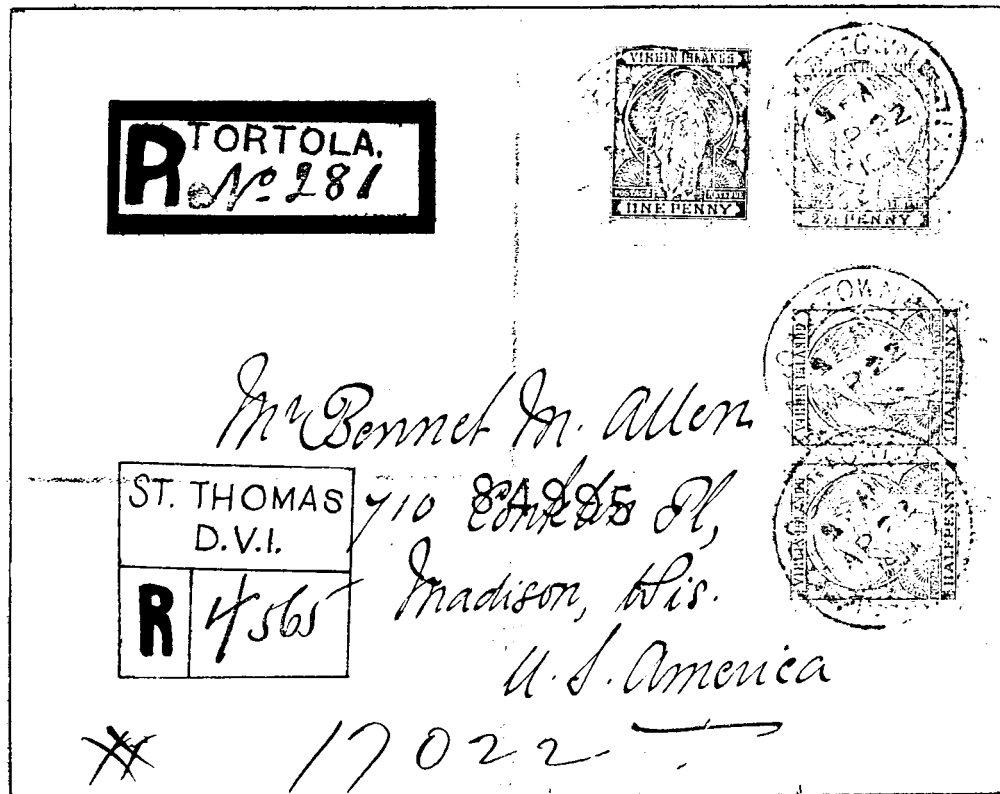


The Journal

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CARIBBEAN
PHILATELIC



Editor Dr. J. C. Arnell
Assistant Editor Mark A. Kellner



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Contents

THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK.....	3
AND A COMMENT.....	4
LATHAM TAKES STAMPEX SILVER.....	4
THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE.....	5
A REGISTERED BVI COVER.....	6
THE HORSE AND CART IS NOT SO REMOTE IN BERMUDA'S PAST.....	7
BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION.....	8
RSMP GRENEDA AGENCY MARKINGS.....	9
SOME FURTHER NOTES ON TURKS AND CAICOS ISSUES OF 1900 AND 1905.....	10
BAHAMAS POST OFFICES.....	11
ISLANDS IN THE SUN GETTING TOO HOT?	14
MORE ON BARBUDA.....	14
WHO READS PAPER WATERMARKS?.....	15
IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.....	15
HISTORY OF THE SOUFRIERE P. O. ST. LUCIA.....	16
NEW POSTAL RATES FOR BERMUDA.....	17
BITS & PIECES from HERE & THERE.....	18
NEW ISSUE NEWS.....	21
OUR SECRETARY REPORTS.....	25
PERSONAL MENTION.....	26

ABOUT OUR COVER

SEEING DOUBLE? If you are, it is because of this cover being registered twice, in both the British and Danish Virgin Islands. Charles Cwiakala details this item on page 6.

The Editor's Notebook

I assume the editorship of your Journal with some misgivings, because I follow two editors who were authorities in their own right in many areas of British Caribbean philately. My only knowledge of the subject comes from collecting Bermuda. Many of the readers may not have realized how often in the past Fred Siefert corrected the small errors and put the right interpretation on the facts contained in a submitted manuscript. This was possible because of his broad understanding of the whole subject and his extensive library for reference. I have neither and so I must appeal to all of you to check your manuscripts or notes for typographical errors or other slips before sending them on to me. Otherwise, these may appear in print, because I will not recognize them as wrong. This is not intended to discourage any would-be authors, but only to point up my own inadequacy. I am quite willing to continue Fred's practise of turning notes into articles or doing rewrites when required; I only ask that I be given the correct data.

The following shows my problem: Among the material which I recieved from Fred recently was a newspaper clipping. This was a postal notice from last September announcing the temporary closing of the Pimento Grove and Haddington postal agencies and stating that the mails addressed to them would be delivered to the Hopwell and Ken Jones post offices. Fred would have known where these places were located, I do not. Thinking to include this information in "Bits and Pieces," I tried to find their location in my small library without success. It is possibly contained in an early Journal, but I just do not have the time to go through the whole set page by page for each such missing bit of information, which is so commonplace to the sender that it is assumed that I will know it too. I am sorry to say that I most often will not, so please be helpful in this regard.

You will have read in Fred's December editorial that, because of the lateness of that issue, there would be no February issue. This was a great relief to Mark Kellner and me, because I had no copy and he had no typewriter at the deadline. Things began to streighten out in mid-February, so we has a little time to work out how we would operate with 600 miles of ocean between us. Whether we will be able to make up for the missing issue by expanding the number of pages in other issues, as Fred did in December, will be dependent on there being enough material to justify it, adequate funds to pay for it, and more experience than Mark and I have at the moment.

You have all been alerted to the uncertainty of all but AIRMAIL to Bermuda; large First Class Surface Mail envelopes have taken two to three months to reach here from the United States. Local delivery through the sub-post offices is often quite casual, as there are no replacements when a postman is sick, and often the postmen do not go out on rainy days on the ground that the mail may get wet. To save at least a couple of days in delivery, I have persuaded the Postmaster General to let me have one of the few available at the G. P. O. in Hamilton. None has been available for a long time, but a recent increase in the annual rental has resulted in a few cancellations. I was able to get one of these on the strength of the Group's needs. In the future, therefore, please address al correspondence to Dr. J. C. Arnell, P. O. Box 1263, Hamilton 5, Bermuda.

Jack

And A Comment

Hello! Though I've only been in the BCPSG for a year now, my philatelic career of sorts spans a few years. Mainly I 'm a collector and writer, as you'll see from my biography elsewhere in these pages. My main thoughts concern this Journal and how it is going to look in the future.

First, I am most hopeful that you will like our new cover. This is just an idea of what we could do, and I would love to have your comments on it. By moving the contents on to page two, it allows for a larger photo to be put on the cover. Also, all those executive addresses can fit on page two. Also, there is no border here, making for a more 'open' look. The border on the back remains, to 'lock up' the issue.

More changes will come in the future, and with the multitude of graphics arts materials available on the market, I will want to use them to the full to produce a magazine that is as attractive to look at as is informative to read. For example, look at our headlines for the "Editor's Notebook" and "New Issues" pages and you'll see what I mean.

And I'd like to say a word about those "New Issues." The section has been put in my charge to edit. I will do my best on this to strike a balance between the barest technical details and a flowery praise of sheet decorations. My first effort is here for your inspection and I will welcome your comments. The arrangement in thematic order gives topicalists a look at their favorites and one country fans (like myself) can see those countries by looking for the names, which are typed in capital letters.

I hope you like what you will see and read, and if you have a comment, send it along to me at P. O. Box 7418, Rego Park, NY 11374. **DON'T SEND ANY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR US** as they should go to Jack Arnell (address is inside the front cover) so that that new find you made will see print faster!

Mark Kellner

LATHAM TAKES STAMPEX SILVER

Group member A. W. (Bert) Latham's entry of Jamaican postal history won the silver award at the Stampex National Exhibition in London on January 15th, beating out Miss B.J. Collinson's entry of the stamps of Barbados by a short head. The panel of judges, headed by John Hubbard, President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, were unanimous in their recommendation. Al Branston, UK Representative, after a critical examination of both entries agreed to the award for Latham.

The exhibit of 36 sheets started off with a Jamaican letter of 1679 and continued with the straight line markings, fleurons, and town markings, including a straight line "Gosen" in red types of dated marks with Morant Bay and Port Antonio. Both prepaid and GB used in Jamaica were excellently shown, as were the large PAID to England, Ship Letter, Commercial Rooms, Too Late, Unclaimed, and Transit marks. A very nice item shown was the 1841 letter from Rio Bueno, Jamaica, addressed to London, where it had been prepaid after forwarding by means of a Penny Black. The entry showed merit consistently throughout and thoroughly deserved the award of our Silver medal. Congratulations, Bert, on the nice show--it certainly does you credit!

The President's Page

The great news for this issue is that our new Editor, Dr. John C. Arnell, aided by Mark A. Kellner, Assistant Editor, has assumed responsibility for the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal. Once more, we extend to our first editors, Al Johnson and Fred Seifert, our thanks for their contributions to the development and strength of the Group. We are confident that Jack and Mark will add to the foundation already established.

Henceforth, we ask members to mail all articles, VIA AIRMAIL, to Dr. John C. Arnell, P. O. Box 1263, Hamilton 5, Bermuda. Already we have learned that mail must be sent via air to insure proper delivery. Should you not receive a response to mail sent by sea, please send it again since the delivery of sea mail seems erratic and uncertain.

At this point, you may want some insight into the future of the journal. In seeking a new editor, one promise made was that he was free to express his creative talents in style and in format on the journal. Jack and Mark have this promise, and, as they work on future issues, you will see changes occur. However, you can be sure that the contents will maintain a high standard of excellence. We plan to keep the same number of issues a year (6) and the present size of the journal.

Fred has been most helpful in the transition to our new editor although we suspect that it has been difficult for him to relinquish the work without some regret. The journal has been so much a part of his life these past years that he must feel a sadness at turning over the work to another.

The need for the dues increase voted last year has become readily obvious as we plan the first issue under the new editorialship. Costs in metropolitan New York are higher than in the southwest, and the additional income will enable us to keep the journal at the present size. No one can guarantee that future cost increases may not compel us to reduce the page size to economize but should that ever become necessary, arrangements would be made to continue the Antigua monograph without charge.

The past year has been notable for our concern to find a new editor. Now that Jack Arnell and Mark Kellner have so willingly volunteered, we would hope that all members will assist them in every way possible. Perhaps the best way to assure that this will continue for years to come is to keep Jack's mail box full of articles ready for final editing.

May I urge and remind you to forward your dues if you have not done so. The Treasurer's and Assistant Treasurer's addresses are on the inside front cover. Avoiding a reminder will save us work and cost and at the same time assure you that you do not miss a single issue of the journal. As in past years, the journal in June will be mailed only to those who have already paid up. Copies will be kept on hand for those who have misplaced the dues reminder and send in their dues later.

Sincerely,

Mark

A Registered BVI Cover

BY CHARLES E. CWIAKALA

Last year, I bought a registered cover which originated at Road Town, Tortola. It may well reflect the regular handling of the period (1909), but even if this were the case, it seems worth reporting.

Addressed to Madison, Wisconsin, it was registered at Road Town and the 4½d postage was paid with two ½d green, one 1d red, and one 2½d blue. These were each cancelled on 22 April 1909 with the Birmingham-type ROAD TOWN/TORTOLA cds. A Registered Letter receipt bearing serial number 281 was stuck to the back of the envelope and the same number was entered in manuscript in the violet-red Tortola Registration handstamp on the front of the cover. The receipt was tied to the cover by the datestamps of every office through which the letter passed.

The letter was first forwarded to St. Thomas, Danish Virgin Islands, where it was re-registered. The St. Thomas Registration mark was struck in violet and a new number "4565" written in. The cover was backstamped with the ST. THOMAS cds, presumably on 26 April as the '6' is displaced to the right of the '4' (for April) below it, suggesting that a '2' is missing from the left hand position. It was next backstamped at the NEW YORK Registry Division on 8 May and finally at Madison on 11 May. Two additional numbers were added to the front of the cover: '84995' in the form of a handstamp over the address, and '7022' in manuscript at the bottom. These were presumably additional accounting marks.

The double registration, in both the British and Danish Virgin Islands, strikes me as very unusual. It may reflect some local postal agreement related to the forwarding of mail through St. Thomas. I would be interested in any explanation that the membership can offer.

MORE ON SLOGAN POSTMARKS OF TRINIDAD

by FRITZ ROETT

The October 1968 Journal has a definitive article by Dan Warren on the slogan postmarks of Trinidad. Since that time, I have obtained a number of covers, which either establish an earlier date of use of a specific slogan or show an unrecorded cancellation. In listing these below, I have used the same nomenclature as the original article, wherever applicable.

PORT OF SPAIN

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Type 5(a) | On Cover carried to Grenada on the first flight of New York/Rio and Buenos Aires Airline (NYRBA) on 20 July 1930. The cover was datestamped 19 July 1930. CDS A to left. Over six months earlier than Warren's date. |
| Type 6 | On cover datestamped 21 April 1936. CDS B to left. Four months earlier. |
| Type 9(a) | On cover datestamped 7 Feb. 1956. CDS C to left, had not been reported as used with this slogan. |

There are two additional wavy line cancellations to the five line one illustrated on page 184 of the original article. These are similar in design, but have more lines.

(article continued page 7)

Trinidad Slogans (continued from page 6)

- 6 Lines On cover datestamped 1 December 1925. CDS A to left.
7 Lines On cover datestamped 3 September 1962. CDS E to right.

SAN FERNANDO

- Type 5 On cover datestamped 12 November 1962. CDS to left. Over four months earlier.
- Multiple-line cancellation (Illustrated on page 210, December 1968 Journal) On cover datestamped 13 June 1961, two months earlier.

THE HORSE AND CART IS NOT SO REMOTE IN BERMUDA'S PAST
By Jack Arnell

The automobile did not see general use in Bermuda until after World War II, or less than thirty years ago. Before the war, some fire engines and an ambulance were the only gasoline driven vehicles on the roads. The mails were transported between Hamilton and St. Georges by a horse and cart in each direction, with the local mails being left at sub-post offices along the way.

An interesting comment on this mail run appeared in a local February 1924 newspaper, which was somewhat reminiscent of a similar problem that the British Postmaster General had with the captains of the transatlantic sailing packets some 150 years earlier. It was reported fifty years ago that :

"the St. George's Mail cart arrived at the post office, St. George's, on Monday morning pretty well loaded with kerosene oil stores, barrels of flour, rat traps, etc. We were under the impression that a change was made in the carrying of the mails for the express purpose of avoiding the mail carts carrying freight, but it appears wrong."

A month earlier, the mail wagon had been involved in a collision which it is hard to believe occurred in the tranquil days when 10 m.p.h. on a pedal bicycle was high speed. According to the news story:

"On Saturday morning, there was a collision near the Flatts, between Mr. Arthur Martin's express wagon and the St. George's mail coach from Hamilton to St. George's. Fortunately, the Wor. R. J. Tucker was riding in the vicinity at the time and he directed Mr. Ben Hodge of Hodge's well-known and reliable express to convey the letters on to St. George's.

Just whether or not Ben performed the duty we are unable to say but it is fair to presume that the 'old reliable' was quite willing to come to the front again."

What a far cry from the horrors of post office automation, which has removed all individual initiative from the movement of the mails.

By Way of Introduction

((Anytime there is a change at the helm, there always are new people doing the work. So that you can find out who's who, here's a look at our editorial staff, with Jack Arnell's story first, then a glimpse at Mark Kellner, who assists him.)

A native of Halifax, Jack Arnell spent his boyhood in Bermuda and returned to Canada to attend boarding school at Ridley Collex in St. Catherines, Ontario. Following matriculation, he attended Dalhousie University in Halifax, graduating with high honors in chemistry in 1939. The following year, he obtained his M.Sc. at Dalhousie before going to McGill where he obtained his Ph.D. in physical chemistry in 1942. He served in the Canadian Army four years and on release joined the fledgling Defense Research Board. During the next twenty years he served in many capacities ranging from Superintendent of the Defense Research Chemical Laboratories to Scientific Advisor to the Chief of the Air Staff and the Chief of the Naval Staff in succession. In September 1966, he was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister (Finance) in the Department of National Defense — the position he occupied until his retirement.

In 1952, Jack Arnell returned to his boyhood hobby of stamp collecting, concentrating on the stamps of Bermuda and Canada. About 1960, he decided to specialize in Bermuda philately, which in time led him to a serious study of postal history. During this same period, he had developed historical research as a hobby and was delving into the records of the Public Archives of Canada for material associated with the early maritime history of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In the course of this research, he came upon the activities of Samuel Guard in connection with the provision of an armed vessel under charter to the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia following the war of 1812. This, in turn, led to further research into maritime postal history.

In addition to the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, he is a member of the Postal History Society, the Postal History Society of the Americas, the BWI Study Circle, the Collector's Club of New York, and is the past President of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. He has written many articles for the publications of these societies and at the present time he is working on a book length manuscript on the first hundred years of British transatlantic mail. This will be published by the Canadian Postal Museum with some 100 of his covers in color for illustration.

Since his retirement to Bermuda, Jack has been busy painting and fixing up his late mother's house where he and his wife, Mary, are now residing. Jack has been asked by the Government of Bermuda to serve on two committees, one of which he is chairing. He has also performed some genealogical research. We hope that all of this work will be under control or completed to allow time for his editing.

* * * *

At the age of 16 $\frac{3}{4}$, Mark Kellner has a busy schedule. In addition to being a junior at Rhodes Preparatory School in New York city, he is a stringer for InterMountain Radio Network of Salt Lake City. Further, he writes a column on stamps for the Queens (N.Y.) Tribune and does a cable television program as well, with hopes for expanding to radio.

One of his consuming collecting interests is that of the British Isles. Another is the BVI and he is hoping to build up his collection. Being a member of the APS, as well as a regional representative for the SPA, he should be able to expand that collection with his new contacts in the BCPSG. With a career interest in journalism and public relations, he hopes that his work with the journal will help him reach that goal.

RMSP Grenada Agency Markings

BY W. DANFORTH WALKER

From its earliest days, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RSMP) made Grenada an important port of call on its West Indies Routes (see BCPJ W/N 45, Oct., 1968, pp. 185-188). Thus it has been no great surprise to discover in my search for Grenada postal markings, a number of Grenada adhesives bearing partial strikes of a purple in marking of "The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company Grenada Agency." With the help of Stan Durnin and Fred Seifert, I have been able to reconstruct these marks to show four different varieties. In the absence of any covers or documents bearing these marks, it is not possible to say with certainty whether their use was postal or fiscal, for the adhesives were valid for either purpose.



TYPE I



TYPE IIa

There are two basic designs of these RSMP marks, each being found in two types, the variation between sub-types being in the style of lettering. The earliest mark is the Type I, as illustrated above, the company name being between two ovals and in sans serif letters, while Grenada Agency is in the center in serif letters. I have seen eighteen strikes of this mark, three on the 1887 QV 1d, three on the 1896 QV 1d KP, eight on the 1903 1d KE KP, and four on the 1906 Seal of the Colony 1d.

Type 1 a differs from Type 1 in that "PACKET COMPANY" is in serif letters. It has been seen seven times, one strike being on the 1906 Seal of the Colony 1/2d, and the other six on the 1906 Seal of Colony 1d.

Type II is similar to the illustrated Type IIa, except that "GRENADA AGENCY" is in italic letters. Ten examples have been recorded, on on the Seal of Colony 1d of 1906 and nine on the 1913 KG V 1d. Type IIa is as illustrated, and it has been seen only once, that lone strike being on the 1913 KG V 2d stamp.

A summary of the adhesives on which these four RMSP marks are found tells us that there were thirty-four strikes on 1d stamps, and but one of each on the 1/2d and 1d values. In conjecturing as to how the adhesives were used, my first guess would be that they were employed fiscally on receipts or shipping documents of some sort. The lack of higher values would seem to preclude the handstamps being used to cancel mail placed aboard RSMP ships at the last moment before sailing time. If the stamps were used postally, the most probable explanation was that they were used to frank notices to local residents and firms that their shipments from abroad has arrived. In the latter case, we must assume that the Grenada GPO permitted the RSMP Agency to cancel the stamps. Perhaps some reader has a cover or document to confirm the use of these interesting marks.

SOME FURTHER NOTES ON

Turks and Caicos Issues

OF 1900 AND 1905

BY LOUIS E. ZELL, JR.

The basic outline of the postal markings of the issues of 1900 were set forth in Morris Ludington in the B.W.I. Study Circle Bulletin in No. 38 of July 1963, pages 52-59.

The issues of 1900 and 1905 generally were cancelled by either the oval cancellation with "T1" between bars or a date stamp with a diameter of 22 mm inscribed "Turks Island." The latest usage was reported as 16 January 1907. In revising a collection of these issues, a 1d. red was found on a postcard to Jamaica, with an indistinct Turks and Caicos cancellation but with 7 February 1908 on the receiving Jamaica postmark.

A collector studying these issues can readily conclude that cancellate stamps of the 1900 and 1905 issues are not particularly common, especially above the 2½d. value. The availability of these issues above the 2½d. value on non-philatelic covers is also limited. In reviewing a number of auction catalogs dating back to 1955, no more than a few used sets were offered. Offerings of covers were infrequent. In fact, only one set of the 2/- and 3/- issue used was offered and a single cover of the 2/- on a registered letter to Jamaica. This cover was dated 27 June 1906 and bore the standard large R in oval frame, the oval date stamp with Registered at the top and Turks Island and along the bottom with the same date in a straight line at the center, and, adjacent to it the Jamaica oval registration cancellation dates 5 July 1906.

As mentioned by Ludington, there are many different paquebot cancellations that are found with these issues. The most common being the framed 'Paquebot,' Stubbs no. A446. Another frequently found variety is "New York Hudson Terminal Sta. Paquebot," Stubbs No. B 177. Struck on a 1d. red in vivid blue is the straight line "EMINOL," possibly a strike of the ship Seminole.

Turning to the stamps, anyone trying to complete the issue of 1900 in blocks of four is quickly frustrated. Through the pence values, blocks are not too difficult to find, beyond these values, it becomes an endless search.

Referring to a modest accumulation of auction catalogs, I find only rare mention of blocks of the 2/- and 3/- values. A Robson Lowe 18 May 1955 catalog listed a 4x5 block of the 3/-. The Harmer, Rooke catalogs of the T. Charlton Henry British West Indies collections listed two sets of blocks of four of the 2/- and 3/-, one in the 4-7 April 1961 sale and the other in the 12-15 December final sale. Incidentally, the April sale listed the 2/- and 3/- tied to a piece and a complete set of the ½d to 1/- in mint blocks. The Robson Lowe Burrus catalog of 29 November 1962 listed the 1900 and 1905 issues complete in blocks of four. In addition to these blocks, full sheets of sixty of the ½d, 2d, and 3d are known.

The Ludington article mentions the existence of complete sets of "specimen" issues for both series. There is also a set of trial colors of the ½d, eleven in number.

Die proofs in black on flazed paper and in brisk red on india paper of the 2/- and 3/- values exist with the value tablet blank. The black die proof bears the rubber date stamp 26 February 1900

(continued next page)

The Bridger and Kay, Commonwealth 5 Reigns catalog lists a number of watermark errors the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, and 6d values exist without watermarks. These are not readily found. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ d is reported to exist with an inverted watermark.

A block of thirty of the 2d brown has the center row with the watermark "Crown Agents for the Colonies."

BAHAMAS POST OFFICES

BY CHARLES RICKSEKER

In July of 1972, when visiting Nassau, I sent self addressed covers to the 121 post offices, which I believed were in operation in the Bahamas Islands. All but two of the covers were returned to me. The two missing ones were:

FOX TOWN, Little Abaco
JAMES CISTERN, Eleuthera.

A follow-up cover was sent to each of these offices and neither was returned. I therefore assume that they have been closed.

These covers were returned with postmarks other than those to which they were sent. These were as follows:

<u>Sent to:</u>	<u>Postmarked:</u>
CAT CAY	BIMINI
ALICE TOWN, Eleuthera	HATCHET BAY
PALMETTO POINT	NORTH PALMETTO POINT

I subsequently learned that Cat Cay and Palmetto Point have been closed for a number of years. Since a follow up cover sent to Alice Town was also returned from Hatchet Bay, I assume that the Alice Town Post Office has also been closed.

Three of the above post offices were shown in the Bahamas Post Office List obtained from the Nassau Postmaster. These were Fox Town, James Cistern, and Alice Town. Cat Cay and Palmetto Point were not listed.

The majority of the post offices were still using 25 mm. circular date stamps. All these were struck in black ink, except ARTHUR'S TOWN (blue) and LANDRALL POINT (purple) These are gradually being replaced with 30 mm. cds, which were in use at the time of my covers in 44 post offices, in addition to the G. P. O. These were:

BINNACLE HILL	MC LEANS TOWN (30.5 mm)
BULLOCKS HARBOUR	MOORES ISLAND
CHURCH GROVE	MORTIMERS
DEEP CREEK/ANDROS BAHAMAS	ORANGE CREEK
DRIGGS HILL	OWENS TOWN
DUNDAS TOWN	ROCK SOUND (blue)
FORBES HILL	ROLLE TOWN

FREEPORT	SALINA POINT (29.5mm)
FRESH CREEK	SANDY POINT (30.5 mm)
GRANTS TOWN	SAVANNAH SOUND
HARBOUR ISLAND (30.5mm)	SCRUB HILL
HIGH ROCK	SEYMOURS
INAGUA (2 varieties)	SMITH POINT
INDUSTRIOUS HILL	SNUG CORNER (purple)
KEMPS BAY	STANIEL CAY
LOVELY BAY	SWEETINGS CAY
LOWE SOUND	THE CURRENT
MACKEY STREET (3 varieties)	THE FERRY
MAJOR'S CAY	UNITED ESTATES
MANGROVE CAY	UPPER BOGUE
MARCH HARBOUR	WEST END
MC KENNONS	WILLIAMS TOWN (blue-purple)

The G. P. O. and eight other post offices used TRDs to provide postmarks. These were as follows:

BIMINI	43mm POST OFFICE/BIMINI, BAHAMAS (blue)
FOX HILL	43x29mm FOX HILL/NEW PROVIDENCE (oval—purple)
HATCHET BAY	47x29mm POST OFFICE (rectangle) 42x30mm HATCHET BAY NOV 5 1973 Eleuthra, Bahamas (gray)
PIRATES WELL	38mm (almost Unreadable)
SAN ANDROS	37mm SAN ANDROS/ANDROS BAHAMAS (black)
STELLA MARIS	66x46 mm (almost unreadable; oval — black)
THE BIGHT	38mm THE BIGHT/CAT ISLAND BAHAMAS
THE BLUFF	38mm THE BLUFF/ANDOS (red-purple)

The TRDs used at the G. P. O. had the following wordings:

STAMPS 1 NASSAU/BAHAMAS
STAMPS 3 NASSAU/BAHAMAS
STAMPS 4 NASSAU/BAHAMAS

STAMPS 5 NASSAU/BAHAMAS

STAMPS 6 NASSAU/BAHAMAS

STAMPS 8 NASSAU/BAHAMAS

Sufficient postage was provided for some of the covers to be returned by Registered Mail. Ten Post Offices used a handstamp to register the covers. These handstamps were quite varied, as shown below:

ARTHUR'S TOWN	REGISTERED (blue) ARTHUR'S TOWN
BIMINI	REGISTERED No. _____ (blue) BIMINI BAHAMAS
CLARENCE TOWN	REGISTERED (unboxed)
FOX HILL	FOX HILL R NO. (purple)
GEORGE TOWN	REGISTERED (unboxed)
HARBOUR ISLAND	REGISTERED HARBOUR ISLAND
MARSH HARBOUR	MARSH HARBOUR R. NO.
ROCK SOUND	REGISTERED (unboxed)
SAN SALVADOR	REGISTERED (unboxed)
THE BIGHT	REGISTERED (purple) THE BIGHT

Ten other offices applied a manuscript marking to indicate registration. These were:

GOVERNOR'S HARBOUR	NICOLLS TOWN
GREEN TURTLE CAY	RAGGED ISLAND
HOPE TOWN	SANDY POINT
INAGUA	STEVENTON
MAN-OF-WAR CAY	THE BLUFF (Andros)

Registration labels were applied only at the G. P. O. and MACKAY STREET.

I had only set out to get a sampling of the registration procedures and had not expected to find the diversity that there is. I am now left wondering how many post offices, in addition to those listed above, have registration handstamps and also whether all the other post offices in the Bahamas are authorized to register letters and do so by applying a manuscript marking. Perhaps someone more knowledgeable than I can provide the answers.

Getting too Hot?

BY KENNETH F. CHAPMAN

(This editorial, reprinted from the British publication Stamp Collecting speaks of the wanton thievery perpetrated on unsuspecting collectors by some Caribbean territories. As it certainly represents the views of many of our members, it is reprinted here.)

PHILATELIC news from the Caribbean is plentiful these days but it is largely about an outburst of enthusiasm for the multifarious new issues emanating from erstwhile "respectable" British colonies whose postal affairs are no longer the concern of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.

Activity centres, at present, on Antigua, Grenada and St. Vincent. The Antiguan dependency of Barbuda—among the first of the British possessions in the area—enjoyed a brief spell of philatelic fame in 1922 when the Leewards Islands "presidency" stamps were overprinted "BARBUDA" but were quickly withdrawn. In 1968 a private company was granted a concession for the issue of separate stamps for Barbuda despite the fact that Antigua stamps remained valid for use there. The contract was terminated in 1971, the agency having managed to issue 90 stamps during the period of their franchise.

A new chapter opened with the issue of Royal Wedding stamps last November under the auspices of a newly-appointed agent who operates with the blessing of the Antiguan Post Office. Overprints quickly appeared on Antiguan definitives and the trade was blandly informed that the Royal Wedding stamps would only be available jointly with the other overprints. Next came the "Honeymoon" stamps of Antigua—themselves overprints to mark the visit of Princess Anne and Capt. Mark Philips during their honeymoon—further overprinted for Barbuda. So Barbuda is doing its best to exploit itself to death.

The Grenadines come next. These islets—they are little more than that—are shared by Grenada and St. Vincent so what more natural (since the two "parent" islands have separate philatelic agencies looking after their interests) than that the Grenada Royal Wedding stamps should appear with a Grenadines inscription added and St. Vincent should

have its Royal Wedding issue overprinted for the "St. Vincent Grenadines"? Definitives for the Grenada Grenadines are already promised and in the case of St. Vincent there are already overprints in the sheet margins for Mustique, issued in 1972 and similar marginal overprints for a variety of islands on the Royal Wedding issue.

This month, the St. Vincent Philatelic Services, an agency operating under the benign patronage of the St. Vincent Post Office, announced that the current 50c., 8c. and \$1 definitives were surcharged 30c., 40c. and \$10, the last-named stamp being for "registered air mail packages and internal fiscal purposes", and placed on sale on December 15th to meet Christmas postal requirements. The post-Christmas announcement of their existence estimates that the residue should meet local requirements and "moderate philatelic demand".

Meanwhile, rumour has it that Nevis will soon have its own issues (like its little sister, Anguilla, which broke with St. Kitts in 1967), that Tobago is considering issues separate from Trinidad and that Redonda, an Antiguan dependency, will soon be going it alone. For Anguilla it can at least be said that there was, and still is, an attempt at political independence which reasonably caused the main administration to withhold stamp supplies of the group from the "rebels". Even so, Anguilla has made more than a reasonable philatelic meal of its independence.

Since there must be hundreds of other candidates for postal independence within the Caribbean further announcements concerning these sunny islands with a gloomy philatelic future can be expected. The fine old B.W.I. philatelic tradition of respectability is becoming a nightmare. The best way to deal with nightmares is to try and ignore them. K.F.C.

MORE ON BARBUDA

Since the stamps have first come out, we have learned that the stamps overprinted for Barbuda are purchased from the Antigua post office and then overprinted for use on Barbuda, where some of the mail that goes out is originated by a local school teacher. Also, it has been learned that the Antigua S/S for the Royal Wedding of Princess Anne overprinted for Barbuda was also overprinted "Specimen" and a few were sent to dealers who placed the larger orders and the rest as handouts to notables. One was reported to have been sent to the Royal Collection. At the INTERPEX Show in New York they were being sold for £65 (\$160).

No clue to the purveyor exists, save one. Last year (1972), after the Silver Wedding issue was finished (or so we thought), it was learned that Aitutaki, a dependency of the Cook Islands was to re-issue stamps, after having been 'dead' for quite some time. Can it be mere coincidence that Barbuda, herself inactive (save a brief spell) for a number of years and a dependency of Antigua, has suddenly been resurrected after another omnibus issue?

Will wonders never cease!

—Mark A. Kellner

Who Reads Paper Watermarks?

BY WINTON PATNODE

One of the joys of collecting old entire letters is reading their messages. Those that survive are usually on paper of such quality that the manufacturers were proud to place their watermarks on the papers, usually in the centre of the sheet. Most of them are names or initials, sometimes with dates, generally in double-line letters easily bent from wire. Some of them are more elaborate. The half-size illustration here is a tracing of the watermark in a



letter from Jamaica to England dates 1790. The allegory is familiar; Royalty extending the olive branch of peace, with the spear of war in the background. But which Royalty? There may be clues discernable to one schooled in heraldry or European History.

George III was King of England at the time, but no "G III Rex" appears. There is, however, a possible script "L" at the bottom of the throne. Is this paper of French origin? Louis XVI still has a couple of years to live, and France and England were briefly between wars. If French, why imported to Jamaica? Was it, perhaps, the booty of the last war? The letter is addressed to "The Excise Office, London," and is postmarked IAMAICA, probably was carried by a Falmouth packet, and was given the usual double circle receiving stamp on arrival. The letter appears to be official correspondence concerning money. Does anybody recognize the figure?

IN THE MONTHS AHEAD

Journal readers will be given looks at the New Amsterdam Post Office in Guyana, as well as reports from various islands in the Caribbean. August will see more news, with a hoped for summary of what the Grenada 'Independence' was--and was not.

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOUGHT and we want to publish your article, news item, question, or whatever!!! Address them to Dr. J. C. Arnell, P. O. Box 1263, Hamilton 5, BERMUDA . Airmail, though it costs a bit more, is much faster--meaning that your find will see print that much sooner. LET'S HERE FROM YOU--because it is YOUR Journal, which will be a full or empty with articles as YOU provide.

HISTORY OF THE

Soufriere P.O., St Lucia

BY ROBERT J. DeVAUX

- 1762 According to the Commission Book at the G. P. O., London, Abraham Shaw, Esq. was appointed Deputy Postmaster General of Martinico, St. Lucia, St. Vincent Dominica, and Grenada. This appointment took effect on May 14th, 1762 during the British occupation of these Islands. The English were not famous for operating local posts, so it is unlikely that any existed at this early date in St. Lucia.
- 1763 At the Treaty of Paris, St. Lucia was assigned to France, when the neutral Islands were divided on February 10th, 1763.
- 1768 It is possible that St. Lucia has a deputy Postmaster in Martinique, when it again became a dependency of Martinique on September 20th, 1768. In that year, the principal town of Carenage was formed. Soufriere at that time was a flourishing town of secondary importance.
- 1773 Preserved in the "Archives National" of Paris under "Serie A - Actes du pouvoir Souveraine, in Registre 14 — Arrrets, Declarations, Edits, Lettres Patentes et Ordonnances 1773-1774" is listed the inauguration of a Postal Service in the French Antilles (1773), which at that time included St. Lucia.
- 1778 After war again broke out between England and France, Admiral Barrington's Fleet landed at St. Lucia and the French were defeated on December 13th, 1778.
- 1783 At the Peace of Versailles, St. Lucia was restored to France on January 20th, 1783. It should be noted that during all these brief British Occupations remarkable consideration was shown to the settled French inhabitants. The English did little to disrupt the established French system, be it politics or religion.
- 1785 The name of the principal town of Carenage was changed to Castries. Soufriere was now the oldest established town in St. Lucia and most likely enjoyed a flourishing Postal Service as shown by the orders below.
- 1786 The Royal Administrator's orders dated November 10th, 1786 exempts all of the "receveurs particuliers" (sub Postmasters) from the Civil Army and grants them other privileges.
- 1789 The first mention of a Post Office at Soufriere appears in the Almanach Historique Chronologie de Commerce, etc.... Castries 1789, where a flourishing inland post of twelve offices is shown. The name of the Receveurs Particulier for Soufriere is M. Duperronn.
- 1795 With the Revolution in France, another war between England and France, and the insurrection of the slaves in St. Lucia, conditions deteriorated so badly that most of the established systems broke down or were destroyed. Thus by 1795, little of the once prosperous colony remained. Castries, Dauphin, and Praslin were completely destroyed by fire. Other towns were damaged or destroyed.

(continued next page)

For the following fifteen years, St. Lucia licked its wounds and slowly nursed itself back to health. The shattered postal service only resumed at Castries on January 5th, 1810, when Mrs. Catherine Addison was appointed Deputy Postmistress.

1850 It was not until many years later that conditions were sufficiently settled to warrant the re-establishment of a Post Office at Soufriere. An Act for Colonial Island Posts was formulated and passed in 1849/50 at Westminster.

Two new marks were proofed at London and despatched to St. Lucia on March 16, 1850. These were the straight two line "Inland-Postage/Paid" and the circular date stamp "Soufriere—St. Lucia."

On April 8th, 1850, A Government notice regarding the Island Post appeared in the St. Lucia Gazette.

Mr. Alex Bourgeois was appointed sub-Postmaster of Soufriere.

1851 Mr. Charles Robinson was appointed sub-Postmaster of Soufriere, vice Mr. Bourgeois.

1852 Mrs. Marulaz was appointed sub-Postmistress of Soufriere on suspension of Mr. Bourgeois.

1856 Sometime in 1856, the Soufriere Post Office ceased to exist as a branch of the Postal Service; the reasons for which one can only speculate. A system of open mail collection bags was established at the Police Station and this inadequate method continued in use for many years.

1881 Ordinance No. 19 of December 31st, 1881, set out the rules for a new Inland Post, including Soufriere and Vieux Fort.

1884 It was not until July 15th, 1884 that Soufriere was properly re-established at the sub-Collector's Office with the Revenue Officer acting as sub-Postmaster. On July 16th, 1884, the new circular date stamp, with "S" town code, came into use.

1971 Soufriere has remained open ever since, where today it is a full fledged office, offering all types of postal service, including Registration and Money Orders.

The Inland Rates at Soufriere were as follows:

1789	Letters under	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	15 sols.
1852	" "	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	1 d.
1894	" "	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
1900	" "	1 oz.	1 d.
1924	" "	1 oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
1953	" "	1 oz.	3 ¢
1967	" "	1 oz.	4 ¢
1968	" "	1 oz.	5 ¢

(Note: This information has previously appeared in the Western Stamp Collector.)

New Postal Rates for Bermuda

On 1 March 1974, the Minister of Finance placed proposed amendments to the Post Office Act and accompanying new postal regulations before the Bermuda Parliament. The changes are intended to bring the postal rates into line with those of the Universal Postal Union. Approved and put into effect during early April, they were intended for last October but the re-writing of legislation delayed it. Here's a summary of the pertinent parts of the new rates along with the old rates in parenthesis.

Surface Mail

(Local)

Letters	5 cents (4)
Postcards	4 cents (3)
Newspapers	3 cents (3 / 2 oz., plus 2 cents (1)/ea. addl. 4 oz.

Foreign

	<u>1 oz.</u>	<u>2 oz.</u>	<u>4 oz.</u>	<u>8 oz.</u>	<u>1 lb.</u>	<u>2 lbs.</u>
Letters	12(9)	22 (44)	30(24)	60(41)	\$1.20(84)	\$2.00 (1.64)
Postcards	8(6)					
Newspapers	3	4 (4)	5(6)	8(10)	16(18)	32(34)

Parcels have more than doubled to the United States and Canada, approximately doubled to the United Kingdom, and quadrupled for the first pound to the West Indies, but with additional pounds only 20 cents instead of 27 cents.

Air Mail

	<u>Letters</u>	<u>Postcards</u>	<u>Printed Paper, unsealed matter</u>	<u>Locally printed papers, books</u>
USA, Canada				
West Indies, Cent. Amer.	17 (15)	12 (10)	6 (5)	5(4)
UK, Ireland, Europe, So. Amer., etc.	20(18)	12 (10)	9 (8)	7 (6)
E. Africa, Arabian cts., etc.	25(24)	12(12)	11(10)	10(9)
Australia, SE Asia, China, etc.	30(30)	15(15)	12(11)	10(9)

Air Letter Forms are now 12 cents each.

Air Parcel Post

USA & Cda.	95 (27) cents/8 oz., plus 21 cents(18)/addl. 4 oz.
UK	\$2.55(1.20)/8 oz., plus 65 cents (66)/ addl. 8 oz.
West Indies	\$1.60 (27)/ 8oz., plus 15 cents (18)/addl. 4 oz.

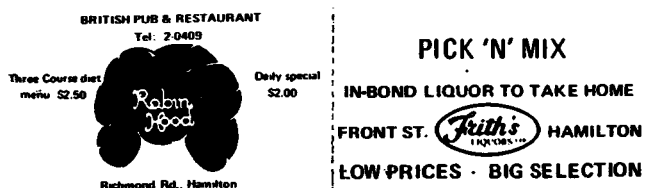
BITS & PIECES from HERE & THERE

BAHAMAS—Joe Lleida has identified the letters on the TRD reported by Tom Giralsi on page 156 of the October 1973 Journal as "S. O. 2". The S. O. means Sorting Office and there are at least three of these marks, S.O.1, S.O.2, S.O.3.

BARBADOS—A recent issue of the West Indies Chronicle had a Barbados Supplement of 52 pages, including advertisement. It provides a considerable amount of interesting data on that island. Copies are obtainable from: The Editor, West India Committee, 18, Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 0HP, England at 35p a copy.

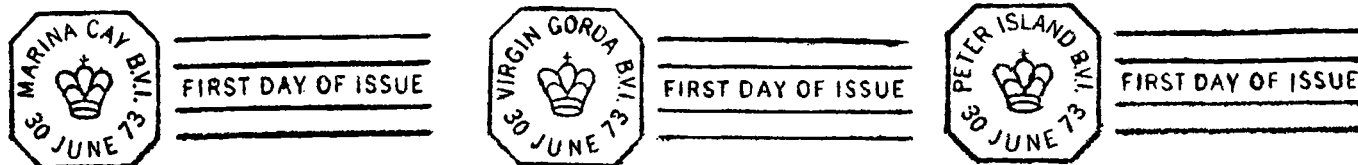
BERMUDA—Kil Bump sent Fred Seifert a First Day Cover of the Bermuda Royal Wedding issue and noted that this issue was originally scheduled to appear on 14 November 1973, but it was postponed until 21 November. This was the direct result of a government-wide strike by the Public Service Association, which began on 5 November and lasted for ten days. During this time, the post offices were closed, along with most other government offices. When the strike was settled, the backlog of outgoing mail had to be cleared before the new stamps could be issued.

BERMUDA—Further to Jack Ferguson's report in the August 1973 Journal about the stamp vending machine at the Bermuda airport. This machine is a standard North American commercial one, such as found in many newsstands and public places. It is white enamel with several colors of letters, etc. There are three separate dispensing units, which consist of a slot for a quarter, a pulldown lever, and a second slot to deliver the small cardboard folder containing the stamps. This machine has been set to deliver a pair of 10-cent definitives from two of the slots, while the third slot delivers a five and a 15-cent stamp of the same set. The current (Feb. 1974) cardboard holders for the cent stamps are green and light green for the others. There are local advertisements on both sides of the outside of the cardboard holders:



It should be noted that 10 cents is the airmail rate for postcards to North America, while 15¢ is the airmail letter rate. Five cents will carry a letter by surface mail, so the departing traveller can use all the stamps with a little advance planning.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS—When the First Coinage set of commemorative stamps was released on 30 June 1973, a set of stamp-coin First Day Covers was produced by a firm known as the 99 Company. Five Covers have a coin and the stamp picturing it affixed. Ben Ramkisson purchased three of the covers (cost \$15.75!) and points out that they bear some unusual cancellations, which are illustrated below:



The Marina Cay strike was on the 1-cent cover, Virgin Gorda on the 5-cent, and Peter Island

on the 10-cent. Ben reports that Marina Cay and Peter Island were special post offices opened for a few hours to do the cancelling of the FDCs. Further, Mark Kellner notes that Jost Van Dyke was opened and Tortola also provided cancellations. These were also available on plain (without coin) FDCs as well, which were sold at the A.S.D.A. show in New York last November for about \$2.50.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS—Bob Roswell reports that he recently received a 25-cent stamp of the International Cooperation Year (Scott No. 162) with the 'Y' in "Year" missing its lower half, giving it the appearance of an elevated small 'v'. The lower value of this set was normal, as were his copies of the ICY issues of all the other colonies. He would like to determine whether this is a constant variety. Has anyone else seen this broken "Y."

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS—Thanks to Mr. Richard A. Carlson, who handles the marketing of the stamps of the BVI in the U.S. by representing them at many shows, we have copies of the new brochure issued about the Naval Crests/INTERPEX issue of 23 March 1974. There were more than enough for the membership and your copy is enclosed.

CAYMAN ISLANDS—Gus McViker notes a new postmark in use at the GPO. It is a Birmingham line-arc type reading GEORGETOWN, GRAND CAYMAN at the top, and C.I. at the bottom. Because of the large top text, the line arcs, which are usually at the sides of this type of mark, are at the bottom, separating the top and bottom text and are quite short. Gus first noted this mark used early in December 1973.

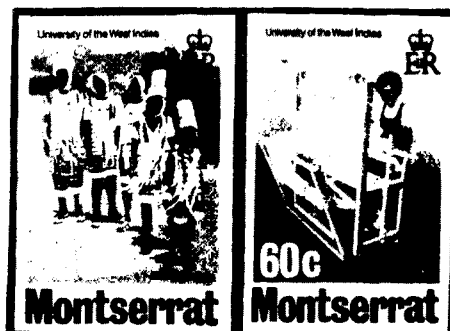
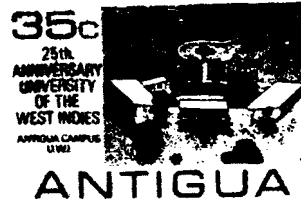
CAYMAN ISLANDS—John E. Franklin writes that about two years ago he obtained a copy of the 6d. Silver Jubilee issue with the value tablet broken at the bottom. The broken tablet is a complete break on the printing recess plate. This variety appears on a used stamp dated 31 December 1935, Cayman Islands. As only the lower half of the postmark appears on the stamp the town name is missing; it could quite easily be Georgetown. This stamp must have been used on one of the last days of this issue. John has been unable to determine the sheet position of this stamp, but suspects that the stamp comes from the second printing of the issue. Has anyone else come across a similar copy from the Cayman Islands, or has the variety been seen in the Silver Jubilee issues of any of the other West Indian colonies?

MONTSERAT—Since at least May 1973, the G. P. O., Plymouth has been using a single circle cds, with index D above the date. John Willem asked a contact in the Island to check with the G. P. O. as to the significance of the index letter. The reply indicates that it was to identify the clerk using the postmark. Has anyone seen any other indices that might have been used by other counter clerks?

TRINIDAD—Fritz Roett reports that, contrary to the Cwiakala-Burkiewicz statement in their article on the DO-X Caribbean Flight on page 123 of the August 1968 Journal that the two Surinam cachets did not occur together on the same cover, he has such a cover. The cover was franked with two of the over-printed Dornier stamps and was flown to Trinidad. It has been authenticated by Francis J. Field as "absolutely genuine in all respects."

TRINIDAD—On page 195 of the December 1973 Journal, Fred Seifert reported on a WWII Internee cover and mentioned having seen a second one. He has now provided the following details about it. It was from the same sender, E. O. Fischer (spelled 'Fisher' on the first cover) to the same addressee, Gerhard Fischer in Canada, and was postmarked at Port of Spain, FE 22, 1941. Gerhard's address is now "Camp A," instead of "Camp Q," which probably explains the red pencil 'a' on the previously reported cover. This second cover has the same violet oval "INTERNMENT CAMP/TRINIDAD & TOBAGO" mark, but on the back. The Censor label is similar, but has "C. 76" on it instead of "C. 83," and the red circular censor stamp is numbered "45," instead of "44." The "BASE A. P. O./CANADA" machine cancellation is again

found on the back. Franking is by one 2-cent and two 12-cent Trinidad & Tobago adhesives , indicating that the letter was sent by air, although there are no air mail markings.



Here's a look at some New Issues from the Caribbean. Full details are on the next page with "New Issue News." (StanGib and I-GPC photos.)

New Issue News

Edited by Mark A. Kellner

U.W.I. Anniversary—Certainly the biggest event of this first part of 1974 is the issuance of stamps by many Caribbean territories to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the intake of students at the University of the West Indies. The mainstay of any nation, education is the key provided at the U.W.I. to its students.

An independent university, the U.W.I., is international in that its work is supported by and serves 14 different territories, some of which are already independent nations. It includes Antigua, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad & Tobago.

The main campus in Jamaica is supported by Cave Hill in Barbados, St. Augustine in Trinidad, and has contributors on the faculty from many of the other islands. Guyana, for example, has members in the faculty of law (though not a 'member' of the U.W.I.) and a small number of students are in the professional facilities.

It began teaching at Mona, Jamaica in 1948, growing to a full university (formerly affiliated with the University of London) in 1962 when a Royal Charter was passed under the great seal of the realm.

Fifty-three years ago, the West Indies Agricultural College was founded, with it being incorporated into the U.W.I. in 1960 and began teaching engineering in 1962. Colleges of Arts and Sciences were established in 1963, one at Cave Hill and the other at St. Augustine.

In all the disciplines of learning, graduates of the University of the West Indies flow out into the world. And so do many stamp marking this event. ANTIGUA, utilizing the services of the PAD Studio issued a set on February 18th to mark the anniversary. Containing four values, the set was printed by Thomas De La Rue in the Delacryl process and multicolor. CA block watermark is featured on the 1.12 x 1.6765' stamps. The 5¢ shows the pair of Antigua and U.W.I. Coats of Arms. Extra-mural art is featured on the 20¢ value, while the 35¢ shows a view of the Antigua Campus. Dressed in cap and gown, the Chancellor of the U.W.I.'s Antigua Centre.

Two very attractive and well thought out stamps were issued by the BAHAMAS, utilizing the same kind of calligraphic style of the popular VFW stamp issued by the U.S. Designed by Clive Abbot, the set of two values released on February 5th was printed in multicolor lithography by Questa Colour Security Printers, London. The 15¢ bears a motif representing agriculture, education, social science, natural science, and medicine. Engineering, arts, general studies, and law are represented on the 18¢ stamps. A very good set!

Out of every issue, there seems to be one that is overdone, and my right eyebrow goes up at a look at the GRENADA set for the anniversary. Featuring Gordon Drummond's design and printing by Format International Security Printers, the thing that disturbs me is value. For the Grenada P.O. folks to issue such a large set (10, 25, 50 cents and \$1.00 on stamps; \$1.00 and \$2.00 stamp not in the set) and then wonder where all the green money went is a bit much. Enough said!

ST KITTS will issue its set on June 1st, late but welcome. Another design by Gordon Drummond, this set of two values (10¢ and \$1 plus S/S of the same values) features the University Centre in St. Kitts, showing what is a fitting and relevant tribute to the U.W.I. Bravo, St. Kitts! Litho printing was done by Qesta with CA watermark.

U. P. U. Centenary stamps are bound to be popular. With a recent stampede in the U.K. on a Gibraltar U. P. U. booklet, it is a barometer of the interest and I am fairly certain that the same kind of attention will be lavished on the issues emanating from the Caribbean. Although the actual centenary is in October of this year, there are a number of stamps coming out in advance of the date. Both the BAHAMAS and MONTSERRAT have started, with an indication of a GRENADAN issue in June. The first sets, both designed by a P. B. Powell (a newcomer to designing, I believe) reflect studies of the U. P. U. emblem, seen at its headquarters in Berne and now on the stamps. Four Bahamian values contain the emblem and little else, according to the press release I have in front of me. A souvenir sheet complements the 3¢, 11¢, 15¢, and 18¢ values, which are all repeated here.

The Montserrat set is a real whopper in terms of design—simple and elegant. It is a highly stylized representation of the U. P. U. emblem and features the original as well for something of a comparison. I enjoyed this set, just why so many values? With 1, 2, 3, 5, and 50 ¢ and \$1.00 values here, it is little wonder as to why the two designs produced by Powell were repeated two more times each for a total of three stamps of one design. Come on! If this set was a little tighter, I feel that collectors will receive it better. As it stands, it could be much worse! No date of issue was furnished, though I suspect that it saw the light of day in April.

Yes, Virginia, there is yet another Anniversary marked earlier this spring. April 4th was the date of issue for the DOMINICA issue for its stamp centenary, with Format International having the task of printing the six values and a souvenir sheet. Multicolor Lithography was the treatment given Gordon Drummond's artwork. Picturing the first stamps (1 d., 6 d., and 1/-) and an outline map of the island, a posthorn (when was that used there?), and the seal of the colony. The stamps were perf. 14 and the S/s is perf 15 with only the latter three of the ½¢, 1¢, 2¢, 10¢, 50¢, and \$1.20 on it.

Military Uniforms—were the subject of another charming set from ANTIGUA due on May 1st, along with a Souvenir Sheet. I say charming in that it is nice to look at a set of stamps, though a bit high on the value, that is just there to be seen. No 'message.' No cause to promote and no anniversary, real or imagined, portrayed. Here, too is an interesting coincidence! Artwork was done by Waddington yet printing by Qesta. The ½ cent shows an officer of the 59th Foot, 1797. A gunner of the Royal Artillery circa 1800 is on the 10 cent, and the First West India Regiment has a private's uniform on the 20cent. The Gordon Highlander is portrayed on the 35 cent, and they were also known as the 92nd Foot, with the uniform of an officer of 1843. To round out the set, the 23rd Foot, better known to the world as the Royal Welsh Fusiliers is represented by a private's uniform from 1846. This, too is worthy of a Bravo.

Republic Day—in GUYANA is taken seriously, as a sign of a nation's development. This year saw the issue of four stamps to commemorate it. PAD Studio produced the designs which were printed in Lithography by Qesta. The 8 and 40 cent values portray a symbol of Guyana's thrust forward and growth, with the wording of "One People, One Nation, One Destiny. Let us all

be involved in the thrust forward." A Wai Wai Indian is portrayed on the 25 and 50 cents values and they are no longer set aside on the reservations, but are being integrated into the running of the country at all levels.

The Definitive Story—from Grenada is, to quote Alice, "curiouser and curiouser." Scheduled for release on February 7th, there were, it was later found out (from an exploitive advert in a local stamp column by an investment firm) that only 12,000 complete sets exist of the 14-value set, which was originally released in 1969 as a definitive. To quote the agent for Grenada in the United States, "The high values are the key." Only 12,000 of the \$1, \$2, \$3, and \$5 stamps were issued and yet on about fifty or so covers from Grenada of that time, I had not seen even the 1¢ value. The photo gives the rest of the pertinent details--now let's see a little postal use if possible? Are Grenada stamps so low selling that only 12,000 complete sets can be released before even the most stalwart of modern collectors cries uncle ?

"Money, Money, Money, Money," if we are to believe Cabaret, makes the world go around. It may or may not do that, but it makes for an interesting stamp issue, as the new stamps from St. LUCIA will prove come May 20. This four value set and Souvenir Sheet was designed by J. E. Cooter and lithography by Format. The stamps show Spanish silver dollars cut in various ways and stamped 'S. L.' or S. Lucie, which were issued in 1798 and 1813. There is an interesting story behind it. According to historical records, the Spanish dollar of 'eight reales' or pieces of eight is associated with the gold eight escudas, which is also known as a doubloon. The currency of the islands of the Caribbean varied with the country which owned it—Britain, France, Spain or Holland.

In modern times, the 'eight reales' became the international currency par excellence. Their dissemination throughout the world has brought about uniformity in standard and milling characteristics. Many of the bits were counterstamped in order to adapt them to the local monetary systems or authorize their currency. Removal of the coins was prohibited in order to avoid a scarcity of the currency.

Ships have always played a part in the life of the BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS. The 1970 definitive series portrayed ships that have sailed there, and in honor of INTERPEX 1974, the BVI have released a set of four values and a souvenir sheet designed by J. E. Cooter and printed in lithography by Questa. All stamps portray crests of famous ships that have made stops at the BVI, the 5¢ shows a French Coastal Minesweeper, the Canopus, which, surprisingly built after a British ship, but with different hull construction. The U.S.S. Saginaw is a tank landing ship that was launched in 1970, and is pictured on the 18¢ stamp. A British anti-submarine frigate, the H.M.S. Rothesay has turned up on the 25¢ and to round it out we see the H.M.C.S. Ottawa's crest on the 50¢. The ship crests are repeated on the S/s with a map of the BVI also prominent. (See also Bits and Pieces for other details)

Next month, with all the 'bugs' worked out, we will look at the Easter and other commemorative issues from the Caribbean and a whole load of new printings as well. Information this month was supplied by the Crown Agents, StanGib Limited, InterGovernmental Philatelic Corporation without whose help we could not write this.

Our Secretary Reports

NEW APPLICANTS :

BAILEY, John, 585 Roosevelt Avenue, Ottawa, Ont. Canada K2A 2A2, 58, Manager (Dairy Industry), BWI
By: Colin Bayley and S. C. Durnin

DAWES, Edmund F. 23 Berwick Road, Longmeadow, MA 11106, 61, Custodian, British Commonwealth of Nations.
By: C. Kilbourne Bump

PERREAULT, Dick, P. O. Box 122, Flatts, Smith's Parish, Bermuda. Early Bermuda stamps and postal history only.
By: Jack Arnell

TANNER, Charles M., III, 1201 Ashland Drive, Richardson, TX 75080, 47, Technical Writer, BWI, particularly the Saints.
By: L. W. Martin, Jr.

TAYLOR, George R., 4400 NW 19th Street, Apt. 308K, Lauderhill, FL 33313, Security Chief, Leeward Islands (BVI)
By: E. M. Adelson

WRAGG, Norton, 256 Kingsway, Wollaston, Stourbridge, Worcs. DY8 4TW, England. Accountant
By: A. J. Branston

RESIGNATIONS:

Edwards, William V.; Hale, James B.; Roberts, John.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

ARNELL, John C., P. O. Box 1263, Hamilton 5, Bermuda.

BARTLETT, Graham C., 'Pitons,' 27, Quarrington Road, Horfield, Bristol 7, Somerset, England.

CRONIN, John, (add Post Code) BH23 6AL.

DURNIN, Stanley C., 1510 Spruce Street, Sidney, OH 45365.

KROHN, Ed, P. O. Box 973, Perrine, FL 33157 (Corrected Box Number).

LUNDBERG, John P., Alberta Beach, Alberta, Canada.

MORGAN, Major Ian, 22 Holton Avenue, Westmount, P. Q., Canada H3Y 2E8. (adds Post Code)

OLTHOF, John, Toutenberg 524, Colmschate, 660 Netherlands, Europe.

RADFORD, Reynold, 44, Green Lane, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 2DF, England.

WALKER, W. Danforth 44-38 48th Street, Apt. 1R, Woodside, NY 11377.

ZEHTNER, Werner, 24 Mabelle Av (#3503), Toronto, Ont. M9A 4X8 Canada.

NOTE:

Those members who have remitted for overseas airmail and reside in the United Kingdom, along with those members who live in the U.K. and Europe (as well as the Middle East) will note this issue being mailed by member John Cronin. Our thanks to John for his kindness in getting these copies (sent in bulk by air parcel post/printed matter) to members overseas. Hopefully this will result in faster delivery and comments are welcome.

Also, when you move please forward a change of address card to the Secretary or our U.K. representative, whose addresses are found inside the front cover. This saves the "Postage Due" on copies returned to us and helps you not to miss a single issue of our Journal.

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Personal Mention

Treasurer BEN RAMKISSOON leads a blessed life. He was one of three reporters on the prime recovery ship for SKYLAB III and was able to exhibit some covers from the U. S. S. New Orleans at Stamp Expo South in Anaheim.

JOHN LUNDBERG has been confined to the hospital for some months after an automobile accident.

According to the December 1973 Hollywood (Fl.) Philatelist, EDDIE ADELSON is the new advisor to the stamp club of the Miami Shores Elementary School.

Honors come freely to GALE RAYMOND, his latest being elected a fellow of the Explorer's Club. (And we've also noticed his byline in a recent Linn's Stamp News.)

DAN WARREN will soon complete his course at the Army's Command and General Staff College and be off to a new assignment. He hasn't had definite word as to his next station, but an overseas one is a strong possibility.

Living in Italy doesn't put NORMAN WINTER in a particularly good position to collect Jamaica postmarks, but his interest remains strong. Norm has ordered a few installments of Jamaica articles from older Journals, and is trying to get his collection organized into better shape.

JOSEPH CURTISS has had to curtail his collecting because of failing eyesight. In resigning from the Group, he sent a \$25 check as a donation in appreciation of the pleasure his membership brought him in the past; a most kind gesture!

Jamaica was, of course, the main topic when BOB TOPAZ, BERT LATHAM, AND AL BRANSTON met in London recently for a very convivial evening together. LEN BRITNOR was also there, giving a nice double as Bert has won the Group's Silver at Stampex and Len the Albert Harris Award for his book "The History of the Sailing Packets to the West Indies."

It was a stomach virus (plus a massive term paper) that kept MARK KELLNER, ye olde assistant editor from getting this to the printer earlier. With luck and skill, the June issue of the Journal, already in production, will be in the mail as you read these words.

A recent phone chat with STAN DURNIN reveals that while he may not come east for the big Junior show in July, he will try his best to make it for the A.S.D.A. show. Meanwhile, we've enjoyed his articles on exhibiting, now I hope to get a ribbon or two!

(prepared by M.A.K.)

SPECIALIST MATERIAL

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WILLIAM BOGG

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