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WEST INDIES FEDERATION JOURNAL

Club News of the West Indies Federation Study Group.

Volume 2. Number 1 January 1962 Whole Number 5.

Robert Topaz, President. R. E. Lant, Secretary-Treasurer.  
A. N. Johnson, Editor 2610 Virginia St., Baytown, Texas.

## REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the West Indies Federation Study Group was held in New York on November 18th, at 2pm, in the offices of the Sandler Cot, on the 80th floor of the Empire State Building. (The weather was clear and the view of lower Manhattan was magnificent). Mr. Robert Topaz opened the meeting with an introduction of all members present. There were twelve at the meeting plus one Guest, Mr. Bert.S. Taylor.

Norman Brassler	A. N. Johnson
Byron R. Cameron	Fred F. Seifert
Jordan C. Churchill	William B. Stitt
Edwin M. Erickson	Mrs. Bert S. Taylor
Ralph E. Group	Robert Topaz
Russell A. Gibson	Irwin M. Yarry

Mr. Stitt had compiled the ballots that were sent out by mail to all members previously. Of the 824 members, 65 returned ballots, which indicated a good interest. The results of the election wore as follows:

President	Robert Topaz	65 votes.
Vice President	Russell A. Gibson	49 votes, (elected)
	Capt W. S. Evans	23 votes.
Secy.-Treas.	Reg H. Lant	58 votes. (elected)
	Jess N. Thompson	6 votes.
Editor.	A N. Johnson	65 votes
Board of Governors	E. F. Aguilar	42 votes (elected 3 years)
	Byron R. Cameron	38 votes (elected 2 years)
	Gale J. Raymond	36 votes (elected 1 year)
	Mark W. Swetland	25 votes
	Edwin M. Erickson	24 votes
	Vere F. N. Surtees	15 votes
	Jordan Churchill	13 votes.

After the results of the election were made known, there was a discussion as to the amount of dues to be assessed that would cover the expense of printing the Journal six times each year and the mailing expense, together with like expenses for any brochures that might be published during the year (so far last year six brochures were issued). The consensus of the members present together with information received by mail from others was that \$3.00 per year would about cover these expenses. (There are no labor charges involved in the above, only the cost of materials).

The change in name of the group, necessitated by the fact that the Federation has not materialized, and the further fact that our activities have broadened to include Bermuda and the British Honduras, was discussed and it was decided to pass the matter to the Board of Governors for a final decision.

Mr. Stitt brought up the matter of copyrighting our published material and advised us that he would look into the matter and establish the necessary procedure for doing this.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 P.M. and Mr. Topaz showed some of his excellent slides of rare and unusual stamps, cancels and covers.

Everyone had a most enjoyable time getting acquainted with one another and our guest, Mr. Bert S. Taylor expressed a desire to join the group. He is especially interested in Nevis. Mr. Norman Townsend called in his regrets that he couldn't be at the meeting, due to arriving in town late. All of the Group attended the A.S.D,A. Show while in New York, and enjoyed the exhibits, and other activities there.

A. N. Johnson.

## **CENTEX**

Twenty-second Annual Pacific International Exhibition and Convention, Seattle Wash. The Colector's Club of Seattle has sent us information that "CENTEX" will be held May 28 - 29 30th, 1962, concurrent with the "Century 21 World's Fair and Exhibition". The Philatelic Exhibition will be held in the Benjamin Franklin Hotel. .A recent article in the Saturday Evening Post gave a story of the progress of the Exhibition and World's Fair which will open April 210 1962. This will be a fine opportunity for our members to exhibit their material in a first rate Philatelic Exhibition, and attend world's Fair too.

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Clinton von Pohle writes. that he has two new Jamaican T.R.D.s. Banbury and Litchfield.

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The Jamaica International Stamp Exhibition which was due to be held in August 1962, has been cancelled, The Stamp for this issue was not passed by the government and at the present the four stamps for the Central American and Caribbean Games are being prepared for issue, which will take place on July 21, 1962. (E.F. Aguilar).

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Fred F. Seifert writes as follows: Reference my recent article on Jamaica Street Letter Boxes, Reg Lant has discovered what might be considered a sub-type of Type 2. It consists of a stop between 'A' of Jamaica and 'X' of Box, but in line with the bottom of the 'A' and top of 'X', instead of in the center as on Type 2a. I have checked my collection and find four similar items. These strikes are dated from 11 July 1892 to 14 October 1897 covering the entire period of use of Type 2. It could be a flaw in one of several date stamps of this type or it might be that a stop was intended but was poorly cut. The stop is rather light and small on the earliest date of use, but is large and heavy on the Oct 1897 strike, in fact it looks more like a comma.

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We are happy to announce that the Queen Elizabeth II Commonwealth Collectors Society has agreed to exchange Journals with us, with the right to reprint items of interest to us. Any of our members who are interested in QE II issues will find much of value in their Journal. Write to Mrs. Harriet R, Work, Editor, P. 04 Box 750, G.C.S., New York 17, N. Y.: for further information,

## A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WEST INDIES HANDBOOKS, LITERATURE & ARTICLES

As promised in the last Journal, we have attempted to compile a record of literature pertaining to the philately of the British West Indies. The listing is not complete, however it contains the major works of interest to our members, together with a record of numerous articles that have appeared in the philatelic press over the past years. We hope that this will enable you to locate and use this material as an adjunct to your philatelic interests.

Note: For the reprint (1990) this section has been retyped and rearranged to improve legibility.

Robson Lowe (1951)	ANTIGUA Codrington Correspondence 1743-1851
H.G.D. Gisburn (1950) G.J. Raymond (1960)	BAHAMAS Postage Stamps and Postal History of the Bahamas Bahamas TRDs and Cancellations
B.B. Benwell and L.E. Britnor (1959) H. Bayley (1933) E.D. Brown and H.F. Napier C.A. Stephenson	BARBADOS Postal Markings of Barbados. BWISC Postoffices in Barbados Stamps of Barbados (1896) Barbados: A few notes on the Watermarked Issues
B.H.W. Poole (1911) M.H. Ludington (1956) M.H. Ludington (1955)	BERMUDA Bermuda: West End Philatelist Handbook Bermuda: The Handstruck Stamps and cancellations Bermuda: The 1910-36 Ship type Stamps
L.N. and M. Williams	BRITISH GUIANA The W.J. Webster Collection of Rare Stamps of British Guiana
W.D. Beckton B.W.H. Poole	BRITISH HONDURAS British Honduras: The Local Surcharges of January 1888 The Stamps of British Honduras

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|---|---|
| F.J. Melville<br>B.B. Armstrong<br>F.J. Melville (1920)   | CAYMAN ISLANDS<br>Cayman Islands<br>Cayman Islands: Their Stamps and Postoffices<br>Postage Stamps of the Cayman Islands.   |
| E.D. Bacon<br>A. Charlton (1955)<br>A.J. Sefi (1912)  | GRENADA<br>Grenada<br>Postal History and Postage Stamps of Grenada<br>Grenada: West End Philatelist Handbook  |
| E.F. Aguilar (1949, 1960)<br>W.B. Edwards (1923)<br>L.C.C. Nicholson<br>G.W. Collett et alia (1928)<br>L.C.C. Nicholson<br>L.C.C. Nicholson (1949)<br>F.J. Melville<br>C.S. Morton<br>E.J. Nankivell<br>W.B. Turner | JAMAICA<br>Philatelic Handbook of Jamaica Vol I and II<br>Reference List of Stamps of Jamaica<br>Jamaica Temporary Rubber Date Stamps 1881- 1938.<br>Jamaica, its postal history, postage stamps and postmarks.<br>Jamaica Pre-stamp Covers.<br>Jamaica Obliteration Numbers<br>Jamaica<br>Jamaica Post Towns 1840-1875<br>Jamaica and Cayman Islands.<br>The Suppressed "Freedom from Slavery" Stamp of Jamaica.<br>4th American Philatelic Congress |
| A.E.Hopkins (1918)<br>J. Lloyd  | LEEWARD ISLANDS<br>Postage Stamps of the Leeward Islands<br>The Postage Stamps of the Leeward Islands. 2nd American<br>Philatelic Congress  |
| F.J.Melville  | NEVIS<br>Nevis  |
| F.H.Napier and E.D.Bacon (1895)<br>S.A.Brown (1917)   | ST. VINCENT<br>Saint Vincent<br>St.Vincent  |
| E.D.Bacon (1917)  | TURKS ISLANDS<br>The Postage Stamps of the Turks Islands, and supplement  |

## GENERAL

G.Brumell (1946)	British Post office Numbers, 1844-1906
H.H.Heins (1960)	Numeral Cancellations of the British Empire.
Philatelic Society of London (1891)	Postage Stamps of B.W.I. (in Collectors' Club of N.Y. rare volume file)
H.C.Westley (1957)	Early Postal History of the B.W.I. and North America
J.Dorn	Forged Stamps of all Countries
Robson Lowe (1937)	Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire.

The following listing covers articles that have appeared in the Philatelic Press over the past years and which contain much valuable information and research work:

C.Anderson	Antigua in Review	Stamp Lover Oct 1943
P.Scott	Antigua Postmarks	Phil.Mag. 24 Feb 61
H.E.Huber	Bahamas Special Delivery 1916-18	Stamp Lover Nov 1930
G.J.Raymond	TRDs of the Bahamas-Notes on their Manufacture	West End Phil. May 61
G.J.Raymond	Bermuda Pictorials 1936	West End Phil. 4 June 36
H.F.Johnson	Bermuda Ship Types	Stamp Lover Dec 1946
M.H.Ludington	Postmarks of Bermuda 1849-1910	Stamp Lover Feb. 1937 Stamp Lover Oct. 1939
L.Green	Stamps of Bermuda	Mekeels 26 Mar 34
L.Green	Barbados	Mekeels 22 June 36
L.Green	Barbados Tercentenary 1927	Mekeels 16 Oct 36
L.J. Gilbert-Lodge	Notes on St.Christopher and Br.Honduras	London Phil. Aug 28
H.G.D.Gisburn	Post in the Cayman Islands	Western S.C. 7 Nov 61
B.H.W.Poole	First Stamps of Dominica	Western S.C. 6 Aug 36
H.E.Huber	Granada 1922	Mekeels 17 May 26
H. Cooke	Notes on the Jamaican Issues of War Stamps	Stamp Lover 10 Nov 17
J de C Laffan	Notes on the Stamps of Jamaica	Phil. J. of G.B. 25 Apr 10
	Le Timbres de la Jamacque	Le Timbres Poste 10 Nov 12
H.Cooke	Curiosities of Jamaica	Mekeels 17 Sept 28
	Georgian Issues of Jamaica	West End Phil. 28 May 27
L.N. & M.Williams	Jamaica 1671-1935	Stamp Lover Jan 1948

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H.E. Huber	Jamaica Child Welfare	McKeels Oct 1927
E.D.Bacon	Jamaica, It's Postal History and Postmarks	S.Gibbons 1928
E.F.Aguilar	Jamaica Government Railway	TPO Mag.11 Dec 54
C.S.Morton	Jamaica Post Towns1840-1875	Stamp Co11.12 Aug 20
L.C.C.Nicholson	Jamaica "Bow " Variety	Goddens Gaz. 19 Dec 35
H.E. Huber	Jamaica Exhibition 1891	-
W.B.Edwards	Jamaica "Errors"	Stamp Coll.Mo.J.
C.B.Bostwick	Jamaican Stamps Used in the Cayman Islands	Phil.J.of America
G.Pearson	Jamaica – 2½d on 4d Provisional of 1890	Gibbons Stamp Mo. Nov 32
D.Norona	Relative Rarity of 19th Century Jamaican Cancellations	American Phil. Sept. 28
E.D.Bacon	Die Proofs of the Jamaican Postage Stamps	London Phil. 1931 R.Rossall
	Trail of the Lonesome Pine - Jamaica 1860-63	Stamp Coll. 8 June 38
C.Farquhar	Postal Affairs of Jamaica	Stamp Coll. 5 June 55
E.D.Bacon	Post Cards of Jamaica	-
A.N.Johnson	Obliterator Cancellations of Jamaica	Stamps 4 Nov 59
B.de Burca	Railway Train Cancellations of Jamaica	Stamp Coll. 2 May 60
R. Topaz	Why Jamaica?	Weekly P.G. 27 May 61
H.E. Huber	Leeward Islands 1½d	McKeels 21 Mar 27 6 Aug 28
H.E. Huber	Leeward Islands 5d	McKeels27 Aug 28
H.E. Huber	Leeward Islands and Virgin Islands	McKeels27 Jul 36
H.E. Huber	Leeward Islands 1890-1927	McKeels May 1927 McKeels June 1927 McKeels Dec 1927 McKeels Jan 1928 McKeels Apr 1928
H.E. Huber	Leeward Postoffices1928	McKeels1 Oct 28
H.E. Huber	Leeward Surprise 1928	McKeels2 Jul 28
	St.Kitts Commemoratives- some Statistics	Stamp Coll 4 Feb 39
	St.Kitts-Nevis - 1923 Tercentenary	Weekly P.G. 5 Feb 42
	St.Kitts - Nevis - Anguilla Centenary of First Stamps	Linns7 Aug 61
H.E. Huber	St.Lucia Pictorials1936	McKeels16 Mar 36
K.W.Anthony	Postal Services and Postoffices of St.Lucia	Sanders P.J. Feb 60

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J.F.Weigand	Counterfeits of St.Vincent	Weekly P.G. 3 Jun 44
H.E.Huber	St.Vincent	McKeels24 Aug 36
	An Unissued Trinidad	Stamp Lover Dec 25
L.J.Gilbert-Lodge	Tobago -Notes on Plate Flaws	London Phil. Feb 27
E.Glasgow	Trinidad and Tobago	Strand Stamp J. May 61
T.Charlton Henry	Notes on the Postage Stamps of Trinidad1851-1862	London Phil. Aug 28, Sep.28
H.E. Huber	Turks and Caicos Islands 1925	Mekeels31 May 25
H.E.Huber	Turks and Caicos Postage and Revenue1928	Mekeels28 May 28
Rev C.S.Morton	A Bundle of old Envelopes	Stamp Coll. 28 Aug 20
Rev C.S.Morton	British Stamps Used Abroad	Mekeels 31 Jan 27
R. S.Gordon	Modern used British Colonials	Mekeels 21 Feb 27
Calabar	Colonial Notes	Mekeels 28 Feb 2716 May 27 10 Oct 27
Calabar	Modern Colonials on Entires	Mekeels 28 Feb 27
Calabar	Value of Used Modern Colonials	Phil. Mag. Sept.1927
H.E.Huber	New British Virgins1928	Mekeels 31 Dec 28
L.W.Krenker	B.W.I. Naval and Foreign Postmarks	Mekeels28 Aug 32
F.F.Duffus	Some West Indies Postmarks	London Phil. Sept 33
	B.W.I. Notes on the A.H. Hopkinson Collection	Goddens Gazette Feb. 1935
E.M.Berry	Silver Jubilees	Mekeels17 Oct 36
H.E.Huber	Abolition of Slavery	Weekly P.G. 6 Feb 37
L.Meister	Facts about used B.W.I.	Mekeels 13 Feb 38
L.Snowden	Lady McLeod	Goddens Gaz. Feb. 1940
R.E.Dornton	Overprints vs Surcharges	Stamp.Coll. 25 May 44
	B.W.I. Post offices except Jamaica	BWI Phil. March 1952
	Collect Village Postmarks of the West Indies	Philatelia Phil.Mag. 8 Apr 60p

## BAHAMAS NEWSLETTER

by Gale J. Raymond.

LUMBERCAMP POSTOFFICES OF THE BAHAMAS: On the Eastern coast of Abaco Island, WILSON CITY has long been designated on survey maps, etc., as the site of a now long-abandoned lumber camp. It has been listed among Bahamas post offices for many years; unfortunately a legible "WILSON CITY" postmark has been as elusive as a leprechaun, not a single example has yet been reported. As the result of several year's postal queries to the islanders, with many confusing answers, I have at last, I believe, the true story, from several old-timers who actually lived there.

In 1906, the American-owned Bahamas Timber Co., Ltd established a sawmill and lumber operation in the pine forest of Abaco. As the large peninsula where they were located was called SPENCER'S POINT, the post office was established under that name. At the initial site, the lumbermen built their office and homes. Rather quickly the area at the original site became worked out, and lumber operations moved to WILSON CITY, where a dock was built and where ships were loaded direct, with the massive timbers to be used in England's mines. Homes were left at Spencer's Point, to which workers returned nightly some or 5 miles away. Several times again the sawmills moved to new uncut sites within the comparatively small peninsula; without changing the P.O. name, which continued to be called Spencers Pointe. Each camp in turn was connected to Wilson City, the port, by train. Lumbering operations ceased in 1916, at which time Spencer's Point p. o. was closed forever and the camps abandoned. In a word, there was no Bahamas p.o. named "Wilson City", and we must delete it's name from our p.o. lists.

Last year, some friends of mine, newlyweds, had the opportunity to explore the Spencer's Point "ghost towns" and were fascinated by the utter desolation. They found the foundations of the old houses, the stone fireplaces, the cisterns or tanks for storing fruits, and vegetables. In the old village clearings the ornamental trees, bushes and fruit trees had all gone wild. Trenches hewn in the rocks showed how water was piped in from deep inside the island. Evidence of the railroad tracks lay all along the beach and the whole area has so many old railroad spikes that it is almost impossible to rubber tired vehicles. The old boilers and locomotives are still there, now rusted beyond description. Only scraps remain of the old Wilson City dock, no longer approachable from the sea at all, the channels filled by the sands of time and hurricanes.

After WW-II, lumbering operations moved to the west coast of Abaco, to "NORMAN'S CASTLE", where a p. o. was established in 1919, and abandoned in 1929, leaving wild horses and pigs, which roam the area to this day. This time the mill moved far south on Abaco, (130 miles long), to the Cross Harbour area where MILLVILLE p. o. opened on 1929. Closing down during early 1935, it then moved further north up the West coast to CORNWALL, which had a p. o. by that name by June 1935. Despite being physically moved to 4 widely separated sites, the last at Cross Harbour, CORNWALL retained it's p. o. name right along until closed in 1943.

Shifting islands, the lumbercamp moved to Grand Bahama Island in 1943, on Hawksbill Creek opening PINE RIDGE p. o. in that year, reportedly; however, the earliest postmark I have seen is a March 1945 TRD. Closing on 5 April 1957, the camp reopened immediately on the northeast coast RIDING POINT, where a p. o. was authorized but never opened.

By this time transportation facilities had changed from railway to trucks, with good logging roads, and private aircraft handling mail in short order to Nassau or the Florida coast. In, 1959 the move was back to Abaco, to SNAKE CAY, served by the long- established MARSH HARBOUR p. o. The next move, about 1967 will be back to the re-grown forests at Norman's Castle: Logging operations are now for saw timber and pulpwood by the Owens-Illinois Co.

Only a small steel die datestamp has been seen for SPENCERS POINT and NORMAN'S CASTLE, MILLVILLE had a circular TRD, then a steel die, while CORNWALL utilized a circular, then an oval TRD, PINE RIDGE used three TRDs and a steel die datestamp. All the lumber camp datestamps, rubber or metal, continue to be elusive. OLD PLACE, Abaco (p. o. circa 1918-1938) apparently was not a lumbercamp.

LATE NEWS: a new 30mm steel die datestamp is now in use at MORTIMERS.



## **NEW ISSUES, REISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS**

ANTIGUA The Crown Agents announce the NELSON'S DOCKYARD RESTORATION COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE has been prepared by Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co., to commemorate the restoration of the headquarters of Lord Nelson at English Harbour. Printed in sheets of 50 by recess process, size 38 x 25 mm perf. to perf. in horizontal format, showing the Annigoni Portrait of the Queen; an adaptation of a portrait of Lord Nelson and a view of the restored dockyard:

20 cents, Brown and purple.

30 cents, Blue and Green.

They were released on November 14.

BRITISH GUIANA: HISTORY AND CULTURE WEEK COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE printed by Harrison and Sons, Ltd., by photogravure process in two colors. Horizontal format size 1.388 x 1.118 inches, perf. to perf. The design shows a portrait of the Queen and a design of hands of different races clasped together, with caption ONE PEOPLE - ONE NATION - ONE DESTINY

5 cents Brown and red

6 cents Brown and Green

30 cents Brown and orange.

They were released for sale Oct, 23, 1961.

BERMUDA: Messrs Harrison and Sons Ltd. are preparing a new definitive issue for the Government of Bermuda° Further details will be given as soon as released by, the Crown Agents.

Cayman Islands: An order has been placed with Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., for the preparation of a new definitive issue. Further details will be given when released by the Crown Agents.

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## **MYRTLE BANK HOTEL, JAMAICA**

by E.F. Aguilar

The Myrtle Bank Hotel is known throughout Jamaica, and also to any tourist coming to Jamaica, certainly before long will find himself at the Myrtle Bank Hotel, which is the leading hotel in downtown Kingston.

Looking back, it is interesting to note that the name Myrtle Bank goes back to the early days of the Arawaks. It is stated from records, that the name Myrtle Bank originated from a bank of Myrtle growing in the grounds for years. Although the bank is no longer to be found, the name has remained.

In the early 1800's, Mr. James Gall, (Scotsman, journalist, Hotel proprietor) took up residence at Myrtle Bank and opened a business from this building, from which: he operated a small newspaper, Boarding and Lodging house, a Sanitarium and what he describes as an Emporium.

Along the waterfront from Myrtle Bank to Rae Town, in the early days was considered a fine watering place, and parties used to go dawn early in the mornings for their morning dip,

Around 1890 there was formed in Jamaica a syndicate known as the American Hotel Co., which was to construct four hotels. These included Constant Spring, Myrtle Bank, Moneague and the Rio Cobre. The Capital of about 100,000 pounds was set aside for this purpose as the big Exhibition to take place in Jamaica in 1905 at Mico, was a very great attraction to the overseas tourists.

Myrtle Bank Hotel was opened to the public by December of 1900 and the Post Office was established there early in January. Collectors of the Temporary Rubber Date marks will know the strike well, as it is listed under TD 10, in the Philatelic Handbook of Jamaica, the earliest known recorded date being 12 January 1901. However, a large number of strikes are to be found without any date recorded, while the latest date known is March 19, 1902. The value of these marks are considerable, from 10/- to 5 pounds, depending on whether it is on piece or full cover, With the 1907 earthquake Myrtle Bank Hotel was almost completely destroyed.

The Elmer Dempster Shipping Co. made arrangements to take over the same, and build a large modern structure, This building stands as it was put up in 1908. Many readers might remember the name Elmer Dempster, which was the first shipping line to operate between Britain and Jamaica carrying sugar and bananas to the United Kingdom, At the opening

of this second Hotel a temporary rubber date stamp was used for a very short period, between late September 1908 and early 1909. So far, three copies have been recorded on full cover, Type TD 20.

Unfortunately., the Elmer Dempster Shipping Co. did not have very good fortune with their line, as so many of their boats met with accidents and readers will recall that their fleet consisted of five boats, the Port Kingston, Port Morant, etc. This fleet and Hotel was sold to the United Fruit Co, the English end being known as Elders and Fyffes, In the early days from 1908 onward, the post office was located in the hotel lobby, but with the exception of a new wing to the Hotel during 1939-40, the post office had it's own building on the site.

Postmark collectors will be more than interested in the large amount of various single and double ring postmarks that this hotel has had. It is interesting to note, also, that the only other hotels in Jamaica that have had a Temporary Rubber Date mark has been Constant Spring and the Tichfield Hotel on its opening, which was for three months and these marks are extremely difficult. These are the only Temporary Rubber Date marks known for Jamaica for the Hotels.

An interesting aside is that the Myrtle Bank Hotel has an under-current river running underneath the whole construction of the hotel, and one has only to dig a matter of a few feet down, and lovely, cool crystal water can be found.

The Tichfield Hotel, which has recently changed it's name, opened in 1902, and these marks are known from Jan 13, 1903 to Feb. 29, 1904. This hotel usually opened for short periods during the season.

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## **JAMAICA KGVI 2/- Pictorial, Scotts No, 126,**

Milt Erickson and Tommy Thompson have both called my attention to the above stamp, which shows a definite color change, Milt sent me three copies and Tommy has two, which show an olive and bright blue color, instead of the brown and bright blue as originally issued. Neither Scotts nor Stanley Gibbons mention this color variety. Has any of the Group noted this, and do you have any ideas about it,

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## **SWAP COLUMN,**

Wanted, Leeward Island Issues all reigns, with readable cancellations, used in all of the islands. Offering mint and used B.W.I., todays covers from the smaller islands or cold cash - Stanley C, Durnin.

Will swap B.W.I. stamps, covers, etc., for stamps of Venezuela. Harold E. Box.

Have one copy of L.C.C. Nicholson's "Jamaica" which I will sell for \$20.00, or will trade for an equal amount of B.W.I. literature. A. N. Johnson.

Have Canal Zone, Vatican, few Hermes Heads early Greek, few Hawaii, Mexico, Cuba, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand G.B., U.S., Canada, Newfoundland will trade for British West Indies. Chet A. Cromleigh.

## THE PRE STAMP MARKINGS OF ANTIGUA

by V.N.F. Surtees.

Until the Codrington Correspondence turned up, some years ago, the first known hand-struck stamp of Antigua was dated 1787, but the Codrington Correspondence produced five prior marks. To anyone interested in the pre-stamp marks of Antigua, this book is essential. It gives besides much. colorful local history, information on the pre-stamp marks of St. Kitts, Dominica, Montserrat and Virgin Islands fairly fully, It is published, and can be obtained from Robson Lowe, Ltd., price 21/ plus postage.

The first mark was straight-line 'ANTIGUA' which was made up of loose type, so that there are at least four different fonts and various settings. These are listed in the "Codrington" as Type PD and they run from PD1 to PD12, with various varieties of type and PD7 and PD8 are known with and without stop. Dates of use run from 1 Sept 1780 to 22 Mch 1797, in black.

Next came the straight-line "ANTIGUA" with one line date below. This is listed as Type PF, and there are four sub-types showing varieties of inverted, etc., parts of date. Known 20 Mch 1799 to 1806, in black.

Then came the large 35mm diameter "Fleuron" listed as PG, curved ANTIGUA at top, two line date in center and fleuron at foot. PG1 known 15 July 1809 to 10 May 1821. Sub types PG1a, the same but no year of date, known 1810 to 1814., both in black.

The smaller 25mm diameter "Fleuron" followed, listed as PG2. The same layout as the larger Fleuron. Known used 1826 to 1840 in black, The name of the island at top and the fleuron at foot were cut from one piece of metal and the two line dates in center were in loose type. The packet agent employed an emancipated slave to operate these, with the result that there are every sort of error, which are listed as types PG2a to. PG2n, so that a properly arranged date is a rarity! All these strikes in black.

Next, the word 'ANTIGUA' curved at top and circle completed by segments with the two line date in center, listed as Type PH, known used 18!41 to 1857 in black.

Lastly, a single small lined circle with node letter, "Antigua", day, month and year in center in four black lines. Known used 1859 to 1868 and listed as Type PR. English Harbour had a pre-stamp mark, "ENGLISH HARBOUR" curved at top two line date in center and 'Antigua' at foot with segments between at sides to complete the circle. Listed as Type PN and known in black used in 1863.

Of General Post Stamps, there are two.---

- First, double ring Crowned Circle with "Paid at Antigua" in three lines in center, used 1850 to 1860, in red.
- Secondly, single ring Crowned Circle with 'PAID/AT' in center and "ENGLISH HARBOUR" ANTIGUA! round the sides, in red used 1857 to 1861.

As for ship Letters, the Codrington Correspondence produced two unique types.

- Type S1 used 6 Nov. 1789 "ANTIGUA SHIP LETTER" 75 by 5mm.
- Type S2 used 30 Nov. 1799, 'ANTIGUA SHIP LETTER", 71 by 3½mm. These are the only known examples.

There is also the two line types SC used 1841 to 1857, of which some seven, examples are known, "ANTIGUA/SHIP LETTER".

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Back in old Kentucky, where the mint julep is said to have originated, most natives dont waste time on "mixings". They drink their likker straight, strong and swiftly.- There was one hilibilly who got half a keg of bourbon for Christmas from a gentleman whom he had guided on a fishing trip. Day before New Year's the mountaineer was back in town, .hinting rather pointedly that he could use another round of the same.

"Don't you think you got through that likker pretty' fast?? asked the surprised donor.

Colonel," replied the hilibilly honestly, "a keg of whiskey don't go very fur with a family that cain't afford a cow.

## **LABELS AND FIRST FLIGHTS TO AND FROM JAMAICA.**

by E. F. Aguilar.

A little while back, while looking through some old "Gleaners" at the Institute of Jamaica, for information on certain air mail flights, I came across what may be the first flight of an airplane in the island. Mr. Jessie Seligman, an American aviator, made a flight in his Monoplane from Knutsford Park on Wednesday, 20th December 1911. There was a large turnout of spectators awaiting to see Mr. Seligman take off, but due to the very high wind, this was put off for a few hours until the wind subsided, after which the large crowd had the opportunity of seeing for the first time in their lives, a plane taking off and flying for about five minutes before landing again. After the flight Mr. Seligman said "It was the worst flight he had made in his life as far as weather conditions go". There were a number of Successful flights following.

With the start of the great war in 1914: it was only natural that Jamaica wanted to do what little she could by contribution. Mr. Lewis Ashenheim then founded the "Jamaica War Stamp League" which in 1916 was changed to "Jamaica Patriotic Stamp League"; object of the League to help and assist the British Red Cross Society, The Jamaica Aeroplane Fund, and a fund for the relief of Polish Jews.

The design of the labels was by Mr. Dennison, showing an airplane and a Red Cross printed on white wove paper, with perforation 12, unwatermarked. A sheet consisted of 100 labels, 10 x 10 and appeared on the first of December 1915. There was much comment as regards the label not bearing the name of the country, and, it was thought best that the remaining stocks should be overprinted with the word "Jamaica". The job of overprinting the labels was given to the Gleaner Co. Ltd., of Kingston, and it was not long before the second issue appeared. The second issue was put on sale on 22 December 1915, which was the same label except with the addition of the word "JAMAICA" in red. There are no varieties known to me, but one can find defects in the first "A" of "JAMAICA". These first two issues are not easily found these days,

The third issue with the "JAMAICA" in black appeared on sale the 15th, January 1916, and a number of varieties are known, such as the overprint in purple, which is difficult to find now. Also in the purple overprint, the first "A" of "JAMAICA" is defected, this defect appearing as well in the last issue, and from the number of copies seen, it seems that the letter was not hitting squarely.

The labels in the black overprint are the commonest, usually postmarked, but to find it used on envelope tied with a postmark is quite difficult. One can find the double and inverted overprints, in this setting, but these are rare. The defected "A" of "JAMAICA" also appears again, while the last "A" can be found with the same defect. Booklets were made up locally, (from what information I have been able to obtain), of two pages of six labels. As the Gleaner Co, Ltd., did the overprinting, it's only natural that these booklets were prepared by them also-

The fourth issue had the addition of the word "HALF-PENNY" in black and was issued on the 11th March 1916 the only defect known of, and one which appears to be a freak, is the broken "J" making it look like the letter "I".

These labels were all. printed by Messrs. Dennison Mfg. Co., Framingham, Mass., U.S.A., and during the period of issue in Jamaica the fund was benefited by more than 50,000 pounds.

All these labels were on sale at the Post Offices for 2d each but paid no postal duty, and are therefore without philatelic status, but not lacking of philatelic interest. In 1916 the residents of Kingston and St Andrew were again treated to a number of air displays, once again by an American aviator - Mr. DeKor, who landed his plane at Knutsford Park, and put on a number of air shows, All were well attended, and from which he gave part of the gate receipts to the War Aeroplane Fund,

February 1919 the island was visited by four sea planes of the American Naval Forces, the planes landing in Kingston Harbour.

With the war over, there was a long gap before flying really got hold of the interest of the local people. Major. Nathan on his visits. to the island would bring out his "Moth", and it was a pleasant sight, seeing the little plane flying around the plains of Ste Andrew. Captain Holland returning from Canada, brought out a Canadian Vickers seaplane which was moored at Greenwich Farm. This plane was able to take four passengers, and on a Saturday Afternoon or Sunday morning, one could see more and more new passengers going up for their first plane trip. It was not long before a small group got very interested and formed a company calling themselves the Caribbean Airways Ltd. Another seaplane was ordered in 1928 and on its arrival was used for carrying passengers on short trips.

On the 6th October 1929, an attempt was made for the first flight from Canal Zone to U.S., via Jamaica, but this flight failed as the plane ran into very heavy winds on nearing Jamaica and was forced to turn back, landing once again in the Canal Zone.

All of the mail was then sent by seemail. On each envelope, in a square 39 x 39 mm, in purple ink, is the following "Canal Zone-U.S. via Jamaica - Aviator encountered impossible weather conditions nearing Jamaica, compelling return. Mail re-dispatched by steamer."

At the end of November 1930, Pan American Airways, Inc., announced the inauguration of the world's largest regular scheduled water route, from Miami to Cristobal via Cienfuegos and Kingston.

The Commodore Flying Boats were used and were of a dual motor Monoplane type, with a wing span of 100 ft. and seating 32 passengers°

Airmail would be received by Jamaica, being a member of the International Postal Union, but arrangements had to be made as regards to outgoing mail with the Caribbean Airways as they now held the franchise. The first flight was to be on December 3rd, and Pan-American had chosen two of their veteran pilots. namely, Lieut. Commander Ed Schultz who would be at the controls on the Southbound plane, while on the return trip, Capt. Basil Rowe, It is of interest to note that Commander Schultz was a Squadron leader in the R.N.A.S. during the war. Each of these pilots had over 7,000 hours of flying time.

On the morning of the 3rd, December, a large and representative crowd was dawn at the P. A. A. barge, which was first moored off No. 2 pier, and later moved to Bournemouth to welcome the first plane. Among those present were the Hon. As E, DaCosta (Custos of Kingston), Mr. J. F. Kieffer, (Manager of the United Fruit Co. in Jamaica), Mr. Paul Squire, (American Consul), Mr. R. H. Fletcher, (Postmaster General of Jamaica). At 10 O'clock sharp the plane was sighted, and ten minutes later had landed and drawn alongside of the barge, shortly afterward, the first bag of mail was landed.

The Pilot stepped out carrying with him the first Air Mail bag, which he quickly tossed over to one of the P.A.A. officers who in turn handed same over to the Postmaster General of Jamaica. On arrival at the G.P.O., all the envelopes of this first flight were backstamped in purple ink with the following words.: "FIRST FLIGHT - inaugurating -Air Mail Service - Jamaica. B.W.I." (in four lines.)

On the front of each envelope a cachet in purple or black ink can be found, showing a Commodore Flying Boat passing a light-house, quite possibly Morro Castle in Havana, or one very similar, with the following words "First Flight - Air Mail - F.A.M. Route 5 Miami - Cienfuegos - Kingston". All in five lines.

A large number of these cachets were badly smudged and not easily read. Specimens in black ink are not common, apparently they were the first to be stamped off, as all copies seen had been crisp and sharp in detail, Many of these covers were signed by the Pilot after arriving in Jamaica.

Half an hour later the big plane took off on its way to Cristobal C.Z., but carried no mails from Jamaica. (Due to Caribbean Airways holding the franchise),

On the northbound plane from Canal Zone to Jamaica, Pilot B.L. Rowe was at the controls of the "Sikorsky" flying boat No. 6776,, arriving in Kingston Harbour on the early afternoon of Dec 2, 1930, bringing with it a good First Flight mail from the Zone, all the envelopes bearing a blue cachet showing a plane flying over the Canal with the words "AIR MAIL - FIRST FLIGHT - CANAL ZONE TO JAMAICA".

All of these were again backstamped in purple at the G.P.O. with the words 'FIRST FLIGHT - inaugurating - Air Mail Service -Jamaica B.W.I.'

There was no mail from Jamaica going north, as final agreement between Caribbean Airways Ltd., Ltd., had not settled, but it was hoped that this would be put right the following week, As the big plane left on its way to Cienfuegos - Miami, it carried with it a large batch of First Flight covers from Canal Zone with a different cachet from that used in Jamaica. This cachet shows the outline, part of the U.S.A., Central and South America and the islands of Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba, with the route that the plane flew from Canal Zone to Kingston - Kingston to Cienfuegos - Cienfuegos to Miami dotted out. The cachet in purple measuring 46 x 62 mm. All covers are backstamped 5th December 1930.

On the morning of the 10th December 1930, there was quite a large gathering down at Greenwich Farm to see one of the Caribbean Airways Ltd., planes take the first air mail bag from Jamaica to Santiago, Cuba, His Excellency;, the Governor made a short speech and handed the bag over to Captain Holland who was in charge of the Moth plane, which sharply at 8s30 left its mooring and taxied a few hundred yards on the water before taking off.: Accompanying Captain Holland was a reporter from the Gleaner Co., who gave a detailed account of the passage to and from Santiago a few days later in the local press.

On the trip up to Santiago, heavy winds were encountered, hereby causing the journey to be nearly of three hours duration,

The air mail was officially stated to be 15 pounds, which was not cacheted. These envelopes say or may not have been backstamped in Santiago, but up to the present time, I have not been fortunate enough to find one of them° which would be extremely rare and most valuable.

On the return flight there was no mail carried and the plane landed on the 11th a little after 10:30 in the morning, Later on the morning of the 10th December 1930, the big PAA plane was back again in Kingston, this time receiving from the GPO a small bag of mail from the Canal Zone. At the GPO there had been no cachet made for this First Flight between Kingston and Canal Zone, so the stamp made for Jamaica to Miami, USA, was put into use, after the words "Miami, U.S.A." were obliterated and "Canal Zone" inserted, this reading "AIR MAIL -- First Flight to Canal Zone" and showing. the outline of the island of Jamaica. These First Flight envelopes from Jamaica to Canal Zone are not easily found, all envelopes are backstamped "CRISTOBAL, Dec, 11, 9:30 a.m. -- C Zone".

On the north flight which arrived in the afternoon in Kingston, a large First Flight was taken from Jamaica - Miami, all the covers in Jamaica being first stamped at the G.P.O. with a round cachet showing the outline of the island of Jamaica in the middle of the circle with the words "AIR-MAIL - FIRST FLIGHT, Jamaica - to Miami, U.S.A.".

Covers were not backstamped in Miami, as this was done away with the year previously.

(The above article was submitted by Mr. E. F. Aguilar and was a reprint from his Philatelist, Vol, 1, Nos. 1 and 2.)

## **CORRECTIONS TO MEMBERSHIP LISTING**

Correct Robert J. Devauz address to read: 3 Rexgate Road, Rexdale, Ont., Canada.

Correct Wm, B, Stitt's address to reads 1185 Park Ave., New York 28, N. Y.

Correct Raymond Austin's address to 35A St Martins St,

Correct Stanley C, Durnin's Address to reads 58<sup>th</sup> ARS P.O. Box 1371, APO 231, N.Y.,N.Y.

Correct Peter Horzog's address to read: 4 Coach-N-Four, St Louis 31; Mo.

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In our last issue, in listing of Dominica post office, Grand Pond should have read Grand Pond, and in the Grenada listing Waburn should read Woburn.

## **NEW MEMBERS:**

- DITMARS, VOORHEIS MORSE, 663 Philip Street, Fredericton, N.B. Canada, collects Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Jamaica, General Collector, Member of APS, BNAPS, SCEC,
- GRABFIELD, DR. P HILIP G. 15 Hutchinson St., Milton 87, Mass. Collects British America, British Europe, Norway, Lagos.
- MEDFIELD, JOHN RICHARD EDWARD, 1361 McBride St., North Vancouver, B.C., Canada, collects Canada and Falkland Islands stamps and information relating thereto. Member of the R.P.S.C.
- TURNER, GEORGE T., 406 A Street S.E., Washington 2, D.C., Interested in philatelic literature and has joined our Group in order to obtain our Journals and brochures, In charge of the Stamp Division of the Smithsonian Institute.
- WATSON, WILLIAM KENNETH, 56 St. Ames Road, Headingley, Leeds 6, Yorkshire, England, Collects Jamaica, all aspects, including postal history and postmarks. Especially interested in Railway Town 'Cancellations and TPOs. Member B.W.I.S. Circle, Jamaica Study Group.

Add to A. G. Robinson's philatelic preferences: Canada, Great Britain, British Colonial Commemoratives, Booklets of, B. Empire and U.S.A.

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## **PERSONAL MENTION:**

- JOHN F AYRE was in Toronto last. month and as arranged to meet with Reg Lant, and possibly Bob Topaz, if Bob can make it.
- BILL BOGG of New England Stamp Co, was much in evidence at his Booth at the A.S.D.A. Show, which was a sort of a homing spot for we members of the WISFG at the meeting. Enjoyed seeing you, Bill.
- HAROLD E. BOX writes us a cheerful letter from Pert of Spain, Trinidad. He is Secty. of the Trinidad Philatelic Society, a live -wire organization. Anyone interested in Trinidad would do well to write Harold for membership in their organization.
- BYRON R. CAMERON has just recently written a brochure on the Fiscal Stamps of Jamaica, which is most outstanding. These have been mailed out to all the Group, and you should have them by now, Congratulations, Byron.
- LEONARD A. COURTNEY has currently been touring Europe. Hope that you had a good time and a good rest, Leonard.
- CHET CROMLEIGH writes that he had a pleasant visit from Elkin M. (Addle) Adelson recently who stopped by for a "coffee-break" and some stamp talk.
- EDWIN M. ERICKSON pleasantly surprised your Editor when he arrived in Houston last month and found time to come out to Baytown and spend the night. Had a wonderful time looking over each others material. He was on a swing around the continent on business. Do it again Milt, and I will try to get up to Columbus to see you and Russell Gibson one of these days.
- RUSSELL A. GIBSON attended the A.S.D.A. Show and the WIFSG Meeting in New York last month. Hope that Mrs. Gibson is much improved, Russ and that you get to make a swing down this way soon.

- DR. PHILIP G. GRABFIELD, one of our newest members, and his Philatelic Society in Boston, entertained Robert Topaz and your Editor at their regular meeting at the Harvard Faculty Club recently. After a fine dinner, Mr. Topaz showed some of his slides of rare stamps and covers to the Group. We thoroughly enjoyed the meeting and the opportunity to meet your fellow members, Dr. Grabfield,
- RALPH E. GROUP was in New York for the Show and meeting, He states that he has had little or no information from his friends in British Honduras since. Hurricane Hattie destroyed a large part of the area, and is anxious to hear from anyone who might have news or clippings from that area,
- CLINTON von POHLE writes that he is in addition to his normal activities, driving 70 miles to take another college course such ambition!,
- FRANK R. SAUNDERS received a nice writeup in the West End Philatelist for the excellence of his Bulletin of the King George VI Collector's Society, Nice going, Frank, and we feel the same way about it.
- FRED SEIFERT also among the group that attended our meeting in New York. Enjoyed meeting you Fred, and seeing your fine Jamaican material
- WILLIAM STITT entertained Bob Topaz, Fred Seifert, Ralph Group and me at his home in New York one evening while we were there, His West Indies material is tremendous and we could have spend several days. Thanks, Bill, the time was all too short.
- PAMELA TAYLOR gave a most illuminating discussion of the postmarks of Bahamas at a meeting of the British Empire Study Group, at the Collectors Club in New York, which your Editor had the opportunity of attending. Doc Yarry and Bill Stitt of the WIFSG were also present. Her talk was illustrated with an example of practically every postmark of Bahamas,
- ROBERT TOPAZ, our newly elected President, in an ill advised moment, invited me up to Boston for a couple of days before the ASDA Shaw, which I immediately snapped up. Had the pleasure of meeting his lovely wife and family, and the added pleasure of tying into one of those big, Maine lobsters, of the Which, there is no whitcher. Thanks a wonderful visit Bobs

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With reference to the last in paragraph three on Page 4 of the Squared Circle brochure, which posed the question as to whether anyone had seen a one-arc s.c., on any other British Empire cancellation, J. G. Raymond has written as follows:

"Squared circle article just arrived here (Sat Dec. 9), and regarding 21mm (circle) type with one arc and apex, it is a standard London issue, I have it on LAMU island off Tanganyika), dated 18040  
Thought you might like to pass this on."

This may help, Reg, Does anyone else know of other colonial squared circle markings (21mm) showing one ark and an apex?



## **THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**

My many thanks for the honor which you gave me in electing me your President for the next year. I sincerely hope that I can justify your trust and make this Group into what each of you want, An impossible task, but let's all try together. It was especially gratifying to see our Election Commissioner - Bill Stitt - count out 65 ballots. This was indeed an impressive total, since at the time, we had about 80 members. An excellent percentage and a vivid demonstration of the interest that all of you take. I understand that this would have been higher, except that some overseas members did not get their votes in on time.

My many thanks, also, for those of you who were able to get into New York for the ASDA Show there and took the time to come up and meet some of your fellow members:' I hope that you all enjoyed it.

There is a Handbook of the Cayman Islands in the process of being published at this time. The details of this can be found elsewhere in the Journal, I believe. E. F. Aguilar, a fellow member, is a co-author of this book and has graciously offered us a 25% discount on a group purchase, Reg Lant, our Secy.-Treasurer will handle this for us and all orders - with checks - should be sent to him by January 28th, I think that it is the duty of all philatelists interested in the West Indies to encourage as much as possible the publication of literature of any of the Islands.

We need volunteers for leaders for each of the countries that we cover. It will be their job to channel all research and information about their country, so that as much information can be given to all of the members. Country Leaders will have to insure that our Editor receives at least one article a year to publish in the Journal. May I hear from you as quickly as possible? This could be the most important phase of our work and the most rewarding in terms of information. I need your help.

Elsewhere in the Journal you find a notice about dues. Please pay your dues immediately. We need the money, since there has been no dues collected yet.

May I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year and I do hope that you all have a very merry Christmas Season.

Bob Topaz.

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## **CAYMAN ISLANDS HANDBOOK.**

Everard Aguilar advises us that the Cayman Islands Handbook, which has been in production for some time, is now ready for sale:

THE PHILATELIC HANDBOOK  
OF  
THE CAYMAN ISLANDS.  
by E. F. Aguilar and P. T. Saunders.

This is the first Handbook on the Cayman Islands in over forty years and covers Jamaica Used in Cayman with prices, Pre Stamp Covers, all regular issues, Completely up-to-date, with new and hitherto unrecorded data, profusely illustrated. Price \$6.00, to members of WIFSG, \$4.50 when ordered through our Secretary by Jan 28. Please add 50c postage. This is a limited printing, so get your orders in early.

## **DUES ARE NOW-: DUE.**

At the meeting in New York and through correspondence with many of our members, it was decided that the dues would be set at 13.00 per annum. As our exchequer is at a low ebb, it behooves each of us to promptly-send our dues in to our Secretary-Treasurer, Reg, H. Lant, 164 Highbourne Road, Toronto 7, Ont., Canada. Please do this as soon as possible so that Reg will be able to get his books in order; so that there will be enough money in the Treasury to publish this Journal and get it mailed.

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From where we sit, it looks like we need most in our present world affairs are fewer architects and more bricklayers.

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## **NEW MEMBERS:**

Have just received information from Reg Lant that our two newest members are:

- Dr DON OTTO GORE, FASC, Home address 11 Long Mountain Road, College Common U.C.W.I., Mona, Jamaica, W.I. MAILING ADDRESS, Dept Surgery, University College of the West Indies, Mona, St Andrew, Jamaica, W.I. Collects West Indies issues primarily, West Indies Postmarks, British Commonwealth Issues.
- JAMES E, HAWES, JR., Home Address, 652 E. Main St., Greenwood, Indiana, MAILING ADDRESS, 10th floor, 111 Monument Circle, %Ross, McCord, Ice and Miller, Indianapolis, Indiana. Collects, British Colonials in general, heretofore with emphasis on British North America. Also, to a limited degree -USA, Scandanavia and Germany, Now particularly interested in developing an island for postmark collection. Member of BPHSC.

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM YOUR EDITOR,