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Club News of the West Indies Federation Study Group.

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In the search for our various philatelic specialties, or for that matter, the regular collection of our various country interests, it has been our experience that the knowledge and research of our predecessors in a particular field can be very valuable. Hence it behooves each serious student of philately to surround himself with all of the literature available on his particular subject. In other words, build a philatelic library. The Jamaica collector should certainly own a copy of L.C.C. Nicholson's "Jamaica Handbook". The collector of cancellations would do well to have Robson Lowe's "Handstruck Stamps of the Empire" as well as the "Numeral Cancellations of the British Empire", by Rev. H. H. Heins. Gale J. Raymond has published a booklet on the TRD's of the Bahamas and Morris Ludington is now in process of preparing a volume on "Bermuda". There are numerous other Handbooks, pamphlets and articles on other of the B.W.I.

We have for a number of years made loose leaf collections of all articles appearing in the various stamp magazines having to do with the stamps of the B.W.I., by mounting these clippings on 8½ x 11 stock and alphabetically filing them in loose leaf binders. Thus we bring together much of the ideas and findings of many minds for comparison and information.

The use of philatelic literature is a powerful adjunct to the hobby and enables one to derive additional pleasure and knowledge from their collections. Further the information obtained often enables one to spot, with a certain knowledge, those stamps, cancellations and postal history items, that without it, sometimes leaves one in doubt as to their own findings. We strongly urge everyone interested in specialization to build themselves a philatelic library. The pleasure and profit of knowing is worth it.

A. N. Johnson, Temporary Editor.

(Since writing the above, we have had four members write suggesting that a listing of all available B.W.I. Literature be printed in the Journal and also that a "Literature for sale" column be published. If possible, we will run a listing of philatelic literature in our next issue, if all the membership will send us a record of what they have on hand, the source, etc., Also will run in the swap column any literature for sale).

We have checked and rechecked, but have found no truth in the report that a hen near Port Lavaca, Texas, was caught with her back to Hurricane Carla and laid the same egg three times, neither have we been able to substantiate the report that a farmer near Freeport, Texas, who has a stone lined well that was sucked inside-out by the storm, was digging a new well and using the old one for a silo.

## **The Trinidad and Tobago 1914 Red Cross Stamp/Label**

### **By Lt. Col. Fred F. Seifert.**

The Scott Catalogue, Volume 1, lists under Trinidad and Tobago, a Red Cross Semi-Postal stamp, B-1, giving a valuation only for used, on-cover copies. A footnote states, "This stamp was allowed to pay postage as ½p on one day only, September 18, 1914."

Whether the above usage warrants classifying as a Postage Stamp, what would otherwise be referred to as a label will probably be debated as long as there are stamp collectors. Stanley Gibbons does not accord it catalogue status nor even deign to mention it in a footnote. In Robson Lowe's Regent Encyclopaedia and Catalogue it is also conspicuous by its absence. However, the fact remains that it was used on covers which carried no other franking, and said covers were duly postmarked by the G.P.O. Port of Spain, 3PM, September 18, 1914, and were delivered to their destinations without any postage due indicated.

On September 4, 1914, at a public meeting in Port of Spain, a committee was formed to raise funds for the Red Cross Association of London. Mrs M. E. Burslem of Queen's Royal College, Port of Spain and Mrs. J. I. Blackwood Wright were the Joint Secretaries and a Committee member was appointed to each of the following Districts:

Diego Martin, Santa Cruz, St. Joseph, Maracas, Caroni, Tunapuna, Tacarigua, Dabadie, Arima, Sangre Grande, Chaguanas, Couva, San Fernando, Princes Town, Montserrat, Cedros, Blanchisseuse and Toco.

To publicize it's fund raising, the Committee on September 18, 1914, addressed a printed form letter dated September 1, 1914, to the managers of the various estates throughout Trinidad and Tobago. This letter advised of the formation of the Committee and said in part: "The money is to be collected by the women of Trinidad and Tobago and their aim is to reach every man, woman and child in the islands and give them an opportunity of doing their share, however small, for the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers and sailors who have been fighting so gallantly for our protection and liberty. These will include not only the British, but our French and Belgian Allies as well as our East Indian troops in whom the East Indians on the estate will have a special interest, The Committee will be glad if you will do your best to interest the employees of your estate to contribute a small sum - from a cent upward - every month while the war lasts."

To frank the above letter, a copy of Scott B-1 was applied to the cover. Is it a stamp or a label? I leave it to you, the reader, to decide. It is interesting to note that Grenada issued, at about the same time as Trinidad, a Red Cross Label, identical to the above except for the name of the Colony. However, there has never been any question as to its status as a label since it was never employed as a frank.

Stanley Durnin reports a record of two new Birmingham cancels from Jamaica:

Port Maria, B-3 and Duncan's B-3. Upon checking with Clint von Pohle, he states that the Birmingham mark used at Duncans should be B-3, there was never a B-1 used there and our original brochure was in error in so stating. Please correct your Birmingham article to so read. Clint also states that Port Maria B-3 is a new one, to him, and that at present Port Maria is using the double-ring mark only.

## The President's Letter:

As our Group approached the ripe old age of six months, we must face a series of small yet unavoidable problems. This is a necessary part of our growing pains, and grow we have. As of this date, (October 7), I am informed that we have eighty one members. I am real proud of this, and grateful to all of you who have made this possible. Our first problem is our name. It is quite apparent that our name is not adequate or pertinent any more, especially since Jamaica has abandoned, alas, the West Indies Federation. In addition, our members' tastes are a bit more widespread, and so it is the opinion of most of us, that our coverage should spread. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a poll for your preferences as to coverage of the Group. Please fill it in and return it with your Ballot. When all of the preferences are tallied, the Board of Governors will go over them.

The question of dues for the coming year is of paramount importance. The Group has been able to get by on donated supplies etc., plus the \$1.00 entrance fee for this year. In order to buy stationery, put out six "Journals" a year and publish the occasional paper, and to circulate the information to all interested, etc., it is apparent that we shall have to have an annual dues of \$2.50 - \$3.00 per year. If anyone has any pertinent comment on this, please drop a note to Al Johnson or myself. The Constitution Committee is working on their huge task and should have something to present to all of us soon. Milt Erickson and his committee are anxious to hear from anyone with any ideas on the subject.

You should have received in a separate mail, an official list of nominations for the officers for the next year. Any further nominations should have been sent in to Al Johnson, so that he would be able to send out a complete Ballot. But it is still not too late to write in the name of your favorite candidate for any office.

In any case, please vote. Mail your completed ballot, along with your coverage preferences to West Indies Federation Study Group, c/o Wm. B. Stitt, 60 East 42nd St. New York 17, N. Y., and mark in the left hand corner "Ballot". Bill will safeguard these and will count and tally them with his committee at Room 8005, Empire State Building, New York City, on the Saturday afternoon of the show at 2 P.M. Please get your ballots in on time.

As a last word, may I again urge you all to contribute some short or long article about what you like or know best. It can be a cover - a postmark - a series - or a whole country. Please don't be bashful.

Bob Topaz, Temporary President.

REG LANT has sent in the following TRD's that are not recorded in Aguilar's Handbook: Franklin Town, types 37g and 46 (40mm). Harbour View (W.I.), (37g), Kirkvine (W.I.), (type 37g), Lower Buxton (T.W.I.), (37f), Short Wood (blue) (37g), Tower Isle, (with star), (type 42). Also a rubber stamp mark on a parcel office slip similar to type 37 with - "Parcels Post Office around the top and Kingston, Jamaica at bottom" (Lant's comments: "Whether this is considered a TRD is debatable").

Clinton von Pohle also sends in the following new TRD's: Waltham Gardens, Red Ground Cheltenham, Spring Vale in Blue, Baileys Vale in black, Tranquility., The last two are not new P.O.'s, one can only guess why they have gone back to TRD's. He also reports that he has another TRD that seems to read "BAMBURY". It is not too clear. Does anyone else have a record of this mark? If so, please let Clint know about it.

## **Some Watermark Varieties on the Stamps of Turks Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands. By M. H. Ludington.**

The format of the plates made by Perkins, Bacon for the three original Turks Island values, the 1d, 6d, and 1s, was unusual, consisting, as they did, of plates of 30 subjects in three rows of ten. The small size was due to the small quantity of stamps required by the Islands, but the shape was not suited to the standard Crown and CC or Crown and CA papers, and when De La Rue took over the plates in 1881, they had to adapt the paper as best they could.

Before going any further, it would be well to explain that the Crown and CC paper, and later the Crown and CA paper were both made by the manufacturer and supplied to De La Rue, in large sheets containing four printing size sheets. By "printing size" is meant a sheet with 240 "bits" of the Crown and CC or CA watermark, divided into four panes of 60 "bits", each pane surrounded by a watermarked frame line. The vertical gutter between the panes is narrow enough so that the frame lines of the left and right panes can both appear on a stamp printed centrally on it. But the horizontal gutter between the upper and lower pairs of panes is the full height of a standard stamp, and has the watermark "CROWN COLONIES" on the Crown and CC paper, or "CROWN AGENTS" on the Crown and CA paper, in large double lined capitals. In addition, the words "CROWN COLONIES" repeated twice on the Crown and CC paper, or "CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES" on the Crown and CA paper, appear in double lined capitals in the left and right sheet margins, reading upward on the left and downward on the right.

For most of the 1d, 1881, and all the later 1d printings, and the 6d and some of the 1s of 1887, De La Rue simply centered the plate across the gutter dividing the adjacent panes, with the result that the watermark is usually found off-center to the left in the left half of the sheet and to the right in the right half, and the watermarked "gutter" lines, framing the panes, appear on the middle stamps of each row. Occasionally, the top or bottom watermark frame lines appear across stamps due to the paper being misplaced vertically. Naturally, the left and right margins of the sheets of stamps have the Crown and CC or CA watermark instead of the marginal inscriptions.

However, in the case of some of the 1d, 1881, all copies seen of the 6d and 1s, 1881, and some of the 1s. 1887, the paper was turned sideways, top to the right. Occasionally, portions of the letters of the marginal inscriptions with the adjacent frame line occurs in the top or bottom row of stamps, and these letters, of course, are either the right way up or inverted in relation to the stamp. In addition, the gutter lines can also be found running horizontally across the top or bottom row of stamps in the sheet.

In the case of the 1d, 1883, all examples seen have the watermark upright but reversed. The reason for this was suggested in an article on the De La Rue printings from Perkins, Bacon plates by J. R. W. Purves and Peter Jaffe in the London Philatelist of July 1961. Briefly, the article states that surface printing requires a paper with a smooth "glazed surface, whereas recess printing needs a rougher textured surface to allow the ink drawn from the recessed lines to adhere. When De La Rue first took over the printing of line-engraved stamps, they occasionally found " that some of the paper they were planning to use for these stamps had already, been "glazed" on one side for surface printing. Consequently, they simply turned the sheets over to use the rougher surface on the back, and in doing so, reversed the watermark. Purves and Jaffe point out a number of St. Vincent stamps which were treated this way. In Turks Island, the 1d of 1883 is the only stamp known to have a reversed watermark which could be attributed to this reason. It appears obvious, as time went on and De La Rue took over the printing of more and more line-engraved stamps, (for they were not successful in substituting their preferred surface printing in all cases), that they left unglazed a portion of their paper stock, for reversed watermarks among the later engraved Queen Victoria stamps of Turks Islands have not been recorded.

As for the typographed 2d, 2½d, 4d, and 5d, the plates of these were, of course, made by De La Rue, and so conformed with the requirements for the standard watermarked paper De La Rue were always very careful in the production of surface printed stamps, and if any watermark varieties exist, they must be extremely rare.

The watermarks of the low values of the first issue of Turks and Caicos Islands present several unusual features. The stamps were line-engraved and were printed in sheets of 60, in ten rows of six. This is the standard format for a single pane of the Crown and CA watermark sheet, nevertheless many unusual watermarks may be found, which show that the sheets were printed off-center in relation to the paper. It would seem that the large sheets as supplied by the paper manufacturer were not cut up into four "printing size" sheets, but instead were out into four "strips" each containing four panes side by side. The evidence for this lies in the fact that not only may blocks of the stamps be found with the watermark "gutter" lines running through them vertically, but also with portions of two marginal inscriptions, the left one reading downward and the right one upward. Even single stamps often show the top part of one or more letters reading down on the left side and the bottom part of one or more letters reading up on the right. Since the marginal inscriptions do not extend over the full height of the printing sheet, strips of three stamps spanning the space for the marginal inscriptions occur with the middle stamp entirely without watermark. These come from the top and bottom rows of the printing sheet of 240, and thus are found in the top or the bottom row of the sheets of 60, of course in different sheets.

The reason for cutting the large sheets into strips of four panes would seem to be that the width of the paper required for the sheets of 60 stamps with adequate margin was too great for that provided by the standard watermarked pane, owing to the narrow gutters. The printers, therefore, cut the strips into three, thereby allowing an ample width of 10 to 15 mm for the margins on each side, although quite a bit of paper was wasted in the process. From the few marginal blocks so far examined, it appears that the strips of four panes were sometimes measured off from the right end, for in one block the two "gutter" lines run through the second stamp in each row while in a lower left corner block, the large letters "NTS" appear in the bottom margin below the left margin and first two stamps.

In 1904 the multiple Crown and CA watermark was introduced which eliminated the problem of registering the watermark, and also eliminated the marginal frame lines and inscriptions. However, inverted, reversed or inverted and reversed watermarks are found on a number of stamps up to at least the mid 1920s, the last examples being on the Multiple Crown and Script CA watermark introduced in 1920. These so far recorded are listed below. Others probably exist.

#### 1909 Issue.

- ½d Inverted wmk.
- Reversed wmk.
- 2½d Reversed wmk.
- 1 Inverted wmk.

#### 1910 Issue

- 2d. Red (S.G. 126) Inverted wmk.

#### 1913 Issue

- 3d. Purple on orange-buff (SG 133c) Reversed wmk.

1918 War Tax Issue.

1d. Bright rose-scarlet (S.G. 146.). Inverted wmk.

1919 War Tax Issue (narrow spacing)

3d. purple on orange-buff (S.G. 151) Inverted wmk.

Reversed wmk.

1919 War Tax Issue (wide spacing)

3d. purple on orange-buff (S.G. 153) Reversed wmk.

Inverted and reversed wmk.

1922 Issue.

4d. red on pale yellow (S.G. 169) Reversed wmk,

5d. Inverted and reversed wmk.

6d. Reversed wmk.

**Swap Column**

HAVE representative collections of very fine mint and used Australia, Great Britain and New Zealand, will sell intact or trade stamp for stamp for Bermuda, Barbados Bahamas and Hawaii, used only, Capt W. A. Evans, Athens, Ga.

Am very much interested in the PERFINS of all countries and would appreciate hearing from members who may have same in their dupes Ralph E. Group, Washington, D.C. Wanted, British West Indies Philatelist old issues. Volume 2, Nos. 1, 3 and 4, Vol 5, No. 1, in order to complete my file of these books for binding. A. N. Johnson.

Wanted, Jamaica No. 60 (Scott). Would like used pairs, strips or blocks, any amount. Offer Uncle Sam's green, Confederate Cash or exchange. Tommy Thompson.

Wanted, Better grade Jamaican pre-stamp covers, unusual fiscal items, and obliterations. Name what you want, I just might have it. Byron R. Cameron, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Wanted, Bahamas No. 129 (Scott), on piece or cover. Chet. A. Cromleigh, Lake City, Fla.

Wanted, Leeward Islands used in Montserrat and Virgin Islands, will trade Jamaica postmarks or name what you need,. Bob, Topaz, Waban, M

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Leonard A. Courtney is interested in developing some information on the squared circle postmark of the Jamaica Exhibition of 1891. He has records of this cancel on the 1/2d Q.V, green, C.A, 1d Key Plate, 2 1/2d on 4d provisional and the 1/2d local official. Does any one else have other examples of this cancellation. If so please write him, (Editor's note. I have this on the 1d and 2 1/2d. Key Plate)

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No rewards are offered for finding fault.

## The 1918 - 1919 War Tax Overprints on the Stamps of Bahamas

### By Robert R. Hall,

The Bahamas war tax overprints were applied on regular issues of Scott's type A6 and A8 in fourteen different major types. The 2d was required on every post card posted within the Colony for internal delivery. The 1d was required on all letters posted within the Colony for internal delivery. One shilling was used on all Parcel Post packets for delivery to any other point in the Empire as well as to the United States. On shilling was also required on all packets received or delivered within the colony, as well as on any letter or packet containing dutiable matter.

All checks or bills of lading drawn within the Colony required the 1d war stamp. This rate also applied to all export and import entries. Bills of lading on goods exported out of the colony, required 3d. It becomes quite clear from this schedule that many stamps were used other than on regular mail, and received quite a variety of markings and cancels.

Some of these overprints were applied at Nassau, but the bulk were printed by the firm of De La Rue. There are quite a number of varieties in the different issues, such as double and inverted overprints, word "TAX" omitted, broken and defective type; etc. Occurring on Number MR14 is a very small, thin "T" that seems to be consistent in the sheets, although the author has not been able to plate this variety as to position. Perhaps some reader has this information.

Another consistent variety occurs on Number MR3 position 25 in the sheet. This is in the form of a dot in the "A" of "WAR". On MR5 the following are found:

- A. Double overprint.
- B. Inverted overprint.
- C. Double overprint, one inverted.
- D. Top right serif of "T" broken (No. 10).
- E. Cut in top of "R" and broken "T". (No. 4)
- F. Defective or distorted "T" (Numbers 54 and 60)
- G. Missing lower right serif of "A" in "WAR" (No. 30).

There were two printings of MR5 as there had been 8,000 overprinted and placed on sale at Nassau. These were withdrawn from sale on July 20, 1918, due to the arrival from London of a shipment from De La Rue,

MR9 occurs on brown instead of yellow paper, and noted in the author's collection is a copy of MR10 with the right leg of the "W" extending downward a full half mm past the other letters. Placement of the overprint on these issues is very consistent and no shifts have been found so far by the writer. This is in great contrast to the overprints of Turks and Caicos War Tax, as these are found to exist literally "all over the map".

The WAR TAX STAMP ACT was repealed in 1920 and the stamps were withdrawn from sale. However, they are still valid for postage and covers come to hand from time to time franked with these stamps. Good used copies are still better property than most mint items.

One last thought on closing; while imposing the War Stamp Act on a great many of her colonies, Great Britain did not feel the need of these issues at home.

Ralph E. Group has sent in a listing of the Post offices of British Honduras, compiled by him, and which he believes to be complete:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Agricultural Station (Ag. Stat), Belize Dist. | Manatee, Belize Dist.                     |
| Airport (Belize), Belize Dist.                | x# Mango Creek, Stann Creek Dist.         |
| All Pines, Stann Creek Dist.                  | # J Maskall, Northern River, Belize Dist. |
| Bakers: Belize Dist.                          | x# Monkey River; Toledo Dist.,            |
| # Baking Pot, (Central Farm) Cayo Dist.       | Mount Hope, Cayo Dist                     |
| Banana Bank, Cayo Dist.                       | # Mullins River; Stann Creek Dist.        |
| Barr??ts (Belize),, Belize Dist.              | New River Service, Belize Dist.           |
| # Barranco, Toledo Dist.                      | Northern River; Belize Dist.              |
| *# Belize,(GPO, Belize Dist                   | *# Orange Walk, Orange 'Nalk Dist*        |
| x# Benque Viejo, Cayo Dist.                   | P. A. A. Office, Belize Dist.             |
| Bermudian Landing, Belize Dist*               | # Placenda,, Srann Creek Dist.            |
| Bomba, Belize Dist.                           | Pomona, Stann Creek Dist.                 |
| # Boom, Belize Dist.,                         | Progresso, Corozal Dist.                  |
| Botanic Station, Belize Dist*                 | *# Punta Gorda, Toledo Dist.              |
| Burrell Boom, Belize Dist.                    | Radio Station (Belize) Belize Dist.       |
| Butcher Burns, Belize Dist.                   | Riverdale, Stann Creek Dist.              |
| # Calodonia, Corozal Dist.                    | # Roaring Creek, Cayo Dist.               |
| Castile, Cayo Dist.                           | # Rockstone Pond Belize Dist.             |
| # Cayo Caulker, Belize Dist.                  | # Sandhill, Belize Dist.                  |
| *# Cayo (or El Cayo), Cayo Dist .             | x# San Estevan, Orange Walk Dist .        |
| Commerce Bight, Stann Creek Dist.             | # San Pedro, Ambegris Cayo, Belize Dist.  |
| Consejo, Corozal Dist,                        | # Sartenejg, Corozal Dist.                |
| Coquericot, Orange Walk Dist.                 | x# Seine Bight, Stann Creek Dist.         |
| *# Corozal, Corozal Dist.                     | # Sittee River, (or Sittee) Stann Creek.  |
| # Crooked Tree, Orange Walk Dist.             | Spanish Lookout, Cayo Dist.               |
| # Double Head Cabbage, Belize Dist            | # Stanley Field Airport, Belize Dist.     |
| Duck Run, Cayo Dist.                          | # Stann Creek, Stann Creek Dist.          |
| # Gales Point, Belize Dist.                   | Stann Creek Rail(way), Stann Creek Dist,  |
| # Gracie Rock, Belize Dist.                   | Toledo, Toledo Dist                       |
| # Guinea Grass, Orange Walk Dist.             | Wellsport, Toledo List.                   |
| # Hopkins, Stann Creek Dist.                  | # Stann Creek Valley; 22 miles,           |
| # Louisville, Corozal Dist                    | Stan Creek Dist                           |
- \* now open.
- \* principal offices. All Classes of postal work, including the issue and payment of money and postal orders, handled.
- X these offices issue Inland Postal Orders,

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Harold E. Box has propounded two questions for the membership:

(a) How many different one pound stamps were issued for KGV1 in the Leeward Islands, and whether the one that S.G. numbers 105 is really the good one?

(b) Why the Leeward Island 1/ S.G. 101 with olive back (completely distinct from all the others) is not recognized by S.G, I think that such matters fall within the scope of an active study group, and it should be useful to get some of them cleared up, as a basis for the catalogue makers to go on, (Dr. Yarry and Stanley Durnin, what do you say about this?)



Stanley Durnin has sent in listings of Post offices in Grenada and Dominica:

Grenada:

	Grand Bay	La Digue,	St. Andrews
Belvedere	G. P. O. Grenada	La Taste	Union
Birch Grove	Grenville	Petit Martinique	Vincennes
Carriacou	Happy Hill	Piedmontagnes	Woburn
Concord	Hermitage	St Pauls	
Crochu	Hope	Snug Corner	
Dunfermline			

Dominica:

Calibishie	La Plaine	Portsmouth	Salisbury	Wesley
Castle Bruce	Marigot	Pointe Michel	Salybia	Colihaut
Grand Bay	Mahaut	G. P. O. Dominica	St Joseph	Coulibistrie.
Grand Fond	Petit Savanne	Rosalie	Soufriere	
Delioes			San Sauveur	Vieille Case
Dublanc				

Stan also reports that there is only one Post office now open in Anguilla, toat of "Valley". He also requested that the membership be informed that he is frequently in Nigeria and also in the Southern European countries and that he is willing to pick up the recent issues of any of these countries for our fellow members. Anyone interested, drop him a line.

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Peter W. Herzog of St Louis, Mo, recently suffered the loss, by theft, of a fine British American collection, with Jamaica as his best collection. There were numerous covers addressed to either one of the Herzogs, a Nieuhansp-- his wife's maiden name, a William Photosphere cancelled "Sea Floor - Bahamas" a large cacheted cover dated about August 16, 1939, addressed to R. Forder Buckley in St Louis.

Most of these covers had their origin from he and his wife's travels in Latin America, Mexico, Central America and the northern tier of South American countries. One cover was from Canada carrying a Canadian stamp and special delivery E-1 of Bahamas, that was authorized between these governments on Jan 1, 1916.

One of the individual stamps was a No. 4 used of Antigua, with one of the five or possibly six varieties of re-entries on the plate that would be clearly discernable by a specialist, (In the 6d lettering), Others were Dominica No, 7 used with the variety small "ce" in pence; Grenada #22, used, broken frame line variety; and the various SER.ET varieties of Jamaica, the double flagstaff on the Jubilee issue. The Jamaica cancellations contained an A28M/18.

Another item was Leeward Islands 80 used, a block of four cancelled Barbuda, another group, First Day Covers from Antigua, Nos, 96-99 and 100-102 first days cancelled

Tortola, Virgin Islands. Another outstanding piece was a reconstructed sheet of 12 stamps of either 5 or 9 of Nevis., that would be pretty hard to duplicate.

In the event that any of our members are offered any of this material that is recognizably from Mr. Herzog's collection, please get in touch with him immediately, and ascertain, if possible, the source of the seller's material. Mr. Herzog states that in addition to his British America, Mexico was perhaps his next best collection followed by U.S., Central America, South America and the Latin West Indies Peter, we all regret the loss of your collection, and I am sure that if any of the members can identify any of your material if offered to them, they will take the necessary action to help you.

## The Story of a Wreck Cover. By Robert Topaz

One of the most unusual and interesting covers that I have ever seen is a "Wreck Cover" from Jamaica. Usually wreck covers are made as a result of an airplane or ship wreck, or even a railroad or truck accident. But this is a very odd combination of several.

In February of 1890, the weather turned quite wet about the middle of the month and rain fell as only it can in the tropics. With the mountains and the swift streams deluged for days, the traveling became quite sticky, On the evening of February 18th, the mail cart from Kingston left Annotto Bay en-route to Port Maria, This mail cart was to meet the steamer SS Bergenseren at Port Maria and transfer a bag of mail for New York and outward transmission. It also carried the mail for Port Maria from Kingston and Annotto Bay, In the pouring rain and utter tropical darkness, the mail cart was smashed while attempting the crossing of the Haughton River, about four miles out of Annotto Bay. The mail was washed away and the mules were drowned. This cart carried about 1,000 ordinary letters and 35 registered letters. An officer was immediately sent out from the G.P.O. at Kingston accompanied by Sgt-Major Allen of the constabulary and by their extraordinary efforts, the bag from Kingston - which also contained the New York mail - was recovered. Despite being in the water almost 4 hours, the mail was in a surprisingly good state of preservation. This mail was returned to Kingston and a label affixed to the back of each cover which said, "This Postal Packet was contained in the mail bag from Kingston for New York via Port Maria, Jamaica; for despatch per S.S. Bergenseren: which mail bag was washed away in the "Haughton River" near Annotto Bay, on the night of Tuesday, the 18th instant, and which was subsequently recovered. Signed, Fred Sullivan, Postmaster for Jamaica... General Post Office, 21st Feb., 1890."

The cover itself is franked by four 1d Key Plate stamps and one copy of the 4d, CA Queen Victoria. The five stamps are cancelled with a squared circle postmark dated Feb. 18, 1890, It is marked on the face "Per Bergenseren, via Port Maria and New York" and is addressed to a London address. The next notation - also on the face of the cover is an oblong Jamaica Paid mark in red and dated 22 Feb 1890, This was apparently meant to show that the letter had been legitimately paid for, even though the stamps were now cancelled. On the reverse is the above mentioned label which also served to keep the flap glued down. It is tied with a Feb, 24 1890 squared circle mark plus two red London marks, dated March 18th and March 17th, 1890.

Altogether an interesting story revealing a bit of the troubles of handling the mail in 19th Century Jamaica, Would you classify this as a marine wreck?

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## A Coffee Break

Chet Cromleigh of Lake City Florida has asked me to extend an invitation to the membership to stop by his place for a coffee break. He says that US 41, US 441 and US 90 cross at Lake City, and that anyone driving through will be welcome. He is just at the South City limits, on main st. Martion St, US 441, and his phone number is dial 752-3797, He is usually at home, although out of town one or two days each month, so a card of expected time of arrival would help. (Editors note: Will take you up on that next summer, when we will be driving through to Miami, on way to Jamaica).

V.N.F. Surtees of Shropshire, England, writes that he has all of the Judicals listed in the Journal with the addition of No, 23a yellow, and 54a "Dollar" variety, which he has in a strip, also calls attention to the fact that we listed a KE 3d as carrying a Judicial overprint. This, of course, should have been KG V, No, 65, as there was only one K Edward, the 2d.

He also lists several new "Free Marks":

- Collector of Taxes, Portland
- Collector of Taxes St Catherine.
- Director of Public Works.
- District Medical Officer - Montego Bay
- District Medical Officer Balaclava
- District Medical Officer Mandeville
- Kingston Court
- Parochial Treasury, St Catherine.

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Robert Hall calls our attention to a Mint copy of Barbados No. 160 (Scott), 2½d ultramarine overprinted "Revenue, One Penuy", Note "u" instead of nn in penny. Possibly Dick Beck can tell us something about this one.

## **New Issues**

Antigua. Nelsons Dockyard Restoration Commemorative Issue is being prepared by Messrs Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co. Ltd. These stamps will be printed by the recess process in size 38 x 25 mm, perforation to perforation in horizontal format. They will appear in two denominations, 20 cents, Brown and purple and 30 cents Blue and green.

British Guiana, History and Culture Week Commemorative Issue, being prepared by Messrs, Harrison and Sons, Ltd., will appear in three denominations, 5 cents Brown and red, 6 cents Brown and Green and 30 cents Brown and Orange. Tentatively schedule for first postings to reach the Crown Agents not later than Wednesday October 25.

Withdrawals:

Grenada, Postal Centenary Commemorative Issue, Sept 30,

## **Personal Mention:**

JOHN BUCKNER writes that he has moved to Florida, and his new address is: 418 N. Wilo Olive Ave., Daytona Beach, Florida, He drove through Chicago and stopped off at the A.P.S. Convention on the way.

JIM CAMPBELL reports that he bunged up a knee and has been out of pocket, however understand that he is better now. Hope that you continue to recuperate, Jim, we all wish you the best of luck.

CHET CROMLEIGH went on vacation and trailed Hurricane Esther up the coast, but didn't catch up with her. Says he got back home with lots of memories of good food,

RUSSELL GIBSON writes that he will be in New York for the ASDA Show this November, Hope that you can come up a couple of days ahead of time and visit with Bob Topaz and me, Russ, Am looking forward to it.

ROBERT HALL, O.K. EDEN, GALE RAYMOND AND TOMMY THOMPSON AND I had a little get together during the summer, at Gale Raymond's place in Houston, looking over each other's material and conducting a fine talk session. Hope we can get together again soon.

A. N. Johnson is planning on going to the ASDA Show and 'WIFSG meeting in November and hopes to see 35 or 40 of the members there, pack in some of that sauerbraten mit potato dumplings at Luchow's, (Careful now, watch that ulcer).

MRS LEONARD KIRBY writes that she has returned to Pebble Beach, Calif. Imagine it's getting pretty chilly up in Gracefield, QUEBEC, AND SUNNY CALIFORNIA feels good.

BYRON CAMERON took top honors at the APS Show last month and won a Gold Medal for his pre-stamp covers of Jamaica., Congratulations Byron. Keep up the good work.

MILT ERICKSON was installed as President of the Columbus Philatelic Club last month, congratulations to you too, Milt. Know that the Columbus Club will have a fine year with you at the helm.

REG LANT and BOB TOPAZ are about to finish the squared circle brochure, after some inadvertent delay, and it may go out with this Journal, or if not, shortly thereafter.

FRED SEIFERT writes that they would like to see some of the rain that Carla dropped, out around their country, If we get another hurricane, we will send some of it over your way, Fred,

CAPTAIN EVANS reports a bout with a virus, which laid him low for some time. Hope that you have fully recovered and can get up to the Annual meeting in November.

HAROLD BOX writes that he has suffered a severe attack of arthritis in his hands and is unable to use a typewriter at present. Harold, we hope that you are on the mend and that you, will be able to resume your activities shortly.

V.N.F. SURTEES has recently lost his father Nat, we are all saddened to hear of this and extend our sincerest sympathy.

MARK SWETLAND has just returned to England from a vacation on the continents He drove through France, Switzerland and Italy with his family, and said that it was quite an experience with the seven in the car. Did most of his stamp purchasing in Venice, where he got some stamps for the boys,

BOB TOPAZ visited with Byron Cameron in Ft Lauderdale last month, while down there on business. Says Byron really has the philatelic material.

HARVEY O'CONNOR Writes and gives me a valuable correction to my "Free Frank" brochure, which will appear in the revised copy soon,

## The Saint Lucia Steam Conveyance Co. Ltd. Locals By Robert J. Devaux

The birth of the Saint 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 Saint 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, early in 1867, applied for a grant from the Public Treasury. The matter was discussed by the legislative Council at Castries on Sept, 13, 1867, when Captain Shugg suggested the establishment of a system of penny postage for the coastal towns to cover the cost of a subsidy.

This service was found to be so useful that the Council willingly granted a subsidy of 150 pounds per annum, (Ordinance No, 7 of 13/8/67 'Island Steamer Subsidy').

However, the question of a postal system appeared to have been shelved.

Shortly after the "Penelope" was wrecked, Captain Shugg died in July 1868. The inhabitants of Saint 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 Saint Lucia, the Hon. J. H. Grant, informed the Colonial office on April 13, 1869, that a company had been formed to run a coastwise 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 pounds 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 bought 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, England, at a cost-of 2,975 pounds, 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 Saint Lucia Steam Conveyance Company. The editorial of the "Saint Lucian" - a local newspaper - 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 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 (France) dealer, M. Mahe, on May 15, 1873, and which he offered for sale at the rates of 35¢, 50c, and 1.5c for the three values 1d., 3d and 6d, respectively.

But the philatelic public were skeptical about the authenticity of these odd stamps and many claims were made that they were nothing but forgeries, or fakes, which led M. Mahe to enquire of the Saint Lucian Government on the existence of these stamps. A reply translated reads in part:

"Government Office,  
Saint Lucia,  
January 17, 1874.

.....I have the honor 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."

However, in a later price list in the "Gazette des Timbres", he offers these stamps at 25c 65c and 1.25c, A further reduction due to the unfavorable appeal to collectors. A further enquiry was conducted and reported in the "Timbre-Poste" of June 1882 Volume XX on page 63, and reads in part:

.....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 (the Saint Lucia Steam Conveyance 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 one 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 five pounds".

From this we can assume safely that local post was discontinued. Therefore, it existed for approximately 14 years, The Saint Lucia Steam Conveyance Company evidently soon liquidated and the year 1892 saw the arrival of two steam boats, the "Tees" and the "Wear", for coastal service, operated by the Royal Nail Steam Packet Company, which has secured the contract for this.

The three values of the Saint Lucia Steam Conveyance Company, 1d ultramarine, 3d lilac rose and 6d violet, were lithographed on stout, white, wove chalk surfaced paper in Paris, France in sheets of 72, six rows of twelve. The design, common to all, 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 this is a tablet containing the figure of value, but no denomination of currency, obviously meant to be the penny, threepence and sixpence values, A rectangular border surrounds the whole stamp and they are imperforate on unwatermarked paper. Specimens of all three values exist. These stamps are gummed and are brownish from the effect of the gum on the paper. Very few covers exist and are mostly cancelled with a pen strike and no date, a few copies off cover are cancelled with a double concentric circle between which appears the name of the company in san-serif capitals.

A second printing exists similar to the first but with clear gum and a coarser impression indicating a reprint. The fact that no used copies exist of the second printing indicates that they were printed for the specific purpose of supplying collectors and dealers. A large quantity of the re-prints were dumped on the market before the war. It is from this large supply that most collectors acquired unused copies that now lie in many Saint Lucia collections.

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