

BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

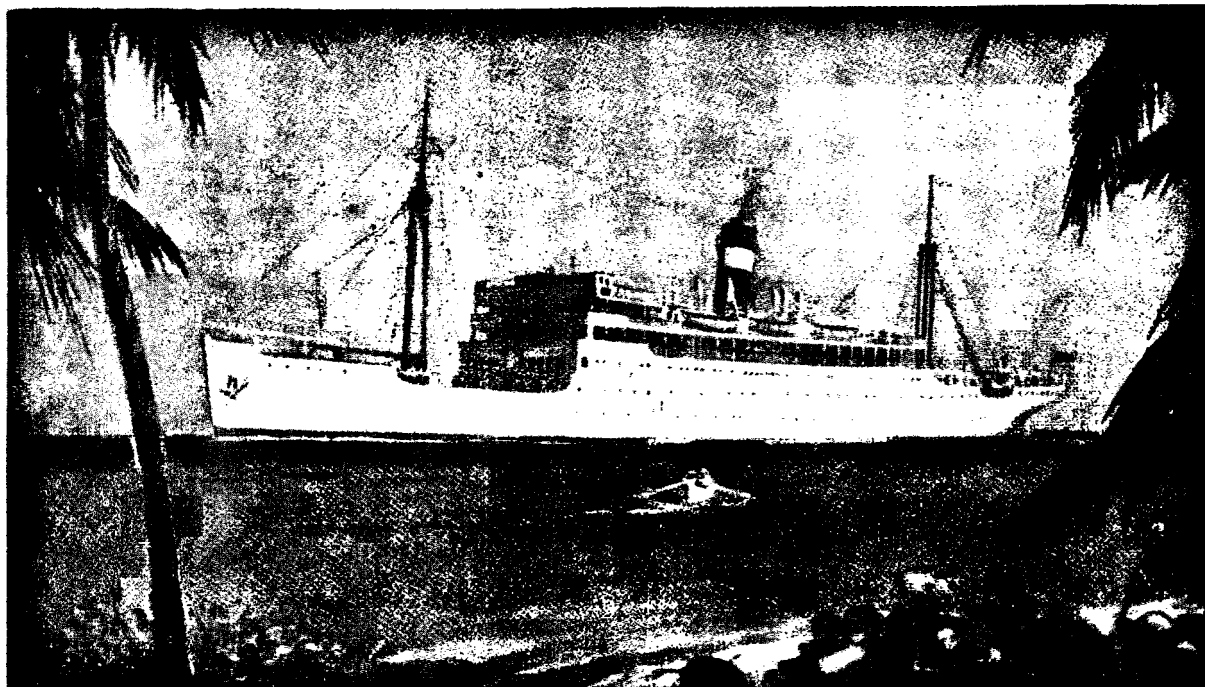
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CANADIAN NATIONAL STEAMSHIPS



R.M.S "LADY NELSON," "LADY HAWKINS," "LADY DRAKE," "LADY RODNEY", "LADY SOMERS"
CANADA — BERMUDA — BRITISH WEST INDIES SERVICES VIA BOSTON, U.S.A.

PRINTED IN CANADA

ALWAYS AN OCCASION FOR CELEBRATION WAS THE ARRIVAL OF ONE OF THE "LADY BOATS" OF THE CANADIAN NATIONAL STEAMSHIPS LTD. AS THE FIVE SHIPS PLIED THE WATERS AND PORTS OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES. STORY ON PAGE 96.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

For the first time since assuming editorship, I feel things are under control. In spite of taking a three week holiday in Canada during the latter half of September, it has been possible to get all the copy for the Oct. issue off to the Durnins before the end of that month. Although this means that the printed copy will still be a month late, we are catching up. Provided that enough material reaches me in a timely fashion, future issues should be on time.

During the past six months, I have been heartened by the interest shown by a small group of members, who have worked to keep a constant flow of articles and small items coming to me. Much of it has to be rewritten to suit the needs of the moment, but I try to rewrite it in the contributor's own words. I say this to encourage those of you who have never sent in a written contribution. All you have to do is send me a line about yourselves for Personal Mention or a tidbit for Bits & Pieces, or, better still, the outline of a short article. There is room for all of it and it will be new information to someone.

As you are all aware, there was no February issue. An extra large December one was issued instead in order to carry us over to April. It continues to be our hope to make up this lost issue, but I must have more articles to do this.

In a more general vein, we have all experienced the effects of inflation. Inflation has certainly affected our favorite hobby. Everybody I have spoken to who has participated in a philatelic auction this year has the same story to tell. Opening bids have been well above the published estimates of value and lots have been knocked down at astronomical prices. So the serious collector who is forced to rely on mail bids finds his efforts in vain. He has to find a new way of adding material to his collection. It might be worth having a member's forum on the subject and I would welcome hearing from any of you with thoughts to help your fellow collectors. If there is response to this, I shall print the ideas in future journals.

JACK

St. Kitts-Nevis TRDs Resurrected

by Charles Ricksecker

On a visit to St. Kitts in July 1974, I made several exciting "re-discoveries" of TRD cancellations, that had been thought to have been permanently retired back in 1967, currently in normal postal use. Later the same month, by remote control from Chicago, Tom Giraldi came upon a similarly resurrected TRD in normal postal use from Nevis.

My story begins on the sunny morning of 12th July, when I strolled into the sub-post office of Old Road, St. Kitts, to renew acquaintances with Postmistress Hendrickson. Almost casually, I noticed that she had two cancelling devices resting next to the inking pads on her desk. One, of course, was the Statehood steel circular datestamp in use since 1 JUL 67. The other, was the Statehood TRD issued on 1 MAR 67 and retired just prior to the issuance of the steel circular datestamp. I was simultaneously shocked and intrigued at the discovery, and immediately enquired as to the present purpose of the TRD. The answer was simple and straight forward, and came accompanied with a jovial smile.

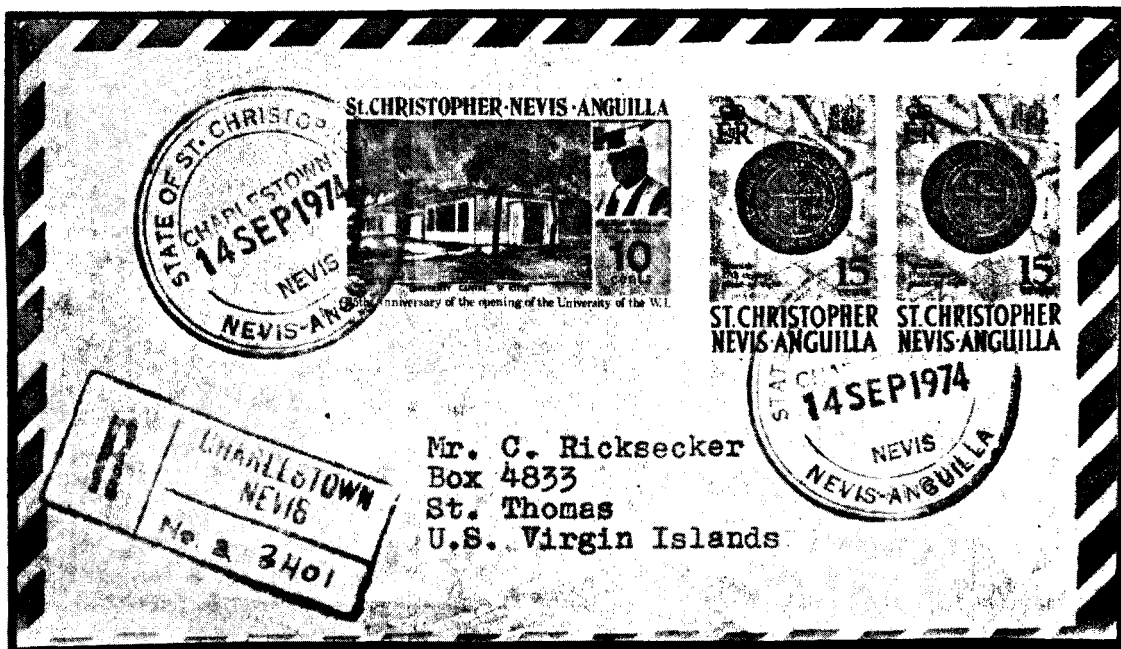


It seems that the "74" year date-slugs for the steel circular datestamp never arrived from England. Some time in April, Miss Hendrickson became tired of waiting, as in the meantime, she had not been able to date registered letters properly, as required by postal regulations. She discovered that her old Statehood TRD, which had been retained at the Old Road sub-post office, had the necessary year date-slug and so, to solve her problem, she began to use it as a substitute, usually in tandem with the steel circular datestamp. According to Miss Hendrickson's improvised procedure for "normal use", the stamps are cancelled with the steel circular datestamp, and the TRD then applied on the envelope away from the postage stamps so that the year-date is clearly legible. This extra procedure is only necessary for registered letters, and is accompanied by the boxed OLD ROAD/ST. KITTS registry handstamp. The registry handstamp is normally applied in purple, while the steel circular datestamp and the TRD are applied in black. I suggested that she apply the TRD in purple, since she had purple ink, but my hint was not followed. The resulting examples of the TRD were fairly smudged, and a close inspection of the device indicated a good amount of wear and deterioration.

Heady from my discovery at Old Road, I paid a visit to the GPO in Basseterre later the same day, and made two more "re-discoveries" of a TRD in normal postal use -- of sorts. It seems that the First Day Covers of both the Easter 1974 issue and the UWI issue, as prepared by the GPO, bear TRD cancellations. The first issue had been prepared with the BASSETTERRE/ST. KITTS TRD, while the latter was processed with a cut-away version bearing only the words ST. KITTS below the date. Close inspection indicated that this second strike was made with the same BASSETTERRE/ST. KITTS TRD, but with BASSETTERRE removed. Examples on both sets of covers were applied in black ink, but the example of the latter in the GPO display case was in purple. No other examples of either variety of this TRD were obtainable through any type of over-the-counter service.

As for the remaining three TRDs from the other sub-post offices of St. Kitts, it will be remembered that the postmistresses of both CAYON and DIEPPE BAY returned their TRDs to the GPO a number of years ago (prior to 1968). Quite possibly, the SANDY POINT TRD was engulfed in the fire which destroyed that sub-post office on 14 SEP 1967. What is definitely known, at present, is that the Sandy Point Postmistress does not possess that TRD in her new post office building.

Unfortunately, in retrospect, I was unable to travel across Nevis to go TRD-hunting over there. However, Tom Giraldi has sent notice that an ordinary airmail letter was received from CHARLESTOWN/NEVIS, dated 29 JUL 74, and bearing only the Statehood TRD cancellation in purple, tying the stamps to the cover. Although this usage of the TRD on ordinary airmail does not completely correspond with the self-enforced "rules" of the postmistress in Old Road, it must be noted that the postmistress in Charlestown is probably the most meticulous postal official in the British West Indies. Among other duties, she is in the habit of backstamping every arriving piece of correspondence addressed to Nevis -- and I cannot cite an example of any other postal official who goes to that extreme. It is quite logical that she, too, grew tired of waiting for the "74" year date-slugs that never arrived as replacements for use in her two steel circular datestamps.

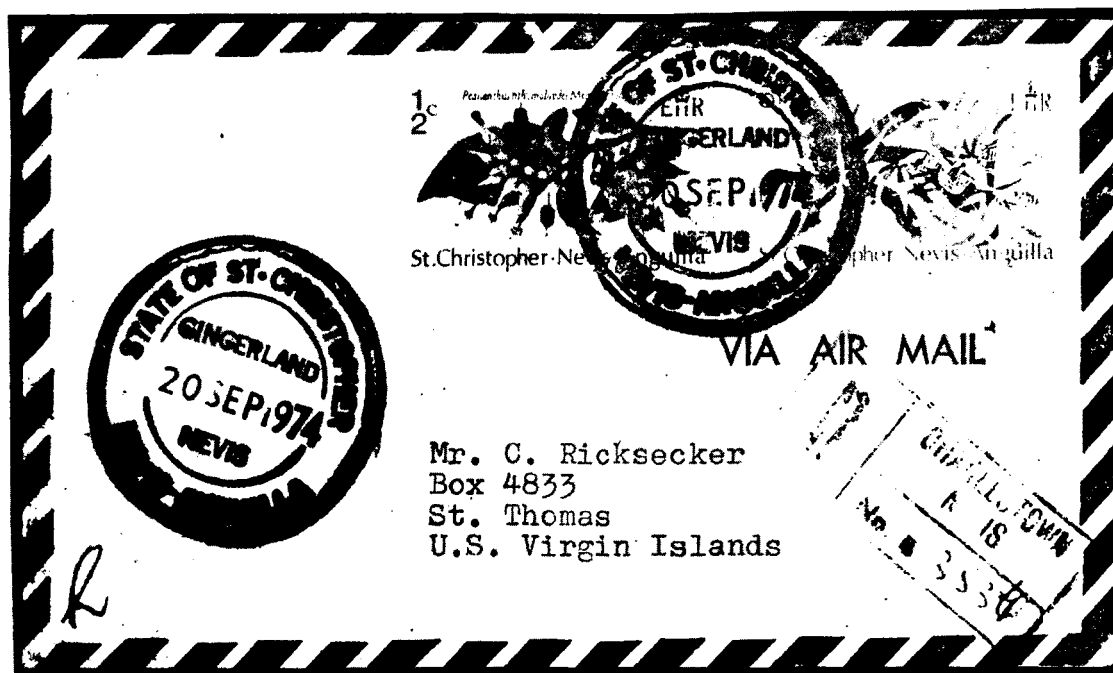


From Stan Durnin's original notes on the CHARLESTOWN Statehood TRD, it appears that only one such device was used in 1967 and, furthermore, that it had been returned to the GPO by the time of his visit in 1968. This suggests that, unlike the situation at the Old Road sub-

Post Office where the TRD was retained during the 1967-74 period, the Charlestown TRD must have been sent to the postmistress at the sub-post office again early in 1974, possibly at her request, for the reason suggested above.

Registered covers that I had received of more recent date from this post office all bear the same TRD used as a front-stamp in blue. Additionally, the same TRD (or a very similar look-alike) is used as a backstamp on these covers in blue-black. No other postmarking device is in use.

The GINGERLAND Statehood TRD also was not returned to the GPO after it served its original purpose in 1967. Enquiries on the island have determined that this Gingerland TRD has also been put into service from some time prior to 20 SEP 74. It has been seen on a registered cover of that date and is impressed in black. This device appears to be deteriorating.



A complete listing of the post offices of St. Kitts-Nevis, and the present whereabouts of their Statehood TRDs, is as follows:

Basseterre/St. Kitts	Used on FDC of Easter 74 Issue/black
(Blank)/St. Kitts	Used on FDC of UWI Issue/black, purple
Cayon/St. Kitts	Returned to GPO
Dieppe Bay/St. Kitts	Returned to GPO
Sandy Point/St. Kitts	Destroyed in fire?
Old Road/St. Kitts	Used on registered mail/black
Charlestown/Nevis	Used on all classes of mail/purple, blue, and blue-black
Gingerland/Nevis	Used on registered mail/black

Since Anguilla is now under separate postal administration, the whereabouts and use of the ANGUILLA Statehood TRD would no longer properly be included in this discussion -- except that it is known that that TRD is still in Anguilla. But there would be very little reason for Anguilla postal officials to consider its re-use because the outer ring reads "State of St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla".

Watermark Varieties of Barbados

by Fitz Roett

In the April 1971 issue of the BCPJ, Colin Bayley wrote an article with a similar title, but stated that the list he had compiled may have been incomplete. In checking my records, I have found that such is the case, so below I have listed all those varieties known to me. The data has been taken from a number of sources, e.g. the author's collection, auction catalogues, dealers' advertisements, etc. The notation is the same as that used by Bayley.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Denomination</u>	<u>S.G. No.</u>	<u>Scott No.</u>	<u>Watermark Variety</u>
1892-03	2/6d.	114	79	Inverted
1906	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.	145	102	Inverted
"	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	146	103	Inverted
"	1d.	147	104	Inverted
1916	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.	181	127	Inverted
"	"	"	"	Inverted & Reversed
"	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	184	128	Inverted & Reversed
"	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d.	190	131	Inverted & Reversed
"	3/-.	196	138	Inverted
1917	1d.	197	MR1	Inverted
1920	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.	201	140	Inverted
"	"	"	"	Inverted & Reversed
"	"	"	"	Wrong shape Crown bit
"	"	"	"	C of CA omitted
"	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	202	141	Inverted
"	"	"	"	Inverted & Reversed
"	"	"	"	Wrong shape Crown bit
"	"	"	"	C of CA omitted
"	3d.	206	145	Inverted
"	6d.	208	147	A of CA omitted
"	"	"	"	C of CA omitted
"	2/-.	210	149	Inverted
"	"	"	"	Reversed
"	"	"	"	Inverted & Reversed
"	3/-.	211	150	C of CA omitted
1921-24	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.	217	152	Reversed
"	1d.	220	154	Inverted

Any information from readers regarding additions to this list would be greatly appreciated.

LOCAL OVERPRINTS FROM MONTSERRAT ----

In the 18 October 1974 "Trade Circular" from the Crown Agents the following announcement appeared:

"We have been advised by the Montserrat Postal Authorities that due to an acute local shortage, the following values have been overprinted: 2¢ on \$1 Definitive, 20¢ on \$1 Definitive, 35¢ on \$1 UPU, 5¢ on 50¢ UPU and 10¢ on 60¢ UWI. The release date will be announced in a future Trade Circular, although it is understood that the overprints have already been released."

More 1962 Bermuda Varieties

by Jack Arnell

In the December 1971 Journal, I reported the four constant varieties, which were then known, that occurred on specific stamps of the Bermuda historic buildings issue. These were the broken frame on the 2d/2¢ denominations, the retouch on the 8d, the missing turret and top of the belfry on the 1/-/12¢ and the broken "P" on the 5/- and its repair on the 60-cent overprint.

At the time, I had a number of used 2d stamps, which had a smaller break in exactly the same position in the frame as that reported. I assumed that this was a second constant variety, but did not have an opportunity to confirm it until recently. On checking full sheets of both plates, I found that the fifth stamp of the first row (No. 5) of Plate 1A has this smaller break in the frame immediately above the palm frond on the left-hand side of the design. As would be expected, this also occurs on the 2-cent overprint.

A few months ago, James Tymerson, one of our members living in Bermuda, called my attention to a black dot occurring inside the loop of the "9" in the "1960" at the top of the 1/3/15¢ denominations on the fourth stamp of the eleventh row (No. 54) of Plate 1B, i.e. the upper left-hand stamp of the plate block. Jim has extra copies if members are interested in obtaining one.

Although it has already been recorded in at least one specialized catalog, for completeness I include the yellow dot found just to the right of the upper tip of the "1" in the value on the fourth stamp of the ninth row (No. 44) of Plate 1A of the 1d/1¢ denominations.

New Amsterdam Postmarks

by M. R. Rego

New Amsterdam, the capital of Berbice, the most easterly county of Guyana, is on the right bank of the Berbice River, near its mouth. Its post office is the second largest in the country and controls all mails to the county of Berbice.

The first two datestamps shown will be familiar to British Guiana collectors, as they have been in use for two decades and are still in use, notwithstanding independence.



No. 1



No. 2

No. 1. Single ring - 26mm. First appeared in 1949 and is thought to have been in continual use since then, at least until 21 SEP 73, which is the latest date I have.

No. 2. Double ring - 27/16½mm. First issued in 1955 and used until 1959. It was reintroduced at some later date, as it is known to be in use in 1968.

When first in use, these two types often had the time above the date, but this was discontinued and replaced with a star in No. 2 to be consistent with the later datestamps.



No. 3



No. 4



No. 5

No. 3. Double ring - $26\frac{1}{2}$ /16mm. This new datestamp with GUYANA at the bottom has been found on adhesives from 2 OCT 71 until the present time.

No. 4. Double ring - $26\frac{1}{2}$ /16mm. NEW AMSTERDAM at the top, GUYANA at the bottom and arcs at the sides. My earliest example is dated 20 OCT 73.

No. 5. Double ring - $26\frac{1}{2}$ /16mm. A third new datestamp with GUYANA at the bottom and with the same type of two-line date and a star above. The only two copies I have are dated 27 NOV 73 and 7 DEC 73. This appears to be rather scarce.



No. 6



No. 7

No. 6. Double ring - $26\frac{1}{2}$ /16mm. TELEGRAPHS, N. A. has been found on loose adhesives dating from 10 FEB 67. This datestamp often appears with the year missing or the date incomplete. It has been seen with and without a star.

No. 7. Double ring - $26\frac{1}{2}$ /16mm. This NA VENDOR III is the only such datestamp I have. It seems likely that NA VENDOR I and NA VENDOR II also exist, and possibly higher numbers as well.



No. 8



No. 9



No. 10



No. 11

No. 8. Single ring - 30mm. This is the same as the earlier datestamp used before independence, i. e. with BRITISH GUIANA at the bottom. It is interesting to note that this was soon changed to GUYANA (my earliest is 30 AUG 66), while other datestamps continued to have BRITISH GUIANA at the bottom after this time.

No. 9. Single ring - 30mm. A new datestamp with a one-line date. It is distinctive in that the letter T in AMSTERDAM is above the other letters. My earliest copy is dated 6 JUL 68.

No. 10. Single ring - 30mm. Very similar to No. 9, but nearly always used with a two-line date. It has no defects in the lettering. The earliest known copy is 22 SEP 69.

No. 11. Single ring - 29½mm. This is the old BRITISH GUIANA Registered datestamp with the same spacing in the lettering, but with BG replaced by GY. Like No. 8, this was an early conversion, as my earliest recorded date on cover is 29 DEC 66.

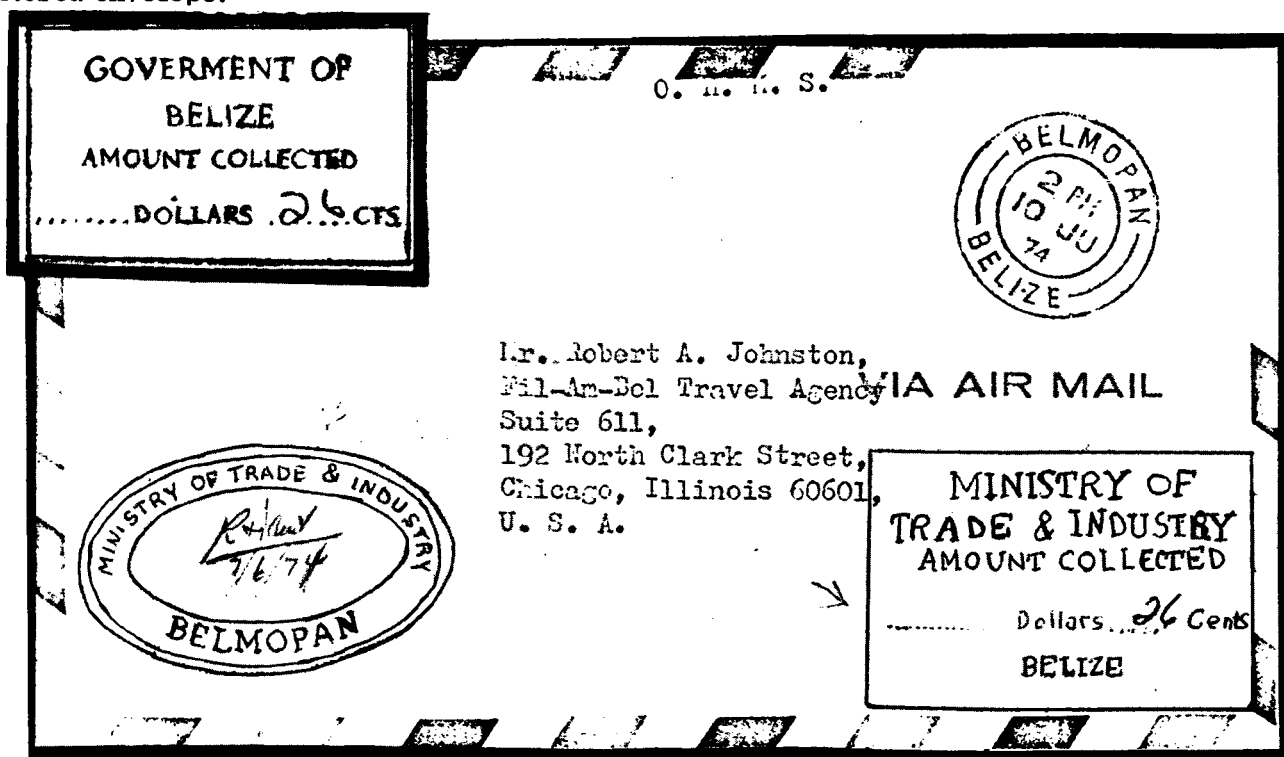
Most of the above have not been recorded before, although Nos. 1, 2, 8 and 11 appear to be the old BRITISH GUIANA datestamps, with the name changed in the last two. All, except No. 2, appear to be in current use.

I would appreciate further information from any of the members which would assist in establishing when these datestamps were first issued, together with the descriptions of any other new ones as yet unreported.

New Postal Markings From Belize

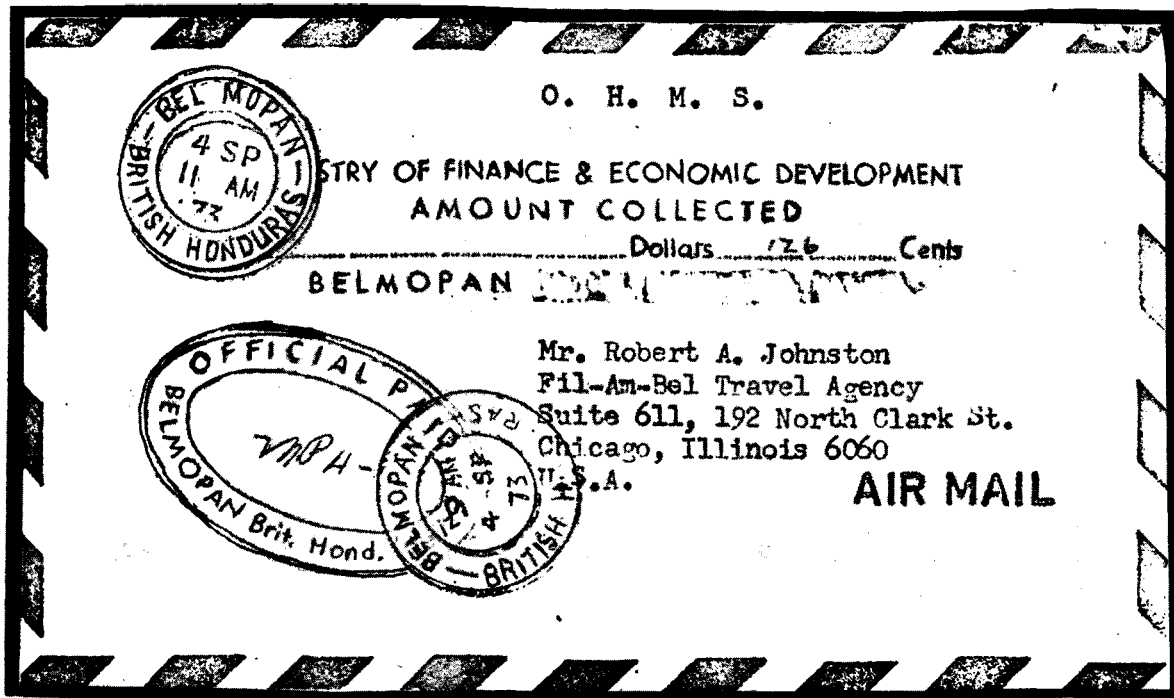
by Tom Giraldi

During the past year, several interesting covers from British Honduras and/or Belize, for they span the change in name, have come into my possession. Two of them have markings which are common to many of the islands, viz. MISSENT TO BELIZE (straight lined 37x5mm) and the BELMOPAN, BELIZE C.A. rectangular registration box on a British Honduras registered envelope.



The others are unusual in that they show the method used by the Belize Post Office to collect postage on official mail from departments of government. Each of the three covers shows

that 26 cents postage was collected from different agencies - the Government of Belize, Ministry of Trade & Industry and Ministry of Finance & Economic Development. The first marking is in blue ink, while the others are in a purple ink, with the Post Office CDSs in black.



In addition, one cover bears an oval Ministry of Trade & Industry, Belmopan handstamp, while another has an oval OFFICIAL PAID with authorizing initials in the center. From these markings, it would appear that the accounting of the postage due is done within each department, rather than by the Post Office.

Notice also the variation in the spelling format of Belmopan in the post office circular date-stamps - as one word in the 9 AM 4 SP 73 strike, and as two words in the 11 AM 4 SP 73 CDS on the Ministry of Finance cover.

BCPSG AWARDS FOR 1974

by Paul Larsen

Awards have been committed for the following shows.

SAPHIL 1974 - South African National, 7-12 October 1974 (arranged by member Howard Godwin). (Silver)

SESCAL 1974 - Los Angeles, California, 25-27 October 1974. (Bronze)

MEMPHEX 1974 - Memphis, Tennessee, 25-27 October 1974. (Bronze)

Several others are in various stages of consideration by show organizers, including the Bermuda Stamp Club. There are likely to be about four more regulars, plus BECKPEX 1975 next year. This year, five shows, including ORAPEX 1974 in Ottawa, offered awards, but subsequently returned them because there were no qualifying entries. I preach tough judging and no give-aways, and apparently the judges are cooperating!

Medals and certificates are to be offered at all the above shows. Usually there is one medal, the class being determined by the size of the exhibit and judging arrangements, etc., plus one to three certificates.

EXHIBITIONS & AWARDS

HOUPEX '75

At the BCPSG meeting at Miami in April 1974, Gale Raymond was asked to arrange for Group participation at the Houston Philatelic Society show in May 1975. Since then, Gale has received a formal invitation for the BCPSG to participate and exhibit at HOUPEX '75. This will be a very large regional show, being one of the largest in the southern U.S.A. There has been talk for years about having a Group meeting at Houston, as there are many members in the general area. Now at last it is arranged and, hopefully, many of you will join in to make it a success. Gale has been asked for the number of frames which will be required for the BCPSG exhibits, so anyone who is thinking of participating should let Gale know in the near future.

PETERBOROUGH, ENGLAND

Al Branston judged the Caribbean exhibits at the East Midlands Federation's Convention on 5 October 1974 on behalf of the BCPSG. A pewter medal was awarded to Mrs. Stella M. Pearse of Market Downham, Norfolk for her excellent entry of the Postal History of Antigua. Mr. E. J. Beesly of Kings Lynn was given a BCPSG Certificate of Merit. Al reports that it was a good show with keen competition.

BCPSG MEMBER WINS TWO

Dick Perreault of Bermuda, one of our new members, took his collection of early Bermuda outside the Island for the first time this summer and entered it at BALPEX, which was held in Baltimore on 31 August-2 September. He won a Gold. Flushed with this success, he went on to SEPAD in Philadelphia three weeks later and came away with the Grand Award, APS Medal for the best entry by an APS member, SPA Medal for the best exhibit showing original research, and an invitation to compete in the 1975 Champion of Champions Show. Dick now has his eye on APPHILA 75 in Paris next June. His one regret is that he has not had an opportunity to win a BCPSG Medal.

SIR HENRY TUCKER'S 'BERMUDA'

The world-famous collection of Bermuda belonging to Sir Henry Tucker, the former Government Leader of Bermuda, was on display at the Romano House Gallery on the Strand, London during the month of August 1974. This included the rare PAID stamps of Hamilton, Ireland Island and St. George's and the early SHIP LETTER markings, along with many of the scarce early adhesives.

MORE ON BVI 25¢ I.C.Y. FLAW ----

In answer to Bob Roswell's question concerning the flaw "V" for "Y" in "Year" on the British Virgin Island's 25¢ International Cooperation Year stamp (April 1974 Journal), Roy Botwright writes that it is indeed constant and was discovered soon after the stamps were issued in October 1965.

Roy reports that the flaw not only appears on the BVI stamp, but also on that of a number of other BWI countries. The "Stanley Gibbon's Elizabethan Catalogue" and the "Commonwealth Catalogue" list this particular flaw on Stamp 1 Row 7 on Antigua 4¢ and 15¢, British Guiana 5¢, British Virgin Island 25¢ (not listed in the 1972 "Commonwealth"), St. Kitts Nevis 25¢, and St. Lucia 25¢.

'LADY BOATS' PLY CARIBBEAN ROUTES

by Stan Durnin

Any collector or student of the stamps or postal history of the West Indies or Canada has seen, or has been exposed to, the romantic "Posted on the High Seas" markings emanating from the so-called "Lady Boats" of the Canadian National Steamships, Limited.

All ships are referred to in the feminine gender, but the five ships of this article are truly 'ladies' for they were named for the ladies of as many famous British Royal Navy admirals connected with naval exploits in the Caribbean Sea.

In this article, we will escort these regal "Lady Boats" across the waters of the Caribbean and the pages of time - the Royal Mail Steamships "Lady Nelson", "Lady Hawkins", "Lady Drake", "Lady Somers", and "Lady Rodney".



The "Lady Nelson" was named after Frances Nisbet of the Caribbean island of Nevis, who, on March 11, 1787 became the wife of Viscount Horatio Nelson (1758-1805), hero of the Nile against Napoleon and the victory of Trafalgar; Britain's most famous seaman.

The "Lady Hawkins" got her name from Katherine Gonson of England, who in about 1559 married Sir John Hawkins (1532-1595), first English slave trader and leading naval administrator of his time.

The "Lady Drake" was named in memory of the wife of Sir Francis Drake, first Englishman to circumnavigate the world and fierce fighter against Spain in the West Indies.

The fourth lady boat, the "Lady Somers", was named after the wife of Sir George Somers (1554-1610), whose flagship, the "Sea Venture", was wrecked on the island of Bermuda during a hurricane in 1609, while he was escorting a supply convoy to the fledgling colony at Jamestown, Virginia.

The "Lady Rodney" derived her name from the wife of Baron George Brydges Rodney (1718-1797), English admiral who won the April 9, 1782 battle against the French off the island of Dominica in the Lesser Antilles, and who served as commander-in-chief of the Leeward Islands station.

On June 18, 1920 Canada entered into a trade agreement with the governments of the Bahamas, Jamaica and British Honduras by which Canada initiated a fortnightly (every two weeks) freight, mail and passenger service to the British colonies named.

The service was inaugurated with the sailing of the "S.S. Canadian Fisher" from Halifax, Nova Scotia on Jan. 25, 1921, and was operated by the Canadian Government Merchant Mar-

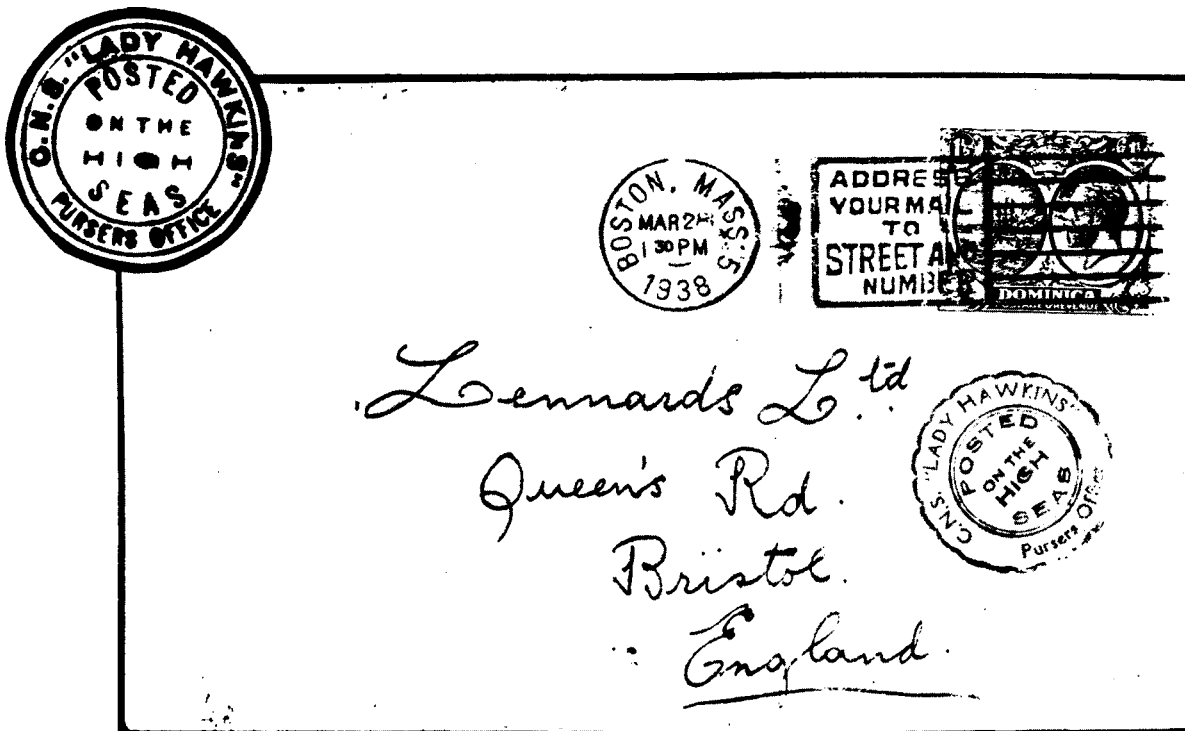
ine, Ltd. until April 1929 when it was taken over by the Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships, Limited.

On 6 July 1925, the Canadian trade agreement was extended to include the governments of the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Guiana, British Honduras, Jamaica, the Leeward Islands (Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Nevis), Trinidad and Tobago and the Windward Islands (St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada).

This agreement was approved by Act 16-17 George V., Chapter 16, of the Dominion of Canada, assented to on June 15, 1926, and provided for a year-round fortnightly freight, passenger and mail service from Canadian ocean ports, calling in each direction at Bermuda, St. Kitts (St. Christopher), Nevis, Antigua, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, Tobago, Trinidad, and Demerara, British Guiana. This schedule was known as the Eastern Group Route.

The agreement outlined that the vessels employed were to be of 5,000-6,000 gross tons, capable of maintaining an ocean speed of not less than 12 knots, and provide accommodations for 100 first-class, 30 second-class and 100 steerage or deck passengers, plus storage accommodations of at least 10,000 cubic feet.

Additionally, the agreement called for Canada to provide a fortnightly freight service from Canadian river ports in summer and ocean ports in winter to St. Kitts, Antigua, Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara. The vessels to be employed on this route were to be of approximately 4,300 gross tons with a speed of about 10 knots.



For the Western Group, the agreement called for a fortnightly freight, passenger and mail service between St. Lawrence River ports in summer and Canadian ocean ports in winter stopping both ways at Bermuda, the Bahamas and Kingston, Jamaica, alternating with a fortnightly service between the stipulated Canadian ports and Kingston direct.

The passenger steamers for the Western Route were to meet the same specifications as outlined for the Eastern Route, including refrigeration for approximately 70,000 stems of bananas and cold storage for Canadian meats, fish, butter, cheese and other dairy products destined for the Caribbean colonies and for fruit, vegetables, etc. from the Caribbean to Canada.

The freight vessels were to meet the specifications as outlined for the Eastern Route and contain refrigeration for about 50,000 stems of bananas.

Additionally, Canada would supply and operate a fortnightly steamer between Kingston, Jamaica and British Honduras connecting with Western Route steamers. This vessel was to be about 1,000 gross tons with a speed of 10 knots and accommodations for at least 20 first-class passengers plus cold storage facilities.

Prior to the operation of Canadian National Steamships, a fortnightly freight, mail and passenger service was operated by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company between Canada's Atlantic ports and the Eastern Group of islands.

The Canadian National Steamships Act 1927 was passed on March 31, 1927 and authorized the formation of the Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships, Limited which, in turn, was incorporated under Dominion Letters Patent issued on April 16, 1927.

Five new freight and passenger vessels were constructed - three for the Eastern Group Route and two for the Western Group Route. The freight vessels consisted of two reconditioned Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Ltd. units for the Western Group and one conditioned for the Jamaica-British Honduras service, plus four CGMM vessels transferred to the Eastern freight service.

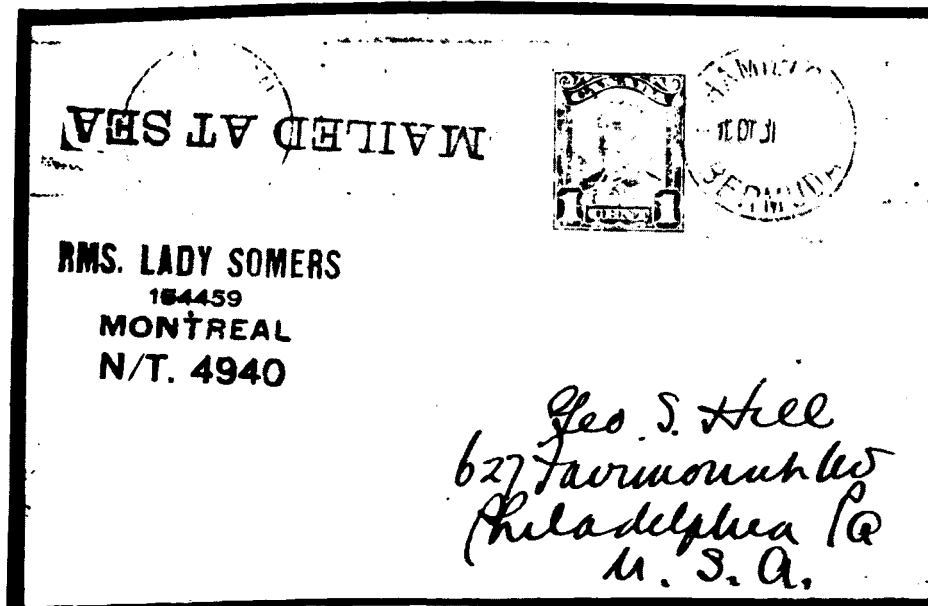


Since we are concerned primarily with the five "lady boats" and their postal connection, we will merely mention the names of the freight vessels involved on the CNSL routes. The vessels are the "SS Chomedy", "SS Colborne", and "SS Cornwallis" on the Eastern Group Route; the "SS Cathcart", and "SS Cavalier" for the Western Group Route; and the "SS Connector" for the Jamaica-British Honduras run.

The new passenger and freight vessels inaugurated operation to the Eastern Group on Dec. 12, 1928 with the sailing of the "RMS Lady Nelson" (6,710 tons deadweight) from Halifax, N. S., followed by the "RMS Lady Hawkins" (6,670 tons) on Dec. 28, 1928 and the "RMS Lady Drake" (6,670 tons) on Jan. 11, 1929 with a regular fortnightly schedule thereafter.

The Western Group operation commenced on April 12, 1929 with the sailing of the "RMS Lady Somers" (4,665 tons) followed by the "RMS Lady Rodney" (4,665 tons) on April 29, 1929, also from Halifax.

In the March 10, 1949 report of CNSL president, R. C. Vaughan, to the Canadian Minister of Transport, he states "...In the first five years of operation, while the trade was being built up, operating deficits were incurred, but since 1934 the Company has consistently shown operating profits, and a surplus after paying fixed charges since 1940."



Mail deposited into the mail facilities on the "lady boats" are distinguishable by the application of the pursers' individual hand stamps denoting this fact. These markings were not intended to cancel franking, but merely to serve as an indication of the place of original deposit.

According to international law, covers posted in the ships' mail depositories while the vessels were actually on the high seas were to be franked with the postage stamps of Canada - country of registry of the ship(s).

Mail deposited on board the ships while at anchor in a harbor must bear stamps of the port's country. Stamps on such covers are then postmarked, usually with a paquebot marking, at the port of disembarkation.

During the first 20 years of operation, 1929-1948, export cargoes from Canada to the Indies totalled 2,960,834 tons with a trade value in excess of \$250 million. Import tonnage from the Indies to Canada was 4,053,852 with an estimated trade value of over \$152 million.

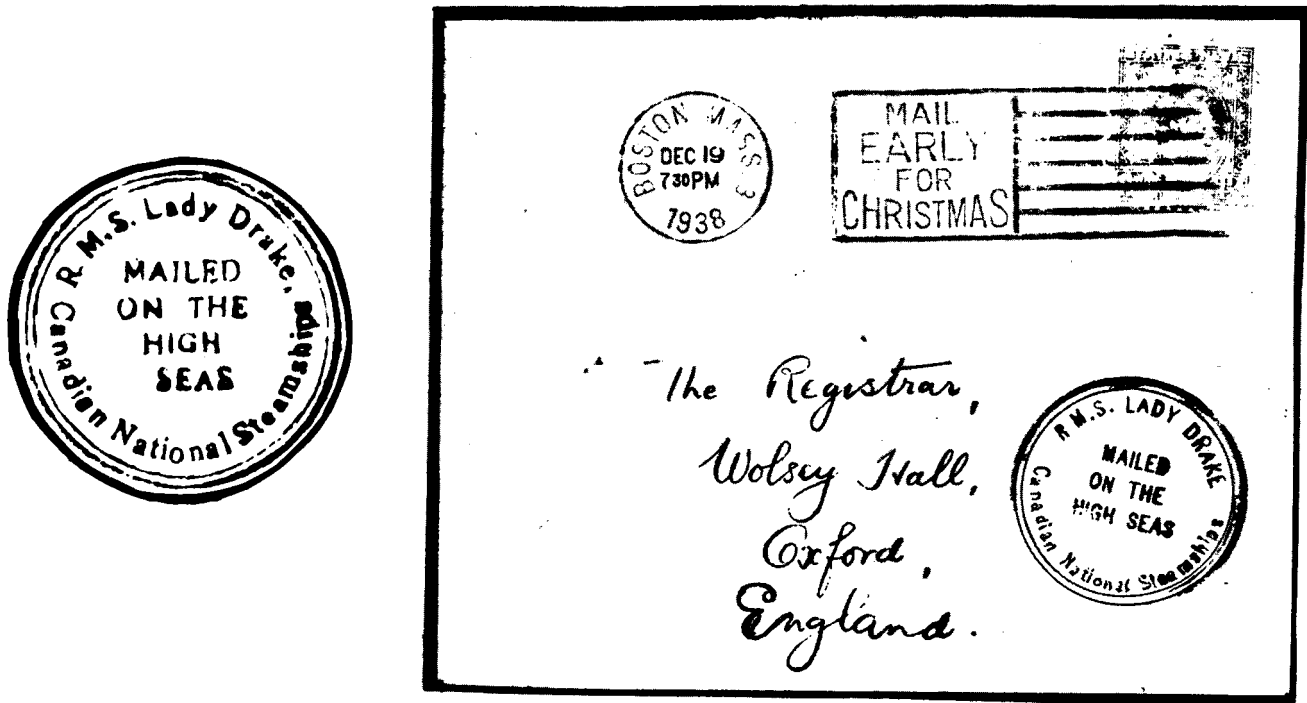
Records of the CNSL losses suffered during World War II years are not available; however, the annual report of President Vaughan dated March 15, 1946 reveals the following statistics:

"On Oct. 3, 1940 the 'Lady Somers' was requisitioned by the United Kingdom naval authorities and was lost through enemy action on July 15, 1941.

"The 'Lady Hawkins' was lost through enemy action on Jan. 19, 1942.

"The 'Lady Nelson' was torpedoed while lying in the Port of Casbreos, St. Lucia, B.W.I. on March 9, 1942, but the ship was salvaged, repaired and fitted out as a hospital ship sailing from Halifax, May 1, 1943.

"The 'Lady Drake' was torpedoed on May 4, 1942 after sailing from Bermuda the previous day.



"In June 1942 'Lady Rodney' was chartered by the (Canadian) Department of National Defence and in October 1945 was transferred to the repatriation service."

We therefore see that three of the five "lady boats" fell victim to the war - the "Lady Somers" after a total service of 12 plus years and the "Lady Drake" and "Lady Hawkins" after 13 years of service.

The "Lady Nelson" and the "Lady Rodney" resumed their regular sailing schedules with the CNSL in July and August of 1947. They were withdrawn from the fleet at the end of the 1952 season and sold to new owners in February 1953.

Thus the first and last 'lady boat' to be launched survived the war ravages and lived out their Canada - West Indies lives.

Grateful acknowledgement is extended to the Canadian National Railways, Atlantic Region and specifically the office of G. Daniel McSweeney for the historical data presented in this coverage of the CNSL "lady boats". Also to John M. Willem of the BCPSG for illustrative material.

WORLD'S RAREST ----

The world's most valuable stamp, the curious-looking British Guiana One Cent Black on Magenta of 1856, has risen by £10,000 in the last 12 months to £130,000, according to Stanley Gibbons International Ltd.

Candidates For Trustee

In keeping with the BCPSG Constitution and Bylaws, the members of the BCPSG must elect three members in good standing to serve as Trustees for the period of 1975-77, inclusive. The following members have agreed to serve as nominees for said positions.

ROY J. BOTWRIGHT, of Hemel Hempstead, England. Has collected British Commonwealth since a boy, and presently has a 20-volume collection, mainly used 1937-68. Collects postmarks and plate flaws of many smaller countries and islands, especially postmarks of Bahamas and British Honduras and plate flaws of the Leeward Islands. Has had many articles published in the philatelic press, and often gives displays to philatelic societies in London and home counties. Roy is a charter member of the BCPSG. He works as a medical laboratory technician in the Dept. of Biochemistry at his local hospital. Married, his wife Doreen is an art teacher and son Mark is a student.

PAUL A. LARSEN lives in Park Forest, Ill. where he is employed as a process design engineer for a major oil company. Paul has collected the Caribbean area for over 30 years, plus several German colonies. A charter member of the BCPSG, he has served as Trustee, 1972-74, and is currently serving as BCPSG Awards Chairman. Holding membership in the APS, BWISC, CCNY, RPSL and GPS, Paul is also active in the Park Forest stamp club and the Chicago chapter #5 of the GPS. Paul is married and has two college-age children.

CHARLES G. RICKSECKER now lives on St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands where he is a teacher. A graduate of the University of Dayton, of Arizona State University and the University of the West Indies in Trinidad, Charles' philatelic interests range the British Caribbean with specialization in the Leeward Islands. His location affords him the opportunity to research all of the British Caribbean islands, meet the majority of the postmasters of the islands and report his findings in the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal. (Editor's Note: we're sure that the entire BCPSG membership envies Charles' ability to roam the islands, practically at will!).

FRED F. SEIFERT hails from Albuquerque, N. Mexico and has served BCPSG since its inception as past president and immediate past editor of this journal for 6½ years. Retired from the U.S. military, Colonel Fred's philatelic interests lie in the postal history and postmarks of all British America, plus selected areas of the U. S. Fred was recognized with Honorary Life Membership in the BCPSG for his numerous outstanding contributions to the BCPSG. Being an APS accredited judge, Fred can be seen around the country at many major stamp shows in the U.S. each year. Gladys, his wife, although not a collector, has devoted countless hours to the benefit of the BCPSG through working on the journal editions.

MRS. DOROTHY M. STAPP resides with her family in Basking Ridge, N.J. She has collected since 1960 upon inheriting her great grandmother's collection. Her main forte is collecting the postal markings of the Leeward Islands. Holding membership in the BCPSG for several years, Dotty served as spark plug and on-scene commander for the BCPSG's 10th anniversary celebration in conjunction with the national exhibition, NOJEX, in New Jersey in 1971. Active in her local Westfield Stamp Club, she has served it as publicity chairman, treasurer, and presently as a trustee. When not working with her stamps, Dotty enjoys gardening in her greenhouse, doing dog obedience work or playing golf. (She didn't reveal her handicap!).

DR. DANIEL C. WARREN is presently a Lieut. Col. on U. S. military active duty with the staff of the Surgeon, Eighth U. S. Army in Seoul, Korea. Dan's major BWI interests are Trinidad and Tobago pre-adhesive postal history, Tobago in general, and Trinidad postal markings. He is a charter BCPSG member and has served the group as Nominating Committee Chairman on several occasions, and is presently serving as BCPSG Advertising Manager. Other philatelic pursuits include the Confederate States of America and philatelic literature. An active APS-accredited judge, Dan has held a number of other philatelic offices in specialist and national societies, and is currently secretary of the Confederate Stamp Alliance. He edited the Virginia Postal History Society journal until going overseas. Married, his wife, son and two cats share his hobby and career as a U. S. Army physician.

JOHN M. WILLEM lives in Manhasset, N. Y. Schooled in journalism and working in the advertising agency business until his first retirement in 1960, John subsequently studied applied Eastern Caribbean science with the Bureau of Foreign Commerce and commenced a second career. Since then he has held presidencies, managing directorships and directorships in British, Canadian and U. S. companies operating in Belize, Jamaica and all of the Eastern Caribbean British Commonwealth islands. John's collecting interests span the British Caribbean with heavy emphasis on Montserrat postal history. He's presently writing a book on the "Lady Boats" of the Canadian National Steamships (West Indies) Ltd.

Every BCPSG member in good standing is entitled to vote, and ballots are included with this journal. Voting responses over the past couple of years has not been as heavy as would be expected. The life of your BCPSG depends on your elected representatives, so voice your desires by casting your vote for trustees. Mark and return your ballot to our secretary, Stan Durnin, NOW. Be a participating BCPSG member; not just a name on its roster.

OUR SECRETARY REPORTS:

NEW MEMBERS:

All applicants listed in the August 1974 Journal have been admitted into membership.

NEW APPLICANTS:

BROOKES, Brian A., 129 Bromsgrove Rd., Hunnington, Halesowen, Worcs., England. Company Director. BWI, mainly St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla; Channel Islands, Isle of Wight.

By Al Branston

CONFORD, David, 70 Roy Ave., Massapequa, NY 11758. University Professor. BWI through KGVI.

By A.N. Johnson

PEARSE, Stella M. (Mrs.), 24 Denver Hill, Downham Market, Norfolk PE38 9BE, England. Housewife. Antigua.

By Al Branston

TYGETT, Joseph N., Dr., 2112 Woodhaven, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Physician. British Caribbean, U.S., Canada.

By A.N. Johnson

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

LOCKIE, Dr. J.M., General Delivery, Kelowna, B.C. Canada

WARREN, Ltc. Daniel C., HQ. MEDDAC-K, APO San Francisco, CA 96301

WRAGG, Norton, 31 Stafford Ave., Clayton, Newcastle-under-Lyne, Staffs. ST5 3BN, Eng.

RESIGNATIONS:

SCHAFFNER, Bertram, KENDALL, Arthur (as of Dec. 31, 1974), RISDON, Stetson (as of 31 Dec. 1974).

Grenada and St. Vincent Forgeries

by Al Branston

For some time, I have derived much pleasure from producing a dossier on the forgeries perpetrated by Jefferies, of The London Gang fame. With lots of help from many Group members, especially Dan Walker, this work is making good progress. There is an urgent need to have more information about the forgeries of Grenada and St. Vincent stamps and cancels.

In my search for this information, I am prompted to take a rather different line than usual. As a philatelic philanthropist, I am offering a refund, with a bonus for information sent to me, in any currency except Chinese, Russian and Iron Curtain, regarding the following items:

Offer No. 1 - St. Vincent At the trial of Jefferies, a witness testified that he (Jefferies) was worried about his St. Vincent productions! He forged both basic stamps and cancellations. Exactly what did Jefferies do in St. Vincent? For good material, I am offering up to ten times your costs!

Offer No. 2 - Grenada S. G. Balley wrote in the Strand Stamp Journal, November 1954, page 37, that forgeries of the £2, £5, £10, £20 and £50 existed. Jefferies did the £2 and £5 in this group. You could ask me for a lot of money if you sent me his forgeries of the £10 and £50...if he did them, of course. For good information that he was concerned with these values, my offer is a bonus of ten times your postage. For reliable material on them by any forger, I would not be too upset at five times your costs!

Offer No. 3 - Grenada Jefferies forged a circular cancellation with a large letter A in the center, GRENADA around the top, 1888 across the center on each side of the large A, and JU 27 at the bottom. The lower part of the third and fourth figures in the year are often found broken. Do you have this? Well, broken or unbroken, it is worth a bonus of twice your postage to me to know about it!

Offer No. 4 - Grenada The aforesaid Jefferies forged a 20.5 mm circular cancellation with a large letter B in the center and dated 27 NOV 1888, with the 8's also broken. I have only one copy and am open to enticement for another...or you may have a bonus of three times your cost for a good picture of it!

Send any information to me at the address on the inside of the cover of the Journal by Air-mail.

(Editor's Note - When I first read Al's offers, I was inclined to treat this item as an advertisement and pass it along to Dan Warren. On reflection, I decided that Al's prime concern is philatelic research and he is trying a different approach to getting help from the membership. Forgeries can form an interesting component of an island collection, as I have found to my own satisfaction with Bermuda. Perhaps the existence of the Jefferies' forgeries will be new information to many of you.)

JAMAICA SLOGAN ----

Ben Ramkissoon reports a slogan cancellation at Kingston, Jamaica on 3 April 1974 reading: XXV ANNIVERSARY/O.A.S. 1948-73. Seemingly a year late!

BVI BANTERINGS

by Charles Ricksecker

On Wednesday, 6 March 1974, I spent the entire morning "in residence" at the G.P.O. in Roadtown, familiarizing myself with the many details of their postal procedures and meeting with Postmaster Fahie and his staff. The following points are some of the highlights gleaned from that visit.

All five of the new street-side mail drops have been installed. They are located at SEA COW'S BAY, MC NAMARA, FLEMING STREET, LOWER ESTATE and PURCELL. Sea Cow's Bay is a small village a few miles west of Roadtown, while the four other locations are all in the general vicinity of Roadtown itself. The Mc Namara box is located between the Fort Burt Hotel and the Governor's Residence. The Fleming Street box is in mid-Roadtown, while that at Lower Estate is a few blocks north at the BVI High School. The Purcell box is a little east of Roadtown, just before the Deep Water Dock. Letters deposited in any of these five boxes, which are of the circular, red British type, receive Roadtown postmarks.

The sub-post office at CARROT BAY, on the western shore of Tortola, is still only a mail distribution office. It does not have its own c.d.s. for canceling mail. Mail from Sea Cow's Bay is still collected by the postal van while en route to West End to pick up the mail coming on the "Bomba Charger" from St. Thomas. Plans are still in the making to open a sub-post office at Sea Cow's Bay. It should be noted that the "Bomba Charger" holds the mail contract between Tortola and St. Thomas and that there is no air mail service between the two islands.

LIAT holds the mail contract for the movement of all mail through Beef Island Airport, both to Puerto Rico and to St. Maarten and the British Islands. AIR BVI and PRIN-AIR do not carry mail, thus explaining why there were no First Flight covers for either airline's inaugural service to Beef Island Airport.

In spite of the changes brought about by the postal rate increases, there will be no additional denominations to the current definitive issue. The problem of the 18-cent air mail letter rate to the U.S.A. and Canada will be partly solved by incorporating 18-cent denominations into the next several commemorative issues. A new definitive issue is planned for 1975.

A BVI Philatelic Bureau has recently been established as a subdivision within the G.P.O. Since January 1974, they have been prepared to handle Standing Order Accounts from collectors on a world-wide basis. Although the sale of commemorative issues through the G.P.O. to the general public for postal purposes will still be limited to the traditional three-month time period, the Philatelic Bureau will sell them to collectors for a period of one year from the release date.

There will be three commemorative issues for 1974, all with souvenir sheets having the same face value as the issue itself. The first is for INTERPEX in denominations of 5, 18, 25 and 50 cents with a release date of 22 March 1974. The next depicts Historical Figures and will have denominations of 5, 10, 25 and 40 cents with a release date of 24 June 1974. The third will depict Sea Shells and be in denominations of 5, 18, 25 and 75 cents. Two of the original designs in the latter issue contained errors in the Latin spellings of the shells' biological names. These errors will have been corrected in the designs before printing. A special commemorative cancellation was used in conjunction with the release of the INTERPEX issue. This pictorial cancellation incorporated the silhouette of a ship. (Editor's Note - It was in-

tended to publish this article in an earlier issue when it would have been more timely. However even at this late date, it seemed desirable to keep it intact, rather than remove the above information on the grounds that it will have appeared elsewhere.)

The first three licenses for the use of postage meters on mail emanating from the BVI have been authorized. These meters will be put into use by the licensees as soon as the machines arrive in the island.

No postal stationery is in current use, nor is any anticipated within the foreseeable future. Lack of secure space has been given as the reason for this situation. With respect to the definitive issue, there have been three distinct reprintings, the third of which is only beginning to be sold at the G.P.O. The first reprinting was of the 5-cent and 50-cent denominations, while the second consisted of the 2, 4, 10, 15 and 25 cent denominations. Whereas the original printing was done in sheets of 50, divided into two panes of 25, these two reprintings were on "half-sheets" of a single pane of 25. The watermark remained sideways, but because of the thicker paper involved, it appears less distinct. There are minor color variations in all denominations, with the inking in all the newer printings appearing to be more intense than in the original. The second reprinting in particular is on a whiter stock of paper. The original was on a distinctly yellowed paper.

The third reprinting, consisting of the $\frac{1}{2}$, 3, 4, 5, 10, 12 and 50 cent denominations should merit major catalogue status. All were printed on ultra-white glazed paper with the watermark upright. This newest printing also reverts back to having 50 stamps to a sheet, divided into two panes of 25. The paper is quite thick and the watermark is difficult to read. Only the 10-cent and 12-cent denominations of this printing have been on sale at the G.P.O., even so, the 10-cent denomination is already known with an inverted watermark. The postal clerks have noticed this reprinting because the glassine interleaving between the sheets is missing. Since there are 830 sheets of the $\frac{1}{2}$ -cent denomination from the original printing still remaining unsold in the vaults of the G.P.O. at Roadtown, it will be difficult to predict whether the corresponding stamps from this new printing with an upright watermark will ever see over-the-counter sale at the G.P.O. before the new definitive is released in 1975. The other denominations should appear in due course. Since there are less than 100 sheets of the 15-cent denomination remaining at the G.P.O. and as this denomination was not reprinted with an upright watermark, there is a distinct possibility that the supply will be exhausted.

NOTE ON THE ANTIGUA U.W.I. ISSUE ----

The "Antigua Times" of 27 April 1974 had this unusual philatelic news item:

"University Centre Benefits from Sale of Stamps. The Antigua Government has donated to the University of the West Indies the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) from the sale of the U.W.I. 25th Anniversary Stamp Issue, for use in the development of the University Centre, Antigua, in the 25th Anniversary year.

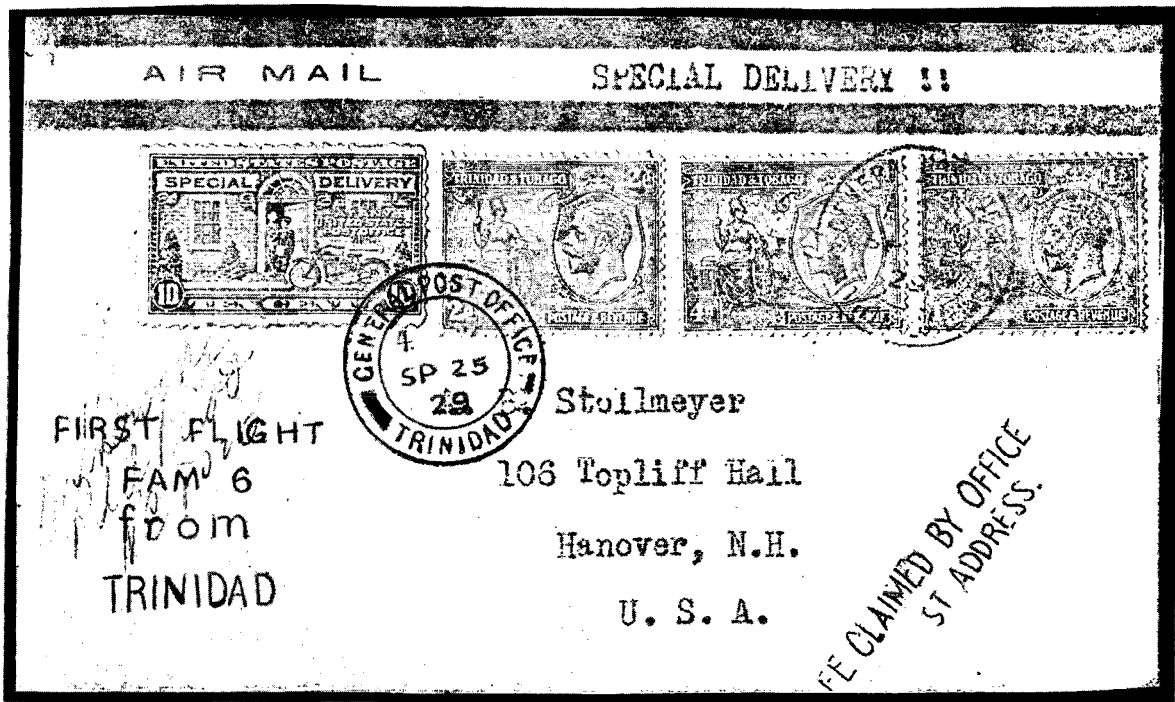
In recording appreciation for the gift on behalf of the University of the West Indies, the Resident Tutor, Mrs. Edris Bird, expressed the hope that this gesture on the part of the Government might serve as an encouragement to graduates of the University of the West Indies and the many persons who have benefited from the U.W.I. to show their support for this Caribbean institution in a tangible way. "

A First Flight Cover from Trinidad

by Fritz Roett

Pan American Airways was formed in 1928 and soon began operations in the West Indies, inaugurating a service designated FAM-6 from Miami to Puerto Rico in January 1929. In September of the same year, this route was extended to Surinam, via British Guiana, Trinidad and a number of other West Indian islands.

This was evidently considered an important extension by Pan American, for the southward portion from Puerto Rico was flown by Col. Charles Lindbergh. His plane, a Sikorski-38, NC 142M, was accompanied by an escort plane, NC 8020, of the same type. The two planes arrived at Port-of-Spain on Sept. 22nd and departed for Surinam the next day. On the return journey, Lindbergh flew the mail only as far as Trinidad, and then returned to the U.S. via Venezuela, Central America, and Mexico. Mail from Port-of-Spain northwards was carried by the escort plane.



The cover illustrated was flown from Trinidad to Miami and has a number of points of interest. Firstly, there are the cachets: (1) "First Flight/FAM 6" and (2) "from/Trinidad", mentioned in an article by the late H. E. Box (Trinidad Philatelic Society Bulletin No. 29, Sept. 1964), but not listed in the standard reference on the subject (American Air Mail Catalogue, Vol. 3, Fourth Edition, 1970). These cachets are quite scarce, but the author has not yet been able to ascertain whether they were officially applied by the Post Office or whether they were applied privately. Comments from any reader regarding these cachets would be appreciated.

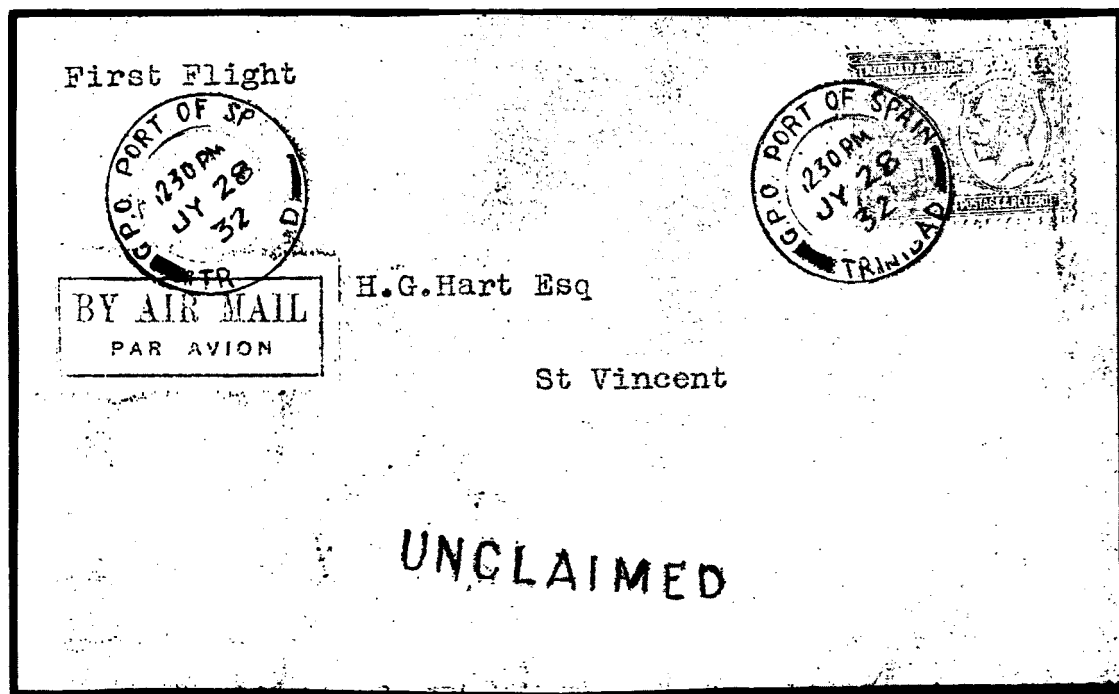
In his article, Box claimed that the escort plane was piloted by J. H. Tilton. However, some doubt must be cast on this assertion, for the cover above is signed "M. A. Brooke/PAA pilot/NC 8020".

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the cover is that it bears the U. S. Special Delivery stamp (Scott No. E12), clearly tied by the G. P. O. Port-of-Spain double ring date stamp of

Sept. 25, 1929. This stamp was probably intended to pre-pay the Miami-Hanover transit, and was cancelled in error at Trinidad. At bottom right is an unclear postal marking struck in red and which appears to read "FEE CLAIMED BY/OFFICE OF FIRST ADDRESS". This mark was perhaps applied on arrival at Miami. Can any Florida postal historians put the record straight? Further, can anyone report another cover similarly franked?

INFORMATION REQUESTED

The cover illustrated was flown from Trinidad to St. Vincent on the Cipriani flight of July, 1932, and was back-stamped on arrival: G.P.O./A/29 Jy/32/St. Vincent, B.W.I. The "UNCLAIMED" mark at the bottom poses a problem as there does not appear to be any prior reference to its existence.



If any reader can supply information on dates of usage, etc. a note for inclusion in a future journal would be appreciated.

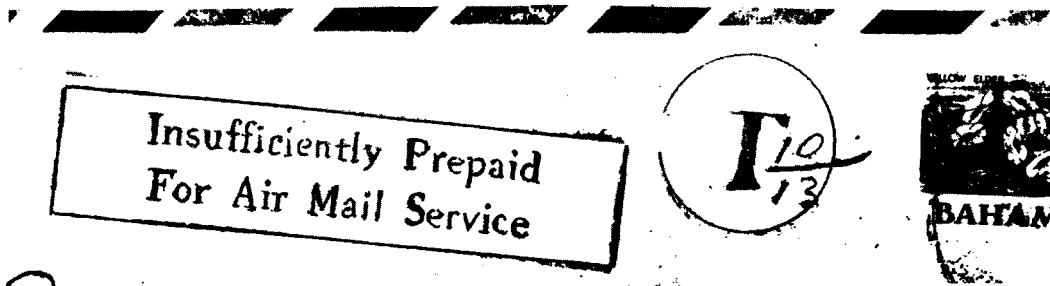
BITS & PIECES from HERE & THERE

ANGUILLA - Gale Raymond picked up the following information, during a telephone conversation with an islander visiting St. Thomas, about the handling of the mails during the twenty-five day civil servant strike in May and June 1974, which shut down all official postal facilities on the island.

Although mailbags continued to arrive from St. Thomas, U.S.V.I., they were locked up in the Anguilla post office without being opened. No official mails were sent out during the period when the post office was closed and no postage stamps were available. Any letters having the correct postage in U.S. stamps were accepted at the Valley Air Service counter at the airport for carriage to and mailing at St. Thomas. Letters for Anguilla could be addressed to a private P.O. Box at St. Thomas, from whence they were flown by Valley Air Services to

Anguilla and placed in a shoe box on their ticket counter at the airport for collection by the addressees. The resumption of official postal services occurred about 24 June 1974, on which date FDCs of the new Winston Churchill set, which had been delayed from 31 May, were cancelled.

BAHAMAS - Tom Giraldi has sent along the cover shown below in part with a postage due marking and "Insufficiently Prepaid for Air Mail Service".

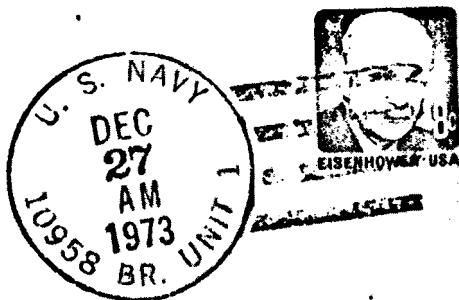


Joe Lleida reports new oval TRD's, as illustrated, for GREGORY TOWN and MARSH HARBOUR.



BARBADOS - Reynold Radford and George Clarke are working on an update of Barbados cancellations. They are using the Benwell & Britnor book as their starting point and have incorporated all the material published in our Journal and the BWISC Bulletin. The new material they "have recorded not previously published would more than fill two issues of the Journal." Before finalizing the text, Reynold is appealing to all members to send him any new postmark information, which has not been reported in the Journal. His address is 44 Green Lane, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 2DF, England.

BERMUDA - Kil Bump has sent along the illustrated cancellation from the U. S. Naval Air Station Annex in Somerset, which is now operated as a branch of the Naval Air Station at the airfield at the other end of Bermuda. The Annex used to be the U.S. Naval Operating Base, when the U.S. Air Force was based at Kindley Field. During the first six months of 1970, the U.S.A.F. withdrew from Bermuda and turned their facilities over to the U.S.N., who in turn closed down much of their Somerset operation.



The old N.O.B. post office was redesignated BR. UNIT 1 sometime in the spring of 1970 and assigned F.P.O. number 10958 of the New York City Post Office. This is the only such branch unit in Bermuda. It is small and has only the single hand canceller, with which about 1000 pieces of mail a day are processed. The Zip Code for all U.S. military installations in Bermuda is 09560 and this is usually found on letters addressed to them.

BERMUDA - At 4 p.m. on the afternoon of 2 October 1974, the new sub-post office on St. David's was officially opened by Hon. Lancelot Swan, the Minister of Youth and Sport, who represents the local constituency in the Bermuda legislature. It is forty years since the old sub-post office was closed down.

Although the G. P. O. had ordered two standard date stamps with vertical hand grips, such are in use throughout Bermuda, from England, ten self-linking, spring loaded handstamps made in France were sent out instead. These were stated to be much cheaper. They had ST. DAVID'S ISLANDS on the face in error and the final "S" was chiseled off two of them for use at the new sub-postoffice. It is believed that the G. P. O. is attempting to get the type of date-stamps originally ordered. The impression of the new postmark is shown below.



There were relatively few First Day Covers because of the time of the opening and the comparative inaccessibility of St. David's from the rest of Bermuda.

BERMUDA - Bruce Walker has sent in an addition to Lynn Wallace's list of Bermuda agencies using official mail. This is the Bermuda Defence Board, P. O. Box 792, Hamilton.

CAYMAN ISLANDS - Charles Ricksecker and Tom Giraldi are working with the postmaster at STAKE BAY, Cayman Brac on an article on the postal operation of Cayman Brac, with emphasis on the Registration procedures. Their target date is the end of the year.

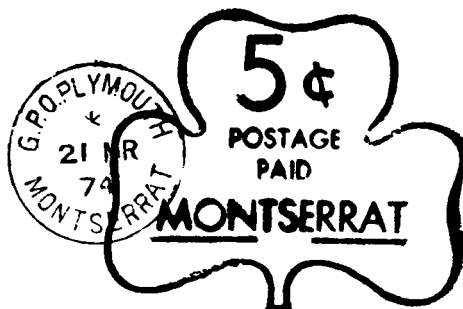
DOMINICA - Charles Ricksecker is trying to finalize an article on the registration markings of Dominica and does not have a Registered cover from DOS D'ANE. Finding that neither Fred Seifert nor Tom Giraldi has one, he speculates that the postmaster there does not know how to register a letter. If any member of the Group has such a cover, Charles would appreciate receiving a photostat of it for inclusion in the article. His address is Box 4833, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00801.

GRENADA - Dan Walker reports a MISSENT TO SAUTEURS handstamp. It is on a cover posted at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad on 25 SEP 1973. The strike is in purple ink and is poor, being light and blurred. There are two SAUTEURS cds backstamps in black, dated SP 27 73. The cover is addressed to St. George's, Grenada. The handstamp is approximately 50 mm long and the letters are about 3.25 mm high. The illustration below is a drawing, as a tracing or actual copy was not possible because of the poor strike.

MISSENT TO SAUTEURS

MONTSERRAT - John Willem heard a rumor that Montserrat was considering the introduction of a POSTAGE PAID handstamp as an alternative to adhesives. In following this up, he received a cover from Wilson/Ryan Enterprises Ltd. of Plymouth bearing this shamrock hand-

stamp. He understands that the use of this handstamp is being considered, but has not been put into use. Perhaps he has a "one-only".



ST. KITTS-NEVIS - Dr. "Gus" McVicker, who seems to spend more time in the West Indies than he does at home in Alabama (lucky guy), has forwarded evidence that the Charlestown, Nevis Post Office used its 1967 Statehood TRD again on 10 July 1974 on a normal airmail cover. The large TRD is struck in a purple-violet shade of ink. (Editor's note: See Charles Ricksecker's article in this edition.)

TRINIDAD - Ben Ramkissoon has sent along the following items. A list of Trinidad Postal Meter Users can be obtained from member Ronald Wike for postage costs of 35 cents or equivalent. Ron is currently working on a booklet of Trinidad meters and would welcome any contributions for it.

A number of Trinidad postoffices have acquired dies which have "P.O." included in the wording. Currently, two such dies are in use at RIO CLARO (as shown) since 28 May 1974 or earlier.



A "Paid" San Fernando Birmingham-type postmark was used to frank outgoing telegrams on 8 April 1974. These envelopes usually receive the normal c.d.s. strikes. Ben apparently intended to send along an illustration, but it got left out of his letter.

PLUG FOR THE BCP JOURNAL ----

One of the regular features of the "Western Stamp Collector" is a column called "Metered Mail Notes". Thanks to Jack Field, the writer of that column has given our Journal a nice plug. Jack has been sending him tear sheets of articles on meters from the Journal as they appear. The columnist has written as a result: "From the several articles examined it is evident that this publication, the organ of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, is a mine of information for anyone interested in the story of metered mail of this geographic area."

NEW ISSUES

ANTIGUA

18 NOV 74

CHRISTMAS 1974. A set of eight stamps depicting Enthroned Madonnas by famous masters: $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ - Giovanni Bellini, 1487; 1¢ - Raffaello, 1505; 2¢ - Van der Weyden, 1435-40; 3¢ - Giorgione, 15th Century; 5¢ - Andrea Mantegna, 1496; 20¢ - Alvise Vivarini, 1489; 35¢ - Bartolomeo Montagna, 1490; 75¢ - Lorenzo Costa, 1525. A souvenir sheet bearing the values 5¢, 20¢, 35¢ and 75¢ will also be issued. Designed by Shamir, lithographed by Format International, these stamps will be issued 50 per sheet. (IG)

BAHAMAS

OCT 74

CHRISTMAS 1974. A set of religious paintings comprised of four stamps and a souvenir sheet: 8¢ - "The Holy Family", Jacques de Stella (1596-1657); 10¢ - "Madonna and Child", Girolamo (1484-1559); 12¢ - "Virgin and Child with S. S. John the Baptist and Catherine", Andrea Previtali (1470-1528); 21¢ - "Virgin and Child with Angels", Andrea Previtali (1470-1528); souvenir sheet - bears all four stamps. Designed by John Waddington Studio and lithographed by Enschede en Zonen in sheets of 50. (IG)

BELIZE

30 NOV 74

CENTENARY OF BIRTH OF WINSTON CHURCHILL. A set of two stamps, 50¢ - Sir Winston against background of a scene from the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, and \$1.00 - Sir Winston and the Williamsburg Liberty Bell. Designed by John Waddington's Studio and lithographed by Questa.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

SEA SHELL ISSUE. The scheduled release date of 30 September 1974 has been postponed. No new date has yet been released.

30 NOV 74

CHURCHILL BIRTH CENTENARY. Set of two, 10¢ - St. Mary Aldermanburg, London, and 50¢ - St. Mary, Fulton, Missouri. A souvenir sheet is also planned. Designed by Waddington's Studio and lithographed by Questa. Watermark CA Block in sheets of 50 (two panes of 25). (CA)

CAYMAN ISLANDS

HANDICRAFT ISSUE. The new release date for this issue is 7 October 1974, after having been previously postponed. (CA)

DOMINICA

OCT 74

CHRISTMAS 1974. A set of religious paintings comprised of seven values and a souvenir sheet: $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ - Oronzo Tiso, 1¢ - Lorenzo Costa, 2¢ - unknown master, 10¢ - G.F. Romanelli, 25¢ - G.S. da Sermoneta, 45¢ - Guido Reni, \$1 - Cristoforo Caselli, souvenir sheet - bears the 45¢ and \$1 stamps. Lithographed by Questa and designed by Shamir. In sheets of 50 stamps. (IG)

DOMINICA

NOV 74 NATIONAL DAY 1974. Set of three stamps and a souvenir sheet: 10¢ - Indian Hole (alleged Carib settlement), 40¢ - Teachers' Training College, \$1 - Petite Savanne cooperative Bay Oil Distillery, souvenir sheet - bears all three stamps. Designed by Vasarhelyi and lithographed by Format International in sheets of 50. (IG)

NOV 74 UPU CENTENARY. A set of two stamps and a souvenir sheet: 10¢ - mail delivery by boat, past and present - Orinoco 1851 and Geesthaven 1974; \$2 - mail delivery by plane, past and present - De Haviland IV 1918 and Boeing 747 1974; souvenir sheet - bears both designs with a value of \$1.20 and \$2.40. Issued in sheets of 50 and in sheetlets of five. Designed by Gordon Drummond and lithographed by Format. (IG)

GRENADA

NOV 74 CHRISTMAS 1974. A set of famous religious paintings of the Madonna consisting of eight stamps and a souvenir sheet: $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ - Botticelli, 1¢ - Niccolo Di Pietro, 2¢ - Van der Weyden, 3¢ - Bastiani, 10¢ - Giovanni, 25¢ - Van der Weyden, 50¢ - Botticelli, \$1 - Mantegna, souvenir sheet - bears a \$2 stamp and a painting by Niccolo di Pietro. Designed by Shamir and lithographed in sheets of 50 by Format. (IG)

GRENADINES OF GRENADA

NOV 74 CHRISTMAS 1974. Same details as for the Grenada Christmas issue. (IG)

GUYANA

18 NOV 74 CHRISTMAS 1974. A souvenir sheet and set of four stamps depicting plants, palms and fruits: 8¢ - Buck Toyreau Dianthera pectorialis Jacq; 35¢ - Five Fingers (Carambola) and Awaras Astrocaryum tucumoides Drude; 50¢ - Pawpaw and Tangerine; \$1 - Pineapple and Sapodilla. Designed by S. Greaves of Guyana and R. Granger Barrett of England. Lithographed in panes of 25 by Enschede en Zonen of Holland. Watermarked with lotus blossom bud.

MONTSERRAT

DEFINITIVE NEW PRINTING. The 3¢ and 10¢ have been reprinted with watermark CA sideways and the 20¢ and \$5 have been reprinted with watermark CA upright. (CA)

ST. KITTS

30 NOV 74 CHURCHILL BIRTH CENTENARY. Set of 4 stamps and a souvenir sheet: 4¢ - Churchill as a Lieutenant in the 21st Lancers; 25¢ - Churchill as Prime Minister; 40¢ - Churchill as Knight of the Garter; 60¢ - Churchill's Statue in Parliament Square. Lithographed by Questa in panes of 25 on CA watermarked paper. Designed by PAD Studio. (CA)

ST. LUCIA

30 NOV 74 Churchill Birth Centenary. Set of two stamps, 5¢ - Churchill and Montgomery, and \$1 - Churchill and Truman. Lithographed in panes of 25 on CA block watermarked paper by Format International. Designed by PAD Studio. (CA)

ST. LUCIA

NOV 74

CHRISTMAS 1974. Souvenir sheet and set of four stamps, 5¢ - Virgin and Child based on relief by Andrea del Verrocchio; 35¢ - Virgin and Child based on enameled relief by Andrea della Robbia; 80¢ - Madonna and Child based on relief by Luca Della Robbia; \$1 - Virgin and Child based on sculpture by Antonio Rossellino. Designed by PAD Studio and printed by De La Rue in the Delacryl process in panes of 25.

ST. VINCENT

9 OCT 74

DIAMOND JUBILEE OF ST. VINCENT SCOUT MOVEMENT. Four stamps are in this set, 10¢, 25¢, 45¢ and \$1. Details of designs unavailable. Designed by Mrs. Sylvia Goaman and printed by Enschede en Zonen in offset lithograph in sheets of 50 (two panes of 25).

28 NOV 74

CHURCHILL BIRTH CENTENARY. Four stamps in set, 25¢, 35¢, 45¢ and \$1. Design details unavailable. Designed by Clive Abbott and lithographed by Questa in sheets of 30 (2 panes of 15 which are separated by a 'gutter' with a descriptive legend printed between each 'gutter pair' of stamps).

ST. VINCENT GRENADINES

28 NOV 74

CHURCHILL BIRTH CENTENARY. Set of four stamps, 5¢, 40¢, 50¢ and \$1. All design, printing and sheet details as for the St. Vincent Churchill issue.

NOV 74

FIRST PERMANENT DEFINITIVE ISSUE. Set of eighteen stamps depicting various shells and molluscs: 1¢ - Atlantic Thorny Oyster (*Spondylus americanus*); 2¢ - Zigzag Scallop (*Pecten ziczac*); 3¢ - Reticulated Cowrie-Helmet (*Cypraea testiculus*); 4¢ - Music Volute (*Voluta musica*); 5¢ - Amber Pen Shell (*Pinna carnea*); 6¢ - Angular Triton (*Cymatium femorale*); 8¢ - Flame Helmet (*Cassis flammea*); 10¢ - Caribbean Olive (*Oliva caribaeensis*); 12¢ - Common Sundial (*Architectonica nobilis*); 15¢ - Glory-of-the-Atlantic Cone (*Conus granulatus*); 20¢ - Flame Auger (*Terebra taurinus*); 25¢ - King Venus (*Chione paphia*); 35¢ - Long-Spined Star-Shell (*Astraea longispina*); 45¢ - Speckled Tellin (*Tellina listeri*); 50¢ - Rooster-Tail Conch (*Strombus gallus*); \$1 - Green Star-Shell (*Astraea tuber*); \$2.50 - The Incomparable Cone (*Conus dominicanus*); \$5 - File Clam (*Lima scabra*). Designed by R. Granger Barrett. Printing details unavailable. This series will replace the 24 April 74 provisional series which "will shortly be withdrawn from all Post Offices" (23 September press release).

TURKS AND CAICOS

30 NOV 74

CHURCHILL BIRTH CENTENARY. A souvenir sheet and two stamps: 12¢ - Churchill meets Roosevelt and 18¢ - 1940 "His Finest Hour". Designed by V Whiteley Studio and lithographed by Questa in panes of 25.

Information in the foregoing listings has been provided by the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau, StanGib Ltd. and the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation.

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PERSONAL MENTION -----

BILL MATTHEWS, while he was home in England on leave from Trinidad, got together with AL BRANSTON after a BWISC meeting in London. Their discussion concentrated on the real difficulty in getting good strikes of the smaller post offices, even for quite modern dates. They agreed on the wisdom of saving all nice clear marks, irrespective of date. Bill had shown his collection of Trinidad marks and photographs at the meeting itself.

RON WIKE would like to exchange current c.d.s and meters with other members.

RICHARD LAMB has been appointed a member of the Canadian National Postal Museum Appraisal Committee. This committee will evaluate gifts to the Museum and will advise the Museum on price trends in the philatelic market.

LINCOLN KIEFFER has been elected sec.-treas. of the War Cover Club. AL HIGGINS and GALE RAYMOND are directors of this club.

FRED SEIFERT is not only keeping busy on the philatelic judging trail, he has also recently been elected a vice president of the New Mexico Philatelic Association.

GRAHAM BARTLETT has decided playing with stamps is more fun than working in a bank, so the former bank official is now a stamp dealer. Graham moved to Bristol to take up employment with the Urch, Harris & Co. Ltd. in that city.

TOM CHARA and his wife made their seventh trip to the Caribbean and spent two weeks on Antigua. There he met GIL HOLMES at a barbecue and dance at his hotel. Tom says, "What a nice way to meet a fellow BCPSGer!"

At the Essex Stamp Day at Wanstead in June LES BAKER was awarded a BCPSG Bronze Medal for his display of Jamaica Arms stamps with local overprints.

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