither of these values was among the stock they held for sale. What happened to the 300,000 1c. stamps? And what happened to the 8,000 $2.50 with red overprint and the 300 with black overprint?

Add to these mysteries the latest surprise, the " unknown-locally ", and utterly unnecessary, 25c. UNESCO overprint and the sad conclusion must be reached that a philatelically popular West Indian island has gone seriously astray at the beck and call of somebody more concerned with money than philately.

ST. LUCIA.

re Statehood o'pts.

STAMP COLLECTING Apr. 14, 1967

Current Comment.

ST. LUCIA'S SHAME

IT is sad to see a former British West Indian Colony with a clean philatelic record go completely off the rails as soon as the restraining hand of London no longer guides its stamp-issuing policy. Just how quickly, and completely, the island of St. Lucia has blackened its reputation on acquiring Statehood status in association with Great Britain, is now well known.

Who profits? Judging from a list circulated to trade wholesalers there can be little doubt, and the following facts and figures will confirm this view.

St. Lucia issued the definitives with a Statehood overprint on values from 1 cent to $2.50. The values between 2 cents and $1 were available at the St. Lucia Post Office. There were 300,000 of the 1 cent overprinted, but it was not on sale in St. Lucia. The Post Office at Castries said this on the telephone to a British wholesaler who tried to order the complete set. The $2.50 appeared with a red overprint (8,000 printed) and a black overprint (300 printed), *but neither of these was available at the St. Lucia Post Office.* However, a London wholesaler, who agrees with the figure of 300 black overprints, has circulated a special offer to other trade *wholesalers*, saying that 268 mint copies are available, and he is asking the wholesalers £60 each for them, with a recommended price to retailers of £72. The ultimate collector-buyer can safely add another £13 before he becomes the owner at £85, that is 170 times face value.

St. Lucia also issued a 15c. Statehood commemorative, the printing being 500,000, and the stamp was on general sale. With it came an imperforate and a souvenir sheet of one, described as a topical Space issue: printing 10,000 of each. These three items have a total face value of 45c. that is, 2s.3d. The offer to wholesalers is 45s. for the three items and the recommended price to retailers is 55s.

Last week we reported the appearance of the Statehood overprint on the 25c. UNESCO stamp of St. Lucia in two printings. These are confirmed in the wholesale offer under examination, the quantities being given as 9,850 for the blue overprint, which is offered to wholesalers at 45s.6d., and 2,395 for the black overprint offered at 95s. So, for 50c. face, (i.e. 2s.6d.) the *wholesale starting price* in the trade is £7.0s.6d. and the recommended price to retailers is £8.10s.

The known circumstances of issue (and we can be sure that a few of each of these stamps will be produced postally used as evidence of regular issue in St. Lucia) has led to the Strand firm of Bridger & Kay Ltd. refusing to handle the "black" $2.50, the UNESCO overprints, and the imperf. and miniature sheets of the 15c. commemorative. A similar decision has been announced by a leading new issue service. Further, Stanley Gibbons are adding the UNESCO overprints to those Statehood stamps (1c., the two $2.50, the 15c. imperf., and the miniature sheet) which they do not intend, on present information, to catalogue.

Finally, the B.P.A. Expert Committee has let it be known that examples of these stamps may be submitted for examination and possible issue of a certificate as to their status.

Overseas, reaction has been prompt. The leading dealer in Cyprus, T. J. Fitikides, of Nicosia, wrote most strongly urging the universal boycotting of this outburst in philatelic chicanery on the part of what he called "unholy St. Lucia". Mr. Fitikides adds: "All editors of catalogues should fall in with Gibbons. The philatelic press, too, should lend its wholehearted support by banning from its pages the unwanted issues *in any form they may appear*. Last, but not least, the F.I.P. ought to have the last word as to what is wanted and what is not wanted by philatelists. Cannot these bodies come together with a view to reaching a final decision on this nasty problem which is eating into the heart of philately?".

If ever there was a time to call a halt, this is it. Collectors who allow themselves to be held to ransom for the sake of completeness are merely playing into the hands of the American originators of the whole bag of tricks and inviting further trouble in the future. Leave these nasty things alone and the get-rich-quick promoters might possibly come to realise that there are plenty of other sound, decently-issued and real postage stamps about on which collectors are better advised to spend their money.

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE 11/4/69

And Missing Yellow

We have recently seen a mint pair of St. Lucia 1968 Easter 35c. lacking the yellow printing. The effect is mainly seen in Titian's figures which show off-white instead of flesh-coloured; but there is also a noticeable difference in the foliage of the tree, the clouds and the hillside at the right.

This variety does not appear to have been previously reported and we shall be glad to know of any other copies which may exist. In theory there should have been a complete sheet of 50 that missed the yellow printing.

ST. LUCIA

STAMP COLLECTING 19 May 1967 Re Statehood o'pts, etc.

CURRENT COMMENT

WELL DONE, CROWN AGENTS!

WHEN the St. Lucia storm broke over the " Statehood " issues the Crown Agents, who played no part in the preparation or sale of these stamps, despatched Mr. Douglas Stacey, Head of the Security Printing Division, to investigate on the spot. The very satisfactory outcome of Mr. Stacey's visit is the following statement issued by the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau in London on behalf of the St. Lucia authorities :—

> The Government of St. Lucia regrets that the circumstances in which the current definitive set of stamps was overprinted to commemorate the achievement of Statehood were such that there was a shortage of certain values which led to supplies of complete sets being available to collectors through the trade only at a large premium. The overprinting of the UNESCO issue and the printing of the Statehood stamps similarly were insufficient to meet postal and philatelic requirements and these issues have also been available only at a heavy premium.
>
> The Government of St. Lucia made special arrangements for these three issues to be produced at very short notice and did not intend that collectors should be penalised in any way. It should be made clear that the Government does not benefit from the high prices being charged.
>
> **All future issues of St. Lucia stamps will be handled by the Crown Agents.**

The Crown Agents have persuaded St. Lucia to purge her shame, and to realise that philatelic prostitution does not pay in the end. Nor is that the only good news to come from the Caribbean. Simultaneously with St. Lucia's repentance there arrived a letter from Mr. W. D. Cribbs, Financial Secretary of Antigua, dated May 4th. This, too, is worth quoting in full, so here it is :—

> Following the recent " Statehood " issues from St. Lucia, it seems that it may well be of interest to you and to your readers to note that the Honourable Premier of Antigua has authorised me to inform the philatelic press of a decision taken in the Cabinet of Antigua on the 29th March. This was to revise the issue policy with regard to Antigua postage stamps to limit special issues to an average of *not more than three per year* after 1967.
>
> Following on this Cabinet decision I can add that the general intention is to avoid so far as possible " omnibus " issues and overprinted series, and if stamps are again issued on an international theme, the intention is that they should be specially designed to be relevant to Antigua. Stamp denominations are to be directly related to postage rates.
>
> The current year's programme was arranged before the above-mentioned decision and there will, therefore, be a total of four issues in 1967; these are the Constitution Day stamps already issued in February, Methodist Church stamps, for issue this month, 300th anniversary of the Treaty of Breda, for issue in July, and a proposed issue to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the settlement of Barbuda. All these issues have however direct relevance to Antigua.
>
> At present, only one issue has been planned for release in 1968; this is to be a specially-designed series of four to five stamps aimed at advertising Antigua and its tourist attractions and with a total face value of approximately five shillings.

It is known that all the West Indian islands recently granted " statehood in association with Great Britain " were approached with propositions similar to that accepted by St. Lucia, and it seems that Mr. Stacey's protracted tour of these islands has brought immediate results in that St. Lucia has returned to the fold and Antigua apparently intends to remain there. In due course we shall learn the decisions taken by other islands.

Meanwhile, congratulations to the Crown Agents—and Mr. Stacey. Once a territory is outside the Commonwealth Office control over its internal affairs, stamp printing and issuing are its own prerogative, and it speaks well of British officialdom that its voice is heeded when that voice takes the trouble to go to the places concerned and argue a good case for good stamps.

ST. LUCIA REGRETS...

THE Crown Agents have been authorised by the Government of St. Lucia to issue the following statement concerning its stamp issuing policy:

The Government of St. Lucia regrets that the circumstances in which the current definitive set of stamps was overprinted to commemorate the achievement of Statehood, were such that there was a shortage of certain values which led to supplies of complete sets being available to collectors through the trade only and at a large premium. The overprinting of the UNESCO issue and the printing of the Statehood stamps similarly was insufficient to meet postal and philatelic requirements and these issues have also been available only at a heavy premium.

The Government of St. Lucia made special arrangements for these three issues to be produced at very short notice, and did not intend that collectors should be penalised in any way. It should be made clear that the Government does not benefit from the high prices being charged.

All future issues of St. Lucia stamps will be handled by the Crown Agents.

Perhaps the last word has now been said, about what can hardly be described as other than a most regrettable episode.

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE 26 May 1967

STAMP COLLECTING 2 June 1967

St. Lucia " Statehood " Aerogrammes

The current St. Lucia aerogrammes are reported by Lava, of New York, with a " Statehood/1st Mar. '67 " overprint in dull red on the 6c. blue impressed stamp and in black on the 15c. red stamp. The report adds that 1,000 of each value were sold in the normal way by the post office.

STAMP COLLECTING. 7 July 1967

St. Lucia "Statehood" 1c. and $2.50

Following complaints that the 1c. and $2.50 values of the St. Lucia " Statehood " overprints were not available for sale in St. Lucia, when issued in March, and not valid for postage, the Crown Agents, on June 26th, issued a statement saying that they were authorised by the Government of St. Lucia to state that " the Ministry of Communications and Works has instructed franking of the high and low overprints from May 10th ".

No comment appears to be available concerning cancellations prior to May 10th. The *Philatelic Exporter* for July illustrates a registered cover posted from Castries, St. Lucia, to Cassarate, Switzerland, on March 9th. It bears a London, E.C., transit backstamp dated March 13th and a Cassarate arrival backstamp of March 15th.

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ST. LUCIA.

STAMP COLLECTING, March 7, 1968

St. LUCIA: The History of a Short-lived Agency

A year ago, collectors were somewhat mystified that St. Lucia celebrated the granting of Statehood by an issue of overprinted stamps of which two values, the 1 cent and the $2.50, appeared to be in short supply. It was known that this issue was handled by a private agent and that, almost immediately, St. Lucia announced its return to the Crown Agents' fold.

The background to the affair was given to the St. Lucia House of Assembly in a statement made to the House on May 24th, 1967, by the Honourable Joseph E. D. Bousquet, St. Lucia's Minister of Communications, Works and Labour. This statement is reproduced from a St. Lucia newspaper in which it appeared on May 27th, 1967.

* * * *

Speaking on what is now being referred to as the " stamp issue ", Mr. Bousquet said that the Government never intended that the Statehood stamps of March 1st should have been sold to collectors at inflated prices.

In a prepared statement, Mr. Bousquet said:—

" During the months immediately preceding Statehood, a Stamp Design Committee, appointed by Government, had been in session with the object of assembling designs for a commemorative series of stamps to mark the occasion. This exercise was overtaken by the announcement of the actual date of advancement to Statehood, and early in February Government realised that there was insufficient time to arrange the production and distribution of any commemorative stamps by 1st March. It was at this juncture that Mr. E. Mosden, a wholesale and retail stamp dealer of New York, arrived in this territory and offered himself as an agent for the production of a new series of stamps.

Beneficial

" On the 8th February, the Executive Council agreed that, without prejudice to the final proposals, Mr. Mosden should be asked whether it would be possible for him to supply a special issue of postage stamps in time for Statehood Day, failing which an overprint of the existing issue should be requested. Mr. Mosden convinced Government that he could offer a service beneficial to St. Lucia and on February 11, Government entered into an interim agreement with him under which he undertook to arrange the overprinting locally of the local stock of the existing series of stamps, and to purchase a very large quantity of them. He also undertook to arrange the production and delivery to St. Lucia of an agreed quantity of 15 cent stamps of a new design especially to commemorate Statehood, and to get this done before 1st March, 1967. For this latter purpose, and also to obtain printing plates and dies for the overprinting of the present series of stamps, Mr. Mosden, at the request of Government, proceeded to London, and he eventually completed, by the due date, the tasks he had undertaken.

"In the meantime, the Police had been requested to check on Mr. Mosden from a security point of view, and with particular reference to his financial standing, character and general suitability in this connection. The resulting report was favourable.

" Mr. Mosden returned to St. Lucia on the 1st March, bringing printing plates and dies prepared by Messrs. Harrison & Sons, security printers of London, and in the next few days a portion of the local stock of stamps was overprinted and an official announcement made that the overprinted stamps and the new 15 cent commemorative stamp would be placed on sale on March 7. Mr. Mosden then advanced to Messrs. Harrison & Sons the cost of printing the new stamp as well as the cost of the plates and dies. He also met the cost of the overprinting locally, of the existing series.

" Mr. Mosden advised the Postmaster-General of the actual quantity of stamps he would require in each denomination, and although it was not fully realised at the time his requirements were met, his requirements had the effect that several denominations would be in short supply on the day of issue, and of the 1 cent and $2.50 denominations there would be none—Mr. Mosden had purchased them all, and paid to the Postmaster-General the total face value of his purchase less 15% commission which he was authorised to do by Agreement with Government. It was agreed that Mr. Mosden should be paid that commission in view of the fact that he had decided to proceed to the United Kingdom at his own expense and pay all expenses incidental to the issue of the new Commemorative Stamps and the overprinting of the existing series. It should here be pointed out that the commission paid to Crown Agents is 10 per cent.

" Mr. Mosden distributed, free of cost, a number of stamps affixed to envelopes bearing the new Coat of Arms of St. Lucia. It should be emphasised, however, that the stamps concerned were properly purchased by Mr. Mosden prior to distribution.

" On the 7th March, therefore, locally overprinted versions of all denominations of the current definitive series except the 1 cent and $2.50 were issued, as was the new 15 cent stamp. It now seems clear that Mr. Mosden, having provided himself with the monopoly of completed sets of the overprinted stamps, proceeded to distribute them at an inflated price. Here in St. Lucia, complete sets were not available for sale to the public, and naturally there has been considerable discontent about this.

Imprinted

" Since there seems to be some misunderstanding in certain quarters as to precisely what the term ' overprinting ' implies, I should like to inform this Honourable House that in this context overprinting simply means the words ' Statehood 1st March, 1967 ' were imprinted on the stamps of the existing series. This was the purpose for which the plates and dies were prepared by the security printers in London. There was, in fact, no printing of stamps effected in St. Lucia. Unfortunately, proper security was not exercised locally by the Postal Authorities in the overprinting, but a Certificate was issued by Messrs. Art Printery to the effect that the plates and dies used in overprinting were destroyed.

" It is regrettable that the circumstances in which the sale of overprinted stamps to Mr. Mosden was effected were such that there was a shortage of certain values which led to the supplies of complete sets being available to collectors through the trade only at a large premium. I wish to assure this Honourable House that this was never intended. When the arrangement was made, Government was convinced that the action which was being taken was in the best interest of the Community. Consequent upon this series of events, Government has agreed that all future issues of St. Lucia stamps will be handled, as formerly, by the Crown Agents. A Statement to this effect was released in London and St. Lucia simultaneously on the 6th May, 1967."

Extracted from
British Caribbean Philatelic Journal. Vol. 3, No. 1. Jan. 1963

POST OFFICES CURRENTLY IN SAINT LUCIA.

Compiled by Robert J. Devaux.

ANSE-LA-RAYE
BABONNEAU
BANSE
BEXON
CANARIES
CASTRIES
CHOISEUL
CONWAY
DELAIDE
DENNERY
DESRUISS EAUX
FONDS ST. JACQUES.
GRACE
GRAND RIVIERE
GROS ISLET
LABORIE
LA CLERY
LA CROIX MAINGOT
LA POINTE
LESLIE LAND
MABOUYA VALLEY
MARCHAND
MICOUD
MILLET
MONCHY
PATIENCE
ROSEAU
SALTIBUS
SOUFRIERE
TI ROCHER
VICTORIA
VIEUX FORT

MOREAU

ST. LUCIA

STAMP MAGAZINE, Feb. 1968

ST. LUCIA.

ST. LUCIA STEAM CONVEYANCE CO.

An interesting cover has been shown to us recently by Ritchie Bodily, of London, N.W.3. It is addressed to MacFarlane, Moffat & Co., Castries, and is dated 20th June 1873. At the upper right is the 1d. stamp of the St. Lucia Steam Conveyance Co., cancelled with an indelible pencil cross which, however, does not tie the stamp to the cover.

The stamps of the Company are well-known to collectors of locals and consist of 1 (penny) blue, 3 rosy mauve and 6 purple. They were issued about 1872 and to judge by a statement in *Le Timbre-Poste* of June 1882, page 63, remained in use until at least that year if not until the Company ceased to exist in 1890. So it seems that they were in use for a minimum of 10 years, which is rather strange in view of the rarity of used copies.

The cover shown to us is the first we have ever seen bearing a stamp of this issue, although we have seen a number of loose examples of the 1 and 6 cancelled with part of a large circular or oval mark inscribed with the Company's name. Also we have seen a cover bearing the earlier provisional issue consisting of what seems to be a price-ticket, with part of an impression of the Company's handstamp and cancelled by a penmark cross which, like that on the other cover mentioned, does not tie the "stamp" to the cover. Another point of similarity between the two covers is that the provisional also is addressed to Messieurs MacFarlane & Moffat at Castries. The earlier cover is dated 30th October 1871, and is now in a well-known collection in the U.S.A.

There is in existence, too, a cover or part of a cover bearing an impression of an upright oval handstamp inscribed "S. S. Assistance —One Penny—Postage", and that is addressed to MacFarlane, Moffat & Co. as well. Like the cover bearing the provisional, it is illustrated and described in *The St. Lucia Philatelist* No. 4 (1952).

The fact that all three items are addressed to the same firm provides a strong point of authentication for the cover bearing the adhesive stamp, which on this basis cannot be discarded out of hand because the cancellation does not tie the stamp to the cover. However, it does seem strange that the latest cover should have remained undiscovered for nearly a century.

ST. LUCIA

STAMP COLLECTING 19 Feb. 1970

World of Locals No. 36

ST. LUCIA



By PETER KELLEY

THE island of St. Lucia, with an area of 233 square miles, is the largest of the Windward Islands in the West Indies. It has, of course, a long philatelic history that began with the classic Victorian set of 1860.

The island can also boast a most interesting set of private postage stamps which cannot be found within the pages of the Gibbons' catalogue. This set dates from as early as 1869 and was produced by the St. Lucia Steam Conveyance Company Limited to prepay mail carried to and from the capital, Castries, and the coastal villages of Choiseul, Soufrière and Vieux Fort. This shipping company was established in 1869 and operated their service on a twice-weekly basis using, from 1870, their only vessel, the steam-tug *Aide*.

The stamps were ordered from a printer in Paris, who prepared the issue by lithography on plain gummed paper in imperforate sheets of 72 (6×12). The design, as illustrated, is common to all values. It consists of an oval frame containing the company title and, within, a representation of a sailing ship (in spite of the emphasis on *steam* in the title!). No indication of currency is shown but this was obviously meant to be pence:

1 blue
6 purple

Used examples are found cancelled with a double-lined oval, or circular, rubber hand-stamp containing the company title but not the date. It is interesting to note that specimens were sent for registration at the Universal Postal Union in Berne.

Late in 1871, the stock of adhesives became exhausted and provisional stamps were made by applying the company hand-stamp to blue-bordered ledger labels of the type once common in all business houses. No denomination is indicated and cancellation was effected by means of a manuscript cross in ink. These provisionals are extremely rare, only three surviving examples being known.

A second printing was ordered from the same source and these were prepared in brighter colours on surfaced paper. The date of this printing would appear to be either 1872 or 1873. To the existing two values a third was added:—

3 mauve

The second printing of the "1" and "6" values was obviously made from the same stones as the first, because the same transfer types occur. Few stamps of the later printing have been seen in used condition and it is believed that the company went into liquidation shortly after the delivery of the sheets of stamps. (Or at least brought their local delivery service to an end since it has been stated that the St. Lucia Steam Conveyance Company was still active as late as 1890.)

The remainder sheets were held by the French printer (perhaps because of non-payment of the printing bill?) and were later sold to the dealer Mahé. From Mahé this stock went to another European dealer who, in the early 1930s, sold all he had left to that great expert on local postage stamps, the late Erik F. Hurt. The quantity thus acquired by Hurt was reported to be in excess of 2,000 sheets. In view of this it is somewhat surprising perhaps to note that complete sheets are seldom seen today and even cut singles are far from being common.

The excellent Hurt and Williams "Handbook of the Private Local Posts" (Billig, N.Y. 1950) mentions the existence of some crude forgeries of the second printing—lithographed with badly executed inscriptions. They apparently occur in the following colours and denominations: "1" in scarlet or deep blue, "3" in rose or green and "6" in mauve or yellow.

The genuine St. Lucia locals on cover are very rare indeed and command high prices on the few occasions they are offered for sale. Many of the covers known to exist are addressed to the house of MacFarlane, Moffat & Company, Castries, and may have survived through the agency of a philatelically-inclined clerk in that firm.

As recently as 1967–68 a discovery was made of one such cover bearing a 1 (penny) blue dated June 20th, 1873, the cancellation consisting of a cross made by indelible pencil. This example appears to have come to light for the first time after a gap of almost a century and is a splendid instance of how exciting finds are continually being made in the world of locals.

STAMP COLLECTING 26 NO 81

ST. LUCIA DUES OVERPRINTED STATEHOOD

I would like to enquire about the status of the 8c and 16c postage dues overprinted Statehood 1st March 1967 some with inverted overprints (blocks of four), which I recently received from the U.S.A. on approval.

Athens, Greece. NICOLAS P. VOSIKIS

ST. LUCIA Philatelic Magazine May 8, 1970

Postage Due Type-Set Stamps of St. Lucia

By Dr. John M. Lockie

THE two values were printed locally, in Castries, by "The Voice" Printing Company on coloured paper supplied from England. These type-set stamps were preceded by a single-line framed rubber handstamp inscribed "Postage Due/1d., 2d., 3d., 4d. or 6d./St. Lucia". This rubber handstamp is known to have been in use up to early 1931. The type-set stamps were succeeded by the standard Colonial Postage Due type, typographed at De La Rue, on Multiple Script CA watermarked paper and perforated 14. Thus, the period of use for these dues was between early 1931 to May or June 1933.

Paper and Watermark

For the 1d. value, the first supply was horizontally laid and was watermarked with a large crown surmounted by the word "Kingsclere", in double-lined Roman capitals and vertical lines of the watermark mesh.

The crown and lettering are usually found in the centre of the sheet, the crown covering 2-3 stamps and "Kingsclere" 5-6 stamps, horizontally. Later supplies of paper still show the vertical lines of the wire mesh, but do not have the crown and lettering. The first supplies of paper for the 1d. value were pale grey-blue in colour; later supplies were all of a deeper bright blue.

For the 2d. value, all the paper supplied was without lettering or crown, but still evidence the vertical lines. Early supplies of the paper were of an orange-buff colour with a matte surface; later supplies of a brighter yellow, with a slightly shiny surface.

Printing

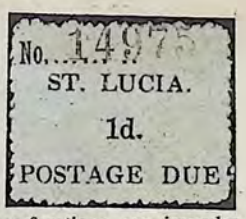
The lettering of the stamps is identical (except for the third line of "1d." or "2d.") and consists of lettering as shown in the illustration.

There are several major and minor varieties of the two values. Positions in the sheet are numbered as usual with horizontal row/vertical column (i.e. 5/3 is the fifth row and the 3rd stamp); the actual numbering of the sheet being ignored.

Major varieties: (1) 10/1 to 10/6, the wide "fount" with the "o" of "No" rounded, (2) 10/2 to 10/6, the same wide "fount", (3) 10/3 to 10/6, the same wide "fount", (4) 6/4, deformed base to the "L" of "LUCIA", (5) 5/3, no period after "T" of "ST", a variable variety and, (6) 9/2, no period after "LUCIA", one printing of the 1d. only.

Minor varieties, numerous but fairly constant from sheet to sheet and in any one printing, include: (1) varying number of dots after "No", (2) serifs of letters broken or missing and (3) letters cut-into and/or with "nicks".

The major variety, the so-called "wide fount", and found only in the last row, is the only one of catalogue status, and is a useful means of distinguishing the printings of the two values.



These perforations are irregular and often inaccurate.

Imperforate vertical pairs are known in the 2d. value, and Scott catalogues these as No. J2b. There are at least six pairs of these, numbered 6903/4, 6913/4, 6923/4, 6933/4, 6943/4 and 6953/4. The bottom row (with numbers ending in "O") are found with "Postage Due" at the top of the stamp as well as the bottom, due to misplacement of the perforations.

Settings

The 1d. value: There are at least four printings and three settings. The numbering of the sheets is not a reliable guide or indication of the printing order, but all sheets with the watermark Crown and Kingsclere are from the first printing.

Perforations

Both values were printed in sheets of 60 (6 × 10). Perforation is a rough 12. The top, right and lower margins of the sheet are imperforate, the left margin being perforated.

ST. LUCIA'S NAVAL CRESTS



By Barbara Last

SAILORS have always felt that there had to be something individual and personal to a ship, and until this century figureheads answered this need, in spite of the attempts by the Admiralty to abolish the custom. Modern warships have no place for figureheads, and badges with the ship's own special crest were adopted unofficially and worn on gun tampions. But missile armaments have ousted badges from this traditional place, and they are now displayed conspicuously on board, together with the ship's motto and and any battle honours won by herself or by previous ships of the name. To the growing list of stamps bearing naval crests, the latest from St. Lucia must be added.

St. Lucia suffered a great deal in the wars of the latter part of the 18th century, as France and England squabbled over the islands of the Caribbean. Rodney had taken possession of St. Lucia in 1762, but at the end of the Seven Years' War the island was returned to France. The English bases were too far away for a successful surveillance of the main French base at Martinique, without having ships continuously at sea, but St. Lucia was ideal for keeping an eye on enemy movements 30 miles away.

Admiral Barrington, with his flag in *Prince of Wales* (St. Lucia S.G.353), and General James Grant sailed for St. Lucia in 1778 with a small squadron and 5,000 soldiers. The British anchored in the Grand Cul de Sac and Grant's men stormed the island. When hill lookouts sighted d'Estaing's fleet, Barrington was surprised by the unexpected appearance of the superior enemy force. His squadron was in a vulnerable position, so during the night he strung his ships across the mouth of the bay with the transports and storeships inside, and he fought a determined defensive action at anchor, supported by the few guns on the hills above. D'Estaing was urged to sail in directly and overwhelm the British by sheer weight, but this he refused to do. Later, he landed 9,000 troops which were fiercely and bloodily repelled with 30% casualties by Grant's men, and on hearing the relieving force under Byron was expected, d'Estaing withdrew.

In March 1778 *Ariadne* and the 18-gun sloop *Ceres* (Captain J. R. Dacres) chased and captured the American cruiser *Alfred* (Captain Elisha Hinman—she appeared on $1 Grenada Grenadines Bicentenary issue), although her consort, the 32-gun frigate *Raleigh* (Virgins 40c.) escaped. In December *Ceres* (see the **10c.** of the new issue) herself was captured off St. Lucia by the frigate *Iphigénie*, but she successfully distracted the attention of several other French ships and her convoy escaped. She was retaken by the British in 1782, but by that time a new 32-gun frigate *Ceres* had entered the Navy, so the sloop was renamed *Raven*. She was recaptured by the French later that year. Ceres in Roman mythology was the goddess of harvest, and the ship's crest embodies the ears of corn.

The 20-gun *Ariadne* (on the $2 stamp) was the first ship of the name, built at Chatham in 1776 and manned by a complement of 160. Rebuilt in 1792 with 24 guns, she was sold in 1814. In fable, Ariadne was the daughter of King Minos of Crete. She helped Theseus slay the Minotaur and escape from the Cretan labyrinth, but Theseus ungratefully ditched her at Naxos, whereupon she became the mistress of Dionysus. The god of wine gave her the crown of seven stars which appear on the ship's badge, and her motto is "Swift and Fearless." The present 2,500-ton *Ariadne* is the 26th and last of the Leander Class frigates, and the last of the steam-powered surface warships. All major warships now building are powered by gas turbines.

Pelican is a very ancient ship's name in the Royal Navy and the badge has already appeared on Ascension S.G.151. There have been 20 ships of the name from the time of Drake's 100-ton vessel which was renamed *Golden Hind* nearly 400 years ago. The ninth of the name was a 24-gun frigate on the West Indies Station commanded by Nelson's friend and comrade-in-arms, Cuthbert Collingwood, and both he and his ship appear on Antigua S.G.277. She foundered in a hurricane off Jamaica in 1781.

St. Lucia was returned to France at the peace of 1783, but when war broke out again Jervis and General Grey mounted a large operation to reduce the well-armed forts of Martinique, followed by St. Lucia which surrendered in April 1794. The 32-gun *Ceres* and the 28-gun HMS *Rose* (St. Lucia S.G.355) were both part of the invading fleet. The French recaptured the island the following year.

Admiral Cloberry Christian and General Abercromby led another expedition in April 1796, and a large force landed under the guns of *Ganges* 74 and *Pelican* 18 (Captain J. C. Searle). In the face of determined resistance more troops were landed, including 800 seamen, and there was heavy fighting before St. Lucia capitulated in May with the surrender of 2,000 men. The 365-ton *Pelican* (on the **20c.** stamp), the eleventh of the name, was the second *Pelican* to be associated with St. Lucia. She was a brig-sloop built of fir because of the acute shortage of timber in 1795. Fir was not a good substitute for oak as the wood rotted, and she was sold in Jamaica in 1806.

Later in 1796 *Pelican* attacked the 36-gun French frigate *Medée* for two hours before the latter disengaged, leaving the brig too damaged to pursue. In this action, *Pelican* had one man wounded out of a crew of 97, but the *Medée* lost 33 killed or wounded from a complement of 300. In December the following year the pugnacious *Pelican* was again in action and helped capture the 14-gun *République Triomphante*. The motto of the *Pelican* is, "What I have I hold."

The last of the badges belongs to the 1,679-ton *Ganges* (on the **40c.** stamp). She was a 3rd Rate of 74 guns built at Rotherhithe in 1782 as the East Indiaman *Bengal*. The East India Company presented three 74's to the Navy, the last of which was launched January 21st, 1783. A 74 at this time cost an estimated £43,820 and had a complement of 650 men. *Ganges*' insignia of an elephant was a reminder of her Indian origin, and her motto is, "Wisdom is Strength". *Ganges* is the only ship of this series that won battle honours at St. Lucia, and she later won further honours under Nelson at the Battle of Copenhagen 1801. She became a prison ship and then a transport, before being broken up in 1816.

The British had found St. Lucia invaluable as a watchpost, and the island was not given up with the others which were returned to their previous owners at the end of the Napoleonic Wars. St. Lucia remained British, and these four badges bring alive a turbulent 18 years of the island's history.

LP. Vol 89 No 1045-46, JAN-FEB 1980

ST LUCIA

Comments on a display from The Royal Philatelic Collection given by gracious permission of Her Majesty The Queen at the Royal Philatelic Society, London on 20 September 1979.

by JOHN B. MARRIOTT, MVO

THE ROYAL COLLECTION of St Lucia is a typical one, especially as regards the relative completeness in blocks of four of the early stamps, the different plate number blocks of the later issues, and also the examples of 'SPECIMEN' stamps.

There are blocks of six of the first issue, but in general King George V did not aspire to larger pieces than blocks of four unless they had some special significance, such as showing the setting of an overprint or surcharge, in which case they would be included if he happened to be able to acquire them.

Artists' designs are present, and from the beginning of the reign of King George VI the various black pulls from the die, together with rejected and approved colour proofs, are also included. I should add that, as usual, there are no examples of the stamps of Great Britain used with St Lucia obliterations.

As regards other collections of St Lucia which have been formed over the years, there have been several good holdings, but the two which stand out are undoubtedly those of B. H. Homan and T. Charlton Henry. The latter was sold at auction and so the contents are well known. There were many large pieces in his collection such as those of the first issue, where he had blocks of fifty-six and twenty of the 1d, sixteen of the 4d, and twenty-four and twenty of the 6d. These undoubtedly came from the so-called Crown Agent's find of 1896 which contained, according to Charles J. Phillips, rather less than a sheet of 240 of each denomination.

It is more difficult to give information about the Homan Collection. It was a very large holding and this in itself rather militated against others being able to form important collections. For instance he had no less than twelve examples of the unissued 1863 Six pence on 4d indigo. The collection was of long standing and not much was written about it before it was dispersed only a few years ago. However, two reasonably good descriptions exist. The first was a short one by Charles J. Phillips in *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Volume 9, Number 3 – July 1930 (pages 186–187) and the second was a more extensive account by Frank Godden in *Godden's Gazette* of January 1938 (pages 94–101). The latter was reproduced almost in full, and with most of the illustrations, in *The St Lucia Philatelist*, Number 2 (1949) published for The St Lucia Philatelic Society by Robson Lowe Ltd. It is interesting to note that the collection is said to have been housed in twelve volumes in 1930 and in seven volumes in 1938. Probably the most interesting aspect of the collection, however, concerned the plating of the first issue.

As is well known all the early engraved stamps were printed from one plate consisting of twenty horizontal rows of twelve. The stamps bore no indication of their denomination until after St Lucia joined the Universal Postal Union on 1 January 1881, when the UPU requirement in this respect had to be met, albeit with some little delay on the part of the St Lucia Administration. This one plate was subject to a great deal of use during the years 1860–84 and in addition to a considerable number of marks and scratches there are some fine and clearly visible re-entries. I think S. A. Brown was the first to write about the two major re-entries in his article in THE LONDON PHILATELIST of February 1924, and there are also a number of minor ones. With this information, and much close study, B. H. Homan was able to reconstruct the plate by overlapping blocks from the various issues. By 1938 he was said to have individually identified nearly 200 of the 240 sheet positions.

St Lucia is an interesting country to collect. There is a good variety of issues, without undue complications, though the Postal Fiscal stamps provide a difficult area. Some may say that the Key type issues of the middle period are rather repetitive in general appearance, but on the whole there is much variety, interest and attractiveness in the designs, and this continues through to 1966 at which date the discriminating philatelist would probably end his collection.

Although there have been no comprehensive articles on St Lucia stamps since the Society's 1891 Handbook on the West Indies, there have been several useful short papers, and also of course an abundance of detailed information in the Perkins, Bacon Records and the De La Rue History. I had hoped to expand these notes into an article which might have been of more value to the student, but two

reasons have prevented my writing more than these present comments. The first and much the more significant one is that, with the relative neglect of St Lucia over the years from a philatelic point of view, it would have required investigating matters in considerable depth and surfacing with what might well have amounted almost to a handbook; the second has been a lack of time owing to other commitments. However, the following description of the stamps shown from The Royal Collection, together with the various comments which have been included where relevant, will it is hoped point the way for those who are interested.

Impression of the Seal of King George V for St Lucia; Perkins, Bacon artist's design for the first issue of 1860 and proof in black from the engraved die. The artist's design is probably the most important and significant item in the philatelic history of St Lucia and it is interesting to see it together with the proof from the finished die. The head of the Queen was engraved by Charles H. Jeens.

1860 (18 December) 1d, 4d, 6d: A single printing was made by Perkins, Bacon in the week ending 10 November 1860. The number of good sheets produced was 100, but the invoice dated 14 November 1860 was for 36 sheets red, 13 sheets blue and 17 sheets green. As was not infrequently the case for other territories, Perkins, Bacon printed a larger supply than was required. It was not surprising therefore that stamps were available at a later stage for providing examples for the Rowland Hill



1860. 4d blue and 6d green – denomination indicated by the colour.

family bearing the 'CANCELLED' between bars obliteration and also that some were present in the Crown Agent's find of 1896. The three denominations were shown in blocks of six, also singles with the 'CANCELLED' obliteration, and in pairs imperforate vertically. The only other known examples of the latter are in the Tapling Collection at the British Library. However, the Homan Collection contained a single of the 1d apparently imperforate vertically, and Frank Godden mentioned that his examples of the 4d and 6d with the 'CANCELLED' obliteration were also imperforate vertically. It would be interesting to see if it could be established whether any of these three stamps were, at some stage, cut from one or other of the sides of the respective vertically imperforate pairs mentioned above. Another interesting point is that the Homan Collection contained no example of the 1d 'CANCELLED', nor indeed did The Royal Collection until one was acquired from an 1863 Justin Lallier Album which came on the market in 1934. The album contained no fewer than sixty-two 'CANCELLED' stamps and originally belonged to George B. Robertson of the Stamping Department at Somerset House. There seems little doubt that they were given to him by Ormond Hill of the same Department who received four of the original six presentation sets. The other two sets went respectively to Sir Rowland Hill and his son Pearson Hill (THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Vol 44, No 517, January 1935, pp 2–3).

In passing I should mention that I have never seen what I would call a true double impression of the

1d, and that the pairs imperforate vertically have for some time now been listed incorrectly in the catalogue as imperforate between.

Finally, as there was only one Perkins, Bacon printing of the first stamps, there are no *significantly* different shades of the 4d and 6d. It is a case of the amount of inking, or stirring of the ink, which caused variation in the depth of colour. The lighter and darker shades merge into each other and one certainly cannot draw a distinct line between them. In fact there is a basic similarity of appearance in all authentic examples of these stamps, whether they be somewhat lighter or darker than average. The situation is parallel, for instance, to that of the Trinidad 1859 6d, where in the past two shades used to be listed.

1863 and 1864 De La Rue printings from the Perkins, Bacon plates: The die, roller and plates for St Lucia stamps were handed over to the Agents-General for Crown Colonies on 28 January 1862 and they awarded tenders for subsequent printings to De La Rue. Blocks of four, imperforate examples, and the unissued Halfpenny on 6d and Six pence on 4d were shown. The status and reason for these unissued surcharged stamps has never, as far as I know, been satisfactorily explained, nor have I been able to confirm that they were produced in 1863. They may well have been early trials to discover whether the words of value could be satisfactorily indicated by a surcharge. However, no ½d stamp was required until after St Lucia joined the UPU on 1 January 1881. In addition, examples of the 1d were shown on which the two major re-entries were clearly visible.

At this stage it is worth drawing attention to inconsistency in the catalogue listing of imperforate stamps which is apparent when one reads below SG 36 the note about their unissued or proof status. This note appears despite the listing of a number of similar imperforate items among the engraved stamps. I know of no issued stamp from this earlier period which was imperforate.

1876 De La Rue printings, perforation changed from 12½ to 14; 1881 ½d and 2½d. By mistake the stamps supplied for the 1/– denomination were printed in yellow, the colour used for the 4d. The yellow stamps were retained in the Colony and on 13 September 1876 De La Rue invoiced 49 sheets of the correct 'orange-red'. When first writing about this matter on 11 July 1876, Mr de Vaux enquired about the cost of having the value placed upon the stamps with a view to preventing such mistakes in future. De La Rue, needless to say, did not lose the opportunity of suggesting their own surface printing method, involving a Key forme (printing plate) with a blank value tablet and as many overprint or duty plates as required. They pointed out that printing the duty right across the face of the present stamps would be most disfiguring. However, this was in fact done for the final three consignments and for the new ½d and 2½d denominations.

1882–84 De La Rue printings with denominations indicated by appropriate surcharges and watermark changed from Crown CC to Crown CA: ½d, 1d, 4d, 6d, 1/– perforated 14 and 4d perforated 12, including a rare block six of the 1/– and a colour trial of the basic stamp in deep brown, perforated 12, were shown.

1883–86 and 1886–87 De La Rue surface printed Key plate design with The Queen's Head Die I; 1/– orange-brown plate number block of four and 4d, 6d imperforate singles were among the items on display.

1891–98 De La Rue surface printed Key plate design with The Queen's Head Die II and showing the use of Key plate numbers 3 and 4 were shown.

1891–92 Surcharged stamps with varieties, including ½d on half of 6d double, 1d on 4d inverted, ½d on 3d inverted and ½d on 3d double all used; also 1d on 4d double unused.

1902, 1904, 1907–10 King Edward VII issues: a comprehensive range of these stamps was shown.

1912–1926 King George V Key plate issues including a splendid array of different plate number blocks. The 1916 locally overprinted 1d War Tax stamp used with overprint double was worthy of notice; many forgeries exist.

1936 King George V pictorial issue was shown including the beautifully executed De La Rue artist's

designs. These are combinations of printed heads, hand painted frames and, in most cases, central vignettes which are touched up photographs.

Seal of King George VI for St Lucia and the 1937 Coronation issue including artist's essays and pulls from the master die in various colours. The latter were used as colour proofs to save time in the production of the issue, which was of course urgently required.

1938 King George VI definitive issue with rejected and approved artists' designs and an interesting range of colour proofs. As Waterlow, De La Rue and Bradbury, Wilkinson all had a hand in printing this issue, there is variety in design and treatment. In particular it is of note that Waterlow sent their 1/– and 2/– designs, even though they were rejected and the firm did not print these denominations. However, they thought that the King would be pleased to accept them for the Collection. They can therefore be compared with the approved 1/– De La Rue and 2/– Bradbury, Wilkinson designs.

This was an issue produced relatively early in the reign and the Governor of the Windward Islands wished the designs for the 6d, 1/–, 2/– and 5/– to be settled as a matter of urgency. For the 6d it was decided to keep the existing King George V design and no new essay was produced, although slight changes were in fact made to the design.



1883–86. 1/– orange-brown Die I.



1921–26. 5/– Script CA watermark.

It was also to be seen that some designs were submitted with the head of King Edward VIII, and one merely with a space for the insertion of the approved head of King George VI when this became available. The former were illustrated in THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Vol 85, No 997–98, January–February 1976, Plate II.

1946–47 King George VI definitive issue – new denominations and colour changes: of particular interest here were the proofs of the 3½d which were produced both imperforate and perforated 14¾ × 14; when issued the stamp was perforated 12½.

1949–50 King George VI definitive issue – change to decimal currency: another fine range of proof material and some very interesting varieties of the issued stamps were shown, including 1c perforated 14 and 2c perforated 14¾ × 14 which were produced in reels for use in stamp vending machines. These stamps were also shown in Plate number blocks of six from a small supply which was found in St Lucia in sheet form. About two sheets of the 12c were also found in St Lucia perforated 14¾ × 14 as for the 2c reel stamps (instead of the normal 12½) together with a very few examples of the 4c also with the reel perforation. The latter is extremely rare and is only known used, usually with the circular datestamp of Patience. Why the 4c and 12c should have been perforated in this way remains a mystery and certainly their issue in this form appears to have been a genuine error.



1860. Artist's design.



1860. Die proof.







1860. 1d, 4d, 6d pairs imperforate vertically.







1860. 1d, 4d, 6d obliterated 'CANCELLED' between bars.



1863. Unissued 6d on 4d.



1882–84. 4d perforated 12.



1882–84. 1/– perforated 14.



1881. ½d 'SPECIMEN'.



1881. 2½d 'SPECIMEN'.



1891–98. 5/– Die II.



1891–98. 10/– Die II.



1891–92. ½d on half 6d showing varieties including dropped 'd'.



1891–92. ½d on half 6d double surcharge, and '2' missing.



1891–92. 1d on 4d inverted surcharge.



1891–92. ½d on 3d Die II double surcharge, also surcharged on the back.



1891–92. 1d on 4d with thick 'N' on fourth stamp.













1936. Artist's designs, frames hand-painted and central vignettes based on photographs.



1938. 1/– De La Rue artist's design partly hand-painted.



1½d Waterlow artist's hand-painted design.



2/– Bradbury, Wilkinson artist's hand-painted design.





1951. 12c rejected and approved hand-painted artist's designs.



1947. 3½d colour proof perforated 14¼ × 14.



1949–50. 12c perforated 14¼ × 14.



1949–50. 4c perforated 14¼ × 14.

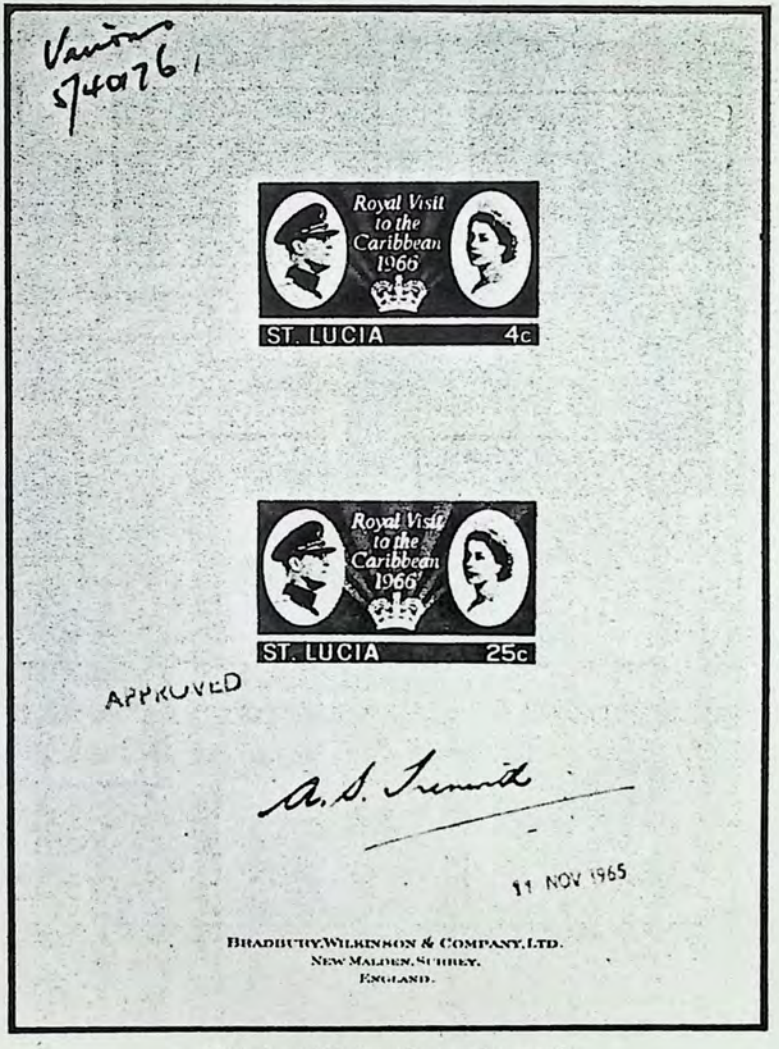


1960. 25c hand-painted artist's design.





1960. Central vignette and frame die proofs.



1966. 4c and 25c imperforate colour proofs.

The sorting of the King George VI definitive issues into their respective printings presented certain difficulties. In the first place there were some unmounted blocks which were not marked in any way. Secondly it is worth mentioning for general information that *The Printings of King George VI Colonial Stamps* by Potter and Shelton seems sometimes to be a little misleading in that new releases and fresh requisitions may have been confused with new printings. For instance, requisitions required urgently were sometimes filled from stocks held at the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau; also there is no evidence at all from the Plate Issue Register to suggest that the so-called 1940–41 St Lucia Colonial Release was, in fact, a separate printing. No doubt when stamps were stored unsatisfactorily, as may well have happened especially in war-time, they could be affected by climatic or other conditions. This might sometimes change their appearance. Finally there was also considerable difficulty in matching printings with issue dates.

It is also worth mentioning one intriguing feature concerned with the 6d stamp. This was printed from a single working plate, but initially the Plate number I was engraved too far from the bottom row of stamps for convenience of inking. A second and different I was therefore engraved above the first. Subsequent printings show the lower I either partially or fully inked, or not inked at all, while the upper I is always fully inked.



1949. Coil Stamps issued in sheet form: 1c line perforated 14, 2c comb perforated 14½ × 14.

1946–1951 Commemorative Issues: a comprehensive range was shown, including preliminary designs and proofs for the omnibus issues. Among the items on display were the following:

1946 Victory Issue master die proof without colony name and denomination; 1d rejected and approved, and 3½d approved St Lucia colour proofs.

1948 Silver Wedding Issue: artist's drawing for the photogravure printed low denominations inscribed British Honduras (illustrated in THE LONDON PHILATELIST, January–February 1976, Vol 85, No 997–998, Plate I); three essays and the approved design for the high denominations inscribed Falkland Island Dependencies, all showing different treatments of the frames and lettering, and a page of sixteen master die proofs in colour.

1948 75th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union: seven sheets showing a magnificent range of master die proofs printed by Waterlow, and complete die proofs printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson, together with a further page showing the approved St Lucia colour proofs for the 5c and 24c printed by Waterlow.

1951 Inauguration of the University College of the West Indies 3c and 12c hand painted drawings by

Waterlow, inscribed British Guiana and Montserrat respectively, followed by centre die proofs and master frame die proofs in black together with the approved St Lucia colour proofs.

1951 Reconstruction of Castries: two hand painted designs including the one approved, and the accepted St Lucia colour proof.

1951 New Constitution Issue for which the approved essays for the overprint are, exceptionally, printed on imperforate blocks of six stamps.

Seal of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for St Lucia and the 1953 Coronation Issue including the artist's design by Bradbury, Wilkinson inscribed Barbados and the master die proof (illustrated in THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Vol 82, No 961, January 1973, pp 16–17); also the approved St Lucia colour proof.

1953–1966 Definitive and Commemorative Issues: a full range of proof material and issued stamps was shown, including all the different printings of the definitive issues. It is worth noting that after the pictorial stamps of the King George VI issues, lacking as they were in uniformity of design owing to the employment of three different printers, the Governor decided to abandon them, especially in view of the fact that they were unpopular locally. Amongst the material shown the following items are perhaps worthy of special mention:

1957 Inauguration of the West Indies Federation artist's design by Bradbury, Wilkinson, master die proofs and approved St Lucia colour proofs.

1960 New Constitution for the Windward and Leeward Islands: this splendid design was represented by the watercolour sketch by Waterlow, and approved die proofs both in black and in colour.

1960 Centenary of the first issue of St Lucia stamps: centre and master die proofs of the frame in black, together with rejected and approved colour proofs.

1964 Issue to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare where the approved 10c St Lucia colour proof is in a distinctly different shade of green to that of the issued stamp.

1966 1c colour proof in the design of the 1964 definitive issue and produced at this later date in an entirely new shade. Why this was prepared is not known, but the stamp was never issued in this shade; no doubt its possible use was overtaken by the events of 1967.

1881–84 Fiscal Stamps valid for postal use and 1931–65 Postage Due Stamps ended the display. The former are a difficult group to collect, especially unused, owing to the fact that so many exist from which a manuscript fiscal cancellation has been removed by cleaning. A good range of varieties was shown of the surcharges and overprints on the postal fiscal stamps, while the postage due stamps contained differences in fount and paper on the locally printed stamps, and die proofs of the De La Rue issues.

The London Philatelist

The Council of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, has decided with regret that the subscription to THE LONDON PHILATELIST must be raised with effect from this number. The new rate will be £12 per annum and separate numbers will be £2 each.

The next number will be larger than usual to mark LONDON 1980. There may well be room for short articles on subjects with a wide appeal, but these must reach the Editor for approval by the middle of February. Advertisers are invited to contribute to what should be a memorable number while reaching a large potential market of serious collectors.

HURRICANE RELIEF FROM ST. LUCIA

HAROLD BEAGLE

ON 3rd November Saint Lucia released special overprints from the Castries G.P.O., on three values (15c, 20c and 50c) of the new definitive series, which depicts local modes of transportation. Each of the three hurricane relief stamps were revalued to $1.50 (East Caribbean currency.)

The purpose of this emergency relief issue is to help draw international attention to the plight facing the 100,000 residents of this attractive Windward Island tourist resort. The original values of the definitives are blocked out, and the overprinted legend "1980/HURRICANE." inserted below. Towards the lower left, in larger type, is overprinted the new value, "$1.50/RELIEF."

Hurricane Allen was the first disturbance of this year's Caribbean storm season. Striking Saint Lucia and other West Indian Islands, during the first week in August 1980, the disaster has been termed by meteorologists as being the "most dangerous hurricane to form in the Atlantic this century".

The damage to Saint Lucia was particularly heavy. Sixteen islanders were killed and scores more sustained injuries of varying severity. Hurricane Allen smashed its way into Saint Lucia at wind speeds that exceeded 160 kilometres an hour. Total economic damage is estimated at about $100 million (U.S. currency.)

In addition to the dead and injured, 6,000 Saint Lucians were made homeless by the ravaging fury of Hurricane Allen. At present, the island's government leaders have taken provisional steps to house victims of the hurricane in special emergency centres.

The burden of providing for the numerous Saint Lucians who have suffered as a result of Hurricane Allen's visit is particularly harsh for this Caribbean nation. Under normal circumstances it is struggling to overcome the severe economic problems that confront many developing nations. The island, a former British colony which is primarily agricultural, has had to deal with the traditional problem of creating new working opportunities for a rapidly expanding population. As farms become increasingly mechanised, the challenge of providing employment becomes ever more demanding.

At present, the major income on the island is that of the annual banana harvest. These crops are shipped directly to special markets in Great Britain. Unfortunately, the aftermath of Hurricane Allen resulted in the almost complete (97%) destruction of Saint Lucia's important 1980 banana harvest.







These bananas are grown mainly for export, and this loss will greatly reduce Saint Lucia's needed foreign exchange currency.

In addition to killing Saint Lucia's export crop, Hurricane Allen also dealt a vicious blow to the nation's staple food crops such as the breadfruit trees. Thirty percent were completely destroyed by the strong winds which Hurricane Allen generated.

A significant portion of Saint Lucia's light industry suffered extensive damage. A local flour mill, beer brewery and toy factory were prime victims in this regard. Also heavily struck was Saint Lucia's vital fishing fleet. The island's Department of Agriculture reported that 120 boats were completely lost, with an additional 32 being hit with heavy damage.

The relief work that Hurricane Allen has necessitated will demand extensive expenditure in the next few years, if Saint Lucia is to get back on her feet again. Fortunately, the killer hurricane did not cause any serious damage to the various hotels on the island, which bring in valuable foreign exchange currency. Within days of the natural disaster, pledges of assistance were made by the United States, Britain, the European Economic Community, and other sympathetic countries. A special appeal fund to relieve the heavy toll in human misery created by the hurricane has been established.

Individuals interested in contributing may send their donations to Saint Lucia Hurricane Relief Fund, c/o High Commissioner, The East Caribbean High Commission, 10, Kensington Court, London, W8 5DL. Stamp collectors can help by buying the stamps bearing the new hurricane relief overprints. The complete set of three overprints has a face value of $4.50 (E.C.). (about 50p.)

TO ERR IS HUMAN... No. 21

by Jack La Roche

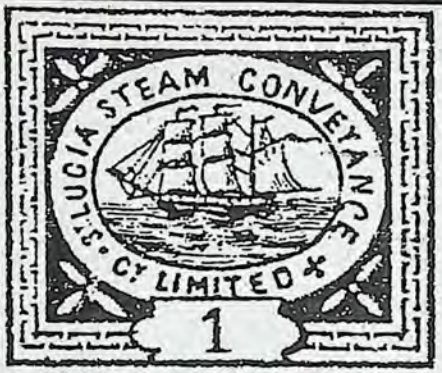


CANADA – Issued 1908

Perhaps it's not fair to complain,
But the chap on the right's not Champlain.
Particelli he's called,
He's not French at all,
An Italian. Now who was to blame?

Portrait by Moncornet, of Michel Particelli, who became Comptroller General of Finance in France. No authentic portrait of Champlain was available.

THE ST LUCIA STEAM CONVEYANCE COMPANY



BY ROBERT J. DEVAUX

THE birth of the St Lucia Steam Conveyance Co Ltd resulted from the pioneer work of Captain Thomas Shugg, who brought a small steamer, the *Penelope* out from England in December, 1866, and soon started a freight and passenger service along the west coast of St Lucia. Water was the only means of connecting Castries to the important agricultural districts of Soufriere, Choiseul and Vieux-Fort, as roads were virtually non-existent.

Captain Shugg, having experienced financial difficulties ever since he launched his coastal service, applied for a grant from the Public Treasury early in 1867. The matter was discussed by the Legislative Council at Castries on September 13, 1867, when Captain Shugg suggested the establishment of a system of penny postage for the coastal towns to cover the cost of the subsidy.

This service was found to be so useful that the Council willingly granted a subsidy of £150 per annum (Ordinance No 7; August 13, 1867; the 'Island Steamer Subsidy'). However, the question of a postal system appeared to have been shelved.

Shortly afterward the *Penelope* was wrecked and Captain Shugg died in July, 1868. The inhabitants of St Lucia felt the loss to such an extent that a monument was erected to Thomas Shugg's memory. The loss of the coastal service was so severely felt that a company was soon formed to maintain this service.

The Administrator of St Lucia, the Hon J. H. Grant, informed the Colonial Office on April 13, 1869, that a company had been formed to run a coastal steamer for passengers and freight, stating that communications of this nature had been very irregular since 1867, and that the Colony had already pledged itself to give a subsidy of £250 per annum.

The new company was called the Saint Lucia Steam Conveyance Company Limited, of which Charles Chastanet was Managing Director, and which operated through the facilities of Messrs Duboulay, Minvielle and Company.

The directors purchased a tug, the *Aid*, in Barbados in 1870. It plied the same route as the *Penelope*, but twice a week. So successful was the *Aid* in its bi-weekly journeys, that the shareholders held meetings at Castries in June and November 1871 to consider purchasing a new steamer. The *Creole* was finally built in London at a cost of £2,975, and arrived in Castries on April 30, 1873.

It seems evident from the Administrator's letter to the Colonial Office in 1869, that a postal system had not as yet been established as no mention to that effect was made. However, with the arrival of the *Aid* in 1870, or shortly thereafter, mails were definitely handled through the St Lucia Steam Conveyance Company. The editorial of the local newspaper (the *Saint Lucian*) of February 25, 1871, stated:

. . . that a regular postage of all letters, except consignee, of one penny would enable the Company to despatch mails from Castries to Soufriere . . .

In July 1871 the paper once again authenticated the establishment of a postal service to the coast towns, and added:

. . . that the running of the steamer 'Aid' with a letter bag had already done much to help the matter . . .

The first allusion to the existence of local postage stamps in Saint Lucia was made by a Paris dealer, M. Mahe, on May 15, 1873. He offered for sale at the rates of 35c, 50c and 1.50F three values of the locals—1d, 3d and 6d, respectively. The philatelic public were very sceptical about the authenticity of these odd stamps, and many claims were made that they were nothing but forgeries or fakes. This led M. Mahe to enquire of the Saint Lucian Government about the existence of these stamps. The translated reply reads in part as follows:

Government Office
Saint Lucia
January 17, 1874

. . . I have the honour to inform you that no authority has been given by the Government for the issue of these stamps. No authority, however, is necessary for stamps of this nature . . .

In a later price list in the *Gazette des Timbres*, M. Mahe offers these stamps at 25c, 35c and 1.25F—a price reduction due to the unfavourable appeal to collectors. A further enquiry was conducted and reported in the *Timbre-Poste* (Volume 20, June 1882, p63); the statement reads in part as follows:

. . . The Saint Lucia Steam Conveyance Company makes use of the stamps of the design submitted, but only for payment of letters from one place to another, in the island itself . . .

The words 'makes use of' indicate that these stamps were current in 1882. However, an ordinance of October 28, 1887 stated:

. . . The Company shall not carry any letters except letters sent through the Post Offices and letters concerning goods on board the Company's steamers to be delivered with the goods such letters concerns. Provided that the master or person in charge for the time being of any of the Company's steamers may after the mails have been closed, receive on board such steamers any letter bearing the proper postage stamp, such letter to be delivered by the master or person in charge to the Post Office at the place to which the letter is directed, or to the Post Office nearest thereto. Any breach of the provisions of this section shall render the Company liable to a penalty not exceeding £5 . . .

From this we can safely assume that the local post was discontinued; thus, it existed for approximately 14 years. The Saint Lucia Steam Conveyance Company evidently soon liquidated. The year 1892 saw the arrival of two steamboats, the *Tees* and the *Wear*, for coastal service. The ships were operated by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSPCo), which secured the contract necessary for the service.

The three values of the stamps issued by the Saint Lucia Steam Conveyance Company (1d ultramarine; 3d lilac-rose; 6d violet) were lithographed on stout, white, wove, chalk-surface paper in Paris in sheets of 72 (6x12). The design, common to all values, consists of a ship (the *Aid* or the *Creole*) sailing to the left in an oval with the name 'St Lucia Steam Conveyance' across the top and around the sides, and 'Cy Limited' across the bottom of the oval.

Beneath the oval vignette is a tablet containing the figure of value but no denomination of currency, though obviously meant to be the penny, threepence and sixpence values. A rectangular frame surrounds the entire stamp. They were printed imperforate on unwatermarked paper. 'Specimens' of all three values exist. The stamps are gummed, the gum becoming brownish from the effect of the gum on the paper.

Very few covers exist; these are mostly cancelled with a pen strike and no date. A few copies recorded off cover are cancelled with a double concentric circle between which appears the name of the company in sans-serif capitals.

A second printing exists similar to the first: a clear gum and a coarser impression indicate a reprint. The fact that no used copies have been recorded of the second printing implies that they were printed-to-order for the specific purpose of supplying collectors and dealers.

A large quantity of these reprints were disposed on the philatelic market before World War II. It is from this large supply that most collectors acquired unused copies that now repose in many Saint Lucia collections.

This article is typical of those appearing in the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, the official publication of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. For membership details, interested readers are invited to write the BCPSG UK Representative: Alfred J. Branston, 11 Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 4DH.

Stamp Magazine
August 1989

St Lucia's normal definitives depict Uniforms: however, there are also what CAPHCO term 'interim definitives' showing a map of the island — interim, presumably, before the release of a completely different definitive series.

Be sure to keep up with these map types. The original four stamps are listed as SG 924/27, and appeared on February 24, 1987. The denominations were 5c, 10c, 45c and 50c. At some time during late 1988 the 5c and 10c were released with '1988' at the foot; on March 17 this year the 50c appeared again dated '1989', and on the same day a $1 value was added.



To date all printings had been with the old CA Spiral watermark, but in May 1989 the 5c and 10c were issued from a third printing with '1989' date and a change to CA Script Spiral watermark. Look for them all.

COLLECTING ST LUCIA STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY

Charles Freeland

St Lucia is a beautiful island with charming inhabitants and an interesting early history of French and British occupation and counter-occupation. It has many rare and fascinating philatelic treasures. One would think it would be a very popular collecting area but, over the past fifteen years at least, it has been somewhat out of fashion and prices, except for some of the most exotic material, have softened. An obvious opportunity, one would think, for a new collecting interest.

In this article, I do not propose to deal with the subject in a routine manner. This was done admirably by Dr Eric Glasgow in the June 1993 edition of *Stamp Lover*. I will instead try to single out the areas of interest to specialists, starting with the postal history and then dealing with the stamps and proofs.

Sources

My starting point may surprise you—it is not history or geography but sources. Relatively few comprehensive collections of St Lucia have come on the market. Probably the best was the B H Homan collection. Unfortunately for the student, this collection was sold to a dealer and so no auction catalogue exists to provide a record of its contents. However, they were reviewed at some length in the second issue of the *St Lucia Philatelist*. This scarce Robson Lowe publication, of which four numbers were issued between 1948 and 1952 is a core source of information on St Lucia, as is the Roses' handbook by Dr Geoff Ritchie, a copy of which fetched £130 in a recent literature auction.

These are the only handbooks available but the serious student would also wish to obtain the auction catalogues of the Lockie collection, sold by Temple Bar Auction on 11 October 1978, and the Latto Collection, sold by Christie's as recently as October 1992. Others known to have assembled fine St Lucia collections were those great British West Indies connoisseurs Charlton Henry, Snowden (whose collection was sold by Robson Lowe on 5 April 1944) and, of course, HM King George V.

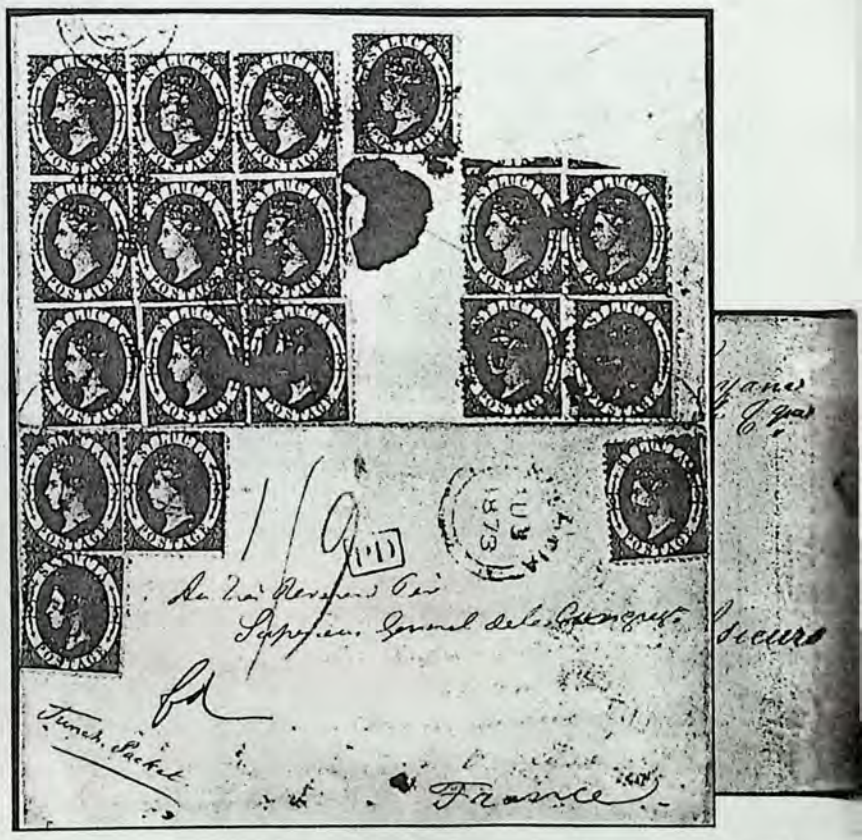
From 1650 to about 1800, St Lucia was exchanged no less than fourteen times between France and Britain. Eventually, in 1802 the British Navy took a firm hold and ownership was formally ceded to Britain in the 1814 Treaty of Paris. Most of the early mail to or from the island thus has military or naval connotations, much of it French. Prices of this material vary considerably and the patient and shrewd collector can build a most interesting collection without enormous expense, though 18th Century letters are rare.

Early Handstamps

The first St Lucia mark of origin (used at the GPO in Castries) is a small fleuron. These are scarce even though they were used from 1818 to at least 1844. Several subtypes exist. The fleuron was superseded by an insignificant-looking c.d.s. recorded from 1845 to 1880. This was often accompanied, on pre-paid mail, by the ubiquitous crowned circle, stuck on the face of the cover with the datestamp on the reverse. Plenty of crowned circle marks have survived on a range of correspondence (one of the most interesting is to Corsica) but fine examples are highly priced. Most were used in the pre-stamp era, 1845 to 1858, whereupon the short period of use of GB stamps made them unnecessary. A few, however, have been seen up to 1866 on covers bearing the early St Lucia adhesives, though it is essential to obtain a certificate for these as dangerous forgeries are known.

One other pre-stamp mark is recorded, an extremely scarce Soufriere c.d.s. This and the usage of GB stamps on cover, cancelled. All in the island, are two of the biggest challenges for the specialist. Plenty of covers bearing the charming Perkins Bacon issues have survived but they are rarely cheap so discrimination is advisable. Many of these bear rates of 1s. (the standard rate to England until the mid-1870s) or 4d., the rate introduced in 1879. The 'French Connection', however, was maintained and it is also quite easy to find covers to Bordeaux or Paris. It is not difficult, although also not cheap, to obtain an example of each single rate but then the challenge begins to find multiple rates, 'combination' covers showing different values, or registered covers. Most covers bear 4d. or 1s. stamps; the 6d. is unusual and the 1d. more so—indeed, to my knowledge, no inland 1d. rate covers from the Perkins Bacon period has survived so the only 1d. stamps on cover are found in combination with other values.

Also reflecting the 'French Connection', a few covers have been seen with French mailboat markings, applied on board or on arrival at a French port. The first known is an octagonal double ring datestamp, with 'St. Lucie Paq. Fr. C. No. 1' seen used between 1869 and 1880. Early in the 20th century, one finds a similar octagonal mark signifying use on the Cayenne–Fort de France boat, the route from French Guiana to Martinique.



Philatelic Covers

In the early 1880s, St Lucia issued an interesting series of postal fiscals. Thanks to the energetic efforts of a certain Mrs Murray, most of the values can be found on local covers. A few British collectors, notably Dorning Beckton, received attractive multifranked covers, but these too must be regarded as philatelic. Quite a few of them bear fiscally used stamps that have been cleaned, but this does not necessarily invalidate their interest, only their value.

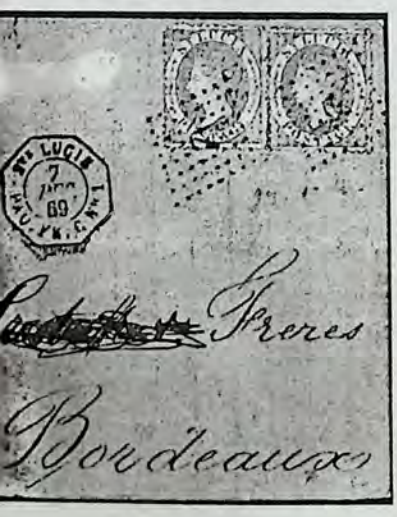
In the period in which the Queen Victoria Key plates were used (1883 onwards) covers become far cheaper and a nice study of the routes and rates can be assembled, though here again multiple frankings are unusual. It is not difficult, either, to find covers bearing the 1891–2 provisionals, but most of those seen are philatelic.

There are two twentieth century usages worthy of note. During early 1904, a shortage of 1d. stamps led to the resuscitation of the crowned circle mark, struck in black to denote prepayment. Ritchie gives a date range from 3–9 May, but an example is also recorded for 30 April. A provisional handstamp was also needed in 1927, following the destruction of the GPO and much of Castries on the night of 14 May. A crude typeset straight-line mark was used on 15 May for a few days thereafter but examples are not as scarce as one might believe.

Great Britain 4d. cancelled 'A11' in St Lucia (below left); The 1863 6d. on 4d. indigo, prepared for use but not issued (below right); The only known Berkins Bacon 1d. stamps on cover are from multiple frankings such as this 1873 cover to France bearing 18 copies (left); An 1869 cover bearing two 1s. adhesives cancelled by a French mailboat 'anchor' marking (bottom)









Many multiples of the Perkins Bacon stamps have survived; Thanks to Mrs Murray many of the postal fiscals can be found on cover

Village Cancellations

Few collectors have bothered to research the village cancellations of St Lucia. In the early period, the villages used a St Lucia c.d.s. with the code letter denoting the village. All six codes identified are relatively easy to find but it can be challenging to find some values used in each village. Covers are scarce. Two unidentified codes, A and B, are known but it looks unlikely that a proving cover will now be found almost one hundred years later. At intermittent intervals the six regional post offices adopted named datestamps and many sub-post offices can now be found which are fun and relatively cheap to acquire.

The only other postal history items I propose to review are the postage due markings. The earliest is an italic-style 1d. within a boxed handstamp. The only usage I have seen was on a cover from Gros Islet to Castries dated 20 Feb 1927. It was almost certainly destroyed in the fire that May. Subsequently, another boxed handstamp was made up. Ritchie lists six values from 1d. to 6d., but only two have been seen to date, the 1d. and 2d., with dates varying from 13 Feb 1928 to 31 Oct 1929. Few covers are recorded and in 1930 they were replaced by primitive labels. Thanks to the enthusiasm of Mr Panton, covers bearing the new labels (some with Panton's name excised) are commonly found, but other usages of the primitive labels, or of the later De La Rue dues, are difficult to acquire.

The First Stamps

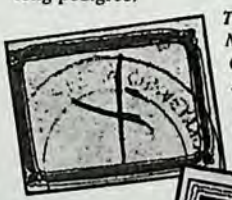
I now turn to the stamps. Following the brief period in which GB stamps were used, the island got its first issues, printed by Perkins Bacon, in 1860. The charming and finely engraved design does not show the value, which is indicated by colour. It is difficult to find nice examples as the line perforator did not result in regular alignment. Moreover, the subjects were closely spaced on the sheet so stamps showing the full design are unusual. Reflecting the scarcity of local use, the 1d. is the more difficult to find used than its brethren.

Altogether, there are five series of Perkins Bacon printings, the last of which is overprinted with the value in conformity with UPU regulations. The other series can be differentiated by colour, perforation or watermark. There are two well-known trial overprints which were never issued. I have not seen an official explanation for these but I share Ritchie's view that they were probably designed to test what an overprinted value would look like. Presumably, the authorities didn't like them because no overprints were done until twenty years later. A few examples of the ½d./6d. have been recorded cancelled 'by favour'.

All these Perkins Bacon values are printed from sheets of 240 (12 × 20). Homan actually plated the sheet and *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* of July to October 1965 has an article by R Bennett reproducing the plating notes. This could not have been achieved without a number of remainders and I believe that at least one full sheet of each of the three 1860 values was remaindered. Despite this, blocks are not cheap but at least they are available and a nice collection can be assembled, the most difficult being the 4d. perf 12½ and the overprinted 4d. and 1s. values. All used multiples, even pairs, are scarce and in several cases none have survived.

The St Lucia Steam Navigation Company

As a small island, St Lucia used boats to transport mail and two very interesting local issues were made for the Steam Conveyance Company. The earlier one was a primitive framed label—made up a circular datestamp, which was then pen cancelled. I have recorded four examples but a fifth, the only one on cover (dated 30 Oct 1871) was tragically lost in the mail after being sold in the 1972 sale of the Steindler collection. There is also an unusual variety of this stamp with no frame. This survives on a fragment of envelope and though it is the only one recorded, it is undeniably genuine with a long pedigree.





The St Lucia Steam Navigation Company's first stamp (left); there were two printings of the second stamp (below)

The second Steam Conveyance Co local is a small adhesive which was printed in Paris in three values (1d., 3d. and 6d.). There are two printings, an early scarce one with brown gum. The later printing, more in the nature of a reprint, is very common, many full sheets still being extant. All of the very few used copies are from the first printing. I have seen less than a dozen of the 6d. and only a handful of the 1d. At least one cover, though, has survived and this is illustrated on one of the stamps issued to commemorate London 1980—see if you can find it in the Gibbons Catalogue.

Keyplates

Reverting to the GPO issues, in 1883 St Lucia adopted the universal colonial keyplates. The first issues, from Die 1, contain some stamps from Plate 2 which show the broken frame flaw, discovered by E K Thompson, on Row 3 Stamp 3 of the right hand pane. This certainly can be found on the 4d. brown of 1885 and the four 1886 values. There are also some very attractive proofs, essays and imprimaturs for these keyplates.

In 1891–2 there was a series of provisional issues which produced numerous varieties. The 1d. on 4d. was overprinted in a vertical setting of ten, the others in horizontal settings of 6 × 2. I do not have space here to review the wealth of overprint varieties, which are listed in the standard catalogues; some are relatively common, while a few (notably the 1d. on 4d. inverted) are decidedly not.

In 1902, the famous Pitons stamp appeared, or perhaps infamous as it created a controversy about their height. Wholly forgotten was the origin of the stamp, a celebration of the island's discovery by Columbus four hundred years earlier. The main interest for the specialist lies in the lovely essays and proofs that can be found.

In 1916, the current 1d. King George V keyplate was locally overprinted 'WAR TAX', but the top margin was folded over so that top marginal copies show an 'albino' overprint. The carmine shade of this stamp is scarce, especially used.

Together with the other colonies, St Lucia issued a Silver Jubilee set in 1935, some of which show sought-after plate flaws. There are some rare die proofs of the frames and a unique set of specimens in blocks, from the De La Rue archives.

In 1936, the key plate definitives were superseded by a very attractive pictorial issue. Here, as with the Pitons, there are many attractive proofs. This series also saw the first issue of coil stamps, for the ½d. and 1d. values.

'Uneven and Unpopular'

In 1937, for the first time since 1883, De La Rue's monopoly of St Lucia was broken. Bradbury Wilkinson printed the Coronation set and three different printers were engaged for the new definitives. As a result, it is an uneven and unpopular set, the main interest for me lying in the coil stamps printed by Waterlow, which are very scarce. The 1949–50 set, however, threw up some desirable perforation varieties. A small number of sheets of the 1c. and 2c., and probably only one of the 4c., were printed with the gauge used to produce coil stamps. The 1c. and 2c. are difficult to find in horizontal pairs or blocks, particularly used. The 4c. is a highly-priced variety; none known mint and I have records of only eleven different used copies (an earlier reported pair probably having been split). Finally, a single sheet of the 6c. was imperforate at the left margin. This was evidently recognised by a collector because all eight copies have survived, used from Soufriere on Oct 1949, six being in vertical pairs on local covers addressed to John Walton.

Postage Dues

It remains only to deal with a couple of 'back of the book' items. In 1930, it was decided to print locally some postage due labels to replace the handstamps referred to earlier. Those primitive stamps were *individually* numbered from upper right to lower left. This mammoth task inevitably threw up some numbering errors which were corrected either by erasing a wrong number and inserting the correct one or by adding a second strike correctly positioned when the first was struck in the wrong place. Clearly, there were two clerks with separate numbering machines as two sizes are known and usually one correct the other.

Despite the obvious scope for errors in this process, I am not aware that any stamps have been found with duplicate numbers or that a platable single has been found incorrectly numbered. It is, nonetheless, a fascinating field for the specialist, with several settings and printings, major varieties (including the highly-catalogued 'imperf. between') and numerous minor varieties which would make it easy to plate the stamps if the numbering did not make that unnecessary. Bearing in mind also the legitimate usage on underpaid covers, it is a fascinating issue and I recommend you to read an excellent article by Simon Goldblatt on it in *Stamp Collecting* on 14 December 1978.



The 2d. 'Pitons' was issued to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the island's discovery by Columbus (top); A die proof of the frame of the 1935 2d. Jubilee (centre); The 10s. value in the attractive 1936 pictorial set

Postal Fiscals

Finally, St Lucia has issued numerous postal fiscals, many of which were local overprints resulting in scarce overprint varieties. Many of these are hard to find, particularly mint, but be careful of cleaned examples, which are worth far less. Multiples of all the fiscals are rare.

I will close with a brief word about the varieties to be found on St Lucia stamps. I have mentioned the plating of the Perkins Bacon issues by Homan; most of the flaws are minor ones but the last stamp on the sheet (No 240) has a major re-entry which rates a good premium. In the King Edward and George V period, which I have skipped over, the main interest lies in the varieties of shade and paper identifying different printings. In the George VI period, there are many perforation varieties. St Lucia is not, however, very fruitful territory for those who like watermark varieties. In the classic period, Perkins Bacon paid no great attention to the way the paper was fed so varieties are often seen and without significance. From 1883 to the 1950s De La Rue's efficiency prevailed. No watermark errors had been recorded until recently when I was able to obtain a 1912 3d. (SG 82b) with an inverted watermark. Attempts to find a second copy have not yet met with success.

There is much more to St Lucia—it is rich in forgeries, 'local' specimens, plate numbers, instructional markings, first flights, censor markings etc but I will leave those for a keen collector to discover for himself



The 1938 definitives (far left) are 'an uneven and unpopular set'; A mint block of the 1949 12c. perf 14½ × 14 (left); The 1930 postage dues were individually numbered (below)

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The St Lucia Steam Conveyance Company

Charles Freeland



Fig. 1 Photograph of Minvielle and Chastanet's store in Castries

Local stamps were issued by the St Lucia Steam Conveyance Company (SCC) to pay for the transfer of mail by local steamer around the coast of St Lucia from the early 1870s until August 1892, when the RMSP with its more modern steamers won over the contract. For many years this transmission of mail by sea provided vital communication in a hilly island where it was difficult to provide a land mail service. That helps to explain why only one example of a local cover franked with the familiar Perkins Bacon One Penny black has survived, even though it is not an uncommon stamp.

This article does not seek to recapitulate the history of these stamps or of the coastal mail service itself, which is well recorded and has been written up by Robert Devaux, Norman Williams and other well-respected commentators. However, it provides an opportunity to illustrate some unusual items that shed light on areas that previous authors have not touched upon. In addition, it seeks to correct some of the errors that have previously appeared in print. For example, Ringström and Tester repeat an error perpetrated in 1933 by a writer in the London Philatelist who said that several used examples had been donated to the Royal Collection, even though this was immediately denied in print by Bacon in his capacity as Curator at the time.

Strangely, these stamps are not mentioned in the only comprehensive handbook on the colony, by the late Dr Geoff Ritchie, but numerous articles on them have appeared in philatelic publications, including some in the London Philatelist. Their status is similar to the Lady McLeod stamps of Trinidad but, perhaps because of the plethora of remainder sheets discovered in 1933 and subsequently sold to collectors, they have never gained the same mystique. The lack of enthusiasm is enhanced by the almost total absence of available covers.

As mentioned, the lack of suitable roads made sea transport a necessary option in the late 19th century. The government was prepared to pay for the safe delivery and pick-up of local mail and in 1867 a contract was awarded to Captain Shugg using his tug *Penelope*, supported by an annual subsidy of £150. The whole enterprise was financed by a local trading firm that had been



Fig. 2 - Circular SCC cachet

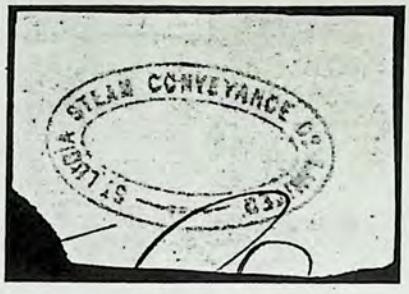

Fig. 3 - Oval SCC cachet



Fig. 4 - The unique unframed label



Fig. 5 - The framed label
(Photo courtesy Federico Borromeo)



Fig. 6 - Cover to Minvielle in Paris

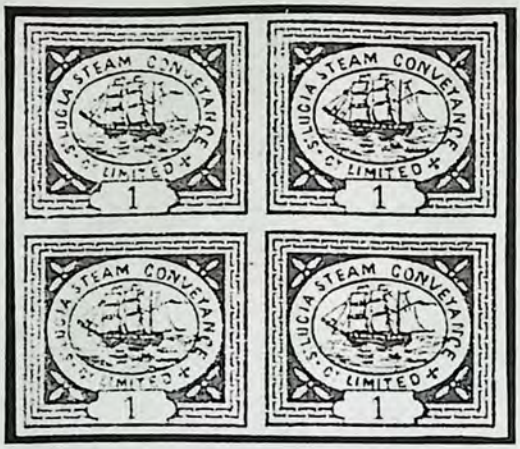

Fig. 7 - The issued stamps on thick paper (enlarged)



Fig. 8 - Rejoined pair cancelled with oval cachet (enlarged)



Fig. 9 - The issued 6d (enlarged)



Fig. 10 - A forgery (enlarged)

founded in 1864, Duboulay Minvielle and Company. However, Shugg drank himself to death shortly after his tug was tragically wrecked on rocks close to Anse La Raye in June 1868. The contract was subsequently taken over by a new company, the Steam Conveyance Company, managed by Duboulay Minvielle but with several other shareholders. The subsidy was at the same time increased to £250. Duboulay left the firm in 1885 and was replaced by a Mr Chastanet. Fig. 1 shows a photograph of Minvielle and Chastanet's store in Castries on a postcard mailed in 1901. Until recently, Minvielle and Chastanet was, according to Guy Kilburn, still one of the principal commercial firms on the island.

Figs. 2 and 3 show two pictures that do not seem to have appeared in print before. These cancellations, prepared by the Company for cancelling their mail, come from the collection of the late Ken Sargeant, a notorious postal history magpie. Each reads "St Lucia Steam Conveyance Co Limited". Whereas the circular one spells out "Company" in full, the oval one abbreviates it to "Co". Both are on small pieces that were tragically cut from covers – even more tragic if the covers had originally carried stamps - but they obviously travelled on the SCC steamers, since each still has a trace of the handwriting remaining.

The SCC issued stamps in at least three basic designs. The first two are primitive labels

made up in a manner similar to the Perot stamps of Bermuda. The better known of the two (Fig. 4) has a rectangular blue border with ornate corners round a white centre and is always overstamped with the top half of the circular handstamp shown in Fig. 2. Note that the handstamp does not signify usage: that is done by means of a black cross, as with the Lady McLeod. Norman Williams compared it to a "price ticket" which is basically what it is. In the late 1970s, Stanley Gibbons Auctions offered a few of these rare survivors that may have come from the Nissen stock the firm had acquired at that time. Four single stamps are recorded, but none has been on the market for the last fifteen years. There was a fifth example on a cover dated 13 October 1871 in the famous Julius Steindler collection of local stamps sold by Robson Lowe in Basel on 14 March 1972, but this was tragically lost in the mail when the purchaser sent it to Maurice Williams for expertisation.

The second label issued by the SCC is even more primitive, being a colourless impression of the same handstamp on pale yellowish paper (Fig. 5). This differs from the blue framed type in that the left side of the handstamp and not the top half has been used for the design. The difference leads one to wonder about the identical placing of the handstamp on the five examples of the Fig. 4 type. Since it is unlikely to be a coincidence, it seems very probable that only the top half of the cancellation was deliberately used for the stamps with blue frames. The unique unframed example is presumably an earlier type, where the orientation of the cds was probably random. The example shown was thought by Norman Williams to have once been in the comprehensive St Lucia collection formed by US dealer B.H. Homan (though it is not mentioned by Frank Godden in his description of the Homan collection in Godden's Gazette for February 1938). Whether that belief is correct or not, it was a key item in the J.M.Lockie collection of St Lucia sold by Temple Bar in 1978 and was last offered in the 1985 Feldman sale of the remarkable Melat collection in New York. By all accounts, it is the only example to have survived.

In about 1873, with business booming, the SCC decided it needed some proper adhesive labels to sell for prepayment of the mailing fee and an order was given to a Paris printer to prepare adhesive labels. Paris was a natural choice because Duboulay Minvielle would have had connections there (St Lucia was in French hands for much of the eighteenth century and was only finally ceded to Britain in the Treaty of Paris in 1814). Suspicion falls on the Minvielle family, as demonstrated by the survival of correspondence to E. de Minvielle in Paris in the 1870s and 1880s (Fig. 6).

The result of the printer's efforts were fairly amateur (Fig. 7), depicting a sailing boat instead of a steamer as the main part of the design and the term "CY" for Company, hardly a British word. Three denominations of adhesive label - 1d, 3d and 6d - were ordered and the stamps were printed by lithography. The plates were set up in twelve rows of six horizontal units to produce a sheet of 72 stamps (not six rows of 12 as recorded by Mahé in 1873, repeated in a paper delivered to the Royal Philatelic Society London by Percy de Worms on 30 November 1933 and subsequently reproduced without comment by Ringström and Tester, although they must have seen numerous sheets). However, these sources correctly describe the settings of each, demonstrating the odd fact that the 1d value was made up from a transfer of nine units (3x3) with eight transfers on each pane of 72, while the 3d and 6d were in transfers of 6 units (2x3) with twelve transfers per pane. Two printings exist. The first printing can most easily be distinguished by its very thick paper and the absence of the shiny surface that characterises the second printing, although there are also some minor differences in the flaw characteristics. Since all the stock was shipped to the colony, the stamps suffered from humidity and are found with cracked brown (often extremely brown) gum. Very few examples of the 3d from this printing have survived and relatively few of the other values. Although more mint than used copies of this issue have survived, my notes record only two mint blocks of 4 and one of 6 of the 1d, and three blocks of 4 and one of 6 of the 6d.

The 3d is distinctly the scarcest of the three values from the first printing. For that reason, one would dispute the theory aired by an early commentator that the rates were 1d for the printed

paper rate, 3d for the single letter rate and 6d for the double letter rate. Moreover, the single cover to have survived, which is still on the island in the Devaux collection, bears the 1d stamp for the local letter rate. This cover is pictured on one of the St Lucia commemoratives - SG519 issued in 1980. It is now known that the SCC advertised a "Penny Post" for letter delivery, hence the higher rates must have been for packages or parcels. It is unlikely that documentary evidence of the rates will now be discovered, since this was a private and not an official issue for which P.O. notices might have survived. However, it is a fact that no more than a few copies of the 3d have been recorded (in fact I have never seen one that I was confident was genuinely used) and, so far as I am aware, there are no 3d mint multiples.

Shown in Figs. 8 and 9 are a used 6d and a rejoined pair of the 1d. Note the cancellations are the same ones illustrated in Fig. 3. The 1d pair helps to explains the rarity of the 3d, because those using the service may have preferred to use multiples of the 1d rather than the unfamiliar 3d. My records contain pictures of ten 1d values and a dozen 6ds bearing this cancellation. They also contain one or two other stamps cancelled with pen crosses, manuscript lettering or different types of handstamp. Several such types, including the 3d used, were offered in a UK mail sale in March 2000, although most of them had suspicious cancellations.

The second printing of the label is on paper that is still thick but less thick than the first printing and with paler gum. It can be found fairly readily in mint condition, including surviving sheets of 72. No used examples are known of this second printing, which suggests very strongly that they were never sent to the island but were printed, on the printer's own initiative, in order to satisfy apparently insatiable demand for this attractive item from an out of the way colony. All the large blocks or sheets that turn up from time to time probably come from this reprint, though they are less frequently seen nowadays after a plethora of them in the 1970s. They are fun to collect because it is easy to plate each setting. The different characteristics of each stamp in the three settings have been fully described in the literature, including the fact that there are one or two flaws present on the second printing that distinguish it from the first one.

Forgeries of the Paris issue also exist (Fig. 10). Some are very simple lithographs and unlikely to deceive anyone who has seen the originals, if only because their colours are quite different. I have examples of the 3d value in yellow, blue-green and deep magenta. The same stencil seems to have been used for the illustrations in the Senf catalogue and one can also find cutouts from the catalogue in white, yellow and yellow-green. Ringström and Tester describe, but do not illustrate, what sounds like a different forgery.

One of the prime pieces of St Lucia postal history is the unique cover bearing the oval upright SS *Assistance* handstamp, offered on a few occasions in Europe over the past couple of decades at a hefty reserve price. At first sight this seems puzzling, since the SCC is known to have owned only two ships. One was the coastal tug SS *Aide*, acquired second-hand from Barbados in 1870. This was rather slow and small, although it must have provided good service because business was profitable enough to justify the acquisition of a modern replacement, the SS *Creole*, in 1873. It is tempting to think that since "Aide" translates as assistance, that might be the name by which the English called it. In fact, the SS *Assistance* was a different ship altogether, owned and run by Barnard, Peter and Co. It arrived on 1 December 1879 but its service was sporadic and never profitable and petered out when its Captain died in 1889.

To close, I quote an extract from the Barbados newspaper *The West Indian* for 23 May 1873 that was kindly sent to me by Guy Kilburn. "There was much enthusiasm at the arrival of the screw steamer *Creole* from England under Capt. Francis Rideaux. This is the second coastal steamer for St. Lucia. On arrival the Administrator and elite of Castries paid it a visit and then it went down to Soufriere in 1 and 3/4 hours for another celebration. Will join the *Aide*. *Creole* built expressly for the 'Steam Conveyance Company (Limited)' of this island by Messrs R and H Green of Blackwall. Her engines are from the establishment of Messrs J and A Blyth of London. She is 69 and 7/10th feet in length, 13 and 6/10ths feet depth; 52.20 tons register and 24 horsepower.

She steams comfortably at 10 knots an hour. The managing director of the company is Mr. Chastanet".

I would like to acknowledge the assistance I have received from Robert Devaux and Guy Kilburn in giving me access to their files and unpublished research articles.

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Post Offices in Saint Lucia 2000/01

Copied from a list provide by the GPO, Bridge Street, Castries, Feb 2001

District Post Offices

These offices handle most types of mail and most have Private Post Boxes

Anse-La-Raye Dennery Gablewoods Mall (South)[Vieux Fort] Micoud
Soufriere Vieux Fort

Scale Post Offices

Similar to District Offices but more restriucted range of services

Bocage Gablewoods Mall (Castries) Gros-Islet Laborie
La Clery (Castries) Marchand Mon Repos Rodney Bay Mall

Sub-offices

Americ Augier Aux Lyons Babonneau Balata Balca
Banse Belle Vue Bexon Blanchard Bogius Canaries
Chaussee Road (Castries) Choiseul Ciceron Debrieul Delaide
Dernier Riviere Desruisseaux Etangs (Soufriere)
Fond Assau Fond St. Jacques Gardette Garrand
Girard Grace Grand Riviere (Gros Islet) Grand Riviere (Dennery)
Hospital Road (Castries) Jacmel La Croix Maingot La Maze
La Pointe Leslie Land (Castries) Marc Marigot Marisule
Millet Monchy Moreau Morne Sion Patience Perrot
Saltibus Ti Rocher Vanard (Castries) Victoria

No Longer Listed

J C Charles Mall (Now Rodney Bay Mall)
Londonderry No longer exists. Mail handled by Saltibus
Cul De Sac (Possibly did not exist)
Roseau (Registration label now at Marigot)

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ALISTER KINNON