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EDITOR: George W. Bowman, 549 South
Helberta Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277
Phone (213) 540-7079

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MASSACHUSETTS MINI-MEETING

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President's Message

As you will read in this Journal, the FLOREX meeting went very well. The main topic discussed was the publication of British Caribbean philatelic handbooks. We established a BCPSG Publications Committee, of which Ben Ramkissoon was appointed Chairman. The committee will have its work cut out for it, as handbooks for the Cayman Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, British Honduras, and Grenada were discussed. The draft copy of the Cayman Islands handbook is in the hands of Don Zahner, who is reviewing the draft and will make recommendations as to how to take the handbook from its draft form to a finished handbook. Ed Addiss, Ben Ramkissoon, and Walton Van Winkle will consider publishing their work on Trinidad and Tobago in handbook form, instead of serializing it in the Journal. Ed is also working on

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Dan Walker shows his FLOREX Reserve Grand Award painting to admiring BCPSG'ers Byron Cameron, Gale Raymond, Irwin "Doc" Yarry, and Fred Seifert. (Photo by Paul Larsen.)



CAICOS ISLANDS ADVENTURES

(Ed: The August 1980 BCPJ noted that Gale had travelled to the Caicos Islands during February and March of 1980. When I pressed him for a writeup of his experiences in that part of the world, he very kindly submitted the following travelogue. Perhaps Gale's article will help to clarify some of the questions posed in August concerning the strikes on these covers described by both him and Louis Zell.)

With a few spare days from a Central American assignment, and a "freebie" flight from Miami as navigator on an air freight plane, I found myself on Providenciales Island ("Provo") in the Turks & Caicos (T&C) Islands. This was a personal aspiration of several years, as my skindiver buddies had tipped me quietly that this was one of the last unspoiled dive-spots remaining in the West Indies, with beautiful coral reefs, cliffs, and fantastic undersea gardens. And so, to my great pleasure, it proved to be just that. With spearfishing forbidden by the Government, the diving is superb.

Briefly, the T&C Islands are two separate groups of islands, each surrounded by its own barrier reef. A British Crown Colony, it lies roughly between the Bahamas and Haiti, with the seat of Government at Grand Turk. The Turks Islands (Grand Turk, Salt Cay, etc.) are the eastern group, oriented north and south. The Caicos Islands (South Caicos, Middle Caicos, East Caicos, North Caicos, West Caicos, Pine Cay, and Providenciales) are strung like a boomerang east and west. Between them is a very strategic channel, the Turks Island Passage, a 7400-foot deep cut from the Atlantic into the Caribbean. The T&C and United States dollars are now par, and at least on Provo (population 500) only US coins and currency are circulated. "Tourism" is still no big thing in the T&C, but careful progress is being made in that direction, including highly attractive postage stamps now widely collected.

While much has already been published on Turks Island postal history, the surface has barely been scratched regarding the Caicos Islands. For the postal history record, "someone" (ahem) just needed to check this out on the scene.

In good time, I meandered into the Blue Hills Post Office (Figure 1), located at the Commissioner's Office Building near the island center, on the airport road. Mrs. Ivy (Rigby) Cunningham was in charge, with a good supply of the new "fish" stamps in stock. Previously just a collecting-station, Blue Hills was established as a Branch Office in a private home in 1974, with Oslie Brown in charge. On 30 January 1975 it opened in a new office at Ludington Airport on Provo, in ceremonies attended by important officials including the Postmaster General from Grand Turk. As reported by

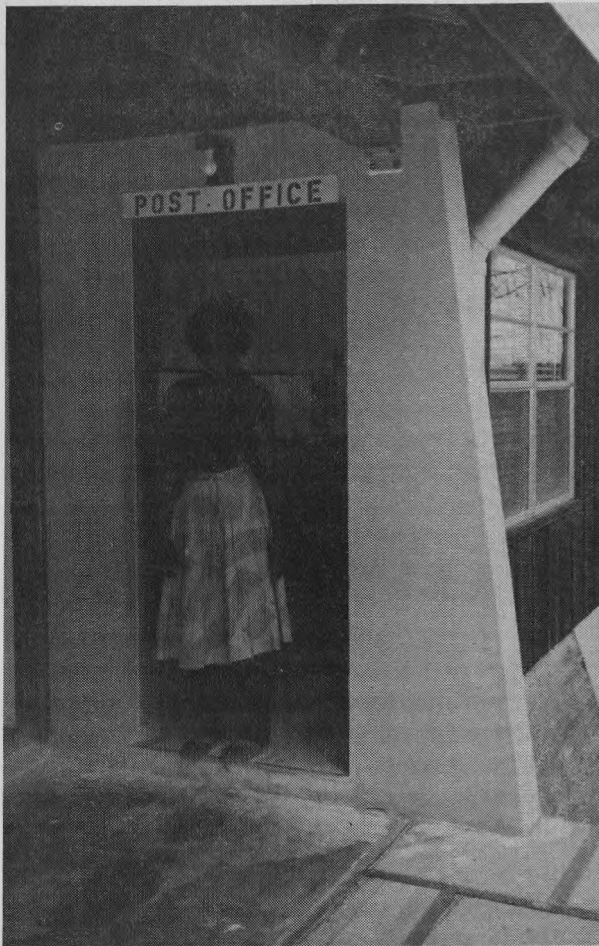


FIGURE 1 - Blue Hills Post Office

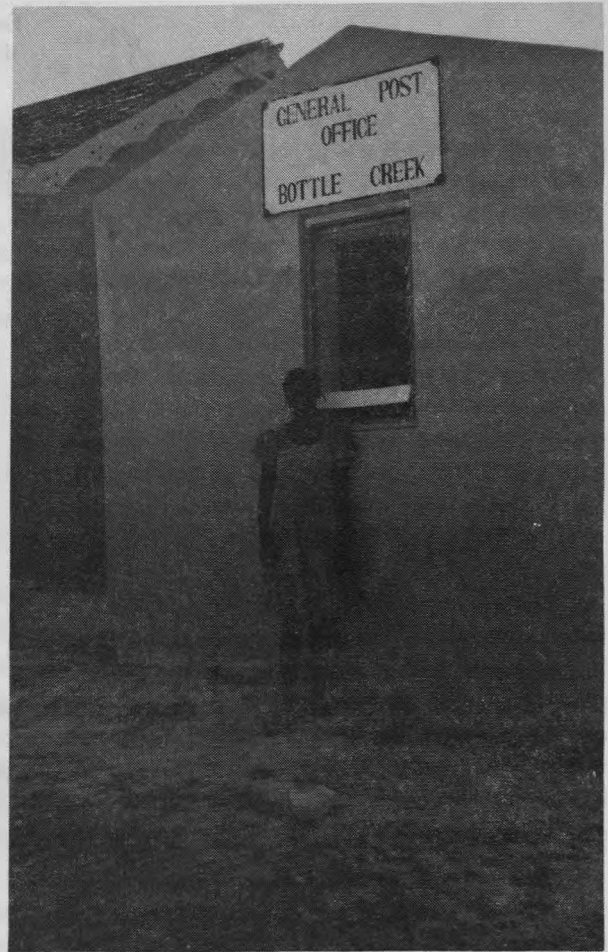


FIGURE 2 - Bottle Creek Post Office

Dr. Peter McCann (BCPJ for June 1977, Page 83), some 25 to 30 covers were processed on that festive occasion, with a CDS inscribed "GRAND TURK, TURKS ISLANDS", a rarely used double-circle type from the GPO. Additionally, each cover received a small two-line rubber stamp reading "PROVIDENCIALES / CAICOS ISLANDS", to identify the actual origin. The Grand Turk CDS was used for only a few days, and was then returned to the GPO at Grand Turk. The rubber stamp remained available at the airport branch office for approximately two months, and might possibly have been used as a cancel on stamps. More probably, all T&C mail went on to the Grand Turk GPO for postmarking, as has been done for so many years.

Indications are that the new CDS, inscribed "BLUE HILLS-CAICOS ISLANDS", went into use in July or August 1975. For various unofficial reasons, little mail appears to have received this datestamp for a certain period. My own covers of this period, posted at the counter by a resident skindiver friend, de facto, never reached me at all. However, personnel changes corrected this situation, and thereafter the paucity of Blue Hills cancels was due to a dry inkpad, a common malady in the tropics! The Branch Office was moved in February 1977 to the newly-completed Commissioner's Office Building, where it remains today.

As in so many corners of the Empire, the Postmaster hat is officially worn by the District Commissioner. In this case, and to my personal delight, this proved to be an old acquaintance, Maurice Hanchell, former Postmaster-General of the T&C, whom I had met at PHILYMPIA (London) and CAPEX (Canada). A veritable gold mine of postal data, he confirmed and expanded on much of the information noted above, and is largely responsible for the considerable improvements in Provo and Caicos Island postal services.

Inter-island air service is by TCNA Twin Otter, and I caught a hop over to North Caicos, looking for the post offices at Kew and Bottle Creek. Located just beyond the small airstrip (and the island's new and ONLY telephone in a roadside box), Bottle Creek is a colorful village strung along one of the craziest primitive roads imaginable, varying from one-lane bare rock to a crushed-shell surface. The small concrete building post office (Figure 2) is under supervision of Mrs. Iona Gardner Forbes. The registry book records that the first registered letter went out on 20 June 1977, which was certainly close to opening day. Mails depart twice weekly by air pouch to the GPO at Grand Turk. How fortunate it was that I had grabbed an inkpad at the Miami airport, as Mrs. Forbes' was bone dry and no ink was available. Her datestamp was a double-circle CDS inscribed "BOTTLE CREEK-CAICOS ISLANDS", with a two-line date. Legible strikes must be rare indeed.

Further west on North Caicos, Kew is a most attractive village looking like a palm tree oasis. Mrs. Alveria Duncombe came over from her home to open her post office, a single tiny room in the island clinic (Figure 3). The concrete building bears no sign to indicate therein the location of this highly-important island office. Mails go twice weekly for dispatch with the Bottle Creek mail onward to Grand Turk. Her datestamp, too, is a double-circle steel die inscribed "KEW-CAICOS ISLANDS", and just enough ink remained in the inkpad for a few good postmark strikes for the record. Registered letter No. 1 had been posted to Grand Turk on 20 June 1977.



FIGURE 3

Kew Post Office

Wrangling a car ride eastward across North Caicos, I thought I'd reached dead end at the shoreline, with Middle Caicos away in the distance across the channel. But a tiny ferryboat, chugging along by means of two old automobile engines, rescued me and provided a most memorable trip through the waves and mangrove creeks on the other side. The car at last thundered over thin boards and clamored up a shellbank to a narrow lane through the marshlands. Midway down the island another tiny lane turned to the left, and there we were in Conch Bar, a rambling seaside village boasting a real hill, even with caves! Conch Bar, situated near a small airstrip, is now the administrative center for Middle Caicos. Assistant Constable Douglas R. Taylor came up from lunch to open the yellow frame building. All mail on the island comes here to him for despatch; however, Conch Bar's status is still that of a collecting station, and Constable Taylor has neither stamps nor postmarks. In time its status may change, but officialdom now feels that Middle Caicos is not quite "ready" for a sub-

post office. (I was told elsewhere, however, that a datestamp has been available for some time at the GPO at Grand Turk toward that eventuality.) At present, such small amounts of mail that accumulate are passed along by air pouch to Grand Turk. A fair guess would place the population of Middle Caicos at between 80 and 100 persons. The new ferry may make it a bit more accessible.

So for now, the sum total of Caicos Islands postal branch offices stands at three. Registration services exist at all of them. The few inter-island registered letters that are mailed simply get a penned "R" and a number. Actually, there appears to be little or no inter-island mail postally transmitted. The few letters leaving the Caicos generally go out unstamped and in the shirt pocket of anyone pointed in the direction of Grand Turk, to save time and expense. Genuine postally used out-island covers should be highly prized by philatelists.

Each post office does have a roll of blue, printed "stock" registration labels reading "R-TURKS ISLANDS" with printed numbers, for use solely on overseas mail. Untypically, both Kew and Blue Hills added the office name to the printed label by pen. The clerk at Bottle Creek took a gummed stamp selvage strip and wrote on it "BOTTLE CREEK REG NO. ---", stuck it down, and later proudly added the office's first blue overseas registry label---No. 001001! (See Figures 4 and 5.)



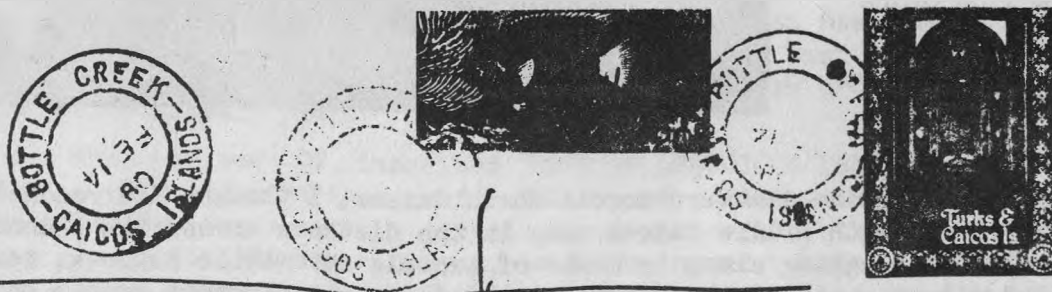
FIGURE 4



Dr. G.J. Raymond
Box 35666
Houston, Tex 77035

AIRMAIL

FIGURE 5



Dr. G.J. Raymond
Box 35666
Houston Tex 77035 USA

BOTTLE CREEK REG NO.



Back on Provo, I sketched out a drawing of a long-questioned box marking of a "RURAL POST-BLUE HILLS" cancellation, supposedly used in the 1920's. None of the old-timers seemed to have any knowledge of its use, other than as a "might-have-been". I found, also on Provo, an interesting mail system working right along with the official postal service.

In the 1970's, as development programs began on Provo (two small tourist hotels, airport, plans for lot sales, marina, etc.), much of the commerce was (and still is) with Florida. The general-store BWI Trading, Ltd. firm opened a post office box at Fort Pierce, Florida, and arranged for a frequent mail pickup there, flying it out to the island by mail freight plane at a current rate of 31¢ per pound. There are wooden pigeon-hole boxes inside the store on Provo, and a slight charge is made to each addressee to partly cover freight costs. (All parcels other than books do go through T&C Customs for usual processing.) The store stocks US postage stamps, and mail going to the States is all postmarked upon arrival; only a cornercard identifies the actual origin. The other Provo general store also has a US post office box, but this one is in the Miami area.

The Government and these private systems are amicable, non-conflicting, and together provide a fine communications system beyond any sense of competition, each admirably serving a different direction and function.

T&C postal rates are geared to the US dollar, and presently are "all-up" airmail: To the US, 20¢ per half ounce; to Canada 25¢; to the UK 25¢. Mail within the Caicos Islands costs 5¢, and to Grand Turk 6¢. The registry fee adds 20¢ to the above rates.

To summarize my "caper": The islands are truly beautiful, with balmy mornings, cool nights, skies with myriads of stars unhidden by smog. Protected by reefs, the lagoon waters are clear green and blue, bordering miles and miles of wide golden beaches with not one footprint; the normal swimsuit is a "nonokini". I would want to go back again before the pending "Club Med" actually evolves. The island people are sincerely open and friendly, noncommercial, low-key, musicians one and all, and they enjoy a good time.

Not actually wanting to leave at all, I eventually wrangled an island-hopping ride back to the States aboard a Piper Aztec with fellow skindivers, a young Texas oilman and his Ann-Margret-lookalike girl friend. We landed to refuel and Rock Sound, Eleuthera, and flew over some of the most breathtaking sea panorama imaginable. Who ever wanted to get back to reality?

For certain data herein, I am sincerely grateful to Comm. Maurice Hanchell, Dr. Peter McCann, Victor and Harry Ewing---and "H", wherever you are!

.....
CHARLES TANNER has asked me if there is available, in BCPJ back issues or anywhere else, a set of Scott/Gibbons cross-references by catalogue numbers of the British Caribbean area. He has kindly volunteered to produce such an index, if one does not already exist.

I don't recall seeing such a document for any BWI country published in the Journal, but that's not to say that it's never been done. An index of this type would be quite helpful to a member who is on the verge of specializing in a country, but is not yet familiar enough with its stamps to efficiently do his catalogue cross-referencing on his own.

If any readers can confirm if cross-reference indices do already exist, and are willing to check Charlie's efforts if such indices are not available, then please get in touch with him at 1201 Ashland Drive, Richardson, Texas 75080. We are fortunate to have in Charlie a member willing to devote the time and energy required to produce a work such as this, and we thank him for volunteering to carry it through.

GEORGE

Editor's Message

Ewan Cameron has sent me a run of Jamaica Philatelic Society Newsletters, of which he is Editor. The JPSN is generally published every two months, with each issue containing three or four legal-size pages printed on both sides. The JPSN not only features articles on Jamaican philately and postal history, but also devotes a considerable portion of its space to the "personal element", i.e., the biographies and accomplishments of JPS members, and a human interest touch similar to that around which I have tried to build the BCPJ. In addition to Ewan, members of the JPS who also belong to the BCPSG include Joe Chin Aleong, Boyd Lewis, Bob Topaz, Fred Seifert, Evan Sharp, and David Atkinson. (Did I miss anybody?)

Ewan gave the BCPSG a nice "plug" in his September 1980 issue, including news of the (at the time) upcoming FLOREX get-together. I feel that I should quote Ewan in this regard, who said of the BCPSG: "...No one who pretends to have more than just skin-deep interest in BWI stamps and postal history...can really afford not to be a member of this friendly, scholarly group."

Thank you for the Newsletters, Ewan, and the kind words. Nobody could have said them better!

To another subject. The 1981 dues notices sent to every BCPSG'er incorporated a space for members to cast a "yea" or "nay" vote to the question of eliminating new issue listings in the BCPJ. The upstate returns aren't in yet, but upon studying the initial results of this poll, I can report that you voters are trending in favor of scrapping the NI column by a ratio of about 2 to 1.

Actually, I was rather hoping that the vote would turn out this way. I need the page room. The BCPJ is, above all else, a vehicle for the publishing of philatelic studies, and new issues frankly just don't fall into that category. There are dozens of stamp publications printed each week that disseminate new issue data more accurately, more completely, and more rapidly, than can our Journal.

This is not, I hasten to add, a criticism of Russ Ott's fine work. Russ has done an excellent job for me in creating and laying out and typing the new issue format which appeared in 1980's BCPJ's, but even he says that the Journal's valuable page space should be given to philatelic "meat and potatoes" articles, not wasted on the "parsley garnishment" of new issues.

So, effective with the next, or April 1981, Journal, the New Issues will no longer be carried in the BCPJ. For those of you who still wish to see this material listed, I would be willing to listen to your reasons, but I can tell you now that the chances of my changing my mind are pretty slim.

It's beginning to appear that the permanent BCPJ publication schedule will be as follows: Five issues per year, with publication months of February, April, July, October, and December. This results in only one magazine appearing during the summer, but will assure a bi-monthly flow of issues during the other three seasons.

Finally, thanks for the correspondence and manuscripts to Reg Lant, Russ Skavaril, Jim Gordon, Mark Swetland, Brian Thompson, Norman Winter, Chuck Cwiakala, Paul Larsen, Kil Bump, Richard Heap, Barry Friedman, Tony Shepherd, Lincoln Kieffer, Mike Wilson, Mike Vokins, Charles Tanner, Tom Current, Bruce Walker, Bill Brew, Harold Honig, and Alex Thomson. As always, your letters are welcome and greatly appreciated.

GEORGE

CORRECTION: Four words were omitted in error from the bottom of Page 119 of the November BCPJ. After the word "incorrectly", add "positioned on the sheet".

A Search into the De La Rue Records

As many readers of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal know, the first stamps of Antigua were printed by the firm of Perkins-Bacon (PB) between 1862 and 1871. On July 5th, 1871, the firm of Houghton and Dunn, agent for Antigua, requested PB to discontinue supplying Antigua postage stamps, and on November 15th, 1871, requested PB to send the plates to 162 New Bond Street, Houghton and Dunn's address. On November 23rd PB delivered the two plates to Houghton and Dunn, and on December 1st they delivered the two flat dies and two rollers (1).

The last shipment of Antigua stamps from PB took place on July 6th, 1871. Houghton and Dunn handed over the plates, dies, and rollers to the Crown Agents who, on November 29th, 1871, instructed De La Rue to produce both 1d. and 6d. stamps for the Government of Antigua. De La Rue invoiced the first stamps which they printed from the PB plates on December 14th, 1871 (2).

From that date up to the Tercentenary Issue De La Rue printed all of the stamps of Antigua (3). While a number of printing firms have produced various issues for Antigua since 1932, none can match the sixty-one year uninterrupted record of De La Rue from 1871 to 1932. And although the Tercentenary Issue was produced by Waterlow and Sons, De La Rue continued to print the definitive issues up until 1938.

This long period of service by De La Rue makes their records of significant interest in the study of Antigua stamps and postal stationery. Through the courtesy and help of Mr. A. G. Rigo de Righi, Curator of the National Postal Museum, London, extensive searching into these records has been carried out. In 1976 Mr. A. J. Branston examined a set of De La Rue records books called the "Colonial Stamp Books". Since primary interest then was focused on the Arms Issue of Antigua, he examined only the books covering the years 1901 to 1923.

Each book has an index listing the pages on which the details of printings for each country are entered. Colonial Stamp Books 9 through 13 were examined, and Mr. Branston extracted the data from forty-three pages. Later work suggests that there may be at least three additional pages, not indexed.

Apparently the Colonial Stamp Books were work books. These Stamp Books make reference to "Order Books", e.g., CA37/81, wherein, presumably, De La Rue recorded the order details. As the orders were executed, the printing details were entered in the Stamp Books where were recorded:

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THE TOWN CANCELS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

by Edward F. Addiss, Reuben A. Ramkisson,
and Walton Van Winkle

<u>TOWN</u> <u>OPENING DATE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>EKD</u>	<u>LKD</u>	<u>RARITY</u>	<u>INDEX</u> <u>LETTERS</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
CUMUTO	IIa	23 DE 98	6 JY 20	C	*	An example recorded in London 4 FE 98
	Vb	28 JY 26		VR	C	
	VIIa	7 JA 37	X		A,B,C	
CUNAPO JUNCTION ROAD ?	VIIa	23 DE 46	30 JY 63	S	A,B	
	X	26 MY 71	X			"RD" in center above date
CUNJAL 1 NO 72	X	15 NO 72	15 NO 73	R		"CUNJAL P A"
	XIV	1979	X			
CUNUPIA 24 AU 1880	IIa	16 JA 88	15 AP 07	RC	A,B,C	An example recorded in London 20 JU 01
	IIIa	1908	16 NO 26	RC	A,B,C	
	VIIa	21 AP 44	7 NO 58	RC	A,B,C	
	XIIIa	1959	X		None	An example recorded in London 14 SP 59
CUREPE 2 AU 49	X	5 SP 49	17 DE 51	C		
	XIIIa	1951	X		*,A,B,C,1,2,3	
	X	5 FE 79	X			"CUREPE P O"
DABADIE 30 AP 1886	IIb	14 JY 87	6 NO 24	C	A,B,C	
	VIIb	3 MY 38	X		A,B,C	
DEBE By 1922	IIIb	3 JY 22	8 MY 26	VS	B,X	
	VIIa	7 DE 35	9 JA 63	RC	A,B,C	
	XIIIa	7 JA 69	X		*	
DELHI ROAD 1 JU 57	XIIIa	26 FE 58	X		*	
DIAMOND 6 NO 58	VIII	16 NO 51	24 JY 53	R		
	X	Ca 1950		VR		"DIAMOND VILLAGE"
	XIIIa	19 JY 58	21 MR 75	S	None	
DIBE ROAD 1 MY 58	X	15 JY 58		VR		"DIBE ROAD/POS"
	XIIIa	7 DE 65	X		*	An example recorded in London 29 SP 59

DIEGO MARTIN 14 AU 1851	I Ib	5 FE 87	29 JA 25	C	A	
	Va	5 DE 29		VR	B	
	VIIb	3 OC 39	X		A,B,C	Now used by Registration Clerk
	XIIIIa	1964	X		*	One with and one without *. An example recorded in London 6 AP 66
EAST DRY RIVER 1 SP 48	X	? MY 49			R	
	VIII	? AP 51	17 JY 75		U	
	XIIIIb	1979	X		None	"EAST DRY RIVER POSTAL AGENCY"
EASTERN QUARRY 1 OC 68	X	26 OC 68	6 DE 69		VR	
	XIIIIa	2 SP 70	X		*	"EASTERN QUARRY P.O."
ECCLESVILLE ?	VIIa	9 OC 46	26 NO 71		S A	
EL SOCORRO 26 AP 71	X	6 NO 71	7 JY 76		S	
	XIIIIa	22 OC 71	21 OC 77		U None	An example recorded in London 28 FE 72
	XIIIIa	26 AP 71	X		*	"EL SOCORRO P.O." An example recorded in London 10 SP 70
ELSWICK 1888; Closed: ?	IIa	1896	4 JY 34		U A	
ENTERPRISE 1 MY 59	XIIIIa	21 MR 61	X		*	
ERIN By 1887	I Ib	16 AP 87	14 NO 11		C A,B,C	
	IIIa	6 NO 12	18 SP 29		C B,C	
	VIIa	3 DE 34	X		A,B,C	
	X	1979 ?	X			"ERIN P O/TRINIDAD W I"
FATIMA 1 SP 58	XIIIIa	1 SP 58	X		*	
FEBEAU 15 JY 57	XIIIIa	8 SP 58	X		*	Year may be missing
FELICITY 2 JY 51	X	? JY 51			VR	
	VIIb	30 DE 54	X		None	
FISHING POND 16 JU 51	X	10 JU 52			VR	Month and Day in manuscript
	VIIb	5 JU 58	X		None	

<u>TOWN</u> <u>OPENING DATE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>EKD</u>	<u>LKD</u>	<u>RARITY</u>	<u>INDEX</u> <u>LETTERS</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
FIVE ISLANDS 1 SP 98 Closed ?	I	14 AU 01	4 NO 18	VS	A,C	"FIVE-ISLANDS". An example recorded in London 14 DE 98
FLANAGIN TOWN Ca 1908	IIIa	? AP 12	3 MY 24	VS	A,B,C	"FLANAGIN-TOWN". An example recorded in in London 17 JU 08
	VIIa	15 JU 38	X		A,B	
FONROSE VILLAGE 5 NO 68	X	5 NO 68	13 JA 69	R		"FONROSE VILLAGE P.O."
	XIIIa	3 SP 70	X		*	
FOREST RESERVE ?	Va	30 JY 25	29 DE 34	S	A	
	VIIa	2 SP 37	X		A,B	
FOUR ROADS ?	III	1931		VR	B	"FOUR ROADS P.O." An example recorded in London 10 SP 70. Not seen used
	VIIb	25 MY 38	18 SP 52	U	A,B	
	XIIIa					
FREEPORT 15 SP 47	X	27 MR 48	1949	R		Year may be absent
	XI	17 JA 51	X		*	
FRIENDSHIP ? Closed 1925						G.P.O. Records state this office closed in 1925. No datestamp recorded
FULLERTON ?	VIIa	7 MR 46	X		A,B,C	
FYZABAD Ca 1911	IIIa	24 MR 16	14 MY 40	C	A	
	VIIa	18 AP 44	3 FE 59	C	A,B,C	



(1)



(2)



(3)

	XIIIa (1)	23 JU 58	X		*	Lines 14 mm long; Letters compressed. An example recorded in London 25 NO 57
	XIIIa (2)	?	X		A,C	Lines 12 mm long; Extended letters. An example recorded in London 4 FE 58
	XIIIa (3)	11 MR 60	X		None	Lines 13 mm long; Extended FYZABAD, compressed TRINIDAD
GASPARILLO By 1891	IIIa	5 AU 91	21 MR 30	VS	A,B,C	
	VIIa	3 OC 39	X		A,B	
	X	1 JY 74		VR		
	XIIIa	28 JY 77	X		None	"GASPARILLO P.O." An example re- corded in London 10 SP 70
GEORGE STREET 24 AU 64	X	24 AU 64		R		"POST OFFICE GEORGE ST"



(1)



(2)

	XIIIa (1)	1976	X		B	"GEORGE ST". An example recorded in London 6 AP 66
	XIIIa (2)	13 MY 69	X		A,B	"POST OFFICE. GEORGE STREET". Lines at side omitted. An example recorded in London 2 JY 64
GEORGE VILLAGE 22 NO 68	X	22 NO 68	27 DE 69	VS		
	XIIIa	1 SP 70	X		*	"GEORGE VILLAGE P.O."
GONZALES 15 SP 55	X	16 NO 55	3 DE 57	S		"GONZALES PLACE"
	XIIIa	3 JY 58	X		None	An example recorded in London 28 FE 72
GRAN COUVA Ca 1885	IIb	7 FE 88	21 AU 30	C	A,B,C	"GRAN-COUVA"
	V	15 AU 32		VR		
	VIIb	22 AU 39	X		A,B	

(To be continued)

FLOREX

(Ed: I wasn't able to get to FLOREX, but I heard from a number of people that it was an outstanding success. Other stamp papers have adequately reported the major FLOREX activities, i.e., the presence of British collector and race car enthusiast Alain de Cadenet, the presentation of the Luff Award to George Hargest (who has applied for Group membership!), and the extraordinary coordination and promotion of the show displayed by the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs. I have included here a summary, prepared by Howie Austin, only of the minutes of the BCPSG Annual Meeting, held at 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, 8 November.

Thanks to Howie and Dan Walker for forwarding the meeting writeup, and to Paul Larsen and Jim Gordon for taking the FLOREX photos sprinkled throughout the magazine. And, finally, congratulations to all the BCPSG award winners, listed elsewhere in this issue.)

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

The meeting was called to order by President W. Danforth (Dan) Walker, who welcomed everyone to the annual meeting and to FLOREX 1980. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and to state their home addresses and collecting interests. The following members and applicants were present:

Ed Addiss, Howard Austin, Bill Bogg, Dr. John Buckner, Byron Cameron, Basil Cawston, O. R. Cooper, Barry Friedman, Earl Galitz, John Gavelek, Jim Gordon, Harold Gosney, Paul Larsen, Dr. Peter McCann, Gale Raymond, Dr. Geoff Ritchie (from UK), Fred Seifert, Art Spear, Dr. Randall Thompson, Bob Topaz, Walton Van Winkle, Dan Walker, and Irwin (Doc) Yarry.

BCPSG

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Whereas, the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group has long engaged in the publication of an outstanding philatelic Journal; and

Whereas, through this means has promoted serial articles intended for country "Handbooks"; and

Whereas no such completely serialized "Handbooks" has been released for publication; and

Whereas, mounting costs of Journal publication may be alleviated by publishing "Handbooks" as a separate function, thus allowing the Journal greater capacity to meet existing or expanding needs; be it:

RESOLVED, that

1. The BCPSG establish a Publications Committee, charged with responsibility to:
 - a. Develop a policy for comprehensive Group publications;
 - b. Encourage original work in major areas of British Caribbean Philately;
 - c. Promote "Handbook" publications as a separate function;
 - d. Expedite release of "Handbooks" already serialized in Journal;
 - e. Set up a special "Publications Fund" or Foundation, to support and encourage publication activities.
2. The Committee shall consist of a small number of Group members (3 or 4), who shall carry out stated responsibilities, and report their accomplishments to the Board of Trustees at the Group's annual meeting.

6-20-80
RAR:chy

Dan reminded members that BCPSG celluloid buttons were available at one dollar each. He said that auction lots were needed for the Group sale to be held at MILCOPEX next February, and that they should be sent to Chuck Cwiakala as soon as possible.

Howie Austin announced that BCPSG membership currently stood at 472. Even though we had lost a considerable number of members, primarily because of dues non-payment, the Group did have a rather good year in recruiting new members.

Dan then introduced a resolution (prepared by Ben Ramkisson and reprinted at the left) concerning the establishment of a Group Publications Committee. This is a highly desirable project, since Dan himself has a Grenada postmark handbook he

wishes to publish, as do other members who have drafts in the mill on Trinidad and Tobago and Cayman Islands postal history.

The question of a source of funds to publish handbooks was discussed. Dan suggested that the BCPSG set up a guaranty fund. Walt Van Winkle intimated that the HJMR Company (of North Miami, Florida) might handle part of the sales, but would need "seed" money. A revolving fund might be used to produce handbooks on a regular basis. Irwin (Doc) Yarry suggested that articles from previous BCPJ's be utilized to commence handbook production.

A vote was taken and passed unanimously that a Handbook Committee be established; a motion to appoint Ben Ramkisson as head of the Publications Committee was offered, and was passed unanimously.

Dan proposed that the Group hold its 1982 Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico during the International Show (ESPAMER) being planned for 12-17 October of that year. John Buckner offered that ESPAMER would be a good place for a Group meeting, since it will be an international event staged at a good location. John volunteered to assist in handling coordination problems with Puerto Rico, and it was proposed by Bill Bogg that Frank Wadsworth, our lone BCPSG'er on that island, would also help in this regard. Walt reminded the Group that it had already voted, at its NOJEX 1979 meeting, to meet at ARIPEX (Arizona) in January 1982. Howie noted that we did vote to meet at ARIPEX in 1982, but because Arizona and Puerto Rico are so far apart, we might be able to meet at both places, just as we have done in 1980.

Bob Topaz was asked about the progress of the British Honduras Handbook. Ed Addiss reported that a draft had been prepared on British Honduras postmarks, and it would be sent to anyone who would care to comment on it. He also indicated that a BH handbook was very far from publication. Walt suggested that we first publish it in installments in the BCPJ. Howie indicated that publishing it in the Journal might deter potential buyers of the handbook. Doc Yarry asked if the Group would own a copyright on published material.

Dan then reported on the status of the BCPJ. He said that George (Bowman) had enough material to publish another Journal this year, but first wanted to know if he could be given a tentative budget for each issue. (Ed: A fifth BCPJ was not published in 1980, but it is planned to issue at least five Journals in 1981. See Editor's Message, this issue.)

Gale Raymond then presented an interesting account of his visit to the Caicos Islands, and talked about their postmarks and how mail from the "out islands" to the Turks and Caicos Islands is handled. (Ed: Read about it on page 3!)

The meeting was adjourned and members went to view the auction lots.

HOWARD C. AUSTIN
Secretary, BCPSG

(Ed: One final thought---I hope that the paint on Dan's Reserve Grand Award finally dried!)

AUCTION ACTION

Auctions of outstanding items continue to bring startling prices in London. ALLAN LEVERTON, of Bridger & Kay, Ltd., reports through BRUCE WALKER some of the results of the B&K sale of the Darnton Collection. In the BWI portion, a Cayman Islands $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Provisional marginal plate block of 12, showing the fourth stamp in Row 10 with no overprint (SG 18d), re-

To page 29

Bahamas

The Abaco Islands and their Postmarks

by MALCOLM D. WATTS



Early maps from the Age of Discovery show the Abaco Islands area as "Habacoa", but it seems that it was inhabited only by nature until 1786. It was during that year that persecuted Loyalists from New England fled to this Bahama out-island to make it their home. They maintained a close-knit community for many years, and one can still detect echoes of Colonial American folk-ways among their descendants, blonde-haired and blue-eyed, who still live there.

Abaco is the most northern group in the Bahamas, made up of Great and Little Abaco plus hundreds of cays. In shape it appears like an ancient boomerang stretching for 130 emerald miles from Walkers Cay down to the southern tip of Great Abaco at Hole-in-the-Wall. The group covers an area of some 770 square miles and has a population of around 7,000.

The two main islands are covered with pine forests interspersed with lakes. Here one will find wild boars, horses, duck, and pigeon, and their shooting provides a popular sport with the visitor. The Abacos are rich in farmland, forestry, fishing, and shipbuilding; local lumber has been a major export for many years, although the best of the lumber has now been used up.

Marsh Harbour, situated on Great Abaco, is by far the largest settlement, and is fast developing as a commercial centre. Most of the villages are on the eastern cays, these being Walkers Cay, Spanish Cay, Green Turtle Cay, Treasure Cay, Man-of-War Cay, and Elbow Cay, where charming little Hope Town is dominated by its candy-striped lighthouse.

For the postmark collector the Abacos offer quite a challenge. A complete collection of all the offices and cancellation types is likely to prove difficult, the reason being that a number of offices are now closed. These, the sites of former lumber camps, are: Cornwall, Millville, Normans Castle, and Spencer's Point. Two other offices, at Old Place and Walkers Cay, have also closed, although these were not lumber camps. Over recent years a number of temporary rubber date stamps (TRDs) have seen use at the various offices, and this helps to make postmark collecting even more interesting.

The offices, with opening dates where known, are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Cedar Harbour (1938) | * Marsh Harbour (1884) |
| Cherokee Sound (1881) | Millville (by 1929; closed 1934) |
| Coopers Town (by 1930) | Moores Island (1956) |
| Cornwall (1934; closed by 1944) | Normans Castle (by 1919; closed 1929) |
| Crossing Rocks (1949) | Old Place (1910; closed around 1940) |
| Dundas Town (by 1946) | * Sandy Point (1940) |
| Fox Town (1957) | Spencers Point (by 1907; closed around 1916) |
| Great Guana Cay (by 1900) | Treasure Cay (?) |
| * Green Turtle Cay (1881) | Walkers Cay (1953; closed 1958) |
| Hope Town (1881) | |
| Man-of-War Cay (1890's) | * = District Post Office |

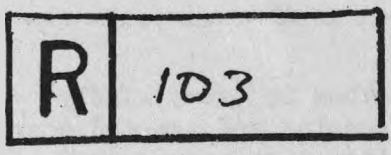
CANCELLATIONS



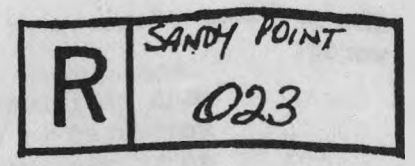
MARSH HARBOUR CANCELLATIONS



REGISTRATION MARKS



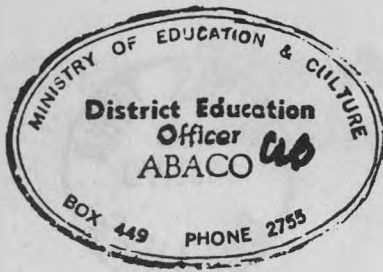
MARSH HARBOUR
R. No. 091



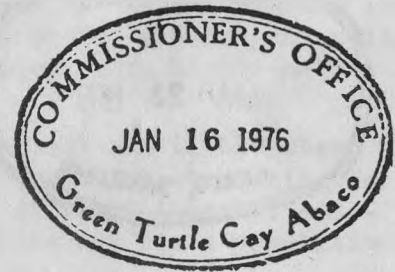
Coopers Town

Some "official" stamps of the Abacos are shown on the next page. As in many West Indian territories, these are the office stamps of various Government Departments, and when struck on OHMS letters and initialled they enable these letters to go post free internally. They are of many different shapes and colors.

OFFICIAL STAMPS



With "TREASURE" Misspelled!



A SEARCH INTO THE DE LA RUE RECORDS (Continued from page 9)

1. The number of sheets ordered.
2. The number of SPECIMEN stamps produced.
3. The number of sheets printed, including waste and spoilage.
4. The number of sheets sent to the Colony, or packed and ready to be sent.

The Colonial Stamp Books also refer to a set of "Day Books", which are numbered A to Z (excluding J) and AA to AO (including AJ). The Day Books record the quantities shipped and invoiced. During 1979, Mr. Michael Vokins, a BCPSG member from Bristol, provided photocopies of all of the pages that are included for Antigua in the Day Books. This has made available over 150 pages of data spanning the years from 1865 to 1937. It should be noted that the earliest records pertain to Antigua bonds and revenue stamps, rather than postage stamps.

The problems of pursuing work such as this are best described in Al Branston's own words:

"Each recipient of these notes and each reader of them is (very kindly) requested to send Al Branston a bar of highly cleansing and scented soap so to wash off the accumulation of De La Rue's fire, dirt...on second thought, please send soap, towel, bath, and all plumbing including the hot water. Oh, forget it.

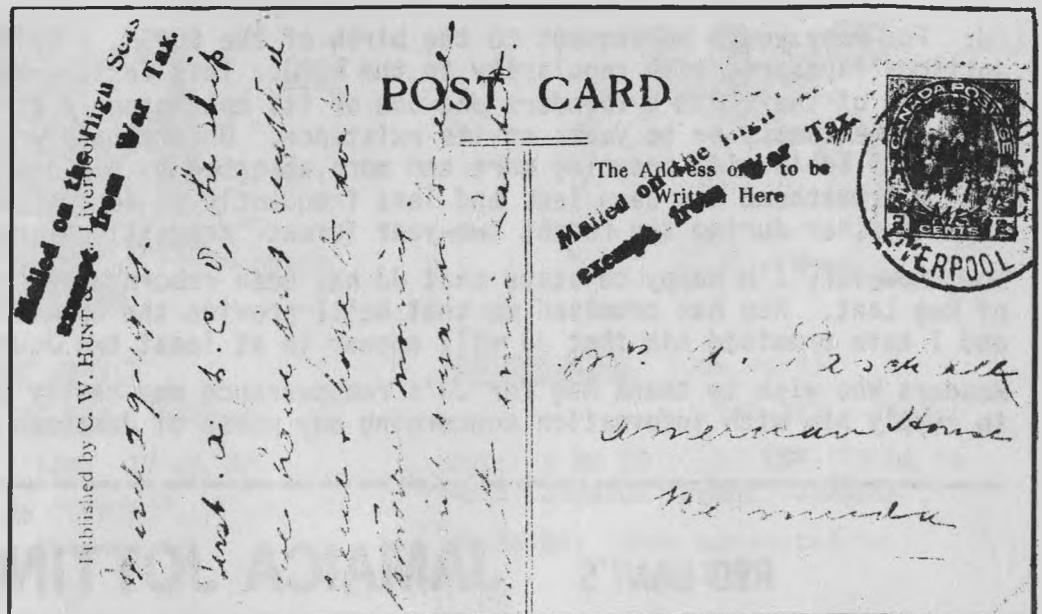
Yours sincerely,

Al "

Where the Stamp Books and Day Books note "Arms" or "set 60", the data clearly refers to the Antigua Large Seal Issue, a term which has been proposed for this issue in the

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ANOTHER
"WAR TAX
EXEMPT"
MARKING



Colin Bayley's "No War Tax on Ship Mail", appearing in the August BCPJ, has brought forth welcome comments from Horst Augustinovic. Horst has provided a photocopy of the R.M.S. MINNEDOSA, and a card apparently posted on board that bi-funnelled vessel when she was en route from Canada to Bermuda. The card carries a PAQUEBOT/POSTED AT SEA/RECEIVED/31 MR 19/LIVERPOOL circular cancellation, and two strikes of a two-line MAILED ON THE HIGH SEAS/EXEMPT FROM WAR TAX handstamp. Horst says "...you can see that the handstamp is totally different from the ones illustrated in the August Journal. Sorry the card didn't originate in the West Indies!"

With BCPSG'ers now keeping their eyes open for similar "exempt from war tax" markings, perhaps some day a member will get lucky and find one on a card or cover posted on a ship known to have started from a British Caribbean port.

Secretary's Report

NEW MEMBERS:

All applicants listed in the November 1980 Journal have been admitted to membership.

NEW APPLICANTS:

ZUSKIS, Gregorio Lazaro, Victoria 4, Palma de Mallorca 1, Spain.

Dealer. Interested in postal history. By Dr. Reuben A. Ramkissoon.

THOMPSON, Dr. Randall T., 6706 NW 26th Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32601.

Clinical psychologist. Collects United States, Canada, and Jamaica. By Dr. John M. Buckner.

HARGEST, George E., 2800 Indian River Boulevard, Apartment 1-N, Vero Beach, FL 32960.

Retired Professor, Clark University. Interested in transatlantic covers, paquebots, ships, and Cayman Islands. By Dr. John M. Buckner.

CUSICK, Thomas K., 3121 Shelley Court, Woodridge, IL 60517.

Computer sales. Collects British Caribbean area, 1900-1953. By Thomas E. Giraldi.

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(Ed: For many years subsequent to the birth of the BCPSG, a column called "Jamaica Jottings" appeared with regularity in the BCPJ. This feature was written by Bob Topaz, one of the BCPSG's founders and one of its consistently strongest supporters during the twenty or so years of its existence. Unfortunately (and probably as a result of Bob's time becoming more and more absorbed by his dealership activities), the "JJ" masthead was seen less and less frequently on Journal pages, and disappeared altogether during the recent two-year format "transitional period".

Now, however, I'm happy to state that JJ has been reborn under the able authorship of Reg Lant. Reg has promised me that he'll provide the column on a regular basis, and I have promised him that JJ will appear in at least two Journals per year.

Readers who wish to thank Reg for JJ's reappearance may easily do so by continuing to supply him with information concerning any phase of Jamaican postal history.

REG LANT'S JAMAICA JOTTINGS

Bob Topaz, our genial Group founder and Jamaica Jottings commentator, has discovered that a postal history dealership requires more of his time than he had anticipated. To ease the strain, I will endeavor to take over this Jamaica Jottings column, at least temporarily.

Unfortunately, conditions on that once-proud British Colony are far from normal. Our former Jamaican correspondents have either left the island, or are reluctant to put pen to paper to write to friends overseas.

A bright spot has fortunately emerged in the recent receipt of a package of covers from the island by one of our senior Charter Members, from which it is evident that the large increase in new Post Town P.O.'s in the 1970's has dwindled to a mere trickle. Only two additional offices, KINTYRE and BRIDGE PORT, have been noted. Furthermore, several new markings have been noted with inaccurate post town or colony names, and it is apparent that they have been allowed to remain in service in such condition for lengthy periods. Particulars will be found below. It should be noted, in view of the untimely passing of Thomas Foster, that we are continuing the use of the Aguilar-Topaz numbering system, i.e., TRD 37 (side asterisks), TRD 37X (without asterisks), etc.



NEW POST OFFICES



KINTYRE St. Andrews Opened ? DE 1976
TRD 37X Violet
EDK: 11 DE 76 LDK: 10 AU 78

BRIDGE PORT New Parish and Opening
P.O. Date - Unknown
TRD 37X Violet
EDK: 29 OC 79 LDK: 11 JA 80

MAJOR POSTMARK ERRORS



BEEOSTON SPRING POST OFFICE
 TRD 37X Violet
 EDK: 28 MR 77 LDK: 17 JA 80
 Word "OFFICE" reads "OFFIEC".



MEADOWBRIDGE (One word)
 TRD 37X Violet
 EDK: 9 MR 78 LDK: 5 DE 79
 Word "JAMAICA" reads "JAMACIA".
 30 JA 80: Name corrected to "JAMAICA".



RICHARDS PEN TRD 37X Black
 EDK: 20 AP 79 LDK: 11 JA 80
 Word "JAMAICA" reads "JAMACIA".



GOLDEN VALLEY 1968 MSR Black
 EDK: 23 AU 76 LDK: 9 MR 77
 Word "GOLDEN" reads "GLODEN".

In the early date stamp field, two important markings were noted in a Jamaica pre-adhesive exhibit from the Willson collection at STAMPEX '80, held at Toronto on 4-6 July. Firstly, a 27 OC 1769 entire from Lacovia to London with a LACOVIA T2 STRAIGHT LINE marking of that date, and correctly recorded as the earliest Jamaican Post Town DATED mark known. The second item was an inland cover from Kingston, 12 NOV 1808, bearing the modified semi-circular FLEURON K1 mark---the seventh example now recorded.

Jamaica has been conspicuous by its absence from the international auction scene of late. However, it is hoped that with the recent installation of Mr. Seaga as Prime Minister Jamaica will soon be restored to its previous stature in the world philatelic market.

Reg

(Ed: The next installment of Reg's "Unpaid and Tax" Markings article will appear in the April 1981 BCPJ.)

BERMUDA'S FIRST 'AIR LETTER'

by Horst Augustinovic

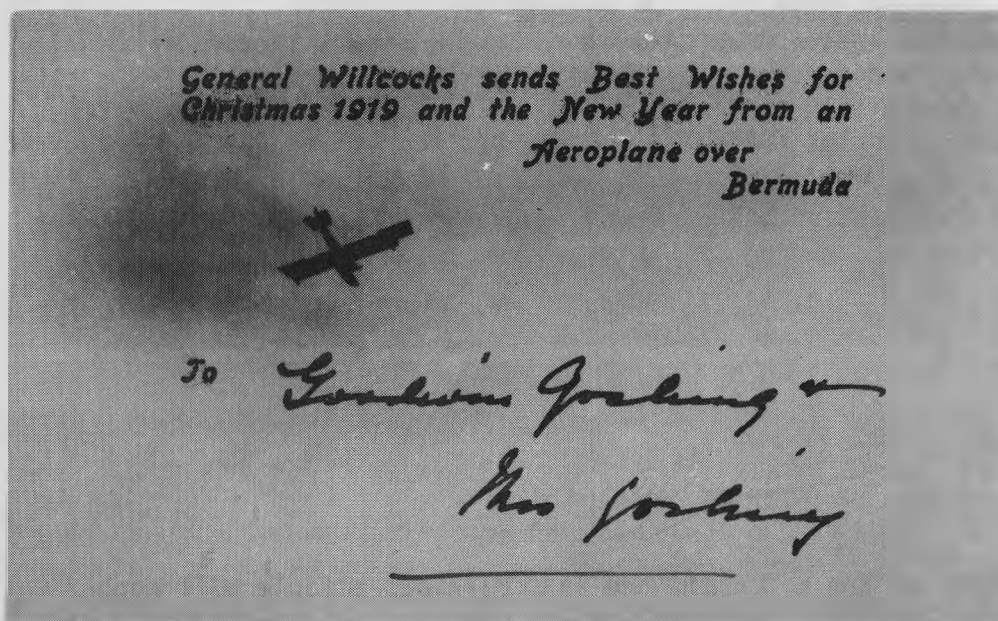
When several mail bags were dropped from the airship "Los Angeles" as she circled Bermuda on February 22nd, 1925, it marked the arrival of the first airmail in the island. However, there is one "air letter" that pre-dates the arrival of the Los Angeles by almost six years.

It was during May of 1919 that an American astronomical expedition, en route to the South Atlantic to observe a solar eclipse, was forced to call at Bermuda for engine repairs. On board the "S. S. Elinor" was Professor David Todd of Amherst College, head of the expedition and friend of Bermuda's Governor, General Sir James Willcocks. When the two met, General Willcocks mentioned his ambition to be the first to take a birds-eye view of Bermuda. After all, his official title designated him 'Governor of and over the Somers Isles', and it would only be appropriate for him to make the first ascent.

It so happened that a seaplane formed part of the expedition's equipment, and it was quickly decided to make the Governor's wish come true. On the following day, Thursday, May 22nd, 1919, the Curtiss N-9H "Jenny" was lowered from the Elinor, and amidst great excitement His Excellency the Governor was taken in a rowboat from the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club to the seaplane. General Willcocks then made history---he became the first Governor of Bermuda to view his island from above.

With Ensign G. L. Richard at the controls, the seaplane headed from Hamilton Harbour through Two-Rock Passage to Spanish Point, and across the Great Sound to H. M. Dockyard. After circling Ireland Island, the plane once again returned to Hamilton Harbour. In describing his first flight, General Willcocks said: "I knew that Bermuda was a beautiful spot, but I never knew how truly beautiful are the many islands when looked at from above: the whole scene reminded me of the Arabian Nights".

During his twenty-minute flight the Governor dropped "A Message of Goodwill to the People of Bermuda". This letter was contained in a canvas-covered package attached to a wooden float, found two days later by a boy swimming off Point Shares. It truly is Bermuda's first "air letter".



This postcard shows the Curtiss "Jenny" while flying over Bermuda; it was used by General Willcocks as a Christmas card in 1919.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
BERMUDA.

A message of goodwill
to the people of Bermuda from
Governor Willcocks, former - Com.
Mander-in-Chief and Vice Admiral
In and OVER (specially OVER)
these islands.

From. Seaplane.
United States Navy.

22nd May 1919.

Bermuda's first "air letter", dropped by Governor Willcocks from the first plane ever to fly over Bermuda

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Continued from page 19)

NEW APPLICANTS (Continued):

STIBRANY, Robert T., 64 Flocktown Road, Long Valley, NJ 07853.

Student. Collects St. Vincent, Trinidad, and Tobago. By Thomas E. Giraldi.

LEMMON, James R., Jr., 2172 Buckboard Circle, Warrington, PA 18976.

Sales engineer. Interested in Jamaica postal history (stamps, postmarks, errors, varieties, etc.), also postal history of United States, Great Britain, and Channel Islands. By Howard C. Austin.

SPENCER, Robert S., Imperial Southgate Villa 154, Lakeland, FL 33803.

Energy consultant. Collects Jamaica and Australia. By Thomas E. Giraldi.

RAYNOR, Paul, 696 West 19th Avenue, Vancouver V5Z 1X1, British Columbia, Canada.

City Planner. Collects Jamaica, Guyana postal history (post-1945). By Thomas E. Giraldi.

RE-INSTATED:

WARREN, Lt. Col. Daniel C., P. O. Drawer E, Aberdeen, MD 21001.

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A SEARCH INTO THE DE LA RUE RECORDS (Continued from page 18)

Antigua Monograph. If "Leeward Islands", "set 120", or "King's head" is noted, the data refers to the Leeward Islands issues of the same period. It is uncertain, where these terms are omitted or the data refers to certain postal stationery issues, whether the printings were of Antigua or Leeward Islands designs. This illustrates the need to correlate the data in the Stamp Books and Day Books with that in the Order Books. It is hoped that such a correlation will remove all ambiguity from the records.

Detailed study of the data so far seen, and a comparison of the records information with the Antigua book published by Melville, leaves unanswered certain questions about the Large Seal stamps. For example, there is no shipment of 1d. stamps that correlates with Melville's statements that the 1d. on blued paper was a late issue.

The only conclusion one should draw at present is that there remains a need to correlate the Stamp Books and the Day Books with the Order Books. Perhaps more complete data will answer the questions or suggest a possible answer.

The extracts from the Stamp Books and Day Books appear to solve generally the questions relating to the stamps, and they will be used in the section of the Antigua Monograph on these issues (1903 and 1908-12). This portion of the Monograph is nearing initial completion and should be published in 1980. (Ed: This would be a good bet.)

Possibly, readers of these notes would like to comment on the choice of the title for these stamps. Should they be called the Arms Issue or the Large Seal Issue? Since the De La Rue records term this the Arms Issue, there is merit in using the same title. Please send your comments to William G. Cornell, Editor, Antigua Monograph Project, 230 Hillcrest Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45215.

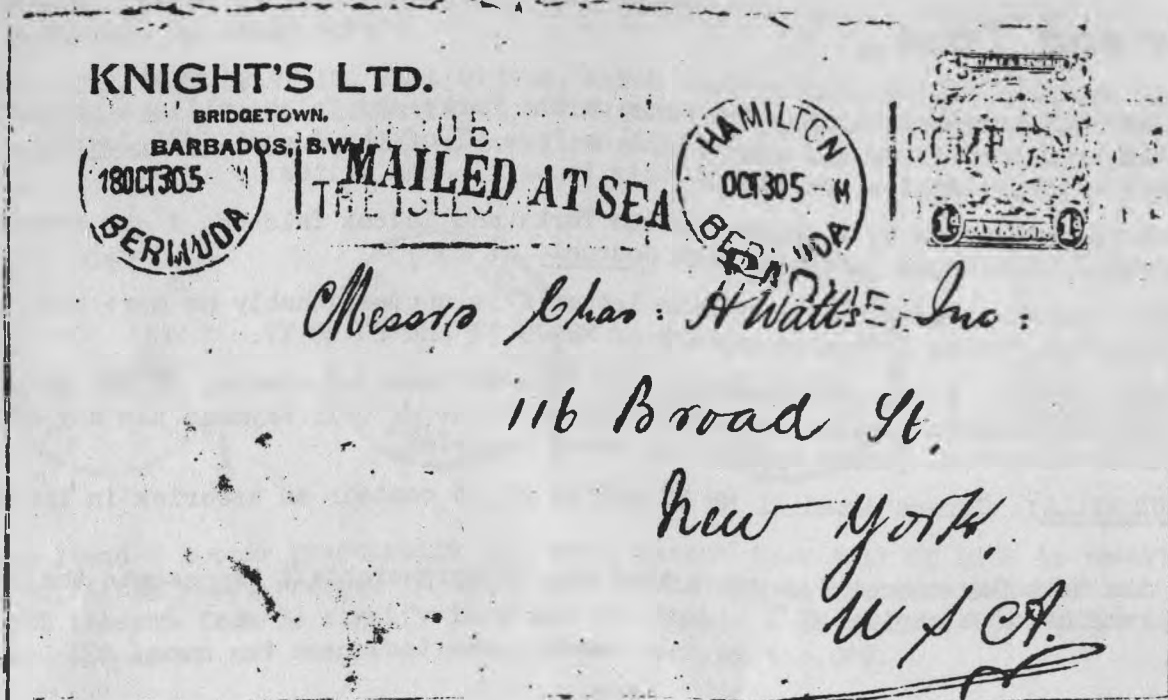
- References:
- (1) Perkins-Bacon Records, Percy de Wossus, The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 1953.
 - (2) The De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps, by John Easton, Faber and Faber, London, 1958.
 - (3) Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue, 1979 Edition.

AN UNUSUAL "MAILED AT SEA" HANDSTAMP by ALEX THOMSON

In a recent purchase of paquebot covers was the envelope shown here. The item carries a 1d. Barbados stamp (SG 231) cancelled at Hamilton, Bermuda, on 13 October 1930 at 5:00 P.M. There are no backstamps on the envelope. The most interesting feature of this cover is that the handstamp MAILED AT SEA has serifed letters, a style not often seen. It is struck in blue and measures 44 mm by 5 mm.

Amongst the other items in the same lot as this cover were some Canadian National Steamship "Lady Boat" envelopes. Since the cover in question is of the same time period as when the "Ladies" were plying the Caribbean, the suggestion is that it could have been carried on one of these ships.

In the April 1975 BCPJ, Morris Ludington contributed a most interesting article on the Lady Boat stamps; he stated that a straight-line handstamp MAILED AT SEA for the Lady Nelson and the Lady Hawkins had not yet been found, but in all probability existed. Could this handstamp be one of the missing items?



Florex ~ 80

Chief FLOREX Judge John Buckner (r) presents Grand Award to Walton Van Winkle. (Photo from Stamp Collector, 11-29-80.)

TOP: Basil Cawston between Alice and Harold Gosney. BOTTOM: Howie Austin (l) and Paul Larsen look pretty serious to be at a stamp show! (Photos by Jim Gordon.)

This and That...

JOHN ALDEN has provided further comments on the Turks and Caicos village postmarks described by GALE RAYMOND and LOUIS ZELL on Page 97 of the August 1980 Journal. (See also Gale's comprehensive article in this issue.) John writes:

"From covers sent to me by a friend in the Turks and Caicos Islands, I can comment on the cancels...discussed in the August Journal...:

(1) KEW: What has been seen as a code letter K is unquestionably no more than a battered asterisk, which I find on covers of 22 JU 77 and 24 OC 77.

(2) BOTTLE CREEK: A cover postmarked 9 JU 77---the date of opening of the post office---has the indicia totally inverted, whereas that of Gale Raymond has day and month alone inverted. There appears to be no asterisk.

(3) BLUE HILLS: Covers dated 11 MR 77 and 12 AP 78 contain an asterisk in the cancel.

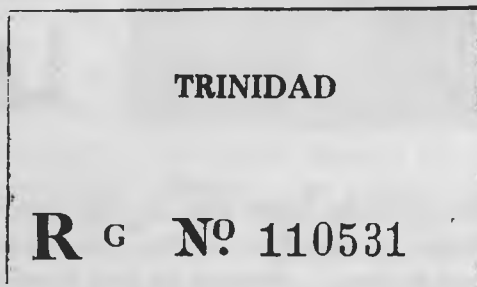
As for the Salt Cay cancel I suspect that the indecipherable ? represents the fragmented remains of a capital S."

ANOTHER NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Replies to the queries in LINC KIEFFER's "Curacao-to-Jamaica POW Letter?" article, appearing in the August 1980 Journal, have certainly kept my in-basket filled. The November 1980 BCPJ printed thoughts and comments on the matter by WADE BEERY and JOHN ALDEN. Since then, MIKE WILSON has come through with a detailed and historic---albeit non-philatelic!---account (apparently extracted from Admiralty records?) of the adventures of Commander Tucker and his sloop "Surinam" from the time he found himself in the Curacao harbor in early 1803, through the seizure of his ship by the Dutch in July of that year, through his four months' imprisonment, and through his eventual release and return to Jamaica.

Since, from the postally historical standpoint, there is nothing further to be gained by continuing to print the account, I will say merely that I'll be happy to xerox and forward a copy of Mike's letter to any interested reader (return postage appreciated).

BEN RAMKISSOON forwarded some interesting Trinidad items: Shown below is a new type registration label, white with red letters, 63 mm by 32 mm, used at the El



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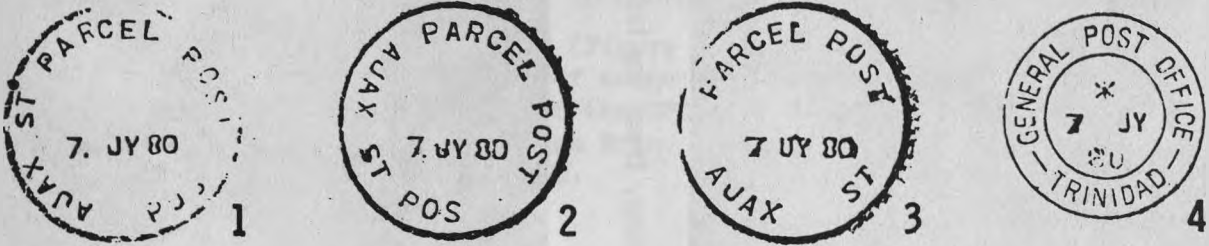
WEST YORKSHIRE LS22 4QU

ENGLAND

Telephone: Wetherby 63304

Socorro Post Office on 27 August 1980. Has anyone come across additional labels of this style used at other PO's?

The AJAX ST., PORT-OF-SPAIN, Post Office, which handles parcel post mailings only, uses the four date stamps illustrated. The first three (all Nicholson Type X) are similar in that they all contain a one-line single date in the lower center of the circle.



Numbers 1 and 2 appear practically the same, except that AJAX ST in 2 is inverted relative to PARCEL POST, whereas in 1 all four words are in the same orientation. What does POS (absent from 3) signify in 1 and 2? Number 4 (Nicholson Type XIII) is a standard CDS known and described among those used at the GPO.

ON THE COVER: On 9 August 1980 several New England BCPSG'ers held an informal meeting at Kil Bump's home in Hampden, Massachusetts. Present, and pictured from left to right, were Jeff Dow, Phil Ashton, Bob Topaz, Kil's son Ben, Arthur Clarke, Kil, and Don Zahner. Charlie Ricksecker from St. Thomas, BVI, was due in the area but couldn't quite make it.

Gathering at approximately 10:30 A.M., the group showed items of interest and had an enlightening general discussion on many philatelic topics for about an hour. Then each person took about ten minutes to discuss a philatelic topic of interest to the group. Following a lunch prepared by Gertrude Bump, Bob Topaz presented a fine slide program on selected Jamaica topics. During the day there was still time enough to do a little swapping and selling of material.

Kil states that it was a very successful event, well worth repeating next spring. He will try to schedule a meeting then at a time which would allow most of the more than twenty New England members to gather together.



Thanks from your Editor, an Antigua buff, to BRUCE WALKER, who forwarded this Australian stamp with an "Antigua" cancel! Curious, I examined the National Geographic Atlas of the World, the Times Atlas of the World, and the Rand-McNally Cosmopolitan World Atlas, but none of these sources revealed the location in Queensland of a village called Antigua. It must be a pretty small place!

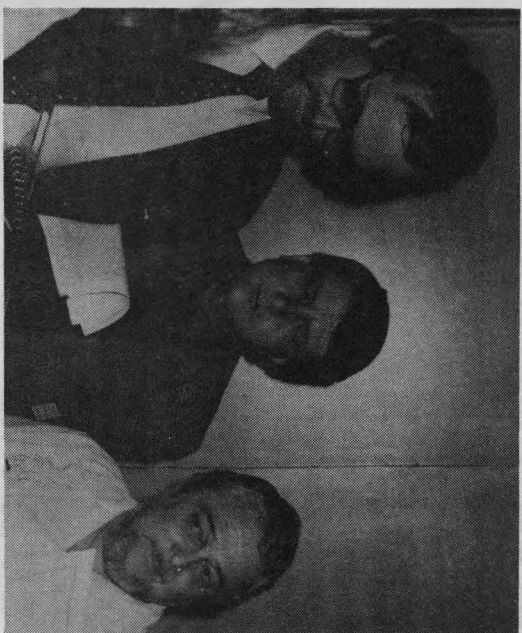
Charter Member L. ARTHUR COURTNEY announces that he wishes to dispose of an absolutely complete run of BCPJ's. Interested readers wishing to negotiate a deal with Arthur for these magazines should contact him at 4 Pilgrims Rise, New Barnet, Herts., EN4 9QP, England.

...from Here and There

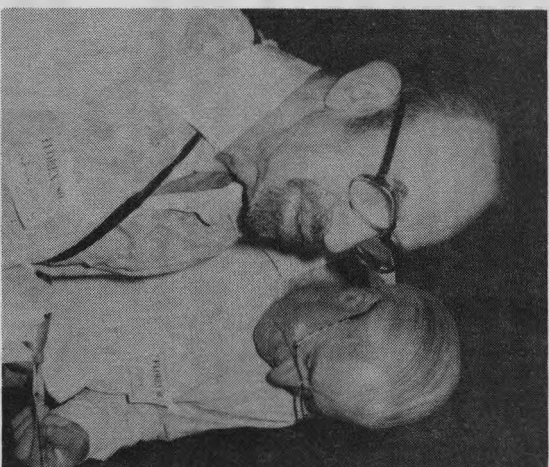


Thanks to Paul Larsen for this composite shot, showing just about all the BCPSG gang. Standing, from the left, are Dr. Randall Thompson, Byron Cameron, Peter McCann, Orville Cooper, Jim Gordon, Basil Cawston, Fred Seifert, Bill Bogg, Bob Topaz, Walt Van Winkle, Paul Larsen, John Gavelek, Harold Gosney, Art Spear. Seated, from left, are Geoff Ritchie, John Buckner, Barry Friedman, Dan Walker, Ed Addiss, Howie Austin, Gale Raymond, Irwin (Doc) Yarry.

The BCPSG at FLOREX



Gale Raymond (r) says to John Buckner and Randall Thompson, "Now there's a stamp I like!"



"Doc" Yarry and Geoff Ritchie



Barry
Friedman

Above three photos
by Jim Gordon

Cayman Islands Express Mail

by Thomas E. Giraldi

Sometime around the beginning of 1978, the Cayman Islands began utilizing the standard "express" labels for this class of mail, as used by the other UPU-member British Colonies. The GPO at Georgetown had previously considered this class of mail as special delivery; this was changed over to conform with UPU regulations.

Two types of special delivery handstamps (Figure 1) have been seen. Type I was used only at the GPO, with the earliest date of usage being June 29, 1968. Type II, with an EDK of September 30, 1969, was used at the GPO plus the SPOs at Boddentown, Savannah, and West Bay, and Stake Bay on Cayman Brac. Other SPOs merely applied the words in manuscript, as illustrated by Figure 2.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Type I



Type II

FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2

West Bay and Stake Bay are currently still using their special delivery handstamps, while the GPO, Boddentown, Savannah, Northside, and East End are now using the labels. Two types of labels (Figure 3) have been noted: Type I is seen at both the GPO and the SPOs, whereas Type II is seen only at the SPOs. Type I labels are brown colored, and Type II are reddish-brown.

In January-March 1979, a shortage of labels at the GPO resulted when a new shipment of labels was found to be of the wrong type. Postmaster Johnson had the temporary "express"



Type I



Type II

FIGURE 3

AUCTION ACTION (Continued from page 15)

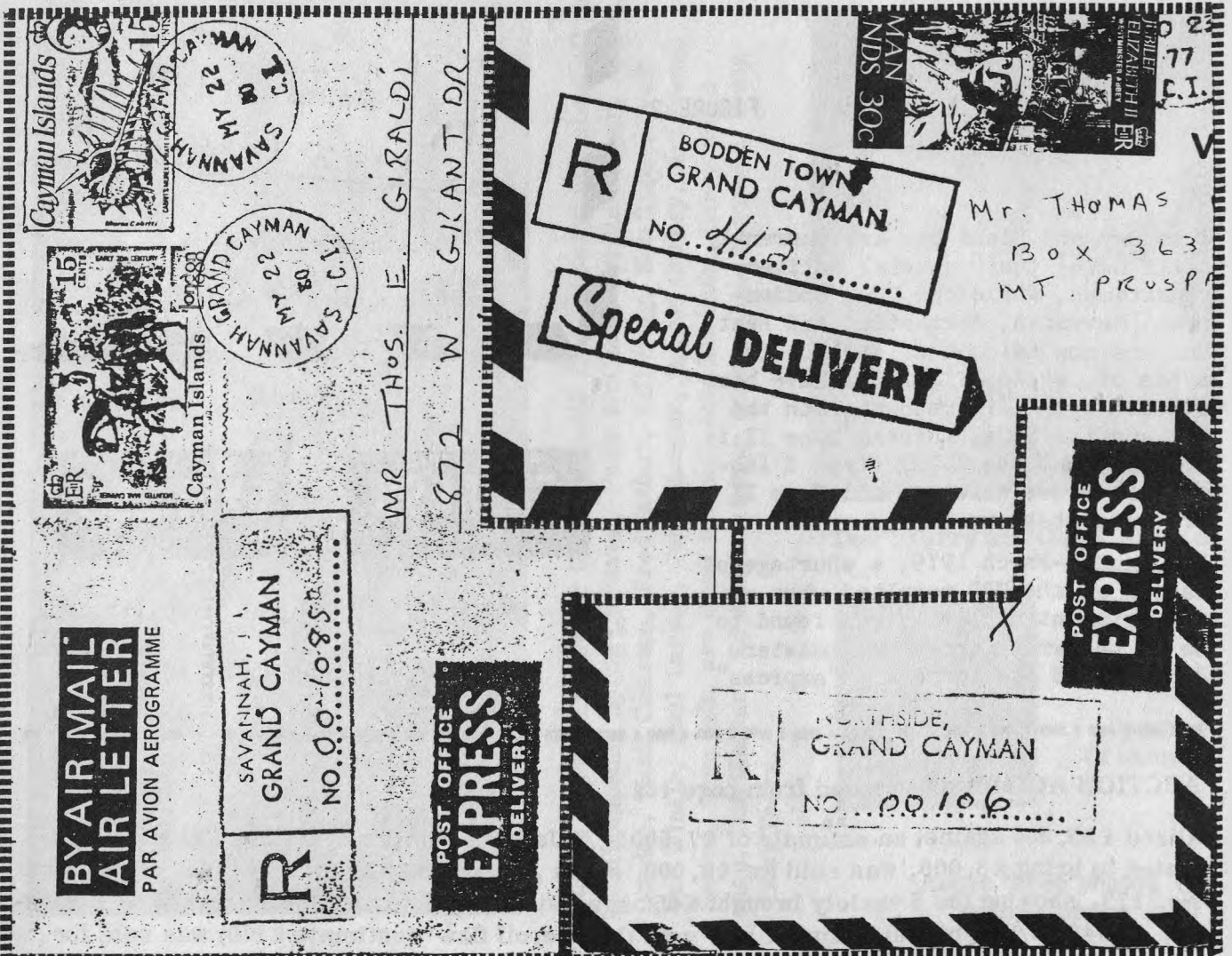
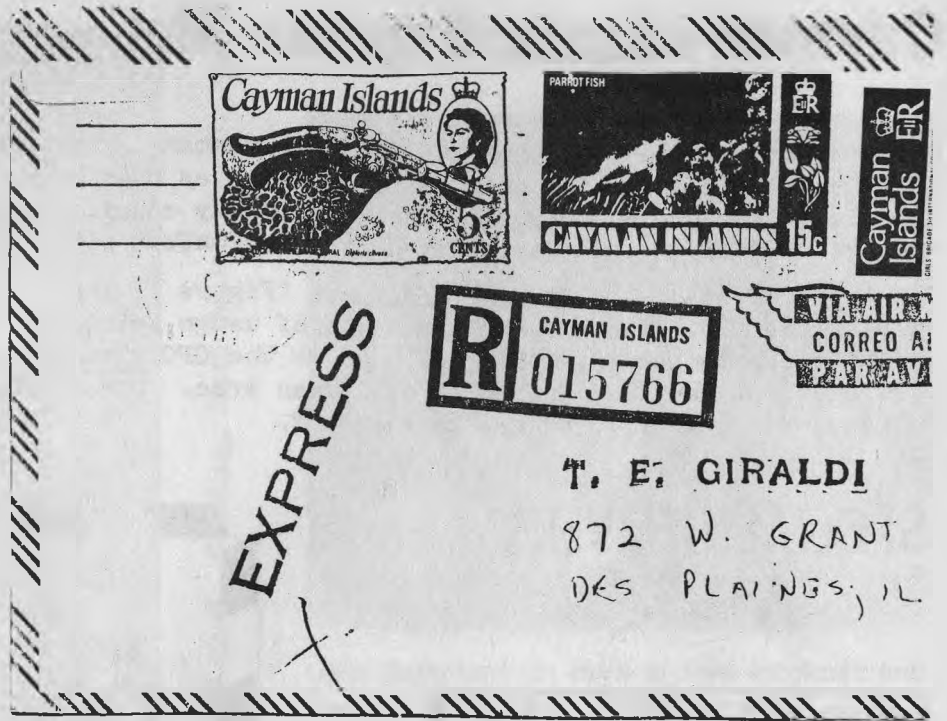
alized £25,500 against an estimate of £7,500! A Jamaica "inverted frame" (SG 85a), estimated to bring £8,000, was sold for £9,000, and a Jamaica SG 54a mint vertical pair, Plate No. 173, showing the \$ variety brought £650 against an estimate of £450. Turning to Bermuda, a 1943 12/6 mint plate number pair with the "scroll flaw" (estimate £150) was sold for £600. Who says that quality stamps aren't good investments?

handstamp (Figure 4), made locally. This was used until late 1979/early 1980, when usage of the express labels was resumed.

West Bay could very well be using labels, but a letter received on August 19, 1980, bore the special delivery handstamp.

Illustrated below and on the next page are portions of covers showing the various labels and handstamps noted.

FIGURE 4



BY AIR MAIL
AIR LETTER
PAR AVION AEROGAMME



Stake
Bay,
Cayman
Brac

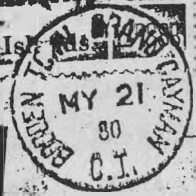
R CAYMAN BRAC
No. 1577

Special DELIVERY



MR. THO
872 W
DKS - PL

POST OFFICE
EXPRESS
DELIVERY



MR.
87
DE



R BODDEN TOWN,
GRAND CAYMAN
NO...00-7436

Special DELIVERY

Mr.
B...
MT.

POST OFFICE
EXPRESS
DELIVERY



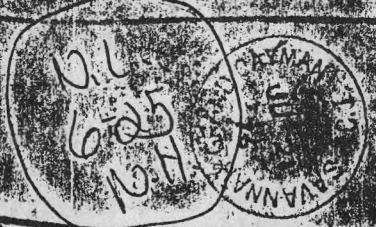
R WEST BAY,
GRAND CAYMAN
NO. 334

VIA AIR
mas E. Giraldi
111 Grant Dr

Special DELIVERY

THE WEDDING OF H.R.H.
THE PRINCESS ANNE
Cayman Islands

R SAVANNAH,
GRAND CAYMAN
NO. 0060



East End,
Grand
Cayman

Special DELIVERY

Thomas E. Giraldi
412 Thunderbird Trail
Carol Stream, Illinois
60187
U.S.A.

BCPSG AWARD WINNERS AT FLOREX 1980

NAME	TITLE OF EXHIBIT	AWARDS		
		FLOREX	BCPSG	OTHER
VAN WINKLE, Walton	Early Postal Markings of Jamaica	Grand, G	G	(1),(3)
WALKER, Dan	Grenada Postal History, 1764-1913	G,(2)	G,(5)	---
LARSEN, Paul	German Togo	G	---	(4)
LARSEN, Paul	Leeward Islands, 1890-1911	V	S	---
OTT, Russell	British Honduras Postal History	V	S	---
SPEAR, Arthur	Postal History of Jamaica, 1713-1860	V	S	---
MACK, Millard	U.S. Pan American Exposition Covers	S	---	---
GIRALDI, Tom	Postal Markings of Cayman Islands, Queen Victoria - King George V	SB	---	---
RAMKISSOON, Ben	First Flights of Trinidad	SB	---	---
GAVELEK, John	Bahamas Paquebot Markings	B	---	---
GOSNEY, Harold	De La Rue Keyplates, 1879-1956	B	---	---
YARRY, Irwin (Doc)	British Virgin Islands, 1890-1956	B	---	---

G - Gold	(1) APS Medal	(4) Germany Philatelic Society (GPS) Grand Award and GPS Gold
V - Vermeil	(2) FLOREX Reserve Grand	
S - Silver	(3) Hollywood (FL) Stamp Club Postal History Award	
SB - Silver-Bronze		(5) BCPSG Cameron Trophy
B - Bronze		

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued from page 2)

the British Honduras handbook, and can use help from any interested member. I will add the same request for the Grenada handbook; I can use help from any interested member. I would also be interested in hearing from any member who has an interest in other publications; as a "for instance", Antigua and others of the Leeward Islands could use handbooks.

Our future meeting places are well set for 1981 and 1982. I hope to see a good turnout of members at the MILCOPEX Show in Milwaukee on 27-28 February and 1 March 1981. On 22-24 January 1982 we will attend the ARIPEX '82 exhibit in Tucson, Arizona, and I am hoping to meet many of our members from the Western states at that show. Also, we will hold a second meeting in 1982 at San Juan, Puerto Rico. This show, ESPAMER-82, is an international show and this will be the first time, to my knowledge, that the BCPSG has officially participated in an "international". The show chairman, Raul Gandara, is going all out to make this show, and our participation, a memorable affair. ESPAMER-82 dates are 12-17 October 1982.

DAN

Personal Mention

IAN WOODWARD took the Reserve Grand Award at SESCAL, held in Los Angeles on 17-19 November, with his exhibit "Exploring Jamaica Through Obliterators". His display also earned him a SESCAL Gold and the Emily Moorefield Award for the best British Commonwealth exhibit. (Ed: I first saw Ian's magnificent exhibit at NOJEX '79, where it won a Gold. At that time I didn't really think it could be improved, but Ian proved me wrong! And I'll bet my typewriter against a pile of used stamp hinges that the next time Ian puts his "EJTO" in show frames, he'll win the real Grand Award!)

There was also a literature competition at SESCAL, and two BCPSG'ers with ink-stained fingers saw their productions in the winners' circle. RUSS OTT's book "Postal History of Soviet Antarctic Activities, 1955-1977", previously described in the August 1980 BCPJ, was given a Gold Award, and RUSS SKAVARIL's St. Helena and Dependencies Philatelic Society Newsletter, also mentioned in the August Journal, garnered a Large Silver. Heartiest BCPSG congratulations to both Russes!

A letter from MARK SWETLAND, whose "Search Into the De La Rue Records" appears in this issue, advises that he was in Indonesia from 9 November until 7 December 1980. One of the BCPSG's foremost specialists in Antigua, Mark also mentioned that he visited the National Postal Museum in London this past summer and looked into the section of Antigua material known as the Berne Collection. These are the SPECIMEN stamps sent by the UPU to member countries. Seems that the Berne Collection might be incomplete, as Mark notes that he has more Antigua SPECIMEN varieties than the museum does!

Perhaps he will send the Journal a manuscript describing his latest museum search.

On November 4th AL BRANSTON wrote that he was in the process of handing over the UK membership portion of his International Director's job to BRUCE WALKER. (See revised officers' listing on inside front cover.) Al says that he is most grateful to Bruce for assuming this part of the ID's duties, and he thanks all BCPSG'ers who have so loyally supported him over the years. He promises that "...as International Director, I am looking forward to the maximum number of occasions where I can meet members in London for a chat and something to eat."

BEN RAMKISSOON's stamp trophy collection keeps growing. In addition to winning a Silver-Bronze at FLOREX (see page 32), his "First Flights of Trinidad" exhibit was presented a Silver Award at the Chicago Philatelic Society Show held on 31 October through 2 November 1980.

AL BRANSTON presented a paper "With Focus on Judging" at this year's British Philatelic Federation Congress, held in Cambridge. Reviews of Al's paper in British periodicals Philatelic Magazine and Stamp Collecting indicate that a healthy discussion of Al's ideas took place. It is a distinct honor to be selected as a BPFC speaker, and our congratulations go to Al for his accomplishment.

Congratulations to BILL BREW, whose exhibit "St. Lucia, 1860 to 1960" won a Bronze Award at NORBAPEX (Santa Rosa, California), and a Silver Award at SACAPEX in Sacramento. Bill also reports that NEVPEX '81, to be held in Reno, will be the site of a first-day issue of a Natural Conservation stamp featuring a picture of Lake Tahoe.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Continued from page 23)

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS:

GROEBER, Karl E., 122 Park Drive, Doylestown, PA 18901.

WILLEM, Mrs. John M., 1049 Westover Road, Stamford, CT 06902.

WIENER, Robert A., 30 Waterside Plaza, 123F, New York, NY 10010.

PENNISI, William R., Schule Haus Apartments, Jordan, MN 55352.

BLACKMORE, Henry J., P. O. Box 352, Constant Spring, Kingston 8, Jamaica, W.I.

DONNER, Max, 7 Peter Cooper Road, New York, NY 10010.

ERICHSON, Ronald E., 2584 Lake Hall Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308.

DOSTER, Melvin, 75 North Wirt Street, Leesburg, VA 22075.

Change Smithsonian Institution address to: National Philatelic Collections, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560.

NATHANSON, Hyman M., c/o Bernard Nathanson, 450 1/2 Ontario St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

FRIEDMAN, Barry, 4200 Inverrary Boulevard, Apartment 3415, Lauderhill, FL 33319.

RESIGNATIONS:

The following members have submitted their resignations, in good standing, effective 1 January 1981:

SCOTT, Mrs. B.J.; CAVE, Lt. Col. S.F.; MASON, Len; COURTNEY, L.A.; GRAHAM, W.A.; JONES, G.E.; WARD, Ronald; TRETHERWEY, W.J.

NEW ISSUE NEWS

by Russ Ott

ANGUILLA

10NOV80 CHRISTMAS/BIRDS. Four values and souvenir sheet: 5¢ - Pelican; 22¢ - Great Gray Heron; \$1.50 - Swallow; \$3.00 - Hummingbirds; souvenir sheet combines values. Designed by J. Lister Ltd. and lithographed by House of Questa.(Linn's)

ANTIGUA

15SEP80 80th BIRTHDAY OF THE QUEEN MOTHER. Release date was changed from 4Aug to 15Sep80.(IGC)

BELIZE

3OCT80 ESPAMER '80 WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION. One souvenir sheet: Birds issue overprinted with the Espamer emblem and 'Belize', top stamps of S/S carry original values; bottom stamps have overprinted values of 40¢ on 45¢, 50¢ and \$1.00 values.(Linn's)

1DEC80 80th BIRTHDAY OF THE QUEEN MOTHER. One value and one souvenir sheet: \$1.00 - portrait; \$5.00 - portrait. Designed by C. Mullin and multicolor offset in sheetlets of nine by Lito Nacional, Porto.(Linn's)

CAYMAN ISLANDS

9DEC80 MANGROVE LIFE. Eleven values: 3¢ - Juvenile Tarpon; 5¢ - Mangrove Root Oyster; 10¢ - Mangrove Crab; 15¢ - Lizard and Crescent Spot Butterfly; 20¢ - Tricolored Heron; 30¢ - Red Mangrove Flower; 40¢ - Red Mangrove Seed; 50¢ - Waterhouse's Leaf-Nosed Bat; \$1. - Black-Crowned Night Heron; \$2. - Coat of Arms; \$4. - Portrait of Queen Elizabeth. Designed by G. Drummond and lithographed in sheets of 25 by John Waddington Studios of Kirkstall, Ltd.(Linn's)

DOMINICA

SEP80 80th BIRTHDAY OF THE QUEEN MOTHER. Release date was changed from Aug80 to Sep80.(IGC)

1OCT80 CHRISTMAS 1980. Nine values and souvenir sheet: depicts various scenes from Walt Disney's Peter Pan. Values are ½¢, 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 4¢, 5¢, 10¢, \$2.00 and \$2.50. S/S is \$4.00. Designed by Walt Disney Productions and lithographed by Walsall Security Printers.(IGC)

GRENADA GRENADINES

2OCT80 CHRISTMAS 1980. Nine values and souvenir sheet: depicts various scenes from Walt Disney's Bambi. Values are: ½¢, 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 4¢, 5¢, 10¢, \$2.50 and \$3.00. S/S is \$4.00. Designed by Walt Disney Productions and lithographed by Walsall Security Printers.(IGC)

GUYANA

1DEC80 CHRISTMAS/TREES. Four values: 10¢ - Virola Surinamensis; 30¢ - Hymenaca Courbaril; 50¢ - Mora excelsa; \$3.00 - Peltogyne Venosa. Designed by Leslie Curtis and lithographed by Format International.(Linn's)

SAINT LUCIA

OCT80 FLORA & FAUNA. Four values and souvenir sheet: 10¢ - Agouti; 50¢ - Saint Lucia Parrot; \$2.00 - Purple-Throated Carib; \$2.50 - Fiddler Crab; \$5.00 s/s - Monarch Butterfly and Caterpillar. Designed by Gordon Drummond and lithographed by House of Questa.(IGC)

NOV80 CHRISTMAS 1980. Three values and triptych: 10¢ - The Nativity by Pittoni; 30¢ - Adoration of the Kings by Bruegel, the Elder; \$2.00 - Adoration of the Shepherds by Murillo; triptych - three \$1.00 stamps showing mural like painting of Christmas Angel surrounded by Saint Lucia and products of Saint Lucia. Designed by John Cooter and lithographed by House of Questa.(IGC)

SAINT VINCENT

4DEC80 SAINT VINCENT ON THE MAP. Four values and souvenir sheet: 10¢, 50¢, \$1.00 and \$2.00 values show various maps pointing out Saint Vincent. S/S reproduces \$2.00 value with larger map of the Caribbean. Designed by Gordon Drummond and lithographed by House of Questa.(St. Vincent GPO)

SALT VINCENT GRENADINES

13NOV80 CHRISTMAS 1980. Five values and souvenir sheet: 5¢ - 'Mary and de Baby hungry'; 50¢ - 'Mary and de Baby lonely'; 60¢ - 'Mary and de Baby weary'; \$1.00 - 'Mary and de Baby rest easy'; \$2.00 - 'Star above shine in de sky'. S/S combines the five values and has a label showing the Baby Jesus with his arms outstretched in a gesture of embrace. Designed by Jennifer Toombs and lithographed by Questa Colour Security Printers.(St. Vincent GPO)

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

26SEP80 SIR FRANCIS DRAKE ANNIVERSARY. Four values and souvenir sheet: 8¢ - Picture of Drake; 15¢ - Queen Elizabeth I; 30¢ - Queen Elizabeth I knighting Drake; 75¢ - Drake's Ship 'Golden Hind'; s/s - combines the four values and shows an old world map of Drake's circumnavigation route. Designed by Franklin Mint and lithographed by House of Questa.(IGC)



Just before press time...

ADDITIONS TO SECRETARY'S REPORT:

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS:

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FLASHBULBS AT FLOREX

(SEE PAGES 2, 25, AND 28)

AUCTIONS IN MARCH

(BO = Bournemouth,
L = London, BA = Basle)

- 4/5 BO British Empire, Europe & Overseas, Great Britain, General Collections.
- 6 BO POSTAL HISTORY AUCTION including a new find of solicitor's correspondence, a further selection of wreck covers, Indian military mail with strength in the Mutiny period, and some attractive Russia/China combination covers.
- 10 L GREAT BRITAIN.
- 24 BA I Europe strong in Liechtenstein, Spain, and Switzerland.
- 24 BA II New Guinea G.R.I., N.W.P.I., and Papua.
- 25 BA III The Svend Yort Denmark, Danish West Indies, Faroe Islands, Finland, Norwegian Missionary Service in Madagascar, Swedish postal history.
- 26 BA IV Italian States - Parma, Papal States, Tuscany specialized, etc.
- 27 BA V Levant with Greek post offices in the Aegean and Near East, the A. J. Sherman Austrian post offices, etc., Holy Land forerunners and the Malcolm Burnett Palestine, Israel complete to 1970.

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