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SEVENTY YEARS AFTER IT FIRST APPEARED ON A BAHAMAS STAMP, THE QUEEN'S STAIRCASE IN NASSAU REMAINS A MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTION. *Photograph by Morris E. Ludington*

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EDITORIAL ELUCIDATIONS

We have concluded that this page does not have space enough to allow our President a decent sized message to the members. Thus, we have moved the President's Page towards the back of the Journal. Since we have to fill this space with something, it seems it might be a good spot in which to consolidate our comments, suggestions, gripes and the like, so here we go.

If you changed your address in the past year and did not let us know, the odds are that you are missing a Journal. When a Journal is sent on its way with the wrong address on it, the receiving post office sends it back to us, charging us Postage Due in the amount of the original postage. If they have a change card giving them the new address, they will give it to us in response to the "ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED" on our address labels.

Until last year, it was our practice to resend these returned copies to the new address, and request that the member reimburse us for the extra charges. This has not worked--only two of a number of members have repaid us. Regretfully, we have changed the system, and now returned copies go into our dead letter file awaiting a request for the missing issue. If we get no request in six months, we assume the member isn't concerned, and the Journal goes into our back issues stock pile.

At the moment our dead letter file contains returned Journals from California (3), Illinois, Virginia and Ontario. If one of these belongs to you, it will be mailed promptly, if you send us 30¢ in stamps to pay us for the extra expenses involved.

We do make every effort to keep track of you, and in many cases have picked up address changes from other publications in time to save a member the loss of an issue. This does make us wonder, though, why didn't he notify us too?

Fred

To Antigua in Quest of Ink

by Stan Durnin

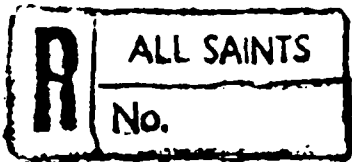
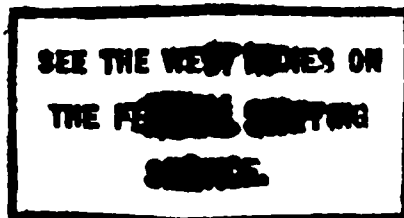
Leaving the beauty and historical associations of English Harbour Dockyard behind, we proceeded northward enroute to our hotel. Coming once again to ALL SAINTS, we stopped at the Post Office and mailed some covers. The affable Postmistress, Mrs. Winifred Chambers, obligingly serviced our covers. All Saints' mailbag 'squeezer' bears the number 1. Mail is picked up and delivered daily, except Sunday, and the two handstamps shown below are used on outgoing mail. The Post Office shares its building with the telephone exchange.



WINIFRED CHAMBERS AND ALL SAINTS P.O.

CEDAR GROVE POSTMISTRESS EDNA JOSHUA

Elaine and I dropped off Eric and Lulu at the hotel, and then we continued the two miles or so to locate the CEDAR GROVE Post Office. We anchored the car by placing a big rock behind a rear wheel, and were made welcome to the home of Postmistress, Miss Edna Joshua. Actually the Post Office was transported to us from a back room in a cardboard box. Miss Joshua was a delight to meet, and was most enthusiastic



when told of our postmark quest. She became Postmistress in 1965, her predecessor having been Mrs. Frances Barnes. Mail delivery here is conducted only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, which is also the case at New Winthorpes, probably because of the small amount of mail sent and received from these two offices.

I had completed postmarking my covers with the two standard handstamps, when to my utter surprise and joy Miss Joshua handed me a third handstamp with the words that she has had "this one for a long time, but never used it"! I had previously seen examples of the "SEE THE WEST INDIES IN THE FEDERAL SHIPPING SERVICE" rubber handstamp, but certainly not any originating from Cedar Grove. It is illustrated here and shows deterioration solely to time and the elements - not to use. Locating it was the highlight of my day, and Elaine and I drove back to the hotel to celebrate with a glass of Portuguese wine, and to share our discovery with Eric Heyer and Al Higgins. The Cedar Grove mailbag squeezer bore no name or number to indicate the office of use.

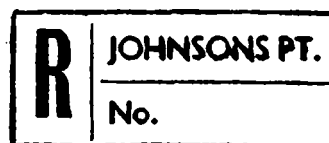
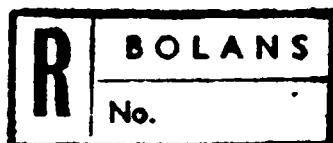


BOLANS GENERAL STORE AND POST OFFICE



THE POST OFFICE AT JOHNSONS POINT

Bright and early the next morning, we dropped off Eric and Lulu in St. John's, and then Elaine and I took the road to the south. BOLANS was the first Post Office we encountered. There Mr. A. Baretto serves as Postmaster from his general store. I learned from him that he has been Postmaster since 1964. (George Bowman notes the appointment of a Mr. Angelo Baretto to Sub-Postmaster, Bolans as of 1 January 1936 on a later page of this issue of the Journal. The present gentleman's father?) A Miss Mary Dias preceded Mr. Baretto in his position.



While we were chatting with Mr. Baretto; Mr. Williams and Mr. Greenaway arrived to deliver the day's mails, so we continued our talk of the previous day. They have the additional duty of painting the post boxes, and we saw them doing just that at JENNINGS as we passed through that village.

Continuing southward, we found our next Post Office, JOHNSONS POINT, almost at the water's edge. There I reluctantly interrupted school classes to have a talk with the Postmaster, Mr. C.A. Prince. (The job of Postmaster is automatically assumed by the Headmaster of the school.) It became readily apparent that his wife takes care of the postal business, conducting it over a small desk in their home located adjacent to the school. Mr. Prince replaced Mr. R.S. Edwards in the dual position in 1957. The mailbag squeezer here bears the number 10.

Pushing on we passed the Salt Pond before arriving at OLD ROAD. The Postmistress, Catherine Brand, who is also the area nurse, was out on a sick call, so Elaine and I had a nice chat with Miss Brand's elderly mother. We were unable to process our covers as the 'Post Office' was locked up in a cabinet, but we left them for later postmarking and dispatch. I subsequently received the covers in fine order, and a letter from Miss Brand advised me that she had been Postmistress at Old Road since February 1953. Before her, Dalton McKay held the position. The Old Road squeezer has no number, but etched on the outside is "Highgate. G.P.O. 1931". (Most of the other squeezers I saw bore this inscription.) The registration handstamp which is an out-of-the-ordinary type has been in use since "...about 1966...".

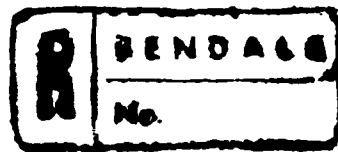
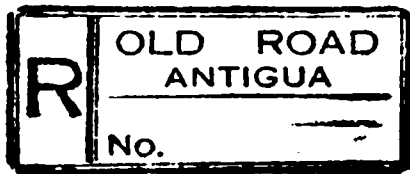


ELAINE IN FRONT OF OLD ROAD P.O.



THE BENDALS, ANTIGUA, POST OFFICE

The lovely drive on the narrow winding road around Fig Tree Hill lead us to what I thought would be a shortcut to Bendals. We located the 'side road' alright, but I soon ran into an impasse in the form of a waterhole of undetermined depth, and had to back up for a quarter-mile or so over the extremely rough, curving path. After taking the long way around through Swetes, we finally arrived at Bendals. Enroute we had given a lift to a woman going to All Saints, who told us that SWETES is the correct spelling of her village, despite the fact that it was SWEETS on our map.



The Postmistress of BENDALS is Alison Warner. Being a school teacher as well, she was not in when we called, but her mother, Mrs. Miller, graciously permitted us to process our covers. Miss Warner has been Postmistress since 1965, having followed her aunt, R. Vivian Roberts, in the office. Mrs. Miller was most obliging, and as we departed she gave her "new found friends from America" a jar of guava preserves which she called "guava soup".

We now had only one more Antigua Post Office to visit, and we headed north towards NEW WINTHORPES, which our road map spelled New Winthropes. Recalling the trouble Fred experienced in locating this P.O. on a previous trip, we expected to do a bit of 'open field running' to get there, but were fortunate when we picked up a young girl hitch-hiker near the airport who showed us a well-paved side road that led us

right up to New Winthorpes. We encountered no difficulty in locating the home of Mrs. Eugenie Hampson in which the Post Office is located. As she was out shopping her three young sons assisted us with our postal quest. While I was postmarking a batch of covers on the upright piano, Elaine was kept entertained by the youngest boy, Guishard, who was a delight to watch. Mrs. Hampson took over as Postmistress in mid-1967, when she relieved her son Joseph. (George Bowman says he was told it was "her husband Joseph", but in any event we agree on the name!) Although both a registration stamp and CDS are used here, there is only one set of date slugs. To



THE POST OFFICE AT NEW WINTHORPES



OLD VICTORIAN POST BOX IN ST. JOHN'S

process a registered letter using both devices, the current date slugs are shifted from one to the other. Insertion of the date slugs is a tricky bit of business if one is not accustomed to doing it, and it is quite easy to insert them upside down or out of sequence, as on the illustrated New Winthorpes CDS.

Being deeply engrossed in our postmarking, we all failed to keep an eye on little Guishard, who was having a great time playing with the little oblong wooden box in which the date slugs are housed. We suddenly became aware of the fact that he was squeezing slugs out of his chubby little fingers, and they were scattering in all directions across the floor. This taught us one good reason for missing dates in postmarks. We left with delightful memories of Mrs. Hampson's sons and their New Winthorpes Post Office.



With our Post Office ink quest on Antigua over, we drove into St. John's and acted as tourists. Spying a venerable 'Victoria Regina' post box next to a shop, I brought the car to a screeching halt and took a photo of the 'ole-timer'. It could well be the only one from the reign of Queen Victoria that remains in the Leeward Islands, for we saw no more like it on any of the other islands we visited.

We saw no point in researching the postal markings of the G.P.O., as Bill Cornell, our BCPSG Group Leader for Antigua, has done a tremendous job of recording them in his ANTIGUA ADDENDA column. (See BCPJ #44, pp. 129-32). After celebrating the end of a successful Quest for Ink on Antigua with a rum punch or two, we spent the day relaxing and in anticipation of our visit to beautiful, unspoiled Dominica.

JAMAICA JOTTINGS

by Robert Topaz

My very best wishes to all of you for a Healthy and Happy New Year. I hope all of you had a Merry Christmas, and want to thank those who were so kind to send cards for the occasion. My den was festooned with colorful greetings from many parts of the world, and my family and I were most grateful.

My apologies for not "appearing" a bit more frequently with this column, but there have been many pressures of late--mostly business--that have not allowed me to devote the necessary time to this work.

The past year has been a big one in Jamaican Postal History discoveries, and 1971 seems to be starting out the same way. The biggest surprises of 1970 were the uncovering of two more examples of the K 1 KINGSTON mark, a mark that was unrecorded until 1968, even though two of them were known prior to that time; (There are now a total of four copies known to me); the discovery of the 1 shilling 2d PAID type PD 14 that came from out of the blue; now there are supposed to be two more copies in existence; and discovery of a P 7 marking for MANCHIONEAL, reported by Foster, a remarkable find. None of these were expected. Now the January London auction seems to show a new mark for "SAVANA/LAMAR" of the T 1 type, and a LACOVIA T 2 for 1769 which predates the earliest known marking (MORANT BAY) by some four years. If genuine, these represent an interesting start for 1971!

Byron Cameron has come up with a new die of the T 3 MONTEGO BAY mark dated 1803 in which the size is about 54 x 12 mm, and in which the "Ja" is more to the east than in later markings.

Reg Lant has discovered a KINGSTON large squared circle, dated 6 MR 02, a new LDK. He also reports a B 3 MORANT BAY w/o *, dated 1 FE 54.

The GARRISON POST OFFICE was using a new TRD in violet ink with a new format. It was first noted on 6 AP 70. It is about 57 x 35 mm with a frame around the mark, and all in seriffed caps. The name and location are in 2½ mm letters; the date in 3½ mm letters, and the bottom line in 2 mm letters. It reads GARRISON POST OFFICE/UP PARK CAMP/ (date) /KINGSTON JAMAICA.

MYRTLE BANK Post Office was moved on demolition of the Hotel as of 26 May 1970 and is now located at 82 Tower Street. A new TRD, my type 37, was used, first seen on 29 MY 70. It has a comma after the name.

JERICO was using a violet ink TRD type 37 at least from 26 MY 70 to 29 JU 70.

DEAN PEN changed its name to KILANCHOLLY on 29 JA 70, and it used a type 37 TRD on 27 AP 70 bearing the new name. This TRD is without asterisks at the sides.

DENBIGH was using a black ink TRD on 22 AP 70, and ALBION the same on 16 AP 70.

KINGSTON has a new type machine canceller, first noted 4 APR 1970. The 22 mm CDS, SR reads KINGSTON at top and JAMAICA, W.I. at bottom. Date and time are in three lines thus: 4 APR/1970/6 -PM. It has the usual slogan imprints at the right. It is easily differentiated from previous types by the W.I. after JAMAICA.

Ronnie Wong reports the reuse of the type 37 TRD reading AIR JAMAICA on 1 JUN 1970 for the First Flight of Air Jamaica from Kingston to Chicago via Nassau. About 50 covers were serviced and received a CHICAGO, ILL./AMF O'HARE backstamp, same date.

CLOSINGS AND REOPENINGS

JACKS RIVER closed on 20 April 1970 and reopened on 29 April 1970.
 LASCELLES was permanently closed down at noon on 22 May 1970.
 GREY GROUND was temporarily closed at some time before 2 November 1970.
 BIRD'S HILL closed on 18 July 1970; MOUNT ROSSER reopened on 13 July 1970.
 BOIS CONTENT was temporarily closed at some time before 31 August 1970.
 MENDEZ was temporarily closed at some time before 24 August 1970.
 DUXES was closed at some time before 24 August 1970.
 HUNTS TOWN was temporarily closed at some time before 8 December 1970.
 FREETOWN was temporarily closed at some time before 8 December 1970.
 CHELTENHAM was reopened on 11 September 1970.

NEW OFFICE OPENINGS

FIRST DATE IS OPENING. SECOND DATE IS EARLIEST STRIKE. F.O. = FORWARDING OFFICE.

TOM'S RIVER, St. Andrew, 8 MY 70, TRD 37x-violet 20 MY 70, F.O. Castleton.

The name TOMS is spelled without an apostrophe.

RIVER HEAD, St. Thomas, 12 MY 70, TRD 37x-violet 18 MY 70, F.O. Llandewey.

TIVOLI GARDENS, Kingston, 20 AP 70, TRD 37-violet 29 AP 70, F.O. Denham Town.

BECKFORD TOWN, St. Thomas, 14 AP 70, TRD 37x-violet 30 AP 70, F.O. Morant Bay.

GUAVA RIDGE, St. Andrew, 21 AP 70, TRD 39x-violet 24 AP 70, F.O. Mavis Bank.

BOTTOM ST. TOOLIES, Manchester, 7 AP 70, TRD 39x-violet 20 AP 70, F.O. Porus.

ATHALONE, St. Mary, 10 AP 70, TRD 38-violet 17 AP 70, F.O. Bonny Gate.

HENDON, St. James, 23 OC 70, TRD 37-violet 5 NO 70, F.O. Montego Bay #1.

BURNT GROUND, St. Elizabeth, 22 SP 70, TRD 37-violet 28 SP 70, F.O. Santa Cruz.

The town name is in plain caps.

BLUE MOUNTAIN, Manchester, 8 SP 70, TRD 37-violet 19 SP 70, F.O. Williamsfield.

BELGAR, St. Catherine, 9 SP 70, TRD 37-violet 22 SP 70, F.O. Glengoffe.

FOLLY, Portland, 11 SP 70, TRD 37-violet 17 SP 70, F.O. Port Antonio.

MILES TOWN, Hanover, 28 AU 70, TRD 37x-violet 11 SP 70, F.O. Ramble.

PIMENTO GROVE, Hanover, 28 AU 70, TRD 38x-violet 9 SP 70, F.O. Hopewell.

GREEN MOUNT, Manchester, 25 AU 70, TRD 37-violet 2 SP 70, F.O. Mile Gully.

Two old openings that I have apparently neglected to report are:

CANE RIVER, St. Andrew, 4 MR 69.

KEN JONES, Hanover, 16 FE 70.

OFFICES NOTED USING THE NEW MSR 1968 since my last listing include:

| | | | | | |
|-------------|---------|-------------|----------|--------------|---------|
| ALPS | 2 MY 70 | CLOVER HILL | 4 MY 70 | JUBILEE TOWN | 2 JU 70 |
| BAKERS HILL | 8 JU 70 | CORNPIECE | 16 JA 70 | ROCKY POINT | 2 JU 70 |
| BONNETT | 2 JU 70 | GEDDES TOWN | 16 MY 70 | | |

A new machine slogan has been noted at both CROSS ROADS and MONTEGO BAY. It reads:

POPULATION CENSUS
APRIL 1970

in plain caps, and is in a rectangular frame about 17 x 52 mm. It was first noted used at Montego Bay on 7 AP 70 and at Cross Roads on 14 AP 70.

Again my many thanks to Lloyd Brandon, who has kindly and assiduously passed along much of the above information. And again a Happy New Year to you all.

SEE PAGE 29 OF THIS ISSUE FOR A BIG BARGAIN IN LITERATURE OF JAMAICA AND CAYMANS.

HOLIDAY IN GRENADA

by Werner Framke

After I had spent the entire Spring deciding where to spend my Fall 1970 vacation, I chose Grenada. I had never been down to that part of the Caribbean, and while I collect all of the British Caribbean, Grenada and St. Lucia have always interested me most.

My Pan American flight left New York at 9:15 AM, and reached Barbados some 5 hours later. There I had to change to a smaller LIAT Avro turbo-prop plane which serves the smaller islands. After a ten minute stop at St. Vincent, we were on the final leg of my journey to the Isle of Spice. We arrived at Pearls Airport under partly cloudy skys at about 5:30 PM. The brief customs and immigration formalities took but a few moments, and shortly I was on my way to the Blue Horizons Hotel, located near beautiful Grand Anse Beach, a scenic feature of Grenada that is pictured on a number of its stamps (SG 135, 153, 241). My driver, Mr. Keith Thomas, pointed out various points of interest along the way, including a Crater Lake which is nestled inside an extinct volcano near the Grand Etang Forest Reserve (SG 137, 155).



THE G.P.O. AT ST. GEORGE'S, GRENADA

I soon found out that the roads on this island are not the greatest, but better than many of those on some of the other islands I have visited. Arriving at my hotel I received a very friendly greeting from owners Bob Masten and his wife Marilyn. They informed me that because of the few guests staying there at that time, they were not serving the evening meals. However, they compensated me by refunding \$5 a day, and arranged for me to dine at other hotels in the vicinity during my stay. That evening I met two couples sharing the same experience, so they joined me for dinner at the famous Spice Island Inn. The food was wonderful, designed to make one relax and let the cares of the day slip away.

The next morning found me at the G.P.O. to see what I could learn of postal matters on the island. Business was brisk and the same was true during several subsequent visits during my five day stay. Hours of business are 8 to 3:30, Monday through Friday, and 8 to 12 on Saturday. Stamps being sold included all of the commemorative issues of 1970 as well as the current definitives. One of the windows could supply FDC's of some older commemoratives.

As soon as possible, I arranged to meet Lawrence Fletcher, the Postmaster General. He was most helpful in seeing to my needs, and informed me that there were then in addition to the G.P.O., 6 main Post Offices and 41 Sub-Post Offices on Grenada. A list of offices open in December 1968 was given by Harvey O'Connor in the BCPJ for April 1969, page 49. It shows a total of 37 "Postal Stations" or Sub-Post Offices as then in operation. According to Charles Ricksecker, three more opened sometime prior to 1 August 1970. These are DUQUESNE (St. Mark's), PLAISANCE (St. Andrew's) and RIVER ROAD (St. George's). If the 41 figure given me by PMG Fletcher is true, another office must have opened since December 1968. Can anyone clarify? The CDS Type 23B was being used by Duquesne, Plaisance and River Road on 7 NOV 1970.

Postmaster Fletcher was able to obtain examples of postmarks of some 24 offices on the island for me. In comparing these strikes with the types reported by Harvey I note the following changes: The G.P.O. also uses a Type 23C. GRAND ROY was using Type 23B (formerly Type 23). PIEDMONTAGNE Type 23A has become PERDMONTEMPS, which is its alternate name, using Type 23A. SAUTEURS was using Type 23B (formerly Type 23A). The strike of CROCHU, Type 22, is without year. This is an old stamp so it is quite likely that its set of date slugs lacks a "70". All of the above strikes have the date 7 NO 70, except the G.P.O. which is dated 17 OC 70, although its use was on 7 November. This would indicate that this G.P.O. mark sees little use.

I found that the best way to see some of the interesting places on the island, was to take a McIntyre Brothers Ltd. tour. This enabled me to visit both Fort George and Fort Frederick, built by the French and now serving as Police Barracks, plus a few other scenic places. The tour did not include the much talked about Annandale Falls, but for a well invested \$5 BWI, I was able to make another trip to see this spot of beauty. This is a waterfall on the Beausejour River, with the water dropping from a cliff overhung with the trailing roots of air plants into a deep pool. Situated in a tropical rain forest, it is indeed a beautiful site.

While Grenada is usually naturally air conditioned by trade winds, temperatures of 90° or more made it somewhat uncomfortable during my visit, and brief rain showers provided only a little relief. My solution to beat the heat was to retreat to the bar of the Spice Island Inn for a cool drink and a bit of conversation with locals congregated there. One of these brought up the subject of issuance of stamps, and told me he thought that Grenada had embarked on a wild program of new issues, with no apparent reason. He also noted that some of the other islands have maintained a fairly conservative stamp issuing program, even though they are not represented by the Crown Agents.

During my visit I was able to cover most of the spots shown on the later Elizabeth II pictorial issues, and of these was most impressed by Lavera Beach and Annandale Falls. Cocoa and nutmeg, which are featured on some of the stamps, are the chief exports. My visit to the Isle of Spice was a most memorable one, and I can highly recommend a trip to this delightful bit of the tropics.

JAMAICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY REACTIVATED----

After several years of inactivity, the Jamaica Philatelic Society, founded over 50 years ago on April 14th 1920, has again come alive. At a meeting last November in Kingston, officers for the revived JPS were elected, and included were the following BCPSG members: President, Pat Burke; Secretary, Stephen Hopwood; and Committee Members: Lloyd Brandon, Ronnie Wong, Henry Blackmore and Stan Murphy. Also on the Committee is Bernard Lewis of the Institute of Jamaica.

The Committee plans to have a quarterly newsletter, with the first issue to appear in February 1971. Active monthly meetings are also planned. Membership cards are being sent to all those who became Life Members in previous years, and the Society is conducting a campaign to sign up new members, with over 60 already obtained. A Junior Membership is being encouraged.

Details regarding membership may be obtained by writing Secretary Stephen Hopwood, P.O. Box 165, Kingston, Jamaica, W.I.

IT WASTES OUR TREASURY FUNDS TO MAIL OUT DUES REMINDERS. PAY NOW AND HELP US SAVE!

THE HAPAG WEST INDIA LINE

by Charles E. Cwiakala

During the latter part of the Nineteenth Century, the German Imperial Post Office authorized H.A.P.A.G. (Hamburg-Amerikanischen Paketfahrt Aktien-Gesellschaft), the Hamburg-America Packet Company, to use their steamships for the transportation of mails in a manner similar to that of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. Indeed, the R.M.S.P.C. and H.A.P.A.G. were "friendly competitors", often visiting the same ports-of-call, Curaçao, Puerto Plata and Puerto Cabello, to name a few. Also both companies issued "postage stamps" in 1875 to denote payment for letters carried on their steamships. The R.M.S.P.C. issues are well known to our BCPSG members. Thus this article will concern itself with the little known H.A.P.A.G. issues and their relation to British Caribbean Postal History.



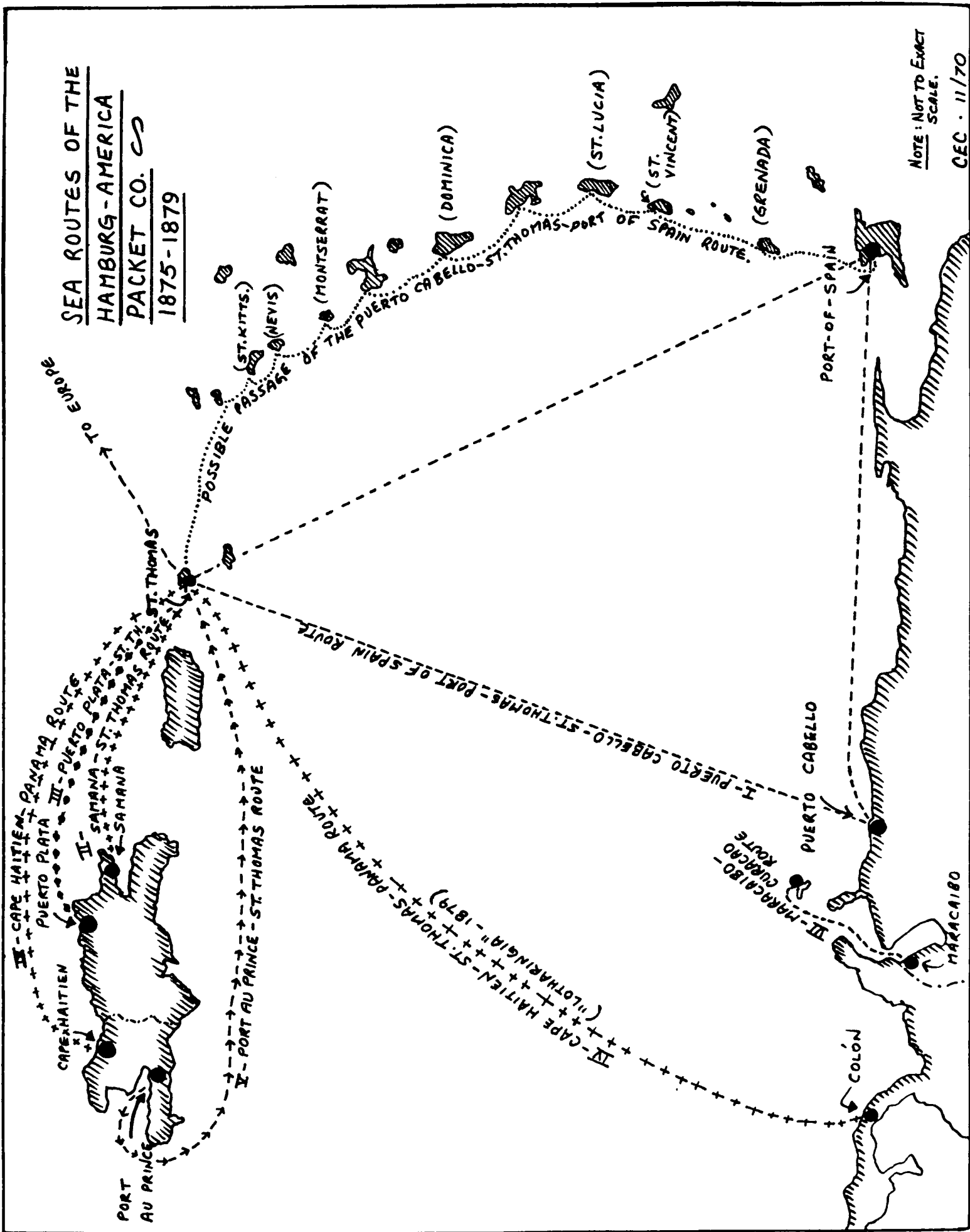
Illustration Courtesy of Robson Lowe Ltd.

The HAPAG stamps (the Germans often dropped the periods from the abbreviated name) were valid only for letters on HAPAG steamships transporting mail to and from many harbors of the West Indies, as well as Panama and Venezuela. Yet, because of the tremendous interest in packet postal history, and a genuine scarcity of the HAPAG stamps, they are eagerly sought for when at rare intervals they appear in auctions of postal history material.

HAPAG's main office for the West Indies trade was located in St. Thomas, which was then in the Danish West Indies. The HAPAG stamps were kept by the HAPAG agent who applied them to letters with destinations to lands on routes from St. Thomas. The purser of each HAPAG ship also had a supply of stamps for use on letters delivered for transportation from ports other than St. Thomas.

The HAPAG postage rate is recorded as being 10 cents gold = 40 pfg = 5 pence per 1 ounce (calculated as 30 rather than 28.4 grams per ounce). HAPAG covers are sometimes found having mixed franking of HAPAG issues and British "Used Abroads" or of stamps of other participating countries. These are letters that were carried for further forwarding by HAPAG. One pristine example was included in the Glassco Sale by Robson Lowe in November 1969. Lot #784 is a part entire letter from Liverpool, addressed to a firm in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, in care of its St. Thomas agent. It is franked with a pair of British 1/- adhesives which are canceled with Liverpool postmarks. The agent at St. Thomas crossed out his address, then giving it to the HAPAG agent for further forwarding. The latter applied two HAPAG stamps and canceled them with a five ring target, whence a HAPAG steamer carried it on to Puerto Plata for delivery to the addressee. A photo of this cover, which realized the tidy sum of £550, is shown on page 150 of the Glassco Sale catalogue.

**SEA ROUTES OF THE
HAMBURG-AMERICA
PACKET CO. c. 1875-1879**



NOTE: NOT TO EXACT SCALE.

CEC - 11/70

In the case of letters to or from Venezuela, no internal postage was required, and such covers may be found bearing only HAPAG issues. Of course, if forwarded after reaching some other country, additional franking was necessary. The cover of the catalogue for the Robson Lowe Postal History Auction of 13 January 1971 pictures a beautiful entire letter of 1877 from Caracas to St. Thomas. It is franked only by a HAPAG stamp, tied by an oval framed La Guayira agent's handstamp in blue. There is a manuscript endorsement "Pr. Lotharingia" on the front.

As best as can be derived from collated data, HAPAG operated six different routes, during the years 1875-1879:

ROUTE I - PUERTO CABELLO, Venezuela - ST. THOMAS, DWI - PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad.
ROUTE II - SAMANA, Dominican Republic - ST. THOMAS, DWI.
ROUTE III - PUERTO PLATA, Dominican Republic - ST. THOMAS, DWI.
ROUTE IV - CAPE HAITIEN, Haiti - ST. THOMAS, DWI - PANAMA.
ROUTE V - PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti - ST. THOMAS, DWI.
ROUTE VI - MARACAIBO, Venezuela - CURACAO.

The HAPAG line was quite large, in 1875 its principal routes being served by seven steamships: SAXONIA, RHENANIA, SUEVIA, ALEMANNIA, FRANCONIA, GERMANIA and VANDALIA while LOTHARINGIA and MARACAIBO operated on the secondary routes. Four more ships were placed in special HAPAG service in 1878: TEUTONIA, SAXONIA (the second such), BORUSIA and BAVARIA. In 1879, the LOTHARINGIA was changed from the principal West Indian route to the St. Thomas - Panama route.

The HAPAG stamps were lithographed by Charles Fuch in Hamburg, with the white area in the center having an embossed coat of arms. Sheets contained 72 stamps (8 x 9) perforated 12½. The 1875 issue is black on yellow and greenish-blue, and the 1879 re-issue is black on brownish-yellow and grayish-blue. There are many shades for both issues with the yellow oscillating from very pale to very dark yellow and the blue from greenish to grayish. One copy with a double impression of the embossing has been recorded. A total of 120,000 stamps (both issues) were printed, with the 1879 issue being scarcer, due to their invalidation as the West Indian territories joined the U.P.U., which outlawed such locals, in 1880-1881.

As a rule, cancelled examples are found with pen mark obliterations. Recorded exceptions show that, in rare instances, the stamps can be found with the following: St. Thomas CDS's, agent (or sub-agent) rubber handstamps, various types of target, a Venezuelan "P" in a "Cross" obliterator (Puerto Cabello or Maracaibo?), various ship rubber handstamps, and a "D" obliterator (in the Glassco auction).

We now come to our search for BWI HAPAG covers. This steamship line visited Port of Spain, Trinidad, for at least 4½ years while the HAPAG stamps were in use; however, as of this writing in December 1970, I have not been able to record even one cover to or from Trinidad bearing HAPAG stamps. Port of Spain was a main port-of-call on one of HAPAG's primary routes, so surely such covers must exist or did exist at one time. Correspondence with the publishers of the Michel Catalogue, that lists the HAPAG issues under the heading *DEUTSCHE MARINE SCHIFFSPOST*, #'s 1-2, has confirmed my theory that mixed frankage covers from Trinidad were possible, though none have been recorded as of yet (August, 1970). Perhaps one of our members will be able to aid in our quest and help enrich Trinidad's documented postal history.

To further excite the imagination, there is a possibility of HAPAG covers from the other British Caribbean islands along the St. Thomas to Port of Spain route, as it most likely skirted St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada. Perhaps some inhabitant of one of these islands posted a letter that was forwarded by a HAPAG steamship.

For my part, I have been pleased to find one used example of the HAPAG issue, with an undecipherable multi-line rubber handstamp in red, for my collection of British Caribbean postal history material. Mint and used copies are not too expensive but are elusive. Since not very many collectors and dealers have heard of them, it is possible to find a 'sleeper' if one is lucky. Reprints of the HAPAG issues exist, and the following list is offered for reference:

- 1896 - A reprint from a new plate by Giesecke & Devrient (Leipzig) for the 50 year HAPAG Jubilee, perforated 14.
- 1938 - A reprint consisting of 20,048, printed in sheets of 12 stamps for the "DEUTSCHEN SAMMLERGEMEINSCHAFT" (German Collectors Society), Imperf.
- 1955 - A reprint of the 1879 issue by Gebr. Hoesch, Hamburg, in sheets of 12, with the middle stamps being tête-bêche, and gummed side being printed with "NACHDRUCK 1955" (Reprint 1955), perforated 11½ x 10, watermarked.

"Via Imperial"

by Charles G. Ricksecker

In the April 1969 issue of the BCPJ, there was illustrated a 1941 cover from Nevis bearing a hand-stamped slogan "CABLE AND/WIRELESS/VIA/IMPERIAL" in a boxed square, attached to the CDS. The article requested further information concerning its origin and meaning. Having seen no follow-up, I would like to submit the following remarks.

During World War II, several Cable and Wireless ships were pressed into service by the British Government to, among other things, carry the mail. Cable and Wireless is a world-wide enterprise and maintains a fleet of cable-laying and repair ships, which are required to service its cables and other communications systems. Their ships, therefore, provided valuable support roles to a number of British Colonies, including Gibraltar and the West Indies.

Last year, while paging through a copy of that company's magazine, *Zodiac*, I noted an article about one of these vessels that, after all these years, was about to be retired from service. This particular vessel ran many missions during the time of World War II, between Gibraltar and England. However, the article itself provided me with many valuable clues about a parallel service in the West Indies during the same period.

The word "Imperial" undoubtedly refers to the name of the ship providing the WW II service in the West Indies, for all of the Cable and Wireless ships bore majestic-sounding names. As the cover bears a typewritten endorsement "Via Boston, Mass" I think it safe to say that people in the West Indies had prior knowledge as to when the ship would sail, and that its destination would be Boston.

Most critically, though, the slogan-CDS stamp appears to be one belonging to Cable and Wireless Company and not to the Post Office. It is quite similar in design to that used to date-stamp telegrams. I suggest that covers which bear this marking were delivered to the Cable and Wireless office (or, if they were delivered to the Post Office, they were passed along to the Company without having had their stamps canceled at the Post Office). Someone at the Cable Office, seeing that the stamps were uncanceled, applied the Cable and Wireless datestamp. Still, I consider this mark a postal one since the user was authorized by government to carry the mail.

SOME NEW ANTIGUA DATA

by George W. Bowman

In a previous issue of this Journal (No.56, AUG 1970), I discussed data pertaining to Antigua Sub-Post Offices (SPO's) during the years 1901-21, that had appeared in the *Leeward Islands Gazette* (LIG). Subsequently, I have researched microfilm file copies of the LIG for the period 1922-39, and can extend my report to include this period. Before doing so, however, I wish to add some new data to my first report, and to make some corrections. Further examination of the LIG's for 1907 brings to light the following official notice in Whole Number (W/N), 22 AUG 1907:

Colonial Secretary's Office
15 August 1907

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to grant to Mrs. Ellen Gardener, Sub-Postmistress, Parham, one month's vacation leave, commencing from the 2nd instant,

This notice confirms the existence of the Parham SPO in 1907, modifying my Comment at the bottom of page 112 of Journal W/N 56, the last line of which should be made to read: "prior to 2 August 1907.)"

The above Colonial Secretary's notice should be entered in the chronology, and the PARHAM column of the chart on page 114 should have an "X" entered for 1907.

On page 110 of the same Journal, the date in the first line under SPO: ALL SAINTS should be changed to read "3 July 1909"; while on page 113, the second line of the SPO: ST. STEPHENS data should read "LIG, 16 AUG 1906, W/N 38:"

I was disappointed when viewing the microfilm for 1922-39, to discover that except for a few years, the newspaper indices were missing. Without an index, it is very difficult to 'catch' every philatelic item, for one is forced to meticulously look over each page for the type of data he is seeking. I hope, therefore, that I have not inadvertently omitted the noting of significant information. To continue with the pattern established in my previous article, I will use the "chronology" format for each SPO.

At this point I wish to strongly emphasize a discovery that I feel is of paramount importance: NUMEROUS ENTRIES WERE ENCOUNTERED IN THE GAZETTES COVERING 1922-1939, THAT SPECIFICALLY ANNOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OR DISCONTINUANCE OF AN SPO.

The reader may recall that in my previous article I stated that I found no notices of that nature whatsoever in the microfilm for 1901-1921. While the appointments and replacements of Sub-Postmasters droned on and on, the impression that is given by the Gazette is that eleven SPO's existed in 1901, and that the same eleven were still going strong twenty years later. Nevertheless, it would seem likely that if the starting or shutting down of an SPO in 1922-39 was thought to be of sufficient importance to be heralded in the Gazette, we could assume that this type of information would have been trumpeted during the earlier period.

I am making this assumption in the teeth of data I have received from Stan Durnin, which seems to throw cold water on the whole idea that starting--or discontinuance of--SPO's during those 21 years would be announced in the Gazette. Stan has given me information he tabulated from *Leewards Islands Blue Books* (LIBB's) for the year 1902/1903 through 1940, with a few gaps that Joe Chin Aleong was able to fill. In

LIBB's covering 1902/1903 through 1907/1908, a total of 11 Antigua Post Offices is indicated. This would break down into 10 Sub-Post Offices and the St. John's GPO. However, from 1908/1909 through 1925, the LIBB's call out 12 Post Offices, thereby inferring the birth of an SPO sometime around 1908.

Until I have an opportunity to view Gazette microfilm prior to 1901 with hope that I may find a list of Post Offices existing before the turn of the century, I shall offer no comments with regard to the name of the SPO that may have come into being around 1908---it could have been any of a number of possibilities. For reasons I shall point out later, however, I find myself reluctant to trust LIBB data of this sort.

The premise that the Gazettes of 1901-1921 would have reported the opening, or the closing, of Post Offices, forces me to admit a major shortcoming in the analysis I put forth in my previous article: my failure to thoroughly investigate the mystery of English Harbour.

I am indebted to Bill Cornell, who in reviewing the article states that he doesn't believe that ST. PAUL'S was another name for BETHESDA, as I had suggested, but for ENGLISH HARBOUR. The earliest known date of the English Harbour "second type" CDS without A18 is August 17, 1921, per Nat Surtees. Since a St. Paul's CDS is known as late as November 1913 (per Col. Fred Seifert), it would seem reasonable that at some time during that eight-year span, English Harbour ceased using the St. Paul's canceller and switched to the English Harbour CDS, a case similar to those which I theorized with regard to St. Peter's/Parham and St. Mary's/Old Road. Through 1901-1921, evidence indicates (particularly if we assume that the establishment or the discontinuance of SPO's during those years would have been officially announced in the Gazette) that only eleven SPO's were in existence. This could provide us with an explanation for the apparent "re-opening" of English Harbour in the 1900's; the truth being that English Harbour never really closed.

In this respect, I must admit that the St. Paul's/Bethesda theory I presented will not stand up, and was probably erroneous. Now I must assume in the absence of any evidence to the contrary that Bethesda was officially known as Bethesda; also that it used a Bethesda canceller throughout all of 1901-1931 (1 JAN 1931 being the SPO closing date). And I must hold to this assumption until concrete evidence appears which confirms establishment of SPO whatever-its-name in 1908/1909.

The phrase "it used a Bethesda canceller", may not be technically correct. It has been suggested by Col. Seifert that the noteworthy lack of CDS examples from a few of the SPO's for prolonged periods of time might be due to their serving primarily as collection points for letters, which were then passed on to the GPO or to other SPO's for postmarking and forwarding. This practice is common today in some other countries, for example, Jamaica's Sub-Postal Agencies.

The objective of my first article was only to indicate specific years when certain SPO's were known to be in operation. In this chronology I am continuing that purpose, but am also listing the actual SPO opening and closing dates, where they are announced in the Gazette. In all information which follows, the abbreviations CSO and PMR denote, respectively, Colonial Secretary's Office and Postmaster's Report.

SPO: BARBUDA

LIG, 30 MAR 1922, W/N 13: CSO announces overprinting of Leeward Islands stamps to be used in Barbuda.

LIG, 24 JUN 1926, W/N 26: CSO announces the following: "The Manager for the time

being of the island of Barbuda, to be Deputy Postmaster for Barbuda, effective 1 April 1926.

LIG, 21 MAR 1929, W/N 12: Barbuda is designated as a BRANCH Post Office. I quote from that issue:

"Notice is hereby given that from 1 April 1929 the Sub-Post Office at Barbuda will be constituted as a Branch Post Office and Money Order Office."

The notice then continues with details and hours of service.

COMMENTS: It is definitely known that a Post Office on Barbuda was established in 1922, but I found no LIG announcement to that effect. Since the index for the LIG of 1922 was one that was missing, I could have overlooked such a notice. However, the LIBB for that year definitely does not reflect the establishment in 1922 of an SPO on Barbuda. In the Durnin/Chin Aleong tabulation, every one of the years from 1908/1909 through 1925 shows a total of 12 Post Offices for Antigua (11 SPO's plus the St. John's GPO). The figure was not changed to 13 in 1922 to pick up Barbuda.

SPO: GREEN BAY

LIG, 20 SEP 1928, W/N 38: CSO 18 SEP 1928: Governor appoints Mr. James T. Ambrose, Head Teacher, Class I, to be Sub-Postmaster, Green Bay, effective 1 OCT 1928.

LIG, 27 SEP 1928, W/N 40: Post Office Notice announces the establishment of an SPO at the schoolmaster's residence, Green Bay, Antigua, on 1st October 1928, with Mr. Ambrose, Schoolmaster, as Sub-Postmaster. The notice then continues with details and hours of service.

LIG, 6 MAY 1937, W/N 22: Mr. S.E.A. Hill, Acting Head Teacher, Class I, Green Bay, appointed by Governor to act also as Sub-Postmaster, Green Bay, 12 APR 1937.

COMMENTS: Regarding the 6 MAY 1937 announcement, I find myself wondering if S.E.A. Hill is the same person as E.A. Hill who, as reported in my previous article, held office as Sub-Postmaster at St. Stephen's way back in 1918.

I have seen a letter from the Colonial Postmaster, GPO, St. John's, dated 25 April 1961, to our late member William Britton Stitt, stating that: "Grays Farm has been superseded by Green Bay". I had always thought that it was just the opposite with Green Bay, circa 1945, superseded by Grays Farm. Both could be true for according to Gil Holmes (BCPJ W/N 45), there was an SPO at Green Bay in 1961 that was closed after a short life, when a burglary resulted in loss of its P.O. equipment. While Gil did not know what postmark was used during this brief period, he thought Green Bay's old canceller might have been employed. Thus this office could have started out as Green Bay, then become Grays Farm, again Green Bay (1961) and finally Grays Farm--as it is known today.

Such is the tale of this SPO----a classic example of undocumented mysteries due to alleged name and location changes. Unfortunately my microfilm ends in 1939, and I am without a source of official data to confirm what actually happened. From correspondence with the present Postmistress, Irose Lopez, (that's right, her name is Irose, not Rose!), I pieced together the following story which could be subject to battering from all sides:

Grays Farm (a combination postal facility and general store) sits today at the intersection of Armstrong Road and Gray Hill Street. This is in an area called Gray Hill, in the south section of St. John's, but the Grays Farm name and its CDS have

continued in use. The former Postmaster was Kenneth Richardson, who operated this facility from his grocery store. (See page 155, BCPJ W/N 58, for details).

The Lopez woman, Grays Farm Postmistress since approximately February 1969, said a hefty quantity of mail is processed by her facility, with two postmen handling all deliveries to the southern reaches of St. John's, plus all of Five Islands.

SPO: LIBERTA

LIG, 9 MAY 1929, W/N 19: CSO, 7 MAY 1929: Governor appoints Mr. G.A. Meade to be Sub-Postmaster, Liberta, effective 15 April 1929.

LIG, 16 MAY 1929, W/N 20: Post Office Notice announces establishment of an SPO at Liberta, with Mr. G. Meade as Sub-Postmaster, and gives details as to services and times. A Telephone Call Office is included.

LIG, 21 MAY 1931, W/N 23: Mrs. A. Ferrance is appointed by Governor to be the Sub-Postmistress at Liberta, effective 1 JUN 1931, replacing Mr. Meade who vacated this office on 31 DEC 1930.

LIG, 12 JAN 1933, W/N 2: Mrs. S. Abraham to be Sub-Postmistress, Liberta effective 1 JAN 1933.

COMMENTS: I could find nothing in print showing who served as the Liberta SPM from 1 JAN 1931 to 31 MAY 1931, the interim between Mr. Meade and Mrs. Ferrance.

Today the SPO is under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Daley. Personal contact with the Daleys reveals that neither of them recalls the name of the SPM whom they replaced (Mrs. Abraham perhaps?). From Stan Durnin, I have learned that this SPO has been located in Mr. Daley's general store since 1 OCT 1949 when he assumed office as Sub-Postmaster. Prior to that, per Mr. Daley, the SPO was in the Police Station.

SPO: PARHAM

No reference was made to Parham in the 1921 microfilm run, except for an item that appeared in a supplement to LIG Volume LVI, dated 20 December 1928—a study having the title "Report of the Commission Appointed to Assess Hurricane Damage". Among a list of facilities damaged by that year's storm was the Parham SPO, whose repair costs were estimated by both the Committee and the Public Works Department as £6.

COMMENTS: The SPO at Parham seems to have had more than its share of trouble from hurricanes that plague the tropics from time to time. Mrs. Ise Simon, the present Sub-Postmistress, states that in 1912 the original Parham SPO was moved to the location it now occupies. A hurricane destroyed the building in 1950, upon which it was rebuilt as the existing structure, housing both SPO and Telephone Exchange. I understand that Mrs. Simon has been Sub-Postmistress at Parham since 1955.

When I visited Mrs. Simon in the Summer of 1970, I was truly forced to sympathize with her. A new dial telephone system was scheduled for completion that week, and her old manual switchboard had had its wires ripped off and wore a forlorn look as it sat in the middle of the room awaiting to be hauled away. A bit of progress on Antigua, but hard to take for Miss Simon.

Stan Durnin's conversation with Miss Simon revealed that her predecessor as SPM at Parham was a "Bessie Martin" and, before Bessie, a "Louise Allan". In my previous

article I wrote that the LIG's announced Mrs. Ida L. Allen as Parham SPM effective 1908, replacing the deceased Mrs. Ellen Gardener, and that in 1912, Miss E. Martin was appointed as a replacement. The similarity of names suggests that they may be the same persons as those mentioned by Miss Simon, in which case Bessie Martin was Sub-Postmistress at Parham for over forty years.

SPO: BARNES HILL

Discontinued effective 1 January 1932, per LIG, 24 DEC 1931, W/N 54.

SPO: BETHESDA

(Same as Barnes Hill above.)

SPO: ENGLISH HARBOUR

(Same as Barnes Hill above.)

SPO: NEWFIELD

(Same as Barnes Hill above.)

SPO: BENDALS

Established 1 January 1932, per LIG, 24 DEC 1931, W/N 54.

LIG, 31 DEC 1931, W/N 55: Governor appoints Mr. C. Richards as Sub-Postmaster for Bendals, effective 1 JAN 1932.

LIG, 4 JUN 1936, W/N 30: Mr. C. Richards resigns, effective 22 APR 1936, and his replacement is Miss E.G. Dunbar, Head Teacher, Class II, Effective 23 APR.

LIG, 3 SEP 1936, W/N 45: Mr. C.C. Edwards to act as Sub-Postmaster, effective 10 AUG 1936.

LIG, 23 JUN 1938: Miss E. Dunbar resigns her appointment as Sub-Postmistress, and is replaced by Miss E. Meade, Government Midwife, effective 1 JUL 1938.

COMMENTS: Apparently Miss Dunbar was reappointed in place of Mr. Edwards sometime subsequent to 10 AUG 1936.

The present SPM is Miss Allison Warner, the local school teacher, who replaced her aunt, Mrs. Vivian Roberts in 1965.

SPO: MONTPELIER

Established 1 January 1932, per LIG, 24 DEC 1931, W/N 54.

LIG, 31 DEC 1931, W/N 55: Governor appoints Mr. E. Maginley as Sub-Postmaster, to take office on 1 JAN 1932.

COMMENTS: I am completely in the dark as to what happened at Montpelier after its opening in 1932. LIG microfilm through 1939 says absolutely nothing. Most experts agree that Montpelier was renamed St. Phillip's in 1945 and then closed permanently in 1948. Col. Seifert has a cds of St. Philips (with one L!) dated 1 NOV 1946.

(To be concluded in April Issue.)

The President's Page

Ten years ago this organization, through which many of us have gained much in both knowledge and enjoyment of the British Caribbean philatelic story, was founded. In the first issue of the Journal, its purpose was described in the following way:

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

The original concept was to concentrate on the islands of the newly-formed British West Indies Federation, thus "West Indies Federation Study Group" was selected for the name of the society. However, before the end of 1961, Jamaica had dropped out of the Federation thus dooming it, and at the same time the growing membership had interests ranging from Bermuda to British Guiana and British Honduras. In view of these two developments, the name was changed to the present one.

Many other things have changed since those early days. Perhaps the most important is that the Study Group has established itself in the forefront of the specialized philatelic societies. The membership has grown from fewer than a hundred in 1961 to nearly four hundred at present. Although this increase in size has resulted in a much heavier workload on your Secretary, Treasurer and Editor, the Trustees feel that it is not advisable to limit the membership, as we want to share the benefits of the Group with all who are interested in British Caribbean philately.

We are fortunate in that our membership includes many outstanding philatelists and owners of great collections. While some of these have contributed to the Journal, and thus have shared their knowledge with the rest of us, others have not. If you fit into this latter category, I make a special appeal to you. Write up something for the Journal! A description of some favorite item in your collection would be a good place to start.

Then, there are those of you who think of yourselves as newcomers to the Group and only Junior collectors, and feel you have nothing to contribute to the Journal. I assure you nothing could be further from the truth. Our Study Group is interested in all aspects of the British Caribbean from the most obscure details of stampless letters of the 18th Century to a photograph of the newest rural post office on one of the Islands. So I ask all of you to THINK BIG about your collecting, and write a short note to Fred for publication, telling about something that has interested you in your reading, traveling or collecting - remember, it will interest others.

I have a particular interest for writing the above. Although I just missed being a Charter Member by less than a month, and have been quite active in the Group as a contributor to the Journal and as a Trustee, for six or seven years, I have only met a handful of other members. On the other hand, as a result of contributing to the Journal and writing to other members to offer them comments or information relating to their articles, I have built up quite a large group of friends resulting from correspondence. While the founders of the Group, ten years ago, were friends beforehand, most of today's membership will never meet, but they must still become friends. Thus the only way the informality of friendship, which has been the main strength and character of our organization, can be maintained, will be for a major portion of our members to get on a "first name" basis through personal correspondence resulting from some involvement with the Journal, either by writing articles, notes

notes or queries, or in commenting on the efforts of others. Remember - anything that interests you, will interest at least one other member, probably more.

I am pleased to inform you that our Group will participate in NOJEX 1971, which is being held in Cranford, New Jersey, 29-31 October 1971. It has been quite a while since our last meeting in the New York City area, and I am sure that our many East Coast members in the U.S. and Canada will welcome this opportunity to get together once again. You will be kept informed of details as they develop. Dotty Stapp is working 'on the scene' as our BCPSG Representative, and I know that others in that area will willingly give her a hand, should she call on them. Better still, write or call Dotty and volunteer to assist.

Jack

THE BIG BLAZE IN BELIZE

by Anthony Shepherd

One phase of relatively modern history concerning Britain's only colony in Central America recently came to my attention. I had purchased a bulk lot of scrap books, clippings, etc. dealing with BWI philately, and in looking through them I was able to piece together the following story, based on reports in the *Jamaica Gleaner* and a series of articles in *The Stamp Lover* by the late Harry E. Huber.

BELIZE,
AUG 26 1918



On the night of 17 August 1918, an extensive fire broke out in Belize, the capital city of British Honduras. It resulted in the destruction of many buildings, among which was the one housing the General Post Office. Fires of this sort are not too rare in the West Indies; Jamaica, British Guiana, St. Lucia and possibly others of the British Caribbean countries have seen their GPO's go up in flames in the past.

The postal authorities in Belize were saved the trouble of having to resort to use of a provisional franking device, such as was used in Castries, St. Lucia, when it lost its complete supply of adhesives in its 1927 GPO fire. The Colonial Treasury of Belize escaped damage, and a good supply of postage stamps that was held in its vaults was available to meet the emergency. However stamps in the hands of Postal clerks to the value of \$2,833.53 were lost. This included all of the One Cent London overprinted War Tax stamps. The Post Office records were also consumed by the flames, and all general equipment including the various postmarking devices of the GPO were destroyed.

New premises were found for the GPO in Albert Street, Belize, and there the postal business was soon functioning again, although in rather crowded surroundings. The lost cancellers were replaced by temporary rubber devices, some of which were kept in use for about a year before their permanent replacements arrived from London in 1919. The rarest of these TRD's is the straight-line "BELIZE" shown above, having no indication of colony, and a date provided by a commercial datestamp. This is a

rare mark primarily because it was quickly replaced by the double circle mark that reads "P. BELIZE O./BRITISH HONDURAS" which was in use at least by AUG 30, 1918.

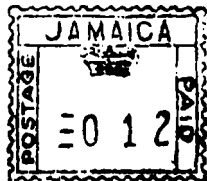
For registered letters, two rubber stamps were employed during the emergency. The double circle "BELIZE/M.O. & REGISTRATION" was used to cancel stamps on registered letters, and from its text was probably used to validate money orders as well, but I have only seen examples of the first use. The date was supplied by a commercial datestamp. The rectangular boxed registry rubber stamp is interesting in that the word BRITISH was spelled BRSTISH. Despite this error, it remained in use for some time before being replaced by a stamp with corrected spelling.

During the fire, the Governor of the Colony, Hon. W. Hart-Bennett, was injured and died on September 4th. He had been crushed by a falling flagstaff. He had become Governor on April 5th, 1918, after serving as Colonial Secretary in the Bahamas.

In June 1924, the GPO moved from the Albert Street quarters to a new building that was constructed on the site of the old Council Chamber building that had also been destroyed in the 1918 fire. The new building of reinforced concrete was shared by the various government agencies in Belize.

MIXED-UP POSTAGE METER USED BY BANK IN CAYMAN ISLANDS----

Thanks to George Kimber we have learned of this most unusual postal meter having a



CDS reading GEORGETOWN/GRAND CAYMAN W.I., but with the "postage stamp" portion reading JAMAICA! This is from a Pitney-Bowes meter, and we can tell from its number, P.B.46, that it is of very recent origin. While Jamaica was still a British Colony the Cayman Islands were under its administration, however, this is no longer the case. The most likely

explanation of this hybrid meter is that one was needed in a hurry by the Barclays Bank at Georgetown, and this was improvised, using a stock meter. It will be most interesting to see how long it remains in use in this form. Reports of strikes of later dates will be welcome. Mark Swetland brought this to our attention after he had received an example of the meter mark from George.

COMMONWEALTH Q.E. II CATALOGUE TAKES ON A NEW LOOK----

From Urch, Harris & Company, we have received a review copy of the Queen Elizabeth II Stamp Catalogue, 1971 Edition, and we are quite impressed by it. The format is changed from previous editions, with larger page size (7½ x 9½") and three columns to the page instead of two. The type has been completely reset, with prices given in the new decimal currency. The release date of this catalogue was changed from September of earlier editions to December, thus permitting inclusion of almost all 1970 issues. For example, the Antigua "Military Uniforms" set which was released on 1 December 1970 is listed.

While the catalogue was formerly cloth bound, it now has a limp card cover, making it thus a little less durable. However, this was obviously necessary to keep from raising the price to where no one could afford it. With the number of pages nearly doubled, some economies were required. The U.S.A. agent, H.L. Lindquist, Inc., 153 Waverly Place, New York, NY 10014, can supply copies at \$4.00, Postpaid.

BITS & PIECES from HERE & THERE

BAHAMAS -- Morris Ludington advises that the PGA Tournament slogan we described in the December issue was used at MACKEY STREET as well as NASSAU (GPO) and FREEPORT. He gives the following earliest and latest dates of use known to him:

NASSAU (GPO): OCT 7, 1970 - OCT 31, 1970; FREEPORT: OCT 13, 1970 - NOV 7, 1970;
MACKEY STREET: OCT 4, 1970, but usual wavy lines back in use OCT 5th, which could mean an experimental use, or use in error. OCT 8, 1970 - OCT 30, 1970.

Morris also reports another slogan used earlier in these three offices. This has a design similar to the M8 Mental Health slogan but reads CENSUS 1970/HELP BAHAMAS COUNT. Used at NASSAU (GPO): FEB 20, 1970 - APR 7, 1970; FREEPORT: Reported used in late FEB and MAR, but not seen; MACKEY STREET: FEB 27, 1970 (Reported but not seen) - APR 7, 1970.

The MENTAL HEALTH slogan was again in use by NOV 6, 1970 at the NASSAU (GPO). Its use was, presumably, for one week only, as in previous years.

Both Morris and Gale Raymond reported the opening of a new Out Island Post Office, STELLA MARIS, Long Island, between BURNT GROUND and SIMMS in October 1970. It has been using a 20V TRD with heavy lettering, first seen OCT 26, 1970 and still being used a month later. Our thanks to Gale for remembering us with a cover.

Missent to Bahamas

Ray Austin provides another MISSENT TO BAHAMAS mark to be added to the growing collection of that family. It was used in December 1963, on a cover sent from London to Bridgetown, Barbados.

Many of the Out Island Post Offices received new Type 7 CDS's during 1970. A list received from Morris Ludington includes: ALICE TOWN, COLONEL HILL, DEADMAN'S CAY, EIGHT MILE ROCK, FARMERS CAY, FOX HILL, GAMBIER, GREEN CASTLE, LITTLE BAY, ROSES, RUM CAY (by JAN 1969), SPRING POINT, TARPUM BAY, and perhaps others. P.O.'s which received new Type 8 datestamps include: LOVELY BAY, MANGROVE CAY, SANDY POINT and SNUG CORNER (both since 1968), SWEETINGS CAY, and perhaps others.

BARBADOS -- On April 5, 1970, KLM ROYAL DUTCH AIRLINES started a new route between Amsterdam and Barbados. Ben Ramkisson has shown us a number of covers carried on first flights in both directions, including some between Barbados-Curaçao, as well as Barbados-Madrid. All included appropriate cachets and arrival backstamps. The Barbados postmarks are the thin-arc Birmingham Type reading PHILATELIC at the top, and G.P.O. BARBADOS at the bottom.

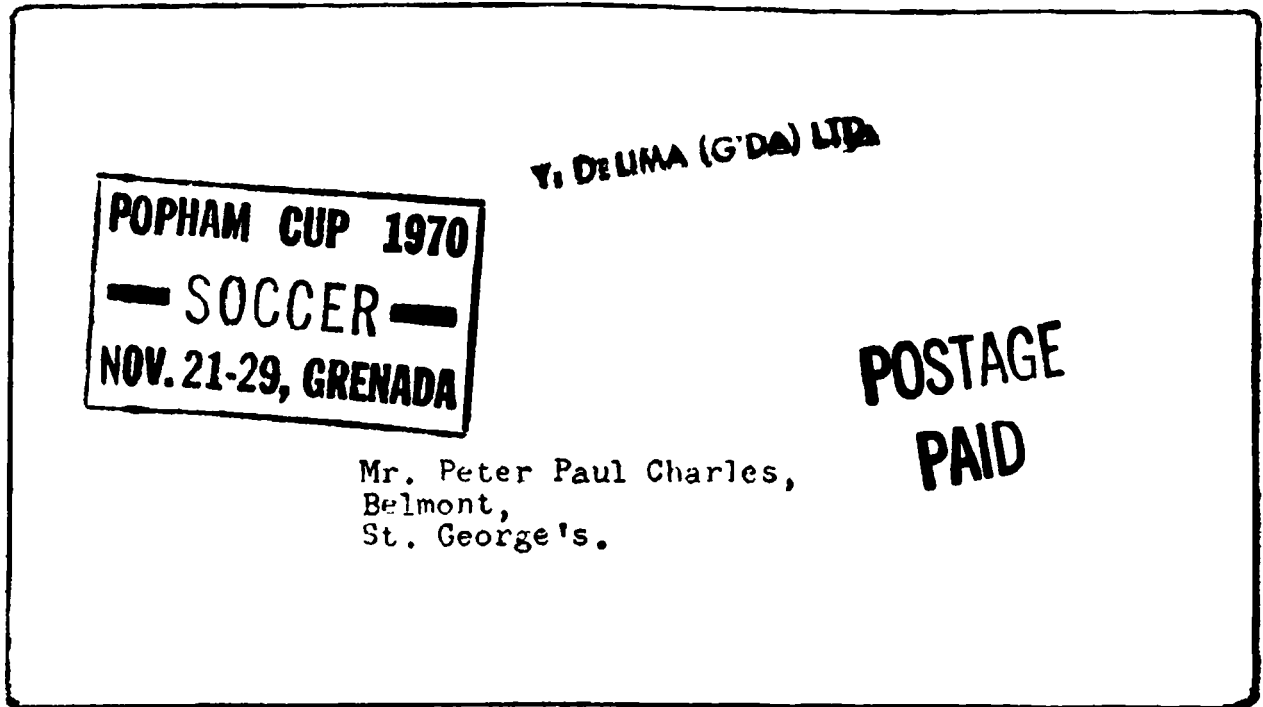
BERMUDA -- Our query regarding the "ISLES OF BEAUTY" slogans has brought forth the following explanation from Morris Ludington: The first types, described in detail in the Supplement to the Bermuda book, all had the slogan to the right of the CDS. Between 2 MAY and 17 JUL 1967 a totally new cancellation appeared at Hamilton, and on 26 SEP 1967 a similar cancellation appeared at ST. GEORGE'S. Both of these are new slogans with the same inscription as before, but in narrower lettering and are to the left of the CDS. Each CDS is also new and with 7 short horizontal lines at its right. Both are still current. At last report, PAGET was still using its old style mark, with the slogan to the right.

CAYMAN ISLANDS -- David Potter reports having acquired the following die proofs of the Caymans that are not recorded in the Aguilar-Saunders Caymans Handbook:
1 AUG 12 - ½d; 17 JAN 12 - 2d before hardening; 17 JAN 12 - 2s before hardening;

17 JAN 12 - 3s. All of these die proofs are of value tablet and name only.

DOMINICA -- Stan Durnin notes that the WESLEY CDS strikes since at least 1965 show four dots in a square pattern above the date where the asterisk is normally found. He wonders if anyone can explain.

GRENADA -- A most interesting cover was shown to us by Tony Shepherd. In addition to the POPHAM CUP slogan reported in the December Journal, it has a "POSTAGE PAID" in black ink. The reverse bears a SPRINGS, Grenada, CDS of 13 NO 70. Y. De Lima,



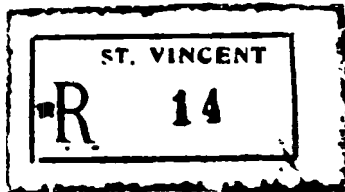
the sender of this cover, operates large shops on a number of the islands, selling jewelry, cameras, radios, souvenirs, etc., and probably was making a bulk mailing of sufficient size to warrant use of this Postage Paid stamp in lieu of adhesives. It is unlikely that there was a shortage of adhesives at that time, for just a few days earlier Werner Framke had visited the GPO and found that good supplies of all definitives and of most 1970 commemoratives were available.

GUYANA -- Guyana has been gradually replacing its British Guiana postal stationery with items bearing the Guyana name. Tom Giraldi provides a new newspaper wrapper, printed in green on the smooth side of a tan paper with rough back surface. While the imprinted stamp is of the same design as the current 2 cents definitive, it is printed in a single color (green) and shows up very poorly on the dark paper. The wrapper we received from Tom was used at the Georgetown GPO on 26 OCT 1970.

MONTSERRAT -- Stan Durnin has pin-pointed the location of Montserrat's newest P.O. at CORK HILL (see AUG 1970 Journal). It is two miles north of Plymouth, and about the same distance south of Salem Village, on the eastern slopes of Caribald Hill.

ST. KITTS -- Stan Durnin shows us a St. Kitts 10 cents adhesive (SG 136), having a shift of about 1 mm to the right, of the green printing. This sort of variety can liven up an album page, especially on a stamp such as this where the appearance is considerably changed by the color shift. Such varieties are, of course, caused by the printing press getting out of adjustment, and the entire sheet on the press at that time will show the shift.

ST. VINCENT -- Tom Giraldi reports a registered cover from St. Vincent which has a wide-arc Birmingham Type postmark reading MONEY ORDER OFFICE/ST. VINCENT canceling the stamps, and also struck three times across the flap. We find we have a similar cover. Tom's is dated 7 JA 71, while ours is from 4 FE 67. Tom's cover has a registration label, shown here, that, at least to us, is a new item. This label is printed in black on slightly yellowish-tinted paper. The label is poorly perforated on all four sides, which makes it appear that they are supplied in sheets, rather than coils. We must confess we do not get to see many recent St. Vincent covers, and perhaps some member can tell us when this registration label first came into use. We also wonder if it is used at only the GPO in Kingstown, or at other St. Vincent Post Offices as well.



TRINIDAD -- Derek Kotchie writes us of an interesting Trinidad & Tobago variety of the current 20¢ definitive that he recently discovered. The pink color around the gold silhouettes of the two islands is completely missing. Although missing color errors can be limited to a few stamps where a sheet gets only a partial impression for some reason or other, more often it is a case of a whole sheet. Derek asks if any other member has seen or heard of this variety. His stamp has a Port of Spain G.P.O. cancel. Most of the date fell off stamp, but the year appears to be 1970.

Ben Ramkisson writes he has seen Xerox copies of previously unreported slogans of Trinidad, and asks if anyone can provide details as to where and when used and the type of CDS. Here is his list: DRIVING ERRORS/END IN HORRORS, BUY REGENT SPIRIT, a slogan as Warren Type 35, but 4% instead of 4½%, and POSTAGE PAID.

NEW ISSUES

ANGUILLA

11 DEC 70 CHRISTMAS 1970. 1, 20, 25, 40 and 50 cents, depicting reproductions of Old Masters relating to the Birth of Christ. Lithographed by Questa in sheets of 25 on unwatermarked paper. Designs by John Lister Artists.

ANTIGUA

1 FEB 71 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ADULT SUFFRAGE IN ANTIGUA. 5, 20, 35 and 50 cents, in four designs by Mrs. S. Goaman, as illustrated. Printed by Harrison



& Sons Ltd. in photogravure. Block CA watermark and sets of 25 stamps.

BARBADOS

- 71 EASTER 1971. No details available.
- 71 TOURISM. No details available.

BARBUDA

- 21 DEC 70 RED CROSS CENTENARY. 20, 35 and 75 cents depicting Red Cross activities in three designs by R. Granger Barrett. Offset printed by Questa, with 50 stamps per sheet.
- 71 BRITISH MONARCHS. By March 1st this series will have progressed through Charles I.

BERMUDA

- 8 FEB 71 KEEP BERMUDA BEAUTIFUL ISSUE.

BRITISH HONDURAS

- 2 NOV 70 CHRISTMAS 1970. ½, 10 & 22 cents in common design, and 5, 10 & 50 cents in a second common design. Featured are the "Nativity" by Arthur Hughes and "Mystical Nativity" by Sandro Botticelli. Designed by J.E. Cooter. Lithographed by J. Waddington of Kirkstall Ltd. on block CA watermarked paper in sheets of 25 stamps.
- 30 JAN 71 NEW CAPITAL ISSUE. 5, 10, 15, 22, 25 and 50 cents depicting scenes from the new capital city of Bel Mopan. Designed by J. Drummond and printed in offset by Enschede.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

- JAN 71 TURTLES. 5, 7, 12 and 20 cents.

DOMINICA

- 28 DEC 70 PAINTINGS AND RED CROSS. 8, 10, 15 and 50 cents, and souvenir sheet of all 4 values. Designed by Vaserhelyi and printed by Questa.
- JAN 71 TOURIST ISSUE. 5, 10, 30 and 50 cents and souvenir sheet. Designed by Oscar Bonnevalle of Belgium and printed by Questa.
- JAN 71 INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION YEAR ISSUE. 5, 8 and 14 cents and \$1, plus the 14 cents and \$1 in a souvenir sheet.

GRENADA

- 12 DEC 70 BRITISH RED CROSS CENTENARY. 5, 15, 25 and 60 cents and souvenir sheet containing all four values. Designed by Vaserhelyi and printed in sets of 50 stamps by Questa.

GUYANA

- 8 DEC 70 CHRISTMAS 1970. 5, 6, 15 and 25 cents featuring a painting by a Guyana local artist, Philip Moore. Border designs by Harrison & Sons Ltd. and set lithographed by John Waddington of Kirkstall Ltd., on Lotus Blossom Bud watermarked paper in sheets of 25 stamps.
- 71 PUBLIC BUILDINGS ISSUE.

JAMAICA

- 22 FEB 71 CENTENARY OF DISESTABLISHMENT OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN JAMAICA. 3¢, 10¢ and 20¢ depict the Cathedral Church of St. Jago de la Vega, situated in Spanish Town; and 30¢ which depicts the emblem of the Church of England in Jamaica.

ST. KITTS

- 1 MAR 71 FLOWERS. ½, 20, 30 and 50 cents. Lithographed by Format International from four designs by Sylvia Goaman. Watermarked Block CA and sheets of 50 stamps. (One report of Crown Agents gives release date as 1 April.)
- 1 JUN 71 DE POINCY. 20, 30 and 40 cents.

ST. LUCIA

- 1 MAR 71 OPENING OF BEANE FIELD AIRPORT. 5¢ - Moule à Chique Lighthouse with an aircraft about to land; 25¢ - Beane Field Airport and aircraft over the

runway. Designed by John Waddington Studio and lithographed by Questa. Watermark Block CA. Printed in sheets of 25 stamps.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

8 DEC 70 CHRISTMAS ISSUE. 3, 5, 30 and 40 cents, and \$1, each of which features a different religious painting. Also a souvenir sheet containing the 4 low values, and a stamp booklet containing 6 x 3¢, 4 x 5¢, 2 x 30¢, and 2 x 40¢. Designed by G. Drummond and printed by Format in sheets of 50.

TURKS & CAICOS

2 FEB 71 DECIMAL VALUES DEFINITIVE ISSUE. New value tablets but same designs as previous sterling issue. Sheet size reduced from 60 to 25 stamps.

WARNING!

Under this same heading in the October 1970 Journal we reported a dealer in Guyana using the name CROWNJEW HOUSE, who offered rare mint sheets at bargain prices, and asked that payment be made in \$100 U.S. banknotes. Subsequently we heard from our St. Lucia member, Bob Devaux, and have enough data to assure us, as suspected, the whole proposition is one big fraud. Just a few years ago while Bob still resided in Canada, he was offered a valuable lot of St. Lucia Geo. VI stamps for about 70% face, payment in \$100 U.S. or Canadian banknotes, by M. Hakim, Albuoystown, Guyana whose street address, while different from the one given by CRONJEW HOUSE, appears on our Georgetown map as being just around the corner, probably in the same house!

Bob corresponded with Hakim, but not being willing to risk the 50% advance payment of \$800, contacted a banker in Georgetown, asking him to be his agent. The banker made several attempts to contact Hakim without success, and then returned Bob's payment with the following explanation:

"Mr. Hakim has not made any appearance, and it would appear that he never had any intention of delivering the stamps. His phone has been cut off due to non-payment of the bill, thus I have not had occasion to speak to him, but I gathered from the police that he had been involved in similar transactions before.....You must certainly consider yourself fortunate for we have some very dishonest people in this country."

If we still had any doubts about this bird, the clincher would be U.S. Post Office Publication #43, listing foreign unlawful lottery and fraud orders. Prominent are the names, Hakim Mohamad and Company, C.I. Hakim, Sheik Mohamad, Noor Mohamad, and various others, all of Albuoystown and Georgetown, Guyana. Anyone solicited by any of these is asked to advise the Chief Postal Inspector, Washington, DC 20260.

Caught in the middle of this mess is another Guyanese, Noor Mohammed, who deals in stamps from Kitty, East Coast, Guyana, a suburb of Georgetown. He has circulated a sworn statement explaining that he has never used any name but his own and never has been associated in any way with the person in Albuoystown and Georgetown using the name Noor Mohamad (note different spelling), and sometimes Mohamad Hakim. The Kitty dealer is known to us as being reliable.

START MAKING YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND OUR BCPSG MEETING AT NOJEX IN CRANFORD, N.J. THE DATES ARE 29-31 OCTOBER 1971, AND WE ARE COUNTING ON YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS AFFAIR.

OUR SECRETARY REPORTS

New Members:

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| ASKA, MRS. PAULINE S. | CAMACHO, JOHN | CAVE, MAJOR S. |
| COLLINS, RALPH E. | GARDNER, ROY D. | GORDON, JAMES H. |
| GREGSON, J.M.A. | HELWICK, LOUIS D. | HOLMES, GILBERT N. |
| HOPWOOD, STEPHEN A. | LOACH, JOSEPH C. | MAHFOOD, JOSEPH M. |
| MORRISON, JOHN M. JR. | MOSES, HAROLD F. | QUINTIN, RICHARD A. |
| RICKSECKER, CHARLES G. | SILK, DONALD | SLEDZIK, ALEXANDER |
| VAN HOY, JAMES H. | WOOLFSON, DR. DAVID | |

New Applicants:

COOPER, ORVILLE R., Box 81, Casselberry, FL 32707. Office Manager. British West Indies. Specialty: Bahamas. By A.N. Johnson

FOLK, EDWIN H., 9319 State Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114. Urban Planner. British West Indies. Specialties: Geo. VI Bermuda, Leeward Islands & Nyasaland high value stamp flaws. By S.C. Durnin

GIBBONS, FRANK L., Brighton Rd., Black Rock, St. Michael, Barbados, W.I. Surveyor. British West Indies, Tonga, Ghana, Tristan da Cunha, U.N., U.S.A. By E.H. Heyer

GOLOB, BARBARA J. (MRS. MARTIN T.), 6904 N. Kendall, #203F, Miami, FL 33156. Housewife. Cayman Islands. By E.M. Adelson

SCHREINER, ROBERT L., 21 Janssen Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030. Landscape Architect. British North America. By A.N. Johnson

WALKER, W. DANFORTH, 444 Central Park West, Apt. 10E, New York, NY 10025. Security Analyst (Bank Officer). BWI. Specialties: Grenada, Jamaica. By A.N. Johnson

Resignations:

All of the following were dropped in bad standing for non-payment of 1970 dues and failure to reply to official communications from the Treasurer:

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| BEGBIE, FREDERICK A. | BIEDA, STANLEY J. | JAYSON, LEONARD |
| MANDEL, GERALD | MILLER, DUNCAN M. | SESTOKAS, VICTOR G. |
| WILSON, ELLIOTT H. | YEAW, JAMES R.D. | |

ANDERSON, ELMER E. resigned in good standing as of 31 December 1970.

Change of Address:

BALDWIN, JAMES R., Box 2087, Culver City, CA 90230.

BRINEY, ROBERT E., 245 Lafayette Street, Apt. 3G, Salem, MA 01970.

BUCHANAN, MSGT BILLY G., DET 4, AFAT-4, Box 35, APO San Francisco 96296.

CHIN ALEONG, JOSEPH, P.O. Box 128, San Fernando, Trinidad, W.I.

CONCELMAN, CARL W., 79 Butters Row, Wilmington, MA 01887.

KIRKLAND, ISAAC R. JR., Lago Oil & Transport Company, HDS Group, Box 1058, Aruba, Netherlands Antilles.

KROHN, EDWARD J., Box 354, Miami Springs, FL 33166.

PERIERA, JOSEPH R., Spanish Dept., U.W.I., Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica, W.I.

PETERSON, EUGENE T., 6311 Old Towne Court, Alexandria, VA 22307.

PIETZSCH, SIDNEY G., 13119 Tahoe, Dallas, TX 75240.

RICKSECKER, CHARLES G., Water Island, St. Thomas Harbour, St. Thomas, VI 00801.

RODGERS, RICHARD R. II, 3402 Garrott, Apt. 1, Houston, TX 77006.

TATHAM, WILLIAM C., Box 1116, Downey, CA 90240.

WALLACE, COL. LYNN D., Windy Heights Road, Whitehall Shores, Box 110, Route 1, Belcross, NC 27918.

WERTH, RICHARD T., 2300 Mardale Drive, RD 2, York, PA 17403.

WRIGHT, DONALD A., 384 Driftwood Avenue, Unit 7, Downsview, Ontario, Canada.

PERSONAL MENTION-----

GEOFF OSBORN is scheduled to address the Collectors Club in New York on May 5th. His subject will be Bermuda and Gibraltar. This will be a good opportunity to meet Geoff for our New York Area members.

The Hollywood (Florida) Stamp Club has re-elected NORMAN AULD as Vice President. SAM STEWART and JOHN J. BRITT were re-elected as Directors of the Club for 1971.

CHARLES RICKSECKER recently accepted an appointment with the Department of Education, U.S. Virgin Islands, and several days later was on the job in St. Thomas. He is very pleased with the work and the prospects of continued travel in the West Indies.

And while speaking of the Virgin Islands, PAUL LARSEN and family again went there for a vacation as a cure for Paul's "Snorkel Fever". Paul reports Little Dix Bay, Virgin Gorda, as delightful as ever. They also visited the nearby Dutch islands.

BRIAN LIMRICK, who is seeing the world on *HMS Ark Royal*, sent his Christmas Greetings to us from Gibraltar. A lovely place to spend the winter!

We are told by GALE RAYMOND that we missed a few names on our list of those attending PHILYMPIA. Gale says that ART COURTNEY, JAMES HOPPE, J. LEONARD DIAMOND, SAMUEL RAY, ALEX ter BRAAKE and GEORGE TURNER were there too.

LLOYD BRANDON sends word via REG LANT that he is recovering nicely from an operation.

We learn from FRANK SAUNDERS that he will retire in a few months and will then return to his native county of Hampshire. Until he becomes re-established there, Frank must



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suspend publication of the magazine of the King George the Sixth Collectors' Society, *GEOSIX*. All going well, Frank thinks that he can resume publication by year's end.

DOTTY STAPP won a Silver Medal at NOJEX 70 in Cranford, New Jersey, while way down in Caracas, Venezuela, GEORGE TURNER earned a Vermeil, with felicitations of the jury.

The KIRKLANDS have moved on from Venezuela and are in Aruba, Netherlands Antilles. A note from Kirk says it's nice to be in the West Indies and hear English spoken again.

JOHN AYRE and wife are enjoying the warmth of Barbados again this winter, and we wish we could be there too. John says they had 20 inches of snow and 70 MPH winds back in St. John's, so we can see why they decided to head South! They expect to return home by about March 20th.

Also enjoying the Tropics, MORRIS SCHWARTZ is relaxing in Montego Bay, and another of our sunshine lovers, NORMAN BRASSLER, made a journey down to Trinidad and Tobago just a short time ago.

MARK CASSIDY was recently appointed to the position of Alternate Director of the SPA.

Spreading his enthusiasm for the BWI, TONY SHEPHERD has been entertaining some of the clubs in his area with talks and displays. He featured Grenada and St. Kitts during a presentation at Huddersfield on NOV 26th.

SUSAN RAYMOND, one of Gale's two beautiful daughters, was married to RICK RODGERS, on DEC 29th. Gale reports it as a merging of two stamp collections!

"Asphalt - An Island - And Stamps", by DAN WARREN was judged second best article that was published during 1969-1970, in the New Mexico Philatelist.

STAN and ELAINE DURNIN spent three days at Christmas here in Albuquerque as guests of Gladys and me. We had a wonderful time as we showed them some of the unusual aspects of the celebration of Christmas brought to New Mexico with the Spanish Conquistadores and blended with the culture of the Pueblo Indians whom they found here. However, we also had plenty of time for stamping.

BACK ISSUES

The following back issues of the BCPJ can be supplied at 70¢ each POSTPAID:

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PHILATELIC LITERATURE AT A BIG DISCOUNT -- On behalf of the owner I am offering to our BCPSG members sets of the following three books at U.S. \$7.50 plus postage of 50¢ to U.S. addresses and \$1.00 elsewhere.

THE PHILATELIC HANDBOOK OF JAMAICA, VOL. 1, E.F. AGUILAR
THE PHILATELIC HANDBOOK OF JAMAICA, VOL. 2, E.F. AGUILAR
THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, E.F. AGUILAR AND P.T. SAUNDERS

The BCPSG will receive a commission of 20% of sales.

BYRON R. CAMERON, 4100 GALT OCEAN DRIVE, APT. PH 11, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33308.

HELP! HELP! --- I need the following Antigua postmarks on Leeward Islands stamps: A02 on SG #'s 1, 6-8; ANTIGUA CDS (small cruciform) on SG #'s 8, 19; ANTIGUA CDS (no cruciform) on SG #'s 4-8, 17; ALL SAINTS on SG #'s 4-8; ST. PETER on SG 4-8. Will buy, or swap BWI. What do you need? CONTACT STAN DURNIN.

We are pleased to report that the BCPSG is now incorporated in the State of Ohio, as a non-profit corporation. Each member is being provided a copy of the revised Constitution and By-laws, in which the changes reflect this new status. The work of achieving our corporate status was done by Milt Erickson and Attorney Cecil G. King, to whom we owe a vote of thanks.

CONVERSATION PIECES

Our Postal History Material of the World has postmarks, covers, proofs, specimens, used abroads, unlisted rarities, postal stationery, fakes, forgeries, multiples and Cinderellas. We specialize in British West Indies postmarks and numeral obliterations but many elusive items of the world are in stock. Drop us a line. It might take months till we get around to answering you, but the old bum, our staff of one, won't be rushed. We also buy and are much faster in that department.

- 1954 Bahamas coils – complete paste up strips of 5 values. \$30.00
- 1965 Bahamas unissued coils complete paste up strips of 5 values \$300.00
- 1964 Jamaica coils – complete paste up strips of 4 values. \$25.00



BAHAMAS STAMPS
B.W.I. Cancellation Specialists
BOX 333, ULETA, FLA. 33164

AND AS WE GO TO PRESS:

As this issue is being prepared the postal strike in the U.K. is continuing. We hope there is a settlement before this February Journal is ready for mailing. The British Post Office has granted permission to some private firms to carry letters and parcels while this strike lasts, and we have heard of a few such services being operated, but areas served are quite limited. From John Lister, we have received word, via France, of a "London Parcel Delivery Service" that his firm is operating. He also enclosed a sheet of the company's "Postage" stamps in several denominations. It is indicated an overseas dispatch service is available but this appears to be outbound only, as there is no French, or other address for inbound mail provided.

WE CAN DO/A LOT BETTER/WITH TOURISM says a new Barbados slogan seen used on 30 DEC by Ben Ramkisson. The slogan is enclosed by the usual three sided box with five dashes or short horizontal lines completing it at the right side.

Ben also provides the mark shown below. It is quite similar to an earlier one that is illustrated on page 231 of DEC 1968 issue,

MISSENT TO BARBADOS

but is about 3 mm longer and letter T is a bit different in shape. This new mark was found on a cover from Canada to Guyana. A Barbados backstamp is dated 24 DE 70. The strike is in violet ink.

With this Journal issue we are enclosing a subscription form to the publication which fellow member Ken Wood edits---the *Western Stamp Collector*. We have been a subscriber to WSC for many years, and consider it one of the best philatelic newspapers known to us. Ken and his associate, Hal Lopes, are both well qualified philatelists, and they employ the talents of many correspondents, in the U.S. and abroad, to report the most up to date news as well as information for the specialists in various fields. One of their correspondents is BCPSG member, Phil Halward, whose reports and comments on the British Commonwealth always make interesting reading. We recommend you try WSC and if you use the enclosed form to advise Ken that "Fred sent me", our treasury will get a small donation.

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