

## WEST INDIES FEDERATION JOURNAL

Club News of the West Indies Federation Study Group.

Volume 1. MAY 1961 Number 1.

Robert Topaz, Temporary President. R. E. Lant, Temporary Sec-Treas.

A. N. Johnson, Temporary Editor.

As many of you know, a group of British West Indies collectors have decided to organize a Study Group, with a view of exchanging our knowledge, experience and stamps with one another, to the end that information on the stamps and postal history of these countries may be as widely disseminated as possible, particularly regarding Jamaica and its dependencies, Turks Islands, Turks and Caicos and Cayman Islands. This we hope to do through this Journal and through brochures: published from time to time by members of the group.

Several of the members have already prepared papers on phases of Jamaican philately, in which they have specialized. These brochures will be sent to the other members of the group. All will eventually be mimeographed in standard letter size sheet, and may be punched for a ring binder. This will make an excellent reference on many angles of B.W.I. philately. We urge all of you to consider writing up any specialized information that you might have, for the benefit of all of us. If you will send your manuscripts to the editor, we will stencil and mimeograph them for you. at no cost.

There have been three papers done by the Founding Committee, all on Jamaica. These were a listing of the Numeral Obliterators that are known up to date, the Birmingham marks and the Free Frank marks. If anyone doesn't have these and wants them, please ask the editor for them, (as long as the supply lasts). Final up-datings on some of these will be forthcoming this fall. One problem will be to have specialists on other islands furnish manuscripts on their specialty. Let's stand up and be counted, boys, and we will do the work for you

### **Membership List:**

As soon as there are sufficient members to warrant, a membership listing will be prepared and mailed to all. This list will be kept current, with supplements from time to time, thus all members will be in a position to correspond with any other member.

### **An Open Invitation From Our Temporary President:**

This is the first chance that I have had to publicly welcome all of you people who have been nice enough to join with us in our new venture and also to extend an invitation to anyone who is not yet an associate. The West Indies Federation Study Group was formed to promote study and interest in the countries of the West Indies Federation with special emphasis on Jamaica, the largest and most important of the group. I say most important in the sense of gross value of product, largest population, etc. rather than in a philatelic sense. Seven of us have joined together to form the Founding Committee and get things rolling. We will have to depend on you to keep things rolling. We would like this group to be run by the members and for the members, with participation and contribution by all according to their ability and knowledge. We would like everything open and aboveboard with a free and open exchange of information and knowledge. We are not interested in having members who do not want their names known to their fellow members.

We are shooting for a September election for the first elected officers. We will be calling for volunteers to be part of the Election Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Constitution Committee. These will be essential to get started. In the interim and until we get organized a bit better, I think that it would be reasonable to send the Treasurer – pro-tem - Reg Lant, 164 Highbourne Road,. Toronto 7, Ontario, Canada, one dollar each, to tide the group over. It is easy to say that you will join. I hope they have as little trouble collecting dues. When our needs are a bit clearer, the membership can vote on how much dues should be.

ROBERT TOPAZ.

### **Personal Mention:**

Bob Topaz writes that he will spend part of this month overseas on business for his Company, He will be in Italy, Germany, France and England. Lucky dog, guess that he'll pick up all the B.W.I.s in Europe.

Russell Gibson and Mrs. Gibson have been vacationing in Florida for the past several weeks. Hope you had a nice trip and found a few oblits., Russ.

Clinton von Pohle underwent surgery recently, but writes that he is doing OK now, but will take some time to recover from his stacked up correspondence.

Milt Erickson says that he is working on a new brochure that will give detailed information and a check list of the many registration marks of Jamaica, used over the years. Hurry it up, Milt., we are all anxious to see it.

Byron Cameron of Ft. Lauderdale will undertake to write up the many types of pre-postal covers of Jamaica, with their many unusual and interesting markings, for the group. This should be a large order, but Byron is an expert in this field and will do a fine job, we are sure.

Mark Swetland of 70 Pine Walk, Carshalton, Surrey, England reports that he has seen several copies of "Jamaica" printed by Stanley Gibbons in 1928 and authored by Collett, Nicholson, of al.- the "Bible" of Jamaica collectors- on sale at Treasure stamps, 4 Royal Arcade, Old Bond Street, London W.1., England, for about \$9.00. Mark doesn't say whether these are new or used, but it really doesn't matter too much since the going price per copy in this country has been around \$25.00

Ken Rice of 940 Passo Castella, West Palm Beach., Fla., who is one of the first members to join our group, is a candidate for the Presidency of the American Philatelic Society Ken has been a West Indies man for a long time and will make a good President, with your support. Ken has a swell postal history collection of Jamaica.

Jordan Churchill of Box 271, Lawrenceville, N. J., has recently returned from a few weeks at his favorite resting place, Jamaica. I should say winter resting place, for Jordan is astute enough to come to New England and the Cape Cod area for the summers Jordan was also, by sheer coincidence able to get back the day before the "Charlton Henry" sale took place, and found time to spend a little time there, along with

Byron Cameron, Norman Townsend, Bob Topaz, and several others. The Charlton Henry sale of British West Indies was said to be the most outstanding collection and sale in history,. Bob Topaz has one extra catalogue which he will not sell, but will lend to anyone interested for a short time Write him directly if you are interested. Prices realized will be included. Incidentally a large part of these items, particularly the higher priced ones, were bought by the several English dealers there at the sale, including Fred Buck, Wingfield, Lee and others.

## **Rare Antigua Numeral Obliterator:**

Peter Scott, regular contributor to the "Philatelic Magazine", published in London, writes of an exceedingly rare numeral obliterator of Antigua; A-18 issued at English Harbour. He states that A-18 on British stamps are very rare, (Gibbons prices only one stamp, the 6d lilac at 50 pounds), and that it is pretty hard to find on the regular Stamps of Antigua, so be on the lookout, you may have a good one or two in your collection. Your Editor located two in his; an S.G. #5 and #15.

We have just received and copied an article from Mr. von Pohle concerning the 2½d provisional on 4d of 1890 of Jamaica, giving the plates of the first three settings and an interesting write-up. This appeared in Gibbon's Stamp Monthly for November 1932. It will please us to make a copy of this article and mail to anyone interested in this is stamp

## **New Issues**

Bermuda plans a complete new set of 15 definitives for early 1962. The designs will show famous buildings of Bermuda.

Trinidad and Tobago issued, on April 4th, an 8c and 25c stamp in honor of the Boy Scout Jamboree. Issued in sheets of 50, (5 X 10). They will be on sale for three months or until exhausted. Better pick these up, fellows, the look like they would be good items.

Postal Stationery:

- St Kitts -- 12c Brown and blue Air Letter Sheet.:
- St Lucia -- Aerogram-in blue showing current pictorial adhesives 6c brown on blue and 15c orange on blue with orange instructions, and inscription.

British Honduras released on March 1st, the four "New Constitution" overprinted stamps, 3¢. 10¢ and 15c. The now "Bird" set of definitives is due for release later in the year.

Invalidation of Jamaican issues: The four values of the 195 "Tercentenary" issue (2n.; 2½d, 3d and 6d); were invalidated on Dec. 31, 1960, but "a period of six months grace expiring on the 30th of June 1961 has been allowed during which holders of those stamps may exchange them for stamps of equal value of the current series." (Crown Agents Bulletin.; No., 338, March 1, 1961) Better get these while you can.

From the Trinidad Royal Gazette, Vol 130, No 8, Port of Spain, Trinidad:

"Notice is hereby given that all postage stamps issued prior to the accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1952, and the special issue commemorating her Coronation in 1953 will be declared invalid for postage purposes or for payment of stamp duty with effect from August 1, 1961. Any persons in possession of such stamps after the date of invalidation may have them exchanged at any post office in Trinidad and Tobago up to and including October 31., 1961, for stamps of equivalent value of the current issue. The Stamps to be invalidated are the KG VI definitives 1938 to 1951 (1c to \$4.80), 1946 Victory (3 ¢, 6c). 1948 Silver wedding (3¢ and \$4.80), 1949 U.P.U. (5c, 6c, 12c and 24c), 1951 UCWI, (3c, 12c, and 1953 Q. E, II Coronation (3c). At the present time and until August there are 51 different stamps,(excluding varieties), valid for postage in the Territory and you may get your high values, obsolete in the catalogues, cancelled up to that date of your wish".

## **Bahamas \* Trd Cancellations:**

Mr. Gail J. Raymond, 5718 Wigton Drive, Houston 35, Texas, has issued a new handbook covering the Temporary Rubber Date stamps of the Bahamas. These TRD's are locally made odd-shaped postmarks, used until more permanent steel datestamps could be sent out from England. This handbook is the result of some 15 years study of these marks by Mr. Raymond, Postal historians and postmark collectors in general will find especially useful, the complete list of all known Bahamas post-offices and sub post-offices, past and present. The booklet is obtainable from the author for \$1.00.

A new paper-backed volume of the "Numeral Cancellations of the British Empire, "Second Edition, Compiled by the Reverend H. H. Heins, may be obtained from Robson Lowe, Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London S.W.1., the publishers. This volume lists all of the Cancellations of Great Britain and the Empire, and will be found useful by anyone interested in Cancellations.

The Texas Philatelic Association 65th Convention will be held in San Antonio, Texas on May 19, 20 and 21, 1961, at the Granada Hotel. The Exhibition will be called "TEXPEX" '61". Anyone desiring to submit material for exhibition may send it to Texas Philatelic Association,, Lloyd M. O'Neal, Exhibit Chairman, 830 West Gramercy, San Antonio I, Texas. The entrance fee for an 8 page frame is \$1.00. Entries should be in San Antonio by May 15th.

Members who are also members of the A. P. S. and interested in receiving their circuits, should ask the Sales Div. to send them Circuit No. JAM-1, containing much Jamaican material, as well as other B. W. I. items.

Remember, if you are interested in our group, and want to become a member, write any of us,, inclosing \$1.00 to assist in covering the preliminary expenses of organization. Don't forget to send the editor any information or news that he can use in publishing this Journal. Items on B.W.I. stamps or postal history, personal mentions, etc. Without your help, it is a hard matter to convey information about the group to all.